



Notice of a Meeting of the

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Proceedings of the
Borough Council and reports to Council**

August/September/October 2024

**Councillor Neil Bendelow
Mayor**

**J Sampson
Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)**

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That a meeting of the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will be held on Thursday, 3 October 2024 at 2.00 pm. Please note that this meeting will be held in the Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar, Yorkshire, TS10 1TD.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest.**
- 3. To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2024**
- 4. To note the attendance matrix from the last meeting**
- 5. To receive any Announcements from the Mayor, the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Members.**
- 6. To receive any Announcements from the Managing Director (Head of Paid Service).**
- 7. To consider Questions from the Public for which Notice has been given.**
- 8. To consider and agree any Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees.**

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Minute No</u>	<u>Report Title</u>
A.	25.07.24	Regulatory Committee	161	Review of Statement of Principles for Gambling
B.	17.09.24	Cabinet	57	Financial Update – Quarter 1 – 2024/2025

9. To receive Reports from Portfolio Holders.

A) Report of the Cabinet Member for Children (HEREWITH)

B) Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation (HEREWITH)

(A period of 10 minutes, or such longer period at the discretion of the Mayor, will be set aside for questions which must be succinct and relate directly to matters within the report).

10. To consider Reports.

Reports of the Governance Director and Monitoring Officer:

A) Review of Proportionality and Distribution of Seats (HEREWITH)

11. To consider Motions.

Motion 1.

MOVED by Councillor Learoyd and duly seconded by Councillor Hargreaves that:

"This council reverses the undemocratic, potentially unlawful, and secretive decision made by officers on 25 July 2024, to not defend the appeal lodged by Taylor Wimpey and Earl of Ronaldshay at the planning inquiry for R/2023/0181/FFM (Land Adjacent to Silverdale Gardens) on 8 October 2024."

Motion 2.

MOVED by Councillor Morgan and duly seconded by Councillor Joy that:

"The Council notes the recent announcement by the Labour Government to end universal winter fuel payments and restrict eligibility to only those in receipt of Pension Credits and other benefits.

Though many feel that universal Winter Fuel Payments are not necessary, this council is deeply concerned that many pensioners on lower and middle incomes will now not receive the payments. Across England and Wales the number of people eligible for winter fuel payments will fall by 10 million (from 11.4 million to only 1.5 million).

In Redcar & Cleveland, the number of pensioners affected by the change in eligibility criteria is 25,297. That means 85.5% of pensioners currently eligible for winter fuel payments will no longer be able to claim the payment from this winter onwards.

Council believes that the Labour Government has set the threshold at which pensioners do not qualify for Winter Fuel Payments far too low. Only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 a week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for pension credits. This is significantly lower than the living wage rate.

Council is also concerned by the low take up of pension credit with only 63% of those eligible nationwide receiving them - and over 880,000 pensioners not doing so. Council recognises the role we have to play to increase awareness of benefits such as Pension Credit to ensure people are aware of the support they are entitled to.

Council further notes that the Energy Price Cap is due to rise by 10% in October, which combined by the removal of Winter Fuel Payments will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty.

Council resolves to:

Instruct the Managing Director to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt to be immediately paused and introduce a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments. Council further requests the Managing Director write to all MPs covering Redcar & Cleveland asking them to give their formal support to halting the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility.

- Request all group leaders within Redcar & Cleveland sign a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the new Winter Fuel Payment policy to be suspended and reviewed.
- Redcar & Cleveland Council to urgently commence a significant awareness campaign to maximise uptake of pension credits. This will include use of council noticeboards, social media, promotion in local press and also targeted letters to those who may be eligible.”

Motion 3.

MOVED by Councillor Curr and duly seconded by Councillor Berry:

“Redcar and Cleveland Council notes the Government’s recent decision to restrict Winter Fuel Allowance payments to pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits.

This will affect 25,297 (85.5%) pensioners across Redcar and Cleveland who will lose their annual payment of up to £300 (Source: DWP).

Only those with an income of less than £218.15 per week, or £332.95 for a couple, are eligible for Pension Credit, a sum that is significantly lower than the living wage.

The decision to means-test Winter Fuel payments with no notice and without any compensatory measures is unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and wellbeing of some of our poorest and most vulnerable residents.

The Government's decision fails to consider the administrative barriers to claiming Pension Credit (circa 260 questions to be answered) and the stigma sometimes associated with claiming means-tested benefits.

Redcar and Cleveland Council further notes that the Energy Price Cap is due to rise by 10% in October, which when combined with the removal of Winter Fuel Allowance, is likely to push many of our pensioners into fuel poverty.

We are one of the coldest regions in the country therefore our pensioners will rely more heavily on their heating during the winter than other parts of the country. However, there are a number of ways in which we can support our most vulnerable elderly residents before the coldest months set in. This Council therefore resolves that:

1. The Council writes to the Chancellor to ask the Government to reconsider using such a blunt instrument to make savings at the expense of some of the most vulnerable in our society, and to consider options to broaden eligibility within the means-tested system.
2. The Council writes to the two Members of Parliament, Anna Turley MP and Luke Myer MP, who represent our pensioners in the borough asking them to give their support to reversing the changes to the Winter Fuel payment eligibility by writing to the Chancellor.
3. The Council does all within its power to promote take-up of Pension Credit, including working with the Community and Voluntary Sector such as Age Concern, to help residents to check their eligibility and to help them apply for the benefit.
4. The Cabinet Member for Adults is asked to carry out an impact assessment of the decision to withdraw Winter Fuel payments to those not in receipt of Pension Credit and report back to the Adults Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny and Improvement Committee at its next meeting."

Motion 4.

MOVED by Councillor Thomson and duly seconded by Councillor Smith that:

"In 2022 an independent study of traffic and parking in Saltburn was conducted by WSP/Capita on behalf of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council at the cost of £50,000. This was entitled The Saltburn Transportation Masterplan.

The Council published the study and invited comment from Saltburn residents.

This Council resolves that the proposals in the Capita Report and the response from Saltburn residents now be given due attention and a report detailing the relevant considerations along with detailed proposals and recommendations for implementation be brought to Cabinet for discussion and decision making and that this be done at the earliest date, but within three months.”

Motion 5.

MOVED by Councillor Thomson and duly seconded by Councillor Hannaway that:

“In response to a Full Council motion in 2022 the Council has issued the following;
“MARSKE, NEW MARSKE AND SALTBURN (WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2003 (AMENDMENT) ORDER NO 1 2024.

The order would prevent the parking of motor caravans in sections of Glenside and along Marine Parade between 8pm and 8am daily (Appendix 2a & 2b). A motor caravan would be defined as means a motor vehicle which is constructed or adapted for the carriage of passengers and their effects, and which contains, as permanently installed equipment, the facilities which are reasonably necessary for enabling the vehicle to provide mobile living accommodation for its users (Motorhome Definition from Motor Vehicles (Type Approval) (Great Britain) Regulations 1984)”

In accordance with standard practice residents were invited to register objections and a decision based on responses was made under delegated powers based on the response of a ‘significant majority’ of Saltburn residents objecting and a petition received.

A press release advising of the Council’s decision not to implement the proposed Order advised the decision was based on resident response and the submission of a petition.

Given that the advertising of the Order only invited objections, and the petition did not qualify as a relevant document in accordance with the Council Constitution, it is requested that given the protocol for advertising and requesting response to TRO responses and guidance for evaluating responses is not at all clear, it is requested that Council agrees to review the protocol for TRO promotion and response evaluation, and to do so within six months.”

12. To appoint Members.

Where there are vacancies or changes in appointment:

- To appoint Members of Council Bodies and Representatives to serve on other bodies to which Members are appointed by the Council; and
- To approve any changes to Committee membership and to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs where appropriate.

13. To reply to Questions from Members of the Council.

Questions to the Chair, Members of the Cabinet, Chairs of any Committee or Sub-Committee, Members of the Fire Authority, Police and Crime Panel or the Tees Valley Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee, for which notice has been given.

Question from Councillor Kay to Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council.

“This question is about the absence of planning enforcement, of which I’ve got three cases in my ward. Going by the law of averages, this means there must be at least 150 similar cases throughout the Borough.

Case 1: The Council neglects to use its powers, under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act, to compel a householder to improve land which, undoubtedly, ‘adversely affects the amenity’ of other residents. And this, despite the fact that, in the past, action by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council has been successful against the same person for a similar infringement. Despite numerous complaints from myself, and neighbours, it’s months since any of this Council’s planning or legal officers have even visited the site; let alone commenced enforcement proceedings.

Case 2: Recently, a former chapel was converted, with planning permission, into a domestic dwelling. At the rear, there is a high balcony overlooking a neighbour’s garden. For this reason, it was conditioned that the balcony’s balustrade must be of obscure glass. Despite complaints, and representations by me, this condition has not been adhered to. Again, our senior management obdurately shies away from enforcement.

Case 3: A domestic property is being used to carry out a considerable, obtrusive car sales business on a small housing estate. The drive is often crammed with cars, whilst numerous vehicles, some untaxed, at times spill out on to the adopted highway, including a turning area. Pictures have been sent to Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council. The nearby public highways are used to store both taxed and untaxed vehicles. Despite this obvious non-conforming use our senior management remains studiously disinterested!

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council’s planners, lawyers and members spend hours agonising over planning laws and conditions. But, it appears that this is a toothless, paper exercise.

What’s the point of planning laws and conditions when enforcement is virtually non-existent?

The evidence is that you can do whatever you like, to the detriment of your neighbours, without any fear of investigation or redress!”



JOHN SAMPSON

Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

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25 September 2024.