

# Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 8th March, 2017.

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Ken Dixon); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Chris Barlow, 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 John Gardner, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Stephen Parry, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, 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 David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

**Officers:** Neil Schneider (CE) Julie Danks, Peter Bell, Jenna McDonald (DCE), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Martin Gray (CHS), Beccy Brown, Julie Butcher (HR, L&C) Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH); David Bond (Proper Officer), Reuben Kench (CL&E).

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Rachael Proud, Cllr Mike Smith, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley and Cllr Julia Whitehill.

## **C 104/16 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 105/16 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Evaline Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Motion to Council – State Pension Age for Women as her husband was the Shadow Minister for Pensions.

Councillor Lynn Hall declared a personal prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 - Motion to Council – State Pension Age for Women and did not speak or vote on the item.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 – Motion to Council – Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Workforce as a member of his family worked for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

## **C 106/16 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2017 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

## **C 107/16 Public Question Time**

The Proper Officer informed Members that no public questions had been received.

**C**            **Proposed Dispensation for Non-Attendance – Councillor Sylvia Walmsley**  
**108/16**

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that where a council member failed, throughout a period of six consecutive months, to attend any meeting of the authority then the Member ceased to be a member of the authority, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period.

Councillor Mrs Sylvia Walmsley was incapacitated due to illness and had been unable to attend any meeting of the authority for a period in excess of 5 months.

Councillor Ian Dalgarno updated Members with regard to the health of Councillor Mrs Sylvia Walmsley. Members passed on their best wishes to her and hoped that she would be back attending meetings of the Council soon.

RESOLVED that a dispensation be granted to allow Councillor Mrs Walmsley to remain qualified until such time as she is able to attend a meeting of the Council.

**C**            **Council Plan 2017 – 2020**  
**109/16**

Consideration was given to a report that presented a draft Council Plan for 2017-20.

The Council Plan set out the vision and key objectives of the Council. It aimed to provide clarity and focus for Councillors, managers, staff, members of the public and partners about the Council's ambitions.

A copy of the plan was available on the Council website agenda system.

Discussion sessions had taken place on 8th and 10th February 2017 for elected Members to discuss the Council Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Cabinet considered the Council Plan at its meeting held on 9th February 2017 and a copy of the relevant minute extract was attached to the report.

The Council Plan would be published on the Council's website following approval by Council.

RESOLVED that the Council Plan 2017-20 be approved.

**C**            **Motion**  
**110/16**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1. The motion was moved by Councillor Lisa Grainge, seconded by Councillor Di Hewitt:-

"This Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the State Pension Age (SPA) with a lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women, many of our own workforce included, had significant pension changes imposed on them with little and in some cases, no personal notification of the changes.

Some women had only two years notice of a six year increase to their state pension age. Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences.

Many of these women are already out of the Labour Market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren or suffering discrimination in the workplace, so struggle to find adequate employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when they reached 60.

It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute, it is widely accepted that both women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has been implemented without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving these women with inadequate time to make alternative arrangements.

This Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women do not suffer hardship due to pension changes that they were not told about, until it was too late to make alternative financial arrangements.

This Council should write to both MPs seeking support for this motion and the women affected."

Councillor Ben Houchen stated that while the Conservative Group had sympathy with the way in which the transitional arrangements had been made, the Conservative Group would be abstaining from voting and they would be writing separately to local MPs and the relevant Minister.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 Councillor Lisa Grainge requested that a recorded vote be taken; which was supported by at least a quarter of the members present:-

For the motion:-

Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Chris Barlow, 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 Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Stephen Parry, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Against the motion:-

Cllr Andrew Stephenson.

Abstentions:-

Cllr Philip Dennis, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson and Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

Unable to vote due to declaring a personal prejudicial interest:-

Cllr Lynn Hall.

The motion was carried.

**C**  
**111/16**

**Motion**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1. The motion was moved by Councillor Paul Rowling, seconded by Councillor Tracey Stott :-

“This Council recognises and commends the outstanding commitment of its workforce in continuing to provide valued services to the residents of Stockton-on-Tees.

Over recent years the Council workforce has had to contend with numerous changes due to the continual and severe reductions in funding from central government.

We praise their outstanding professionalism and dedication without which this Council could not operate to the high standards which it does today.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 Councillor Paul Rowling requested that a recorded vote be taken; which was supported by at least a quarter of the members present:-

For the motion:-

Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Chris Barlow, 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 Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Stephen Parry, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, 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 David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

The motion was carried.

**C**  
**Members' Question Time**

**112/16**

The Proper Officer informed Members that no member questions had been received.

**C Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

**113/16**

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

Since Council last met Cabinet had met on the 9th and the 16th February 2017 and considered reports on:

The Care Act Policy Review Update

An update on the delivery of probation services in the Borough.

The 2017-2020 Council Plan

The 2016 Employee Survey

Assistant Cabinet Members

School Admission Arrangements for 2018 - 2019

The Stockton-on-Tees Economic Strategy 2016 - 2031

The Economic Climate Report

The new hotel and the Medium Term Financial Plan

Cabinet would next meet on the 16th March 2017 and would consider reports on:

Older peoples and mental health care home fees

Review of the Council's Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy

Victoria Estate Regeneration: Urban Village Living (Promoting Active and Healthy Ageing.

Recording of Council Meetings

Children's Hub Performance

Development of Tees Valley Regional Adoption Agency

Accommodation for Care Leavers and Homeless Young People Report

After that the Leader of the Council looked forward to seeing Members at the Annual Meeting of the Council on the 5th April 2017.