

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

1 March 2012

At the Extraordinary meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday 1 March 2012 at 6.00pm in the Chamber at Quadrant at which a quorum of members were present, that is to say:

Present

Councillor J J Stirling (In the Chair)

Mrs L Arkley (Elected Mayor)

Councillor J M Allan	Councillor D W Lilly
Councillor A Arkle	Councillor F Lott
Councillor Mrs G Barrie	Councillor M L Madden
Councillor K Barrie	Councillor P Mason
Councillor Mrs J M Bell	Councillor D McGarr
Councillor L Birkenfield	Councillor M McIntyre
Councillor G Brett	Councillor Mrs P McIntyre
Councillor P Brooks	Councillor J McLaughlin
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor D McLellan
Councillor W Caithness	Councillor L J Miller
Councillor K A Conroy	Councillor Mrs S E Mortimer
Councillor D E Corkey	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor A Cowie	Councillor A Normand
Councillor S Cox	Councillor D Ord
Councillor C Croft	Councillor K Osborne
Councillor E N Darke	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor L Darke	Councillor G Partis
Councillor S Day	Councillor Mrs N Peggs
Councillor M A Finlay	Councillor C B Pickard
Councillor C A Gambling	Councillor M G Rankin
Councillor R Glindon	Councillor N Redfearn
Councillor I Grayson	Councillor J Rutherford
Councillor M A Green	Councillor D Sarin
Councillor J L L Harrison	Councillor L A Spillard
Councillor S Hill	Councillor Mrs B E Stevens
Councillor E F J Hodson	Councillor A Waggott-Fairley
Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor J I Walker
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor Mrs J A Wallace
Councillor M Huscroft	Councillor G C Westwater
Councillor M J Huscroft	

C134/02/12 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence reported.

C135/02/12 Declarations of Interest

Further to the updated list of Members' interests that was circulated at the meeting, which were taken as read, the following additional declarations of interest were made in relation to the item below (Minute C136/02/12):

Councillor Mrs J Bell – personal interest – she knows someone who works for North Tyneside Council.

Councillor M Rankin – prejudicial interest – his partner works for North Tyneside Council.

Mr G Haywood, Interim Chief Executive – declared an interest in the Alternative proposal to terminate his contract.

C136/02/12 2012-2015 Council Strategic Plan, the 2012/13 General Fund Revenue Budget, Council Tax Requirement and Council Tax Level, the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13 and the 2012-2022 Capital Plan

(Councillor M Rankin withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion and vote on this item).

The Chair explained the procedure that would be followed at the meeting. He indicated that he proposed to allow the Mayor up to 10 minutes to move the Mayor and Cabinet's proposals and the mover of any alternative proposal up to 10 minutes to move such amendment and also to allow the Mayor up to 10 minutes to exercise her right of reply at the end of the debate.

This was a departure from the Council's normal rules of debate which the Chair proposed to adopt for this meeting.

It was moved and duly seconded that Council Procedure Rule 12(5) (Content and Length of Speeches) be suspended.

The Council agreed.

A report was submitted to Council which detailed the following:

- (a) The 2012-2015 Council Strategic Plan;
- (b) The Elected Mayor and Cabinet's Budget and Council Tax Requirement Resolution in order to set the 2012/13 General Fund Revenue Budget and 2012/13 Council Tax Requirement and the Council Tax level for 2012/13;
- (c) The Elected Mayor and Cabinet's proposals for the 2012-2022 Capital Plan, including prudential indicators for 2012/13 in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Prudential Framework and

the proposed Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy in line with capital finance regulations; and,

- (d) The Elected Mayor and Cabinet's proposals for the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13.

The report detailed the Mayor's responses to the Council's Objections that had been agreed at the 21 February 2012 Council meeting, as follows:

Labour Group Objections from Council, 21 February 2012

The Elected Mayor had felt it was clear that some of the proposals put forward were not deliverable. An example in relation to the staff terms and conditions had been given, citing that these were not possible without coming out of the National Agreement and that the Trades Unions had indicated their unwillingness to negotiate on this.

The Elected Mayor had stated that the proposals to reduce capital spend had not been clearly thought through, stating that the proposals would not boost the local economy.

Concern had also been expressed by the Elected Mayor that she felt the proposals would have the potential to damage front-line services and to lose jobs, which could be protected by pursuing the Business and Technical Packages.

Based on these disagreements, the Cabinet had rejected all of the individual objection items raised in the Labour Group's Notice of Objection.

Liberal Democrat Objections from Council, 21 February 2012

The Elected Mayor had felt that some of the proposals put forward in the Liberal Democrat Notice of Objection were not deliverable. An example had been given in relation to the proposals around changes to the terms and conditions of staff.

The Elected Mayor had expressed disappointment that she felt some of the proposals put forward were ill thought through. An example had been given of the Mouth of the Tyne Festival, where it was not only a showcase event for the borough but brought huge benefits to the economy. The Elected Mayor had stressed that she wanted North Tyneside to be a vibrant place and for people to feel good about what they had seen and heard and to take this event away would be counter-productive.

The Elected Mayor had further felt that the Objection put forward a narrow view, as evidenced, she felt, by the suggestion that all capital spending should be put into one part of the borough. The Elected Mayor had stated that the Council should look at how the budget should be spent across the borough for each resident.

Based on these disagreements, the Cabinet had rejected all of the individual objection items raised in the Liberal Democrat Group's Notice of Objection.

An alternative budget proposal to the Mayor's Council Strategic Plan and Budget proposals was submitted by the Labour and Liberal Democratic Groups.

It was moved by Councillor J M Allan and seconded by Councillor C Croft that the Budget and Council Strategic Plan proposals, set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved as the Council's Alternative Budget and Council Strategic Plan proposal.

Prior to the proposal being debated, there was a short adjournment.

Members asked questions on the Alternative Budget proposal, which were responded to appropriately. The proposal was then debated.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 40 votes to 20 votes.

It was then moved by Mrs L Arkley, Elected Mayor and seconded by Councillor Mrs J A Wallace that Council:

- (a) notes the guidance set out in the report (paragraphs 1.5.1 to 1.5.4);
- (b) agrees the Elected Mayor's responses to the Council's Objections from 21 February 2012 Council meeting;
- (c) agrees the 2012-2015 Council Strategic Plan (attached as Appendix A to the original 2 February 2012 Report to Council and 21 February 2012 Report to Council), which now takes into consideration the further comments received from the engagement process up until 31 January 2012 and the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Budget and Council Strategic Plan Sub Group;
- (d) agrees the recommendations and delegations set down in paragraph 1.5.20 of the report in relation to the 2012/13 General Fund Revenue Account Budget, 2012/13 Council Tax Requirement and Council Tax level for 2012/13, being the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's Budget and Council Tax Requirement Resolution;
- (e) agrees the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's proposals for the 2012-2022 Capital Plan, including prudential indicators for 2012/13 in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Prudential Framework and the proposed Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy in line with capital finance regulations, as set out in the original 2 February 2012 Report to Council and 21 February 2012 Report to Council and Appendix J to that report. This excludes Housing which was previously agreed at Council on 15 February 2012.
- (f) agrees the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's proposals for the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13 as detailed in the original report to Council on 2 February 2012 and 21 February Report to Council and Appendix L to that report;
- (g) agrees the prudential indicators for 2012/13 set down in the original report to Council on 2 February 2012 and additional indicator set down in paragraphs 1.5.9 to 1.5.12 of 21 February 2012 Report to Council, in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Prudential Framework; and
- (h) agrees the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (MRP) for 2012/13 set down in the original 2 February 2012 Report to Council in line with capital finance regulations.

Members asked questions on the Motion, which were responded to appropriately. The Motion was then debated.

It was then moved by Councillor J M Allan and seconded by Councillor C Croft that the Alternative Budget and Council Strategic Plan proposal, set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved as the Council's Budget and Council Strategic Plan for 2012/13.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the Alternative proposal and to debate the proposal.

Two Members present requested a recorded vote on the Alternative proposal in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 (5).

Votes for the Alternative proposal

Councillors J Allan, A Arkle, G Brett, P Brooks, B Burdis, B Caithness, K Conroy, D Corkey, A Cowie, S Cox, C Croft, E N Darke, L Darke, S Day, M A Finlay, C Gambling, R Glindon, I Grayson, M Green, J Harrison, S Hill, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, M Huscroft, M J Huscroft, F Lott, D McGarr, M Madden, T Mulvenna, A Normand, D Ord, K Osborne, J O'Shea, B Pickard, N Redfearn, J Rutherford, L Spillard, J Stirling, A Waggott-Fairley and J Walker.

Votes against the Alternative proposal

Mrs L Arkley, Elected Mayor, Councillors Mrs G Barrie, K Barrie, Mrs J Bell, L Birkenfield, E F J Hodson, D W Lilly, M McIntyre, Mrs P McIntyre, Mrs J McLaughlin, D McLellan, P Mason, L J Miller, Mrs S E Mortimer, G Partis, N Peggs, D Sarin, Mrs B Stevens, Mrs J A Wallace and G C Westwater.

The Alternative proposal, on being put to the meeting, was approved in accordance with Part 4.7 3 (g) of the Constitution by 40 votes to 20 votes.

C137/02/12 Common Seal

Resolved that the Common Seal be affixed to all deeds and documents required for carrying into effect the various decisions of the Council made since its last meeting.