

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor J Blakey in the Chair

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, L Armstrong, B Avery, A Batey, A Bell, D Bell, E Bell (Vice-Chairman), J Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, A Bonner, P Brookes, J Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Charlton, J Clare, J Clark, P Conway, J Cordon, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, D Freeman, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, C Hampson, J Hart, T Henderson, K Henig, S Henig, D Hicks, A Hoppood, K Hopper, L Hovvels, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, C Kay, B Kellett, A Laing, J Lethbridge, H Liddle, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, N Martin, J Maslin, P May, J Measor, O Milburn, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, R Ormerod, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, H Smith, T Smith, W Stelling, B Stephens, D Stoker, P Stradling, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, O Temple, K Thompson, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Watson, M Wilkes, M Williams, A Willis, C Wilson, S Wilson and S Zair

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Boyes, J Chaplow, P Crathorne, K Dearden, I Geldard, B Glass, D Hall, J Hillary, M Hodgson, G Holland, P Lawton, J Lee, P Oliver, L Pounder, J Robinson, S Robinson, A Shield, M Simmons, M Simpson, M Stanton, R Yorke and R Young

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2015 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to the Motion of Councillor Temple to be debated at the meeting and advised that Members who sat on School Governing Bodies should declare an interest, but because the Motion was about consultation, there was no need for them to withdraw from the meeting for the Motion. However, any Member who had a significant family member who was a teaching assistant should declare this and withdraw from the meeting during the Motion.

The following Members declared an interest as School Governors:

Councillors J Armstrong, A Batey, D Bell, E Bell, J Bell, R Bell, J Blakey, G Bleasdale, A Bonner, P Brookes, J Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Clark, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, B Graham, O Gunn, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, A Hopgood, K Hopper, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, H Liddle, J Lindsay, C Marshall, L Marshall N Martin, O Milburn, B Moir, S Morrison, T Nearney, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, H Smith, T Smith, W Stelling, P Stradling, L Taylor, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Watson, M Wilkes and A Willis.

The following Members declared an interest as having a close family member who was a teaching assistant and would withdraw from the meeting during the debate and would not vote on the Motion:

Councillors C Kay, J Measor, K Shaw, A Surtees, K Thompson, E Tomlinson and A M Williams.

Councillors S Henig and L Marshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 9 as Members of Pelton Fell Community Partnership.

3 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman placed on record her personal congratulations to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Henig, on being awarded the CBE in the Queens New Year's Honours for political and public service.

Other notable recipients in County Durham included:

- Kenneth Ball, Station Manager at Consett Fire Station who was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to Fire and Rescue and the community in County Durham; and
- Councillor William (Billy) Hill, a Horden Parish Councillor who was awarded a British Empire Medal and had contributed a decade of services to the community and charity in Horden. Councillor Hill was a recipient of a Chairman's Medal in 2008 and was also recognised in the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebration in 2012. East Durham Area Action Partnership had also previously recognised Billy for his outstanding voluntary efforts.

The Chairman informed the Council that George Garlick, Chief Executive would retire at the end of the month and this would be George's last Council meeting. George was appointed Chief Executive in 2008 as the first Chief Executive for the new County Durham Unitary Council and led the reorganisation of local government in County Durham.

Councillors Henig, Stelling, Hopgood, R Bell, Shuttleworth and J Armstrong all thanked George for his service to the Council, particularly during local government reorganisation which had seen 8 council's combine as 1, and then on the achievement of the Council of the Year Award in 2014.

George Garlick replied that it had been a pleasure and honour to serve in County Durham, which he considered to be a superb Council with skill, sensitivity and a social conscience.

Resolved

- (i) That the Council place on record its congratulations to the recipients of a New Year's Honour.
- (ii) That the Council place on record its thanks to George Garlick, Chief Executive.

4 Leader's Report

The Leader of the Council thanked those who had sent him good wishes on the receipt of his New Year's Honours Award, which he considered to be recognition of hard work by officers, Members and partner organisations during the period of local government reorganisation and unprecedented spending reductions since 2010.

5 Questions from Area Action Partnerships

Questions had been received from the Spennymoor Area Action Partnership and the Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership relating to the following:

- Plans to ensure that areas surrounding Bishop Auckland would benefit from the investment and potential increase in visitor numbers to Bishop Auckland.
- What the Council considered the Derwent Valley Partnership's key role should be in relation to supporting older people in the local area.
- The Council's plans to support the development of higher level Science, Technology and Maths (STEM) skills and qualifications for young people in the field of creative industries, financial, professional and business services, digital industries and life sciences.

Michael Wilkes, Spennymoor AAP Coordinator was in attendance to ask their question and Rosemary Morris, Vice-Chair of the Derwent Valley AAP was in attendance to ask their questions.

Councillor N Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration thanked the Spennymoor AAP for their question and provided a response. Councillors L Hovvels, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services and N Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration thanked the Derwent Valley AAP for their questions and provided responses.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Council that the questions, together with the responses, would be placed on the Council's website and a copy of the responses would also be sent to the Area Action Partnerships.

6 Questions from the Public

Two questions had been received from Members of the Public regarding the Teaching Assistants contracts. In the absence of the questioners, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Council that a copy of the questions,

together with the responses would be placed on the Council's website and a copy of the responses would also be sent direct to the questioners.

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 discussed by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 16 December 2015 (for copy see file of Minutes).

9 **Community Governance Review - Pelton Fell**

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the outcome of the consultation undertaken as part of the Community Governance Review of Pelton Fell (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Napier, **Seconded** by Councillor C Marshall and

Resolved:

That a further period of consultation be undertaken as part of the Review process, and the revised timetable for the Review be approved.

10 **Motions on Notice**

In accordance with a Notice of Motion it was **Moved** by Councillor O Temple, **Seconded** by Councillor A Hopgood.

This Council calls upon its cabinet and officers to withdraw the current proposals under the Review of classroom based staff, and instead engage with school governing bodies and subsequently trades unions to address the issues it seeks to resolve.

In **Moving** an amendment to the Motion, Councillor J Brown informed the Council that no decision had been reached on classroom based staff and that any decision would need to be taken by full Council. This would take place after all feedback had been considered and proposals had been assessed and considered. In **Seconding** the amendment, Councillor O Johnson informed Council that head teachers were aware of the proposals currently out to consultation and that school governors would be briefed on the current position.

This council calls upon its cabinet to request officers to brief governing bodies on the latest position with regard to the current proposals under the Review of Classroom Based Staff. Ultimately any decision on this issue will be made by Full Council.

Councillor Martin suggested that the amendment was not valid because it negated the Motion by removing the word 'withdraw'. The Head of Legal and Democratic

Services advised that the amendment did not negate the Motion and was therefore valid.

On a vote being taken the Amendment was **carried**.

Upon a further vote being taken the substantive motion was **carried**.

Resolved:

That this council calls upon its cabinet to request officers to brief governing bodies on the latest position with regard to the current proposals under the Review of Classroom Based Staff. Ultimately any decision on this issue will be made by Full Council.

In accordance with a Notice of Motion it was **Moved** by Councillor M Wilkes, **Seconded** by Councillor N Martin.

Council recognises the importance County Durham residents place upon the heritage of our County and in particular of the immense sense of pride and honour the community has in the Durham Light Infantry.

Council further accepts the need for our World Heritage City to provide excellent public art facilities for both the public of County Durham and for the benefit of tourism.

Council notes the significant public concern about the announcement of the closure of the existing DLI Museum and Art Gallery site. Council further accepts that many residents believe there should be consultation on the proposals with the general public, families of veterans, as well as more substantial consultation with all members of this Council.

Council therefore strongly urges Cabinet to delay the closure plans to allow for a public consultation, and to allow for the consideration of all possible alternatives which may be put forward, including those which the Council may not have previously been aware of.

In **Moving** an amendment to the Motion, Councillor N Foster informed the Council that key challenges for the DLI Museum were the condition and location of the building and poor visitor numbers of approximately 39,000 per annum. The location of exhibits to Palace Green, which had a footfall of 600,000 visitors, would provide greater opportunity for visitors to view the collection. In **Seconding** the amendment, Councillor J Armstrong informed Council that a request for call-in of the decision had been made, but this had not met the criteria within the Constitution. However, a special Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting had been held in December 2015 at which James Ramsbotham, Chairman of the DLI Trustees, had presented the proposals for the collection.

Council recognises the importance County Durham residents place upon the heritage of our County and in particular of the immense sense of pride and honour the community has in the Durham Light Infantry.

Council further accepts the need for our World Heritage City to provide excellent public art facilities for both the public of County Durham and for the benefit of tourism.

Council notes the significant public concern about the announcement of the closure of the existing DLI Museum.

Council therefore strongly urges Cabinet to work in consultation with the DLI Trustees, whose role is to do what is best for the collection, and in partnership with Durham University, to seek to find a new way of telling the DLI story - a way that will take it to the heart of the World Heritage Site, with its footfall of more than 600,000 a year, and give it the far greater audience it rightly deserves. Council further asks Cabinet to ensure that the identified storage facility provided has modern storage, conservation and research areas, with enough capacity to meet future requirements and to continue to work with schools and families on an outreach basis to help future generations commemorate and understand the important stories of the DLI regiment.

Council urges Cabinet to continue to work with The DLI Trustees and Durham University, alongside other interested parties including the Friends, and the Army Museums Ogilby Trust the recognised authority in this area, while continuing to promote the exciting opportunities coming up later in the year.

On a vote being taken the Amendment was **carried**.

Upon a further vote being taken the substantive motion was **carried**.

Resolved:

Council recognises the importance County Durham residents place upon the heritage of our County and in particular of the immense sense of pride and honour the community has in the Durham Light Infantry.

Council further accepts the need for our World Heritage City to provide excellent public art facilities for both the public of County Durham and for the benefit of tourism.

Council notes the significant public concern about the announcement of the closure of the existing DLI Museum.

Council therefore strongly urges Cabinet to work in consultation with the DLI Trustees, whose role is to do what is best for the collection, and in partnership with Durham University, to seek to find a new way of telling the DLI story - a way that will take it to the heart of the World Heritage Site, with its footfall of more than 600,000 a year, and give it the far greater audience it rightly deserves. Council further asks Cabinet to ensure that the identified storage facility provided has modern storage, conservation and research areas, with enough capacity to meet future requirements and to continue to work with schools and families on an outreach basis to help future generations commemorate and understand the important stories of the DLI regiment.

Council urges Cabinet to continue to work with The DLI Trustees and Durham University, alongside other interested parties including the Friends, and the Army Museums Ogilby Trust the recognised authority in this area, while continuing to promote the exciting opportunities coming up later in the year.

11 Questions from Members

There were no questions from Members.