

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 20th September, 2017.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Maurice Perry); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Julia Cherrett, 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 John Gardner, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr David Wilburn and Cllr Norma Wilburn.

Officers: Julie Danks, Peter Bell, Kirsty Wannop (DCE), Beccy Brown, Julie Butcher (HR, L&C), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Richard McGuckin (E,G&D), Martin Gray (CHS), Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH); Reuben Kench (CL&E).

Also in attendance: Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Phil Dennis, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mike Smith, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Bill Woodhead and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

C Welcome and Evacuation Procedure

60/17

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

C Dragon Boat Festival

61/17

The Worshipful the Mayor thanked Jade Mulhearn (Sports Development Officer) as she had entered a Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council team in the recent Dragon Boat Festival. The team had come second overall and had raised funds for the Mayor's Charities – Cleveland Alzheimer's Residential Care Ltd, Motor Neurones Disease Association and Meningitis Now.

C Declarations of Interest

62/17

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 9 – Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan as he was a Director Thirteen Group. Councillor Steve Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 13 – Motion – Housing Benefit as he was a Director Thirteen Group. Councillor Steve Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Kathryn Nelson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 9 – Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan as her husband was a Director Thirteen Group. Councillor Kathryn Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Kathryn Nelson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 13 – Motion – Housing Benefit as her husband was a Director Thirteen Group. Councillor Kathryn Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left

the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Paul Weston declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 9 – Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan as he was an employee of Thirteen Group. Councillor Paul Weston withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

C Minutes

63/17

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2017 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C Former Councillor Fred Salt and Former Councillor Ray Liversidge

64/17

Members stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor Fred Salt and former Councillor Ray Liversidge.

C Armed Forces Week

65/17

It gave the Worshipful the Mayor great pleasure to welcome representatives from the Freedom Regiments: The Rifles, The Yorkshire Regiment and 1st Close Support Battalion REME.

The region had a proud military heritage, which included supporting veterans, cadets and serving military personnel, and the Council continued that support through its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.

Since 2011 the Mayor of the Borough had organised events and activities during Armed Forces Week to honour past and present members of the armed forces. It also provided opportunities for residents of the borough to come and meet with members of the armed forces, civilian support services and cadets.

As part of the Armed Forces Week activities, the Council raised much needed funds for the Freedom Regiments through the 'Mayor's Charity Duck Race'. The total raised from this year's duck race was £ 1389, giving a total £ 463 to each of the regiments.

The Worshipful the Mayor presented the following representatives from the Freedom Regiments with their cheques:-

Major Chris Lawton, The Rifles Regiment.

Major Pat Ralph, The Yorkshire Regiment.

RSM Scott Brash, 1st Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

C APSE Awards

66/17

As Members were aware on the 7th September 2017 the Worshipful the Mayor had the privilege of attending the APSE Award Ceremony.

The APSE Service Awards recognised frontline services that councils across

the UK deliver to local communities.

The Council had been shortlisted for 9 awards out of 22 categories for 2017, including Overall Council of the year.

There were over 300 submissions to the APSE Service Awards entered by over 100 organisations with 22 submission categories, including Overall Council of the Year.

The Worshipful the Mayor was joined by Council representatives for each of those categories also by the Chief and Deputy Executive, Leader and Deputy Leader, Service Managers, and Councillors.

Once again like the MJ Achievement Awards held recently the Worshipful the Mayor was proud to represent the Council as 1 of 9 Councils across the country to be shortlisted for the prestigious 'Overall Council of the Year' award.

The categories that the Council was shortlisted for the Association of the Public Services Excellence (APSE) Annual Service Awards for 2017 were;

Best housing, regeneration or new build initiative.

Best health and well-being initiative including social care.

Best public/private partnership working initiative.

Best renewable energy or energy efficiency initiative.

Best service team of the year – catering service.

Best team of the year – transport and fleet maintenance service.

Best service team of the year – cemetery and crematorium service.

Best service team of the year – sports, leisure and cultural service.

Although not the winner in the Overall Council of the year award this time, it was fantastic to be named finalist, an outstanding achievement that should be recognised by the people of the borough, for the skills and dedication that the service teams had contributed, to delivering the high standard, quality services and investment in the long term future of the Borough.

It was a tribute to the hard working staff, who, for year after year, provided an excellent service to the residents and businesses in difficult and changing times.

But the even better news was that the Authority was crowned winner of the APSE Award for the Best Service Team of the Year – Sports, Leisure and Cultural Service Award which was further recognition of the success as a high performing council.

The Worshipful the Mayor gave congratulations and reported that all of those involved in the award should be proud of their excellent achievements.

The Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health congratulated Jade Mulhearn (Sports Development Officer), Lynn Wightman (Team Manager – STEPS) and Tracy Russell (Support Worker) on their achievement.

C Public Question Time

67/17

The Chief Solicitor informed Members that no Public Questions had been received.

C Stockton-On-Tees Borough Local Plan

68/17

Consideration was given to a report on the work undertaken since the last report to Cabinet in November 2016: the preparation of the Publication draft version of the Plan - supporting documents and new evidence base. The report sought agreement to undertake and delegation of certain aspects of the processes required to enable the next stage of progress towards adoption.

Furthermore, the report gave an explanation of the updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2017) which formed an evidence base to the Publication draft STLP and met the requirements of the NPPF, and the Council's updated position on five year housing supply.

In June 2016, Cabinet agreed to the production of a new Stockton on Tees Local Plan (STLP) and supporting documents to replace the 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 sets 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 seeks to safeguard the environment, respond to climate change and secure good design.

In order to gain proper approval to consult on the Publication Draft Stockton on Tees 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, Supporting Documents and Evidence Base were presented to Planning Committee on 6th September 2017.

A summary of comments from Planning Committee and responses given at the meeting on 6th September were detailed within the report.

The next step was approval of Full Council to progress the Local Plan to Regulation 19 consultation and submission for Examination. Thereafter, all documents would be made available for a period of public scrutiny (Regulation 19) scheduled to commence on Monday 25th September and closing on Friday 3rd November 2017.

Following the Regulation 19 consultation, the Submission version of the Local Plan, Policies Map together with all supporting documents and any representations that had been received, would be submitted to the Secretary of

State for Examination by an independent Inspector. It was expected that this process would begin in Winter 2017/18.

To enable the proper functioning of the independent Examination, a Programme Officer would be appointed to organise the Examination under the direction and guidance of the independent Inspector.

The public element of the Examination was likely to take place in Spring / Summer 2018, the timetable of which would be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. The usual format for examination was a series of public hearing sessions, which allowed interested parties to participate in proceedings.

Once the examination process was complete, the Inspector would present the findings to the Council in the form of a report. Assuming that the STLP was found sound, it would then be adopted by Full Council. It was envisaged that adoption would take place by the end of 2018

Moved by Councillor Nigel Cooke, seconded by Councillor Bob Cook

1. The comments from Planning Committee on the draft Publication version of the STLP, Policies Map, Supporting Documents and Evidence Base (and subsequent minor amendments to the STLP set out in Table 1 of the report) be noted.
2. The endorsement of Cabinet of documents for Regulation 19 consultation be noted and the use of the draft Publication version of the STLP, Policies Map, Supporting Documents and Evidence Base for Regulation 19 consultation be approved.
3. Delegation be approved of minor changes to the Publication Draft of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan and Policies Map and associated documents prior to public consultation (as the Publication Draft version of the Plan) to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.
4. Delegation be approved of any minor changes to the Publication Draft version of the Local Plan following publicity under Regulation 19 to produce the Submission draft version of the STLP, and for Submission to begin the formal Examination in Public process are delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.
5. The position of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2017, housing projections and five year supply as set out at paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 of the report be noted.

Moved by Councillor Matthew Vickers, seconded by Councillor Lynn Hall that the motion be amended as follows:-

1. Remove the proposal for residential development on the former Education Centre site and instead have this land designated for recreational or educational use.

A vote took place and the amendment was not carried.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5 Councillors John Gardner, Lynn Hall, Elsi Hampton, Tony Hampton, Stefan Houghton, Stephen Richardson, Matthew Vickers and Julia Whitehill requested that it be recorded that they had voted in favour of the amendment.

Moved by Councillor Matthew Vickers, seconded by Councillor Lynn Hall that the motion be amended as follows:-

1. The Director of Economic Growth and Development be asked to re-consider with a view to reducing the allocated number of dwellings on the Junction Road, Yarm Back Lane and Eaglescliffe Golf Club sites.

A vote took place and the amendment was not carried.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5 Councillors John Gardner, Lynn Hall, Elsi Hampton, Tony Hampton, Stefan Houghton, Stephen Richardson, Matthew Vickers and Julia Whitehill requested that it be recorded that they had voted in favour of the amendment.

A vote then took place on the substantive motion.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The comments from Planning Committee on the draft Publication version of the STLP, Policies Map, Supporting Documents and Evidence Base be noted (and subsequent minor amendments to the STLP set out in Table 1 of the report) be noted

2. The endorsement of Cabinet of documents for Regulation 19 consultation be noted and the use of the draft Publication version of the STLP, Policies Map, Supporting Documents and Evidence Base for Regulation 19 consultation be approved.

3. Delegation be approved of minor changes to the Publication Draft of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan and Policies Map and associated documents prior to public consultation (as the Publication Draft version of the Plan) to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

4. Delegation be approved of any minor changes to the Publication Draft version of the Local Plan following publicity under Regulation 19 to produce the Submission draft version of the STLP, and for Submission to begin the formal Examination in Public process are delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

5. The position of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2017, housing projections and five year supply as set out at paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 of the report be noted.

C
69/17 **Billingham North Ward By-Election Results**

Consideration was given to a report on the result of the Billingham North Ward By Election held on Thursday 20 July 2017.

The result of the Billingham North Ward By Election was as follows:-

Apedaille, Jennifer Lynne – Independent - 196
Burdon, Mark Gideon - The North East Party - 80
Linley, Samuel James - commonly known as Sam Linley - The Conservative Party Candidate - 687
Minchella, David Christopher Luigi - Liberal Democrats - 95
Weston, Paul - Labour Party - 719

Paul Weston was duly elected to the Council.

RESOLVED the result of the Billingham North Ward By-Election be noted.

C
70/17 **Appointments / Amendments to Committees and Panel for 2017/19**

At its Annual Meeting, held on Wednesday 3 June 2015, the Council approved appointments to its Committees, Panels and Joint/Outside Bodies for 2015/19.

The following appointment / amendments had been received and were presented for Council consideration:-

Planning Committee

Remove Councillor Gillian Corr
Add Councillor David Harrington

People Select Committee

Remove Councillor Kevin Faulks
Add Councillor Gillian Corr

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

Remove Councillor Ken Dixon
Add Councillor Kevin Faulks

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

Remove Councillor Ken Dixon
Add Councillor David Harrington

Health and Wellbeing Board

Remove Councillor David Harrington
Add Councillor Kevin Faulks

Local Government Association General Assembly

Remove Councillor Ross Patterson
Add Councillor Gillian Corr

Licensing Committee

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis
Add Councillor Elsi Hampton

Western Area Locality Forum

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis
Add Councillor Laura Tunney

RESOLVED that the above appointment / amendments be approved.

C
71/17

Motion

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1. The motion was moved by Councillor Norma Stephenson and seconded by Councillor Lisa Grainge:-

“NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms.

NJC workers had a three year pay freeze from 2010 to 2012.

Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings.

NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector.

Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage.

There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation.

This Council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by Unison, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. This Council welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom loaded pay settlements.

This Council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and pay spine review.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representation to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard.

Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking additional funding to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review.

Meet with local NJC union representatives through the normal channels to convey support for the pay claim and pay spine review.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 Councillor Norma Stephenson 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 Chris Barlow, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr David Wilburn and Cllr Norma Wilburn.

Against the motion:-

Cllr Andrew Stephenson.

Abstentions:-

Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Matthew Vickers and Cllr Julia Whitehill.

The motion was carried.

C
72/17

Motion

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1. The motion was moved by Councillor Bob Cook and seconded by Nigel Cooke:-

“This Council condemns the plans announced by the Conservative Government to cap Housing Benefit to the level of the Local Housing Allowance for

supported and social housing tenants.

We believe these plans will impact on some of the most vulnerable people in our Borough. They will impact on people living in supported housing schemes, high rise properties housing mostly pensioners and, other vulnerable adults. They will cause severe financial difficulty, force some people from their homes making them homeless and cause those who remain to feel particularly distraught, insecure and unsafe.

The Council therefore supports the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to strongly oppose these plans.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 Councillor Norma Stephenson 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 Chris Barlow, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr David Wilburn and Cllr Norma Wilburn.

Against the motion:-

Cllr Andrew Stephenson.

Abstentions:-

Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Matthew Vickers and Cllr Julia Whitehill.

Cllr Kathryn Nelson and Cllr Steve Nelson had both declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect this motion and had withdrawn from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the motion.

The motion was carried.

C
73/17 **Members' Question Time**

The Chief Solicitor informed Members that no Member Questions had been received.

C
74/17 **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

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

been a long time since the Council last met in July. The Leader of the Council hoped Members had all had a good summer break. Since the summer recess Cabinet met on the 14th of September and considered:

- A progress update on Children's Services
- The annual review of Schools performance
- An investment strategy for schools, SEN and Early Years
- An update of our Major Incident plan
- The first quarter Medium Term Financial Plan update
- An update on Electoral matters
- The annual report from the Social Care and Local Government Ombudsman
- An update report on our Town Centres

And considered the

- Publication Draft of the Local Plan for Regulation 19 consultation which was considered here this evening.

Cabinet would meet next on the 12th of October and consider reports on:

- The "Adoption Tees Valley" Business Case
- The School Organisation Plan
- The Service Review of School Support
- An update on the Armed Forces Covenant
- The report from the Crime & Disorder Select Committee on their review of the Membership of Local Government Bodies
- The regular Economic Climate Report
- An update on Preston Park
- Licensing Act 2003 - Consultation Requirements

Cabinet would then meet again on the 16th of November before the next meeting of Council on the 22nd of November.

In other Cabinet news, The Leader of the Council was delighted to announce that Councillor Paul Rowling had been appointed as Assistant Cabinet Member for Arts Leisure and Culture, he would work closely with Councillor Wilburn and the Leader of the Council welcomed him to his new post.

Finally, the Leader of the Council recommended the Stockton / Darlington Railway 192nd Birthday-Specialist Market taking place on Stockton High Street on Saturday, 23 September 2017. There would be a wide range of railway - related exhibitors and traders, a photography exhibition, model railways, a treasure hunt, guided historic walks, children's crafts, a special land train offering free rides around the town centre and of course the Stockton flyer would be making hourly appearances from the plinth. It promised to be a great celebration of Stockton's railway heritage.