

Council

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

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Maurice Perry); 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 Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

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

Also in attendance: Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Ian Dalgrano, Cllr Phil Dennis, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Mike Smith, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Tracey Stott and Cllr Julia Whitehead.

C 91/17 Welcome, Evacuation and Recording of the Meeting

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted. It was also noted that the Governance Officer would be making an audio recording of the meeting to assist in the drafting of minutes of the meeting.

C 92/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 9 - The Council Consultation Response to Respite Opportunities and Short Breaks Consultation as he was employed by TEWV NHS Foundation Trust. Councillor Nigel Cooke withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Ann McCoy declared a personal prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 - The Council Consultation Response to Respite Opportunities and Short Breaks Consultation as she was the Chair of the Governors of TEWV NHS Foundation Trust.

C 93/17 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

C 94/17 Presentation to Vicki Ingham (Reablement Assessment Manager) – Adult Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017

The Worshipful the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health presented Vicki Ingham (Reablement Assessment Manager) with the prestigious Adult Social Worker of the Year 2017 Silver Award that she had won at a ceremony in London on Friday, 24 November, for her work with adults and

their families.

**C
95/17** **Presentation to Eastern Ravens – Air Trail**

The Worshipful the Mayor and Councillor Derrick Brown presented Tracey Hamilton and children from Eastern Ravens with the proceeds from a recent event held at Air Trail.

**C
96/17** **Public Question Time**

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

**C
97/17** **Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Consultation**

Consideration was given to a report on Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Consultation.

Further to the Licensing Committee meeting in December 2016 at which the Committee agreed for Licensing Officers to consult with the taxi trade on the proposed amendments to the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy. The consultation had taken place and copy of the consultation was attached the report.

A number of members of the trade responded to the online survey and written response from licensing consultants / private hire operators were also received.

The taxi trade meeting on Thursday 20 July 2017 provided a further opportunity for Officers to engage with approximately 170 members of the trade attending. The main areas of discussion were around the proposal to change the vehicles standards from a Euro Emission Standard to an Age Related Policy in relation to new vehicles coming on to the fleet and when they have to be removed from the fleet.

Cabinet had considered the matter at its meeting held on 14 December 2017 and a copy of the relevant minute extract had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED that:

1. An Age Restriction Policy be introduced for vehicles (No older than 5 years from the date of first registration for new vehicles and an maximum age limit of 12 years for vehicles already licensed) from 01 January 2020.
2. The Disclosure and Barring Update Service be implemented from 01 June 2018.
3. An Age Restriction Policy be introduced for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) (No older than 5 years from the date of first registration for new vehicles and an maximum age limit of 15 years for vehicles already licensed) from 01 January 2020.
4. The amendment of the approval of advertisements for vehicles from 1

June 2018.

5. The requirement to have vehicle roof identification numbers on licensed vehicles does not be adopted.

C 98/17 The Council Consultation Response to Respite Opportunities and Short Breaks Consultation

Consideration was given to a report on the Council Consultation Response to Respite Opportunities and Short Breaks Consultation.

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and South Tees CCG had undertaken public consultation on proposals to change the way they deliver NHS-commissioned respite and short breaks for people with complex needs and/or autism.

This affected those who attended the Aysgarth Unit at 163 Durham Road, Stockton, and their families / carers. The service was provided for people with identified complex and eligible health needs.

A statutory Joint Health Scrutiny Committee had been established to develop a response to the respite and short breaks consultation on behalf of constituent councils (Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland). The Joint Committee met on 14 December to consider the public consultation results, and further information. As a potential 'substantial variation' to local services and in line with the Council's Constitution, Stockton's element of the response must be agreed by Council.

Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, the NHS was required to consult local authority health scrutiny committees in relation to 'substantial variations' to local services.

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and South Tees CCG had undertaken public consultation on proposals to change the way it delivered NHS-commissioned respite and short breaks for people with complex needs and/or autism. This affected those who attended the Aysgarth Unit at 163 Durham Road, Stockton, and their families/carers. Bankfields Court was also affected and this mainly caters for people from the Middlesbrough and Redcar areas. The service was provided for people with identified complex and eligible health needs.

A statutory Joint Health Scrutiny Committee had been established to develop a response to the respite and short breaks consultation on behalf of its constituent Councils (Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland). The Committee was chaired and supported by Stockton.

Two options were proposed:

Option 1

Buy a range of Bed Based Respite services to replace the existing Bed Based

Respite services at Bankfields and Aysgarth.

Change the assessment and allocations process, making it more needs led.

Buy flexible community based respite services.

Buy clinically led outreach support services.

Option 2

Continue to buy some Bed Based Respite services at Bankfields Court and Aysgarth.

Change the assessment and allocations process, making it more needs led.

Buy flexible community based respite services.

Buy clinically led outreach support services.

Maintaining some services at 2 Bankfields Court and Aysgarth meant there would be flexible community based respite services as in Option 1, supported by outreach, but they would be limited due to the funding needed to maintain the existing service. Both options included changes to the assessment and allocations process.

Public consultation ended on 10 November. The Joint Committee met in October and November to consider the proposals, and then met to discuss the results of the public consultation at its meeting on 14 December. A summary of the public and stakeholder results was as follows:

385 people / organisations attended a public meeting / facilitated discussion, or completed a survey (or both).

A number of people who provided responses expressed concern in relation to what they felt was a lack of information about the shape of possible future, alternative services. Some further information was provided during the consultation as part of Frequently Asked Questions.

Of those that did make a response, across the survey and facilitated groups, the overall feedback was in favour of Option 2.

In the survey results, there was high levels of dissatisfaction with Option 1 from Stockton-based respondents (75% / 18 people), and 96% (27 people) of Stockton respondents to the survey either fully or partially supported Option 2.

Positive comments in relation to Option 1 tended to be from carers of those who did not fit the current criteria, or from those who felt this may see more bed based provision in Hartlepool (nb. responses from Hartlepool were relatively small, and there were only two users of Aysgarth from Hartlepool as more provision for Hartlepool residents was met in alternative settings).

Following the meeting on the 14th, the Joint Committee's formal submission to the consultation proposals would be drawn up. As a substantial variation to services, Stockton's input into the joint response must also be agreed by Council. The key issues and proposed Stockton's response were attached to

the report.

Following Council, Stockton's views would be included in the Joint Committee's submission to the proposals. The CCGs had requested that this be submitted by 11 January 2018.

Final decisions were due to be made at a joint Governing Body Meeting in Common of HaST and South Tees CCGs that would be held on 1 February. Immediately prior to this joint meeting, there would be an opportunity for members of the public and interested parties to meet with members of the Governing Bodies.

The final decisions would then be reported to the Joint Committee to agree next steps.

By considering proposals to be 'substantial', Councils were able to follow a process that ultimately enables them to challenge proposals they disagree with. If local resolution cannot be achieved, ultimately the Council was able to refer issues to the Secretary of State (if a clear evidence base can be developed in support).

Should the Joint Committee disagree with the final decision, steps must be taken with the CCGs to resolve differences. Should this not be possible, any decision to subsequently pursue a referral to the Secretary of State must be undertaken by each individual Council. This power had not been delegated to the Joint Committee.

The Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, and Director of Adults and Health had been updated along the course of the consultation. Members on the Tees Valley Joint Health Committee were updated on the pre-consultation engagement process to inform the development of proposals.

The Joint Committee had heard evidence from the CCGs, adult social care, and parent and carer representatives. Members considered the public consultation results at the meeting on 14 December.

RESOLVED that Stockton's response to the proposals, for inclusion in the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee's submission to the consultation be endorsed.

**C
99/17**

Parkfield and Oxbridge Ward By-Election Result

Consideration was given to a report that informed Members of the result of the Parkfield and Oxbridge Ward By Election held on Thursday 23 November 2017.

Baldock, Louise - Labour and Co-operative Party - 727
Cockerill, Aiden Kenneth - The Conservative Party Candidate - 409
Durning, Drew - Liberal Democrat - 37
Noor, Shakeel – Independent - 156

Louise Baldock was duly elected.

RESOLVED that the result of the Parkfield and Oxbridge Ward By-Election be noted.

C
100/17 **Amendments to Committees 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 amendments had been received and were presented for Council consideration:-

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

Add Councillor Barry Woodhouse to the vacancy (seat formerly held by former Councillor Alan Mitchell)

Place Select Committee

Remove Councillor Paul Rowling
Add Councillor Louise Baldock

Planning Committee

Remove Councillor Nigel Cooke
Add Councillor Eileen Johnson

Remove Councillor Tracey Stott
Add Councillor Derrick Brown

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Remove Councillor Paul Rowling
Add Councillor Louise Baldock

Children and Young People Select Committee

Remove Councillor Tracey Stott
Add Councillor Evaline Cunningham

RESOLVED that the above amendments be approved.

C
101/17 **Members' Question Time**

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

C
102/17 **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

The Leader of the council gave his Forward Plan and Leader's Statement.

The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to reflect back on the Council

meeting on the 20 September. Members were reminded that the Council passed 2 motions at the meeting in September:

- The first condemning the Conservative Government plans to cap Housing Benefit in social housing
- And the second in support of the National Joint Council pay claim

As the Leader of the Council had commented last month, he was delighted to hear that the government had been forced to scrap their plans to cap Housing Benefit. Now the NJC pay claims for a decent pay rise for the lowest paid workers and a pay spine review had also been accepted.

The Leader of the Council pointed out that whilst the pay offer was welcomed for employees it did miss one vital ingredient which was that the motion also called on the Government to provide additional funding for a decent pay rise. The government has obviously seen the sense in the arguments but as usual had failed to provide the funding.

Since the last meeting on the 20th of November. Cabinet met on the 14 December and considered reports on:

- The Education Performance for Vulnerable Pupils
 - The LSCB Annual Report
 - The Annual Audit Letter
 - The Domestic Abuse Policy
 - The MTFP and financial update
 - The Select Committee Review of Sickness Absence
 - The Housing and Planning Act 2016
 - An update on the consultation relating to Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy
 - An update on Volunteering in the borough
- And,
- An update on the Street Lighting Replacement Scheme

Cabinet would meet next on the 25 January to consider the following scheduled to receive reports;

- An update on the Tees Valley Adoption Agency
- The Economic Climate report
- An update on the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Bill
- Proposals on Fines for Fly-tipping
- Consultation requirements on the 2003 Licensing Act and an update on the Licensing Service
- An update on the Compact with the VCSE Sector

The Leader of the Council finished with the great news that the Council was one of only six local authorities in the country to be shortlisted in the 'Council of the Year' category of the LGC Awards. This came after being shortlisted as Council of the year in the Association of Public Service Excellence and the Municipal Journal Achievement Awards.

These were all hugely prestigious awards, the 'Big Three' in local government and no local authority had ever been shortlisted for all three honours in the

same year. The judges would come to Stockton in early February. The Council had a lot to be proud of and the Leader of the Council looked forward to hearing the final result in March.

The Leader of the Council gave his best wishes for Christmas and looked forward to seeing Members in the New Year on the 31st January 2018.