



Civic Centre  
HARTLEPOOL

8 July 2025

Councillors Allen, Bailey-Fleet, Boddy, Buchan, Clayton, Cook, Cranney, Creevy, Darby, Dodds, Dunbar, Feeney, Hall, Hargreaves, Harrison, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Leedham, Lindridge, Little, Male, Martin-Wells, Moore, Morley, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Reeve, Riddle, Roy, Scarborough, Smith, Thompson, C Wallace and Young

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend the COUNCIL meeting to be held on THURSDAY, 17 July 2025 at 6.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

D McGuckin  
Managing Director

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# COUNCIL AGENDA



**Thursday 17 July 2025**

**at 6.30 pm**

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

- (1) To receive apologies from absent Members;
- (2) To receive any declarations of interest from Members;
- (3) To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business;
- (4) To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 8 May 2025 and Annual Council held on 20 May 2025 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;
- (10) To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
- (11) To consider reports from the Policy Committees:
  - (a) proposals in relation to the Council's approved budget and policy framework – None.

## CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone. The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

- (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework – None.

(12) To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received;

**Council Motion: Demand for Accountability on Broken Council Tax Freeze Pledge and Rebate of 2025 Increase**

This Council notes:

- That in the lead-up to the 2024 local and parliamentary elections, Hartlepool Labour made a previous manifesto pledges and a commitment to freeze Council Tax in 2025. We would refer to Labours voting record, campaigns in 2023 and 2024 along with national government promises, including Sir Keir Starmer stressing *‘not a penny more will people need to spend on council tax’*. That, despite this pledge, Council Tax was increased by 4.99% in 2025— comprised of a 2.99% core rise and a 2% adult social care precept. That Labour councillors and the local MP were elected on the strength of this now-broken promise. That Labour are now pledging a freeze for 2026, claiming this is deliverable due to their efforts in *“fixing the Council’s finances”*. How did this change occur between February 2025 and May 2025?

This Council therefore believes:

- That residents have a fundamental right to hold elected officials accountable for unmet manifesto commitments and in this case, they have suggested they have fixed the finances within a matter of a few months. That if the Council’s financial position has been stabilised as claimed, residents are entitled to fair restitution for the 2025 increase. That rebuilding trust requires not only promises for the future but corrective action on promises already broken.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Request a full and transparent report from the Chair of Finance and Corporate Affairs, and relevant officers, to be presented no later than the next full Council meeting, outlining:
  - a. The specific actions taken since May 2024 to stabilise Council finances.
  - b. Any independent verification or audit findings confirming these improvements.
  - c. A detailed financial plan showing how a Council Tax freeze in 2026 is achievable without adversely impacting services or reserves.



2. Call on the ruling Labour Group to honour their 2024 pledge by rebating the full 2025 Council Tax increase, including the social care precept, as follows:
  - a. Rebate 2.99% of the total increase during the current financial year (2025/26).
  - b. Rebate the remaining 2% (the adult social care precept) during the following financial year (2026/27).
  - c. Proceed with the announced Council Tax freeze for 2026 in full.

*(For clarity: This motion considers the adult social care precept as part of the overall Council Tax burden borne by residents, and therefore within scope for rebate.)*

3. Ensure that all financial reports, assessments, and communications related to these actions are made fully accessible and open to public scrutiny.  
Recommend that all serving Councillors voluntarily opt out of receiving any rebate, to demonstrate integrity and ensure residents understand the motion is not motivated by personal benefit.

By taking these steps, this Council can begin to restore public confidence and demonstrate a commitment to fairness, transparency, and democratic accountability.

Signed by: Councillors Cranney, Young, Martin-Wells, Smith and Buchan

- (13) To receive the Managing Director'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 on 28 March 2025.

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Thursday 2 October 2025 at 6.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool



# **COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **8 May 2025**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Thompson) presiding:

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

Allen	Boddy	Buchan
Creevy	Darby	Dodds
Dunbar	Feeney	Hall
Hargreaves	Harrison	Holbrook
Jorgeson	Leedham	Lindridge
Little	Male	Martin-Wells
Moore	Morley	Napper
Nelson	Oliver	Reeve
Riddle	Roy	Scarborough
Smith	C Wallace	Young

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director  
Hayley Martin, Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer  
Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

#### **49. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Today on VE Day we must remember and honour the bravery, sacrifice and enduring spirit of those who served during the Second World War. Their courage secured the peace and freedoms we are privileged to enjoy today. As a community we pay tribute to that remarkable generation and all who gave so much in the cause of freedom. We also recognise the part Hartlepool played and the enduring legacy of resilience shown by our town and its people

The Chair welcomed Councillor Napper following her recent election.

#### **50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS**

Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Clayton, Cooke, Cranney and S Wallace.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

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

None

53. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 February 2025 having been laid before the Council.

Councillor Young thanked members on all sides for their well wishes.

Councillor Little sought a progress update on the road safety discussions on Elizabeth Way. Councillor Oliver, Chair of Neighbourhood Services, confirmed that the situation was currently being monitored and an update would be provided when available.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes be confirmed

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

None

55.. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None.

56. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Managing Director informed Council that she had been advised of a three month pause in the delivery of babies provided by the Continuity of Carer Team (Rowan Team) at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. All other services including antenatal and postnatal care would remain in place and women would still be able to choose a home birth. The closure was temporary and due to staffing absences in the department, part of a national shortage of midwives

Members expressed concern at this news and asked that representations be made to North Tees and Hartlepool University Trust urging them to resolve the issue as soon as possible. They also asked that the issue be brought to Health and Wellbeing Board for further consideration. The Chair of Economic and Regeneration Committee advised Council that the MP had written to those

involved requesting clarification and urging them to resolve the situation. Councillor Little requested information on how many babies had been born in the Rowan Unit since it re-opened.

The Managing Director acknowledged the concerns of Council and confirmed she would express these to NH&HUT. Councillor Young acknowledged the work of the late Ceremonial Mayor Councillor Loynes who had fought very hard to bring back maternity services to Hartlepool.

RESOLVED: That representations be made to North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust on behalf of Council highlighting concerns around future service provisions within the birthing unit.

57. 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

58. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

FURTHER PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION –  
REPORT OF CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

At the previous Council meeting members had considered a Constitution Committee report proposing amendments to the process for requests and requisitions for an extraordinary meeting of Council. At that time Council had voted to adjourn those recommendations until the next ordinary meeting of Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22.2. A further report was now brought to Council including additional changes to the delegation scheme as recommended by Constitution Committee

RESOLVED: That the following recommendations of the Constitution Committee were agreed by a unanimous show of hands

- I. That the Council Procedure Rules be regards the calling of an Extraordinary Council meeting be amended as follows:

*“Any request or requisition for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council shall specify the reason for the calling of the meeting and give notice of a motion/motions to be debated (unless the purpose is to receive reports or adoption of recommendations of Committees or Officers or any resolutions following from them).*

*The purpose of an Extraordinary Meeting is to enable business to be transacted, or a matter to be debated, that is urgent and cannot wait until the next ordinary Full Council meeting.*

- II. That Part 3 – scheme of delegation – relating to Finance and Policy Committee be amended as follows:

Rename Finance and Policy Committee 'Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee' and change its functions/service areas as follows:

Move Facilities Management (Catering and Cleaning) to within the remit of Neighbourhood Services Committee;

Move Safer Hartlepool Partnership to within the remit of Neighbourhood Services Committee.

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

None

60. REPORT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

None

61. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

One motion had been received as follows:

PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL AMENITY FROM INAPPROPRIATELY SITED ONSHORE WIND TURBINES

Council notes with concern that the current Hartlepool Local Plan does not offer adequate protection to residents from the impacts of large-scale onshore wind turbines. While this Council fully supports the shift toward renewable energy, it must not come at the cost of public wellbeing, visual landscape, or residential amenity.

At present, there is no fixed minimum separation distance between onshore wind turbines and residential properties in Hartlepool's planning framework. This creates uncertainty for residents and developers alike, and leaves communities vulnerable to inappropriate developments that may lead to:

- Noise disruption, including low-frequency hum and aerodynamic blade noise
- Shadow flicker, affecting indoor living spaces



- Visual intrusion, with turbines towering over homes and dominating the skyline

Other authorities across the UK have taken action to address these issues:

- Milton Keynes Council sought a minimum setback of 600 to 800 metres
- Wales recommends 500 metres as a standard separation
- Northern Ireland uses a 10-times rotor diameter rule, with a minimum of 500 metres
- Scotland recommends a 2000m buffer from settlements for major wind developments

These precedents show that clearer, stronger planning rules are not only reasonable, but essential.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Establish a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Working Group within 8 weeks to draft a Wind Turbine SPD that introduces:

For all new onshore wind turbines if the height of the wind turbine generator is-

- (a) greater than 25m, but does not exceed 50m, the minimum distance requirement is 1000m;
- (b) greater than 50m, but does not exceed 100m, the minimum distance requirement is 1500m;
- (c) greater than 100m, but does not exceed 150m, the minimum distance requirement is 2000m;

This is in relation to existing residential properties and schools

- A borough-wide maximum turbine tip height of 99 metres in or near urban and semi-rural areas.
2. Commence a formal review of Policy CC4 of the Hartlepool Local Plan via Neighbourhood Services Committee, with the aim of incorporating these safeguards into statutory planning policy, subject to consultation and examination. This should include a review of amenity for local residents in line with

**Hartlepool's Local Plan (Policy CC4):**

- Requires that turbines do not have a significant impact on the *“amenity of local communities or residents including visual intrusion, noise and traffic”*.

*“The plan’s footnote defines an appropriate topple distance as at*

*least the turbine's tip height plus 10%... This safety setback applies generally to all structures (including dwellings), ensuring a basic separation between turbines and nearby properties."*

3. Ensure that until such a Local Plan amendment is adopted, the SPD and this Motion form a material consideration in the assessment of all wind turbine-related planning applications at Neighbourhood Services Committee.
4. Affirm Hartlepool Borough Council's continued support for renewable energy, while committing to ensuring it is delivered safely, sensibly, and with full regard for the wellbeing of Hartlepool's residents and the character of its communities.
5. Assure that no relevant authority may grant planning permission for the construction of a wind turbine generator unless it meets the minimum distance requirement

Signed by: Councillors Buchan, Cranney, Little, Moore, Smith and Young

Councillor Smith moved the motion and addressed the Council in support of the Motion.

Seconded by Councillor Little

The background and rationale for submission of the Motion was detailed by the mover of the Motion.

Councillor Oliver, Chair of Neighbourhood Services, proposed an amendment to the motion: that the issue be forwarded to Planning Committee for their consideration at the earliest opportunity.

Amendment seconded by Councillor Boddy

The Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources confirmed that as this was Planning Policy it would also need to be referred to Neighbourhood Services

RESOLVED: That the motion be referred to Neighbourhood Services with Members of the Planning Committee to be invited and that the motion now stand without further discussion.

## 62. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

It was confirmed that on 5 March 2025 interviews were held for Independent Persons on Audit and Governance Committee as agreed at Audit and Governance Committee on 15 October 2024. Council was informed that Mr David Whitmore and Mr Martin Slimings were selected for appointment to these roles subject to references and full Council approval.

RESOLVED: That the appointments of David Whitmore and Martin Slimings be approved for a 2 year term of office.

## 2. TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY

Council was informed that the TVCA was issued a Best Value Notice on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. This is a non-statutory formal notification that the MHCLG Department has concerns regarding the Combined Authority and requests that they engage with the department to provide assurance of improvement. Details of how the review will be conducted are available on the Government website.

Members expressed their concern at this turn of events. However they were hopeful that the final result would be a TVCA everyone could be proud of that was more open and transparent than it had appeared to be previously. They asked that a formal request be made that the Council as a whole be involved, not just senior members, and that those members were involved ensure that the review was conducted in a timely fashion. The Managing Director confirmed that there would be involvement from Audit and Governance Committee members via the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

- a. That a letter be forwarded to the TVCA requesting the full involvement of all Councillors in the review of the Combined Authority.
- b. That the Best Value Notice be shared with all members

## 3. CARLTON ACTIVITY CENTRE

Council was informed of the conclusion made by the Coroner in respect of the sad death of Leah Harrison. She had been staying at Carlton Activity Centre on a residential break with her school and had died on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. A subsequent investigation had concluded it was a tragic accident and at a coroner's inquest on 24 April 2025 the jury and coroner concluded that the cause of death was accidental. The Managing Director had contacted Leah's mum following this conclusion and expressed her condolences. She also made a commendation to Council regarding two employees, Snothiel Read and Paul Godwin, paying tribute to their extreme resilience and bravery on the day of the accident and during the subsequent investigations.

Council expressed their support for all the staff at Carlton Activity Centre that has been involved. They asked that their condolences and good wishes be passed on to Leah's family.

## RESOLVED:

- a. That the Commendation of the Council be passed to Snothiel Read and Paul Godwin for the professionalism and courage they showed
- b. That the difficulties faced by all staff at Carlton Activity Centre at the time be acknowledged
- c. That the condolences and best wishes of Council be expressed to the family of Leah Harrison

## 4. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

The Managing Director advised that the Chairs of Planning Committee and Children's Services Committee had recently given up their positions. While there were no meetings of each due to take place before Annual Committee there was a legal requirement that a Chair of Planning Committee be in place to enable planning delegations to be processed. Nomination were therefore sought for a Planning Committee Chair for the interim period;

RESOLVED: That Councillor Moss Boddy be appointed Chair of Planning Committee

## 63. PUBLIC QUESTION

None

## 64. 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 10.1

Councillor Moore requested an update on when the Government white papers relating to planning reforms was expected to be published as it related to a previous decision regarding replacement/installation of doors and windows in conservation areas. The Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources was not aware of any proposed timeframe and suggested this might be taken to Constitution Committee as part of the current review of the delegation scheme as a whole

RESOLVED: That consideration of decision making in relation to the replacement/installation of doors and windows in Conservation Areas be considered by Constitution committee as part of the wider review of the delegation scheme.

- b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 10.2

None.

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

None.

- d) The minutes of the meeting held by the Cleveland Fire Authority on 6 December 2024 and 14 February 2025 were noted.

The meeting concluded at 7:50pm

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

# **ANNUAL COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **20 May 2025**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Thompson) presiding:

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

Allen	Bailey-Fleet	Boddy
Buchan	Cook	Cranney
Creevy	Darby	Dodds
Dunbar	Hall	Hargreaves
Harrison	Holbrook	Jorgeson
Little	Male	Martin-Wells
Moore	Morley	Napper
Nelson	Reeve	Ridle
Roy	Scarborough	C Wallace
Young.		

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director  
Hayley Martin, Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources  
Joan Stevens, Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Manager

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS**

Councillors Clayton, Feeney, Leedham, Lindridge, Oliver, Smith and S Wallace

#### **2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL (CEREMONIAL MAYOR)**

There had been 1 nomination for the office of Chair of Council/Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year:-

“That Councillor Thompson be elected Chair of Council/Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year”.

There were no other nominations.

The Managing Director announced that Councillor Thompson was duly elected as Chair of Council/Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year.

3. ELECTION THE VICE CHAIR OF COUNCIL (DEPUTY CEREMONIAL MAYOR)

There had been 1 nomination for the office of Vice Chair of Council/Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year:-

“That Councillor Bailey-Fleet be elected Vice Chair of Council/Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year”.

There were no other nominations.

The Managing Director announced that Councillor Bailey-Fleet was duly elected Vice Chair of Council/Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL (CEREMONIAL MAYOR) AND/OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

None.

5. ELECTION THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND A DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There had been 1 nomination for Leader of the Council.

“That Councillor Harrison be elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year”

There were no further nominations.

The Managing Director announced that Councillor Harrison was duly appointed Leader of the Council.

There had been 1 nomination for Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

“That Councillor Scarborough be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year”

There were no further nominations.

The Managing Director announced that Councillor Scarborough was duly appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

6. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Council approval was sought to a schedule of meetings of Full Council for the municipal year 2024/25 which had been circulated.

It was proposed that the following dates be changed:-

19 May 2026 changed to 21 May 2026

21 May 2026 changed to 26 May 2026

It was also proposed by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Buchan that future Council meetings commence at 6.30pm

RESOLVED, with no dissent – That the proposed change of dates of dates be approved and the remaining dates included on the schedule of dates of Council meetings be approved. That future Council meetings commence at 6.30pm.

## 7. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

It was reported that the proposed membership of Committees, Forums and other bodies had been circulated prior to this meeting of Full Council. An invitation had been extended to leaders of the political groups to make nominations which were indicated on the schedule tabled at the meeting

Since the schedule was drafted there had been some further nominations received, some changes to nominations and some remaining vacancies as follows: -

Adult and Community Based Services Committee – Conservative vacancy (replaces the Councillor Napper nomination)  
Neighbourhood Services Committee – Conservative vacancy taken by Councillor Young (replaces the Darby nomination)  
Children's Services Committee – Chair vacancy – Councillor Morley – Labour vacancy resulting from this – Councillor Dunbar  
Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee – Chair of Children's Services Committee vacancy – Councillor Morley  
Licensing Committee – Reform vacancy to be taken by Councillor Napper – Conservative vacancy (replaces the Councillor Darby nomination)  
Constitution Committee – Independent or Reform vacancy – Councillor Darby  
Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Cook to replace Councillor Morley – Conservative vacancy – Independent vacancy  
Appointments Panel – Independent vacancy  
Appeals Committee – 3 Labour vacancies – Councillors Allen, Harrison and Thompson

The above nominations were agreed.

The nominations of Chairs and vice-chairs, as set out in schedule, were approved.

The membership of the Committees, as set out in the schedule, were approved.



## 8. APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT COMMITTEES AND OTHER OUTSIDE BODIES

It was highlighted that a list setting out suggested representation on joint committees and other outside bodies had been circulated. Leaders of the political groups, and independent elected members, had been invited to make nominations.

The following updates were approved:-

North East Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – Councillor Creevy

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education – 1 vacancy

Tees Valley Combined Authority Board – Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Boddy replaces Councillor Morley

National Museum of Royal Navy Hartlepool (NMRN Hartlepool) Charitable Trust – Councillor C Wallace

Local Joint Consultative Committee – Anthony Kelly replaces Julie Seymour

Henry Smith Educational Charity – Councillor Morley

River Tees Port Health Authority – Councillors Allen and Dodds – Councillor Allen to chair

Children in our care Champion – Councillor Morley

Archives Joint Committee – Councillor Allen replaces Councillor Male – Councillor Male as designated sub

National Association of Councillors – English Region – 1 vacancy

National Association of Councillors – General Management Committee – 1 vacancy

Teesside Pension Fund – Councillor Young

Furness Seaman's Pension Fund – 2 vacancies

Full Council approved the remaining outside body nominations, including Member Champions, as set out in the schedule.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

RESOLVED – To cancel the planned adjournment and continue the meeting to receive suitable presentations from the newly elected Chair of Council (Ceremonial Mayor)

10. INVESTITURE OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL/ CEREMONIAL MAYOR

Further to the election of Councillor Thompson the Ceremonial Mayor thanked those present for agreeing to continue the meeting and not adjourn as had been previously planned

11. INVESTITURE OF THE VICE CHAIR OF COUNCIL/DEPUTY CEREMONIAL MAYOR

Further to the election of Councillor Bailey-Fleet as Deputy Ceremonial Mayor the Ceremonial Mayor welcomed Councillor Bailey-Fleet.

12. TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE RETIRING DEPUTY CEREMONIAL MAYOR

Members paid tribute to Councillor Morley for her work as Deputy Ceremonial Mayor for 2024-25. Councillor Morley responded, thanking members for their comments. She praised Members Services for their help throughout the year and presented the Civic Chauffeur and Mace Bearer with a gift.

The meeting concluded at 7.20 pm.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

## **COUNCIL**

### **17 July 2025**



**Report of:** Managing Director

**Subject:** BUSINESS REPORT

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#### **1. COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY VACANCIES**

Council is asked to consider the following vacancies and note the following appointments as agreed by the Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources to Council Committees and Outside Bodies:

##### **Vacancies**

Appointment Panel – An Independent vacancy remains.

Audit and Governance Committee – An Independent vacancy remains

Constitution Committee – Councillor Darby has resigned which leaves an Independent/Reform vacancy.

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (Term of office 2024-2028) (1 vacancy)

National Association of Councillors:

- English Region (1 vacancy)
- General Management Committee (1 vacancy)

Furness Seaman's Pension Fund (4 year term of office until 2029) (2 vacancies)

##### **Appointments**

Adult and Community Based Services Committee – Councillor Young has been appointed to the Conservative vacancy.

Licensing Committee – Councillor Reeve has been appointed to the Conservative vacancy.

Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Reeve has been appointed to the Conservative vacancy.

Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Darby has resigned Councillor Young appointed to the Conservative vacancy.

##### **Recommendation**

- (i) The appointments above be noted.

- (ii) Nominations are sought for the following vacancies:

**Committees and Panels**

Appointment Panel – 1 vacancy

Audit and Governance Committee – 1 vacancy

Constitution Committee – 1 vacancy

**Outside Bodies**

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (Term of office 2024-2028)  
(1 vacancy)

National Association of Councillors:

- English Region (1 vacancy)

- General Management Committee (1 vacancy)

Furness Seaman's Pension Fund (4 year term of office until 2029)  
(2 vacancies)

## 2. JOINT CRUSTACEAN DEATHS WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT

Following consideration of a motion in relation to a crustacean die off in the Autumn of 2021, Full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 agreed to refer consideration of 'how to regenerate the vital and traditional fishing industry in our town' to the Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee. Full Council, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, also agreed to participate in the Joint Crustacean Deaths Working Group established by Redcar and Cleveland Council.

The work of the Joint Crustacean Deaths Working Group has now concluded, and a detailed report produced, which can be accessed via the following link ([https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/9952/joint\\_crustacean\\_deaths\\_working\\_group\\_-\\_final\\_report](https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/9952/joint_crustacean_deaths_working_group_-_final_report)). A paper copy of the report is available on request, via [DemocraticServices1@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices1@hartlepool.gov.uk) or (01429) 284307.

All local authorities represented on the Working Group are being asked to consider endorsing the Joint Crustacean Deaths Working Group. To assist Full Council, the Audit and Governance Committee and membership of the Neighbourhood Services / Economic Growth and Regeneration Committees have been given the opportunity to identify any views / comments for consideration by Council. No additional comments have been received.

**Recommendation**

That Full Council receives the Joint Crustacean Deaths Working Group's final report and considers endorsing the conclusions and recommendations contained within it.

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# CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

28 MARCH 2025

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**PRESENT:**

**CHAIR**

Cllr David Coupe – Middlesbrough Council

**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Gary Allen, Bob Buchan, Ben Clayton

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Naweed Hussain, John Kabuye, Dennis McCabe

**REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Peter Chaney, Steve Kay, Mary Ovens

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Jim Beall, Stefan Houghton, Andrew Sherris, Mick Stoker

**AUTHORISED OFFICERS**

Chief Fire Officer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer,

Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Strategic Planning & Resources

Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Community Protection

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor David Taylor – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Councillor Sufi Mubeen – Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Chris Little - Treasurer

**109. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

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

**110. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – that the Minutes of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting of 14 February 2025 be confirmed.**

**111. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Audit & Governance Meeting on 21 February 2025 and the Executive Committee on 7 March 2025 be confirmed.**

**112. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR**

No communications were received by the Chair.

### **113. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

#### **113.1 Service Plan Priorities 2025/26**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer Strategic Planning & Resources (ACFO-SPR) presented the Service Plan which outlined the proposed corporate priorities for 2025/26 and aligned to the Authority's corporate goals as set out within its Community Risk Management, People and Resources Plans for the period 2022-26. The proposed Service Plan had been considered by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 7 March 2025 who recommended to CFA its approval.

The ACFO-SPR reported that the Service's previous priorities and key actions had been reviewed both by ELT and the wider workforce removing any duplications, streamlining key actions where appropriate and ensuring that all strategic priorities were captured. She advised that this had significantly reduced the number of priorities which will be tracked and progress will be reported quarterly to the Executive Committee.

Councillor Kabuye referenced the Cleveland People Awards night and asked if staff would be involved in the process. The ACFO-SPR confirmed that this would be both led and voted by staff

Councillor Kay highlighted the Staff Cultural Survey seeking clarification as to whether this would be an external health check. The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) explained that this will be an internal survey to provide a valuable benchmark across the workforce. He explained that carrying out the survey internally will not only save money, but it will also present the new Executive Leadership Team with an opportunity to engage openly with staff.

Councillor Chaney requested that consideration should be given to the reference to the language used when outlining pay as a pressure on the budget. He also asked if the graphic detailing our Priorities for 2025/26 could be amended to move People to the top of the page.

Councillor Stefan Houghton joined the meeting

Following discussion on the impact of the nationally negotiated pay awards on the CFA Budget, it was agreed that the CFO would review the wording relating to pay and would circulate the suggested rewording to Members via e-mail for agreement. The ACFO-SPR highlighted the need for a swift response as the Service Plan was due for publication on 1 April.

It was agreed that the People Priority would appear at the top of the key areas of focus.

Councillor Ovens requested clarification as to the expansion and streamlining of the Fire Service Rota system highlighted in the Service Plan. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer Community Protection (ACFO-CP) explained that we are currently only using Fire Service Rota at a very basic level and that there are more advance features that would enable us to be better schedule on-call availability informing us of our gaps in provision which we could use when recruiting.

Members raised the vision statement relating to 'future is 'greener and brighter' and suggested this should be less vague. The CFO advised that the vision will be revisited as part of the next CRMP and the ACFO-SPR confirmed that Members will be invited to a workshop to consider the vision post 2026.

### 113.1 Service Plan Priorities 2025/26 cont.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the proposed Service Plan 2025/26 be noted.
- (ii) That the corporate priorities and the Service Plan 2025/26 be approved in principle subject to confirmation of the changes in layout moving people to the top of the key areas of focus and circulation and subsequent CFA approval of the revised wording surrounding 'pay'.

### 113.2 Information Pack

#### Volunteers

The CFO advised that we have welcomed 8 new Befriending Volunteers who have undergone their induction and safeguarding training earlier in the week. The Befriending Volunteers make a huge difference to those accessing the service and have been described as 'brightening people's day' to service users who often don't have any other visitors.

#### Campaigns

The CFO reported that 403 Stay Safe and Warm visits have been carried out to date with the campaign concluding on 31 March 2025. Councillor Beall requested that further analysis be provided when available. The ACFO-CP confirmed that once evaluation has been completed we will be in a position to provide further details to Members but he was able to confirm that of the 403 visits to date 120 had been undertaken within the Stockton Borough Council boundary.

Following discussion regarding the long list of national campaigns and awareness days it was agreed that only those being actively undertaken by the Brigade would be reported to the Authority in future Information Packs but this this information would be more comprehensive.

#### Workers Memorial Day

The CFO confirmed that we will again be supporting Workers Memorial Day on 28 April 2025 and the service at which a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Authority will commence at 12:30pm at the Workers Memorial in Church Square, Hartlepool.

#### LGA Conference

The ACFO-SPR provided an update on the conference which had taken place on 11-12 March. The Workshops had been particularly interesting and a request has been made for Ben Ryder of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service who delivered the workshop on the role of the Fire Service in Community Cohesion to visit Cleveland Fire Brigade and deliver the session to our staff.

Councillor Kabuye, who has been working on a Community Cohesion project for Middlesbrough Council offered his assistance to share his experience.

Councillor Chaney highlighted three areas in which he had involvement; Child Safety, Boat Fire Safety and Dementia Action Week and started that he would welcome further involvement by the Brigade.

#### **RESOLVED:–**

- (i) That the information pack be noted.
- (ii) That in future only those campaigns undertaken by Cleveland Fire Brigade would be reported to the Authority in the CFO's Information Pack.

## **114. REPORT OF THE CLERK**

### **114.1 Calendar of Meetings 2025/26**

Members considered the proposed schedule of Cleveland Fire Authority meetings for the municipal year of 2025/26. The ACFO-SPR confirmed that the dates were aligned to the Authority's business planning calendar and would be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 6 June 2025.

**RESOLVED – That Members approved the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting schedule for 2024/25 at Appendix 1.**

## **115. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER**

### **115.1 Pay Policy Statement 2025/26**

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) reported that in line with the provisions set out in the Localism Act 2011, the Authority had a statutory duty to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year relating to:

- the remuneration of its chief officers
- the remuneration of its lowest paid employees
- the relationship between:
  - the remuneration of its chief officers and
  - the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers

The LAMO referred to the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 at Appendix 1, which had been considered by the Executive Committee on 7 March 2025, and outlined the key changes which included:

- Firefighter (Development) - £29,442 (pay award pending 1 July 2025).
- Non-operational employees Grade B (Development) - £24,027 (pay award pending 1 April 2025).

He reported that the Government's National Living Wage sets a minimum wage for all workers aged 25 years and over of £12.21 per hour, which equated to an annual salary of £23,556.64, which was lower than the Authority's lowest paid employees Grade B (Development) which is currently £24,027.

The LAMO stated that the annual salaries for the CFO and ACFOs which had previously been only available in the Statement of Accounts are now contained within the Pay Policy Statement.

**RESOLVED - That Members approved Cleveland Fire Authority's Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 for publication.**

## **116. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

### **116.1 Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 and Third Quarter Review 2024/25**

The ACFO-SPR presented the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 and Third Quarter Review 2024/25 on behalf of the Treasurer. She reported that the report had been considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on 21 February 2025 who had recommended it for approval by CFA.



### **116.1 Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 and Third Quarter Review 2024/25 cont.**

She advised that the Executive Committee on 7 March 2025 had also had sight of the report as the Treasurer was aware that he was unable to attend the CFA Meeting on 28 March and wanted to provide Members the opportunity to fully consider the report which covered:

- Economic Background and Outlook for Interest Rates
- Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Review
- Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26
- Borrowing Strategy 2025/26
- Investment Strategy 2025/26
  
- Minimum Revenue Provision and Interest Costs and Other Regulatory Information 2025/26
- Regulatory Information and Prudential Indicators 2025/26 (Appendix A)

Councillor Ovens referred to the Lender Option, Borrower Option loan call date of 29 March 2025 and asked if it was likely that a new rate would be accepted. The ACFO-SPR explained that this would be dependent upon the rate offered although if it was more than 4.5% we would likely not extend.

#### **RESOLVED:–**

- (i) **That the 2024/25 Treasury Management third quarter position detailed in section 5 of the report be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Prudential Indicators outlined in Appendix A of the report be approved.**
- (iii) **Borrowing Strategy 2025/26**  
**That the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) i.e. capital borrowing requirement is funded from short-term borrowing until such time as long term interest rates reduce to a sustainable level be approved.**

**That the proposal to use any temporary revenue budget savings arising from temporary budget savings arising from temporary borrowing interest being less than budgeted to reduce the CFR, which will help mitigate potential higher longer term costs be approved.**

- (iv) **Investment Strategy 2025/26**  
**That the Counterparty limits as set out in paragraph 8.7 of the report be approved.**
- (v) **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement**  
**That the following MRP statement be approved:**
  - **For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008, the Authority's MRP policy is to calculate MRP in accordance with former DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) Regulations. This is 4% of the Capital Financing Requirement expect where the Authority makes Voluntary Revenue Payments (VRP) which is in excess of the amount required by these regulations, based on asset life;**
  - **From 1 April 2008, the Authority calculates MRP based on asset life for all assets or where prudential borrowing is financed by a specific annuity loan, MRP will be calculated according to the actual annuity loan repayments;**

**116.1 Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 and Third Quarter Review 2024/25 cont.**

- **The Treasurer may determine to make Voluntary Revenue Provision payments to reduce the Authority's overall CFR if it is in the best financial interest of the Authority.**

**117. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The CFO advised Members that after nearly 49 years of dedicated service in the FRS (23 years in Cleveland Fire Brigade), it was the last day for our Senior Head of People, Chris Chisholm. The CFO and Members wished Chris the very best in her well deserved retirement.

**118. 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 item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information and namely information relating 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."

**119. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**That the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Ordinary Meeting on 14 February 2025 be confirmed.**

**120. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**That the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee on 7 March 2025 be confirmed.**

**COUNCILLOR DAVID COUPE  
CHAIR**