



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

16 February 2009

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors Aiken, Akers-Belcher, Allison, Atkinson, Barker, Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, McKenna, Dr. Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, Wistow, Worthy, Wright, and Young.

Madam or Sir,

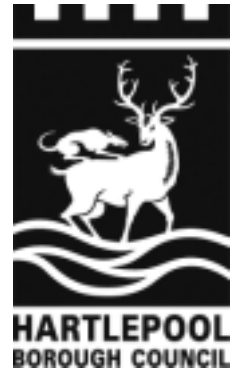
You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 26th February 2009 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

P Walker
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL AGENDA



26th February 2009

at 7.00 p.m.

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

1. To receive apologies from absent members.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business.
4. To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 10.
5. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th February 2009 as a correct record.
6. Questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meetings of the Council.
7. To answer questions of members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11;
 - (a) Questions to members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive (without notice)
 - (b) Questions to members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which notice has been given.
 - (c) Questions to the appropriate members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given.
8. To deal with any business required by statute to be done.
 - (i) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

12th February 2009

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

COUNCILLORS:

Aiken	Akers-Belcher	Allison
Atkinson	Brash	R W Cook
Cranney	Fleet	Fleming
Flintoff	Gibbon	Griffin
Hall	Hargreaves	Hill
Jackson	James	Lauderdale
A Lilley	G Lilley	A Marshall
Dr. Morris	Payne	Preece
Rogan	Simmons	Tumilty
Wallace	Worthy	Young

Officers:

Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services
Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director of Children's Services
Michael Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Amanda Whitaker and Jo Wilson, Democratic Services

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Barker, S Cook, Coward, Fenwick, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, London, Shaw, Sutheran, Turner, Wistow and Wright.

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

118. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

119. PUBLIC QUESTION

None

120. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council meetings held on the 11th December 2008 and 29th January 2009, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

121. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

None

122. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- (a) Questions to Members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive

None

- (b) Questions to Members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which Notice has been given

- (i) Question from Councillor Allison to Chair of the Constitution Committee

'I refer the Chair of the Constitution Committee to the Briefing Note issued on 23rd January 2009 by the Chief Solicitor in his capacity as Monitoring Officer. The covering letter of this briefing note stated it was issued at the request of the Constitution Committee. Could the Chair confirm that they and the Committee are fully in agreement with the content of the Briefing Note and that the Chair and Committee can see no conflict between the Briefing Note and the Constitutional position regarding access to information by elected Members of Hartlepool Borough Council?'

In response the Vice-Chair of the Constitution Committee, Councillor James, advised that the briefing note had been approved by the Committee. The briefing note had clarified a number of issues. The general principles included in the briefing note were highlighted. The Vice-Chair stated that whilst Members had a right to any information held by this Council, there were a number of exceptions which were detailed together with the reasons for those exceptions. The Vice-Chair added that Officers have to justify withholding information.

The following supplementary questions were asked:-

- (i) Would it not have been better if the briefing note had made reference to the additional rights of Members as defined in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Council's Constitution which clearly identifies that of the list in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, only category 3 and 6 of exempt information is applicable to elected Members? Also why did the briefing note not include the definition of "business transacted" as being business which has been completed? Councillor Allison added that applying this definition ensures no backbench councillor can access information until after decisions have been made.
- (ii) I would ask you to explain how can any Member prove a need to know something he or she doesn't know? By way of illustration, Councillor Allison referred to an envelope which he had with him at the meeting that contained information which would be of considerable interest to many members of the Council. He added that he would provide this information if a convincing case was made on a need to know basis.

The Vice-Chair of the Constitution Committee responded to the supplementary questions by highlighting that the only documents which Members could not always access were those relating to Executive meetings. Councillor James also explained that Members did not need to demonstrate a need to know information. She added that it was the responsibility of Officers to justify withholding information.

Councillor Allison concluded by referring to a request which he had made for information, under the Freedom of Information Act, which he had still not received.

- (ii) Question from Councillor Allison to the Mayor, Stuart Drummond

'The report before us tonight on medium term financial strategy contains some information about the claimed savings to be realised by the Business Transformation Programme. Unfortunately £3.1million of the identified £8.2million in the five year cumulative savings will be eaten up by redundancy and early retirement pay-offs. Conspicuously absent from this, or any documents that I have access to, is any comment on the absenteeism rate at Hartlepool Council. I have some information that could show it is about 12%? This means almost one eighth of all employees are off sick every day. Numbers of employees banded about vary from 3500 to 4500 depending on

how they are calculated but taking a median of 4000, then every day 500 people are off sick. This means Hartlepool Borough Council could operate with 500 people less than they employ if absenteeism was zero. Even if the average cost for each of these employees is £20K which includes on-costs such as pensions, expenses etc etc then the savings would be 500x20,000 or £10million per year every year! Or over the 5 year period covered by the business transformation programme a total of £50million. Obviously while zero absenteeism should be the target it is never attained in reality, however even realising just half of these savings would be a huge amount of cash saved. I have, therefore, been asked by a constituent if the Mayor could explain what steps are being taken to recover this potential saving, which dwarfs the amounts being identified by the Business Transformation Programme?’

In response, the Mayor confirmed some facts in relation to Cllr Allison’s question. He advised that the £8.2 million pound savings identified for the Business Transformation Programme were recurring and annual savings which could be taken from the ongoing revenue budget, not £8.2m cumulative savings over the period of the programme. The costs identified were the one off costs of achieving those long term savings. The report which was submitted to Cabinet on the programme identified both the profile of savings and the profile of costs for the period of the programme.

The Mayor advised that Council sickness absence is expressed in working days lost per employee (dlpe) to comply with Audit Commission measures – not percentages. The figures which the Council reports must include all the schools in the town, even though the Council has no direct control over school employees. The figures last reported to the Performance Portfolio Holder meeting in December 2008 showed absence to be at 9.91 days per employee for the first two quarters of 2008/9 against a target for the full year of 9.80 days lost per employee.

Compared to	2005/6	12.34 dlpe
	2006/7	13.52 dlpe
	2007/8	10.57 dlpe

The Mayor highlighted that there had been a steady improvement from previous years. The Mayor then outlined action which had been taken as follows:-

- Absence reports are considered on a quarterly basis by the Performance Portfolio Holder and the Local Joint Consultative Committee and recommendations made to improve performance.
- The corporate management team (CMT) and departmental management teams and individual managers receive monthly reports for the Council, departments and individual teams to help them manage absence levels and target action.
- A corporate group of senior managers strategically reviews reasons for absence and implements practical measures to reduce absence levels.
- Review of sickness management arrangements
- Stress risk assessment action plan being implemented
- Departments are reviewing communications to ensure the importance of absence management maintains a high profile

- A new Occupational Health Service promotes and markets employee support initiatives to increase the options for employees who become ill.
- Significant work which has reduced long term absence

In addition, the following were being planned:-

- New statistical and monitoring information from the HR/Payroll system which is under development.
- Closer partnership with trade unions to manage sickness absence as part of the Single Status Agreement.
- Further development of flexible working measures, including home working.
- Focus on medium and short term absences

Following the Mayor's response, Councillor Allison asked the following supplementary question:-

The Medium Term Financial Strategy shows cumulative savings of £5.96million – where does it include the £8.2million savings referred to by the Mayor in respect of the Business Transformation Programme?

In response the Mayor undertook to find out the answer to the supplementary question and to provide the information to Councillor Allison.

- (c) Questions to the appropriate Members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given.

Minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Police Authority held on 4th November 2008 and the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 28th November 2008 had been circulated.

123. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

- (i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions

It was reported that no decisions had been taken in respect of the period October 2008 to December 2008.

124. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council announced that the Annual Chairman's Event would be held on 6th March 2009 in aid of two Hartlepool based charities.

125. TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS (IF ANY) REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ANY SCRUTINY FORUM OR OTHER COMMITTEE TO WHICH SUCH BUSINESS WAS REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION.

None

126. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- (i) Report of Constitution Committee

A Business Report was presented by the Vice Chair of the Constitution Committee which dealt with the following:-

Civic Honours Committee

Council agreed, on 26th October 2006, that nominations for election as Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman be considered by a Civic Honours Committee. At the meeting of the Constitution Committee held on 23rd January 2009, the composition of the Civic Honours Committee was discussed.

It was agreed that the Civic Honours Committee be appointed on an annual basis in line with other Council committees with an increased membership of 7 (politically balanced) plus the Mayor, the Chairman, 1 resident representative and 1 community empowerment network representative, the latter two being non-voting members of the Committee. In line with current proportionality, the membership for the Civic Honours Committee is proposed as follows:

The Mayor

The Chairman

7 Members (3 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Administrative Group and 1 independent)

1 Resident Representative (non-voting)

1 Community Empowerment Network Representative (non-voting)

Quorum: 6

Any recommendation made by the Committee, to Council, to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Committee (i.e. a voting majority of 6 Members is required)

Annual Council 2009

The Mayoral election is scheduled for 4th June 2009 which is after the Annual Council meeting scheduled for 28th May 2009. Consideration was given to holding the Annual General Meeting in June, post this year's Mayoral election. Members noted that the Annual Council meeting is usually held within 21 days of an election and suggested that this should also apply in this case. The Constitution only provides for the Annual General Meeting of the Council to take place in March, April or May depending on when local elections are held.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the composition, quorum and voting requirements relating to the Civic Honours Committee, as outlined above, be approved.
- (ii) That the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Council be changed from 28th May 2009 to 25th June 2009.

127. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS OF THE MEETING

None

128. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

- (a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework
- (i) Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget and Policy Framework 2009/10-2011/12

The Finance Portfolio Holder presented a report, on behalf of Cabinet, which detailed the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The report covered the following:-

- Outturn Strategy 2008/09
- Capital Budget 2009/2010 and Prudential Indicators
- Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2009/2010
- Budget Requirement and Indicative Council Tax 2010/2011 to 2011/2012

Following circulation of the report, a meeting of the Cabinet had been held on 9th February 2009. A further report had been circulated, following that Cabinet meeting, which detailed the changes to the recommendations detailed in the Cabinet report. The major change proposed by Cabinet related to the withdrawal of the majority of the proposed additional 1% efficiencies/savings other than the proposals for the Chief Executive's Department of £53,000. Cabinet had proposed that the resulting gap of £767,000 be bridged as follows:

	<u>£'000</u>
Use the uncommitted resources identified in paragraph 7.9	520
Reduce the 2009/2010 pay award and Job Evaluation provision	250
Small reduction in use of one-off resources	(3)

It was noted that the budget forecasts included a significant additional provision for expected pay awards and the cost of Job Evaluation appeals. If these risks

were managed as a single pot the overall provision could be reduced by £250,000. This proposal reflected the anticipation that pay awards would be lower than expected when the budget forecasts were prepared because the economic outlook has deteriorated further.

Cabinet had also considered the position for 2010/2011, in order to protect services and minimise redundancies, whilst protecting the Council from risk has proposed making annual provisions for pay awards of 1.5%. On a cumulative basis this reduced the budget requirement for 2010/2011 onwards by £0.9m, which more than offset the deletion of the additional 1% reductions and begins to address the structural medium term deficit.

A verbal update had also been provided to Cabinet in relation to the following items:

- LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) Grant
- Neighbourhood Services 3% Efficiencies
- Children's Services 3% Efficiencies
- Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Costs

Members were advised that the proposals which Cabinet wished Council to consider were detailed in Section 15 of the Cabinet report. These items were repeated in the report to Council with the Council report reflecting the updated proposals.

In presenting the report, the Portfolio Holder commented that the issues around the budget had been considered by the Council for over 6 months and the report brought all those issues together.

The Portfolio Holder commented that budgets were never easy and this one in particular had caused more problems than usual because of the significant changes in the Economy since September. The Council had to achieve efficiencies and the proposals set out how those could be achieved. The original proposals looked at further cuts of 1% - these had had no support from either Cabinet or Scrutiny. In order to avoid needing to make these cuts, some £800,000 was needed. The Portfolio Holder was happy to announce that this had been achieved at Cabinet on Monday, the final part being a £250,000 reduction in the overall provision for pay. This removed the need to make those additional cuts. The Council could have looked at raising the level of Council Tax above the 3.9% which had originally been considered. That option had not been taken. Disappointment was expressed that the government had not moved on Floor Damping and Hartlepool still lost significantly from this. The Portfolio Holder advised that he wanted to continue making representations on this.

The Portfolio Holder concluded by advising Council that the budget protected the vulnerable in society with Children's Services and Adult Services getting net increases of 5.3 and 3.6 %. The proposals confirmed the Council's commitment to the delivery of the Building Schools for the future programme and set aside monies for the next stages of development whilst setting a Council tax well below the capping ceiling. The Portfolio, therefore, asked Council to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

RESOLVED – That the proposal to earmark the increase in the stock of funds be approved as follows:-

- £400,000 to manage RTB timing risk;
- £639,000 to fund initial budget deficits for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011;
- £31,000 for Bus Services (note Council 11th December, 2008, approved £93,000 for Bus Services, including £44,000 for the Hospital Transport Service);
- £23,000 for one-off costs associated with the revised Legal Services restructure;
- £2,186,000 to support the 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 budgets.

That approval be given to the proposals that capital expenditure up to the value of £2.6m which it was planned to fund from revenue budgets (RCCOs) and the Capital Funding Reserves should be funded from Prudential Borrowing. The resulting repayment costs in 2009/2010 will be funded by earmarking part of the 2008/2009 RCCOs and from 2010/2011 these costs will be a first call of the £1.5m budget headroom.

That the proposal to earmark the revenue resources to fund the 2008/2009 departmental overspends be approved.

That the proposal to earmark the 2008/2009 additional investment income firstly to offset income shortfalls during the recession, then £1.5m for Building Schools for the Future costs and £0.5m as a risk contingency for potential income shortfalls on the Tall Ships budget which may arise from adverse weather when the ships visit be approved together with the proposal to provide an additional £0.5m for the upfront costs of the procurement/contract letting stage of Building Schools for the Future, from anticipated lower borrowing costs and investment income in 2009/2010. In the event that the Tall Ships amount is not needed these resources should be returned to the General Fund in 2010/2011.

That the proposal to reallocate the saving of £37,000 on the 2008/2009 one-off items to partly meet the one-off capital costs of the Government Connects Project be approved.

That the proposal that Government capital allocations should be passported be approved.

That approval be given to the proposal to continue Capital Investment of £1.2m in local priorities for the three years 2009/2010 to 2011/2012, which will be funded from unsupported borrowing. Detailed proposals for 2009/2010 were set out in Appendix A, Table 1.

That the proposal to provide Capital investment of £1.2m in 2009/2010 to fund a range of health and safety property improvements and to delegate authority to Cabinet to approve the detailed proposals for using this amount be approved.

That the proposal to use unsupported borrowings to support the following capital investment in 2009/2010 be approved:-

	<u>£'000</u>
Community Safety Initiatives	150
Disabled Adaptations	50
Neighbourhood Forum Minor Works	156

That the principles for strategic land and property acquisitions be approved subject to the appropriate Cabinet and Council approval of detailed cases.

That approval be given to the proposed 3% efficiencies detailed in Appendix C, including the revised proposals for Neighbourhood Services (Appendix 1 to the Council report) and the increase in redundancies arising from the achievement of the Children's Services efficiencies were noted. The proposal to repay associated severance costs over five years was approved, subject to compulsory redundancies only being implemented after exploring redeployment of staff to vacant posts, or posts temporarily filled using agency staff, where the person to be redeployed has the necessary qualifications, skills and experience.

That the revised pressures, contingency and terminating grants as detailed in the documentation appended to the Council report and the additional requirements identified in paragraph 6.24 of the report be approved.

That approval be given to the proposed 2009/2010 allocations and 2010/2011 indicative allocations of the Area Based Grant detailed in Appendix G, including the use of £0.287m to support services/projects currently funded from the Council's core budget.

That the revised corporate planning assumptions for reducing the provision for pay awards by 0.5%, saving £0.2m (paragraph 6.42) and increase in the salary turnover target of £0.3m (paragraph 6.43) be approved.

That the reduction in 2008/2009 pressures, etc, of £50,000 (paragraph 6.44) be approved.

That the reduction in 2007/2008 pressures, etc., of £100,000 (paragraph 6.46) be approved.

That the temporary measures for reducing the budget gap from reduced Job Evaluation protection costs £0.2m (paragraph 6.49) and additional benefit subsidy income £0.2m (paragraph 6.50) be approved.

That the proposed 2009/2010 Council Tax increase of 3.9% be approved.

That approval be given to the proposal to bridge the net budget gap for 2009/2010 of £2.677m as follows and it was noted that this does not address the underlying structural budget deficit which would need addressing during 2009/2010:

	<u>£'000</u>
Allocate the Mill House Loan Repayment budget	300
Additional 1% efficiencies Chief Executive's Department	53
Final Council Tax Base and Collection Fund Benefit	190*
Reduction in energy costs pressure	30*
Temporary Investment Income	300*
Use part of the uncommitted one-off resources	1,554
Reduction in Provision for Pay Awards and Job Evaluation costs	250

* These amounts make up the £0.52m detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

That the proposed indicative annual Council Tax increase for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 of 3.9% per annum be approved.

That the net Business Transformation saving anticipated for the period 2010/2011 to 2016/2017 (paragraph 8.3) be noted and the principle of funding one-off Business Transformation severance costs (£3.14m) and one-off implementation costs (£0.68m) on a loan basis repayable over a five year period from the gross savings achieved from implementing the Business Transformation Programme be approved.

That the principles of centralising transport and property maintenance budgets to facilitate the achievement of the relevant Business Transformation efficiencies be approved.

That approval be given to the proposal to make further representation to the Government about the floor damping adjustment and the adverse impact this has on the Council's financial position, in particular, the impact on the Council's ability to provide services for children, adults with physical or mental health disabilities and older people.

That the proposal to undertake a corporate review of pricing policies as part of the 2010/2011 budget process be approved.

That approval be given to the proposal to earmark the final LABGI Grant of £0.8m to manage the risk that future anticipated RTB income of £1m is not received before this money is needed to support future year's budgets.

That the following supporting amounts which must be calculated by the Council for 2009/2010 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and relevant regulations be approved:-

- i) Approve the net budgeted requirement of £88,399,685 (as summarised at Appendix 2 of this report) and for the purposes of Section 32(2), (3) and (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the following amounts be approved: -

	<u>£</u>
Aggregate Expenditure	265,211,737
Aggregate Income	<u>(176,812,052)</u>
Budget Requirement (inc Parish Precepts)	<u>88,399,685</u>

- ii) Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable into the General Fund in respect of Revenue Support grant £9,345,348 and redistributed Business Rate Grant £40,488,845, increased by the amount the Council estimates will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund as its surplus in respect of Council Tax as at 31st March, 2009, £310,394 in accordance with Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government Changes for England (Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits) Regulations 1995 as amended.
- iii) Being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year of £1,384.96.
- iv) Approve the contributions of £3,870, £5,434 and £1,000 made towards the expenses of Dalton Piercy, Elwick and Greatham Parish Councils to enable them to carry out the associated concurrent functions; and formally accept the following Precepts in relation to non concurrent functions and approve the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

	<u>£</u>
Dalton Piercy	4,613
Elwick	5,152
Greatham	2,576
Hart	3,095
Headland	8,000
Newton Bewley	<u>222</u>
Aggregate Amount (Section 34 (i))	23,658

- v) Being the basic Council Tax for 2009/2010 calculated in accordance with Section 34(2) for dwellings in those areas that have no parish precepts or other special items of £1,384.10.
- vi) The basic Council Tax for 2009/2010 calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) for dwellings in those areas that have parish precepts be as set out in Appendix 3, Table 1 (appended to the report).
- vii) The amounts of Council Tax at items (iv) and (v) multiplied by the proportions applicable to each category of dwelling in its area, in accordance with Section 36 of the Act be as set out in Appendix 3, Table 2 (appended to the report).

(b) Proposal for Departure from the Budget and Policy Framework

None

129. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None

130. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Chief Executive reported that the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committees) Regulations, 2001 and subsequently the Standards Committee (England) Regulations, 2008, provide that Standards Committees must ensure that at least 25 per cent of its membership are "independent members". As previously noted to Council, the 2008 Regulations also provide the criteria for the appointment of independent members, as follows:

- approved by majority of the members of the authority;
- advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the authority, and in such other publications or websites as the authority considers appropriate;
- of a person who submitted an application to the authority;
- has within a period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment has not been a member or officer of the authority; or
- is a relative or close friend of a Member or Officer of the authority.

Following a publicity exercise, an application had been forthcoming from Mr Ted Jackson, for appointment as an independent and therefore a co-opted member of the Council's Standards Committee. Mr Jackson also requested that he be considered for appointment as an independent member of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Mr Jackson was interviewed for these positions before a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee, which convened on 16 December, 2008. The Committee had strongly recommended that Mr Jackson be appointed, subject to Council approval, in respect of these two roles. Indeed, Standards Committee viewed that Mr Jackson was "an ideal candidate" for appointment. Members are therefore asked to approve the appointment of Mr Jackson for a term of four years upon the Council's Standards Committee and also upon the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED - That the appointment of Mr Ted Jackson as an Independent Member upon the Council's Standards Committee for a term of four years and as a Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.

131. ADDITIONAL ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Chief Executive reported that in order to meet government set deadlines for the submission of three of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework plans (Youth Justice Plan and the Children, Young Peoples Plan and the Sustainable Communities Plan Local Area Agreement), Council was requested to approve the holding of an additional Ordinary Meeting of the Council on Thursday 26 March 2009 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

RESOLVED – That an Ordinary Meeting of the Council be held on Thursday 26 March 2009 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

132. CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE

Following Council's agreement with the recommendation of the Constitution Committee to revise the composition of the Civic Honours Committee (minute 126 refers), nominations from each of the political groups for the additional places on the new Committee were requested.

RESOLVED – That the following nominations to the additional places on the Civic Honours Committee be approved:-

Labour	Councillors Akers-Belcher, Brash and James
Liberal Democrat	Councillor Preece
Administrative	Councillor Aiken
Conservative	Councillor Morris
Independent	Councillor Hill

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

C RICHARDSON

CHAIRMAN

COUNCIL REPORT

26 February 2009



Report of: **The Chief Executive**

Subject: **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

Attached at Appendix A is the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on Members' Allowances. Council's views and instructions are requested.

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Council – 26 February 2009

1. Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel was established to advise the Council on the level of Members Allowances under the Local Government Act 2000.

The Panel have made a number of reports to The Council over the years, reviewing various parts of the Members Allowances Scheme, covering the Basic and Special responsibility allowances.

2. Purpose of the Report

To advise of the Panel's recommendations for the Mayoral Special Responsibility Allowance to apply from June 2009 and to update Council on the Panel work programme for 2009/10.

3. Mayoral Special Responsibility Allowance

The Council's current scheme includes a special responsibility allowance payable to the elected mayor of £61,686 (note this is paid inclusive of a deemed basic allowance). The panel and Council have previously reviewed this allowance for the period of the next mayoralty with annual increases linked to the local government pay award. In reviewing the allowance the panel have considered the remit, workload and responsibilities of the post and comparisons with other similar allowances elsewhere. In 2008 the Cabinet requested a review of the allowance (together with the position of the Deputy Mayor) from an external firm. That report was passed directly to the Independent Remuneration Panel for their consideration. The Panel welcomed the conclusions of that report which endorsed and replicated the previous work and assessments of the panel and recommended no change to the level of the allowance. Accordingly the panel recommend the continuation of the allowance on the current basis for the next Mayoralty.

Although it had not been part of the work programme of the panel it received and noted the separate report in relation to the role of Deputy Mayor. The panel's view was that the report had fundamentally failed to differentiate the role of deputy mayor from the portfolio older responsibilities and conclude that at this stage it did not wish to make any recommendation in respect of the role of Deputy Mayor. The Panel did recognise that the Council's current scheme did not make provision for any sustained absence or incapacity of the Mayor and

8 (i) Appendix A

determined to recommend that in such an absence the Panel be reconvened to cover such exceptional situations which were of, or likely to be of a sustained nature.

4. Future Work Programme

The Panel welcomed the anticipated appointment of a new member of the Panel, which was considered at Council on the 12th February and the fact that this would help the workload of the panel. The Panel also received at its last meeting the resignation of Brian Beaumont who had been a member of the Panel since its inception. Council will need to consider a replacement in due course. In the meantime the continued vacancy will have some constraints on the work of the Panel.

The panel wishes to review the Basic Allowance during the Summer of 2009 for implementation in April 2010, this being an appropriate interval since the last review in 2006.

In relation to Special Responsibilities the Panel were informed of the changes to the remit of the Contracts Scrutiny Committee from December 2008. The panel considered that it was appropriate for it to review the remit of all responsibility allowances in the Autumn of 2009 again for implementation in 2010.

5. Recommendations

That Council approves the Continuation of the Mayoral allowance at the current level indexed to the annual local Government pay award.

That Council notes the future work programme.

COUNCIL REPORT

26th February, 2009



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: FORMAL COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2009/2010 –
INCORPORATION OF FIRE AND POLICE
AUTHORITY PRECEPTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Council to set the overall level of Council Tax following the notification by the Police and Fire Authority of their Council Tax levels for 2009/2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At your meeting on 12th February, 2009, Members considered and approved the proposed 2009/2010 Medium Term Financial Strategy and this Authority's own 2009/2010 Council Tax level. In accordance with statutory requirements the Council then needs to approve the overall Council Tax, inclusive of the Police and Fire Authority precepts. The Fire Authority set its precept and Council Tax on 6th February, 2009 and the Police Authority is scheduled to set its precept and Council Tax on the morning of 26th February 2009.

3. DETERMINATION OF OVERALL COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 3.1 The determination of the overall Council Tax level is a statutory function, which brings together the individual Council Tax levels determined by this Council, Cleveland Police Authority, Cleveland Fire Authority and where applicable Parish Councils.
- 3.2 A detailed schedule of the statutory Council Tax calculation incorporating the Police and Fire Authority Council Tax levels for 2009/2010 will be circulated at your meeting on 26th February, 2009.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Council is requested to approve the following proposal: -
- i) The amount of Council Tax including the Cleveland Police Authority and Cleveland Fire Authority precepts, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the relevant inclusion of amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwelling in accordance with Sections 43 to 47 of the Act, as set out in Appendix A, Table 4 (to be circulated separately).

9. To receive any announcements from the Chair, the Mayor, members of the Cabinet or the head of the paid service.
10. To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any scrutiny forum or other committee to which such business was referred for consideration.
11. To receive reports from the Council's committees and working groups other than any overview and scrutiny committee and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
12. To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, including consideration of reports of the overview and scrutiny committees for debate and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
13. To consider reports from the Executive:-
 - (a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework
 - (i) Formal Council Tax Setting 2009/2010 – Incorporation of Police and Fire Authority Precepts
 - (b) Proposals for departures from the budget and policy framework
14. To consider any motions in the order in which notice has been received.
15. To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary.

SCHEDULE OF DETAILED COUNCIL TAX CALCULATIONS IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA ITEM 13 (a) (i)

Table 1 - Council Tax for Areas without a Parish Council 2009/2010

	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Hartlepool Borough Council Basic Amount without parishes or special items	922.74	1,076.53	1,230.31	1,384.10	1,691.68	1,999.26	2,306.84	2,768.21
Police Authority *	121.65	141.92	162.20	182.47	223.02	263.57	304.12	364.95
Fire Authority	41.05	47.89	54.73	61.57	75.25	88.93	102.62	123.14
Areas without a Parish Council	1,085.44	1,266.34	1,447.24	1,628.14	1,989.95	2,351.76	2,713.58	3,256.30

* The figures for the Police Authority are provisional, and are expected to be formally approved on 26th February, 2009.

TABLE 2 - Council Tax For Parish Councils 2009/2010 (as approved by Council 12.2.09)

	Precept (1)	Parish Tax Base (2)	Parish Council Tax (3) [=(1)/(2)]	Basic Council Tax (4)	Billing Authority's Council Tax (5) [=(3)+(4)]
<u>Parishes</u>	£ p		£ p	£ p	£ p
Dalton Piercy	4,613	103.2	44.70	1,384.10	1,428.80
Elwick	5,152	402.3	12.81	1,384.10	1,396.91
Greatham	2,576	668.1	3.86	1,384.10	1,387.96
Hart	3,095	296.5	10.44	1,384.10	1,394.54
Headland	8,000	1,006.9	7.95	1,384.10	1,392.05
Newton Bewley	222	32.9	6.75	1,384.10	1,390.85

TABLE 3 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2009/2010 (as approved by Council 12.2.09)
(Including Parish Precepts, and Excluding Police Authority & Fire Authority)

<u>Parishes</u>	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Dalton Piercy	952.54	1,111.29	1,270.04	1,428.80	1,746.31	2,063.82	2,381.33	2,857.60
Elwick	931.28	1,086.49	1,241.69	1,396.91	1,707.33	2,017.76	2,328.18	2,793.82
Greatham	925.31	1,079.53	1,233.74	1,387.96	1,696.39	2,004.83	2,313.27	2,775.92
Hart	929.70	1,084.65	1,239.59	1,394.54	1,704.44	2,014.34	2,324.24	2,789.09
Headland	928.04	1,082.71	1,237.37	1,392.05	1,701.39	2,010.74	2,320.08	2,784.10
Newton Bewley	927.24	1,081.78	1,236.31	1,390.85	1,699.93	2,009.01	2,318.09	2,781.71
Areas without a Parish Council	922.74	1,076.53	1,230.31	1,384.10	1,691.68	1,999.26	2,306.84	2,768.21

Tables 4 and 5 overleaf

TABLE 4 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2009/2010
(Including Parish Precepts, Police Authority & Fire Authority)

Parishes	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Dalton Piercy	1,115.24	1,301.10	1,486.97	1,672.84	2,044.58	2,416.32	2,788.07	3,345.69
Elwick	1,093.98	1,276.30	1,458.62	1,640.95	2,005.60	2,370.26	2,734.92	3,281.91
Greatham	1,088.01	1,269.34	1,450.67	1,632.00	1,994.66	2,357.33	2,720.01	3,264.01
Hart	1,092.40	1,274.46	1,456.52	1,638.58	2,002.71	2,366.84	2,730.98	3,277.18
Headland	1,090.74	1,272.52	1,454.30	1,636.09	1,999.66	2,363.24	2,726.82	3,272.19
Newton Bewley	1,089.94	1,271.59	1,453.24	1,634.89	1,998.20	2,361.51	2,724.83	3,269.80
Areas without a Parish Council	1,085.44	1,266.34	1,447.24	1,628.14	1,989.95	2,351.76	2,713.58	3,256.30

TABLE 5 - Summary of Percentage Increases 2009/2010
(Excluding Parish Precepts)

	Percentage Increase	Date Approved
Hartlepool Borough Council	3.90%	12/02/09
Cleveland Fire Authority	4.90%	06/02/09
Cleveland Police Authority	4.95%	26/02/09*
Total	4.05%	

* The figures for the Police Authority are provisional, and are expected to be formally approved on 26th February, 2009.