

## Local Government Act 1972

### Borough of North Tyneside

4 February 2016

At the Extraordinary meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday 4 February 2016 at 6.00 pm in The Chamber at Quadrant at which a quorum of Members were present, that is to say: -

#### Present

Councillor G Bell (In the Chair)  
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Councillor J M Allan      | Councillor C Johnson         |
| Councillor A Arkle        | Councillor D Lilly           |
| Councillor Mrs A Austin   | Councillor F Lott            |
| Councillor L Bell         | Councillor W Lott            |
| Councillor K L Bolger     | Councillor G Madden          |
| Councillor B Burdis       | Councillor P Mason           |
| Councillor C A Burdis     | Councillor D McGarr          |
| Councillor J Cassidy      | Councillor Mrs P McIntyre    |
| Councillor S L Cox        | Councillor D McMeekan        |
| Councillor EN Darke       | Councillor A McMullen        |
| Councillor L Darke        | Councillor LJ Miller         |
| Councillor C Davis        | Councillor Mrs S E Mortimer  |
| Councillor S Day          | Councillor T Mulvenna        |
| Councillor D Drummond     | Councillor A Newman          |
| Councillor P Earley       | Councillor K Osborne         |
| Councillor R Glindon      | Councillor N A Percy         |
| Councillor S Graham       | Councillor C B Pickard       |
| Councillor I Grayson      | Councillor J Pickard         |
| Councillor M A Green      | Councillor M Rankin          |
| Councillor M Hall         | Councillor M Reynolds        |
| Councillor J L L Harrison | Councillor L A Spillard      |
| Councillor E F J Hodson   | Councillor J Stirling        |
| Councillor Janet Hunter   | Councillor M Thirlaway       |
| Councillor John Hunter    | Councillor A Waggott-Fairley |
| Councillor M Huscroft     | Councillor J I Walker        |
| Councillor N J Huscroft   | Councillor Mrs J A Wallace   |

### **C84/02/16 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Barrie, P Brooks, K Clark, M Madden, J Munby, P Oliver and J O'Shea.

### **C85/02/16 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported or dispensations in relation to registerable personal interests reported.

### **C86/02/16 Petition – Childcare Review**

The Chair advised Council of the procedure to be followed with regard to a petition that had been received regarding the Childcare Provision proposals, which was required to be considered by full Council in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Petition Scheme contained in Part 5 of the Constitution.

The petition contained in excess of 2,000 valid signatures and was in the following terms "to capture parent and public concerns regarding North Tyneside Council's proposals to cease direct delivery of childcare at Wallsend, Shiremoor, Riverside and Oaktrees childcare settings by September 2017; also to seek to address concerns raised should North Tyneside Council fail to transfer Battle Hill and Denbigh childcare to the proposed schools."

It also stated that 'further concern has been raised if North Tyneside Council fail to transfer both Battle Hill and Denbigh childcare/nurseries to the respective schools by September 2016'.

The petitioners' covering letter stated that:

- they 'dispute the Council's current argument that there is sufficient, accessible high quality childcare within the borough';
- 'there is a significant disparity between the quality of care and education offered by childminders and structured nursery based provision'; and
- 'other local authorities with similar staffing and pension costs have not released budget proposals regarding the future of their childcare provision in 2016/17, therefore there must be an efficient way of operating provision without Council subsidy'.

The petition called on North Tyneside Council to 'end their plans to close down all six of their nurseries and to continue their direct delivery of affordable childcare for local families, including fee paying and funded provision for 2 and 3 year olds across the Borough after September 2017'.

The Council received a report which provided information in relation to the petition and its relationship to the childcare review and budget proposals and addressed the issues raised by the petitioners' covering letter.

It was moved by Councillor B Pickard and seconded by Councillor F Lott that:

“In light of the significant public interest in relation to the petition we have received for the Childcare Review, can I recommend to Council that the 5 minute limit for the petitioner to present the petition be suspended and that up to 10 minutes be permitted; up to 10 minutes also be allowed for the mover of the motion; and the 15 minute limit on the debate be suspended and that 20 minutes be permitted on this occasion.”

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

A representative on behalf of the petitioners, Anna Brown, was present at the meeting and introduced the petition.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Elected Mayor formally thanked the organisers for submitting their petition.

It was moved by Councillor I Grayson and seconded by Councillor F Lott that:

‘Council

- (1) acknowledge the petition; and
- (2) refer the petition to Cabinet as part of the public consultation exercise on the Childcare Review.’

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