

BOROUGH COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024

**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Borough Council was held on Thursday, 29 February 2024 in the Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar, Yorkshire, TS10 1TD.

**PRESENT** His Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor M Head),  
Councillors I Attwood, L Belshaw, P Berry, A Brook,  
A Brown, C Cawley, B Clarke, P Chaney, J Craven,  
G Cutler, W Davies, U Earl, K Evans, M Fairley,  
M Fletcher, T Gray, P Grogan, C Hannaway,  
N Hargreaves, I Hart, J Hart, B Hunt, G Jeffery, C Jones,  
J Joy, S Kay, K King, J Lavan, T Learoyd, S Martin,  
C Massey, J McCue, P McInnes, C Morgan, L Myer,  
G Nightingale, M O'Donoghue, M Ovens, L Pallister,  
D Powlay, C Pugh, C Quartermain, C Richardson,  
V Rider, L Rynn, P Salvin, Stuart Smith, B Suthers,  
J Symon, D Taylor, J Thompson, P Thomson and  
L White.

**OFFICIALS** E Dale, A Pearson, B Archer, K Boulton, S Newton,  
P Rice, J Sampson, C Styles and P Winstanley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors  
N Bendelow, R Clark, C Curr, J Neal and A Oliver.

57 **To receive Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Joy declared an interest in all matters relating to Guisborough Eco Group as a member of Guisborough Eco Group.

Councillor Rider declared an interest in all matters relating to Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council as a member of the Parish Council.

Councillor Smith declared an interest in all matters relating to Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council as a member of the Parish Council.

58 **To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2023.**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the following corrections:-

Question 5 was a question from Councillor Thomson and not Councillor Thompson.

Question 2 the answer from Councillor Quartermain fourth paragraph to

read abstraction not obstruction.

59 **To note the attendance matrix from the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the attendance matrix be noted.

60 **To receive any Announcements from the Mayor, the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Members.**

The Mayor thanked those Councillors who had made a nomination for this year's Mayor's Community Achievement Awards, the Awards would take place on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March in the Council Chamber.

The Mayor also advised that his Charity Ball would take place on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April at Gisborough Hall. All proceeds would be going to Footprints in the Community, who provided foodbanks and a variety of services to help with isolation and poverty and The Junction Foundation which supported Children and Young Families. He hoped that Members would be able to attend to support these worthy causes or donate a prize for the raffle.

**Leader's Announcements.**

Since we last met, we have announced details of two great events for the public.

Elite-level cyclists will return to our borough for the East Cleveland Classic in April. We will host both the men's and women's races, which will start and finish in Saltburn and go through East Cleveland.

Previous cycling events have been really popular with the public and I'm sure people will turn out once again to watch the riders as they pass through where they live.

In May, a new kite festival will be held on Redcar seafront.

The festival will feature spectacular displays by kite experts and the opportunity for members of the public to learn the skills of flying a kite.

There will also be food and entertainment to make it a great day out for the family.

With the return of music on the beach at Majuba, it is shaping up to a good year for events.

Residents will have the opportunity to take up food and drink offers during this year's Taste of Redcar and Cleveland promotion.

The promotion provides special offers for families to enjoy quality food and drink at any one of 32 businesses which have signed up to take part. It runs until March 10 and I'm sure it will be as popular as it has

been in previous years.

Our public park tennis courts will be refurbished after we secured more than £170,000 of funding from the Lawn Tennis Association

We would like all our residents to have the opportunity to be active and this investment means they will have quality facilities to try their hand at tennis.

Our staff will be working hard to restore the Saltburn Cliff Tramway to working order.

Members will be aware of the fire last month which badly damaged the tramway. We've now had the opportunity to assess the damage, which is as serious as we feared.

It will be an extensive job to restore the tramway and it is too early to say when it will re-open, but we will aim to have it working again as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to praise our staff who have, once again, taken decisive action to keep the public safe.

Our colleagues in Trading Standards investigated the sale of illegal cigarettes, tobacco and vapes and this led to two businesses being closed down.

A great deal of work goes into these investigations and then working closely with our legal team to bring the cases to court.

It is another great result and a clear message to the small minority of business which break the law.

61 **To receive any Announcements from the Managing Director (Head of Paid Service).**

The Managing Director reminded Members that there would be a recorded vote in relation to the Budget Proposals

62 **To consider Questions from the Public for which Notice has been given.**

No questions from the public had been received.

63 **To consider and agree any Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees.**

**Budget Proposals – 2024/25.**

The Council considered and received a report presented by Councillor

Massey and duly seconded by Councillor Brown that set out Cabinet's budget proposals for the forthcoming 2024/25 financial year along with an indicative medium term financial plan through to 2028/29, for the Borough Council to then consider for formal approval.

In addition to this report, a supplement was circulated which advised that the original report estimated government funding levels based on the provisional Local Government finance settlement which was published on 18 December 2023.

Subsequently, on the 24 January 2024, Government announced £600m additional funding for Local Authorities, in addition to that provided in the provisional Local Government finance settlement. The main element of the additional funding was £500m allocated in the Social Care Grant, to support authorities with social care responsibilities. Other elements included an additional £15m for the Rural Services Delivery Grant and an increase in the funding guarantee so that all Local Authorities would see a minimum 4% in their Core Spending Power, before taking any local decisions on raising Council Tax.

Cabinet were advised that Individual Local Authority allocations of this additional funding would not be confirmed until the final local government finance settlement was published in early February 2024. However, it was estimated that this Council's share of the additional funding could be c£1.5m.

The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) reminded Cabinet that although the funding was welcomed it did not resolve the ongoing financial challenges facing the Council or change the nature of the 2024/25 Budget report and the Chief Finance Officer's assurances within it. The additional funding was assumed to be one-off for 2024/25, and whilst reduced, there remained a c£0.7m budget gap for 2024/25 based on current proposals.

Cabinet were also advised that further savings and solutions would still need to be identified subsequent to the approval of the 2024/25 Budget Proposals.

The motion was put to a recorded vote whereupon the voting was as follows:-

**FOR:** Councillors Attwood, Belshaw, Brook, Brown, Cawley, Chaney, Clarke, Craven, Davies, Earl, Evans, Fairley, Hannaway, I Hart, Head, G Jeffery, Jones, Joy, Kay, King, Lavan, Massey, McCue, Morgan, Myer, Nightingale, O'Donoghue, Ovens, Pallister, Quartermain, Richardson, Rynn, Smith, Suthers, Taylor, Thompson and White.

**AGAINST:** Councillors Berry, Cutler, Fletcher, Gray, Grogan, Hargreaves, J Hart, Hunt, Martin, McInnes, Powlay, Pugh, Rider, Salvin, Symon and Thomson.

**ABSTENTION:** Councillor Learoyd.

**RESOLVED** that : -

1. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which sets a balanced budget for the 2024/25 financial year and an indicative medium-term position through to 2028/29, consisting of the following main components be approved, including an amendment to government funding levels once confirmed in the final local government financial settlement, and a corresponding adjustment to the level of reserves:
  - A Medium-Term Financial Strategy, incorporating the Driving Change efficiencies programme (as set out in Appendix 3 and not reproduced), and including:
    - A 2.99% council tax increase for 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 6 and not reproduced).
    - A 2.00% adult social care precept increase for 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 6 and not reproduced).
    - A proposal to implement from 01 April 2025 additional premiums for council tax on long-term empty properties and periodically occupied dwellings as set out in the report.
  - For Business Rates
    - the National Non-Domestic Rates Return (NNDR1) 2024/25 (£41.165million) as the business rates base position for the Borough, with the Council's share of £20.711 million factored into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (as set out in Appendix 8b not reproduced).
    - the forecast surplus position on the Collection Fund for 2023/24 of £0.124 million.
    - The Council's proportionate share is £0.061 million (as set out in Appendix 8c not reproduced).
  - The setting of a General Reserve position of £6.626 million (as set out in Appendix 4 not reproduced)
  - The required council tax amounts and revenue allocations, applicable for Redcar & Cleveland Council (as set out in Appendix 6 not reproduced).
  - An affordable medium term Capital Investment Programme, including a revised 2023/24 position (as set out in Appendix 9 not reproduced)).
  - A Treasury Management Strategy that sets the authorised limit for external debt for 2024/25 at £299.575 million (as set out in Appendix 10 not reproduced)), as supported by the Governance Committee.
  - A revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for 2023/24 and the policy for 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 10 not reproduced)), as supported by the Governance Committee.
  - A Policy for flexible use of capital receipts for 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 11 not reproduced).

## **Pay Policy Statement 2024/25.**

The Council considered and received a report presented by Councillor Massey and duly seconded by Councillor Brown that sought approval for a revised Pay Policy Statement for the year 2024/25 to ensure the Council's compliance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. This legislation requires Local Authorities to prepare an annual Pay Policy Statement for publication which sets out their policies on:

- the remuneration of its senior executives;
- the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees; and
- the relationship between:
  - (i) the remuneration of its senior executives, and ,
  - (ii) the remuneration of the remainder of the workforce.

The report also sought agreement for an uplift to the Council's Redcar and Cleveland Minimum Wage Supplement, and included a report on the current position in terms of the Council's gender pay gap.

### **RESOLVED** that:

1. The draft Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 be approved for publication;
2. An uplift of the Redcar and Cleveland Minimum Wage Supplement from £10.90 to £12.00 per hour with effect from 1 April 2024 be approved;
3. The position in terms of the pay multiple and the current situation regarding and unchanged gender pay gap in favour of female staff be noted; and,
4. It be noted that as the gender pay gap calculations are complex and may require minor adjustment/refinement at a later stage, in which case an update will be published.

## **Members' Allowance Scheme 2024/26.**

The Council considered and received a report presented by Councillor Massey and duly seconded by Councillor Brown that set out details of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme following its most recent review.

**AMENDMENT MOVED** by Councillor Thomson and duly seconded by Councillor Hannaway that given that the review process conducted by the Independent Review Panel (IRP) supports the principles of 'managing public money well' and 'keeping the Council financially stable' and 'allows the Council to be transparent' and invites 'Members' own proposals', 'subject to reasonableness', it is proposed that the IRP recommendations be amended to include 'That all Elected Members granted a Parking Permit should be expected to pay the appropriate cost of the permit'.

It was noted that this was already provided for in the scheme and with the agreement of the meeting the amendment was withdrawn.

**RESOLVED** that the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations be approved namely:

In respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme, Borough Council is recommended to approve the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations, namely:

(1) Further qualifying criteria be applied to the Group Leaders' Special Responsibility Allowance, namely that:

- The threshold for the size of group in order for the Group Leader to qualify for a Group Leader Special Responsibility Allowance should increase from five to ten.
- The Leader of the ruling group would claim the Council Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance and there would be no further Group Leader allowance available to a member of that group.
- The number of Group Leader Allowances (in addition to the Leader's Allowance) be limited three.

(2) All other elements of the scheme remain unchanged.

### **Children in Our Care and Care Leavers Update Report.**

The Cabinet Member for Children updated Members on the work undertaken by the Council's Children in our Care and Resource Service.

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor Suthers and duly seconded by Councillor Brown that the information in the report be noted.

### 64 **To receive Reports from Portfolio Holders.**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults.

Councillor Belshaw presented a report which gave an update on her portfolio and answered Member's questions in relation to it :- **NOTED.**

### 65 **To consider Reports.**

Members were requested to endorse the proposed changes to the distribution of seats on Committees and Boards as a result of recent changes in political proportionality.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed distribution of seats to the different Political Groups as set out in the report be agreed.

At this point in the meeting it was agreed that Standing Orders be

suspended to allow the meeting to proceed beyond three hours.

66 **To consider Motions.**

**MOVED** by Councillor Salvin and duly seconded by Councillor Hargreaves that this Council:

- supports the return of steel production to Teesside;
- Notes that the 16-week determination period for this application is a maximum and not a minimum time period for an application to be heard;
- Notes that at the time of submitting this motion there had been **NO OBJECTIONS** to planning application (R/2023/0793/ESM);
- Notes that there are no legal reasons why this application cannot be considered at the planning meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March;
- Notes that should the application be delayed; it may risk hundreds of new steel production jobs and the return of steel production to Teesside; and
- Resolves that planning application R/2023/0793/ESM be added to the agenda for consideration by Regulatory Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor Salvin and duly seconded by Councillor Hargreaves that this Council:

- supports the return of Steel production to Teesside;
- Notes that the 16-week determination period for this application is a maximum and not a minimum time period for an application to be heard;
- Notes that at the time of submitting this motion there had been **NO OBJECTIONS** to planning application (R/2023/0793/ESM);
- Notes that there are no legal reasons why this application cannot be considered at the planning meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March;
- Notes that should the application be delayed; it may risk hundreds of new steel production jobs and the return of steel production to Teesside; and
- Resolves that planning application R/2023/0793/ESM be added to the agenda for consideration by Regulatory Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

67 **To appoint Members.**

**RESOLVED:-**

1. That the changes to committee membership outlined at 1 to 3 below be approved;
2. That the changes outlined at 4-10 below be advised.
3. That Councillor Alec Brown replaces Councillor Jade Lavan on Sir



Williams Turners Hospital.

**Climate and Environment Scrutiny & Improvement Committee**

1. Councillor Barry Hunt to remain on Committee as Independent Group representative.

**Regulatory Committee**

2. Councillor Martin Fletcher to remain on the Committee as Independent Group representative.

**Corporate Parenting Board**

3. Councillor Lisa Belshaw to fill the vacancy on Corporate Parenting Board

**Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee**

4. Labour Group Councillor (tbc) to fill vacancy

**Corporate Resources Scrutiny & Improvement Committee**

5. Labour Group Councillor (tbc) to fill vacancy

**Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee**

6. Independent Group Councillor (tbc) to replace Councillor Graham Cutler

**Governance Committee**

7. Independent Group Councillor (tbc) to fill the vacancy on Governance Committee

**Employment, Health and Safety Committee**

8. Independent Group Councillor (tbc) to fill the vacancy on Employment, Health and Safety Committee

**Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny**

9. Independent Group Councillor (tbc) to fill the vacancy on Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

**Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

10. Independent Group Councillor (tbc) to replace Councillor Martin Fletcher

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

**The Mayor announced that due to the lack of time Councillors Ovens, Joy, and Thomson would be given a written response to their questions.**

**Q3. Question from Councillor Learoyd to Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council**

“Will the Leader and Cabinet please sign a letter to Historic England calling on all relevant finds at the South of Marske to be scheduled and protected, so that future generations can learn about North East

Yorkshire's until now largely forgotten past?"

**The Leader replied as follows:-**

"Historic England will be the decision maker on whether any areas on the Land South of Marske will be Scheduled due to their archaeological merit. This will depend on what is actually found on the site as the archaeology is assessed over the coming weeks/months. The Council does not have any role in this decision making process so will rightly reserve the decision for Historic England to make. Bearing this in mind, Elected Members will consider the content of any letter presented and after due consideration, decide to sign at the appropriate time."

**Supplementary Question by Councillor Learoyd:**

"The areas planned for the site and development were outside the Limits to Development of Marske-by-the-Sea being over the railway line and as recommended in all the Local Plans in the past. Will the Cabinet please consider calling the area which is south of the railway line not Marske-by-the-Sea but South of Marske?"

**The Leader replied as follows:-**

"I called it South of Marske in the answer to your original question."

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.