



Chief Executive's Department  
Civic Centre  
HARTLEPOOL

20 JULY, 2020

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant, Thomas, Ward, Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend the COUNCIL meeting to be held on THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

**PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'remote meeting', a public link to which will be available on the Hartlepool Borough Council website at least 24hrs before the meeting.**

Yours faithfully

G Alexander  
Chief Executive

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# COUNCIL AGENDA



**30 July, 2020**

**at 7.00 pm**

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

**PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'remote meeting', a public link to which will be available on the Hartlepool Borough Council website at least 24hrs before the meeting.**

- (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 approve the minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 19 March 2020 and Extraordinary meeting held on 10 June 2020 as the correct record;
  - (5) To answer questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of Council;
  - (6) To deal with any business required by statute to be done;
  - (7) To receive any announcements from the Chair, or the Head of Paid Service;
  - (8) To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any Committee to which such business was referred for consideration;
  - (9) To consider reports from the Council's Committees and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
1. Further Periodic Review of the Council's Constitution – Report of Constitution Committee



- (10) To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
1. Hartlepool's Armed Forces Covenant – Progress (2019/20) - Address by the Armed Forces Champion
- (11) To consider reports from the Policy Committees:
- (a) proposals in relation to the Council's approved budget and policy framework; and
  - (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework;
- (12) To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received;
1. HBC acknowledges the impact of climate breakdown which is already causing serious damage around the world.

That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018,

- (a) Describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise
- (b) Confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

HBC therefore commits to:

Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.

Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030, and audit the councils current functions and policies, taking in what is working well and what needs changing.

Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030.

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.



Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale.

Ensure that political and corporate management teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that these be scrutinised by the Finance and Policy Committee to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.

Request that Finance and Policy Committee consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies.

Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.

Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.

Request that the Chair of Finance and Policy Committee convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2020 in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities.

Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy.

Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio.

Ensure that all reports in preparation for the budget and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency.

Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.



Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.

Signed by Councillors:

Lesley Hamilton, Brenda Harrison, Helen Howson, Dave Hunter, Amy Prince, Paddy Brown, Carl Richardson, Jim Lindridge.

- (13) To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary;
- (14) To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 9;
- (15) To answer questions of Members of the Council under Rule 10;
  - a) Questions to the Chairs about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 10.1
  - b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 10.2
  - c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority
  - d) Minutes of the meetings held by the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 13 December 2019 and the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel held on 4 February 2020 are attached.



# **COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **20 February 2020**

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

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Loynes) presiding:

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

C Akers-Belcher	S Akers-Belcher	Black
Brewer	Brown	Cartwright
Fleming	Hall	Hamilton
Harrison	Howson	Hunter
James	King	Lauderdale
Lindridge	Little	Marshall
Moore	Prince	A Richardson
C Richardson	Stokell	Tennant
Ward	Young	

Officers: Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy  
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor  
Sally Robinson, Director, Children's and Joint Commissioning Services  
Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Ed Turner, Communications and Marketing Manager  
Denise Wimpenny, Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Ceremonial Mayor referred in terms of regret to the recent death of former Councillor, John Coward. Elected Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

#### **98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS**

Councillors Buchan, Cassidy, Johnson, Smith and Thomas

#### **99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

The following interests were declared by Elected Members:-

Councillor James, prejudicial interest, agenda item 12 (3) and advised that she

would leave the room during consideration of that item.

Councillor Marshall, prejudicial interest, agenda item 12 (3) and advised that she would leave the room during consideration of that item.

Councillor Prince, personal interest, agenda item 12 (2).

Councillor Ward, as employee of Alice House Hospice.

Councillor Young read a statement referring to the release of a video on social media following the previous meeting of Full Council. Elected Members were advised that the video had been edited and Councillor Young explained the background to his actions at the meeting.

#### 100. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

#### 101. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on the 19 December 2019, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

#### 102. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

None

#### 103. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None

#### 104. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ceremonial Mayor announced Mayoral charity events would be held on 4 March and 20 March and advised that she would appreciate the support of all Elected Members in attending the events to support the Mayor's charities.

#### 105. TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS (IF ANY) REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ANY COMMITTEE TO WHICH SUCH BUSINESS WAS REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION.

None

## 106. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

- (1) Findings of the Committee following the Hearing of a Standards Complaint against Councillor Tony Richardson - Report of Audit and Governance Committee

The report was presented by the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee who advised Full Council of a complaint (SC01/2020) that had been received from Councillor Black and related to a series of Facebook posts on an account in the ownership of Councillor Tony Richardson. The complaint related to the racist tone of the posts, which had been shared by Councillor Tony Richardson and the potential for a hate crime having been committed. A standards hearing had been conducted by the Committee and Councillor Tony Richardson had accepted the findings of the Investigating Officer but explained the circumstances behind his action, by way of mitigation. The Committee was satisfied that there had been a significant breach of the code of conduct and had imposed a number of sanctions as set out in the report. In addition, the Committee had recommended that further sanctions be considered by Full Council.

The following recommendations of the Committee were moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Black:-

- (i) That Full Council notes the findings and recommendations arising from the hearing that took place on 22 January 2020;
- (ii) That Full Council terminates the membership of Councillor Tony Richardson on the Licensing, Planning and Local Joint Consultative Committees, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Coalition;
- (iii) That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson shall not be appointed as a member of any committee for the remainder of his current term of office and shall discourage any member from designating him as a substitute for them on any other committee;
- (iv) That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson consider resigning as an elected member of Hartlepool Borough Council.
- (v) That Full Council considers censure of Councillor Tony Richardson and issues the following formal statement:

*Hartlepool Borough Council is pleased to note that Councillor Tony Richardson accepts that he has breached the Council's Code of Conduct and that he has apologised for doing so. The promotion of racist and offensive material in any forum falls well below the standards expected of those in public life and such actions cannot and will not be tolerated. The actions of Councillor Tony Richardson are not representative of this Authority or the communities that it*



*represents and as such the Authority has worked to impose the most appropriate and stringent sanctions that are available in law.*

Elected Members debated issues arising from the report. Whilst Elected Members expressed abhorrence at the racist content referred to within the report, some Elected Members expressed support for Councillor Tony Richardson's work as a community councillor. Surprise was expressed that the recommendations included in the report had been presented to Full Council prior to the outcome of the police investigation.

Concerns were expressed that it was not evident throughout the report that the report specifically related to Councillor Tony Richardson and not Councillor Carl Richardson. The Ceremonial Mayor commented that the covering report was clearly referenced Councillor Tony Richardson.

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor S Akers-Belcher:-

"That consideration of the report be deferred pending the outcome of the police investigation and an independent inquiry/review be undertaken."

A vote taken on the above by show of hands was carried.

Following the vote, a request for a recorded vote was made by Councillor C Richardson. In response, the Elected Member was informed that the vote had been taken.

(2) Nomination for Posthumous Conferment of the title of Freeman of the Borough - Report of Civic Honours Committee

The report sought consideration of a nomination in respect of the award posthumously of the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Hartlepool. The Civic Honours Committee, at its meeting on 1 September 2016, had agreed a moratorium of four years be imposed ending in 2020, unless recognition for an exceptional achievement was applicable. It was recognised that conferment of any civic honour needed to be exceptional as Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, stated that it was only through 'eminent services' that an individual should be conferred with such an honour. At the meeting of Full Council held on 23 February 2017, the Process and Selection Criteria for civic honours had been updated (a copy of the updated criteria was appended to the report).

A report submitted to Full Council on 19 December 2019 advised that a nomination for a civic honour has been received **(appended to the report as exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely paragraphs 1 and 2)** which, following consultation with the Chair of Council and Leader of Council, was considered to meet the criteria that exceptional circumstances apply. A meeting of the Committee had been convened for 31 January when the Committee agreed unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the nomination be approved. In accordance with

the agreed Procedure, the wife of the nominee has been consulted on whether to accept the nomination on the nominee's behalf. Subject to acceptance and to the outcome of this meeting, a Special Council would be convened to install honours on date agreed by the Chair of Council.

It was moved by Councillor Loynes:-

"That Full Council consider the recommendation of the Civic Honours Committee to approve the nomination".

Elected Members spoke of their support of the nomination and advised that the nominee was immensely deserving of the award.

A vote, by show of hands, was carried unanimously.

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

None

#### 108. REPORT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

(a) Proposal in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework

##### 1. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020/21 to 2023/24 – Report of Finance and Policy Committee

The report provided details of the 2020/21 Local Government Finance settlement announcement and advised Elected Members of the arrangements to finalise the 2020/21 technical budget calculations. Elected Members were reminded that in December 2019 the 2020/21 Council Tax increase for Council services had been agreed which included a 2% Social care precept. The report set out the statutory arithmetic calculations of the overall Council Tax level, which included Council Tax levels set by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire Authority and parish councils. It was highlighted that the statutory calculations were a legal responsibility for the Council as the billing authority for the area.

The report also set out specific recommendations referred from Finance and Policy Committee in relation to additional borrowing for the Capital Programme and investment at Grayfield's Recreation Ground and Pavilion. The Chair of the Committee responded to clarification sought from Elected Members in relation to future arrangements for the artificial pitches at the Brierton site and gave an assurance that significant investment was planned for the site.

The recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee were moved by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Young.

### **Statutory Council Tax calculations**

- i) Note that 55% of the Government's forecast national increase in Core Spending Power for local authorities is based on the assumption that all authorities will increase Council Tax up to the referendum limits;
- ii) Approve the statutory Council Tax calculations detailed in Appendix A, which includes the Council Tax increases approved by the individual precepting bodies;

### **Prudential borrowing recommendations**

- i) Approve the allocation of the additional recurring resources of £90,000 to fund increased Prudential Borrowing of £2m, which will increase the Capital Programme budget;
- ii) Note that if recommendation (i) is not approved a further report on the detailed Capital Programme will need to be considered by Finance and Policy Committee to prioritise projects within the resulting lower funding envelope.
- iii) Approve the proposal to invest £160,000 at the Grayfield's Recreation Ground and Pavilion to improve this site and reinstate the artificial pitch, subject to securing a new operator for the site. Repayment of the prudential borrowing will be over 10 years from the annual saving in running costs achieved from a successful asset transfer. A legal agreement will be in place for the asset transfer and subject to the successful organisation producing robust business, financial and football development plans.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.5 of the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on the Committee's recommendation in relation to the statutory Council Tax calculations :-.

Those in favour:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Cartwright, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Stokell, Tennant, Ward and Young.

Those against:

None.

Those abstaining:

None.

The vote was carried unanimously.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.5 of the Constitution, a recorded vote on the Committee's prudential borrowing recommendations:-

Those in favour:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Cartwright, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Stokell, Tennant, Ward and Young.

Those against:

None.

Those abstaining:

None.

The vote was carried unanimously.

## 2. Housing Revenue Account – Capital Investment Plan – Report of Finance and Policy Committee

Elected Members were advised that following the government's removal of the HRA debt cap in October 2019, there was an opportunity for the Authority to use borrowing, repaid from rental income, to attract additional capital grant funding to increase the provision of affordable housing. The proposed capital programme aimed to deliver an additional 164 units in the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 by investing up to £19.168m funded by £7.960m external funding and borrowing of £11.208m. Amounts relating to specific years were shown in the table included in the report. The Investment Plan proposed to deliver 50 high quality empty property acquisitions, 40 new build acquisitions from private developers and 74 new builds built on Council owned land. The business model for the scheme required that acquisitions would generate additional income for the HRA, which would help to reduce the HRA deficit and contribute to the higher costs of some of the more challenging former empty properties.

The following recommendation was moved by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Young:-

"That the Finance and Policy Committees recommended HRA Capital Investment Plan to deliver 164 units at a cost up to £19.168m, requiring borrowing of £11.208m to be funded from rental income be approved and to approve the inclusion of this scheme within the Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators."

It was moved by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor C Akers-Belcher:-

"That a full options appraisal report, on student accommodation, be submitted to the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee".

It was moved by Councillor S Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor James:-

“That the options appraisal report include bungalows for younger families”.

An Elected Member referred to the report considered by the Committee on 10 February 2020 when a rent increase for 2020/21 of 2.7% had been recommended. The Elected Member considered that the Council could still maintain the same level of HRA performance without the proposed increase in rent by the utilisation of Section 106 money from development at Wynyard. The Member considered the rent increase to be unfair, referred to the high level of poverty experienced by families and highlighted that there were funding alternative ways to deliver the additional housing.

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor S Akers-Belcher:-

“That a separate vote be taken on the Council house rent increase”.

Following further concerns expressed regarding the rent increase, the Director of Finance and Policy suggested that consideration of the report be deferred and considered again by Full Council in March, following an additional meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee.

The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee responded to the issues which had been raised in relation to the rent increase. Elected Members were advised that the Council’s rents were the lowest on the market and in the previous four years there had been rent reductions imposed by Government. With reference to the use of Section 106 money, it was highlighted that the Garden Village Development at Wynyard was a 15 year project. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee expressed concerns at the implications if the rent increase was not progressed.

Following further debate and prior to the vote being taken, the Director of Finance and Policy clarified that a recorded vote would be taken on referring the report back to an additional meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee prior to the next ordinary meeting of Council for further consideration of rent increases, an options appraisal to include student accommodation and bungalows for younger families requiring disability support.

in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.5 of the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken :-.

Those in favour:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brown, Cartwright, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, , Prince, A Richardson and C Richardson

Those against:

Councillors Brewer, Fleming, Hall, Lauderdale, Moore, Stokell, Tennant, Ward and Young

Those abstaining:

None

The vote was carried

3. Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2021 – Report of Children’s Services Committee.

Full Council was advised that the Children’s Service Committee had approved the consultation process for the Strategic Plan on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Consequently the Youth Justice Plan had been presented to Safer Hartlepool Partnership and Audit and Governance Committee where it had been accepted and no additional comments or amendments had been suggested. Children’s Service Committee had approved the Youth Justice Strategy on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and it was therefore requested that the Council adopt the Youth Justice Plan 2019/2021, a copy of which was appended to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lauderdale and seconded by Councillor James:-

“That the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 be approved”.

A vote taken, by show of hands, was carried unanimously.

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

None

109. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Three Motions had been received, on notice:-

- (1) “The Labour Group move that as a Council we are robust and proactive in our dealings with Councillors who do not adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Whilst we realise and appreciate the constraints that are put on Councils, we want to lobby for greater transparency when dealing with Elected Members who fail to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Therefore, Hartlepool Borough Council should resolve to lobby for Councils to be given more powers in disciplinary procedures which should extend to the dismissal of a Member if the need arises.”

Signed: Councillors Harrison, Prince, Brown, C Richardson and Lindridge

On moving the amendment, Councillor Harrison explained the rationale for the Motion and proposed that a lobbying letter be sent to the Minister and the Local Government Association.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Brown.

The Chief Solicitor advised Members, for information, that the Model Code of Conduct was being updated by the Local Government Association. Consultation on the Draft Code would commence in March this year and a report seeking views on the draft document would be submitted to Elected Members.

It was moved by Councillor S Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Brown:-

“That a lobbying letter be forwarded also to the National Association of Councillors”.

A vote taken, by show of hands, was carried unanimously.

- (2) “Given the recent interest in the application of policies and procedures for allotments, can Council resolve that Neighbourhood Services review the dispute resolution process in respect of allotments to specifically allow for a review stage outside of the department and such process must be completed before any eviction action is taken.”

Can it also be requested that the Head of Paid Service review the location of allotments in the departmental structure and consider designation of allotments to Adult and Community Based Services taking into consideration the impact allotment use has on individuals, community groups and associations in tackling isolation, family poverty and promoting wellbeing.”

Signed: Councillors C Akers-Belcher, James, Marshall, S Akers-Belcher, T Richardson and Brewer

On moving the Motion, Councillor Tennant proposed that the Chair of Council utilise her power under Council Procedural Rule 11.5 for the Motion to be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

It was seconded by Councillor Moore.

In response to assurance sought from an Elected Member, it was confirmed that a report would be submitted back to Full Council before the end of the Municipal year.

The Chief Solicitor clarified that Council Procedure Rule 11.5 stated that upon being moved and seconded, the subject matter stands referred to any Committee without discussion to such Committee.

Following further requests for clarification, it was reported that a report would be submitted to the Neighbourhood Services Committee and the issue in relation to location of allotments in the departmental structure would be considered by next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee.

A vote was carried unanimously.

Councillor James and Marshall left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

- (3) “That this council resolve to write to the Minister requesting to recognise the non means tested pension for women affected by the 1995 and 2011 Pensions Acts and to compensate those at risk and also to give proper notice of any further changes.

That we also write to the other Tees Valley Authorities and request they consider the joint commissioning of free bus passes for those who are affected.”

Signed: Councillors Little, Moore, A Richardson, Brewer, Brown and Loynes.

On moving the Motion, Councillor Loynes explained the rationale for the Motion, highlighted the vital nature of the free bus passes proposal and expressed her thanks to those who had led on the campaign.

Elected Members expressed their support for the Motion. For clarification purposes, the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee informed Full Council that he had been in discussions regarding the proposed free bus passes but highlighted an issue in the Tees Valley in terms of how bus passes are commissioned.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

A vote taken, by show of hands, was carried unanimously.

Councillor James and Marshall returned to the meeting.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

### 110. 2020/21 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Director of Finance and Policy reported that the Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to ‘have regard to’ the CIPFA Prudential Code and to set prudential indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Authority’s capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act therefore required the Council to determine a Treasury Management Strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy, which set out the Council’s policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the



security and liquidity of those investments. The Secretary of State has issued Guidance on Local Government Investments which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2004. This guidance recommends that all Local Authorities produce an Annual Investment Strategy that is approved by full Council, which was also included in this report.

Elected Members were advised that Full Council was required to nominate a body to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies, before making recommendations to Council. This responsibility had been allocated to the Audit and Governance Committee.

The recommended Treasury Management Strategy was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and this report was appended to the report. The Committee had scrutinised the proposed Treasury Management strategy and approved that the recommended strategy be referred to full Council.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the following recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee to approve the following detailed recommendations for the 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy and related issues be adopted;

#### **Borrowing Strategy 2020/21**

- i) **Core borrowing requirement** – following the securing of exceptionally low interest rates approve that the remainder of the under borrowing is netted down against investments.
- ii) To note that in the event of a change in economic circumstances that the Director of Finance and Policy may take out additional borrowing if this secures the lowest long term interest cost.
- iii) To authorise the Director of Finance and Policy to implement Treasury Management arrangements which minimise the short and long term cost to the Council.
- iv) **Capital Investment Programme (CIP)** - to note that in order to secure the CIP pot of £13.395m the Director of Finance and Policy will seek to lock in long term loans once the 2020/21 budget proposals have been approved by full Council.

#### **Investment Strategy 2020/21**

- v) Approve the Counterparty limits as set out in paragraph 8.7 of Appendix 1.

#### **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement**

- vi) Approve the MRP statement outlined in paragraph 9.3 of Appendix 1.

**Prudential Indicators 2020/21**

- xi) Approve the prudential indicators outlined in Appendix 2.

A vote taken, by show of hands, was carried unanimously.

111. RESIGNATION FROM POLITICAL GROUP

Elected Members were requested to note that notification had been received that Councillor T Richardson had resigned from Brexit Party and the Coalition Group and would be, therefore, an Independent Councillor.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

112. CHANGE IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that notification had been received of the following changes to the membership of Committees arising from resignations from Committees by Councillor Cartwright:-

Councillor Cassidy to replace Councillor Cartwright on Neighbourhood Services Committee

Councillor Loynes to replace Councillor Cartwright on Regeneration Services Committee

Vacancy Chair of South and Central Community Forum

A vacancy was still available for Vice Chair of South and Central Community Forum and a vacancy on Licensing Committee both following resignation of David Mincher previously reported to Council

At the meeting. Elected Members were informed of a nomination of Councillor Brown to the vacancy on the Licensing Committee following the resignation of David Mincher.

The Leader of the Coalition Group referred to the seat on the Planning Committee being a coalition seat and advised that he would nominate to that seat following the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the changes in the membership of Committees be approved.

113. PUBLIC QUESTION

None

# 114. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Questions to the Chairs about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 12.1

None

- b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 12.2

Two questions had been received on notice:-

1. Question from Councillor S Akers-Belcher to Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee

*“At Council in October 2019 members expressed their extreme disappointment in the level of FPN's issued in respect of littering and dog fouling compare to those for car parking offences. Council was assured that consideration would be given to having a dedicated enforcement team to tackle the obscene amount of litter and dog fouling in the town. Can you please confirm what progress has been made to support the will of residents to have a dedicated enforcement team and outline how many FPN's have been issued in respect of Litter, Dog fouling and Car Parking since Council on October?”*

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee responded that a report would be taken to Neighbourhood Services Committee on the 13th March 2020 which would cover the Council's current approach to civil and environmental enforcement, the existing service arrangements, figures detailing the action taken, the work undertaken more recently and the proposals going forward.

Following the response, Councillor S Akers-Belcher requested information in relation to the figures which he had requested in his question. In response, the Chair of the Committee presented figures which covered the period June to November 2019 and advised that further details would be included in the Committee report he had referred to earlier in his response.

Referring to Council Procedure Rule 8 – Duration of Meeting – the Chief Solicitor highlighted that the time was approaching 9.00 pm and sought the instructions of Full Council whether the meeting should continue past 9.00 pm.

Full Council agreed that the meeting be extended to 9.15 pm to allow for the remaining business to be concluded.

Councillor S Akers-Belcher questioned the period covered by the information presented and highlighted that the information was different to that which had been provided to a resident who had made a freedom of information request. Disappointment was expressed that the Elected Member had not received a fully articulated response and that the inadequate response was a constitutional issue. In response to the concerns expressed, the Chair of the Committee advised that he could provide a written response following this meeting of Full

Council or alternatively the information would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

2. Question from Councillor Tennant to Chair of Finance and Policy Committee

*“Given the recent announcement from HM Treasury to consult on proposals for the creation of 10 freeports in the UK it is incredibly important that Hartlepool does everything it can to make sure we are included within any proposed Freeport area around the River Tees or wider North East. Can this council confirm that they will not only take part in this consultation but also write to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury, Rishi Sunak, with haste to make a strong case for why the Port of Hartlepool must be included within any plans for a Freeport in our region?”*

The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee responded that Government had recently launched a consultation exercise and the Council is committed to engaging with the consultation which closes on 20th April 2020. The Government consultation is aimed primarily at business/operators but there are also considerations for the Council including Enterprise Zone Status and business rates, changes to Planning Regulations, Port Infrastructure, education and skills and potential public/private partnerships. Prior to submitting a response to Government the Council will liaise with the relevant key local businesses, landowners and also the Tees Valley Combined Authority to make representations that protect Hartlepool's and Hartlepool Council's interest.

Further to responding to the formal Government consultation the Council will write to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury to make representation advocating that the Port of Hartlepool is crucial to the economic performance of Hartlepool, the Tees Valley and wider region and therefore should be granted free port status. The Chair of the Committee added that he had written already to the Tees Valley Elected Mayor and as a member of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet would continue to campaign for free port status.

c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority

None

d) Minutes of the meetings held by the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Panel

The minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 12 November 2019 and the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 18 October 2019 were noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

<p><b>COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</b></p> <p><b>19 March 2020</b></p>
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Due to exceptional circumstances in relation to the COVID 19 global pandemic, it had been agreed that the meeting be postponed pending receipt of the National guidance/legislation

# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

10 June 2020

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Loynes) presiding:

Following a roll call, it was noted that the following Elected Members were present:-

### COUNCILLORS:

C Akers-Belcher	S Akers-Belcher	Black
Brewer	Brown	Buchan
Cartwright	Cassidy	Fleming
Hall	Hamilton	Harrison
Howson	Hunter	James
King	Lauderdale	Lindridge
Little	Marshall	Moore
Prince	A Richardson	C Richardson
Smith	Stokell	Tennant
Thomas	Ward	Young

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive  
 Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy  
 Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor  
 Claire McLaren, Assistant Director, Corporate Services  
 Sally Robinson, Director, Children's and Joint Commissioning Services  
 Jill Harrison, Director, Adult and Community Based Services  
 Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
 Amanda Whitaker, David Cosgrove, Denise Wimpenny and Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Team.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting there was a one minute silence in memory of those lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair of Council expressed her appreciation for all the hard work and dedication shown by Council staff and Elected Members in managing the Covid crisis and the manner in which new and key services were being delivered.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Little declared an interest in relation to her husband's company receiving a business support grant.

Councillors C Akers-Belcher and Thomas declared interests as employees of Health Watch.

Councillor S Akers-Belcher declared an interest due to his partner being an employee of Health Watch.

Councillor Cartwright declared a personal interest as an employee of Home Group.

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

None

4. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE - REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS PANEL

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Council gave consideration to the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting for the above item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher that the resolution to exclude the press and public be not put to Council at this point in the meeting and that the consideration of the Report of the Appointments Panel be considered at the end of the agenda when the consideration of the exclusion of the press and public should then be so moved.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council's Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken.

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brown, Cartwright, Cassidy, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Thomas and Ward.

Those against

Councillors Brewer, Buchan, Fleming, Moore, Tennant and Young

Those Abstaining

None

Chief Executive's Business Report

## 5. COVID 19 UPDATE REPORT AND NEXT STEPS

The Chief Executive presented a report which was accompanied by a separate document which provided a comprehensive report on the Council's emergency response in the first phase of the emergency and the issues which needed to be addressed going forward.

Following detailed presentation of the report, Members debated issues arising from the report. It was noted that decisions related to the emergency response to the Covid-19 crisis under Urgency Powers would be reported to the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee. It was proposed by an Elected Member that there was a need to also review local council tax support in the context of the further help available to residents who had experienced a reduction in their income as a consequence of the pandemic. The Chief Executive advised that she was content that the issue be referred to the Finance and Policy Committee for discussion.

The Chief Executive responded also to clarification sought in relation to an analysis of data relating to the number of Hartlepool deaths due to Covid 19 and assured Elected Members that Officers were in the process of obtaining that information.

Elected Members reiterated comments made by the Chief Executive and Chair of Council in expressing sincere thanks for all the hard work and dedication shown by Council staff and members in managing the Covid crisis and in a manner in which new and key services were being delivered.

An elected member referred to the issue of people drinking outdoors causing antisocial behaviour and the lack of powers the Council has to control them. An additional recommendation was proposed to the recovery element of the report to start a public consultation on banning alcohol in public spaces in Seaton Carew. The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee gave assurance that he had already contacted the appropriate department with a view to



addressing the issues which had been raised. The Member requested that information be circulated to Seaton Ward Councillors and the Chief Executive advised that she was content to add an additional recommendation in relation to the proposed alcohol ban, subject to Regulations.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council's Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the following recommendations which were moved by Councillor Young and Councillor C Akers- Belcher :-

1. That the comprehensive report attached at Appendix 1 on the Council's emergency response to the Covid-19 and emerging priorities for the next phase be received and noted.
2. That the proposed approach to the development of a recovery plan and budget for 2021/22 – 2024/25 be approved.
3. That the decisions related to the emergency response to the Covid-19 crisis under Urgency Powers will be reported to the next meeting of Finance and Policy Committee to be held on 29 June 2020 be noted.
4. That the proposal to review and re-set the terms of reference and membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board to undertake the functions of engaging stakeholders and the wider community in the ongoing response to preventing and containing local outbreaks of Covid-19 and in tackling the wider physical and mental health impacts of the virus be approved.
5. That a report be submitted to the appropriate Committee in relation to the banning of alcohol in public spaces in Seaton Carew, subject to Regulations.

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant ,Thomas, Ward and Young.

Those against

None

Those Abstaining

None

The vote was carried unanimously. The recommendations were therefore approved and adopted.

## 6. PAY POLICY 2020/2021

The Chief Executive reported that under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, Full Council had to approve a Pay Policy Statement (PPS) on an annual basis. The Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 was appended to the report. The document had been updated and included a change in paragraph 10.1. Restricting access to employment within the Council for those in receipt of a public sector pension could be potentially discriminatory on age grounds. The change of wording made the Pay Policy clearer, fairer and lawful in this respect.

The updated Pay Policy document had been included on the agenda for consideration at the March meeting of Full Council which was postponed. All Elected Members had been subsequently consulted to determine if they were agreeable to the revised document. The majority of Elected Members had no views or expressed support for the revised document. Therefore, following discussion with the Monitoring Officer, arrangements had been made for the document to be published.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## 7. ADDITIONS TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive reported that Council had previously approved Prudential Borrowing of £15.395m to match fund external capital funding. This amount had been approved in two stages:

- £13.395m was approved by Council on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019;
- £2.000m was approved by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Prior to the Covid-19 lock down the Director of Finance and Policy had explored alternative sources of borrowing, with the objective of securing lower interest rates than provided by the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). Whilst, it had not been possible to complete this work owing to the lock down, three funders had indicated they were impressed with the Council's investment plans and would be coming forward with funding offers which would provide lower interest rates than the PWLB, as specified by the Council. The formal offers have been delayed owing to the economic shock caused by Covid-19. Since that time the Government had indicated their intention to review PWLB lending arrangements and this review had also been delayed due to Covid-19.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy included a provision to meet the cost of PWLB interest rates prevailing at the time and provided a total budget for interest and loan repayment costs of £676,000. It is anticipated that lower interest rates would be achieved, either from work completed with external funder, or a potential reduction PWLB interest rates. It was expected that this should provide a recurring reduction in costs of £50,000, which would support additional Prudential Borrowing of £1.0m.

It was recommended that Council:

- i) Approves an increase in Prudential Borrowing of £1m, to be repaid from forecast interest rates savings;
- ii) Allocates £0.6m for the Stranton Cemetery Flood Alleviation scheme and £0.4m to tackle urgent asset management issues to prevent closure of facilities for example Carlton Adventure Centre;
- iii) Delegate authority to the Finance and Policy Committee to approve the detailed asset management priorities to be addressed including Carlton Adventure Centre.

Members debated issues arising from the report at length. The Chief Executive provided clarification in response to queries raised in relation to the proposals and confirmed that it was intended that the details relating to the proposals would be submitted to Finance and Policy Committee, prior to which arrangements would be made for a briefing for Elected Members. Whilst Members spoke in support of the recommendations to allocate £0.6m for the Stranton Cemetery Flood Alleviation Scheme, some concerns were raised in relation to the financial implications of borrowing £0.4m to prevent closure of key facilities for example Carlton Adventure Centre. The Chief Executive outlined the benefits of facilities of this type and clarified the financial impact of not proceeding with the recommendations as set out in the report. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of securing borrowing at the level of interest secured, details of which were provided. Views were expressed in terms of the benefits of having sight of a robust business case prior to taking decisions of this type and the importance of Member input in determining what schemes should go forward was emphasised. The Director of Finance of Policy indicated the reliance on Members supporting the proposals to enable the finalisation of the capital programme arrangements, as agreed by Council in February.

#### DURATION OF MEETING EXTENDED.

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Prince:-

“That, with the exception of the proposals relating to stranton cemetery, all capital expenditure be stopped pending new budget due to Covid-19”.

Upon reconvening the meeting following a brief adjournment to clarify the financial and legal implications of this proposal, the Chief Executive advised that the Director of Finance and Policy and Chief Solicitor would advise on the implications of the Motion.

The Director of Finance and Policy went on to outline the background to the budget decisions taken by Council on 19 December and 20 February where approval was granted to secure external borrowing and reiterated the financial risks associated with not proceeding with the proposals as presented.

The Chief Solicitor advised that the motion could not be accepted and referred Elected Members to Council Procedure Rule 14.1 - A motion or amendment to

rescind, or having the effect of rescinding, a decision made at a meeting of Full Council within the past six months cannot be moved - which would apply.

It was moved by Councillor Tennant and seconded by Councillor Young that the vote be put.

Elected Members attempted to continue debate and advised that they wanted to put forward a further Motion.

The Chair advised that a closure motion had been put. Following further representations, the Chair allowed further debate on issues arising from the report.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Prince:-

“That the recommendations be approved, with the exception of the recommendation relating to the £0.4m to tackle urgent asset management issues to prevent closure of facilities, until further information is available.”

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council’s Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment moved by Councillor Black:-

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brown, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, King, Lindridge, Prince, C Richardson and Thomas.

Those Against

Councillors Brewer, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, James, Lauderdale, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, A Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant, Ward and Young.

Those abstaining

Councillor Hamilton.

It was announced that the vote was lost.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council’s Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the substantive Motion

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A

Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant Thomas, Ward and Young.

Those against

None

Those Abstaining

None

It was announced that the vote was carried unanimously.

#### 8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

Further to minute 108 (a) (2) of the meeting of Full Council held on 20 February, the Chief Executive reported the recommendations that the Finance and Policy Committee had approved, on 9 March, for referral to full Council. Elected Members were advised that on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) had reversed a previous increase in interest rates for HRA borrowing and reduced interest rates by 1%. This reduction does not currently apply to General Fund borrowing e.g. for schemes such as the new leisure facility. The Business Model for the HRA had been updated to reflect the interest rate reduction and this provided an additional option not previously available to invest in more housing units and have a rent freeze.

For clarity purposes, the Chief Executive sought Members approval to a proposed change to recommendation iv to delete 'if there was a future demand for additional student accommodation a full option appraisal would need to be completed' to reflect Council's approval of an options appraisal to be completed. To enact that recommendation, the Chief Executive added a further 2 recommendations as follows:-

- That Elected Members approve the completion of a needs assessment on the quality of student accommodation and develop a full options appraisal of the options for providing good quality student accommodation in the town centre.
- To delegate to the Finance and Policy Committee the responsibility to approve a detailed brief for that option appraisal and also to identify the resources to carry it out which would then be reported to Full Council.

Members debated issues arising from the report and welcomed the proposed rent freeze noting the benefits as a result. The Director of Finance and Policy provided clarification in response to issues raised in terms of the impact of the proposed rent freeze. In response to a Member request, the Leader agreed that an update report, including timeframes around student accommodation, be presented to the next meeting of Finance and Policy Committee.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council's Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the following updated recommendations:-

1. Approved a 2020/21 rent freeze and approved the resulting borrowing and total capital investment limits as set out below:-

	<b>Rent Freeze</b>
No of properties	13 to 19
Borrowing	£0.973m
Homes England Grant	£0.493m to £0.720

2. Noted the above investment levels will be subject to securing Homes England grant.
3. Noted that if additional section 106 contributions are achieved this will maximise the increase in the number of properties added to the HRA;
4. Noted there currently was no shortfall in student accommodation and it was recommended, therefore, that a strategic planning alliance be established between the colleges to monitor the situation and student accommodation be included as part of the town centre master planning within the context of the Town Deal.
5. That Elected Members approve the completion of a needs assessment on the quality of student accommodation and develop a full options appraisal of the options for providing good quality student accommodation in the town centre.
6. To delegate to the Finance and Policy Committee the responsibility to approve a detailed brief for that option appraisal and also to identify the resources to carry it out which would then be reported to Full Council.

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant Thomas, Ward and Young.

Those against

None

Those Abstaining

None

It was announced that the updated recommendations had been approved unanimously.

## 9. COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Chief Executive reminded Elected Members that the Coronavirus Act 2020, which received royal assent on 25 March 2020, had contained provision for the Secretary of State to implement provisions by regulation relating to, amongst other things, the postponement of Annual Council and the ability of Members to 'attend' meetings remotely and to vote on items of business. Regulations introducing these provisions ['The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels \(Coronavirus\) \(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2020'](#) (the 'Regulations') were enacted on 4 April 2020. As a result of this legislation, it was possible to hold 'remote' meetings using Microsoft Teams. Socially distanced meetings had also been considered and whilst this could be an option for smaller meetings, it would not be possible for meetings of Full Council as venues such as the Borough Hall, do not have a conference mic system. It was proposed that where we do hold 'remote' meetings we only do so where the issues to be considered require a 'decision.' It was proposed that any other issue that would usually be the subject of 'for information' or 'to note' reports, would now be circulated to Elected Members by email or post.

With regard to meetings of Full Council, the Constitution required the approval of Full Council. Council was therefore asked to approve the following dates:

17 September  
17 December  
25 February 2021  
25 May 2021 Annual

Elected Members were advised that under the new Regulations, the requirement for councils to hold an Annual Meeting had been relaxed until 7 May 2021. Consequently the Chief Executive advised that she would not be convening an Annual Council meeting and all appointments would, therefore, carry over until the next Annual Council meeting in May 2021.

As mentioned in an earlier item, there is a requirement for Local Authorities to have in place, by the end of June 2020, an Outbreak Control Plan (OCP). The Plan was to focus on prevention and planning for possible future outbreaks in settings across Hartlepool, including care homes, schools and work places to name just a few and its implementation was to be developed by a newly created Outbreak Control Team (OCT) which would operate as part of the Council's Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG). Both the OCP and OCT were now in the process of being established. In recognition of the importance of communication and accountability Local Authorities were progressing to establish a public facing Local Outbreak Engagement Boards which would co-ordinate collaborative effort in developing and implementing Local Outbreak Plans and monitor impact. This was an important role for the Health and Wellbeing Board and Full Council was asked to approve that the Health and Wellbeing Board

should review and if necessary amend the function and membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board to enable it to carry out this important function.

Whilst concluding presentation of the report, Elected Members were advised that since the report had been drafted, a copy of Counsel's opinion regarding the application of the Health Protection Regulations to local authority meetings, had been circulated by the LGA which confirmed that meetings should be held 'virtually' and a hybrid approach to meetings was currently not possible. When the law allowed, it was proposed that conference microphone facilities at the Borough Hall be explored.

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Cartwright:-

That the following additional Council meeting dates also be agreed:-

30 July 2020  
29 October 2020  
28 January 2021

Following concerns expressed by an Elected Member, it was proposed that decision records in relation to any decisions taken as a result of the pandemic and outside of the normal democratic decision making process be provided to Elected Members and published on the Council's website. The Chief Executive advised that she was happy to add this proposal as an additional recommendation to her report.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council's Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant Thomas, Ward and Young.

Those against

None

Those Abstaining

None

It was announced that the vote had been carried unanimously.

## 10. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Elected members were requested to note that the Council had received two valid community governance petitions. The petitions had been received as follows:



- Residents of Wynyard have proposed that Wynyard be removed from Elwick Parish Council and that a stand-alone Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) be established.
- Residents of South Fens have proposed that South Fens be removed from Greatham Parish Council but without an alternative Parish Council being established.

Upon receipt of valid petitions (which included the signatures of 250 electors from the Parish) the Council must, as a matter of law undertake a community governance review. In order to undertake these reviews working groups would need to be established to agree upon and publish terms of reference and thereafter undertake the reviews. Reports in respect of these reviews would be prepared and submitted to Full Council. Community governance reviews must be completed within 12 months from the date of publication of the terms of reference.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

#### 11. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chief Executive referred to the resignation of Ann Johnson as a Borough Councillor for the Hart Ward. The resignation had been received on 28 May 2020. The vacancy arising through this resignation would be held until the day of the ordinary election in 2021 in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, unless new legislation was laid in relation to by-elections.

Arising from the resignation, there were the following vacancies:-

Constitution Committee  
Licensing Committee and therefore Licensing Sub Committee (3) and  
Regulatory Sub Committee (1)  
North and Coastal Community Forum

Elected Members paid tribute to former Councillor Ann Johnson and expressed appreciation of her service to the Authority.

It was moved by Councillor Prince and seconded by Councillor Brown that Councillor Prince be appointed to the Constitution Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Prince be appointed to the Constitution Committee.

## 12. VACANCIES

Elected Members were reminded of Committee and Outside Body vacancies which had been reported previously to Full Council. At the meeting, additional vacancies were reported arising from Councillor Ward's resignation from the following:-

Children's Services Committee  
Audit and Governance Committee  
Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust  
Mental Health Champion

It was reported also at the meeting that Councillor King had resigned from the Henry Smith Educational Trust.

Nominations were made as follows:-

Hartlepool and District Sports Council – Councillor Stokell  
Victoria and Jubilee Homes – Councillor Prince  
Children's Services Committee – Councillor James, Councillor King and Councillor Lindridge  
Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Cassidy  
Mental Health Champion – Councillor Tennant and Councillor Thomas

A recorded vote was taken on the nominations to the Children's Services Committee as follows:-

Councillor C Akers-Belcher – Councillor James  
Councillor S Akers-Belcher – Councillor James  
Councillor Black – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Brewer – abstain  
Councillor Brown – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Buchan – abstain  
Councillor Cartwright – abstain  
Councillor Cassidy – abstain  
Councillor Fleming – Councillor King  
Councillor Hall – Councillor James  
Councillor Hamilton – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Harrison – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Howson – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Hunter – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor James – Councillor James  
Councillor King – Councillor King  
Councillor Lauderdale – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Lindridge – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Little – Councillor King  
Councillor Loynes – Councillor James  
Councillor Marshall – Councillor James  
Councillor Moore – Councillor King  
Councillor Prince – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor A Richardson – Councillor James

Councillor C Richardson – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Smith – abstain  
Councillor Stokell – Councillor James  
Councillor Tennant – abstain  
Councillor Thomas – Councillor Lindridge  
Councillor Ward – Councillor James  
Councillor Young – Councillor James

It was announced that Councillor Lindridge had been appointed to the Children's Services Committee.

A recorded vote was taken on the appointment of the Mental Health champion:-

Councillor C Akers-Belcher – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor S Akers-Belcher – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Black – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Brewer – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Brown – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Buchan – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Cartwright – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Cassidy – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Fleming – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Hall – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Hamilton – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Harrison – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Howson – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Hunter – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor James – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor King – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Lauderdale – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Lindridge – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Little – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Loynes – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Marshall – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Moore – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Prince – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor A Richardson – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor C Richardson – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Smith – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Stokell – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Tennant – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Thomas – Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Ward – Councillor Tennant  
Councillor Young – Councillor Tennant

It was announced that Councillor Thomas was appointed Mental Health Champion and therefore also to Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust

Elected Members were referred to Council Procedure Rule 8 - Duration of Meeting. A recorded vote was taken to extend the meeting beyond 9 o'clock as follows:-

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Councillor S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Stokell, Tennant, Thomas, Ward and Young

Those Against

Councillors Lauderdale and Smith

Those Abstaining

None

The meeting was extended beyond 9 o'clock

#### 13. CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNCILLOR TONY RICHARDSON – REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive reported that following the receipt of a complaint about Councillor Tony Richardson and a subsequent investigation, the Audit and Governance Committee had conducted a hearing on 22 January 2020. The outcomes of the Audit and Governance Committee's hearing had been reported to Full Council on 20 February 2020 along with a request that additional sanctions be considered. Full Council had agreed that consideration of these additional sanctions should be deferred pending receipt of an independent review regarding the appropriateness of the procedures that had been followed and an opinion upon the merits of awaiting the outcome of a related investigation being undertaken by Cleveland Police. This review had now been undertaken and the opinion of leading counsel was appended to the report. With due regard to this independent opinion, Full Council was asked to consider the following recommendations made by the Audit and Governance Committee:

- That Full Council notes the findings and recommendations arising from the hearing that took place on 22 January 2020;
- That Full Council terminates the membership of Councillor Tony Richardson on the Licensing, Planning and Local Joint Consultative Committees, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Coalition;
- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson shall not be appointed as a member of any committee for the remainder of his current term of office and shall discourage any member from designating him as a substitute for them on any other committee;
- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson consider resigning as an elected member of Hartlepool Borough Council.
- That Full Council considers censure of Councillor Tony Richardson and issues the following formal statement:

*“Hartlepool Borough Council is pleased to note that Councillor Tony Richardson accepts that he has breached the Council’s Code of Conduct and that he has apologised for doing so. The promotion of racist and offensive material in any forum falls well below the standards expected of those in public life and such actions cannot and will not be tolerated. The actions of Councillor Tony Richardson are not representative of this Authority or the communities that it represents and as such the Authority has worked to impose the most appropriate and stringent sanctions that are available in law.”*

On concluding presentation of report, the Chief Executive highlighted that Councillor T Richardson had asked that the following statement be read out at the meeting:-

“I sincerely apologise for any offence that I may have caused by sharing the Facebook posts. I maintain that I am not a racist person but I do believe that I have been significantly careless and naive; it was honestly not my intention to cause any offence.

I hope with accepting these sanctions the residents of Hartlepool will forgive my carelessness and naivety and allow me to help the people of Fens & Rossmere Ward as I have been doing for the past 3 years.”

It was moved by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor S Akers-Belcher:-

“That the recorded vote be put on the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee”

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council’s Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken.

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Councillor S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant, Thomas, Ward and Young

Those against

None

Those abstaining

None

The vote was carried and the recommendations agreed.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 15 – Senior Management Restructure (Report of Appointments Panel) – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (paragraphs i, ii and iii)

15. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE - Report of Appointments Panel

Further to minute 4, the Chair of Appointments Panel presented a report which enabled Full Council to note the restructure approved by Finance and Policy Committee. The report also enabled Full Council to consider approving the deletion of the post of Chief Executive and to approve the designation of the post of Managing Director as Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer for Elections.

Members debated the report and made decisions in relation to the report's recommendations as set out in the exempt section of these minutes.

Following the decision, the meeting returned to open session and the Chair of Council advised Council has approved the recommendations of Appointments Panel and as a result the post of Chief Executive will be deleted and the Council will move to a Managing Director model. This will mean that Gill Alexander will leave the authority and Denise McGuckin will become the Managing Director and hold statutory responsibility as Head of Paid Services and Returning officer for Elections.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

**COUNCIL**  
30 July 2020



**Report of:** Constitution Committee

**Subject:** FURTHER PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To enable Council to consider the recommendations of the Committee following a periodic review of the Constitution by the Chief Solicitor/Monitoring Officer. The report also updates Elected Members on issues which have been considered by the Committee following referrals from Full Council.

**2. BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the Constitution Committee considered a report which addressed issues which had arisen since the comprehensive review of the Constitution approved by Council on 21 March 2019. As agreed at the meeting of Full Council held in March 2019, the Committee had discussed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 a ban on the purchase of alcohol by the Authority for Civic functions as part of a report relating to Civic and Democratic Arrangements Review.

A meeting of the Committee, held on 27 January 2020, provided further information on areas identified at the previous Committee meeting upon which Elected Members sought further information. The report also addressed issues raised at previous meetings regarding the legality of a non-elected member being appointed the Ceremonial Mayor and on the selection process for Ceremonial Mayor in terms of the rotation of Elected Members and the terms of office.

At the Constitution Committee meeting on 2 March 2020, reports were submitted which provided further information on areas identified at the previous meetings upon which Elected Members sought further information.

### **3. PROPOSALS**

Following consideration of reports, the Committee has made a number of recommendations which are summarised in a table appended to this report. Minutes relating to the Committee meetings are attached also.

The proposed changes to the Council Procedure Rules are recommended, by Committee, to Full Council. However, Members are reminded that any changes to Council Procedure Rules, in the absence of compliance with any statutory provision, would on being proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting.

Additionally, following approval of the new senior management structure at Full Council on the 10 June 2020, a delegation to the Chief Solicitor was approved to enable the consequential amendments to the Constitution to be made.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Full Council considers the recommendations of the Committee detailed in the table appended to the report.

That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24.2, changes to Council Procedure Rules on being proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next Ordinary meeting of Council

### **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Full Council – 15 July 2019  
Full Council – 21 March 2019  
Constitution Committee Report – 25 November 2019  
Constitution Committee Report – 27 January 2020  
Constitution Committee Report – 2 March 2020  
Hartlepool Borough Council – Constitution.

### **6. CONTACT OFFICER**

Hayley Martin  
Chief Solicitor  
[Hayley.martin@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Hayley.martin@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523002



## COUNCIL REFERRALS TO CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Reference Number	Date of Council Referral	Details of Referral	Committee Recommendation
01/19-20	21 March 2019	Delegation – Museum Acquisition and Disposals	<p>Considered by the Committee on 15 July 2019 – deferred for further information.</p> <p>Report was submitted to the Regeneration Services Committee on 5 February 2020 when it was agreed as follows:-</p> <p>(i) That the Hartlepool Collections Development Policy 2019-2022 be endorsed and be referred for decision to the next appropriate Council meeting.</p> <p>(ii) That on an ongoing basis the Council acquire and dispose of objects into the Museum's Collection in accordance with the Hartlepool Collections Development Policy 2019-2022.</p> <p>(iii) That delegation be given to the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of the Regeneration Committee*, to make minor changes, where necessary, to the Hartlepool Collections Development Policy 2019-2022 and that these changes be agreed with Arts Council England</p> <p>*following restructure now the Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Chair of</p>

			Adult and Community Based Services
02/19-20	20 June 2019	Full Council Procedure Rules – CPR9 – Questions from the Public	<p>Considered by the Committee on 25 November 2019 and 27 January 2020. Further report submitted to meeting on 2 March when it was recommended as follows:-</p> <p>That Full Council be recommended to approve the amended Council Procedure Rule 9 (attached) including the insertion of a supplementary question, referral to a Policy Committee and removal of debate.</p>
03/19-20	31 October 2019	Bullying and Harassment Motion	<p>Considered by the Committee on 27 January 2020.</p> <p>Elected Members were advised that the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) is undertaking a review of local government ethical standards. The CSPL carried out a consultation which the Authority responded to. Having considered the consultation responses, the CSPL have issued a report which includes best practice guidance and a list of 26 recommendations were appended to the report. A number of the recommendations involve legislative change which government are currently considering. Once any changes have been implemented a further</p>

			report will be brought to Members for consideration.
04/19-20	19 December 2019	Review of the Authority's Civic and Democratic Functions	<p>Considered by the Committee on 27 January 2020.</p> <p>(i) That the advice of the Chief Solicitor that it was not possible for a non-elected member to be appointed to the role of Ceremonial Mayor was noted and it was agreed to recommend that the current approach for selection of Mayor/Chairman not be changed.</p> <p>(ii) That Article 5 be updated in order that the role of Deputy Mayor is explicitly detailed in the Constitution to ensure full understanding of the role.</p> <p>(iii) That no changes be made to the existing Civic and Democratic arrangements.</p>

#### ELECTED MEMBER REFERRAL

05/19-20		<b>Local Joint Consultative Committee (LJCC)</b>	<p>Considered by the Committee on 27 January 2020. Further report submitted to meeting on 2 March when it was recommended as follows:-</p> <p>That the LJCC be removed from the list of Outside Bodies and</p>
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			<p>authority was given to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the LJCC and the Chief Executive to agree the wording of a suitable dispute resolution process.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Following the authorisation, a meeting was held on 3 March, when it was agreed that meetings of the LJCC will no longer be rescheduled. However, it was also agreed that the function of LJCC be amended to reflect its role as means of resolving disputes where there is a formal failure to agree between the Authority and the Trade Unions. This will enable the views of members to be considered and make recommendations to be referred to Finance and Policy Committee for decision. Membership of the LJCC to include only those Members who are not members of the Finance and Policy Committee.</p>
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## PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION 2019/20

Reference Number	Committee Date	Constitution Reference	Recommendation of Committee
06/19-20	25 November 2019	Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions	The Committee agreed a recommendation that the Homelessness and housing advice function transfer from the Children’s Services Committee to the Finance and Policy Committee in view of the function being a town wide issue.
07/19-20	25 November 2019	Part 4 - Council Procedure Rule 9.3(i)	Questions will be asked in the order received, except that the Chair of the Council may group together similar questions, which would replace the current requirement for the random selection of questions.
08/19-20	25 November 2019	Part 4 - Council Procedure Rule 11 – Motions on Notice	<b>Appended</b> to this Schedule are the changes proposed to consideration of Motions on Notice.
9/19-20	25 November 2019	Part 4 - Council Procedure Rule 23 – Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council	It is proposed that a paragraph be added that where a Committee is to consider a matter upon which another Committee(s) shares a common interest, that Committee may invite Members of other Committee(s) to attend a joint meeting. The attending Committee Members will have no vote but may take part in the discussion.
10/19-20	25 November 2019	Part 4 – Officer Employment Procedure Rules and consequent change	It was proposed that the Procedure Rules be amended to reflect statutory requirements for

		to Part 3 – the Authority's Functions and Delegation Scheme.	disciplinary action relating to the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer (Statutory Officers). As a consequence of the changes, it was proposed also that the membership and terms of reference of an Independent Advisory Committee be added to Part 3 of the Constitution.
11/19-20	25 November 2019	Part 4 – Scrutiny Procedure Rules	It was proposed that the Procedure Rules be amended to provide clarification in relation to Co-opted Members on the Audit and Governance Committee and the Committee's membership. It was proposed also that Appendix C – Procedure for the Decision Making Route for Statutory Scrutiny Final Reports - replace reference to 'Policy Committees' with 'Committees'.
12/19-20	27 January 2020	Council Procedure Rule 23 – Committees and Sub Committees of the Council	To be updated to clarify the position in relation to an Elected Member attending a Committee meeting where exempt information is likely to be disclosed.
13/19-20	2 March 2020	Article 10 - Community Forums	<p>Considered by the Committee on 27 January 2020. Further report submitted to meeting on 2 March:-</p> <p>That subject to the timescale being amended in respect of the budget event to delete reference to September, the approach outlined in the report be adopted</p>

			which will ensure that Community Forums are integrated in to the Your Say Our Future programme.
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## 11. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

### 11.1 Notice

A Motion must be about a matter for which the Authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough of Hartlepool.

Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Rule 12, written notice of every motion, signed by at least five Elected Members, must be submitted to and received by the Chief Executive, or by electronic mail to the Chief Executive ~~during normal office hours~~ before 5pm at least ~~seven~~ clear working days before the date of the meeting.

~~These~~ The notice of motion will be entered in a book open to public inspection.

~~ii)~~ The number of motions before an Ordinary Meeting of Council shall not exceed ~~3~~ three subject to consultation with the Chair of Council and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1. ~~(i)~~ Where, subject to rule 11.2, more than three Motions are received, the Motions to be submitted to Council shall be determined in a manner of random selection which will determine also the order the Motions will be listed on the agenda, any remaining Motions on Notice shall be dealt with at the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.

### 11.2 Scope

The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Council, may reject a Motion if:-

i) it is not about a matter for which the Authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;  
or

ii) it is out of order, illegal, irregular or improper; or

iii) it is defamatory, frivolous or offensive; or

~~iv)~~ it is substantially the same as a Motion which has been put at a meeting of the Full Council in the past six months and since when there has been no change of circumstances justifying the resubmission of the question ; or

v) it requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information; or

vi) it is unreasonably excessive because of its length or its number of parts;

~~11.3 Motion set out in agenda Motions for which due notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, unless the Elected Members giving notice states, in writing (including electronic mail), that they propose to move it at a later meeting or withdraw it.~~

~~11.34~~ Withdrawal of motion not moved If a motion set out in the agenda is not moved either by ~~an~~ the Elected Members who gave notice of it or some other Elected Member on his/her behalf shall, unless postponed by consent of the Council, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.



~~11.5 Remission to committee If in the view of the Chair of Council, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the subject matter of any Motion is the responsibility of any Committee or Committees it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such Committee or Committees or to such other Committee or Committees as Full Council may determine, for consideration and report. Provided that the Chair may, if s/he considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting of Full Council, following consultation with the Monitoring Officer.~~

## **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9 - QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

### **9.1 General**

During a period of 30 minutes, or a longer period at the discretion of the Chair, residents of Hartlepool may raise questions of, Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees at ordinary meetings of Full Council in accordance with these procedure rules. [Questions and answers shall not be matters for debate.](#)

### **9.2 Notice of questions**

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by electronic mail to the Chief Executive no later than noon on the Thursday of the week before the meeting (or in the case of a meeting held otherwise than on a Thursday, on the expiry of the fifth clear working day before the meeting). Each question must give the name and address of the questioner and must name the Chair of Committee or Sub-Committee to whom it is to be put (if the questioner is under 16 years of age, the notice must include the name, address and signature of the parent or guardian of the questioner).

Questions may be submitted at a later time than the deadline stated above if, in the opinion of the Chair of the Council, the question relates to an urgent issue that has arisen after the deadline.

### **9.3 Order of questions**

- i) Not later than the day before the commencement of any meeting in respect of which more than one notification has been received under rule 9.2 and not rejected under rule 9.5, the order in which the questions shall be asked shall be determined in a manner of random selection to be stipulated by the Chief Executive. The determination of the order shall take place at the Civic Centre and shall be open to the public.
- ii) There shall be excluded from the process described in rule 9.3(i) the question of any person whose question was dealt with at the immediately preceding ordinary meeting of the Council which shall be placed at the end of the order of questions. If there is more than one question to which this paragraph applies, they shall be asked in the order in which they were asked at the preceding meeting.

### **9.4 Number of questions**

At any one meeting no person may submit more than 2 questions but a question may consist of a number of parts.

### **9.5 Scope of questions**

The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Council, may reject a question if:-

- i) it is not about a matter for which the Authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough; or
- ii) it is out of order, illegal, irregular or improper; or
- iii) it is defamatory, frivolous or offensive; or
- iv) it is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months and since when there has been no change of circumstances justifying the resubmission of the question ; or
- v) it requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information; or
- vi) it is unreasonably excessive because of its length or its number of parts; or
- vii) the name of the person wishing to ask the question is not on the Register of Electors

#### **9.6 Record of questions**

- i) The Chief Executive will enter each question in a book open to public inspection and will immediately send a copy of the question to the Elected Member to whom it is to be put. Rejected questions will include reasons for rejection.
- ii) The Chief Executive shall notify the questioner in writing addressed to the questioner at the address at which s/he is registered that his/her question has been accepted ([or referred to a Policy Committee under Rule 9.8](#)) or rejected under rule 9.5 (the letter will be copied to the parent or guardian identified in the notice if the questioner is under 16 years of age)
- iii) Copies of all questions will be circulated to all Elected Members and will be made available to the public attending the meeting.

#### **9.7 Asking the question at the meeting**

- (i) The Chair will invite the Chief Executive to read the submitted question to the Elected Member named in the notice.
- (ii) Any question which cannot be dealt with during public question time, either because of lack of time or because of the non-attendance of the Elected Member who was to respond to the question, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.

- (iii) Once the question has been asked, the ~~Chair of the relevant Committee~~Elected Member named in the notice will have 5 minutes to respond to the question.
- (iv) Once ~~the Chair of the Committee~~the question has responded to ~~the question~~, supplementary question for clarification purposes only without notice being given. The supplementary question must arise directly from the original question or reply  
~~, Elected Members of the Council may, at the discretion of the Chair of the Council, make comment upon and discuss the issue raised by the question under rule 9.1 or move that the issue raised by the question be referred to a Council Committee.~~

#### **9.8 Formal Referral of a Public Question to a Policy Committee**

If the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Council considers that it would be more appropriate to do so, a question received on notice for submission to Full Council under Rule 9.2 may instead be referred to the next relevant Policy Committee for answer and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Protocol for Public Questions at Policy Committee meetings which is included in Part 5 of the Constitution.

## **PROTOCOL FOR REFERRAL OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO A POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

1. Where notice of a question from a member of the public is received in accordance with Rule 9.2 of the Council Procedure Rules and has not been rejected under Rule 9.5, the Chief Executive may in consultation with the Chair of Council refer the question to the relevant Policy Committee for answer.
2. A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of a Policy Committee for questions referred under Rule 9.8.
3. A list of the questions of which notice has been given shall be circulated to Elected Members of the relevant Policy Committee at, or before, the meeting at which they are to be asked.
4. Questions will be asked in the order notice of them was received, except that the Chair may group together similar questions.
5. The question will be answered by the Chair of the Policy Committee without discussion and the answer may take the form of:-
  - (a) a direct oral answer; or
  - (b) where the desired information is contained in a publication of the Authority, a reference to that publication; or
  - (c) where the reply to the question cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer given to the member of the public submitting the question and circulated to the Policy Committee.
6. The questioner may ask one relevant supplementary question for clarification purposes only which shall be put and answered without discussion. A supplementary question must arise directly from the original question or reply
7. The Member to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it. (See note 1 below.)

### **Notes:**

1. It will not be appropriate for a Chair to answer questions under this Protocol about:-

(a) matters which are subject to processes such as particular applications for planning permission, licences, registration, consents or other permissions, or

(b) matters for which there are other processes under the Council's Constitution, such as individual complaints or cases, personnel or disciplinary matters, ethical matters or allegations of fraud.

# **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

25 November 2019

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Moore (In the Chair)

Councillors Harrison, Howson, James and Loynes

Councillor Brewer was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Tennant.

Officers: Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy  
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor  
Amanda Whitaker, Legal and Democratic Services Manager

### **7. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Marshall and Tennant

### **8. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

### **9. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019 were confirmed subject to the following amendment:-

Minute 5 – Council Referral – Delegation Scheme – Third paragraph, final sentence - Deletion of 'including the formulation of a policy to be determined by the Regeneration Services Committee'.

Arising from the minutes, it was agreed that the Chief Solicitor submit a report to this Committee to address issues raised at the previous meeting relating to the legality of a non-elected member being appointed the Ceremonial Mayor and on the selection process for Ceremonial Mayor in terms of the rotation of Elected Members and the terms of office.

### **10. Further Periodic Review of the Council's Constitution** *(Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)*

The Committee's consideration was sought of proposed changes to the Constitution prior to consideration of the changes by Council. Matters which had arisen during the review were presented as follows:-

## **Article 2 – Elected Members of the Authority**

The Corporate Parent Forum, at its meeting on 11 June 2019, had agreed that this Committee be requested to consider the issue of compulsory training for all Elected Members on their role as corporate parents.

The Audit and Governance Working Group had recommended to the Audit and Governance Committee and it was agreed by Council on 31 October 2019, that guidance and mandatory training should be provided to new and existing Members on completion of the revised electronic form to record Members declarations of Interest.

It was highlighted that Elected Members are not employees of the Council which meant that the measures available to enforce adherence by officers to mandatory training would not necessarily be available for members. The Council could however consider a number of measures as set out in the report. Committee Members agreed that member compliance with their mandatory training should be reported to the Audit and Governance Committee. It was suggested, at the meeting, that non-compliance could be reported regularly also to Full Council.

Alternative methods for the training of Elected Members were discussed including e-learning. It was suggested also that the inaugural training programme, for newly elected Members, should be more structured and that a further report be submitted to this Committee to allow further consideration by members of the Committee.

## **Article 10 – Community Forums**

Members were requested to consider a suggestion from an Elected Member that the Community Forums: 'North and Coastal' and 'South and Central' be combined. Whilst acknowledging the reasons for the suggestion, Elected Members expressed some concerns regarding the practical implications of the proposal. It was agreed that a further report be submitted to this Committee.

## **Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions**

The Committee agreed a recommendation that the Homelessness and housing advice function transfer from the Children's Services Committee to the Finance and Policy Committee in view of the function being a town wide issue.

**Full Council Procedure Rules (CPR)** – Changes were proposed to the following Procedure Rules:-

#### **CPR4 - APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE ELECTED MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer had proposed to update the Procedure Rule for clarification purposes as set out in the report.

#### **CPR9 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

At the meeting of Full Council held on 20 June, it had been moved and seconded that this Committee be requested to consider changes to Questions from the Public to allow supplementary questions. It was agreed that the issue of supplementary public questions be referred to this Committee. Members of the Committee highlighted issues which had occurred previously when the provision to ask supplementary public questions was included in the Constitution.

It was suggested at the meeting that if supplementary questions were permitted they should be for clarification purposes only which Members recognised would have to be managed by the Chair of Council. Members agreed further consideration was required and that a further report should be submitted to this Committee. Information which had been circulated to Members highlighted that the Constitutions of other Local Authorities did not include provisions for a debate following a public question. It was proposed that the further report address also whether the provision in the Authority's Constitution should continue to allow debate once the Chair of a Committee has responded to a public question.

It was proposed also that Council Procedure Rule 9.3 (i) be updated so that Questions will be asked in the order received, except that the Chair of the Council may group together similar questions, which would replace the current requirement for the random selection of questions.

#### **CPR11 – MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Appended to the report were changes which were proposed to the above Procedure Rule.

#### **CPR23 - COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

It is proposed that a paragraph be added that where a Committee is to consider a matter upon which another Committee(s) shares a common interest, that Committee may invite Members of other Committee(s) to attend a joint meeting. The attending Committee Members will have no vote but may take part in the discussion.

**Officer Employment Procedure Rules** – It was proposed that the Procedure Rules be amended to reflect statutory requirements for disciplinary action relating to the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer (Statutory Officers). As a consequence of the changes, it was proposed also that the membership and terms of reference of an Independent



Advisory Committee be added to Part 3 of the Constitution – the Authority's Functions and Delegation Scheme:-

**Scrutiny Procedure Rules** – It was proposed that the Procedure Rules be amended to provide clarification in relation to Co-opted Members on the Audit and Governance Committee and the Committee's membership. It was proposed also that Appendix C – Procedure for the Decision Making Route for Statutory Scrutiny Final Reports - replace reference to 'Policy Committees' with 'Committees'.

Decision – (i) That Full Council be recommended to approve the following:-

- The update of Article 2 to reflect the requirement for compulsory training for Elected Members on their role as corporate parents and also in relation to mandatory training to new and existing Elected Members.
- That member compliance with their mandatory training be reported to the Audit and Governance Committee and regular reports be submitted also to Full Council.
- That the Homelessness and housing advice function transfer from the Children's Services Committee to the Finance and Policy Committee in view of the function being a town wide issue.
- The suggested clarification of wording for Council Procedure Rule 4 relating to the Appointment Of Substitute Elected Members Of Committees And Sub-Committees
- That Council Procedure Rule 9.3 (i) be updated so that Questions will be asked in the order received, except that the Chair of the Council may group together similar questions, which would replace the current requirement for the random selection of questions
- That the proposed changes to CPR11 – Motions On Notice – be approved
- That a paragraph be added – at CPR 23 - that where a Committee is to consider a matter upon which another Committee(s) shares a common interest, that Committee may invite Members of other Committee(s) to attend a joint meeting. The attending Committee Members will have no vote but may take part in the discussion.
- That the Officer Employment Rules be amended to reflect statutory requirements.
- That the proposed amendments to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules be approved.

(ii) That a further report be submitted to this Committee regarding:-

- alternative methods for the training of Elected Members including e-learning and a more structured approach to Member induction.
- Community Forums
- Questions from Public – supplementary questions and debate

The meeting concluded at 3.15 p.m.

CHAIR

# **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

27 January 2020

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Moore (In the Chair)

Councillors Fleming, Harrison, Howson, James, Johnson, Loynes,

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2, Councillor S Akers-Belcher was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Marshall and Councillor Cassidy was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Tennant.

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive  
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor  
Amanda Whitaker, Legal and Democratic Services Team Manager

### **11. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Marshall and Tennant.

### **12. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

### **13. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2019 were confirmed.

Following a recent meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee, a member referred to the position in relation to an Elected Member attending a Committee meeting where exempt information is likely to be disclosed. It was requested that the Constitution be updated to clarify the position.

### **14. Further Periodic Review of the Council's Constitution – Update** *(Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)*

The report sought views from the Committee regarding proposed changes to the Constitution prior to consideration of changes by Full Council. A report to

this Committee on 25 November 2019 had addressed issues which had arisen since the previous review. The report provided information on areas identified at the previous meeting upon which Elected Members had sought further information. The report also addressed issues raised at previous meetings regarding the legality of a non-elected member being appointed the Ceremonial Mayor and on the selection process for Ceremonial Mayor in terms of the rotation of Elected Members and the terms of office.

The Committee debated each of the areas identified and expressed views as follows:-

## **PART 2 – ARTICLES**

### **Article 2 – Elected Members of the Authority**

The Committee noted the additional information which had been submitted in relation to the Member Development Programme and expressed the following views:-

- In addition to mandatory training for specified Committees, there should also be mandatory training for members of Policy Committees.
- In addition to reporting non-attendance at mandatory training sessions to Audit and Governance Committee/Council, the appropriate Committee should be advised accordingly.
- The Annual Planning Training Event should change from being optional to a mandatory training requirement.
- Some mandatory training should also be offered by use of e-learning resources.

### **Article 5 – The Ceremonial Mayor**

The Committee was advised of the statutory requirement which stated that “the chairman of a principal council shall be elected annually by the Council from among the Councillors”. It further stated that “the Chairman of a county borough council is entitled to the style of ‘mayor’”. Elected Members noted that it was not possible, therefore, for a non-elected member to be appointed to the role of Ceremonial Mayor.

The Committee noted also an appendix which detailed the protocol for selection of Mayor/Chairman and which highlighted that other Local Authorities in the region had a similar approach to that which is applied in this Authority.

The Committee accepted the advice of the Chief Solicitor and following discussion agreed to recommend that the current approach for selection of Mayor/Chairman not be changed.

Elected Members discussed the importance of the role of Deputy Ceremonial Mayor and agreed to recommend that Article 5 be updated in order that the role is explicitly detailed in the Constitution to ensure full understanding of the role.

## **Article 10 – Community Forums**

At the previous meeting of the Committee, Members had been requested to consider a suggestion that the Community Forums be combined. Following subsequent concerns to the Chief Executive, the Committee was requested to consider the role of the Community Forums which had been part of the Council's governance structure since 1999. The ways of communicating with the public had changed considerably and concerns had been expressed around how well the current arrangements were working and whether they met the Council's current needs around community engagement. It was also recognised that in the main the issues discussed at Community Forums could and were often already being dealt with through other mechanisms set out in the report. It was considered that the Your Say, Our Future exercise had worked very well and was an approach that had facilitated a greater level of involvement and discussion. Members views had been sought on a number of options and it was reported that no responses had been received.

The view was reiterated at the meeting that the Community Forums no longer operated in the way intended when they had been set up. Whilst support was expressed for stopping the Forums and replacing them with a roll out of the Your Say, Our Future approach through a planned annual programme, the Committee requested a report to the next meeting of the Committee to allow them to consider the planned annual programme prior to making any recommendation to Full Council.

## **PART 4 – RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Full Council Procedure Rules – CPR9 – Questions from the Public**

At the meeting of Full Council held on 20 June, it had been moved and seconded that this Committee be requested to consider changes to the above Procedure Rule in relation to supplementary questions. At the previous meeting of this Committee, Members had suggested that if supplementary questions were permitted they should be for clarification purposes only. It was noted in the table which had been submitted to that meeting that the Constitutions of other Local Authorities do not include provisions for a debate following a public question. As requested by the Committee, the table submitted previously had been updated following further research and was appended to the report. The outcome of the further review highlighted that the majority of Constitutions which permitted supplementary questions stated that a supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. None of the Constitutions reviewed permitted debate following public questions.

Elected Members debated issues arising from the referral from Council. The view was expressed that responses to Council questions were required to be more robust. It was noted that this Authority's Constitution is unique in permitting debate following the response to a question. During the debate the responsibilities of the Chair of Committees were highlighted together with the

advantages of an alternative model whereby questions were formally submitted to Policy Committees which would ensure that other Members of the Committee could contribute to responses to questions. The Chief Executive agreed to model some options, based on the comments made, for submission to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **UPDATES**

### **Elected Member Referral – Local Joint Consultative Committee (LJCC)**

The current Chair of the LJCC had queried whether there was any merit in continuing to hold meetings of the Consultative Committee as there had not been issues referred to the Committee for consideration. Members noted that the Authority now operated various other methods of negotiation and consultation detailed in the report. This Committee was requested to consider whether the LJCC should continue. Elected Members were advised that if this Committee determined to recommend that the LJCC should cease, alternative arrangements would be put in place to formalise the alternative methods that were currently being utilised.

Elected Members were mindful to a review with the potential of replacing the LJCC with alternative methods detailed in the report together with an additional suggestion made at the meeting that any changes which would have been reported to the LJCC being included in the Chief Executive's Business report to Full Council.

It was agreed to recommend that an early meeting of the LJCC be convened to allow the views of members of the LJCC to be sought and reported back to this Committee.

### **Referrals by Full Council**

**Civic and Democratic Arrangements Review** – A report had been considered by this Committee on 15 July 2019. A copy of that report and the minutes of that meeting were appended to the report. Furthermore on the 19 December 2019, during consideration of a report relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020/21 to 2023/24, it was resolved that a further review be commenced in relation to the costs of the Authority's civic and democratic functions including the Ceremonial Mayoral system and the electoral cycle.

It was highlighted that whilst some operational expenses could be reviewed outside of the constitutional review, changes to the electoral cycle required formal and statutory public consultation. Good practice guidance on consultation exercises suggested that a 12 week period would be appropriate therefore due to the forthcoming whole Council elections due to be held in May, this would need to be considered in the new Municipal year. Taking this in to account Members were asked to consider how they wished to take the review of civic and democratic arrangements forward. The Committee recommended unanimously that changes to the electoral cycle not be made.

Following the meeting of Full Council in December 2019, further representations were made regarding further savings in terms of the following:-

- *Removal of the Ceremonial Mayor position and all of its costs associated with it and move to a Council Leader chair function.*

Where a change in governance arrangements is proposed the Authority would need to take reasonable steps to consult with local electors and other interested persons in the area when drawing up proposals. The Authority must hold a binding referendum following the expiration of the statutory moratorium period in the holding of a referendum, namely, the period of 10 years from the date of the previous referendum. The Committee noted that the last change of governance arrangements followed a referendum in November 2012 and no further referendum to change the governance arrangements could therefore be held until 2022.

- *Remove the requirement to hold civic functions and attendance at civic functions.*

It was highlighted at the meeting that attending Civic functions and events is at the discretion of the Ceremonial Mayor. It was recommended that no further action be taken in relation to this suggestion.

- *Setup a new Events committee function that looks at the Councils events and how we can include local charities and good causes in this.*

Elected Members were advised that the Authority had a small events team within the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods department which organised and supported local events. Furthermore, the Council already had a cross Authority group, the 'Destination Hartlepool' Programme Board', which brought together relevant Council departments and representatives of anchor visitor attractions to plan an annual events programme and publish and promote an annual 'Hartlepool Events Guide.' The guide included details of events organised by the Authority as well as a number of charitable events and is made available via public buildings and schools as well as social media. The Committee agreed to recommend that no changes be made to the existing arrangements.

- *Live streaming of Council meetings on Youtube.*

This has previously been considered by Full Council however at the time was considered to be cost prohibitive. However changes in technology meant that newer and cheaper technology was possibly now available. The Committee acknowledged that the suggestion was not a constitutional issue and the issue was therefore referred to the Chief Executive for consideration.

- *A review of the process of electing Chairs and Deputies. It could be as simple as releasing a job description for chairs and deputies of each committee.*

Elected Members were reminded that the current process for the submission of nominations to the Annual Council Meeting were made following 'Round Table' discussions amongst all Elected Members. Nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs were considered as part of this process. The functions and responsibilities of each Committee is set out in Article 7 and Part 3 of the Authority's Constitution. When considering the nominations for Chair to these Committees, Members should consider these functions and responsibilities and it was suggested that Members could also consider the introduction of a 'job description for Committee Chairs to be also considered as part of that process as detailed in the report. The Committee agreed to recommend that no changes be made to the existing arrangements.

**Bullying and Harassment Motion** – A Motion had been approved by Full Council in October 2019 in relation to staff in any workplace to being subjected to bullying and harassment and which urged this Council to agree with the sentiment of the motion and refer it to this Committee to consider whether any changes can be incorporated into the Constitution.

Elected Members were advised that the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) had recently undertaken a review of local government ethical standards. The CSPL had carried out a consultation which the Authority responded to. Having considered the consultation responses, the CSPL had issued a report which included best practice guidance and a list of 26 recommendations a copy of which was appended to the report. It was highlighted that a number of the recommendations involved legislative change which the Government was currently considering. Elected Members were assured that once any changes had been implemented a further report would be brought to Members for consideration.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee to address issues raised at the meeting in relation to the following:-
  - Community Forums
  - Full Council Procedure Rules – Questions from the Public
  - Local Joint Consultative Committee
- (ii) That the advice of the Chief Solicitor that it was not possible for a non-elected member to be appointed to the role of Ceremonial Mayor was noted and it was agreed to recommend that the current approach for selection of Mayor/Chairman not be changed.
- (iii) That Article 5 be updated in order that the role of Deputy Mayor is explicitly detailed in the Constitution to ensure full understanding of the role.

- (iv) That no changes be made to the existing Civic and Democratic arrangements
- (v) That the livestreaming of meetings of Full Council be referred to the Chief Executive for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 3.55 p.m.

CHAIR



# CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

2 March 2020

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Moore (In the Chair)

Councillors Harrison, Howson, James, Loynes and Tennant.

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Hunter as substitute for Councillor Johnson in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Councillor S Akers-Belcher as substitute for Councillor Marshall in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive  
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor  
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team.

## **15. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Johnson and Marshall

## **16. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

## **17. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2020 were confirmed.

Disappointment was expressed that issues outstanding following the additional meeting of the Local Joint Consultative Committee (LJCC) had not been reported to this Committee, as had been agreed at the LJCC meeting.

## **18. Further Periodic Review of the Council's Constitution** *(Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)*

The Chief Solicitor presented the report which sought views from the Committee prior to consideration of changes to the Constitution by Full

Council on 19 March 2020. Elected Members were reminded that at the previous meeting of the Committee, further information had been sought in relation to the following:-

Article 10 - Community Forums – a separate report was included on the agenda which addressed the issues which had been raised at the meeting on 27 January 2020.

Council Procedure Rule 9 – Questions from the Public – Following a review of practice adopted by other Authorities and taking on best practice guidance as set out in 'Knowles Best Practice on Local Authority Meetings' an amendment had been suggested to Rule 9.1 regarding debating public questions to allow more time for consideration of public questions. An appendix to the report addressed the issues which had been raised by the Committee, by way of suggested changes to the Constitution to include the insertion of a new Council Procedure Rule 9.8– Formal Referral of a Public Question to a Policy Committee. Also included in the appendix was a suggested Protocol for Referral of Public Questions to a Policy Committee meeting which if approved would be inserted into Part 5 of the Constitution. Elected Members spoke in support of Formal Referral of a Public Question to a Policy Committee and agreed residents would receive a more prompt response to their questions. Following concerns expressed regarding formal public questions at Policy Committees being limited to 15 minutes in the suggested Protocol, it was agreed that the Protocol be updated to delete reference to time limits.

Elected Member Referral - Local Joint Consultative Committee (LJCC) - Following the discussions at the previous meeting of this Committee, a meeting of the Local Joint Consultative Committee had been convened on 7 February 2020 to consider whether there was any merit in continuing to hold meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee. The recommendations of the LJCC were set out in the report. In considering the recommendations, Members were advised that the proposals did not address potential arrangements for dispute resolution. Therefore a proposal to address this issue was included in the recommendations to this report.

Further to discussions earlier in the meeting (minute 17 refers), Councillor James expressed disappointment that despite agreement at the LJCC meeting, wording had not been provided to this Committee in terms of what would be included in future Chief Executive's reports to Council to keep Elected Members informed of issues which would have been reported to the LJCC.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS –**

- (i) That Full Council be recommended to approve the amended Council Procedure Rule 9 including the insertion of a supplementary question, referral to a Policy Committee and removal of debate.
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the Local Joint Consultative Committee

and the Chief Executive to agree the wording of a suitable dispute resolution process.

## **19. Proposal to Roll Out the Your Say, Our Future Approach** *(Assistant Director, Corporate Services)*

Further to minute 14 of the meeting held on 27 January 2020, the report provided the Committee with further detail on the Council's engagement approach, Your Say, Our Future, to consider and use to inform their recommendation to Council on the future of the Community Forums. Going forward it was proposed that a programme of Your Say, Our Future events be agreed at the beginning of each municipal year and that this continued to include the Face the Public events for the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Hartlepool Partnership. The number of events held across the year and when they were held would be determined by the topics around which the Council needed to engage on in any given year. This would reflect the development of Strategies and Plans within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and any other key consultations that were identified. After initial consideration the following programme for the 2020/21 municipal year had been drafted to include:

<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
Community Safety Plan 2020-2023 and Safer Hartlepool Partnership	June/July 2020
Budget 2021-22 (Medium Term Financial Strategy and Local Council Tax Support Scheme as required)	September/October/November 2020
Health and Wellbeing Board Your Say Our Future Event	February/March 2021

Elected Members were advised that the Your Say, Our Future approach focused on engaging members of the public and partners, and provided the opportunity for engagement with officers from the Council and Partner Organisations. Although elected members were welcome to attend it was recognised that there were other mechanisms for engaging directly with elected members including the use of Members Seminars, informal discussions with Policy Chairs and committee members.

Whilst supporting the Your Say, Our Future approach, Elected Members expressed reluctance to no longer have Community Forum meetings. The Committee discussed the format for the proposed events and agreed that the approach outlined in the report be adopted to ensure that Community Forums are integrated in to the Your Say Our Future programme. With regard to the timeline for the events, it was agreed that the Budget 2021-22 event should be held in October/November and reference to September, when Elected Members would be considering reports, should be deleted from the timeline.

RECOMMENDATION – That subject to the timescale being amended in respect of the budget event to delete reference to September, the approach outlined in the report be adopted to ensure that Community Forums are integrated in to the Your Say Our Future programme.

The meeting concluded at 2.40 p.m.

CHAIR

**COUNCIL**  
30<sup>th</sup> July 2020



**Report of:** Armed Forces Champion (Councillor Lee Cartwright)

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL'S ARMED FORCES COVENANT -  
PROGRESS (2019/2020)

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress in relation to the implementation of the Armed Forces Community Covenant during 2019/2020.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In 2012 Hartlepool Borough Council signed the North East Armed Forces Community Charter and established its own Armed Forces Community Covenant, to encourage support from the Armed Forces Community in our town.
- 2.2 A further review of the Armed Forces Community Covenant was undertaken in 2019 and was approved by Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The basis for the Covenant being that
- "Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved."
- 2.3 The Community Covenant requires that the Armed Forces Champion report annually to Full Council outlining progress in relation to the implementation of the Covenant. In accordance with this requirement, outlined below are details of progress, activity and achievements during 2019/20.

**3. PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 Over the last 7 years significant progress has been made in meeting the objectives and intentions of the Covenant and implementing the measures contained within it. This includes continued:-

- i) Prioritisation of armed forces personnel, their families and children, through the Council's allocations policies for Social Housing and in year school admissions;
  - ii) Disregarding of War Pensions, and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments, from Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Support calculations.
  - iii) Representation on the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum and Association of North East Councils Armed Forces Forum to ensure that the needs of our armed forces community are considered;
  - iv) Development of links with Armed Forces Associations across Hartlepool and cementing of relationships with the town's 883 Postal and Courier Squadron;
  - v) Support and participate in Armed Forces Events and Parades across the town and wider region, supported by our Culture and Information Team, Members Services Team, Public Relations Team and the Legal Service Team;
  - vi) Provision of Armed Forces Champion Surgeries on a monthly basis and a dedicated Armed Forces page on the Council's web site;
  - vii) Promotion of:
    - Reserves Day (this year on the 24 June 2020) and opportunities as part of the Ministry of Defence 1% Reservist Challenge;
    - Military Discount Schemes / opportunities; and
    - Voting opportunities (as part of the Service Voters Campaign).
  - ix) Support for the independently Chaired Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group in its activities to bring together Armed Forces Associations from across Hartlepool to:
    - Share information / best practice; and
    - Assist in the implementation of the requirements of the Covenant and lead on (contribute to) the organisation of military / ceremonies in Hartlepool. In 2019, this included a third successful Armed Forces Day.
  - x) Representation on the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum and Association of North East Councils Armed Forces Forum.
- 3.2 Over and above our ongoing activities, we have continued to move forward in our support of the armed forces community in Hartlepool. The work of our Armed Forces Champions (past and present) resulting in:
- i) Receipt of our Gold Award, from the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), in recognition of our commitment to supporting the armed forces community across Hartlepool and our

efforts to inspire others to do the same. Hartlepool Borough Council being the first Tees Valley Local Authority to receive this accolade.

- ii) A refresh of the Community Covenant, originally signed in 2012, in partnership with our Military colleagues and partner organisations. As part of which the position of Veterans Champion was created to support the activities of the Armed Forces Champion;
- iii) The extension of the 'Get Hartlepool Active' card concession to Hartlepool residents (and their family living at the same address) who are currently serving in the regular armed forces, are ex-members of the armed forces with a discharge date within the last 5 years and those in the armed forces reservists. Further details of the scheme are available via the below link. The aim of this is to provide improved the health and wellbeing opportunities for the Armed Forces community and Hartlepool Borough Council is the first Tees Valley Local Authority to offer these concessions.

[https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20004/council\\_and\\_democracy/580/armed\\_forces\\_support/10](https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20004/council_and_democracy/580/armed_forces_support/10).

- iv) Promotion through our Economic Regeneration and Tourism Forum to encourage businesses, suppliers, contractors and voluntary/community sector to engage with the Armed Forces Community. Resulting in:
  - Additional co-signatories to the Covenant from education, housing, voluntary/community sector and local/national businesses; and
  - Links between REED and local companies, increasing involved in the Armed Forces Business Forum.
- v) An expansion of the Reserve Forces Policy to support our Reservists through the following:
  - 10 days additional paid leave,
  - The ability to purchase additional leave and request additional unpaid leave; and
  - Information about pensions, pay, childcare and keep-in-touch days.
- vi) Close working relationships with the 883 Postal and Courier Reservist Squadron to:
  - Support their employment and engagement events and facilitate their involvement in the AFLG and AFD; and
  - Hold recruitment events, including [drop in sessions for staff](#) are hosted in the Civic Centre and other community buildings.
- vii) Promotion and delivery of Drop-in sessions by the Royal British Legion (100+ individuals helped) the Community Sports Foundation (accessed by 121 individuals) and the [Mental Health Team](#).

- viii) Staff from key front line services actively volunteering for the RBL, establishing a constant presence in the town, enabling staff to receive ongoing RBC training and allowing cases to be opened directly with the RBL. This removed a delay to getting our armed forces community the help they need.
  - ix) The direct provision of mental health support services such as the veterans weekly Mental Health Group and the council's Drug and Alcohol Support Team.
  - x) Front line staff receiving briefings from the RBL to help provide and enhanced understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces with our non-military staff, combined with the inclusion of E-Learning modules for Frontline Staff' as part of the corporate training package.
  - xi) Introduction to, and promotion of the Veteran Friendly GP P Accreditation Scheme with Hartlepool GP's, through the GP Federation;
  - xii) Provision of other events, including the [100th anniversary of the end of the First World War](#), '[Honoured Project](#)' and the [Queens Commonwealth Canopy Project](#); and
  - xiii) Assistance to bodies such as the Hartlepool NDC Trust, in progressing its [Housing Heroes](#) accommodation and training scheme and sharing best practice to improve services (i.e. Gateshead scheme to increase registration with GP's).
- 3.3 A considerable amount of work has been done so far; however, I recognise that there is still a long way to go in supporting our armed forces personnel and their families in the future. We need to continue to move forward in identifying our service personnel and their needs, looking at how we can as a local authority work with our partners to deliver services and maximise funding opportunities.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Note the report and presentation.



**COUNCIL**  
30 July 2020



**Report of:** Chief Executive

**Subject:** BUSINESS REPORT

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**1. STATUTORY OFFICERS**

Following the appointment of Denise McGuckin as the Managing Director and Returning Officer for Elections, Council is asked to appoint Denise McGuckin as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer.

**2. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

On the 29 June Dr Pat Riordan tendered her resignation from the role of Director of Public Health with immediate effect. Craig Blundred, the Council's Deputy Director of Public Health has assumed the statutory duties of the Council's Director of Public Health from this date. Council is therefore asked to approve the designation of Craig Blundred as the Acting Director of Public Health on an interim basis whilst we work with Public Health England to undertake a recruitment process. This arrangement is supported by the Regional Director of Public Health.

**3. COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Members will recall that at the Extraordinary Council meeting, the dates for future meetings of Full Council were agreed for the remainder of the municipal year.

At the request of the Chair, Full Council is requested to approve the change of date of the October Council meeting from 29 October 2020 to 22 October 2020.

**4 CORONER**

Item to follow

## 5. RESIGNATION FROM POLITICAL GROUP

Full Council is requested to note that I have received notification from Councillor Hunter that he has resigned from the Labour Group and will be, therefore, an Independent Councillor.

Councillor Hunter is appointed to the following:-

Licensing Committee  
Finance and Policy Committee  
Neighbourhood services Committee  
Civic Honours Committee  
Police and crime panel  
Victoria and Jubilee homes

## 6. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Full Council is requested to note the following changes to Committee appointments:-

- That following the Extraordinary Council meeting, confirmation was received that Councillor Stokell to replace Councillor T Richardson on the Planning Committee
- That Councillor Hunter has resigned from the Appointments Panel and a replacement member is therefore sought.

The following vacancies also remain:-

Licensing Committee – 3 vacancies (previously Lab (Ann Johnson) and coalition (David Mincher and Councillor Tony Richardson)

Teesmouth Field Centre  
Teesside Environmental Trust  
Teesside Pension Fund  
Teesside Pension Board  
Durham Darlington, Teesside STP Jt Health Scrutiny Committee  
Henry Smith Educational Trust

## 7. SPECIAL URGENCY QUARTERLY REPORT

In accordance with the requirements of the Access to Information Procedure Rules included in the Council's Constitution, Council is informed that no special urgency decisions were taken in the periods set out below:-

November 2019 to January 2020  
February 2020 – April 2020

Council is requested to note the report.



## Public questions for Council

Meeting Date: 30 July 2020

1.	From: Anna Martindale
	To: Chair of Finance and Policy Committee
	<p>Question</p> <p>What does the Council intend to do regarding school transport for children living in Seaton Carew attending English Martyrs School to ensure they are not discriminated against, so that they can get to and return from school safely?</p>

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# CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

13 DECEMBER 2019

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### **PRESENT:**

#### **CHAIR**

Cllr Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

#### **HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllr Tim Fleming

#### **MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Teresa Higgins, Ashley Waters

#### **REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Adam Brook, Norah Cooney, Mary Ovens

#### **STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Luke Frost, Andrew Stephenson, William Woodhead MBE

#### **AUTHORISED OFFICERS**

Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

#### **BRIGADE OFFICERS**

Director of Technical Services

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllrs Marjorie James, Stephen Thomas - Hartlepool Borough Council

Cllrs Naweed Hussain - Middlesbrough Council

Cllr Billy Ayre - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Cllr Jean O'Donnell - Stockton Borough Council

### **74. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

It was noted no Declarations of Interests were submitted to the meeting.

### **75. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 18 October 2019 be confirmed.**

Councillor Fleming queried the reference to the 'original motion' at minute no. 57.1 – Members Allowance Scheme (page 5). The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) confirmed this had been encapsulated in the resolution.

### **76. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Audit & Governance Meeting on 15 November 2019 and Executive Committee Meeting on 22 November 2019 be confirmed.**

### **77. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **77.1 CFA Attendance at Events**

Councillor Stephenson queried the attendance at recent conferences and events and what the process was for selecting delegates. The Chair confirmed that delegates were chosen for these particular events based on their chairmanship of committees.

**78. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR**

ZOE BILLINGHAM Fire & Rescue Inspection Update  
LGA EMP/7/19 – Late Bank Holiday Pay Update

**RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.**

**79. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**79.1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report Overview**

Members considered the Executive Summary Report and the Inquiry Chair's important findings and recommendations (Appendix 1) contained within the Phase 1 Inquiry report on the fire at Grenfell Tower, London on 14 June 2017 which claimed the lives of 72 people.

The CFO reported that Phase 1 of the inquiry considered how the emergency services responded to the incident and the executive summary looked at:

- the limited training London Fire Brigade (LFB) personnel had received on the dangers of combustible cladding
- limited training on evacuating premises of that nature
- how the 'stay put' policy failed and should have moved on to simultaneous evacuation
- serious deficiencies in command and control

The CFO reported that there were key lessons to be learned from this incident and Cleveland had set up an Operational Assurance Team to look at how the findings of the Phase 1 report could be used to improve the safety of high rise buildings across Teesside. Nationally, the CFO confirmed he is working with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to ensure a collective and consistent response to the recommendations.

Councillor Stephenson referred to the lack of coordination reported between LFB, the Police and Ambulance Service and asked how Cleveland would have operated in a similar scenario. The CFO reported that the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) outline the set procedure for joint working which in Cleveland is well practiced owing to its industrial footprint. The emergency services would co-locate at Gold/Silver/Bronze command to ensure the response is well coordinated and this is further supported by a constant exercise regime. The strategic command group is usually chaired by the police although in this scenario the guidance would come from fire. Councillor Stephenson thanked the CFO for giving reassurance.

Councillor Waters asked whether the 'stay put' policy was still in place in Cleveland. The CFO confirmed that across the UK there were 11,000 buildings with ACM type cladding at the current time and whether a 'stay put' policy is applied is the responsibility of the owner / responsible body to determine not the fire and rescue service.

Councillor Higgins stated that she would have expected LFB to have full access to the plan of the building and noted that residents had complained about health and safety aspects to the council, which she hoped would be covered in Phase 2.

Councillor Ovens noted that the building materials used are dictated by building regulations and asked whether more guidance could be available to ensure the cladding is safe. The CFO reported that following the deregulation of borough councils private companies were carrying out that role and fire and rescue services were only responsible for inspecting the common areas such as means of escape and lighting.

**79.1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report Overview cont.**

The CFO confirmed that from Cleveland's perspective the Brigade was confident that it has a bespoke plan for each high rise building to ensure the safety of the residents.

Councillor Frost stated that it was disgraceful that the inquiry led on the fire brigade and asked what the Brigade defines as a high rise building. The CFO confirmed that the Brigade's capability is 18m although if a building is designed, constructed and maintained correctly it will be safe. He praised local social housing providers for being proactive in installing sprinklers in high rise buildings to ensure safety of the residents living in them.

Councillor Frost queried why, on local authority planning committee applications, there is often 'no comment' from Cleveland Fire Brigade and asked whether the Brigade could be more stringent to ensure planning safety is being met. While acknowledging that the Fire Authority / Cleveland Fire Brigade could reinforce its stance more robustly, the CFO referred to the Brigade's well documented campaign for sprinklers and reported that Hartlepool Borough Council had been successful in ensuring all new build schools include sprinkler systems as a planning requirement.

Councillor Higgins suggested changing planning legislation to make sprinklers compulsory in school and high rise buildings. Councillor Stephenson reported that this would need to be done via lobbying parliament. The LAMO noted that as a result of the Grenfell Inquiry it was likely that the government would be consulting on changes to planning legislation which may give the Authority an opportunity to submit its views.

The Chair noted that the high rise flats in Stockton all had sprinklers installed and two in Thornaby were manned 24 hours. Councillor Waters reported that Middlesbrough Council had a strategic partnership with social housing providers Thirteen and was willing to consider installing sprinklers. Councillor Ovens confirmed that the Kirkleatham Sixth Form extension had been fitted with sprinklers and noted that in Wales sprinklers were now mandatory for all residential new builds.

The CFO reminded Members that at present the planning departments do not have to apply the Authority's recommendations as it is not a legal requirement.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's Phase 1 Executive Summary report and the Inquiry Chair's important findings and recommendations (Appendix 1) be noted.**
- (ii) That Members receive further reports once consideration be given to the wider implications of the recommendations in relation to Cleveland Fire Brigade.**
- (iii) That Members endorsed the Chief Fire Officer to work with the National Fire Chiefs Council to address all of the operational matters raised in the report.**

**80. Information Pack**

- 79.1.1 Employers Circulars
- 79.1.2 National Joint Council Circulars
- 79.1.3 Campaigns

**80. Information Pack cont.**

Councillor Frost noted that 4,000 heaters had been loaned out during the Stay Safe & Warm Campaign and asked what further work is done following an assessment. The CFO confirmed that the Brigade's prevention teams worked closely with all four local authorities and operated a referral system to ensure vulnerable people are referred on to other agencies. He added that this innovative, coordinated initiative by Cleveland considered both the safety and wellbeing of its residents.

Councillor Ovens reported an issue with bin lorry fires in Redcar and Cleveland and expected this issue to continue throughout the festive period. She also noted an unprecedented level of anti-social behaviour in some areas. The CFO reported that the Executive Leadership Team would be considering the revised Arson Strategy on 19 December 2019 prior to it going to the Executive Committee on 31 January 2020.

**RESOLVED - that the information pack be noted.**

**81. JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND TREASURER**

**81.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23**

Members considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23, including the 2020/21 Council Tax level, which covered:

- Government Funding - 2013/14 & 2019/20 cash budget comparison
- Spending Review 2020/21
- 2020/21 Council Tax Referendum Limits
- Firefighter Pension Funding
- Financial Position 2021/22 and 2022/23
- Fire Pension Grant impact on Forecast Budget Deficits
- 2020/21 Budget
- 2021/22 and 2022/23 Budget
- Reserves Strategy
- Asset Management Plan (AMP)
- Robustness Advice

The Treasurer acknowledged the degree of certainty from the one year spending review for 2020/21 and noted that this was now subject to the outcome of the General Election. The position for 2021/22 and future years remains uncertain with the CFOs Contingency Plan, supported by the Budget Support Fund, providing longer lead times to manage this situation.

The Treasurer highlighted the Authority's difficulty to fund local services from Council Tax and acknowledged that while it was high risk, it had a low ability to fund services from Council Tax owing to the low Council Tax base (i.e. higher than average proportion of properties in Council Tax bands A and B).

The CFO reinforced the level of financial uncertainty for the future and the impact of the Pension Grant coming back as an Authority liability. He acknowledged that resources were already being stretched trying to meet an expanding workload.



**81.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23 cont.**

Councillor Stephenson asked what level of interest the Authority is paying on its debts. The Treasurer confirmed that this detail would be included in the Treasury Management Strategy going to the next Authority meeting on 14 February 2020.

Councillor Frost confirmed that as an Independent Councillor he did not object to setting a 1.9% council tax for 2020/21 and highlighted that anything above this would trigger a council tax referendum.

Councillor Stephenson raised a question relating to a senior officer's salary and tax. The Chair confirmed that this query had been raised and answered on numerous occasions before and was not relevant to this meeting. He emphasised that this question would not be responded to again and if the questioning continued Councillor Stephenson would be asked to leave the meeting.

The LAMO outlined the code of conduct and gave Councillor Stephenson the opportunity to withdraw an inappropriate comment he had made. Councillor Stephenson withdrew the comment. The LAMO confirmed he was available to discuss any issues of conduct and procedures with all Members. Councillor Stephenson noted he was there to represent Stockton Council and ask questions. The LAMO reminded Members that in the Standing Orders a Member can be requested not to be heard or asked to leave if Members need an element of restraint and that ultimately the Chair governs the meeting.

The Chair moved that Members do not listen to any more questions from Councillor Stephenson. Members voted 8 for and 2 against. The LAMO informed Councillor Stephenson that he should not be further heard for the rest of the meeting. Councillor Stephenson stated that if he could not ask any more questions he would leave.

(1505) Councillor Stephenson left the meeting

**RESOLVED - that as recommended by the Executive Committee, Members:**

- (i) Noted the report which replicated the information reported to the Executive Committee on 22 November 2019;**
- (ii) Noted that 2020/21 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement will not be issued until after the General Election, which it is anticipated will confirm indicative grant funding and the 2% Council Tax referendum limit set out in the Government's Technical Consultation for 2020/21;**
- (iii) Approved a 2020/21 Council Tax increases of 1.9% increase, which is below the 2% Government Council Tax referendum limit, and noted that this provides recurring addition funding of £237,000, which permanently protects whole time firefighter posts, and will result in the following Council Tax levels:**

## 81.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23 cont.

2019/20		2020/21			
Weekly Council Tax £	Property Band	Annual Council Tax £	Weekly Council Tax £	Annual increase £	
0.99	A	52.55	1.01	0.98	63% of households are in Band A or B
1.16	B	61.31	1.18	1.14	
1.32	C	70.07	1.35	1.31	
1.49	D	78.83	1.52	1.47	
1.82	E	96.35	1.85	1.80	
2.15	F	113.87	2.19	2.13	
2.48	G	131.38	2.53	2.45	
2.98	H	157.66	3.03	2.94	

- (iv) Noted that recurring savings of £221,000 will be achieved through contract negotiations in relation to ICT hardware and software and building security and cleaning to address the residual 2020/21 forecast deficit;
- (v) Noted that any variation in the final 2020/21 Government Grant allocation, Council Tax base, or final Collection Fund figures will be managed via the Budget Support Fund and details will be reported to the full Authority on 14 February 2020;
- (vi) Noted the significant financial risks and uncertainties facing the Authority from 2021/22 and that further updates will be provided when more information is available;
- (vii) Noted the robustness advice detailed in section 8.

## 82. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 82.1 HMICFRS Tranche 3 Inspection

The CFO informed Members that the results of the Authority's inspection were due to be published under embargo on Monday 16 December 2019 and would be forwarded to members once received.

83. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006**  
**RESOLVED** - “That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006”, namely information relating to an individual; information relating to any financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information; and information in relation to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
84. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED** – that the confidential minutes the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 18 October 2019 be confirmed.
85. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS**  
**RESOLVED** – that the confidential minutes of the Executive Committee on 22 November 2019 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON**  
**CHAIR**

## **Cleveland Police and Crime Panel**

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 4th February, 2020.

**Present:** Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Cllr Barrie Cooper, Cllr Graham Cutler, Cllr Dave Hunter, Cllr Chris Jones, Paul McGrath, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Vera Rider, Cllr Tony Riordan (Substitute for Cllr Matthew Vickers) and Cllr Matthew Storey.

**Officers:** Julie Butcher, Gary Woods, Peter Bell (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

**Also in attendance:** Barry Coppinger (Police and Crime Commissioner), Simon Dennis, Liz Byrne, Michael Porter (Commissioner's Office), Chief Constable Richard Lewis, Detective Superintendent Lisa Theaker (Cleveland Police).

**Apologies:** Cllr Lee Cartwright, Mayor Andy Preston, Cllr Matthew Vickers and Cllr Steve Walmsley.

### **PCP 41/19      Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

It was noted that the training date for the Panel would be 9 June 2020.

The Panel was also informed that interviews would take place in the near future for applicants for the Non-Political Independent Member.

### **PCP 42/19      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PCP 43/19      Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 be agreed.

### **PCP 44/19      Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Barrie Cooper for response by the PCC:-

"Commissioner as you will be aware Middlesbrough Children's Services has been listed as Inadequate by the Ofsted Inspector, part of the inspection mentioned failings of communication between MBC and Partners in part this relates to Police.

Can we work together to improve communications between Police and Children's Social Services to ensure our children are safeguarded with special attention given to referral's from the Police to Social Services for children at risk, children missing from home, children with disabilities who may be considered vulnerable or children in Police Custody?"

The PCC responded with:-

“I’m aware that the Council has an Immediate Improvement Plan that is being developed in response to Ofsted concerns. I’m aware that the Immediate Improvement Plan will feed into a Service Improvement Plan Board at the Council. The Head of the Force Safeguarding Team will sit on the Service Improvement Board. I hope there will be a close working relationship at a senior level with the Council and the Force.”

Councillor Chris Jones asked a subsequent question around a vulnerable girl that had absconded from Redcar to Hartlepool and the service that had been provided by the 101 service. The Chair responded that as the Commissioner had not had prior notice of this question, a response should be prepared and sent to Councillor Chris Jones. The Commissioner referred to the Scrutiny minutes from 5 December 2019 and the improvements that were being made to the Force Control Room.

## **PCP 45/19      Police and Crime Commissioner’s Update**

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with a summary update on progress since the meeting in September 2019.

The report highlighted the following key areas:-

- Investing in Our Police
- A Better Deal for Victims
- Tackling Offending and Reoffending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of Our Communities

With regard to Investing in Our Police it was noted that a separate report would be provided to the Panel which detailed this and the precept proposals. It was also noted that the Force had developed and were starting to deliver the initial changes to address the HMICFRS report published in September 2019.

The Chief Constable had set priorities to focus on Vulnerability, Demand and Neighbourhood Policing which were regularly reviewed through the newly established monthly Service Improvement and Performance Board. Updates were provided and scrutinised through monthly PCC meetings and regular interventions made from HMICFRS.

The scope and scale of activity was significant and on-going, high level key achievements to date were included within the report.

Since the last report the PCC, Chief Constable and respective officers had attended the second Police Performance and Oversight Group. The group was chaired by HMI Chief Inspector Sir Tom Winsor and included representation from the Home Office, College of Policing and other forces also being monitored by the process.

Within the meeting the Chief Constable presented an updated summary of progress to date and formally requested support from the NPCC and College of

Policing.

Members discussed the issue of NEAS and if the Cleveland part of the service could move back to Cleveland from Tyneside. The Commissioner outlined that he felt the service was failing the Cleveland area and that he believed that it would benefit the area if part of NEAS did re-locate to Cleveland.

The issue of rise in police reported crime figures was discussed and whether this was a good news or not. The Chief Constable reported that this was good news as it meant that Cleveland Police were now being more proactive in the communities. Cleveland Police were now using their 'Stop and Search' powers a lot more. The linked arrest rate was up 22% which was in-line with the national average. Members felt that it was essential that this good news storey was picked up as part of Cleveland Police's communication strategy.

A request was made for Probation Officers to attend the Safer Stockton Partnership on a regular basis.

Reference was to domestic abuse and that the issue should be gender neutral. It was felt that there was under-reported reporting by male victims.

With regard to the HAT programme it was noted that it would run until October 2020. After that it was hoped that the programme would be continued possibly with the use of assets and funds that have been seized by Cleveland Police.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP  
46/19**

### **Programme of Engagement**

Consideration was given to a report that provided a brief update in relation to consultation and engagement activity of the PCC between December 2019 and January 2020.

The PCC's consultation and engagement activities focused on increasing understanding of the policing and community safety needs of the communities of Cleveland, ensuring that strategic planning effectively delivers the policing service that communities required.

The work undertaken with the community supported all areas of the Police and Crime Plan but had a focus on 'Securing the Future of Our Communities.

The PCC attended a number of meetings on a regular basis with key partners, stakeholders and residents from across the Cleveland area.

In addition to this the PCC attended many regional and national meetings representing Cleveland.

The following meetings were planned:-

- 14th February – Serious Violence Conference - Hartlepool
- 17th February – Tees Rural Crime Forum – Community Safety Hub
- 19th February – North East Sex Workers Learning Forum –

Middlesbrough

Members requested that the Communications Strategy for Cleveland Police be put on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting of the Panel.

Members felt that the work of Sergeant Cookson had had a good impact on the fight against off-road motorbikes. The use of drones in the fight against off-road motorbikes was also discussed by Members.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP  
47/19**

### **Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Forward Plan.

The Police and Crime Commissioner made all decisions unless specifically delegated within the Scheme of Consent / Delegation. All decisions demonstrated that they were soundly based on relevant information and that the decision making process was open and transparent.

A copy of the Forward Plan was attached to the report and published on the PCC website which included items requiring a decision in the future.

Each decision made by the PCC was recorded on a decision record form with supporting background information appended. Once approved it was published on the PCC website.

Decisions relating to private / confidential matters would be recorded; although, it may be appropriate that full details were not published.

Decisions made since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel were attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP  
48/19**

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme**

Consideration was given to a report that gave an update on the PCC's scrutiny programme.

Holding the Chief Constable to account was the key duty of the Police & Crime Commissioner and must encompass all of the functions of the Chief Constable and functions of those who were under the Chief Constable's direction and control.

The PCC had a range of scrutiny approaches in place to engage with the Chief Constable and hold Cleveland Police to account. These took place on a daily, weekly and monthly schedule and include a range of meetings, data and feedback from partners and the public.

Changes were made to the scrutiny regime in July 2019 that resulted in a thematic approach to scrutiny across the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan and a greater depth of information was provided by Cleveland Police in order for the PCC to hold the force to account. The new approach could be seen in the sharper questioning and clearer minutes which were attached to the report.

The processes would continue to develop and it had been made clear that there would be greater use of independent scrutiny approaches such as Internal Audit (Joint Independent Audit Committee), internal scrutiny panels such as the Out of Court Disposals, the Use of Force and Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panels as well as identifying those services which would benefit from a wider multi agency scrutiny approach.

Wider scrutiny arrangements were also in place including:

- Ethics Committee
- Feedback from complaints
- Issues raised at community meetings and focus groups

Since the previous Police and Crime Panel meeting the following meetings had taken place and the minutes were attached to the report:-

- 18 November 2019
- 2 December 2019
- 13 January 2020

Since the last update to the Panel there had been a Working Together meeting on the 15 December 2019. The minutes were also attached to the report.

In addition to the meetings above, the Commissioner continued to attend the following to complement his scrutiny programme:

- Daily review of the Control Room and Serious Incident Logs;
- Weekly accountability meetings with the Chief Constable;
- Attend at least one local area meeting in each of Cleveland's neighbourhood police team areas.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP  
49/19**

### **Task and Finish Group – Overall Budget Strategy**

Members were informed that the Task and Finish Group for the Review of the Overall Budget Strategy had met immediately prior to the meeting of the Panel.

The Task and Finish Group was established to understand the key issues and financial pressures as part of the budget setting process in order to inform the work of the Panel and PCC.

The Task and Finish Group met to receive information about the Police and Crime Commissioner's overall budget strategy for 2020/21. Discussion took place about funding and planning assumptions, total funding projections and



funding pressures.

RESOLVED that the proposal of the Police and Crime Commissioner to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2020/21 at £260.54. This is an increase of £10, or 3.99% over the 2019/20 level be endorsed.

**PCP  
50/19**

### **Precept Proposals for 2020/21**

A report from the Commissioner regarding the proposed precept for the financial year 2020/21 was considered by the Panel.

The Commissioner indicated that he had taken into account the following in making his proposal on the precept for 2020/21:-

- The views of the public of Cleveland
- The financial impact on the people of Cleveland.
- The financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2020/21 and in the future.
- The limits imposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in Cleveland.

The Commissioner also indicated that he had discussed his proposals with the Chief Constable and had engaged and consulted with the public on the options available to him.

The 2020-21 Police Finance Settlement was announced on 22 January in a written statement by the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse.

Publication of the Police Finance Settlement was delayed due to the December 2019 general election, with Home Office ministers opting to go straight to a final settlement in the new year. This decision meant that there was no provisional settlement or consultation over the Christmas period.

Prior to the 2020-21 settlement publication policing was expecting an additional £750m for recruitment of 6,000 officers (towards the 20,000 total). Force allocations of officer numbers had already been published and had been calculated pro-rata to core grant. In return for this additional money the Treasury had asked the Home Office to find £120m of savings from within their budget.

As there was no Provisional Police Settlement provided by the Government in relation to 2020/21, with the first indication of the Police Settlement for 2020/21 given on the 22nd January 2020 – this provided the PCC with just over 1 week to propose a precept to the Police and Crime Panel, in line the statutory requirements to do so, and almost no time to plan a budget, consult with the public and ensure that all of the financial plans align with the operational plans of the Force.

The Government announced that “We are giving police forces £700 million for the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers by the end of March 2021, which represents an increase of almost 10% of the core grant funding provided last year. Assuming full take up of precept flexibility, overall funding for Police and

Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will increase by £915 million to £13.1 billion next year.”

The main points within the settlement were as follows:

- £50m of the £750m retained centrally to support recruitment of officers
- Of the remaining £700m - £532m will be provide via un-ring-fenced core grant, with the remaining £168m ring-fenced for successfully meeting recruitment targets.
- No other inflationary increases in core grant
- Resulting in a 7.5% increase in core funding
- £92m (9%) increase in reallocations to over £1.1bn in 2020-21
- Flat cash pension grant allocations compared to 2019-20
- Reduction of 74% to capital grant funding to PCCs
- Ending of the Police Transformation Fund
- Precept flexibility of up to £10 for all PCCs (or equivalents) in 2020-21.

The Minister’s Statement went on to say that, in return for the additional £1.1bn invested in policing the Home Office expected:

- Forces to recruit the additional 6,000 officers by the end of March 2021
- A further planned £30m savings from procurement in 2020-21
- Continued improvements in digital, data and technology solutions to maximise the benefits of mobile working.
- Continue to pursue best values from the investment in police technology. The Home Office will work with the sector in the coming year to draw up a detailed plan which will be overseen by the, ministerially -chaired, Strategic Change and Investment Board (SCIB)

This meant for Cleveland in 2020/21 in terms of Funding:

- An increase in Police Grant of £6,380k or 7.5%
- Up to £2,015k from the ring-fenced grant for the officer uplift – linked to the recruitment of 72 FTE Police Officers by the end of March 2021
- Police Pension Grant remains at £1,324k
- A reduction of £388k or 74% in Capital Grant

Based on the increase in precept being proposed then the overall impact on the Core funding for the organisation was set to increase by 7.9%.

The forecast average increase in Revenue funding across England and Wales was, subject to all areas experiencing a 1.33% increase in tax base, and increasing their precept by £10, 7.84%.

Cleveland had seen an increase of 7.86% and therefore was slightly above the average level of increase.

The highest increase in total revenue funding, as a result of this settlement, within the country, excluding the City of London Police, was expected to be in Northumbria at 9.26%, with lowest expected to be 6.79% in Surrey. These increase assume that both areas increase the precept by £10 and that the tax base in both areas had increased by 1.33%.

The funding position for 2021/22 would be set out and determined as part of the Spending Review that would be undertaken in 2020.

It was recognised that as part of the written ministerial statement the government stated the following:

The Government had committed £750 million to enable the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers. To manage the delivery of this uplift £168 million had been ring fenced which would be paid to forces in line with their progress in recruiting the 6,000 additional officers by March 2021, and making the relevant infrastructure improvements needed to recruit the 20,000 additional officers by March 2023. Funding would be released quarterly and in arrears subject to evidence on their progress

It was possible therefore that future settlements won't be on a similar scale to the current one and that all enabling and infrastructure cost, so estates, IT and fleet, to support the full 20,000 National Uplift may, from the Governments perspective, had already been included in this settlement. There were no references within the settlement to the Funding Formula and any review of this.

Top-slices / Reallocations totalling £1,121m had been announced for 2020/21. This was £92m, or 9% higher than 2018/19. The areas this funding would now be spent on, instead of being allocated to PCC's were detailed within the report.

Of the £80.9m earmarked for special grant, £26.3m was understood to be reserved for costs associated with Hillsborough, leaving £54.6m for special grant. A reduction of £18.4m on the previous year, which had been higher to accommodate the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

The allocations for force Serious Violence Surge Funding were expected to be released separately.

The report highlighted the following areas of funding:

- Police Transformation Fund (PTF)
- Pensions Grant
- Council Tax Legacy Grant
- National and International Capital City Grant (NICC)
- Capital Funding
- Counter Terrorism
- Ministry of Justice Grants
- LTFP Assumptions

Based on the revised assumptions, and the information received and forecast around other areas of funding, then the entire funding expected to be available to the Commissioner for the next 4 years, in comparison to 2019/20 was detailed within the report.

As a result of the Government Grant settlements being significantly better than expected, and the Governments policy to significantly increase, and fund, the number of Police Officers across the country, then the overall funding available to the PCC was significantly higher than projected in February 2019 by nearly £7.8m.

This therefore provided a significant opportunity to invest in Policing within 2020/21 and beyond, providing that the Government continue to provide PCC's with sufficient funding, to not only increase Police Officer numbers but also the additional funding required to enable this to happen and deal with the increases in work that more Officers would generate in other parts of the Force.

The financial impact of the increase and the proposed council tax rate for each property band was detailed within the report.

Given the late publication of the funding settlement and the precept limits for policing PCC's had very little time to undertake consultation with the public around this vitally important area. The PCC had however undertaken a survey via the PCC website to inform the precept proposal and the consultation results were detailed within the report.

The Commissioner had considered various options and various factors in deliberating on his proposal for precept in 2020/21. The Commissioner had taken into account the needs for the continued delivery of Policing and Crime services within Cleveland. The Commissioner had spoken with the Chief Constable and had consulted with the public. Based on these views and the financial needs of the organisation over the medium term the Commissioner formally propose a precept increase of £10 on a Band D property for 2020/21.

This option was supported by nearly 64% of people who responded to the consultation on the proposed increase. This option should provide sufficient funding to underpin the financial needs of the organisation for 2020/21 and accelerate the recruitment of Police Officers into the Force, in comparison to the Governments timeframes, with 55 FTE more Police Officers being recruited in 2020/21 than the 72 FTEs than the Government were initially funding.

The proposed precept increase would enable the Commissioner, amongst other things, provide sufficient levels of funding to the Chief Constable to support the plans and structures that the Force had articulated to the Commissioner that they need to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, this included all of the posts that the Chief Constable had indicated as required to provide the necessary support and resilience to address the concerns raised within the HMICFRS report.

To aid the Panel in considering the proposal on Precept the following were attached to the report:

- Draft Budget based on a the proposed Precept Increase
- Draft Capital Budget
- Full details of the Precept Consultation

The Panel had already considered a report from its Task and Finish Group. The Task and Finish Group was established to understand the key issues and financial pressures as part of the budget setting process in order to inform the work of the Panel and PCC.

The Task and Finish Group supported the proposal of the PCC to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2020/21 at £260.54.

This was an increase of £10, or 3.99% over the 2019/20 level.

Members considered the precept report regarding the Commissioner's proposal, and the Panel concluded by agreeing that the proposal should be supported.

RESOLVED that the Panel supports the Commissioner's proposal to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2020/21 at £260.54. This is an increase of £10, or 3.99% over the 2019/20 level.

**PCP  
51/19      Annual Report of the Panel 2019/20**

Consideration was given to a report on the production of an Annual Report for the Police and Crime Panel for 2019/20 and its contents.

The production of a Police and Crime Panel Annual Report provided a useful reference document for the public setting out the role and responsibilities of the Panel in plain English and also highlighting key activities and achievements over the past year. It was proposed that the Report for 2019/20 would be set out as follows:

- Chair's Foreword
- What is the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel?
- Panel Membership
- Panel Role and Responsibilities
- The Panel's Core Programme
- Key Activities and Achievements (including the work of Task and Finish Groups)
- Membership 2019/20
- The Police and Crime Panel and the Public Contacts and Further Information

The Panel was asked to authorise the Panel Chair, to agree an initial draft that will then be presented to the meeting of the Panel on 7 July 2020 for any comments and signing off by Members.

RESOLVED that the Panel Chair agree an initial draft that would then be presented to the meeting of the Panel on 7 July 2020 for any comments and signing off by Members.

**PCP  
52/19      Public Questions**

Members were informed that there were no Public Questions.

It was reported that a Public Question had been received but it was outside of the scope for Public Question the correspondence from the member of the public was however handed over to the Commissioner for his consideration.

**PCP  
53/19      Forward Plan**

Members were presented with the Forward Plan for the Panel.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

**PCP  
54/19**

## **Police and Crime Commissioner Achievement Report**

The Panel was presented with a report that detailed the key achievements of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland 2012-20.

The Commissioner was elected as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland in 2012 a role he believed had massive potential to make the area a much safer and better place to live, work and visit. The Commissioners main constraint was having the resources needed to do just that. The Commissioner saw every day the great bravery, loyalty, passion, goodwill, and enthusiasm from local officers, staff and volunteers as well as many professional and community partners. Collectively, all these resources make an immense contribution to make communities safer it just needed those in power nationally to give the Force the best chance to do so, by allocating Cleveland a fairer share of resources. For example, in 2019 Merseyside PCC was awarded £18m from 'Serious Violence' and 'County Lines' funding streams, where Cleveland missed out, through what the Commissioner believed were flawed funding formulas.

After nearly 10 years of government austerity, the recent announcement of additional investment for policing was welcomed. However, this new level of extra investment needed maintaining year on year, for the following three years at least, so Cleveland Police could grow officer and staff numbers by another third to where they were and needed to be. This would also allow further investment and development of more measures with partners up-stream to tackle the conditions in which crime develops.

The Commissioners general approach had been to make himself approachable and accessible to all. The Commissioner had worked with local communities for many years and local politicians, of all parties or none, the vast majority of whom the Commissioner enjoyed constructive working relationships with, and who understand and were honest about the challenges Cleveland Police faced, and scale and scope of actions needed to address them.

As well as austerity, Cleveland Police had faced various other challenges since 2012 and despite improvements being made and recognised earlier in my tenure, the recent judgements by HMICRFS were of significant concern. Inappropriate or unprofessional behaviour by a very small number had massive consequences for morale and confidence and distracted attention from the great work of our front-line officers and staff, of whom we should all be proud and who the Commissioner would always defend from unjustified criticism. Equally, the Commissioner had not shied away from his responsibility for scrutiny and challenge, and for taking appropriate strategic actions where required.

Cleveland Police was at a crucial turning point and significant improvements were being made, which the Commissioner believed would be driven forward by Chief Constable Richard Lewis.

The report sets out some of the Commissioners many achievements from his years as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland. The Commissioner was proud to have delivered a number of commitments from his

various Police and Crime Plans, through a number of programmes that had brought together people from all walks in life, making a difference to the communities Cleveland Police served.

The report detailed the following:

1. Investing in our police:
2. Getting a Better Deal for Victims:
3. Reducing Reoffending:  
Serious Violence  
Heroin Assisted Treatment  
Cleveland Divert  
Youth Triage
4. Working together to keep Cleveland safer:
5. Developing Stronger Communities:
6. Scrutiny & holding to account:
7. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

They have made successful bids to the following funds:

- Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Transformation Fund
- Early Intervention Youth Fund – Home Office
- Female Offender Fund – Ministry of Justice
- Modern Slavery Police Transformation Fund
- Domestic Abuse Whole System Approach
- Supported the development of the Domestic Abuse Navigator Bid covering Cleveland Durham and Darlington
- MoJ Competed Fund

Finally the Commissioner thanked the Chair, members and officers for supportively scrutinising his work. He considered the relationship a key strength, especially when reflecting on other arrangements across the country. The welcome contribution made had always been constructive and relevant, helping all to seek to do the very best for the people of Cleveland.

Members of the Panel thanked the Commissioner for all of his hard work over many years as the Commissioner for Cleveland.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.