

# Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 27th February, 2019.

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Eileen Johnson), Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Louise Baldock, 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 Di Hewitt, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

**Officers:** Neil Schneider (CEX), Julie Danks, Peter Bell (DCE), Garry Cummings, Tony Montague (F&BS), Beccy Brown, Jonathan Nertney (HR, L&C), Richard McGuckin (E,G&D), 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 Mick Moore, Cllr Tracey Stott and Cllr Marilyn Surtees.

## **C 79/18** Welcome and Evacuation Procedure

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

## **C 80/18** Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jean O'Donnell declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 – Motion to Council as she was a member of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Paul Kirton declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 – Motion to Council as he was a member of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Mick Stoker declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 – Motion to Council as he was a member of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Bill Woodhead declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 – Motion to Council as he was a member of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

Councillor Gillian Corr declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 – Motion to Council as she was a member of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

## **C 81/18** Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

**Public Question Time**

Members were informed that David Smith had withdrawn his second question to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

The following question had been submitted by David Smith for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing:-

“In Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan, under Section 5, Housing: It proposes to construct 2,150 new homes along Harrowgate Lane and Yarm Back Lane, with a further 400 homes on ‘reserve’ land.

The Local Plan does outline that these new homes will include ‘affordable housing’ and will contain a mixture of flats and 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses yet I was unable to identify any provision for bungalows.

There is a need to take into consideration the existing and growing population of those over 60 years old.

Therefore can the Council confirm that bungalows will be included in their housing plan, both for sale and rent within the 2,150 new homes to be constructed along Harrowgate Lane and Yarm Back Lane?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“Policies in the Local Plan cover many aspects to ensure housing needs are met. This includes requiring developers to provide a mix and balance of good quality housing of appropriate sizes, types and tenures which reflects local needs and demand, having regard to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) or appropriate supporting documents.

The Council works closely with developers to agree the type and tenure of affordable homes in line with the SHMA. Provision of accommodation for older people on new build schemes is encouraged, whether in the form of apartments or bungalows. However it cannot be insisted on bungalows specifically.”

David Smith asked the following supplementary question:-

“I’m a bit disappointed that the Council can’t be a bit more stronger with the developers and insist on a certain amount of bungalows are constructed bearing in mind the population of those over 60 is going to increase quite considerably over the next two decades?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“I and other Members share your concerns. The adopted Local Plan allows us to go as far as we can with developers legally. The other part of the planning process is the independent consideration of planning applications by the independent planning authority. There are a lot of documents that sit alongside the Local Plan, including the community impact assessment document page 8, it talks about the plans to reduce inequalities, including age. The Planning Inspector concluded that the plan that we have is robust and doesn’t discriminate against anybody. I’m confident that the Plan as a whole meets the

needs that you are looking for but as I said we can't insist on particular housing tenures and type."

## **C Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

**83/18**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update regarding the process of refreshing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) the Health and Wellbeing Board had a statutory duty to produce a JSNA to underpin the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and hence the work of the Board.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets the strategic direction of the health and wellbeing 'system'. As such, the JSNA was a tool to enable strategic planning and procurement. It aimed to maximise best use of resources to improve population health and wellbeing and address health inequalities. The JSNA was therefore not a performance monitoring tool (though performance trends form part of the intelligence within it). Active use of the JSNA by all partners would help to align strategic planning and decision-making behind consistent priorities for health and wellbeing, so making best use of resources.

The JSNA was used by a range of organisations to:

- inform direction and shape of strategic priorities and defining key issues to be addressed;
- summarise levels of need (not just demand) within populations including future forecasting and highlighting needs of particular population groups to enable targeting;
- highlight robust evidence base;
- enable strategic planning and approach to key health and wellbeing issues; inform service design and procurement;
- help to summarise systems-level outcomes.

A summary of the status of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was attached to the report.

Cabinet had considered the matter at its meeting held on 14 February 2019 and a copy of the relevant minute extract had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED that the refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) be approved.

## **C Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-23**

**84/18**

Consideration was given to a report on the Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-23.

This was the second joint health and wellbeing strategy of the Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board. The strategy for 2019-23 had been produced collaboratively by Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) members and

built on learning from the previous strategy. The H&WB was a statutory sub-committee of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Locally, it acted as a strategic forum to facilitate coordinated commissioning and integrated delivery across the NHS, social care, public health and the voluntary and community sector directly related to health and wellbeing

The three key priorities identified in the strategy were:

- All children and families get the best start in life
- All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer
- All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and utilise assets within their communities

The version of the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023 was attached to the report.

Cabinet had considered the matter at its meeting held on 14 February 2019 and a copy of the relevant minute extract had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED that the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023 be approved.

**C  
85/18**

### **Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23**

Consideration was given to a report on the new Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23.

The Children and Young People's Plan ran from 2015-18, and was in need of refresh.

A workshop took place in July 2018 to discuss a proposed approach to the new strategy, and endorsed the development of a longer term and more transformative strategy which focused on creating the right conditions for children and young people to thrive.

The proposed new approach was based on the following:

- a. A five year commitment to new ways of working backed by annual delivery plans is required, though the basis for our new approach is a long term vision which extends beyond this initial 5 year timescale.
- b. A recognition of the collective role of agencies and organisations, and a shift towards a more concerted and integrated way of working which puts children and young people at the heart.
- c. A shift away from a focus on specific programmes and projects and into the development of a different way of working, which recognises the limitations of traditional forms of commissioning and service delivery, and which is based on a set of common values and principles and a way of working which is based on learning and the importance of a whole system.
- d. A fundamental re-appraisal that the role of agencies is to enable children

and young people to discover and develop their own self or self, their ability to cope and learn, to overcome adversity, and to find their own self-expression, and to be supported in this by safe, stable and trusted relationships. Our role is therefore to support this at the heart of our approach.

e. A refocused and strategic approach to the identification of vulnerability, using an agreed and shared vulnerability and risk assessment approach which helps us to identify issue early, and relies less on the traditional model of referral into service.

f. The commitment to share data and information to support the implementation of this approach.

The buildings blocks for the strategy were centred on:

a. Resilience – a sense of self and life skills – the ability to control and self-regulate, think and deal with setbacks.

b. Relationships – safe, supportive, trusted relationships are the single biggest factor in overcoming hardship.

c. Respect – respecting and valuing children and young people in a strengths based approach.

d. Response - targeting vulnerability, adversity and stress.

A survey of young people based on these building blocks was undertaken as part of the BMBF initiative throughout 2018.

Partners had been consulted further on this draft, including the Bright Minds Big Futures Big Committee.

The details of the draft strategy was attached to the report.

Cabinet had considered the matter at its meeting held on 14 February 2019 and a copy of the relevant minute extract had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED that the Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23 be approved.

**C**  
**86/18**      **Perfect Corporate Parent**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People reported on a diagram poster that had been produced by the members of the Let's Take Action Group, representing Children in Care in Stockton-on-Tees. They had created their Perfect Corporate Parent to portray their views of a Corporate Parent and what they expected from them. They felt the Corporate Parent should be there for them in a time of need, care and love them. A copy of the diagram poster had been circulated to all Members and the Chief Executive Officer for the Council had requested a large framed copy for the wall of his office.

**C**      **Motion**

**87/18**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1. The motion was moved by Councillor Andrew Stephenson but the motion was not seconded. The motion therefore fell.

“Chief Fire Officer Ian Haydon of Cleveland Fire Brigade received in 2016/17 a remuneration package of £167,013.00 of which £10,578 was for a car allowance, under the rules of her majesty revenue and customs this should have been classed as a benefit in kind and tax paid based on the vehicles list price and co2 omissions and paid through his personal taxes.

However he and 18 other personnel have had their cars fitted with fixed public warning equipment (concealed) combined with their contracts of employment where they are on call 24/7 means that they can claim tax exemption under 2004 Finance Act and S248 (A) of the income tax earning and pensions act (ITEPA) 2003 definition of an emergency vehicle. Which they have done, so no tax is paid on this benefit in kind.

This is a tax avoidance which Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as a collector of tax for the Brigade should publically disapprove of.

I requested the Chief Executive contact Cleveland Fire Brigade with regards to this issue.

I now call on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chief Fire Officer of Cleveland Fire Brigade, the Chair of the Cleveland Fire Authority and all Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councillors that are members of the Cleveland Fire Authority to express our disapproval of this tax avoidance scheme and in addition write to our two local MPs to ask for a change in the law.”

**C  
88/18**

### **Members' Question Time**

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Andrew Stephenson for response by the Leader of the Council:-

“How much money both grant monies or any other has being given to the Tees Valley Combined Authority from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in the years 2017/18 and 2018/19?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council paid the £50K to the Combined Authority in 2017/18 and again in 2018/19.”

Councillor Andrew Stephenson asked the following supplementary question:-

“How much of that money would be given back into Stockton in anyway?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“There are quite a lot of awards given to businesses across the Tees Valley and one of those is the Fuji Film site and Elton interchange. It is all in the minutes of

the Combined Authority and in the Investment Plan that was published after 31 January 2019 Combined Authority Cabinet meeting.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Andrew Stephenson for response by the Leader of the Council:-

“Will there be any need to give money to the TVCA for the purchase or running of the airport in 2019/20 and for the next five to ten years”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“No.”

Councillor Andrew Stephenson asked the following supplementary question:-

“Does that cover any pension contributions and liabilities?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“For pension contributions local authorities own 11% of DTVA and the pension liabilities are covered by the 5 Councils if the airport closes. As we know from the January 2019 Cabinet meeting, the Combined Authority have purchased the airport from the Peel Group. At the moment the airport is open there are no liabilities for the pension fund for this Council unless it closes down.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Andrew Stephenson for response by the Leader of the Council:-

“What will be the cost of the airport to the TVCA in year 2019/20 and what are the estimated costs or profits from the airport for the next five or ten years?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“The Combined Authority are responsible for the operation of the Airport and a full business case for the airport acquisition was prepared by them. The Combined Authority is a separate organisation to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and therefore your question will need to be directed to them and the information they hold.”

Councillor Andrew Stephenson asked the following supplementary question:-

“Have you seen this business plan and if you have seen it can you give us the gist of it?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“I haven’t memorised it all yet but the gist of it is £588 million is being invested across the Tees Valley in the next 10 years.”

The Council had last met in January 2019 and since then Cabinet had met twice and considered a number of important matters. Cabinet received reports on:

- The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2019-23 and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment refresh.
- An update on the Tees Valley Adoption Service.
- The Children and Young People's Plan
- The procedure for admission of pupils to primary and secondary schools.
- The Schools Attendance Policy
- The updated Member Learning & Development Strategy
- The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office Inspection report
- The Annual Review report from the Independent Safety Advisory Group.
- A Licensing Service Update
- The Medium Term Financial Plan
- The Council Plan for 2019 – 2022
- Scrutiny review reports on:
  - The Child's Journey
  - The under-representation of BME Communities in the SBC Workforce
  - Temporary Accommodation for Homeless households
  - The Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group
  - Care Leavers Local Offer and,
  - Children in Need

Looking ahead Cabinet would meet on 7 March 2019 and consider:

- The Children's Services Progress Update
- The Bright Minds Big Futures – Big Plan
- A report on the results of the 2018 Employee Survey
- A report on Strengthening Probation
- An update of the Major Incident Plan
- And an exempt item on Reshaping Town Centres

Council would also meet again on 5 March 2019 at Arc for the last scheduled meeting of Council before the local elections. At that meeting Council would have the opportunity to recognise the worthy winners of the Mayor's Civic Awards and the Employee Customer Service and Long Service Awards.