



Local Government Act 1972

I Hereby Give You Notice that an **Extraordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be **held remotely via Microsoft Teams** on **Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m.** to transact the following business:-

1. Chairs' Announcements
2. Declarations of interest, if any
3. Mid-Year Review Report on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2020 - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 7 - 16)
4. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/22 - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 17 - 34)
5. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019/20 - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 35 - 82)
6. Appointment of Interim Chief Executive - Report of Chief Officer Appointments Committee (Pages 83 - 86)
7. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020 (Pages 87 - 124)
8. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2019/20 - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel (Pages 125 - 156)
9. Motions on Notice

Councillor O Temple to Move

This council is aware that that the council has taken multi-million pound headleases in respect of four developments

in County Durham:

1. Two office developments at Freeman's Reach, Durham City
2. An industrial development at Merchant Park, Newton Aycliffe
3. The major development currently under construction at Milburngate, Durham City

Council is also aware that at the time of approving these headleases, cabinet took into account the significant transfer from the private sector to the council of both the potential risk and reward that could flow from these developments. At that time cabinet judged that the potential rewards outweighed the possible risks.

In the light of the coronavirus pandemic and the significant changes that are taking place in both commercial practice and consumer behaviour as a result of it, council requests that a report be brought to the next meeting of Cabinet after 1st February 2021 setting out the cabinet's latest detailed assessment of these changed circumstances and their likely impact on the council's budget in future years in terms of:

- The current and future expected range of commercial activity to be undertaken by leaseholders/tenants of these properties
- Potentially changed lease or rental levels for each of these tenant types
- The likelihood of the council being able to re-let the properties where the leases of current or contracted occupants come to an end before the council's headlease itself ends
- The revised best and worst-case scenarios the council envisages in terms of Income and expenditure from these investments.

Councillor P Sexton to Move

I call on the Council to conduct an internal review of the decision made to allow admissions of Covid-19 patients from Hospitals into County Durham care homes

Councillor M Wilkes to Move

County Durham has one of the highest Covid-19 care home death rates in the UK. There continues to be significant outbreaks in our care homes.

It is essential that we learn from what has happened and continues to happen so that we can reduce the risks of further deaths in our care homes over the winter and spring.

This Council therefore calls for an independent review to take place immediately to report back as soon as possible with initial findings.

Councillor O Gunn to Move

This Council notes with concern the unique and challenging circumstances currently affecting schools and applauds the work of teachers and all school staff. Since the outbreak of COVID 19 their commitment to provide the best possible educational experience in an increasingly challenging and complex scenario has been outstanding.

The impact of the pandemic has resulted in significant disruption to teaching and learning and, as a result, pupils taking GCSEs, AS and A -levels cannot realistically be expected to either focus properly upon their education or complete all of the units of work necessary. Moreover, there has been a disproportionate impact in some areas that already faced significant inequalities due to high infection rates, the North East being one of those areas worst affected.

This Council asserts that the vast inequalities of classroom based learning vs home learning make any traditional examination system fundamentally flawed and unfair. It is impossible to guarantee a level playing field for examinations in 2021. Furthermore, a three week examination delay announced by Government falls far short of addressing the anxieties and concerns of teachers, parents and most importantly, the pupils themselves.

It is therefore essential that the Government provides clarity for pupils and teachers now and not next month or next year. The fiasco of the summer examinations was hugely stressful for pupils and there must be no repeat of the confusion and anxiety caused by another Government last

minute u turn.

This Council deplores the Government's unwillingness to listen to educators and learners whilst expecting them to work in such challenging circumstances.

This Council therefore calls upon the Government as a matter of urgency to:

- a) cancel 2021 school examinations and move to a robust and transparent teacher assessment model;
- b) liaise with Local Government and other relevant bodies to bring this to fruition.

Councillor L Hovvels to Move

The NHS Test and Trace was introduced on 28th May 2020 and is a cross -Government programme chaired by Baroness Dido Harding, reporting directly to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary. It was set up as a world beating system to ensure population level testing and contact tracing to enable people to be tested, traced and then isolated to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Local Authorities were told by Government that the system would be fully operational by September as schools and then universities returned.

The NHS Test and Trace Tier 2 nationally employed call handlers, currently contact 83% of County Durham residents in the first 24 hours after testing positive for coronavirus. However only 57% of their close contacts are contacted. 17% of positive cases are therefore missed and are then being referred to the Public Health England Health Protection Team and subsequently the Local Authority Public Health Team. 43% of contacts are not reached at all.

The Local Authority has a responsibility to deliver a Local Outbreak Control Plan with testing, trace and isolate being key components of this plan. However, until NHS Test and Trace can fulfil the initial expectations set out by Government the Local Authority will remain unable to fully deliver this plan and fully protect the health of our residents.

I call upon the Council to:

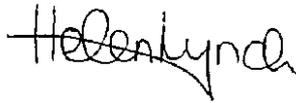
- express a vote of no confidence in NHS Test and Trace
- write to the Secretary of State for Health and Care to

express grave concerns at the failings of NHS Test and Trace and the impact it has had on local outbreak control arrangements

- thank local Council staff who are managing cases due to the shortcomings of NHS Test and Trace

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You** to attend the said meeting

Dated this 8th day of December 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'H' and 'L'.

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To: All Members of the County Council