

# Council

A meeting of Council was held on Thursday, 17th November, 2016.

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Ken Dixon); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Philip Dennis, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Stephen Parry, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

**Officers:** Neil Schneider (CE) Julie Danks, Peter Bell, Jenna McDonald (DCE), Jane Humphreys (CHS), Jamie McCann (CS), David Bond (Proper Officer), Beccy Brown (HR, L&C), Richard McGuckin (EGDS).

**Also in attendance:** Members of the Public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Elsie Hampton, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Rachael Proud, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

## **C 71/16 Welcome, Evacuation Procedure and the Recording of the Meeting**

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the procedure for the recording of the meeting.

The evacuation procedure was also noted.

## **C 72/16 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was a member of the TVCA Board.

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was a named substitute on the TVCA Board.

Councillor Derrick Brown declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was a member of the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Norma Stephenson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as she was a member of the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Phil Dennis declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was the Chair of the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Barry Woodhouse declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was a member of the TVCA Audit and

Governance Committee.

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was a member of the TVCA Transport Committee.

Councillor Chris Barlow declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as he was a named substitute on the TVCA Audit and Governance Committee. Also the Labour Party was in the process of selecting a candidate for the Tees Valley Mayoral election and he was part of this process.

Councillor Evaline Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Initial Proposals for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the North East – Consultation Response as she was the wife of a sitting MP.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Initial Proposals for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the North East – Consultation Response as he worked for a sitting MP.

Councillor Stefan Houghton declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Initial Proposals for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the North East – Consultation Response as he worked for a sitting MP.

Councillor Julia Whitehill declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Initial Proposals for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the North East – Consultation Response as she worked for a sitting MP.

**C**  
**73/16**

**Stockton on Tees Local Plan**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on work undertaken since a report was considered at Cabinet in June 2016 namely progress on the production of a Draft Local Plan for consultation, completion of an evidence base review, consultation on and refinement of the Statement of Community Involvement and completion of a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment.

The report followed a presentation and comments at Planning Committee and approval by Cabinet for use of the Draft Local Plan, Policies Map and Sustainability Appraisal for consultation and outlined recommendations from Cabinet to Council to approve the documents for consultation.

At a meeting on 27th June 2016, Cabinet gave approval to begin the production of a new Local Plan to replace existing policy documents and supersede the previous approach of the production of the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan.

Since then, work had been underway to produce a Draft Local Plan, associated documents and evidence base review to enable consultation on the Draft Local

Plan, Policies Map, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken.

The draft Local Plan set out a vision and policy framework for the future development of the area, identifying and responding to needs and opportunities in relation to all forms of housing, including student accommodation, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure. It also sought to safeguard the environment, respond to climate change and secure good design.

In order to gain proper approval to consult on the Draft Local Plan and associated documents, comments from Planning Committee, endorsement by Cabinet and approval from Council was required. As such, The draft Local Plan, Policies Map and Sustainability Appraisal were presented to Planning Committee on 3rd November 2016.

A summary of comments from Planning Committee and responses given at the meeting on 3rd November were detailed within the report.

The next stage of the approval process required consideration of the recommendations at Cabinet on 10th November 2016.

All recommendations were approved at Cabinet and had been reflected in the recommendations set out within the report to Council.

The Draft Local Plan and accompanying Policies Map for consultation were available on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Website agenda system.

The Draft Local Plan was supported by a number of additional documents which directed the timetable and consultation requirements of the strategy. These included:

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - This document was available on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Website agenda system.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) - The LDS was available to view on the Councils website.

In addition, the Draft Local Plan was supported by a number of documents required by the Local Planning Regulations which informed, directed and supported emerging policies, as detailed below:

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - This document was available on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Website agenda system

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) – Available on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Website agenda system.

Following the proposed period of consultation, the Local plan would be refined and the revised version (Publication Draft), would be accompanied by a further complement of supporting documents set out below:

- Infrastructure Strategy and Schedule
- Consultation Statement

- Duty to Cooperate Statement

The wider evidence base documents which underpinned the approach and policies in the Local Plan were listed in the draft Local Plan Appendix. These and the remaining documents would be available on the Council website at the beginning of the consultation period.

Subject to Council approval, consultation on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents would take place for a period of nine weeks running from 21st November 2016 to 20th January 2017.

A detailed consultation plan had been produced and would be available on the Councils website in advance of the consultation period.

The following timetable provided an indication of activities and milestones in the production the Local Plan:

- 'Regulation 18' period of public consultation - 21st November 2016 to 20th January 2017.
- Spring 2017- Review and amend documents in response to representations received.
- Summer 2017- Prepare the 'Publication Draft' version of the Local Plan, associated documents and the evidence base for the 'Regulation 19' stage public consultation.
- Autumn 2017- Submission of Local Plan associated documents and evidence base for Examination in Public

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Nigel Cooke and seconded by Councillor Bob Cook.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The comments from Planning Committee on the Draft Local Plan, Policies Map and Sustainability Appraisal and adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement be noted.
2. The endorsement by Cabinet of documents for consultation be noted and the use of the Draft Local Plan, Policies Map, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal for consultation be approved.
3. Any minor changes to the Draft Stockton on Tees Local Plan, Policies Map, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport
4. The adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement be approved.
5. The proposed timescales for consultation on the Draft Local Plan, Policies Map, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal be noted.

**C  
74/16**      **Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority**

Consideration was given to a report on the Governance Proposals for the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Following the Authority's approval of the Devolution Deal; the formation of the Tees Valley Combined Authority on 1st April 2016; and the making of the Order creating the position of Mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority area, public consultation had taken place on the functions of a Tees Valley Mayor and how the Mayor could work within the Combined Authority.

A report was submitted to Cabinet on 10th November regarding the giving of consent to the Order being made that would determine the powers of the Tees Valley Mayor.

The report asked Council to note Cabinet's report and decisions regarding the proposals for the Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority and the arrangements for giving the Authority's consent to the making of the Order establishing the powers of the Tees Valley Mayor.

Council was also asked to consider the draft Mayoral Combined Authority Constitution, with a view to comments at this meeting being shared with the Combined Authority ahead of its decision regarding the approval of a new Constitution.

A copy of the report to Cabinet on 10th November was attached to the Council report. The draft Order provisions and a copy of Cabinet's decision record was also circulated to Members.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Bob Cook and seconded by Councillor Jim Beall.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report to Cabinet and Cabinet's decisions regarding the proposals for the Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority and the arrangements for giving the Authority's consent to the making of the Order establishing the powers of the Tees Valley Mayor be noted.
2. The draft Mayoral Combined Authority Constitution be noted.

**C  
75/16**      **Initial Proposals for New Parliamentary Constitution Boundaries in the North East – Consultation Response**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies in the North East and sought approval of the Council's formal response.

In 2011 legislation was passed to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600, but the review of constituency boundaries that would have made the recommendations necessary to implement these changes was halted because of disagreements within the previous Government over constitutional reform.

A new review by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) was required to be conducted after the 2015 General Election and completed by October 2018. It must again divide the UK into 600 constituencies.

The BCE was also required to ensure that each constituency had an electorate that was no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota. Accordingly, each constituency must have an electorate that was no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

On 13 September, the BCE published their initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

The North East had been allocated 25 constituencies – a reduction of four from the current number. Details of the North East proposals had been made available for inspection at Libraries across the Borough and a direct link to the proposals had also been provided from the Council's website. The proposals for the North East were attached to the report.

A Copy of a map illustrating the proposals for Stockton was on display at the meeting of Council.

It was proposed to divide Stockton-on-Tees into three constituencies two of which included overlapping parliamentary boundaries with Middlesbrough and Hartlepool as follows:

- Hartlepool and Billingham
- Stockton West
- Middlesbrough West and Stockton East

Views on the proposals for Stockton-on-Tees Borough area were canvassed via email and at three Member Drop-In Sessions.

All of the views expressed by Members had been considered and the principal comments were detailed within the report.

The initial consultation period ended on 5 December 2016. In the meantime representations about the BCE's proposals could be submitted by visiting their website.

The BCE would also be taking oral representations at public hearings within each region of the UK. There were two proposed hearings in the North East.

The hearings were not inquiries, public meetings or debates, but were intended to provide an opportunity both for the BCE to explain its initial proposals and for people to give their views on these proposals.

Once the 12 week consultation period on the initial proposals had concluded, the BCE would publish all of the representations it had received. This publication would mark the start of a four week 'secondary consultation' period, likely to take place in spring 2017. The purpose of the secondary consultation was for people to see what others had said in response to the initial proposals, and to make comments on their views, for example by countering an argument,

or by supporting and reinforcing what others have said. All the comments would be on the website, where there would be the facility to make comments on what others had said.

It was proposed to report back to Council regarding the representations submitted to the BCE during the initial consultation period. Members would then be able to determine if any further comments should be made to the BCE during the secondary consultation period.

After the end of the secondary consultation period, the BCE would analyse those representations and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals. If they decided that the evidence presented persuaded them to change the initial proposals, revised proposals would be published for the areas concerned, and a further consultation period of eight weeks would take place. This was likely to be towards the end of 2017. There would be no further public hearings, nor would there be a repeat of the four week period for commenting on the representations of others in respect of the revised proposals. All of the revised proposals would be published on the website where views could be submitted.

Finally, following the consultation on revised proposals, the BCE would consider all the evidence received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining final recommendations. The recommendations would be set out in a published report to the Government, who would present it, without amendment, to Parliament on behalf of the BCE. The legislation stated that the BCE must report to the Government in September 2018. Further details about what the Government and Parliament might then do with the recommendations were contained in the Guide to the 2018 Review.

Cabinet had considered the matter at their meeting held on 10 November 2016. A copy of the relevant minute extract had been circulated to Members.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Bob Cook and seconded by Councillor Jim Beall.

With regard to the Council's proposed formal response to the initial proposals, the Leader of the Conservative Group considered that there was a lack of understanding of the communities in the South of the Borough. In particular it was wrong to suggest that Yarm had more in common with parts of Middlesbrough rather than Eaglescliffe and parts of Stockton, and the Council should be proposing that Ingleby Barwick is brought back into the Stockton seat rather than being left with Middlesbrough, given that it is an integral part of the Stockton constituency. The Conservative Group therefore did not agree with the Council's formal response and urged the Council to take a step back and look carefully as to whether the suggestions in the response were truly the best suggestion for Stockton.

A vote took place and the recommendations were agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The comments specified at paragraphs 10 – 13 of the report regarding the initial proposals produced by the Boundary Commission for England be the

Authority's formal representations.

2. The Assistant Director Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services be authorised to submit the agreed representations to the Boundary Commission for England before the deadline of 5 December 2016.
3. A further report be submitted to Council following the end of the initial consultation period.