

COUNCIL
19th July 2018

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Cartwright, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Kane, Kelley, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Marshall, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, Rahman, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis and Wright. (44)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Galletley, Kelly, Lyonette, Mrs. H. Scott and York. (5)

ABSENT – Councillor Grundy. (1)

9. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council, held on 10 and 17 May 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – The Mayor and Councillors Cossins, Dixon, Harker, L. Hughes, Kane, Knowles, Lister, McEwan, Storr, C. Taylor and J. Taylor each declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Minute 17(b) below, as a Member of the Co-operative Party.

Councillor Coultas declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Minute 15 (a) below, as a Director of the Darlington Credit Union.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) Councillor Regan - The Mayor reported on the death of Councillor David Regan, who had sadly passed away on 27 May 2018, and referred to Councillor Regan’s years of service, and roles on the Council.

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

(2) Best of Darlington Awards 2018 – The Mayor reported on the Best of Darlington Awards, which had taken place on 18 May 2018, and informed Members of two employees of the authority who were amongst the Award recipients.

Lyndsey Robinson, Tenancy Enforcement Officer, was presented with the ‘Public Service Hero Award’, for her work tackling anti-social behaviour in Middleton St. George, and Lee Morris, Learning and Skills Employer Engagement Officer, was

presented with the 'Darlington Cares: Good Egg Award' for his volunteer work with both Quakers Running Club and Darlington South Park parkrun.

The Mayor also reported that Ada Burns, former Chief Executive of the authority, received a special Chairman's Award, in recognition of her achievements.

(3) Councillor Heslop - The Mayor extended a warm welcome to Councillor Heslop, who was attending his first meeting of the Council since his election on 12 July 2018.

13. 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.

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

15. 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 Managing Director 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.

16. 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

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – (a) The following Motion was moved by Councillor Curry, and seconded by Councillor Wallis:

That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Council's Cabinet to:-

- a) Look at options to end the use of unnecessary 'Single Use Plastics' within the Council; and

- b) Encourage businesses; those who contract with the Council; residents; and organisations in Darlington to go 'Plastic' free to assist in reducing street litter and contribute to the global campaign against marine pollution.

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

(b) The following Motion was moved by Councillor Knowles, and seconded by Councillor S. Richmond:

- a) That, as this Council believes that action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery (and the fact that it is happening all over the UK and that the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the Government), it agrees it has an important role to play in ensuring Darlington Borough Council's contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern slavery and exploitation.
- b) That this Council adopt and as far as is practicable implement the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure Darlington Borough Council's procurement practices don't support slavery.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, a request was made by five Members for a named vote on the 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, Crumbie, Dixon, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Kane, Kelley, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, Rahman, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Wallis and Wright. (32)

Against the Motion – Councillors Crudass, Donoghue, Johnson and Tostevin (4)

Abstentions – Councillors Mrs. Culley, Curry, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Marshall, Mills and E. A. Richmond. (7)

Motion Carried.

NOTE: Councillor Cartwright had left the meeting when the vote was taken.

18. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT OF A LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

– Following the resignation of Councillor Bill Dixon as Leader of the Council, consideration was given to the appointment of a new Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Harker be appointed Leader of the Council.

NOTE: Following his appointment, Councillor Harker confirmed that Councillor McEwan would be appointed the Deputy Leader of the Council, and stated that he intended to undertake the work of the Leader's Portfolio, alongside the Efficiency and

Resources Portfolio, until the following Ordinary Meeting of the Council when he would confirm his appointments to the Cabinet Portfolios.

19. 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 Mrs. D. Jones be appointed to the Planning Applications Committee in place of Councillor Cartwright.

(b) That Councillor Heslop be appointed to the vacancy on the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.