

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

26 July 2012

At the Reconvened meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday 26 July 2012 at 6.00pm in the Chamber at Quadrant at which a quorum of members were present, that is to say:

Present

Councillor F Lott (In the Chair)

Mrs L Arkley (Elected Mayor)

Councillor A Arkle	Councillor D W Lilly
Councillor A Austin	Councillor G Madden
Councillor K Barrie	Councillor M Madden
Councillor G Bell	Councillor P Mason
Councillor P Brooks	Councillor D McGarr
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor Mrs P McIntyre
Councillor W Caithness	Councillor J McLaughlin
Councillor K A Conroy	Councillor A McMullen
Councillor D Corkey	Councillor L J Miller
Councillor A Cowie	Councillor Mrs S E Mortimer
Councillor S Cox	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor L Darke	Councillor A Normand
Councillor C Davis	Councillor P Oliver
Councillor S Day	Councillor D Ord
Councillor M Finlay	Councillor K Osborne
Councillor C A Gambling	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor R Glindon	Councillor C B Pickard
Councillor S Graham	Councillor M G Rankin
Councillor I R Grayson	Councillor N Redfearn
Councillor M A Green	Councillor D Sarin
Councillor S Hill	Councillor L A Spillard
Councillor E Hodson	Councillor J J Stirling
Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor A Waggott-Fairley
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor J I Walker
Councillor M Huscroft	Councillor Mrs J A Wallace
Councillor N J Huscroft	Councillor G Westwater
Councillor C Johnson	

C35/07/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J M Allan, E N Darke, J L L Harrison, J Munby, J Pickard, and J Rutherford.

C36/07/12 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Item 11 – 36 Hour Working Week

Councillor F Lott – non-registerable interest – stepson works for North Tyneside Council.

Councillor C Davis – non-registerable interest – member of Unison.

Councillor T Mulvenna – non-registerable interest – relative works for North Tyneside Council.

Councillor C Gambling – non-registerable interest – brother works for North Tyneside Council.

Councillor R Glindon – non-registerable interest – daughter-in-law works for North Tyneside Council.

Councillor M Rankin – non-registerable interest – partner works for North Tyneside Council and was directly affected by the proposal.

Item 14 – Independent Review of the Provision of Support to the Role of Elected Mayor of North Tyneside

Councillor Mrs J A Wallace informed Council that she and all members of the Conservative Group had a registerable personal interest as they were members of the Conservative Party.

Mrs L Arkley, Elected Mayor - registerable personal interest – member of the Conservative Party.

C37/07/12 Draft Core Strategy: Preferred Options: Further Consultations on Growth Options (Previous Minute C34/07/12)

Consideration of this item had been deferred from the rearranged Council meeting held on 4 July 2012 in order to provide Council with supplementary information on the implications for the Council of the amendment that had been moved by Councillor J M Allan and seconded by Councillor N Redfearn at that meeting, as follows:

‘An additional Recommendation (4) be included in the Report to read:
“That this Council supports Option 3, as detailed on page 33 of the Report, as the preferred Growth Option”.’

An Addendum report, containing the supplementary information in relation to the implications of the amendment, was introduced by Mrs L Arkley, Elected Mayor.

It was moved by Councillor D Corkey and seconded by Councillor N Redfearn that:

‘The amendment by movers of the motion at the 4 July 2012 Council meeting be withdrawn and replaced with Option 2, as detailed on page 38 of the main Report, as follows:

‘Council Note the ‘Report of Consultation’ on the CSPO Growth Options and await submission of the Draft, together with views of Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for consideration by Council.’

Council agreed.

The motion, as amended, on being put to the meeting, was approved.

C38/07/12 Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget – Implementation Plan

Council agreed to note the report at this stage and reserve any discussion on the updated version of the Implementation Plan as included in the agenda for the second meeting of the Council immediately following this reconvened meeting.

C39/07/12 36 Hour Working Week

[Councillors F Lott, C Gambling, R Glendon and M Rankin withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion on the above item.]

[Councillor Janet Hunter in the Chair]

Council considered a report which advised Members about the outcome of the consultation exercise that had been carried out with Trades Unions on the proposal in the Council’s agreed Budget 2012/13 for the introduction of a 36 hour working week for Council employees.

The Trade Unions had indicated that they were not prepared to agree to any change to a term and condition of employment contained within National Agreements that had been negotiated at a national level.

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

‘Council note the outcome of the consultation and on this basis agree that the proposed reduction in the working week to 36 hours for Council employees is not taken forward.’

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 13 votes to 0 votes.

C40/07/12 Voluntary Reduction in Salary

[Councillor F Lott in the Chair]

Council considered a report which advised Members about the outcome of a consultation exercise carried out with employees earning £50,000 and above seeking their views to a voluntary reduction of salary of 10% as part of the budget proposals agreed by Council on

1 March 2012 and to explain the contribution to cutting costs already made by the Council's Senior Leadership Team.

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

'Council:

- (1) Note the action already taken by the Senior Leadership Team; and
- (2) Note the outcome of the consultation with employees earning £50,000 and above and confirm the position that this Budget 2012/13 proposal has not been able to be implemented due to the fact that it was on a voluntary basis and would be in addition to significant savings already made.'

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 13 votes to 0 votes.

C41/07/12 Exclusion Resolution - Consideration of the Independent Review of the Provision of Support to the Role of the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside (Previous Minute C143/03/12)

It was moved by Councillor N Redfearn and duly seconded that:

'The Exclusion Resolution and Report on the Independent Review of the Provision of Support to the Role of the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside be dealt with at the end of the second meeting of the Council immediately following this reconvened meeting.'

The Council agreed.

C42/07/12 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.

C43/07/12 Chair's Announcements

The Chair informed Council that between the Annual Meeting and the last Council meeting he had attended events and functions at various places. These had included:

- Duke of Edinburgh event – Duke of Edinburgh Jubilee Awards Ceremony
- Tynemouth and District Scout Council 103 AGM
- Royal Garden Party
- Torch Bearers' Reception
- Armed Forces Day Event (NTC)
- Tyne and Wear Lieutenancy - Armed Forces Diamond Jubilee Gala Day (Newcastle)
- Tyne and Wear Lieutenancy - Jubilee Reception and Military Tattoo (Sunderland)
- Armed Forces Day Concert - Forest Hall British Legion
- Chairman's Jubilee Award Commendation Ceremony
- Learning Disability Federation Roadshow

C44/07/12 Elected Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that due to the extent of business to be considered at this meeting, she would reserve her announcements to the second meeting of the Council.

C45/07/12 Questions by Members of the Council

Councillors M Huscroft and N J Huscroft who had received written responses to questions submitted to the 28 June Council meeting (rearranged for 4 July) in relation to Wallsend Customer Service Centre and various planning matters respectively, which were not included on the agenda, were each invited to ask a supplementary question following their written response.

Councillor N J Huscroft asked the following supplementary question:

'£250,000 is the figure given for costs awarded to date for planning appeals started between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2012. Because of those costs, what services have been damaged and what budget have the costs come out of?'

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

'The money has come out of the Strategic Reserve as we do not have a budget for these costs.'

Councillor M Huscroft asked the following supplementary question:

'In view of the continuing problems at the Wallsend Customer Service Centre, will the Mayor give an assurance that the operation of the Customer Service Centre will continue to be monitored and that all elected Members from Wallsend wards, are kept informed of the situation at the Customer Service Centre, together with any progress made with regard to a Joint Service Centre for Wallsend?'

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

'Yes, I give that undertaking.'

1. The following question was asked of the Elected Mayor by Councillor M Finlay

'Could the Mayor inform Council of the effect of the increase in charges for removing bulky waste from residents' properties?'

Councillor E Hodson replied on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

'The charges for the removal of bulky waste were reviewed and new charges were introduced from 4 April 2011.

Since this time the number of collections has fallen by around 70% although the volume of material has only reduced by 50%. This suggests that residents are using the service as intended - for the collection of bigger loads. This means that we have been able to reorganise the service making the collections more efficient.

We have seen a small increase in material being received into our Household Waste Recycling Centre, where over 60% of the material is separated for recycling. Overall in the last year household waste collected has fallen by around 2,000 tonnes.'

Councillor Finlay asked the following supplementary question:

'As a result of this, residents are complaining about the dumping of rubbish in back lanes. Would you agree that the increased charges are leading to more dumping of waste?'

Councillor Hodson replied as follows:

'I have not got that impression. It's against the law to dump and it is a behavioural issue and something we will need to monitor.'

2. The following question was asked of the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Ord

'What progress has been made of providing a supermarket on the Forum Site?'

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

'Councillor Ord will recall that New River acquired the Forum in late 2010 and I have been working on plans to develop the shopping centre since then in close working with the Council. On April 17, New River announced to the Stock Market that they had acquired the former Co-op building to invest £1.5m in order to convert it into four retail units, highlighting their commitment to Wallsend.

Since buying the site, I have met New River representatives on a number of occasions, most recently last week, for a personal update on progress with their investment plans. I continue to impress on them the importance of this development, which they acknowledge, although it remains a very complex commercial project.'

Questions 3-6 relate to works taking place in Richardson Dees Park.

The following questions were asked of the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Ord:

3. 'Could the Mayor inform us of the delays to progress on the current works taking place in Richardson Dees Park which was supposed to start at the end of January?'
4. 'Where does the responsibility for delay lie?'
5. 'The Bowling Club in Wallsend is being charged £90 as a contribution to the increased costs incurred by delays to the work. Why should the Bowling Club be financially penalised when the delay was not of their making?'
6. 'Who is taking the financial responsibility for the increased costs in the project?'

Councillor G Westwater replied to questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

'I know, as a member of the Wallsend Parks Project Board, Councillor Ord is very familiar with the project so I hope he will not mind if I answer all four questions in one.'

The Wallsend Parks Project is in two phases and is due to be completed by August 2013. The Phase 1 works to the core facilities within the Park started on 27th February 2012. This was a little later than planned as additional work to associated utilities was identified which needed to be complete before the main works began. Since then the work has remained on track.

Overall responsibility for the project lies with our Head of Cultural and Customer Services. A project team of relevant officers and the partners delivering the project handle the day to day work.

We expect the whole project to be completed in line with the deadline agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project cost remains in line with the amount agreed by Cabinet on 11th October 2011.

The overall costs of the project have not increased and the bowling club are not contributing to the project costs. They are paying £90 to use temporary facilities, provided at their request, in order to continue to use the bowling greens. In recognition of the temporary nature of the facilities this fee is half the usual amount paid by the club.'

Councillor Ord asked the following supplementary question:

'I understand completion of the scheme is due at the end of December 2012 and not August 2013. Is this correct?'

Councillor G Westwater replied as follows:

'The scheme is due to be completed in two phases, the first phase in December 2012 and the second phase in August 2013.'