

**MEETING OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

At the Meeting of Middlesbrough Council, lawfully convened, and held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on 6 September 2017.

**PRESENT:** Councillors S E Bloundele (Chair), R Brady (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, J Blyth, D J Branson, J Brunton, Mr D Budd, M Carr, D P Coupe, D Davison, S Dean, J Goodchild, T Harvey, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, C Hobson, J Hobson, B A Hubbard, N Hussain, T Lawton, L Lewis, T Mawston, D McCabe, J McGee, L McGloin, G Purvis, P Purvis, C M Rooney, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Saunders, J Sharrocks, M Storey, M Thompson, Z Uddin, J A Walker, N J Walker, V Walkington, M Walters, J Young and L Young

**OFFICERS:** M Allinson, J Bromiley, B Carr, P Clarke, L Henman, A Hoy, D Johnson, E Kunonga, J McCulloch, A Pain, S Reynolds, B Roberts and H Watson

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Councillor S Biswas, Councillor E Dryden, Councillor F McIntyre, Councillor J McTigue, Councillor J Mohan, Councillor J Rathmell.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None declared

1 **DISCUSSION REGARDING MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, WITH PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVE REGARD TO THE CONTENT, APPLICATION AND POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

The Chair invited Councillor Lawton to introduce the debate.

Councillor Lawton made a statement to the Council meeting with regard to the content, application and political impartiality of the Constitution.

Particular reference was made to:

- The Members Code of Conduct;
- Political Balance on Committees and allocation of Committee places;
- Allocation of places on Outside Bodies;
- The Principles of Public Life;
- Public Perception of Councillors and the Council;
- Sale of Council Assets;
- The outcome of a Standards Committee investigation;

Councillor Storey responded to the issues raised and advised that any proposed amendments to the Constitution should be dealt with by the Constitution and Members' Development Committee. Councillor Storey clarified the rules regarding political balance on Committees. Councillor Storey made reference to all of the positive initiatives contained within the Executive Member reports.

Councillor Storey moved that the meeting proceed to the next business.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that the meeting proceed to the next business.

As there was no urgent items, the Chair announced that the meeting was closed.

Councillor Jacob Young indicated that he wished it to be recorded in the minutes that he had voted against the recommendation to move to next business.

