

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At an **Ordinary Meeting** of the County Council held in the **Council Chamber - County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 17 July 2019** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor K Corrigan in the Chair.

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, P Atkinson, A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, A Batey, A Bell, D Bell, E Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, L Boyd, D Boyes, P Brookes, D Brown, L Brown, J Carr, J Clare, J Clark, M Clarke, I Cochrane, J Considine, B Coult, P Crathorne, R Crute, M Davinson, S Dunn, S Durham, D Freeman, Geldard, J Grant, O Gunn, C Hampson, S Henig, J Higgins, A Hopgood, K Hopper, L Hovvels, P Howell, S Hugill, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson (Vice-Chair), P Jopling, C Kay, B Kellett, L Kennedy, A Laing, J Lethbridge, H Liddle, L Maddison, J Maitland, J Makepeace, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Marshall, C Martin, L Mavin, M McKeon, I McLean, O Milburn, S Morrison, A Napier, J Nicholson, A Patterson, C Potts, L Pounder, S Quinn, A Reed, G Richardson, S Robinson, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton, K Shaw, A Shield, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, A Simpson, H Smith, T Smith, B Stephens, D Stoker, A Surtees, P Taylor, O Temple, F Tinsley, T Tucker, J Turnbull, A Willis, M Wilson, D Wood and R Yorke

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Atkinson, B Avery, J Bell, J Blakey, J Brown, C Carr, J Chaplow, J Charlton, A Gardner, D Hall, K Hawley, T Henderson, D Hicks, G Huntington, K Liddell, E Mavin, S McDonnell, P Oliver, R Ormerod, J Robinson, A Savory, J Stephenson, A Watson, M Wilkes, C Wilson, S Wilson and S Zair

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair of the County Council with great sadness reported the death of Roy Templeman, former Chief Executive of Chester le Street District Council from June 2004 to March 2009. While he was Chief Executive Chester le Street was the first Council to go from Poor to Good in a CPA assessment in three years, the first Council in the North-East to obtain a Members Charter and was the first and only Council in the UK to sign up to and act upon the European Charter for Equality.

The Council stood for a moments silence as a mark of respect.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

3 Chairs Announcements

The Chair encouraged everyone to visit the Climate Change expo being held in the Durham Room, which was showcasing various services and technologies from across the region that were tackling climate change.

The Chair drew Members attention to the Pennies from Heaven scheme which allowed Councillors and staff to donate to charity via payroll deductions. Under the scheme monthly allowances were rounded down to the nearest pound with the pennies donated to the Chair's chosen charity, which this year was Age UK County Durham. Gift Aid was automatically added to donations which meant the charity could claim an extra 25p from the Government for every £1 donated, at no cost to the donor or employer.

4 Leader's Report

The Council noted a report of the Leader of the Council as follows:

- The annual Durham Miners Gala had attracted a crowd of up to two hundred thousand. The Leader paid tribute to council staff in the Clean and Green Team who worked tirelessly during and after the Gala to keep the streets clean and tidy, doing a tremendous job which was often taken for granted. The Leader also praised the flower displays in the City to celebrate mining heritage with the Gilesgate roundabout flowerbed celebrating 150 years of the Durham Miners' Association and a 3D flowerbed including Miners' Lamps at Prince Bishops roundabout. Additionally, an amazing green sculpture which was created outside the Chester le Street Riverside during the Cricket World Cup which attracted much national attention.
- Congratulations were sent to Durham's Ben Stokes, Mark Wood and the rest of the England team who won the Cricket World Cup for the first time ever. The competition included three matches played at Riverside at the end of June and beginning of July which were all a major success. An estimated 70,000 people from around the world came to County Durham to enjoy the Cricket World Cup, with the backdrop of Lumley Castle showcased to a huge global television audience. Thousands had also enjoyed the free-to-enter Cricket World Cup fanzone split across Millennium Square and the Market Place in Durham City.

Two local heroes, Janice Nokni and Jan Vincent from the charity Aspire were chosen to lead the Cricket World Cup out at the first match due to their community work for women's development

- There were many events to look forward to in the #Durham19 Year of Culture, including the following:

The annual Brass festival was underway and the Leader was sure that colleagues would see one of the events over the next few days.

A Norman Cornish exhibition had recently opened at the Gala as part of his centenary celebrations, as well as an exhibition and walking trail in Spennymoor.

Kynren was well underway with performances every Saturday and Sunday evening into September.

The Flying Scotsman would be visiting Locomotion at Shildon from 26 July for just over two weeks.

The Durham City Run Festival would take place at the end of July and this year had been extended to a three-day celebration incorporating the annual Durham City Run and a new family activity headed-up by Paula Radcliffe, amongst other activities.

Ideas for things to do in the summer holidays could be found in the new summer guide which had been delivered to all households across the county.

In the Autumn the Durham Book Festival and The Take-Off Festival would take place and then it would be time for the tenth anniversary edition of Lumiere, which promised to be very special with a number of favourites returning alongside some new commissions.

Finally, the completion of The Auckland Project's multi-million pound redevelopment of Auckland Castle was due later in the year.

- An event was held in June to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Durham's twinning with the university city of Tubingen in Germany. Over the weekend of 6-7 July the Chair and the Leader were part of a delegation which visited the city. Over the years many people had benefitted from the partnership. A group of young people from Tubingen would help form one of the pieces for this year's Lumiere when it was hoped to welcome the mayor of the city to Durham. The Leader provided the Council with the following inward investment

update. A major new housing and development scheme in East Durham had been given garden village status by the Government. The South Seaham Garden Village was a partnership between the Council, Tolent and Home Group and was located close to the A19, Dalton Retail Park and the coast. It would bring 1,500 new homes, half of which would be affordable and work was expected to begin early next year with the first new homes being available by 2020. It was anticipated that the development would create around 1,000 jobs, including 500 new construction jobs and 300 jobs in the centre of the village.

Work had commenced on junction 61 of the A1(M) at Bowburn as part of the Integra 61 development which would see 101 acres of industrial units and 270 new homes constructed in the area. Under the £4.5 million road scheme, which had been funded by the Council, Highways England and Roadchef, new lanes would be constructed and current lanes widened to increase capacity. Traffic lights would be installed at the junction by the Roadchef services to control the flow of traffic around the A688 junction and improve road safety.

Planning permission had been granted for the new multi-million pound Jade Business Park next to the A19 and Dalton Park which could see the creation of more than 2,500 jobs in County Durham.

Bishop Auckland was one of 51 local areas chosen to progress to the next round of the Future High Streets Fund. The Council would receive £150,000 of funding to work up detailed project proposals to regenerate and transform the town centre, and if successful, would eventually receive multi-million pound funding to complete the project.

New retailers were moving in to Durham City, including the letting of the former M&S and B&S units, which followed the opening of the new Odeon Luxe cinema at The Riverwalk. Work had started on the first phase of the Milburngate development which would involve the construction of 70% of the development and would include a number of nationally recognised leisure operators.

- A scheme that aimed to improve County Durham's woodlands had been awarded £434,200 of funding. The Durham Woodland Revival project had been awarded the funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore and reconnect woodland in the county. The funding would enable the Council to work with Woodland Trust, Northwoods, Wear Rivers Trust and the Forestry Commission to bring neglected and under-managed woodland back into good condition and to boost woodland cover over a four-year period, starting in the summer.

- Consultation for the County Durham Partnerships new vision which set out the Council's ambitions for the county for the next ten years was open until 30 July. The draft proposal had been taken to AAP and partnership meetings across the county. Consultation had also been taking place on the new History Centre for County Durham based at Mount Oswald and this remained open until 28 July.
- Consultation on the Horden Masterplan had concluded. Feedback was being analysed before the next steps would be announced.
- The annual Dying to be Cool campaign was underway for the fourth year. School assemblies were taking place across the county teaching young people about cold water shock and the dangers of jumping in to open water. Fiona Gosling, whose son Cameron tragically died after jumping in to the River Wear in 2015 continued to front the campaign, along with Cameron's brother Cyle and the Leader thanked Fiona and her family for their continued bravery and efforts to raise awareness. The message had been delivered to over 15,000 school children since the campaign launched in 2016.
- The Leader reported the following commendations and awards

The Council was a finalist in the Health and Integration category of the 2019 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to co-commissioned support for young offenders or young people at risk of offending. The Council was also commended in the Awards for its approach to digital and online services and achieving better outcomes via the Area Action Partnerships.

The Durham Works Awards held in May provided the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of young people who had overcome significant barriers to progress into education, employment and training. Durham Works was the Council's ground breaking European funded programme which supported young people in County Durham.

The Adult Learning and Skills Service Festival held on 4 July also celebrated the outstanding achievements of individuals whose lives had been transformed through engaging in learning. The Adult and Learning Skills Service delivered apprenticeships, adult skills and community learning across the whole of County Durham, in particular supporting people who were least likely to participate in learning.

The Celebrate Me awards ceremony were held on 3 July for children and young people who were looked after by Durham County Council

either with foster carers or in a residential children's care home. The event was organised by the Children in Care Council and celebrated the achievements of children and young people who, despite facing many adverse experiences, had made remarkable progress in areas such as education, sports, personal or creative arts.

- The Leader reported that Margaret Whellans, the Council's outgoing Director of Children's Services, was attending her last Council meeting before leaving the Council in August. The Leader thanked Margaret for her hard work and passed on best wishes for her retirement. John Pearce, the new Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services was due to start in September.
- Finally, the Leader hoped that all colleagues were able to take some time off over the summer after another very busy year.

5 Presentation by Area Action Partnership

The Council received a presentation from the AAP Coordinator and the Chair of the East Durham AAP (for presentation see file of Minutes).

The Council were informed that in recent years much of the AAPs budget had been allocated to alleviating hardship by the following:

- Financial Wellbeing Champions
- Holiday Activities with Food
- Credit Union

Support had also been given to numerous activities and organisations.

Financial Wellbeing Champions provided support to communities to access sources of funding or benefits which they may not be aware of. The financial benefit to local people in the last 30 months was estimated at £956,111 which was money that would be spent in the local community. 30 debt relief orders had been obtained with a total of £353,945 written off, with this expected to reach £¹/₂ m by the end of the year. Additional projects where external funding had been secured with support of an evidence-base provided by AAP 'Champions' activity had attracted funding of £468,956.

Holiday Activities with Food provided children with meals during periods of school summer holidays to combat holiday hunger. In 2017 2,846 children had taken part in the project with 5,164 meals being delivered by 15 organisations. By 2018 10,450 meals were delivered to 2,957 children by 14 organisations.

The East Durham AAP was in a partnership arrangement with the NEFirst Credit Union. Since the partnership was formed in 2011 accounts in the area now numbered 2,258 with cumulative savings of £1.6m and cumulative loans surpassing £1m, with £284,000 outstanding.

The AAP had five areas which were accredited as dementia friendly, these being at Seaham, Murton, Blackhall, Peterlee and Easington.

Finally, the AAP was undertaking work to make the east Durham coast a tourist attraction. It had been involved in retaining the statue of Tommy, a First World War soldier at Seaham and had been involved in a project to create a field of remembrance on the railings near to the Tommy statue.

The AAP Coordinator and the Chair of the AAP thanked the Council for the opportunity to make their presentation and thanked the seven elected Members within the East Durham AAP area for their support.

6 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

7 Petitions

There were no petitions for consideration.

8 Report from the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council provided the Council with an update of business considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 12 June 2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

9 Climate Emergency Plan for the County Council and County Durham

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which provided an update following the Council declaring a Climate Change Emergency on 20 February 2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

In **moving** the report, Councillor C Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration thanked the Head of Environment and his team for the work undertaken to date. Councillor Marshall also thanked all those who had organised the Climate Change expo and hoped Members would find the opportunity to visit, and thanked Councillor Clare, the Council's Climate Change Champion.

The declaration by the Council of a Climate Change Emergency was a serious attempt to tackle the issue of climate change and although a lot had already been achieved since February 2019 the Council was not complacent. However, the issue of climate change could not be addressed alone and Councillor Marshall welcomed the proposed consultation on the Climate Emergency Update Report.

In **seconding** the report, thanked those involved with its production, which had been done within 4¹/₂ months of the declaration in February. Councillor Clare added that the Council would do all it could to be carbon neutral as soon as it could.

Councillor L Brown supported the plan and looked forward to the period of consultation which would improve what was already contained within it. Redcar and Cleveland Council and Darlington Borough Council were working towards carbon neutrality before 2030 and the Council should be aspirational to emulate other councils.

Councillor Adam welcomed the report and the work done to date. This was a significant report and the Council was showing leadership on the issue of climate change. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would play an active part in being a critical friend to any climate change policies.

Councillor R Bell, while commending the report, cautioned that some communities in his area burned coal, for example, because no other sources of fuel were available. While the Council must do what it could, many consumer goods were produced in China with a resulting huge carbon footprint.

Councillor Tinsley welcomed the report and considered that central government needed to provide greater leadership in the field of climate change.

Councillor P Taylor welcomed the report and considered that issue of climate change should go beyond politics.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Climate Emergency Update report be noted
- (ii) That wider consultation on the measures outlined in the report, including with elected Members, take place from mid-September to the end of October to help inform an action plan to be reported to Cabinet in early 2020
- (iii) That it be noted that progress would continue to be made against several of the schemes identified in the report.

10 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

The Council considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018/2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor R Crute, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny informed Council that the Annual Report contained details of key Scrutiny activity and achievements during 2018/19 and also the work programmes for Overview and Scrutiny. The scrutiny work programme for the year had reflected a balanced programme of work and of improvement in the operation of scrutiny which met the four principles of effective public scrutiny. The format of the report had been amended so that it was easier to read online to raise awareness of the work of the Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Crute thanked all Members, Co-optees and the Scrutiny Support Team for their work over the year.

Councillor R Bell commended the report and in particular the work of Councillor J Robinson as Chair of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

That the Council receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018/19.

11 Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021

The Council noted a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which presented the Youth Justice Plan 2019/21 and highlighted the key achievements in reducing re-offending during 2018/19. The report also provided the areas for improvement that the service would focus upon during the next period as set out in the Service Improvement Plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor O Gunn, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services commended the report which continued to show positive outcomes for the County Durham Youth Offending Service. Since 2013/14 the number of young people entering the criminal justice system had reduced by 46%. The achievements of the Service and the drive to improve would not be possible without the engagement of a wide range of partners.

During 2019/20 County Durham Youth Offending Service would change its name to County Durham Youth Justice Service.

Councillor R Bell referred to the reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system and sought assurance that this was not because of non-detection of crimes.

The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services responded that the Service, in partnership with the police, had a strong prevention focus with the Youth Justice Team responding quickly to intelligence received to divert young people away from crime.

Councillors R Bell, A Hopgood and O Gunn paid tribute to the service of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and wished her well for her retirement.

12 Motions on Notice

There were no Motions on Notice.

13 Questions from Members

There were no questions from Members.