

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Kevin Faulks); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Tina Large, Cllr Steve Matthews, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr David Minchella, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Lee Spence, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Julie Danks, Nigel Hart, Michael Henderson, John Devine, Peter Bell (MD), Beccy Brown, Julie Butcher (HR&L), Gary Cummings (F,D&BS), Martin Gray (CHS), Reuben Kench (CL&E), Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH).

Also in attendance: Members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Steve Walmsley and Cllr Julia Whitehill.

C **Welcome** **51/21**

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the arrangements for the meeting.

C **Declarations of Interest** **52/21**

Cllr Nigel Cooke declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Motion to Council as he was employed by TEWV NHS Foundation Trust. Cllr Nigel Cooke withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Cllr Ann McCoy declared an other registrable interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Motion to Council as she was member of TEWV Council of Governors and a leading member. Cllr Ann McCoy withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Cllr David Minchella declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Motion to Council as he was employed by TEWV NHS Foundation Trust. Cllr David Minchella withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Cllr Ray Godwin declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Motion to Council as he was formerly an employee of TEWV NHS Foundation Trust. Cllr Ray Godwin withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

Cllr Tony Riordan reported that he was pre-determined in respect of agenda item 8 – Motion to Council. Cllr Tony Riordan did not take part in the debate or vote on the motion but remained in the room during consideration of the item.

C **Presentation to Rev Bill Braviner**

53/21

The Worshipful the Mayor made a presentation to Reverend Bill Braviner.

Reverend Bill Braviner had been the Mayor's Chaplain, as well as Mayor's Chaplain for Cllr Mohammed Javed and Cllr Lynn Hall, providing important support in their roles. Over the years he had hosted Mayor's Sunday at St Peter's, led Remembrance Sunday services, including a very poignant virtual service in 2021, and been involved in Mayor's Carol Services, again being part of the virtual service in 2020.

Reverend Bill Braviner had been a pleasure to work with, and his advice and guidance had been invaluable, but Reverend Bill Braviner was now moving on to become the Archdeacon of Halifax.

Therefore, on behalf of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, the Worshipful the Mayor thanked Reverend Bill Braviner for his service as Mayor's Chaplain over the last three years and present him with some gifts to show the Council's appreciation for his commitment to the role. The Worshipful the Mayor also congratulated Reverend Bill Braviner on his new position.

C Minutes

54/21

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November and 15 December 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November and 15 December 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

C Public Question Time

55/21

There was one question from Naqeeb Hussain to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. Naqeeb was not in attendance at the meeting and so in-line with the Council constitution Naqeeb would receive a written response to the question.

C Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles - Review 2021

56/21

Council approval was sought following a review of the Council's Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles. Under the Act, the Authority was required to publish a Statement of Principles that it proposed to apply when exercising its functions under the Act, in the form of a Gambling Policy. This Policy statement must be published every three years.

Council noted that there had been few changes to the draft Gambling Policy as there had been no legislative changes in the last three years.

The draft Gambling Policy was published for a four-week public consultation. The consultation included stakeholders such as the Gambling Commission, trade associations, licensees, children's services, local residents' groups, responsible authorities including police and public health, and all members. The consultation was also published on the website and a notice was placed on the notice board of all public libraries. No further comments on the draft policy

document were received.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The gambling statement of principles which had been reviewed in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and those comments received during consultation be noted.
2. The revised gambling statement of principles be agreed and come into effect on the 31 January 2022.

C
57/21

Motion

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 moved by Cllr Luke Frost, seconded by Cllr Sylvia Walmsley:-

"Council will write to the Secretary for Health and the Chief Executive of NHS England to call for a public enquiry into the continued failings and lack of notable improvement of Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust (TEWV).

To give a brief insight but in no way conclusive of this trust's failings, I would like to furnish you with the following to support this motion.

In June 2019 major failings within "West Lane" Inpatient Adolescent Services delivered by TEWV were raised by the CQC after deaths of patients within the care of this facility. A revisit in August by the CQC found there continued to be a 'high risk of avoidable harm to patients' and the service was closed. This service is now operated by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust.

In January 2021 the CQC carried out further inspections within the Trust after their were notified of a significant incident which sadly resulted in the death of a patient within its care, the outcome of this inspection was the issuing of a "Section 29a" of the Health and Social Care Act (warning notice for NHS Trusts).

The latest CQC inspection carried out within TEWV dated 14th June to the 5th August 2021 and its subsequent report published on the 10th December 2021 (publicly available) which can only be described as very concerning raises many concerns relating to leadership, culture, patient safety and care delivery, rating the Trust as requires improvement within 3 of its 5 performance indicators with 1 of the 4 core services inspected being rated as inadequate and two being rated as requiring improvement.

Given that no one in this Trust has been held publicly accountable for the continued failings throughout this time and that the "new Chief Executive" has now been in post for over 18 months while inspections continue to highlight continued and further failings, it is evident and essential that the Trust's performance, service delivery and conduct is held to account."

Moved by Cllr Jim Beall, seconded by Cllr Bob Cook that the substantive motion be amended as follows:-

Insert at the beginning:

“Subject to detailed consideration and determination by our Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee and/or the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee,”

Following a debate a vote took place and the amendment was carried and therefore the amendment became the substantive motion.

No further amendments were moved so a vote then took place on the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was carried as follows:-

“Subject to detailed consideration and determination by our Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee and/or the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee, Council will write to the Secretary for Health and the Chief Executive of NHS England to call for a public enquiry into the continued failings and lack of notable improvement of Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust (TEWV).

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The following motion which had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 moved by Cllr Louise Baldock, seconded by Cllr Mohammed Javed:-

“This Council reaffirms its: -

- a) commitment to remembering the Holocaust and all victims of Genocide; and
- b) determination to ensure that it will NEVER AGAIN be allowed to happen.

Through its policies and practices the Council will continue to:-

- remember the genocides of the twentieth and twenty first centuries and ensure that the lessons are learned for the future;
- raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust as a continuing issue for all humanity and reflect on recent atrocities that raise similar issues; and
- react by highlighting the values of a diverse society and the crucial importance of demonstrating respect for others as a key to genocide prevention.”

The motion was carried.

C
59/21 **Members' Question Time**

There were no Member Questions.

C
60/21 **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

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

Since the last meeting of Council, Cabinet had met on the 20 January when it considered the following matters:

- The Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary
- A report on the School Admissions process
- The Customer Service Excellence annual review
- A report on the Investors in People 2021 Reaccreditation
- The 2021 review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles
- The findings from the Scrutiny Reviews of:
 - o The Disability Inclusive Borough
 - o Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees
- and
 - o Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding)
- A report on the annual procurement plan and higher value contracts

Cabinet would next meet on the 17 February to consider:

- The annual report from the Independent Safety Advisory Group
- The Council Plan for 2022 to 2025
- The Medium-Term Financial Plan
- A report on proposals to develop further high-quality provision to meet

the needs of Children in care and with additional needs

- A report on the senior management restructure
- The findings from the Scrutiny Review of Public Space Protection Orders
- A report on an Enhanced Bus Partnership for the Tees Valley

After that the Leader of the Council looked forward to seeing Members at the next meeting on the 23 February. Until then the Leader of the Council hoped that all Members stayed safe.