

MEETING OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of Middlesbrough Council, lawfully convened, and held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on 15 July 2015.

PRESENT: Councillors Bloundele (Chair), The Mayor, D Budd, Councillors Arundale, Bloundele, Blyth, Brady, Brunton, Carr, Cole, Coupe, Cox, Culley, Davison, Dean, Dryden, Goodchild, Hellaoui, Higgins, C Hobson, J Hobson, Hussain, Lawton, Lewis, Mawston, McCabe, McGee, McGloin, McTigue, G Purvis, P Purvis, Rathmell, C M Rooney, D Rooney, Rostron, Saunders, Shan, Taylor, M Thompson, Uddin, J A Walker, N J Walker, M Walters and Young

OFFICERS: R Broad, L Henman, A Hoy, J Lewis, S Lightwing, A Pain, B Roberts and M Robinson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Biswas, Harvey, Hubbard, McIntyre and J Sharrocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this point of the meeting.

1 MINUTES - COUNCIL - 29 MAY 2015

The minutes of the meeting of Middlesbrough Council held on 29 May 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Councillor Carr's apologies for absence to be added.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no announcements or communications.

NOTED**3 MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

The Mayor apologised for the lateness of his report and explained that he had waited until after the Chancellor's Budget Speech before preparing it.

Members' attention was drawn to the recent Staff Awards Night, which was a great success. The awards were presented to teams rather than individuals and the Mayor commented on the importance of valuing Council staff.

The Mayor had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive, Minister Greg Clark and James Wharton, MP, to discuss the devolution of the Tees Valley. The meeting had gone well and the Mayor stated that he would update the Council on progress as appropriate.

In relation to the Budget Speech the Mayor stated it was dangerous to comment immediately afterwards and better to reflect on what was said and the implications. Whilst the easing of austerity measures was welcome, the Council would have to wait until the Autumn Statement and details of Middlesbrough's settlement before the impact on the Council budget could be assessed.

Members commented on the impact of the Budget on young people, the living wage and the reduction in social housing rents and the Mayor responded accordingly.

NOTED

DEPUTY MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

(a) Unemployment

Members commented positively on the continued fall in the unemployment claimant count and in particular the fall in the Tees Valley which had been greater than that regionally and nationally over the past two years. The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Regeneration agreed that the appetite to work and range of jobs on offer in Middlesbrough had been highlighted at the recent job fair held in the Town Hall at which approximately 30 companies had recruited to over 300 jobs and apprenticeships. The Executive Member also voiced concern in relation to unemployment statistics, regarding the number of people employed on zero hours contracts.

(b) Middlesbrough Mela

A Member highlighted that the 25th anniversary Mela took place in June in Centre Square, where it had started in 1990. It had been a fantastic event with 44,000 people attending and the second Mela parade through the Cleveland Centre with around 130 community participants. The Member thanked all those who had supported and sponsored the event. An invitation was extended to all Members to attend the Mela AGM at 7.00 pm on 3 August 2015 in the Mandela Room, when preparations for the next Mela would commence. The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport thanked all those who were involved in the organisation of the Mela and commented that Middlesbrough had a rich and diverse heritage which should be celebrated.

(c) Captain Cook Birthplace Museum

Reference was made to the £500,000 allocated to the Museum by the Arts Council in spring 2015 for the renovation of the gallery spaces. A Member asked whether a start date for the renovation had been agreed and whether the work would be completed before the time limit for the funding expired. The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport confirmed that a project start date had not been agreed and that Council Officers were still working with Arts Council England. The Executive Member agreed to keep the Council informed of developments.

(d) North Ormesby Academy and Beech Grove Primary School

Members congratulated North Ormesby Academy and Beech Grove Primary School on their recent OFSTED inspections. North Ormesby Academy had moved from the 'Requires Improvement' judgement received at the last inspection to 'Outstanding' and Beech Grove Primary School from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'. Members paid tribute to the hard work and commitment of the staff, governors, pupils and parents of both establishments. The Executive Member for Education and Skills added her congratulations and highlighted that Outwood Academy had also received a 'Good' judgement. The Executive Member stated that schools, teachers, parents and governors were doing some tremendous work to enable young people to achieve and it was important to keep aspirations and skills at the forefront of everything that the Council did.

(e) Ongoing Landlord Licensing Consultation

A Member referred to the development of a Selective Licensing Scheme for North Ormesby and highlighted that the purpose of it was to support landlords as well as the residents and community. The Executive Member for Communities and Public Health agreed with the comments made and stated that the significant challenges the Council faced could not be underestimated. Whilst some regeneration had taken place under the Housing Market Renewal scheme, this was no longer available and the Council had to look to other opportunities to improve the town.

(f) Waste Policy Team and Albert Park Fishing Lake

As the Executive Member for Environment had submitted apologies for the meeting, questions

from Members on the Waste Policy Team and Albert Park Fishing Lake would be forwarded to the Executive Member and a written response provided.

NOTED

5 **REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

Council received and considered a report presented by the Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board outlining the work of the Board and Scrutiny Panels.

NOTED

6 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions for this meeting.

NOTED

7 **LOCALISM ACT 2011 - GENERAL DISPENSATIONS**

Council received and considered a report of the Assistant Director, Organisation and Governance, which recommended that a general dispensation be granted to those Members who had applied for a dispensation in respect of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.

The report provided information on the Localism Act 2011 and Regulations made thereunder, which introduced the concept of disclosable pecuniary interests and also rules in respect of dispensations.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that a four year general dispensation be granted to all Members of the Council, with the exception of Councillor McTigue, in respect of the matters outlined in the report submitted and in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

8 **COUNCIL BUSINESS REPORT**

A report of the Assistant Director, Organisation and Governance, was presented to seek Members' approval to several items arising from the Annual Meeting of Council held on 29 May 2015.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** as follows:

1. That the Special Responsibility Allowance relating to the duties of the minority political Group Leader would alternate between the Conservative Group and Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association on annual basis, going to the Conservative Group Leader in the first Municipal Year, 2015-2016.

2. The Terms of Reference for the Chief Officer Appointments Committee be amended, by the removal of 'Heads of Service'.

3. That appointment to the following vacancies be approved:

Constitution and Members' Development Committee - Councillors Brunton and Harvey

Corporate Health and Safety Committee - Councillor Lawton

Casino Licensing Sub Committee (substitute Members) - Councillors Goodchild and Lewis

Works Council - Councillors Lawton, Thompson and Young

Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel - Councillors Lewis, G Purvis, Higgins and D Rooney

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel - Councillor Walters

4. That nomination to the vacancy on the Corporate Health and Safety Committee be deferred.

5. That the removal of Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group from the Outside Bodies Register be approved.

9 **COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2015**

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that the date of the next Council meeting was changed from 2 September to Wednesday 16 September at 7.00 pm.