

COUNCIL

27th September 2018

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Carson, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Galletley, Grundy, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C. L. B. Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Kane, Kelly, Lawton, Lee, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, Nutt, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Wallis, Wright and York. (38)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Dixon, L. Hughes, Kelley, Knowles, Lister, Mills, M. Nicholson, Rahman, Mrs. H. Scott and Tostevin. (11)

ABSENT – Councillor Cartwright. (1)

20. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council, held on 19 July 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

22. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS – Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Former Mayor and Councillor Bill Stenson - The Mayor reported on the death of Former Mayor and Councillor Bill Stenson, who had sadly passed away on 22 August 2018, and referred to Former Councillor Stenson's years of service, and roles on the Council.

As a mark of respect, Members stood and observed a short silence for Councillor Stenson.

24. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There were five questions, with notice, from members of the public, who each received an answer thereon.

(2) Members to Cabinet/Chairs – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

(3) Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington – The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington, addressed Members, and answered questions thereon.

25. COUNCIL REPORTS – There were no reports for consideration at the meeting.

26. CABINET REPORTS – (a) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – 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.

NOTE: In introducing his report, the Leader of the Council announced that Councillor Crumbie had been appointed to Cabinet, to fill the vacancy created due to Councillor Dixon's resignation from Cabinet in July.

(b) Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2017/18 – The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide important information regarding the regulation and management of the Council's borrowing, investments and cash-flow. The submitted report also sought approval of the Prudential Indicators results for 2017/2018, in accordance with the Prudential Code.

The submitted report outlined the circumstances with regard to treasury management for 2017/2018. It was reported that due to low returns on cash investments new ways to improve investment returns were sought, and that it had been agreed that that alternative investment types to increase return were looked at. The submitted report stated that the cost of borrowing remained low throughout 2017/18, and that it was anticipated that the cost of shorter term borrowing would remain low for a number of years in the future.

The submitted report stated that the Council had complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements, and that the need for borrowing was only increased for capital purposes.

The submitted report stated that at 31st March 2018, the Council's external debt was £160.161m, which was £33.000m more than the previous year. It was reported that the average interest rate for borrowing was down to 3.84%, from 4.30% in 2016/17, and that investments totalled £52.443m at 31st March 2018, in comparison to £21.000m at 31st March 2017, earning interest of 0.31% on short term investments, 0.625% on longer term investments, and 2.2% on Property Fund units net of cost.

RESOLVED – (a) That the outturn 2017/18 Prudential Indicators within the submitted report, and those contained within Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18 be noted.

REASONS – (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

(b) To inform Members of the performance of the Treasury Management function.

(c) To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

27. SCRUTINY REPORTS – OVERVIEW REPORTS – The five 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

28. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – Consideration was given to membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018/19.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor Cossins replace Councillor Crumbie on the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee;

(b) That Councillor Crumbie be removed from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, leaving the seat vacant (Labour Member appointment);

(c) That Councillor Crumbie replace Councillor Harker on the Combined Fire Authority;

(d) That Councillor Crumbie replace Councillor S. Richmond as the Combined Fire Authority's Appointee to the Local Government Association;

(e) That Councillor Crumbie replace Councillor Harker on the Police and Crime Panel;

(f) That Councillor Heslop replace Councillor McEwan on the Planning Applications Committee;

(g) That Councillor Mrs. Culley replace Councillor Marshall on the Place Scrutiny Committee;

(h) That Councillor Donoghue replace Councillor Mrs. Culley on the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee;

(i) That Councillor Marshall replace Councillor Coultas on the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee;

(j) That Councillor Marshall replace Councillor Coultas on the Appraisal Sub-Group;

(k) That Councillor Marshall replace Councillor Coultas as Councillor Johnson's Named Substitute on the Tees Valley Combined Authority's Audit and Governance Committee;

(l) That Councillor Mrs. H. Scott replace Councillor Coultas on the Town Centre Board;

(m) That Councillor K. Nicholson replace Councillor Donoghue on the General Licensing Committee;

(n) That Councillor Mrs. D. Jones be removed from the Planning Applications Committee, leaving the seat vacant (Independent Member appointment); and

(o) That the Assistant Director, Law and Governance, be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution occasioned by Councillor Crumby's appointment to Cabinet.