

COUNCIL
10th May 2018

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Harker, Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, Kane, Kelley, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, Rahman, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis, Wright and York. (41)

APOLOGIES – Councillors B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Knowles, Mills, Regan and Mrs. H. Scott. (6)

ABSENT – Councillors Cartwright, Grundy and Kelly. (3)

58. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council, held on 22 March 2018.

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

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

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

61. ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Mayor advised Members that the meeting would be the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council attended by the Chief Executive prior to her retirement, after nearly 13 years of service to the Council.

RESOLVED - That the formal thanks of this Council are due, and hereby tendered, to the Chief Executive, Ms. Ada Burns, for her outstanding service to the Council during her time in post.

62. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There was one question, with notice, from a member of the public, who 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, had submitted his apologies for the meeting.

63. COUNCIL REPORTS – (a) Constitutional Update - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of changes to the Council's Constitution with effect from 1 June 2018.

The submitted report stated that following the senior management restructure, agreed by Council in January 2018, internal restructuring and organisational change had been underway, and that amendments to the Constitution were subsequently required to address the changed roles and areas of responsibility for the Managing Director, Directors and Assistant Directors.

The submitted report stated that a number of other updates and amendments were also proposed to ensure that the Constitution remained up-to-date and fit for purpose.

RESOLVED – (a) That the changes to the Constitution and the Scheme of Indemnity for Members and Officers and other updates, as detailed in the Appendices to the submitted report, be approved, and take effect from 1 June 2018.

(b) That the Monitoring Officer is delegated to update the Constitution to reflect the changes identified.

REASONS – (a) To accommodate the organisational changes and reallocated responsibilities following the senior management restructure and consequential structural changes.

(b) To ensure that the Constitution is accurate and up-to-date.

(c) To give effect to legislative changes.

(b) Request for an Extension of Non-Attendance – Councillor Regan - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to enable Members to consider an application on behalf of Councillor Regan for an extension to the six-month period of his non-attendance at meetings, due to ill health.

The submitted report outlined that Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a Member of a Local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his or her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he or she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of that authority.

It was reported that Councillor Regan had not attended any Council or Committee meetings since 13 December 2017, and consequently would cease to be a Member of the Council on 12 June 2018, unless the Council approves the reason for the failure to attend before that date.

RESOLVED – That an extension of six months be agreed, with a further review at that time.

REASON – To ensure compliance with a request from a Member under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

64. 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.

(b) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – The Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing decisions taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASON – To comply with the Council's Constitution.

65. 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

66. NOTICE OF MOTION - The following Motion was moved by Councillor L. Hughes, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Culley:

'That, as Period poverty is a reality and forces many women to choose between putting food on the table and buying sanitary products (as detailed in a recent survey by Plan International UK when it was found that 10 per cent of 14 to 24 year olds surveyed had been unable to buy sanitary products and that there are girls missing out on their education because they cannot afford a sanitary protection); this Council believes that no woman in the Tees Valley should be forced into poverty due to her periods.

This Council pledges its full support for the Tees Valley 'Free Period' Campaign.

This Council will commit to further work and explore how a similar scheme would work in Darlington.'

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

67. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.