

COUNCIL

Thursday, 26 March 2026

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Bartch, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dillon, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Garner, Harker, Henderson, Holroyd, Johnson, Keir, Lawley, Layton, Lee, Mahmud, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Robinson, Roche, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Storr, Toms, Tostevin, Michael Walker, Wallis and Walters

APOLOGIES – Councillors Anderson, Baker, Haszeldine, Laing, Mammolotti, K Nicholson, Pease and Renton

95 MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 29 JANUARY AND 19 FEBRUARY 2026

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council held on 29 January and 19 February 2026.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Council held on 29 January and 19 February 2026, be approved as correct records.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

97 SEALING.

Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

98 ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Outstanding Ofsted Outcome for Children's Services

The Mayor announced that following an Ofsted inspection in February 2026, the Council's Children's Services had been rated Outstanding.

Retirement of the Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham

The Mayor paid tribute to Dame Susan (Sue) Snowdon as she concluded over thirteen years of service as His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, thanking her for her dedication and professionalism. Members were informed that Mike Butterwick would assume the role from 1 April 2026.

Death of Gary Read

The Mayor reported with sadness the death of Gary Read, a former Assistant Engineer in Highway Design, who passed away on 16 March 2026. Members observed a short period of silence in his memory.

99 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-

100 THE PUBLIC;

There were eleven questions, received with notice, from Members of the Public. Nine Members of the Public attended the meeting to ask their question in person, and each received an answer thereon.

The Mayor requested that a written response be provided to those Members of the Public who did not attend to ask their question in person.

101 MEMBERS TO CABINET/CHAIRS;

Councillor Walker submitted four questions, on notice, to members of the Cabinet. Each question was answered in turn.

102 COUNCIL REPORTS.

(1) CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Executive Director of Resources and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval for a number of updates and changes to the Council's Constitution, intended to better facilitate the work of the Council and to provide additional clarity within the Council Procedure Rules.

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance spoke to this report, and reminded Members that the Constitution set out the framework for Council decision-making and the procedures to be followed, and that periodic updates were required as a matter of good governance and housekeeping to ensure it remained clear, accurate and fit for purpose.

The report outlined proposed amendments to the Council Procedure Rules relating to the submission of questions at Council meetings. Members were informed that, due to a significant increase in the number of questions being submitted by both elected Members and members of the public, the existing deadlines of one clear working day for Members and 24 hours for the public were no longer feasible. It was therefore proposed that the deadline for all questions submitted on notice be extended to two clear working days prior to the meeting. The definition of a clear working day was explained, and Members were advised that, for an ordinary Council meeting held on a Thursday evening, questions would need to be submitted by the preceding Monday to be accepted.

Members noted that paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules would be amended accordingly to reflect this revised deadline. It was also reported that at the Council meeting held on 29 January 2026, Members had resolved to amend paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules so that questions submitted by members of the public at Special or Extraordinary meetings were required to directly relate to an item on the agenda. The Monitoring Officer advised that it had subsequently been identified that the Constitution did not make it explicit that the same principle applied to questions from elected Members. To remove doubt, it was proposed that paragraph 51 of the Council Procedure Rules be

amended to clarify that questions submitted by Members for Special or Extraordinary meetings must also directly relate to a matter appearing on the agenda, alongside incorporating the revised deadline of two clear working days' notice.

The report also addressed the handling of amendments to motions with financial implications. Members were advised that where amendments were moved without notice and had financial consequences for the Council, it was considered good practice for the Chief Finance Officer, to be given sufficient time to assess the implications and provide appropriate advice. It was therefore proposed that a new paragraph be added to the Council Procedure Rules requiring that notice of any amendment with financial implications be submitted in writing at least three clear working days before the meeting, and that such amendments would not be accepted if adequate notice was not given or if the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, did not consider the amendment to be deliverable or compliant with the Council's statutory obligations.

Members were also informed of proposed technical amendments arising from organisational changes following the senior management restructure agreed in September 2024. These included updates to the designation of Proper Officer roles under the Building Act 1984, reflecting that responsibilities for Building Control sat within the remit of the Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection. In addition, a review of the Code of Conduct for Employees had identified references to outdated job titles, and it was proposed that these be updated to reflect the current senior management structure.

RESOLVED – That Council approved:

- (a) The updates and changes to the Constitution, as detailed in the report; and
- (b) That the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution to reflect those changes.

REASONS – To ensure that the Constitution remained clear, accurate, up-to-date and fit for purpose.

103 CABINET REPORTS.

The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

104 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY OVERVIEW REPORTS:-

The Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings, and responded to any questions thereon.

105 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

106 TO CONSIDER A MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR TOMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ROCHE

The following Motion submitted by Councillor Toms and seconded by Councillor Roche:

Preamble

- a) Addictions to alcohol, illicit and prescribed drugs and gambling exacts a huge social and emotional toll on the people of Darlington;
- b) Addiction costs lives, destroys families and communities and undermines neighbourhoods and communities;
- c) People can and do recover although the real rate of recovery (at around 60%) is not widely known or understood;
- d) What helps people to recover is being a part of social networks that are supportive of recovery change;
- e) Fundamentally, the secret to addiction recovery can be characterised as Jobs, Friends and Houses or ‘somewhere to live, someone to love and something to do’.

The North-East of England has been at the forefront of innovation in addiction recovery and Darlington has the potential to be at the heart of this movement, based on the supports and services that already exist in the town.

Recovery is increasingly recognised as a peer-driven social movement that is most clearly articulated within a public health model based on social contagion where visibility is essential for the effective transmission of recovery.

Across the UK – and increasingly globally – the Inclusive Recovery Cities movement has articulated the following goals:

- a) To increase the visibility of recovery through public-facing events that showcase the talents of the recovery community;
- b) These events also provide opportunities for volunteering for people in recovery and their families;
- c) They are targeted at the general public as an act of citizenship to challenge stigma and exclusion;
- d) Overall, the goal is to increase social cohesion and improve community involvement inspired by people previously stigmatised and marginalised.

Ultimately the aim of this movement is to increase the capacity of individuals and families in recovery to access education, housing and employment and to increase active citizenship

and community participation.

This Council recognises that:

- a) Supporting addiction recovery is beneficial not only to people in recovery and their families, but to the whole community;
- b) Darlington has strong foundations for social inclusion and to promote addiction recovery as a social movement;
- c) The commitment to social inclusion will improve active citizenship and community participation right across the community;
- d) There is a need for a strategic and coherent approach to coordinating recovery support across the council area and to build a visible recovery community.

This Council resolves:

To endorse Darlington as an Inclusive Recovery City by:

- a) Adopting the Mission, Vision and Values;
- b) Signing the IRC Charter;
- c) Championing and supporting co-ordinated visible recovery across Darlington;
- d) Support the public health team to deliver the full implementation of the IRC model in Darlington;
- e) Play an active role in the evaluation of IRC implementation in Darlington after one year.

Councillor Toms and Roche both spoke to the motion, and a vote was subsequently taken.

Resolved – The Motion was carried.

107 TO CONSIDER A MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DULSTON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DURHAM

The following Motion was submitted by Councillor Dulston and seconded by Councillor Durham:

Protection and Long-Term Security of Community Green Spaces

This Council notes that:

- a) Bellburn Field, the Triangle of Land off Sparrowhall Drive, and Tommy Crooks Park are valued community green spaces that provide significant environmental, recreational, and social benefits to local residents.

- b) These spaces contribute positively to physical and mental wellbeing, biodiversity, and community cohesion.
- c) Local residents have consistently expressed strong support for the preservation, improvement, and long-term protection of these sites.
- d) Once public green spaces are lost to development or sale, they are rarely replaced, leading to permanent harm to local communities.

This Council believes that:

- a) Publicly owned green spaces should be protected for current and future generations.
- b) Investment in community parks and open land is essential to improving quality of life and supporting healthier, safer neighbourhoods.
- c) Clear guarantees regarding the future of these sites will provide reassurance to residents and strengthen trust in the Council's stewardship of public assets.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Formally designate Bellburn Field, the Triangle of Land off Sparrowhall Drive, and Tommy Crooks Park as protected community green spaces.
- b) Commit to increased and sustained investment in the maintenance, improvement, and accessibility of these sites.
- c) Give a clear and binding commitment that Darlington Borough Council will not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of these pieces of land for development or private ownership.
- d) Ensure that any future decisions relating to these sites involve meaningful consultation with local residents.
- e) Request that officers explore appropriate legal or policy mechanisms to secure long-term protection of these spaces within council policy and planning frameworks.

The following Amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor McEwan, and seconded by Councillor Beckett:

This Council notes that:

- a) Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park are valued community green spaces that provide significant environmental, recreational, and social benefits to local residents.
- b) These spaces contribute positively to physical and mental wellbeing, biodiversity, and community cohesion.
- c) Local residents have consistently expressed strong support for the preservation,

improvement, and long-term protection of these sites.

d) Once public green spaces are lost to development or sale, they are rarely replaced, leading to permanent harm to local communities.

e) The Conservative-led administration's Local Plan, agreed in 2022 (including by Councillor Dulston and Councillor Durham), offered no protection from development for Bellburn Field, the Triangle of Land off Sparrowhall Drive or Tommy Crooks Park.

f) The Conservative-led administration's Local Plan, agreed in 2022, also allocated the Triangle of Land off Sparrowhall Drive for housing. Accordingly, this area is currently being investigated for housing and in particular, for council homes for social rent.

g) In a recent callout for areas to be designated as local green space, Councillor David Beckett and Councillor Joe Dillon were the only councillors that came forward to suggest such designation, for Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park respectively. No Conservative councillor (including Councillor Dulston and Councillor Durham) came forward with a proposal to designate any such areas.

h) Given the suggested designation by Councillor David Beckett and Councillor Joe Dillon, the process has already started to consider Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park as designated local green spaces. This change, amongst others, to the Local Plan, is currently out to consultation and Councillors may want to consider responding to this consultation and then supporting the suggested revised Local Plan later in the year.

This Council believes that:

a) There is a need for quality publicly owned green spaces that are protected for current and future generations.

b) There is also a need for more Council housing. The housing waiting list stands at just under 2,000 households. There is a need to balance the need for quality publicly owned green space, with homes for everyone.

c) Investment in community parks and open land is essential to improving quality of life and supporting healthier, safer neighbourhoods.

d) Clear guarantees regarding the future of Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park will provide reassurance to residents and strengthen trust in the Council's stewardship of public assets.

e) Formal action being taken to protect important green space through existing mechanisms is much more important and effective than political campaigning and playing politics.

This Council resolves to:

a) Look to designate Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park as protected community local green spaces, as part of the process of updating the Local Plan.

b) Commit to maintaining these sites.

c) Give a clear and binding commitment that Darlington Borough Council will not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of these pieces of land for development or private ownership.

d) Ensure that any future decisions relating to these sites involve meaningful consultation with local residents.

e) Request that officers explore appropriate legal or policy mechanisms to secure long-term protection of these spaces within council policy and planning frameworks, as part of the process of updating the Local Plan.

Members entered into discussion on the Amendment before taking a vote. The Amendment was carried, and thus became the Substantive Motion.

Another Amendment was submitted by Councillor Holroyd, seconded by Councillor Lawley, which read as follows:

This Council notes that:

a) Valued community green spaces that provide significant environmental, recreational, and social benefits to local residents are key local amenities across Darlington.

b) These spaces contribute positively to physical and mental wellbeing, biodiversity, mitigating the effects of climate change, and community cohesion.

c) Local residents have consistently expressed strong support for the preservation, improvement, and long-term protection of these sites.

d) Once public green spaces are lost to development or sale, they are rarely replaced, leading to permanent harm to local communities.

This Council believes that:

a) There is a need for quality publicly owned green spaces that are protected for current and future generations.

b) There is also a need for more Council housing. The housing waiting list stands at just under 2,000 households. There is a need to balance the need for quality publicly owned green space, with homes for everyone.

c) Investment in community parks, open land and other existing green spaces is essential to improving quality of life and supporting healthier, safer neighbourhoods.

d) Clear guarantees – and in many cases legal protection - regarding the future of green spaces will provide reassurance to residents and strengthen trust in the Council's stewardship of public assets.

e) Formal action taken to protect important green space through existing mechanisms is the only effective course of action.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Carry out an audit to identify, document and then designate parks, greens, amenity grassland, cemeteries, green lanes, footpaths, river banks and other valued green areas as protected community local green spaces across all areas of Darlington Borough, as part of the process of updating the Local Plan.
- b) Commit to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and accessibility of these sites, and seek to create new protected green spaces in areas where these are currently lacking.
- c) Give a clear and binding commitment that Darlington Borough Council will not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of these pieces of land for development or private ownership.
- d) Ensure that any future decisions relating to these sites involve meaningful involvement of and engagement with local residents.
- e) Request that officers explore appropriate legal mechanisms to secure long-term protection of these spaces within council policy and planning frameworks, so green spaces are protected wherever possible, as part of the process of updating the Local Plan.

Members entered into discussion on the Amendment before taking a vote, and the Amendment fell.

A third Amendment was submitted by Councillor Mrs. Culley, which read as follows:

This Council notes that:

- a) Tees Grange (also known as the Bull Field), Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park are valued community green spaces that provide significant environmental, recreational, and social benefits to local residents.
- b) These spaces contribute positively to physical and mental wellbeing, biodiversity, and community cohesion.
- c) Local residents have consistently expressed strong support for the preservation, improvement, and long-term protection of these sites.
- d) Once public green spaces are lost to development or sale, they are rarely replaced, leading to permanent harm to local communities.
- e) The Conservative-led administration's Local Plan, agreed in 2022 (including by Councillor Dulston and Councillor Durham), offered no protection from development for Bellburn Field, the Triangle of Land off Sparrowhall Drive or Tommy Crooks Park.
- f) The Conservative-led administration's Local Plan, agreed in 2022, also allocated the Triangle of Land off Sparrowhall Drive for housing. Accordingly, this area is currently being investigated for housing and in particular, for council homes for social rent.

g) In a recent callout for areas to be designated as local green space, Councillor David Beckett and Councillor Joe Dillon were the only councillors that came forward to suggest such designation, for Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park respectively. No Conservative councillor (including Councillor Dulston and Councillor Durham) came forward with a proposal to designate any such areas.

h) Given the suggested designation by Councillor David Beckett and Councillor Joe Dillon, the process has already started to consider Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park as designated local green spaces. This change, amongst others, to the Local Plan, is currently out to consultation and Councillors may want to consider responding to this consultation and then supporting the suggested revised Local Plan later in the year.

This Council believes that:

a) There is a need for quality publicly owned green spaces that are protected for current and future generations.

b) There is also a need for more Council housing. The housing waiting list stands at just under 2,000 households. There is a need to balance the need for quality publicly owned green space, with homes for everyone.

c) Investment in community parks and open land is essential to improving quality of life and supporting healthier, safer neighbourhoods.

d) Clear guarantees regarding the future of Tees Grange (also known as the Bull Field), Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park will provide reassurance to residents and strengthen trust in the Council's stewardship of public assets.

e) Formal action being taken to protect important green space through existing mechanisms is much more important and effective than political campaigning and playing politics.

This Council resolves to:

a) Look to designate Tees Grange (also known as the Bull Field), Bellburn Field and Tommy Crooks Park as protected community local green spaces, as part of the process of updating the Local Plan.

b) Commit to maintaining these sites.

c) Give a clear and binding commitment that Darlington Borough Council will not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of these pieces of land for development or private ownership.

d) Ensure that any future decisions relating to these sites involve meaningful consultation with local residents.

e) Request that officers explore appropriate legal or policy mechanisms to secure long-term protection of these spaces within council policy and planning frameworks, as part of the process of updating the Local Plan.

Members entered into discussion on the Amendment submitted by Councillor Mrs. Culley before taking a vote on the Amendment. The Amendment fell.

The Substantive Motion was then put to the meeting, which was carried.

108 TO CONSIDER A MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DULSTON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WALKER

The following Motion was submitted by Councillor Dulston and seconded by Councillor Walker:

Women's Privacy, Dignity, and Safety Across Darlington

Preamble:

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed the legal authority of single-sex spaces under the Equality Act 2010, recognising sex as a biological and an objective fact.

Women - because of their biological sex - face unique vulnerabilities and risks that necessitate protected female-only spaces. This need is not contingent on requiring a certain volume or veracity of requests or complaints. Women's voices have historically been undervalued, ignored and, at times, silenced.

Countless women rely on single-sex provision for their privacy, dignity, personal safety, trauma recovery, and ability to participate fully in public life without distraction or fear.

Council provision and services, such as changing rooms, toilets and care settings, depend on coherent and objective criteria to operate according to best practice, including safeguarding.

This Council recognises that:

1. Women have the right to safety, dignity, and privacy based on their sex, a right grounded in both law and lived experience.
2. Recognising biological sex is not discriminatory. That women should never be made to apologise for requiring female-only spaces, nor should their legitimate concerns be dismissed as prejudice.
3. All individuals remain protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

This Council resolves:

1. To fully implement with immediate effect, the Supreme Court ruling across all Darlington Borough Council buildings, services, policies and commissioned activities, to ensure that the council complies with the law. In preparation, the council will urgently engage legal expertise and establish an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group of councillors, staff, stakeholders and legal expertise.

2. That the EDI Working Group will set a timescale with milestones and objectives to:
 - a. Review all policies to ensure that all provision covers the following:
 - (i) the lawful use of single sex services under the Equality Act 2010;
 - (ii) that the dignity, privacy, safety and equality of opportunity of women is protected;
 - (iii) that all individuals with protected characteristics are treated lawfully, respectfully and fairly; and
 - (iv) that staff have clear, workable procedures and impartial, lawful training.
 - b. Provide clear written guidance, for staff, service users, and the public detailing the following:
 - (i) how single sex spaces will be managed;
 - (ii) the legal basis for any single sex provision;
 - (iii) how the safety and dignity of women will be protected;
 - (iv) how the council continues to uphold the right of all protected groups; and
 - (v) this guidance will be published ensuring transparency, accuracy and legal compliance.
 - c. Ensure all staff and councillors receive training on:
 - (i) the legal definition of sex and Equality Act 2010 eg the interaction with the other Protected Characteristics and the Councils' Public Sector Equality Duty;
 - ii) the reality of discrimination and violence faced by women on account of their sex; and
 - iii) the lawful basis for single-sex provision (separate & single sex exceptions).
3. To reaffirm the Council's commitment to women's rights as foundational. Protecting women safety and respecting the rights of others are not mutually exclusive; the Council will continue to uphold both in line with the law and our public sector duties.
4. To support the government's national 'Violence Against Women And Girls Strategy' and work in partnership towards halving violence against women and girls by 2030 with a focus on prevention and support for survivors through a whole systems approach by the following:
 - a) championing women's safety;
 - b) thereby promoting respectful and inclusive public spaces;
 - c) working collaboratively with partners; and
 - d) supporting early intervention and prevention.
5. That any cost implications will be met from existing resources, subject to normal, financial governance processes and clarity of requirements.
6. To act responsibly and lawfully to achieve these aims, ensuring that the dignity, privacy and safety of women is restored and safeguarding the rights of all individuals we serve. We will move forward with clarity, compassion and a firm commitment to equality, ensuring our approach is compliant with the law and informed by best practice.

Note: This Council use 'woman', as per the Equality Act 2010, meaning a female of any age.

The Following Amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Snedker, and seconded by Councillor Layton:

Preamble:

This Council notes that the Supreme Court ruling clarified aspects of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to single-sex spaces, but did not mandate blanket exclusion of transgender, intersex and non-binary people, nor remove protections afforded under the characteristic of gender reassignment.

This council is concerned that misinterpretation or overextension of this ruling risks undermining the rights, dignity and safety of transgender people. This Council affirms that:

- Women face serious and well-documented risks of violence, harassment and inequality, requiring robust safeguarding and support; and
- Transgender people also face significant levels of discrimination, harassment, and violence, and experience barriers to accessing services.

The Council rejects any framing that presents these rights as inherently in conflict. Protecting women and protecting transgender people are both essential and compatible obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

This Council recognises that:

1. Women have the right to safety, dignity, and privacy based on their sex, a right grounded in both law and lived experience.
2. The legal category of sex must not be used to justify discrimination or the blanket exclusion of transgender people, whose rights are also protected in law.
3. All individuals remain protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, including on the basis of sex and gender reassignment, and must be treated with dignity, respect and fairness in all Council services.
4. Statutory, legally binding guidance is due shortly from Government and that guidance will inform how Council policies will reflect its Public Sector Equality Duties.

This Council resolves:

1. To fully implement the Supreme Court ruling across all Darlington Borough Council buildings, services, policies and commissioned activities, once the Government issues the final, legally binding EHRC guidance for public bodies, to ensure that the council complies with the law. The Council will make use of the existing Equality Advisory Group to assess the implications, review appropriate policies, make recommendations and ensure that our approach complies with our Public Sector Equality Duty.

2. Recommendations from the Equality Advisory Group will be presented to the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee. This committee may call on councillors, staff, a wide range of stakeholders and legal expertise to review and improve these recommendations.

3. The Council will not introduce blanket exclusions of transgender individuals from services. Any restriction must be justified on a case-by-case basis as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

4. Any proposed changes to access to services must be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, including specific consideration of impacts on transgender and non-binary individuals.

5. To reaffirm the Council's commitment to women's rights as foundational, while equally affirming its commitment to the rights, dignity and inclusion of transgender people. Protecting women's safety and respecting the rights of others are not mutually exclusive.

6. To support the government's national 'Violence Against Women And Girls Strategy' and work in partnership towards halving violence against women and girls by 2030 with a focus on prevention and support for survivors through a whole systems approach by the following:

- a) championing women's safety;
- b) thereby promoting respectful and inclusive public spaces;
- c) working collaboratively with partners; and
- d) supporting early intervention and prevention.

7. That any cost implications will be met from existing resources, subject to normal, financial governance processes and clarity of requirements.

8. The Council will act lawfully and responsibly to achieve these aims, ensuring that the dignity, privacy and safety of all individuals, including women, transgender, intersex and non-binary people, are upheld. We will move forward with clarity, compassion and a firm commitment to equality, ensuring our approach is compliant with the law and informed by best practice.

Members entered into discussion on the Amendment, and subsequently took a vote. The Amendment was Carried.

The Amendment became the Substantive Motion and was put to the meeting.

Resolved – The Substantive Motion was carried.

109 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER BODIES.

Consideration was given to membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2025/26 that:

- A) Councillor DURHAM to replace Councillor LEE on the Planning Applications Committee
- B) Councillor DULSTON to replace Councillor LEE on the Police and Crime Panel
- C) Councillor BARTCH to replace Councillor LEE on the Combined Fire Authority, and in doing so replaces Councillor Lee on the Appeals Committee, Pensions Board, and the Performance Committee
- D) Councillor LEE replaces Councillor MARSHALL on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee