

**MEETING OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

At the Meeting of Middlesbrough Council, lawfully convened, and held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on 1 November 2017.

**PRESENT:** Councillors S E Bloundele (Chair), R Arundale, J Blyth, D J Branson, J Brunton Dobson, Mr D Budd, M Carr, D P Coupe, S Dean, J Goodchild, T Harvey, T Higgins, C Hobson, J Hobson, T Lawton, T Mawston, D McCabe, L McGloin, J Mohan, 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:** J Bromiley, B Carr, P Campbell, G Field, L Henman, A Hoy, D Johnson, A Pain, T Parkinson, S Reynolds and H Watson

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Biswas, Councillor R Brady, Councillor D Davison, Councillor E Dryden, Councillor A Hellaoui, Councillor B A Hubbard, Councillor N Hussain, Councillor L Lewis, Councillor J McGee, Councillor F McIntyre, Councillor J McTigue, Councillor G Purvis, Councillor P Purvis, Councillor J Rathmell.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor T Lawton	Pecuniary	Notice of Motion - Member of GMB - NJC Pay - Wife and Son employees of Council

1 **MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 6 SEPTEMBER 2017 AND EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 6 September 2017 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no Announcements or Communications for this meeting.

3 **MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

The Mayor announced that he wished to discuss the following three items in relation to information and updates.

South Tees Development Corporation Masterplan

The South Tees Development Corporation Masterplan was launched on 18 October 2017. The Regeneration Masterplan covered 4,500 acres on the South of the River Tees and following its launch, it had received lots of positive publicity.

The Mayor advised that the Masterplan was a long term plan which extended across a period of twenty years. The Masterplan presented many opportunities both nationally and internationally as the site had huge potential. On 8 November 2017, in the Central Library, Middlesbrough, between 11.00am and 6.00pm, there was an opportunity for people to look at the plans in detail. There was a consultation plan and questionnaire and the Mayor urged people to complete the questionnaire as this and the consultation plan would form the supplementary planning document through Redcar and Cleveland Council which would guide the way in which the area worked in the future.

There was over 2000 acres of developable land on the site, some of which was in a better state than others. Existing business already located in the area included PD Ports and all the port facilities and associated businesses, British Steel and the new NTT Power Station.

The future uses could include business and industry however there was also an opportunity to

voice opinions on transport infrastructure needs, industrial heritage i.e. what we should/could retain, environmental improvements and the area and access to South Gare and Coatham marsh etc. and the Mayor encouraged people to get involved.

There was considerable national and international interest in developing the site. Direct Government funding would be required, it was not something that individual authorities or the Combined Authority would be able to fund. The infrastructure needs would be considerable, although the site already had good road and rail access and port facilities, joining these facilities up would need considerable investment and the Combined Authority would continue to press the Government for additional funding to make the improvements as the scheme progressed.

#### Transport requirements.

The Mayor had referred to the Tees Valley requirements with regard to funding for improvements to the A66 route/Cargo Fleet Lane roundabout and a new River Tees Crossing and rail investment in Darlington and Middlesbrough railway station. Middlesbrough Station was important not only just to Middlesbrough but to the whole of the Tees Valley as it would be the link that joined the East Coast mainline and Tees Port, which was important for freight and passenger traffic.

The Shadow Chancellor had visited recently and he had stated that a lot of work was needed and plans were in place to do that. It was important not just as a railway station but as a transport hub as a whole and the effect it had on the area surrounding it and some of the historic buildings had development needs and the links to Albert Road. A change in government funding priorities was needed. The five local authority leaders had written to Chris Grayling, the Minister for Transport regarding the cancellation of rail electrification in the Tees Valley. A response had been received from the Under Secretary, Paul Maynard, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, but it had not looked very promising and the Tees Valley would have to wait for the statement of rail upgrade plan to be introduced. The Mayor stated that some years ago the electrification of the line between Northallerton, Middlesbrough and Tees Port was listed as a priority but it was no longer, he hoped it would become a priority for the Government again.

#### Town Hall improvements.

The Council had received a visit from Darren Henley, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, and he had looked around the town hall improvements and had been very impressed. He was interested in MIMA and was very supportive. The Director of MIMA was leaving and the Mayor advised that the work he had done for Middlesbrough was fantastic. The Mayor hoped that the new Director would continue with the good work carried out by the previous Director.

A Member referred to the Tuxedo Royale and stated that this was part of the industrial heritage of the town and he queried whether the Council could look at doing something about it. The Mayor advised that there was a possibility at one time but it no longer existed. Its present state and the damage to it meant it was a blight on the river and the town and action had been taken to remove it.

The Member advised that Middlesbrough Council had no financial interest, it was Crown property and he queried why the Council could not take action on it. The Mayor advised the reason was that the Council had no responsibility for the Tuxedo Royale, but they did have responsibility for cleaning up the river.

4

## **DEPUTY MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS**

The Chair invited Members to raise items for general discussion arising from the Information Booklet of Executive Member reports which detailed activities carried out within the respective Executive Member portfolios (Section 1), Executive decisions taken (Section 2) or to be taken where known, prior to and following the meeting (Sections 3 and 4).

Members commented and posed questions in relation to the following matters and Executive Members responded where appropriate:-

## a) Gigabit City

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 2 of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for City Centre Strategy report and commented that he was in favour of the idea of enhancing the broadband infrastructure across Middlesbrough and he queried with regard to the timescale for the initiative.

The Executive Member advised that the project was in the early stages and that he appreciated that some areas did not have the same speed as others however he encouraged companies to invest in this initiative.

## b) Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP)

A member referred to page 3, paragraph 9 of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for City Centre Strategy report with regard to Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park and commented that he was delighted to see that progress had been made and he looked forward to hearing any further updates.

The Executive Member thanked the member for his comments and advised that he would report back to Council in respect of any further updates.

## c) Tees Valley Combined Authority

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 1 of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for City Centre Strategy report and commented that he was pleased to see the bids to the Combined Authority in respect of TAMP. It was a great example of joined up working with the Combined Authorities.

The Executive Member thanked the member for his comments and stated that the Council and its officers worked very hard at bringing in investment to the town.

## d) Captain Cook Public House

A member referred to page 2, paragraph 4 of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for City Centre Strategy report and queried with regard to the terms of the lease for the disposal of the Captain Cook Public House. The member stated that he understood that the Council had purchased the Captain Cook Public House for £300k, and he queried with regard to the current valuation.

The Executive Member advised that the details of the lease were outlined within the Executive report which was available on the Council's website. The lease agreement would result in bringing jobs to the town.

## e) Middlehaven Relief Road

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 3 of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for City Centre Strategy report and commented that he was pleased to see the collaboration between Middlesbrough College and Balfour with a view to the college construction students using the work on the road as a basis for part of their syllabus and project work. He queried whether the apprenticeship model would be used.

The Executive Member advised that he would explore this option with Balfour.

## f) First Contact

A member referred to page 2, paragraph 2 of the Executive Member for Children's Services report in respect of First Contact and she requested if the Council could ensure that elected members were required to undertake the training.

The Executive Member advised that a series of briefings had been arranged for members, but he was unsure as to whether safeguarding training could be made mandatory for members.

The opportunity was available for those members who wished to undertake training.

g) Newly Qualified Social Workers

A member referred to page 2, paragraph 3 of the Executive Member for Children's Social Services report in respect of newly qualified social workers and he queried whether there was any documentation or policies with regard to the retention of social workers.

The Executive Member advised that Middlesbrough did have a good reputation for supporting its social workers on their Assessed and Supported Year in Practice which all social workers were required to complete successfully to be a practicing social worker.

The pressures on social workers were the same in every authority but some chose to work elsewhere if the rate of pay was better. The Council had carried out restructuring to offer greater career progression. An agreement had also been reached with the other Tees Valley authorities with regard to the use of agency workers. Some other local authorities did use financial inducements to attract social workers however Middlesbrough Council was not in a position to do this.

h) Orange Pip Market

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 1 of the Executive Member for Culture and Communities report in relation to the Orange Pip Market and commented that it was a pity that the market had been cancelled as a result of bad weather. He queried whether back up plans could be put in place for the Christmas market.

The Executive Member stated that it was disappointing that the Orange Pip market had been cancelled but public safety would always be the first priority for the Council. Officers were looking at ways to ensure that the market could go ahead.

i) Orange Pip Market

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 1 of the Executive Member for Culture and Communities report in relation to the Orange Pip Market and advised that the Orange Pip Market had been discussed at a recent Scrutiny Panel. The market had attracted over 18,000 visitors to the town and 44 stalls had been present. The market was an example of what the Council did best and he passed on his congratulations to all the staff and other people involved in the organisation of the market.

j) ASB/Crime in Thorndyke Avenue

A member referred to page 5, paragraph 10 of the Executive Member for Culture and Communities report in relation to anti-social behaviour and crime in Thorndyke Avenue and congratulated the Executive Member on the work of the JAG in establishing a Task Force to investigate the issues of anti-social behaviour and crime in Thorndyke Avenue. CCTV cameras had been installed and a Hearts and Minds Campaign established involving the Police, the Council, the Fire Brigade and the Thirteen Group to work with residents and establish relationships, build trust and gather information with regard the issues. There had been a huge improvement. Groundwork were planting trees with the children in the area and wrought iron gates had been installed using designs by children. The member wished to congratulate all those responsible for helping to improve the area.

The Executive Member thanked the member for raising the issue and he stated that he was pleased with the co-ordinated response to the problem. The problem was an ongoing situation and there was a requirement to build confidence in the community to encourage residents to be confident enough to report issues. A Family Fun Day had been held and all the residents had turned out to support the event. The Executive Member advised that he would pass on the member's congratulations along with his own to all of the organisations concerned.

k) South Middlesbrough Highway Improvements - JCUH Car Park

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 1 of the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure report and commented that he was pleased to hear about the new road that would run between Longlands Road and Ladgate Lane; relieving congestion on Cargo Fleet Lane, Marton Road and Ormesby Road however he was disappointed that the road had stopped short of the hospital. He queried if there was any way of extending the road to near the hospital. Staff currently parked in the existing car park and he queried whether there could be a car park for the public.

The Executive Member advised that he would take the comments back to the appropriate people and provide a response.

l) Stainton Way

A member referred to page 3, paragraph 3 of the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure report in relation to junction improvements on the B1365 Hemlington Lane and Stainton Way in order to improve capacity on those routes and relieve congestion on the Marton Road corridor. The member queried whether it would be part of an integrated policy that would include improvements to the Parkway A19 junction and he queried with regard to the timescale for the improvements. The Executive Member stated that the improvements to the road would be dependent on funding being available and it would be fully planned out. The Executive Member advised that he would seek further information and report back to the member concerned.

m) The Avenue of Trees

A member referred to page 4, paragraph 7 of the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure report in respect the work with Acklam 2020 to enhance the Avenue of Trees. He stated that it would be a pity if the area was left to go into disrepair.

The Executive Member stated that it was good that the Council had funding from 2020 to maintain the Avenue of Trees and it was a good idea to maintain the area.

n) Starting School Road Safety Leaflet

A member referred to page 4, paragraph 8 of the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure report in respect of the Starting School Road Safety advice leaflet.

The member also stated that he was pleased to hear that the Starting School Road Safety advice leaflet was being distributed to every reception class pupil in Middlesbrough. The member stated that he had particular concerns with regard to parking and in-car safety, where pupils were being transported in cars and were not properly secured with a safety belt. He queried whether the Executive Member could look at whether enforcement work could be carried out in respect of the safety issues.

In terms of the Starting School Road Safety leaflet, the Executive Member stated that it was important to start educating children from an early age with regard to road safety. With regard to the enforcement of road safety issues, the Executive Member advised that he would take the issue back to the team responsible for enforcement.

o) Additional Rail Improvements

A member referred to page 3, paragraph 3 of the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure report in respect of additional rail improvements. The member stated that he was pleased to see that both Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Council were exploring the benefits of a park and ride scheme in Nunthorpe as it might encourage people to use rail travel. The member stated that it was a quick and inexpensive way to travel, however that more trains were needed as there was currently only a 7.20am and 8.30am service running on a morning and he stated that he would like to see the railway line double tracked so there would be less opportunity for trains getting stuck. He stated that it was an excellent idea and he looked forward to it being implemented.

The Executive Member stated that both Councils and the operators were supportive of this idea and they were currently commissioning a feasibility study in respect of the proposals to demonstrate the need. Once this was completed, Network Rail would be approached to encourage them to get on board with the idea.

p) Unicef's Rights Respecting School Award

A member referred to page 2, paragraph 2 of the Executive Member for Education and Skills report in respect of the Unicef's Rights Respecting School Award. The member stated that she was pleased to see that 11 schools in Middlesbrough had been involved in achieving the award and she stated that she would like to see all of the schools encouraged to take part in the award.

The Executive Member advised that she wholeheartedly agreed with the idea of all schools being encouraged to achieve the Unicef's Rights Respecting School Award and she urged any members who were school governors to encourage schools to take part in the award.

q) Stronger Families Apprenticeships

A member referred to page 6, paragraph 2 of the Executive Member for Education and Skills report in respect of Stronger Families Apprentices. The member congratulated the apprentices that had progressed into employment opportunities within Stronger families and she queried with regard to how many of the apprentices had secured work with Middlesbrough Council.

The Executive Member stated that she had met a number of apprentices, three weeks previously and she advised that the apprentices couldn't praise enough, the training that they had received from Middlesbrough Council. It had helped them to gain confidence and qualifications so that they could apply for jobs. The Executive Member stated that she did not have the exact numbers available for the apprentices that had secured work with Middlesbrough Council, but she would obtain them and report back to the member concerned.

r) Area Care - Planting the redundant horticultural bed on Trimdon Avenue

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 1 of the Executive Member for Environment and Commercialisation report in respect of the planting of the redundant horticultural bed on Trimdon Avenue. The member stated that the project was funded entirely by Kader Community Council which he wished to thank them for. The member stated that he wished to thank Richard Ward in particular for his help with the project and the gang that assisted him.

The Executive Member advised that she would pass on the member's thanks to the staff concerned. She stated that it was a great project and community action projects like these were happening more regularly across Middlesbrough.

s) Area Care - New playground in the Trimdon Ward

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 1 of the Executive Member for Environment and Commercialisation report with regard to the new playground in Trimdon Ward.

The member stated that he had been advised that the finance for the new playground to be installed had ran out and the project was not completed. CCTV had not been installed. He stated that the ground re-installment works and the paths were not completed to the required standard and there was fencing missing. He stated that he would like answers. He stated that he had attended the JAG to request extra funding for close CCTV and it appeared that the Council would have to pay for it when it should have been brought in by Cleveland Land Services.

The Executive Member stated that she could not comment on the finances of the project but she had asked the Director of Environment to look into the issues raised.

t) Paragraph 12 of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance report

A member referred to page 2, paragraph 12, of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance report in respect of Value for Money and the qualified opinion in respect of governance arrangements for the disposal of properties. The member queried whether the Executive Member could clarify the difference between the accounts and the financial statements and Value for Money.

The Executive Member stated that there was a term being bandied about saying that the accounts had been qualified. In terms of when the auditors looked at Middlesbrough Council accounts it did include the financial statements. The auditors had issued an unqualified opinion in respect of the financial statements and they had issued an unqualified opinion as far as records were available. The auditors also looked at Value for Money as part of the opinion. The Value for Money opinion part of the accounts had been qualified in 2014/2015 in the following three areas:

- Project management arrangements - qualification now lifted
- Capital programme monitoring - qualification now lifted.
- Governance arrangements for the disposal of properties - acknowledged progress made but considered that the new Disposal of Assets Policy introduced in September 2016, was not yet fully embedded as at 31 March 2017 - which was the period that the accounts were up to. They did recognise that further work had been done and it was acknowledged that governance work in relation to the disposal of properties was going in the right direction of travel.

The Executive Member clarified that the three criteria for qualification were as follows:

- Unqualified opinion
- a qualified except 4
- Adverse

A member of the public stated that he would like to ask a question. The Chair advised that the meeting was a business meeting of the council and members of the public were only entitled to observe the proceedings.

#### u) Financial Statements

A member referred to page 1, paragraph 2, of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance report in respect of Financial Statements and he stated that in point 12 of the report she had stated that there was no evidence of wrongdoing or criminality identified by officers and members and he stated that this was true. He pointed out that the full report did refer to the disposal of three assets, Acklam Hall, TAD Centre and the Craft Centre at Gilkes Street and he stated that the report identified that there were weaknesses in governance and control with regard to the disposal of assets at that time which could be a cause for significant concern. He stated that in his view the full extract from the report should have been included in the Executive Member report as it was deliberately misleading to include an extract.

He stated that the auditors were clear that it was not their place to determine if criminal activity had taken place and nor was it the role of the Executive Member. He urged the Executive Member to join him and other Councillors in requesting the Police to fully investigate the transactions.

The Executive Member stated that she objected to the fact that the member had stated that including an extract from the full audit report was deliberately misleading. The salient points from the full report had been included in the Executive Member's report to address any misconceptions. The auditors had been unable to categorically say that there was no wrongdoing or criminal activity. They had however carried out individual investigations on some asset disposals and issues raised by councillors and they had not found any evidence that could be put before the police. The Executive Member urged the member concerned to provide the Police with any evidence that he had of criminal activity or wrongdoing to enable them to conduct an inquiry.

The Executive Member advised that she could have reproduced the full audit report but it was available to all members. There had been accusations against officers who were unable to answer back. The issues identified in the report were essentially about the processes; it was not a judgement on any individual transaction and the value for money gained from that or any individual and their actions.

## 5 **REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

Council received and considered a report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board outlining the work of the Board and Scrutiny Panels. The Vice Chair pointed out the wide range of topics covered by the Scrutiny Panels.

### **NOTED**

## 6 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The details of the specific questions were included at Agenda Item 9.

### **1/17 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor in relation to a section 106 agreement and the financial implications for Chandlers Ridge School**

The Mayor advised that at the time of the signing of the S106 Agreement it was identified Chandlers Ridge as the school where there may be future capacity issues. As the development progressed this could change, either because there were fewer or more pupils arising out of the development requiring places in local schools, or there were no longer capacity issues at the identified school.

The Council would keep under review the impacts arising from the development and seek to target the S106 contribution to where it had the greatest education benefits within the locality. The Mayor clarified that this did not mean that Chandlers Ridge would not be a beneficiary of the contribution, however the funding available would be dispersed appropriately.

### **2/17 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor in relation to the South Middlesbrough Masterplan.**

The Mayor advised that the masterplan was currently being prepared, and officers of the Council had already met with members of the Nunthorpe community to discuss proposals for the new park. To this end the Nunthorpe Community had established a steering group so that it could have an input into the design and implementation of the park. It was hoped that subject to wider consultation that the masterplan would be adopted by Summer 2018.

In terms of existing parks the Council was looking at parks and play areas across Middlesbrough in order to explore ways in which they could be improved. The only ongoing proposal in Nunthorpe was to remove shrubs and part of the dilapidated fence adjacent to the Avenue Play area.

Councillor Rathmell commented that the removal of shrubs did not provide facilities for children to play on and he queried whether the swings would be reinstated and he advised that some of the existing equipment was damaged.

The Mayor advised that he hoped that these issues would form part of the consultation.

### **3/17 - Question from Councillor Lawton to the Executive Member for Finance and Governance in relation to the dismantling of the Tuxedo Royale.**

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance advised that it seemed to be the case that the Tuxedo Royale was not the responsibility of anyone, but the town was the Council's responsibility. The Executive Member explained that the ship's owners had gone into receivership and the company was subsequently liquidised. The Crown had disclaimed its liability and responsibility given that the ship was hazardous and costly to dispose of, which meant that it had become a Middlesbrough problem.

Able, the landowners have no duty to dispose of, or dismantle the ship and Able and the Council unsuccessfully lobbied all agencies and partners to try and get this moved. to no avail. The Council and Able had subsequently agreed to work together in order to secure the removal of the ship.

The Council have agreed to a maximum contribution of £406,000 (less than a third of the cost), for the dismantling and removal of the Tuxedo Royale from the River Tees with meeting the rest of the cost. The ship was currently resting, partly on Crown land and partly on Able land. Removal of the ship, particularly given its current degraded state, was essential to ensuring that the regeneration of the Middlehaven area continued, the value of the Council's land assets in the area were protected and to protect the local environment.

There were some exciting developments planned for the area such as the Snow Dome, which was anticipated to attract over 2m visitors, the Middlehaven relief road and the Riverside Stadium was located there bringing in many people.

The ship was an eyesore looking from the Transporter Bridge and it conveyed a negative image in respect of the town. Fires had been lit on the ship which had required several fire crews to extinguish them. The ship was now too dangerous to examine and access the damage and it represented all kinds of environmental hazards. A firm of consultants were appointed to carry out an independent review and due diligence assessment of the costs provided by Able. The review had confirmed that the Able cost breakdown represented a true reflection of costs to deconstruct and dispose of the ship, assessed against current market costs and the ship's existing condition.

The detail of the costs were contained in a grey report. Funding would be drawn down in grants throughout the project as the work took place.

The member asked a supplementary question with regard to the health and safety costs related to the removal of asbestos and fibre glass involved in the dismantling of the ship. The member stated that it needed to be looked at in terms of health and safety. He stated that he had independent costs that it would cost £160k to dismantle the ship; £270k income from the sale which represented a net profit of £500k.

The Executive Members stated that she did not recognise the figures but she would look into them if provided. The review by the consultants confirmed that the Able cost breakdown represented a true reflection of costs to deconstruct and dispose of the ship, assessed against current market costs and the ship's existing condition. The Council's contribution represented one third of the total costs.

A member of the public interrupted the meeting again and used abusive language and was asked to leave by the Chair and was cautioned that he would not be able to attend Council meetings in the foreseeable future.

#### **4/17 - Question from Councillor J Young to the Executive Member for Environment and Commercialisation in relation to Newham Grange Farm.**

A member advised that he had met with Mark Saunders, the manager of Newham Grange Farm and he was overwhelmingly positive about the future of the farm, now that the farm was under the management of Middlesbrough Council. He stated that he would like to thank the Executive Member, the Director of Environment and Mark Saunders, his family and the staff at the farm, for the work they had carried out in respect of the farm.

The Executive Member advised that she was pleased to dispel the myths that the land would be sold off for housing, and the Executive Member confirmed that Newham Grange Farm was staying. The Council was looking at proposals and these would be submitted to a future Executive meeting.

**7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Consideration was given to Motion No. 125, moved by Councillor L Young and seconded by Councillor C Rooney of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

'Middlesbrough Council is deeply concerned by the Conservative led Government's plans to close three Tees Valley HMRC offices, which will see 900 skilled jobs leave the city region. This Council supports the efforts of our local Labour MP's and Council Leaders who have written to the Government on this matter. This Council will write to the Government to express its deep concern and ask that these plans be reconsidered.'

A number of members spoke to the motion.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor J Young and seconded by Councillor C Hobson as follows:

'Middlesbrough Council is deeply concerned by the plans being considered by the Conservative Government to close three Tees Valley HMRC offices, which will see 900 skilled jobs leave the city region. This council supports the efforts of our local MP's, council leaders and the Tees Valley Mayor, who have written to the Government on this matter. This Council will write to the Government to express its deep concern and ask that these plans be reconsidered.'

Councillor Jacob Young spoke to the amendment to the motion.

The amendment was put to the vote.

On a vote being taken the amendment was declared **LOST**

The substantive motion was then put.

On a vote being taken the substantive motion was declared **CARRIED**.

Consideration was given to Motion No. 126, moved by Councillor M Walters and seconded by Councillor N Walker of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

'Middlesbrough Council notes that:

- National Joint Council (NJC) basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
- Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage
- There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation.

This Council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and UNITE on behalf of council and school workers subject to the additional costs being provided for in future Local Government and associated funding settlements. This Council also calls on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard.'

A number of members spoke to the motion.

On a vote being taken the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

**8 NOTICE OF URGENT MOTION**

There were no urgent motions for this meeting

9 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to seek Members' approval to nominations for appointment to the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel, arising from vacancies deferred at the Annual Meeting of Council and the Council meeting held on 26 July 2017.

Nominations were sought for the five vacancies remaining on the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel. Nine nominations were received for the five vacant places. Members were asked to consider nominations for appointment arising from the above.

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

1. That the following appointments for the 2017-2018 Municipal Year, nominated at the meeting, be approved and noted, until amended by Council/Executive (whichever was the latter).

**Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel**

Councillors Lewis, McGee, P Purvis, D Rooney and J Walker.

10 **REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE - TEESSIDE PENSION FUND AND INVESTMENT PANEL AND TEESSIDE PENSION BOARD**

The Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support submitted a report, the purpose of which was to revise the terms of reference for the Teesside Pension Fund and Investment Panel and Teesside Pension Board committees, in line with the outcome of a recent review of the governance of the Fund.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance presented the report.

The review of the governance also reviewed the terms of reference for the Panel and Board. As a result of the review the following key changes were proposed:

- The Panel would change its name to the Teesside Pension Fund Committee (the Committee).
- Membership of the Committee would be for four years, fitting in with the electoral cycle.
- The Panel currently had membership availability for scheme members/trade unions, but these were non-voting positions. The Committee would have two voting positions for scheme members/trade unions.
- The Teesside Pension Board Members would serve for a period of four years, with elected Members representing the Fund's scheme employers fitting in with the electoral cycle.
- Pension Board Members would be able to attend Pension Fund Committee meetings as observers, including any exempt items.

The revised terms of reference had been approved by the Panel and Board.

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

- a) The revised terms of reference for the Teesside Pension Fund Committee be approved.
- b) The revised terms of reference for the Teesside Pension Board be approved.
- c) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to update the Council's constitution as a result of approval of these revised terms of reference.

11 **RESPITE OPPORTUNITIES AND SHORT BREAKS CONSULTATION JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A report was submitted which sought agreement for the establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee consisting of representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-upon-Tees Borough Council.

NHS South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG had launched a formal public consultation on proposed changes to respite services for people with a learning disability, complex needs and/or autism. The Joint Committee would be the vehicle through which the respective Local Authorities would respond to the consultation.

A protocol and terms of reference had been drafted setting out the role and function of the joint Committee as well as the proposed representation required from each Council. Early discussions on the issue of representation recommended three Councillors from each local authority to be appointed and that these reflect the political balance of each constituent Council. It was proposed that the membership of the Committee on behalf of Middlesbrough Council, be the same members appointed to the Tees Valley Health Joint Scrutiny Committee (Councillors Dryden, J McGee and D Rooney).

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

That the Council:

- (a) Receive information in respect of the Respite Opportunities and Short Breaks Consultation;
- (b) Agree to the establishment of a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the terms of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 as set out in this report;
- (c) Agree that the proposed protocol, Terms of Reference and membership of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, that will be set up to scrutinise the Respite Opportunities and Short Breaks Consultation be approved.