

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 14th July, 2010.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Colin Leckonby); Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Mick Womphrey and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: N Schneider (CE); D E Bond, P K Bell, Ms K Wannop,(LD); P Dobson (DNS); J Danks, L King, A Kelly (R); J Humphreys (CESC).

Also in attendance: Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Mrs Jean Kirby, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Mike Smith, Cllr Allison Trainer and Cllr Bill Woodhead.

C Letter of Thanks From the Yorkshire Regiment 67/10

The Worshipful the Mayor read a letter of thanks from Lieutenant Colonel E D Colthup Commanding Officer from the Yorkshire Regiment for allowing the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) to exercise their right to the Freedom of Stockton on Tees.

C Declarations of Interest 68/10

Councillor Gibson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 12 - Cabinet Minutes - CAB 64/10 as he was a founder member of Newtown Community Resource Centre.

All Members present declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 12 - Cabinet Minutes - CAB 70/10 as they were entitled to receive allowances under the scheme.

C Petition – Protect Preston Park 69/10

In accordance with the Council's Constitution; and following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members, Council noted the receipt by the Worshipful the Mayor of a petition against the proposal to locate and develop a school within the bounds of Preston Park.

C Minutes 70/10

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12th May 2010 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record subject to the following correction:-

Add Councillor Mrs Sylvia Walmsley to the list of those present.

C Public Question Time 71/10

The Director of Law and Democracy informed the Worshipful the Mayor that no Public Questions had been received.

C
72/10 **Appeals & Complaints Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appeals & Complaints Committee held on 31st March 2010 (Minute ACC 12/09 - ACC 16/09) be received.

C
73/10 **Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure & Culture Select Committee held on 31st March 2010 (Minute ALC 43/09 - ALC 49/09) be confirmed.

C
74/10 **Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure & Culture Select Committee held on 19th May 2010 (Minute ALC 1/10 - ALC 7/10) be confirmed.

C
75/10 **Audit Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Woodhouse, seconded by Councillor Womphrey and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 10th May 2010 (Minute A 13/10 - A 18/10) be received.

Council sent best wishes to the Chief Internal Auditor for a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

C
76/10 **Cabinet Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 20th May 2010 (Minute CAB 1/10 - CAB 17/10) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

C
77/10 **Cabinet Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 10th June 2010 (Minute CAB 18/10 - CAB 29/10) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

C **Cabinet Minutes**

78/10

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 8th July 2010 (Minute CAB 60/10 - CAB 73/10) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

C **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

79/10

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 14th April 2010 (Minute CYP 1/10 - CYP 5/10) be confirmed.

C **Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee Minutes**

80/10

Moved by Councillor Stoker, seconded by Councillor Apedaile and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate, Adult & Social Inclusion Select Committee held on 20th April 2010 (Minute CAS 1/10 - CAS 6/10) be confirmed.

C **Environment Select Committee Minutes**

81/10

Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Select Committee held on 29th March 2010 (Minute ENV 53/09 - ENV 59/09) be confirmed.

C **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

82/10

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 30th March 2010 (Minute EXC 72/09 - EXC 77/09) be received.

C **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

83/10

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 4th May 2010 (Minute EXC 1/10) be received.

C **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

84/10

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 1st June 2010

(Minute EXC 2/10 - EXC 8/10) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

C
85/10 **Health Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Cains, seconded by Councillor Faulks and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health Select Committee held on 19th April
2010 (Minute H 1/10 - H 8/10) be confirmed.

C
86/10 **Licensing Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Nelson, seconded by Councillor Kirton and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 27th April
2010 (Minute L 1/10 - L 7/10) be received.

C
87/10 **Licensing Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Nelson, seconded by Councillor Kirton and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 8th June 2010
(Minute L 8/10 - L 15/10) be received.

C
88/10 **Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Nelson, seconded by Councillor Kirton and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 22nd
April 2010 (Minute LSC 10/10 - LSC 12/10) be received.

C
89/10 **Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Nelson, seconded by Councillor Kirton and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 11th May
2010 (Minute LSC 13/10 - LSC 15/10) be received.

C
90/10 **Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Nelson, seconded by Councillor Kirton and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 13th May
2010 (Minute LSC 16/10 - LSC 18/10) be received.

C
91/10 **Planning Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Salt and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21st April 2010 (Minute P 1/09 - P 10/09) be received.

C
92/10 **Planning Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Salt and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12th May 2010 (Minute P 11/10 - P 18/09) be received.

C
93/10 **Planning Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Salt and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 2nd June 2010 (Minute P 19/10 - P 23/10) be received.

C
94/10 **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 12th April 2010 (Minute RTS 1/10 - RTS 7/10) be confirmed.

C
95/10 **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 24th May 2010 (Minute RTS 8/10 - RTS 15/10) be confirmed.

C
96/10 **Standards Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 23rd April 2010 (Minute S 1/10 - S 13/10) be received.

C
97/10 **Standards Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 21st May 2010 (Minute S 14/10 - S 22/10) be received.

C Cleveland Fire Authority Minutes

98/10

The minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on the 26th March 2010 were noted.

C Cleveland Police Authority Executive Minutes

99/10

The minutes of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive held on the 25th February 2010 were noted.

C Local Joint Consultative Panel Minutes

100/10

The minutes of the Local Joint Consultative Panel held on the 15th March 2010 were noted subject to the following correction:-

At minute LJC 28/09 insert the word "non" before the word prejudicial in the declaration made by Councillor Beall and Councillor Rix.

C Parish Council Liaison Forum Minutes

101/10

The minutes of the Parish Council Liaison Forum held on the 21st June 2010 were noted.

C Schools' Workforce Joint Consultative Panel Minutes

102/10

The minutes of the Schools' Workforce Joint Consultative Panel Minutes held on 23rd March 2010 were noted.

C Stockton Home Safety Association Minutes

103/10

The minutes of the Stockton Home Safety Association held on the 30th March 2010 were noted.

C Stockton Home Safety Association Minutes

104/10

The minutes of the Stockton Home Safety Association held on the 11th May 2010 were noted.

**C Appointments to Ropner Playing Fields Trust for the Municipal Year
2010/2011**

105/10

It was reported that Ropner Playing Fields Trust had contacted the Council and indicated that the Council's representative's term of office was coming to an end. The representative was Councillor Bob Cook who had indicated his wish

to continue on the Board. The Trust had also indicated that its constitution allowed for two further local authority representatives to be appointed. It had therefore requested that the Council considered appointing a total of 3 members to its Board. Following consultation with the political group leaders the following nominations had been received:-

Councillor Cook (Labour)
Councillor Mrs Fletcher (Lib Dem)
Councillor Noble (Labour)
Councillor Woodhead (Conservative)

The above nominations were considered.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cook (Labour), Councillor Noble (Labour) and Councillor Woodhead (Conservative) be appointed to Ropner Playing Fields Trust for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

C Motion to Council – Funding for New Hospital

106/10

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1. Moved by Councillor Beall, seconded by Councillor Mrs Cains:-

"This Council expresses its deep disappointment at the decision of the Government to cancel the Treasury funding for the new hospital designed to replace the North Tees and Hartlepool University Hospitals. Council agrees with clinicians, NHS Stockton & Hartlepool (formerly PCTs), North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and other health bodies that the current Momentum strategy, developed and planned over several years, to provide both a new hospital and health facilities closer to communities is the right one – and that the new hospital is an integral part of that strategy.

Council notes that the Health Secretary, in answer to a parliamentary question on Tuesday 29 June asking him if he agreed with the strategy, did not dismiss it but said that he would expect a Foundation Trust to use the freedoms it has, and should not ask the Department of Health to meet the whole capital cost of whatever it proposes. This council therefore calls upon, and supports in doing so, the NHS Foundation Trust, other health bodies and local MPs to work together with the Government and the private sector to secure alternative finance to deliver the new hospital for our communities."

The motion was carried.

C Members' Question Time

107/10

The following questions were submitted by Councillor Fletcher for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

In view of:-

- The popular outcry against rebuilding Egglecliffe School on Preston Park, including the petitions which have been presented to this Council tonight and previously;

- The absence of any apparent source of funding for the proposed bridge over the River Tees, which was an integral part of the argument how such a building would serve the community of Ingleby Barwick;
- The stoppage of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) in this Borough and the unlikelihood that the previous Government's BSF rules (upon which arguments for such a building were based) will apply to any future plans for the southern part of the Borough,

Will she bring to the next Cabinet meeting proposals that no further work be undertaken on the feasibility of this proposal?

What has been the cost so far of looking into the feasibility of this proposal and what further cost is likely to be incurred if the feasibility study were completed?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"I find this question incredulous given the bitterly disappointing announcement about the loss of Stockton's £180 million transforming education programme and in the light of the emerging very fluid situation. We will be bringing a detailed paper to the September Cabinet outlining a refocused Borough wide capital strategy for Members to consider.

Councillor Cunningham gave a commitment to the education in the 3 communities in the south of the Borough so we need to ensure that we have all the available information when we look at that strategy.

In answer to your last point to provide a detailed costing would require a time consuming and very specific piece of work. Officers are fully engaged at present in managing the fall out from the recent government proposals and their impact in schools together with developing a re-focused strategy, which I hope the Member will feel has to be our priority for the benefit of the education of our children and young. To task an officer to answer this element of the question would take them away from that very important work.

We will be bringing further proposals in September and can confirm that until such time as that report is tabled we will not be making any further significant outlay in relation to the feasibility study requested by Cabinet.

If the Member is so concerned about cost I would have thought that your energy would have been better spent lobbying your party to reverse this shameful decision to cancel the BSF Programme in light of the £2.8 million we have spent to date not to mention the considerable amounts spent by the bidders which is now lost to the future education of our children and young people which is scandalous.

You might also like to include in your lobbying the free swimming programme and free school meals."

Councillor Fletcher asked the following supplementary question:-

"Would the Cabinet Member agree that two parts of her response were not in

response to my question? It will cost £40k for a full feasibility and to drill the necessary holes, can the Cabinet Member guarantee that no further expensive work will be undertaken?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"No to the first part of your question and in response to the second part, there will be no significant investment, we need to gather all the necessary information and then we can produce a strategy. We need the best education for our young people."

C 108/10 **Forward Plan and Leaders Statement**

The Leader of the Council gave his Forward Plan and Leaders Statement.

The regular Members Policy Briefing notes were designed to keep Members up to date with the emerging issues coming from Government but there were a number of issues that perhaps needed a little more detail.

The Minister for Communities and Local Government had disbanded the funding and powers of the Regional Leaders Boards which had necessitated 18 members of staff being made redundant, effective from the end of July. These employees were those originally employed by the North East Assembly to help with the creation of Regional Strategies and as Members were aware the Spatial and Economic Strategies had been scrapped.

It had also been announced that legislation would be introduced to abolish the RDA by March 2012, replacing them with Local Enterprise Partnerships and a submission was being prepared by TVU on behalf of the sub regions LA's and their business partners.

The Government had indicated that those functions identified by the North East Authorities and the NEBF, which we felt should be retained at a regional level would now be undertaken at a National level. These being primarily around:- inward investment, enterprise and business growth together with EU Regional Development Funds and finance to support business growth.

Discussions were ongoing but it was likely that there would be no regional organisation established and the sub-regional LEP's would be the established vehicle to support inward investment, business development, planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure, employment and enterprise and the transition to the low carbon economy. These matched the activities that we believed should be done at the Tees Valley and local level.

TVU was undergoing a review, agreed by Cabinet last week which would determine the future purpose of the organisation, its core functions, its governance and staffing arrangements. This review would make the organisation leaner and more focussed and sets out goals which it must achieve to fulfil its statement of ambition.

The Education Secretary had highlighted Government plans for a complete overhaul of capital investment in English schools. In Stockton all schools on the BSF programme had been stopped.

The two new academies would still open in September as planned and we would be working quickly to ensure that we are in a position to take advantage of any new opportunities for submission to the Government's new Capital Review team.

A list of schools which had submitted an expression of interest to become academies had been released and although there were a number in the other Tees Valley Authorities there were none from Stockton. However, there had been two registrations of interest in establishing "free schools", both being in the Ingleby Barwick area.

Members were aware that Vancouver Airport Services had acquired a 65% stake in Peel Airports Ltd and as Vancouver had a record of investing in its 19 airports world wide and reported revenues of CDN\$530m carrying 28.5 million passengers. We must consider this to be good news and look forward to more destinations becoming available.

Last month the INEOS bio plant at Seal Sands was awarded £7.3 m from One North East and the Department for Energy and Climate Change for construction of Europe's first advanced bioethanol from waste plant. The £52m plant, which would convert biodegradable household and commercial waste to bio fuel for use in cars and renewable electricity for homes and industry, could be operational by 2012, helping to create 350 jobs in the construction industry and 40 permanent skilled roles.

The Borough's reputation as a key location for environmental businesses was further strengthened last month with the news that Stockton based environmental biotechnology company CBio introduced a range of revolutionary "probiotic" cleaning products that were being sold by Tesco nationally.

Tees port had seen container traffic increase by 22% in the first quarter of 2010, compared to 2009.

Numbers of Stockton residents on JSA had reduced by 251 from April to May and new claims have reduced by 5.7%. 1,238 vacancies were notified in Stockton in May, 331 more than the previous month.

At its meeting in September Cabinet would receive reports on the results of the Consultation on New Executive arrangements and a review of our BSF strategy, including the ongoing review of the options for the South of the Borough.

Stockton Borough Council was celebrating becoming one of just six UK councils to achieve the Government's Customer services Excellence Standard.

The award demonstrated that the Council had achieved high standards of customer insight, organisational culture, information and access, delivery of services, timeliness and quality of services.

It was unusual because it applied to the whole Council and its entire range of services. In England, only one other council – Thameside, near Manchester – had achieved both the audit Commission's top "excellent" rating for the way it uses its resources and the corporate standard in Customer Service Excellence.

And finally, the Infinity Bridge was awarded the National “Structural steel Design” award being described by the judges as “steel work at its most dramatic”.