

ANNUAL COUNCIL
Thursday, 22 May 2025

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Allen, Anderson, Baker, Bartch, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dillon, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Garner, Harker, Haszeldine, Henderson, Holroyd, Johnson, Kane, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Layton, Mahmud, Mammolotti, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Roche, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Storr, Toms, Tostevin and Wallis

APOLOGIES – Councillors Lee, Pease, Renton and Walters

ABSENT – Councillor Robinson

1 ATTENDANCE AT MEETING.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

3 TO ELECT A MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

Consideration was given to the election of a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Sonia Kane be elected Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2025/26. Following her election, the Mayor made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and :-

- (i) Was invested with the Chain of Office;
- (ii) Announced her decision to support the Family Help Charity and Darlington Community Theatre.

4 RETIRING MAYOR - VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress.

RESOLVED – That the cordial thanks of the Council are due, and hereby tendered, to Councillor Robert Donoghue and Margaret Donoghue for the exemplary manner in which they have discharged the duties of the high office of Mayor and Mayoress of this Borough during the past Municipal Year.

5 TO APPOINT A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26.

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Helen Crumbie be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

6 THE MAYOR OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT MAY BE

NECESSARY.

There were no further announcements reported at this meeting.

7 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2025/26

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the membership of the various Committees for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

RESOLVED –

- (a)** That the appointment of Members to the various Committees, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be approved.
- (b)** That any consequential changes be made to the Council's Constitution.

REASON – To comply with the nominations received.

8 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS 2025/26 (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, 15TH MAY 2025)

Following a constitutional change, the election of Chairs and Vice Chairs for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 took place at this meeting in order for Council business to immediately continue.

At the request of 5 Members, a named vote took place for the Chair/Vice Chair election of the following Committees:

Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Anderson – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (26)

Councillor Tostevin - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

-Councillor Dillon was not present at this time and therefore did not cast a vote.

Councillor Anderson was duly elected as Chair of the Adults Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 26 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Michael Nicholson – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (26)

Councillor Mammolotti - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

-Councillor Dillon was not present at this time and therefore did not cast a vote.

Councillor Michael Nicholson was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Adults Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 26 votes to 18.

Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Allen – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (26)

Councillor Toms - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

-Councillor Dillon was not present at this time and therefore did not cast a vote.

Councillor Allen was duly elected as Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 26 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Layton – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (26)

Councillor Toms - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

-Councillor Dillon was not present at this time and therefore did not cast a vote.

Councillor Layton was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 26 votes to 18.

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor McGill – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor Mrs Culley - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor McGill was duly elected as Chair of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Coe – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom,

McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor Snedker - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Coe was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Baker – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor Durham - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Baker was duly elected as Chair of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Dillon – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor Henderson - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Dillon was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Chair of Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Johnson – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor Holroyd - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Johnson was duly elected as Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Layton – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom,

McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor Holroyd- Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Layton was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Chair of General Licencing Committee:

Councillor Kane – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor K Nicholson - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Kane was duly elected as Chair of the General Licencing Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of General Licencing Committee:

Councillor Ali – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor K Nicholson - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Ali was duly elected as Vice Chair of the General Licencing Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Chair of Licencing Act 2003 Committee:

Councillor Kane – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor K Nicholson - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Kane was duly elected as Chair of the Licencing Act 2003 Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

Vice Chair of Licencing Act 2003 Committee:

Councillor Ali – Councillors Ali, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Beckett, Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Dillon, Garner, Harker, Hazeldine, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Mahmud, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, M Nicholson, Porter, Ray, Dr Riley, Roche, Storr, Wallis. (27)

Councillor K Nicholson - Councillors Bartch, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Henderson, Holroyd, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Mammolotti, Marshall, K Nicholson, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Toms, Tostevin. (18)

Councillor Ali was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Licencing Act 2003 Committee for the Municipal Year 2025/2026 by 27 votes to 18.

The following Elections of Chairs and Vice Chairs took place without a named vote:

Audit Committee:

Chair: Councillor Henderson

Vice Chair: Councillor Beckett

Planning Applications Committee:

Chair: Councillor Haszeldine

Vice Chair: Councillor Cossins

Council Decision Making and Scrutiny Process Working Group:

Chair: Councillor McGill

Vice Chair: Councillor Cossins

Climate Change:

Chair: Councillor Snedker

Vice Chair: Councillor Mahmud

9 **REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2025/26**

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to representation on other bodies for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

RESOLVED – That the nominations to the other bodies, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASON – To comply with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

10 **TO APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2025/26 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Submitted – A programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the programme of Ordinary Meetings be approved.