COUNCIL

Thursday, 31 January 2019

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Galletley, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Kane, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, S Richmond, E A Richmond, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Storr, C Taylor, J Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis and York

APOLOGIES – Councillors Crumbie, Kelley, Kelly, M Nicholson, Nutt and Rahman

ABSENT – Councillors Cartwright, Dixon, Grundy and Wright

38 MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2018

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council, held on 29 November 2018.

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

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

40 SEALING.

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

41 ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor reported on the death of Former Mayor and Councillor Hannah Straiton, who had sadly passed away on 8 January 2019, and referred to Former Councillor Straiton's years of service, and roles on the Council.

The Mayor advised of the death of Former Councillor Margaret Thomas, who had passed away peacefully at home on 15 January 2019.

The Mayor also informed Members of the Death in Service of Stephen Willis on 13 January 2019.

As a mark of respect, Members stood and observed a short silence in memory of former colleagues.

42 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE 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) MEMBERS TO THE 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.

43 COUNCIL REPORTS.

(4) COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION OF TAX BASE 2019/20

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to determine the Council's tax base for 2019/20.

The submitted report stated that, in accordance with Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the Council had to decide its tax base by 31 January in the year preceding that for which the tax base applies.

RESOLVED – (a) That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2019/20, be approved.

(b) That the tax base for the Council and the individual tax base for the parishes, as set out at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To comply with statutory requirements, enabling the Council Tax for 2019/20 to be set by Council in February 2019.

44 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.

45 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY 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

46 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(5) APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT

The following Motion was moved by Councillor Haszeldine, and seconded by Councillor Kane:

That this Council will sign a local apprenticeship agreement with Unison that promises to:

(i) Conduct a skills audit, to properly determine this Council's needs.

(ii) Negotiate with relevant trade unions, to develop a high quality apprenticeship scheme, which ensures apprentices' rights are respected.

(iii) Select and monitor a high-quality training provider.

(iv) Recognise apprenticeships as investing in future labour, rather than 'cheap labour'.

(v) Keep existing employees informed about the introduction of the apprenticeship scheme.

(vi) Provide support and training for the supervisors of apprentices.

(vii) Meet regularly with apprentices and their representatives.

(viii) Actively challenge job stereotyping.

(ix) Encourage and celebrate apprentices.

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

(6) GREAT JOBS AGENDA

The following Motion was moved by Councillor C. Taylor, and seconded by Councillor McEwan:

That, as this Council believes that every job should be a great job, for this Council that means workers in Darlington should be paid fairly; work in a safe and healthy workplace; be treated decently and with respect; have regular hours; have the chance to be represented by unions and be consulted on what matters at work; and get the chance to learn and progress at work and get on in life, this Council resolves to:

(i) Support the TUC's Great Jobs Agenda, which sets out the actions employers and the government must take for every job to be a great job.

(ii) Ensure as an employer we continue providing great jobs for our own employees.

(iii) Continue to value meaningful workforce engagement and representation through our recognised trade unions.

(iv) Continue our work with employers to secure business growth that is sustainable and ethical.

(v) Make increasing job quality a key part of the conversation when pursuing local economic development opportunities.

(vi) Use our commissioning and procurement processes where possible to raise employment standards amongst those suppliers and providers we work with.

(vii) Where appropriate, engage with government and other bodies who hold regulatory powers, to tackle issues which local authorities do not have statutory powers to address directly.

The following Amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs. H. Scott and seconded by Councillor Galletley:

'That the last paragraph, sub-section (vii), be deleted from the Motion, as printed.'

The Amendment was put to the meeting and lost.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, a request was made by five Members for a named vote on the Substantive Motion. A named vote was taken of those Members present at the meeting and there appeared:-

For the Motion – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Kane, Knowles, Lister, Lyonette, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, A. J. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor and Wallis (23)

Abstentions – Councillors Crudass, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Galletley, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lawton, Lee, Marshall, Mrs. H. Scott, Tostevin and York (14)

Motion Carried.

NOTE: Councillors Mills, E. A. Richmond and S. Richmond had left the meeting when the vote was taken.

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

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.