

**Date:** Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Baptist Tabernacle Auditorium, The Square, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TE

## **AGENDA**

**1 Welcome and Evacuation Procedure**

**2 Apologies for Absence**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

**4 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 26 July 2023 (Pages 13 - 24)  
for confirmation and signature.

**5 Presentation of the Honorary Alderman of the Borough**

The Worshipful the Mayor will award the Alderman Badge to:-

- Mohammed Javed
- Paul Kirton
- Jean O'Donnell
- Maurice Perry
- Mike Smith

**6 Public Question Time**

Members of the public may ask questions on matters for (Pages 25 - 26)  
which  
the Council has responsibility or which affect the Borough  
subject  
to those questions having been submitted in accordance  
with  
Rule 10.3 of the Council Procedure Rules

**7 SBC Overview and Scrutiny - End-of-Term Report (Pages 27 - 72)**  
**2019-2023**

**8 Extension of Terms of Office of Independent Persons (Pages 73 - 76)**

- 9 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Norma Stephenson:-**

"Stockton Borough Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, resolves, within the constraints of available resources, to work with Stockton Fairtrade Borough Partnership to research, develop, and support a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark as part of its commitment to sustainable development and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.

To be recognised by the residents and the business community of Stockton-on-Tees, suppliers, employees and other local authorities, as a borough that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade and to increase the sale of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Stockton Borough Council resolves to contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by striving to maintain Fairtrade status for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees as detailed in the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade Towns Initiative.

Stockton Borough Council resolves to:-

- Continue to offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options at meetings where refreshment is offered.
- Continue to promote the Fairtrade Towns initiative, for example, through articles in the council's Stockton News and KYIT.
- Seek ways to work with Stockton Fairtrade

**10 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Niall Innes:-**

“Following the recent Local Elections and the changes it has brought, this motion seeks to remove the current leader of the Council, Cllr Bob Cook, and elect Cllr Tony Riordan as the new leader of Stockton Borough Council at tonight’s meeting. This is so that we can move forward respecting the democratic choice of the electorate in Stockton-on-Tees, where The Conservative Group are now the largest group in the Council receiving 43% of the overall votes compared to Labours low standing of 34%.”

**11 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Tony Riordan:-**

“The Cabinet recently considered the Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres - Regeneration Update Report and made the decision recommending the development of a Masterplan and Business Case for the development of Teesdale Business Park, and the adjacent Marshalling Yards, based around a potential Social Care & Health Zone.

The Regeneration Report submitted to inform that decision highlights the exceptional opportunity to bring together a strategy for both sites, which could see a nationally significant regeneration scheme focused around key sector growth to develop a Health and Social Care Zone, with potential for: integrated training and health facilities, business incubation, research, and development.

The potential for these important sites should not be underestimated, and the development of a Masterplan and Business Case should, to support the initial vision for a Social Care and Health Zone, go further to include a new state of art hospital that is so desperately needed in Stockton-on-Tees.

North Tees Hospital trust has estimated that it will potentially spend up to £300 million, just to maintain the building in the 8 years of useful life it has left.

Infrastructure plays a critical role in supporting local communities and the local economy. Planning and financing it correctly to maximise the area(s) potential are the keys to success in enabling our residents to access new health care facilities, education, skills, and employment opportunities.

The nature of any proposed infrastructure project and ownership of the land/property is also important in securing investor interest. If the infrastructure project is clearly linked to a local policy or strategy, supports strategic sites, or enables significant transformation of the economy – this gives the proposition a lot more credibility. A willingness to co-invest by Stockton Borough Council signals serious commitment.

To achieve this, Stockton Borough Council resolves,

1. To invite Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen, and the expertise of the Tees Valley Combined Authority in

- 12 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Tony Riordan:-**

## “Change to Constitution

Call-in provides a mechanism for councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the executive needs to be revisited (or possibly changed). The use of call-in can also be seen to be embarrassing and frustrating to a local authority and its leadership. However, it provides a key check and balance in the leader/cabinet system of governance – a long-stop that, in theory, prevents the overweening exercise of power by Cabinet. It should, however, be regarded as a measure that is only needed in exceptional circumstances, rather than day-to-day.

Paragraph 1.35, Council Constitution.

Decisions of Stockton Borough Council will usually be made in accordance with the following principles:

- proportionality (i.e., the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome).
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from Officers.
- respect for human rights and equality of opportunity.
- a presumption in favour of openness.
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and
- an explanation of what options have been considered and giving the reasons for decisions.

This motion is aimed at improving the principles, ensuring that call-in is still used in exceptional circumstances, but not making it almost impossible, as it is at present.

There can be a perception among members that call-in can be used to reverse a decision. It is important to emphasise that this is not the case. More often the challenge is on the quality of the information provided and accessed by the decision maker to arrive at what should be a robust and evidence-based decision. Stockton Borough resolves to amend the Constitution by inserting the following at paragraph 1.35,

- relevant matters have not been ignored,
- clarity and explanation of information provided,
- the merits of the decision,

- 13**      **Members' Question Time**      (Pages 77 - 92)
- 14**      **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**



**Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting**

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

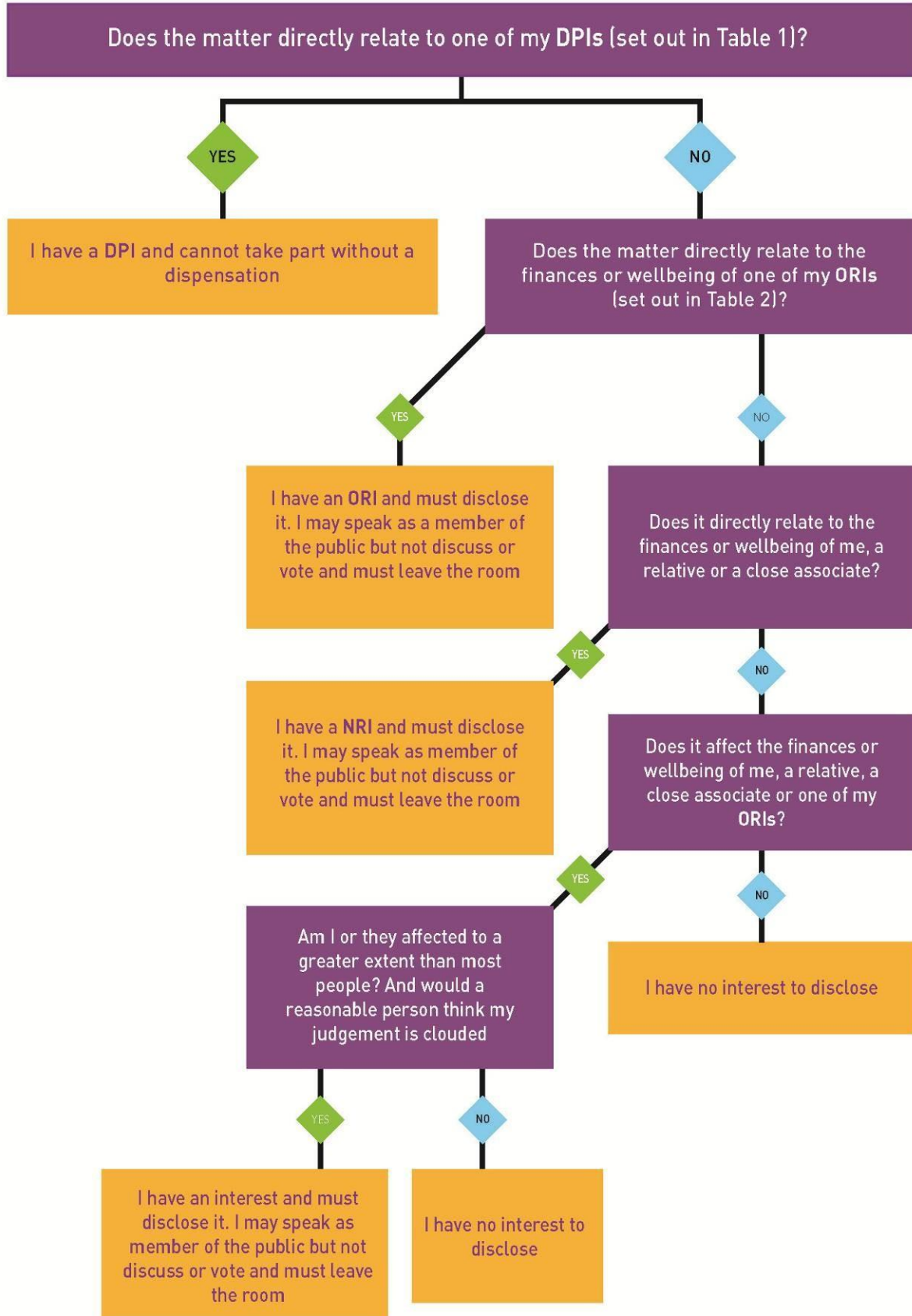
Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Democratic Services Officer, Peter Bell on email [peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk)

**KEY - Declarable interests are:-**

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

**Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance**



**Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Subject	Description
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
<b>Contracts</b>	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
<b>Land and property</b>	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
<b>Securities</b>	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

## **Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest**

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
  - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
  - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management