

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor E Bell (Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, D Boyes, P Brookes, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon (Vice-Chairman), S Forster, N Foster, D Freeman, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, T Henderson, S Henig, D Hicks, M Hodgson, L Hovvels, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lee, J Lethbridge, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, N Martin, J Maslin, P May, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, P Oliver, R Ormerod, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, L Pounder, G Richardson, S Robinson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, H Smith, T Smith, M Stanton, B Stephens, D Stoker, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, O Temple, K Thompson, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Watson, M Wilkes, A Willis, C Wilson, S Wilson, R Yorke and R Young

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Bell, J Brown, J Charlton, J Clark, J Cordon, P Crathorne, C Hampson, K Henig, J Hillary, A Hopgood, K Hopper, H Liddle, O Milburn, J Robinson, A Shield, M Simmons and S Zair

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman of the Council with great sadness reported the following deaths:

- Former Wear Valley District Councillor Anne Newton who represented the Hunwick Ward on the Council and also served as Chairman of the Council. Anne was a role model for women but most of all, a front line fighter for people, their families and communities;
- Former Durham City Councillor, former Mayor and Alderman, Colin Beswick who was elected to the Council in July 1962, was Mayor of the City in 1970-71 and served for 30 years until May 2003.

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

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor O Temple declared a personal but not prejudicial interest as a trustee of a youth project which was germane to the budget amendment he would be moving.

Councillor M Wilkes declared a personal but not prejudicial interest as a Member of a Community Association which received funding for youth projects and was germane to the budget amendment Councillor Temple would be moving.

3 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Council that he would be using his discretion under rule 13.4 of the Council's Rules of Procedure to allow Group Leaders more than the allotted 5 minutes when discussing the budget.

The Chairman also proposed that the Council waived standing order 4.2(a) of the Council Procedure Rules to extend the time allowed for the length of the meeting, in the event that proceedings took longer than two and a half hours.

Resolved:

That the proposal be approved.

The Chairman informed the Council he had two further announcements to make.

Firstly the Chairman was delighted to confirm that the Council had been successful in achieving two national awards from the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

The first award was for Environmental Campaign of the Year for "Operation Stop It" to combat fly-tipping. Working with partners, the Council had achieved a 22% fall in fly tipping, which was more than 3,000 fewer incidents, at a time when many other parts of the country had been increasing. Not only had this been done through tough enforcement, often using cameras to catch the culprits, but the Council's teams had also been promoting educational messages about duty of care for disposing of waste properly.

The second award was the prestigious Local Authority of the Year. This award recognised not only the hard work of staff in keeping towns and villages as clean as possible, which were over twice better than national averages, but also the wide range of community based initiatives from Big Spring Clean, which started the following week, to the Green Move Out for students to Northumbria in Bloom.

Teamwork had been the key to success with both awards and representatives from Clean and Green, Communications and Marketing, Recycling Officers, Ecology, Neighbourhood Wardens and Civic Pride were present. The Chairman presented each representative with certificates to mark these awards so they could be proudly displayed at each of the Council's depots and main offices.

Secondly, the Chairman informed Council that the Council currently employed around 30 Business Administration apprentices, who ultimately went on to find jobs either within the Council or elsewhere in the local community. The aim was to

equip them with a full range of well-developed employability skills and experiences to best prepare them for the world of work.

The Council had been fortunate enough to successfully bid for funding to support this ambition; allowing groups of apprentices to look at and experience Local Government service provision in another European country.

Because of local contacts through the Council's International Relations team and the prevalence of English language skills among many colleagues over there, the Council chose to work with the Gothenburg area of Sweden. The grant money allowed two groups of five apprentices to each undertake a two-week work placement in the Swedish Local Authority in September 2015 and October 2016.

The ten young people were able to experience first-hand a new country and culture. In all cases, their experiences provided essential evidence for the vocational NVQ qualification which the young people were studying towards as part of their apprenticeship.

The project was deemed successful and met all of its target objectives. The Chairman was pleased to report that a further funding bid had been submitted to extend this work for another two years. This time, the apprentices would be going to Tübingen, one of the Council's German partner areas.

The Chairman hoped that Members, Chief Officers and guests had a chance to speak with some of the apprentices who proved to be such fantastic ambassadors for the County Council and also County Durham as they arrived for the meeting this morning.

4 Leader's Report

The Leader of the Council reported that next month the new DLI Collection Gallery would open on Palace Green in the heart of Durham City. 'Courage, Comrades and Community' would bring the story of the Durham soldier to a wide audience, within the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The gallery, with modern interpretation boards and displays, would help engage audiences of all ages and would be free to visit.

The new gallery would complement the DLI Research and Study Centre which opened last year at Sevenhills near Durham Gate. This was set in a spacious location which allowed more items to be viewed from the collection than was the case previously, the research and study centre had already received in excess of 100 hours volunteering a week as well as many visitors able to access the collection to follow their research. Councillor Henig urged all Members to visit this excellent facility if they had not already done so.

The story of the DLI had also been brought to life in a series of exhibitions and events over the past year, including Somme 1916: From Durham to the Western Front, which brought over 30,000 visitors to Durham University's Palace Green Library. In addition at the Gala around 5,000 people were transported to the First

World War trenches and back again by what visitors described as an “incredible,” “superb” and “deeply moving” immersive experience, 1916: No Turning Back.

Many others turned out to see the specially commissioned Fighting Bradfords play, the Durham Hymns within the Cathedral and screenings of the Battle of the Somme film. Meanwhile educational sessions around the collection, experience and play had involved over 100 schools and more than 3,000 children, further widening access.

Councillor Henig thanked all of the partners involved, including the DLI Trustees, Friends and the University. It was thanks to their efforts that the story of the DLI had now reached more people than was the case in the previous year. The Council had been recognised by both the Arts Council and the Army Museums Ogilvy Trust as an example of innovative and sustainable approach to important collections.

Councillor Henig reported that Members were updated by email last week on the joint review of Teaching Assistant roles and responsibilities, being carried out by the Council, in conjunction with recognised trade unions. The review of Teaching Assistant roles, functions, job descriptions and activities was to establish whether current job descriptions adequately described and valued the requirements of the role.

A project team had been established to lead the review, consisting of council officers and recognised trade union representatives. This was supported by a Teaching Assistant Workstream and a Head Teacher Workstream.

The Teaching Assistant Workstream was made up of fifteen Teaching Assistants who worked across a variety of school settings. This group was considering the range of duties and responsibilities across the variety of Teaching Assistant roles. A Head Teacher Workstream would also support the Project Team and ensure the views of headteachers were incorporated as the review progressed.

The Council was committed to progressing the review as quickly as possible, considering all of the options available. As well as being directly involved in the review process, ultimately, all Teaching Assistants would be individually consulted on its outcome.

Further information would be shared with members as the review develops.

The Chief Officer Appointments Committee last week appointed Amanda Healy, who was Director of Public Health in South Tyneside, as Director of Public Health, a joint appointment made with Public Health England. Councillor Henig thanked Gill O’Neill who had been interim Director of Public Health for all of her work.

5 Questions from Area Action Partnerships

Questions had been received from the 3 Towns Area Action Partnership and East Durham Area Action Partnership relating to the following:

- Investment in Wi-Fi access points in areas such as parks, town centres and communal spaces.
- The provision of Money Advice into schools or through other mechanisms that young people could access;
- Structure/support the Council could offer to the most vulnerable in communities following the capping of benefits and rolling out of Universal Credit.

Sandy Denney, 3 Towns AAP Coordinator and Shealagh Pearce, East Durham AAP Principal Coordinator were in attendance to ask their questions.

Councillor N Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration thanked the 3 Towns AAP and the East Durham AAP for their questions and provided a response to all questions.

6 Questions from the Public

A question had been received from a Member of the Public regarding the Housing White Paper and how was it envisaged that its proposals on calculating housing demand and on Green Belt protection might alter current thinking on the County Plan, and when did the Council expect to be able to make public its “Preferred Options” for a final draft of the plan.

In the absence of the questioner, the Legal Manager, Governance and Elections informed the Council that a copy of the question together with the response would be placed on the Council’s website and a copy of the response would also be sent direct to the questioner.

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 Cabinet at its meetings held on 18 January and 8 February 2017 (for copy see file of Minutes)

9 Budget 2017/18 - Report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided information on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves in the Council’s Budget for 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the Council have regard to the statement when approving the budget and the level of Council Tax for 2017/18.

The Chairman reminded Council that under paragraph 16.6 of the Council Procedure Rules a recorded vote was required for the following two items and the voting record would be detailed in the minutes of the meeting.

10 Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2017/18

The Council considered a report from Cabinet which detailed budget recommendations for the 2017/18 Revenue and Capital Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(7)) 2017/18 to 2019/20 (for copy see file of Minutes).

In **Moving** adoption of the Cabinet report, Councillor Henig made a statement on the Budget and Precept for 2017/18, summarised as follows:

The proposals for the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2017/18 to Council followed a budget process which had lasted several months and involved input from scrutiny members and several thousand County Durham residents.

The MTFP and budget was set against a background of seven years of austerity, with government funding cut relentlessly year after year. Reductions in grant for County Durham now exceeded £180 million and more cuts were still to come. It was also against a background where the government's own preferred measure, Core Spending Power, showed Durham receiving less than the England average in 2017/18 despite its greater needs in areas like adult social care. Durham would receive 20% less than affluent Surrey on this measure, which until a sudden unexplained u-turn, believed it needed a 15% increase in council tax to balance its budget.

Paul Johnson, Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies had said that public finances in the next few years looked set to be defined by the spending cuts announced by George Osborne with cuts to day-to-day public service spending due to accelerate while the tax burden continued to rise. He had also pointed out that attempts to eliminate the deficit by spending cuts since 2010 were already the longest and deepest on record and speculated that austerity may continue into the mid-2020s.

Against this background of the longest and deepest cuts on record, the Council had approached forming its MTFP and budget using five key principles.

Firstly, the Council remained guided by one of the earliest decisions of the unitary council, which was to re-direct many of the savings made through the abolition of two tier local government and the large reduction in numbers of senior officers, into local community improvements. This ensured that every year, several million pounds were still spent at the grassroots, on communities across County Durham and using equal distribution as well where everyone received the same, whether Area Action Partnership budget or Neighbourhood Budget. Councillor Henig knew of no other council in the north of England which supported local communities on this scale and the Council could point to hundreds of local groups and community facilities which had benefited across all of County Durham.

Secondly, the Council continued to involve and engage the public in its budget consultation events in large numbers. In the autumn the Council took its budget consultation to meetings in every AAP area, as well as involving other local groups including young people. Feedback was taken by feedback forms, online and even in supermarkets. The Council went out across County Durham and asked, as we had done previously, what people's priorities were and what should be protected.

The public had responded in large numbers. More than three thousand people attended events during the consultation, with nearly 2,000 consultation forms submitted.

The Council had also asked how it was doing so far in making savings. One in six had marked the Council at less than five out of ten, in particular many of the online respondents. Nearly sixty per cent said they would mark the Council at six out of ten or higher. Furthermore, almost two thirds of respondents, 63%, stated that the Council's proposed approach to making future savings was a reasonable way to go forward in 2017/18.

Councillor Henig thanked the public of County Durham for their involvement in the budget consultation, which was invaluable in such difficult times of reducing budgets. The public's priorities were the council's priorities and it would do all it could to protect those services seen as essential by people across our communities.

A third principle of the approach to savings had been to prioritise savings from management, support services and efficiencies while protecting front line services. This was not without its consequences. It was currently forecast that by the end of 2017/18 the council would have reduced its number of posts by 2,674, a huge number and one which encompassed a vast amount of experience. As a comparison, this was ten times more than the number of staff who left during local government reorganisation in 2008-09.

However it was the right approach that the Council continued to protect the front line services prioritised by the public by taking as many savings as it could from efficiencies and restructures. Of the £36 million of further savings outlined in plans for 2017/18 and detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, the word 'restructure' appeared seven times and 'review' thirteen times as the Council did all it could to maintain essential services for as long as possible in the face of huge and ongoing grant reductions.

Recommendations in the report included approval of the 2017/18 Net Budget Requirement of £387.594M, a 1.99% 2017/18 Council Tax increase and a further 2% increase for the government's adult social care precept, totalling 3.99%. It was quite wrong for the government to pass the buck for growing adult social care needs onto councils and council tax payers and it was time that adult social care was funded properly. Even the maximum 3% increase in adult social care precept, set to be agreed by a majority of councils, would not solve what was a growing national crisis and in Durham it was proposed this increase was kept down to 2%.

A fourth priority within the Council's approach was that it would continue to support its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme which ensured that many of the County's poorest residents received relief from council tax. Durham was one of only a small number of councils who continued to do this in the North East and nationally.

A fifth principle was to maintain a fully funded Capital Programme and the report included a 2017/18 capital budget of £109.744M and MTFP capital budget of £324.139M. This was set out and itemised in Appendix 9 of the report and was essential for County Durham, whether funding Town Centre masterplans, roads and highways or the new build primary school proposed for Bowburn.

In the face of relentless government austerity, the Council would stick to its principles. It would prioritise local communities, consult and engage with the public across County Durham and protect the front line for as long as it could. It would protect the poorest in society and also invest in the future. These were the principles put before council this morning.

In **Seconding** adoption of the Cabinet report Councillor Napier, Portfolio Holder for Finance informed the Council that it was charged with managing ongoing government cuts in funding against growing pressures on budgets.

To the end of the financial year the Council would have had to make savings of £186m as a result of ongoing government austerity and the Council needed to find a way of making these savings which had the least impact on communities.

It had been proven to be a myth that austerity would be short-term to balance the books and to get the budget into surplus by 2015, indeed the Institute for Fiscal Studies had suggested austerity had the potential to last for 15 years and the current Chancellor had stated there would not be a budget surplus before the mid-2020's.

The 2017/18 budget would continue to protect frontline services and the Council would be using £12.6m from the budget support reserve. Since 2011 the Council had used £70m of reserves. Some Members had called for reserves to be used year on year and if this had been done the Council would now be in a much worse position. The Council's policy had always been to plan ahead with a balanced approach and a prudent reserves policy.

Government policy was to push costs onto local people. The Council had no option than to charge a 2% Adult and Social Care precept but was not charging 3% which it had the option to do. Surrey had proposed a 15% increase which was then withdrawn. Surrey would be one of the pilots to retain 100% of business rates and for every 1% rise in Council Tax would receive £7m, whereas Durham only raised £2m.

Councillor Napier was proud that the Council had retained the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18 and was only one of a handful of authorities to have done so.

Referring to the Capital Programme the Council would continue to invest in local community schemes.

Councillor Napier thanked Members and officers for their input to the budget process for 2017/18.

Councillor J Armstrong, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board informed Council that there had been four scrutiny meetings to consider the budget. The process had been hindered by the late confirmation of the final budget settlement, which had only just been announced. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had met on 13 February 2017 to consider the MTFP and Revenue and Capital Budget and had no further suggestions to share with the Council, other than to express concerns about ongoing austerity.

An amendment was **Moved** by Councillor R Bell, **Seconded** by T Henderson as follows:

The Council to make additional savings by:

- Stopping the publication of County Durham News from April 2017 but retaining the Events Guide and Guide to Services. This would produce an annual saving of £137,000.

The council to increase the budget on:

- Roadside gully cleaning through the engagement of an additional tanker at a cost of £159,000 a year

The £21,000 additional funding required to come from the Neighbourhood Services Cash Limit Reserve.

The increase in spending in Children's Services on Agency staff, had risen from £1,309,253 (2.45% of Employee Budget) in 2014 to £3,188,365 (5.44% of Employee Budget) in 2016, of which £370,580 was cover for long term sickness absence. This spending on Agency staff be reduced to £1m or below, a saving of £2,188,365 on Agency spend.

For the Amendment

Councillors R Bell, T Henderson, N Martin, R Ormerod, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, O Temple and A Willis

Against the Amendment

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, A Batey, D Bell, E Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, D Boyes, P Brookes, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, S Henig, D Hicks, L Hovvells, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lee, J Lethbridge, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, J Maslin, P May, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, Nicholson, P Oliver, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, L

Pounder, S Robinson, K Shaw, H Smith, T Smith, M Stanton, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, K Thompson, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Watson, C Wilson, R Yorke and R Young

Abstention

Councillors D Freeman and M Wilkes

The Amendment was **Lost**.

An amendment was **Moved** by Councillor J Shuttleworth, **Seconded** by Councillor A Savory as follows:

The Council to make additional savings by

Reducing staffing in communications and marketing (Approx 10+ posts)	320,000
Abolishing County Durham News	205,000
Extra use of Budget Support Reserve	1,513,500
Total Savings	2,038,500

These savings to provide funding for the following:

Reducing the Council Tax increase to 0.99%	1,880,000
Provide Annual Grant of £500 to 317 village halls and community associations across the county	158,500
Total Costs 2017/18	2,038,500

For the Amendment

Councillors R Bell, T Henderson, D Hicks, C Marshall, N Martin, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, O Temple, M Wilkes and A Willis

Against the Amendment

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, A Batey, D Bell, E Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, D Boyes, P Brookes, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, D Freeman, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, S Henig, L Hovvels, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lee, J Lethbridge, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, L Marshall, J Maslin, P May, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, P Oliver, R Ormerod, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, L Pounder, S Robinson, K Shaw, H Smith, T Smith, M Stanton, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, K Thompson, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Watson, C Wilson, R Yorke and R Young

The Amendment was **Lost**.

An amendment was **Moved** by Councillor O Temple, **Seconded** by Councillor M Wilkes as follows:

The Council's General Reserve for 2017/8, even after the proposal to apply the Newcastle Airport dividend to the capital budget, would be £1.405 million above the council's agreed policy of maintaining General Reserves between 5% and 7.5% of the Net Budget Requirement.

The following amendments were therefore proposed to the budget:

Youth Work: £500,000

The provision of a fund of **£250,000** a year for each of two years to enable the provision youth work sessions by local youth group/charities, to help them bridge the gap caused by the ending of universal youth work provision whilst they develop new and sustainable models of youth work delivery. This fund to be administered through Area Action Partnerships.

Cost: £500,000 from Excess General Reserves.

Safer Communities: £500,000

The provision of a fund of **£250,000** a year for each of two years to enable local communities desirous of introducing 20 mph zones for residential areas to bid for funds to do so. At the end of two years, Cabinet to review the initiative and decide whether it merits inclusion in the budget on an annual basis. This fund to be administered through Neighbourhood Services.

Cost: £500,000 from Excess General Reserves.

Additional Road and Footpath repairs: £10 million

An injection of an additional £10 million, over two years, to improve the quality of the county's roads and footpaths.

Cost: £0.32 million in the first year, £0.64 million in subsequent years.

These costs to be met from the Excess General Reserve in Year One, whilst steps are taken to reduce the Corporate News Team budget (currently £1.4 million) by £640K from 2018/19 to meet the ongoing costs of this proposal.

All figures in the budget to be amended consequentially in respect of these changes.

For the Amendment

Councillors R Bell, D Freeman, T Henderson, D Hicks, N Martin, P Oliver, R Ormerod, G Richardson, S Robinson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, O Temple, K Thompson, A Watson, M Wilkes and A Willis.

Against the Amendment

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, A Batey, D Bell, E Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, D Boyes, P Brookes, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, S Henig, L Hovvells, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P

Lawton, J Lethbridge, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, P May, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, L Pounder, K Shaw, H Smith, T Smith, M Stanton, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, R Yorke and R Young.

The Amendment was **Lost**.

An amendment was **Moved** by Councillor O Temple, **Seconded** by Councillor M Wilkes:

That the Council Tax requirement be reduced by 1.99%, this to be funded by a transfer of reserves.

For the Amendment

Councillors R Bell, D Freeman, T Henderson, N Martin, R Ormerod, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, O Temple and M Wilkes.

Against the Amendment

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, A Batey, E Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, S Henig, L Hovvels, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, P May, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, C Potts, L Pounder, A Savory, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, H Smith, T Smith, M Stanton, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Willis, R Yorke and R Young,

Abstention

Councillor K Thompson

The Amendment was **Lost**.

A vote was then taken on the main Motion which was the recommendations contained within the report.

For the Motion

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, A Batey, E Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, S Forster, N Foster, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, S Henig, L Hovvels, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lethbridge, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, P May, B Moir, S Morrison, A Napier, T Nearney, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, A Patterson, T Pemberton, M Plews, L Pounder, K Shaw, H Smith, T Smith, M Stanton, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, K Thompson, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner, A Willis and R Young.

Against

Councillors R Bell, D Freeman, T Henderson, N Martin, R Ormerod, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, Savory, Shuttleworth and Temple.

The Motion was **Carried**.

Resolved:

That the report and its recommendations be adopted in full.

11 Council Tax Setting in Order to Meet the County Council's Council Tax Requirement for 2017/18

The Council considered a report from Cabinet which detailed the information to calculate and set the Council Tax for the Council's area for 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor Napier that the report of Cabinet and its recommendations be adopted, and with it the setting of of the Council Tax.

For the Motion

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Alvey, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, A Batey, E Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, K Corrigan, R Crute, K Davidson, M Davinson, M Dixon, N Foster, I Geldard, B Graham, J Gray, O Gunn, J Hart, T Henderson, S Henig, L Hovvells, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, P Lawton, J Lethbridge, J Lindsay, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, C Marshall, L Marshall, P May, B Moir, A Napier, T Nearney, H Nicholson, T Pemberton, M Plews, L Pounder, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, H Smith, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, K Thompson, F Tinsley, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, A Turner and R Young.

Against

Councillors D Freeman, N Martin, R Ormerod, O Temple and A Willis

Resolved:

That the following be adopted:

- (a) It be noted that on 16 November 2016 the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2017/18;
 - (i) for the whole Council area as 135,620.9 band D equivalent properties [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) and;
 - (ii) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix 3;

- (b) The Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts and the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham) is £195,706,384;
- (c) Agree the following amounts in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act:
- (i) being the aggregate of the gross expenditure which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils is £1,199,193,278;
 - (ii) being the aggregate of the gross income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act is £991,635,655;
 - (iii) being the amount by which the aggregate at (c) i) above exceeds the aggregate at (c) ii) above in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act) is £207,557,623;
 - (iv) being the amount at (c) iii) above (Item R), all divided by Item T ((a) i) above), in accordance with Section 31B of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax at Band D for the year (including Parish precepts) is £1,530.43;
 - (v) being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act: (total of all Parish precepts including Charter Trustees) is £11,851,239;
 - (vi) being the amount at (c) iv) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (c) v) above by Item T ((a) i) above), in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax at Band D for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates is £1,443.04.
- (d) It be noted that for 2017/18 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority has recommended the following amounts will be in the precept issued to the County Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, as shown in the table below:

COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
65.10	75.95	86.80	97.65	119.35	141.05	162.75	195.30

- (e) It be noted that for 2017/18 Durham Police and Crime Commissioner has recommended that the following amounts will be in the precept issued to the County Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, as shown in the table below:

DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
112.83	131.63	150.44	169.24	206.85	244.46	282.07	338.48

- (f) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2017/18 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings;

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
925.74	1,080.02	1,234.31	1,388.60	1,697.18	2,005.75	2,314.34	2,777.20

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – ADULT SOCIAL CARE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
36.29	42.34	48.39	54.44	66.54	78.64	90.73	108.88

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS (excluding Parish, Town Council and Charter Trustees)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,139.96	1,329.94	1,519.94	1,709.93	2,089.92	2,469.90	2,849.89	3,419.86

- (g) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) and that the increase in Council Tax is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZC Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended);
- (h) As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, as major precepting authorities, that their relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended);
- (i) The County Council, in accordance with Section 11A (3) of the Act sets a 0% discount for Second and Empty Furnished Homes;
- (j) The County Council, in accordance with Section 11A (4A) of the Act sets a 0% discount for dwellings defined in Classes C or D;

- (k) The County Council, in accordance with Section 11B (1b) of the Act sets a 150% premium for Long Term Empty Homes for 2015/16;
- (l) The Chief Executive be instructed to publish a notice in accordance with Section 38 (2) of the Act, relating to the amounts of council tax set;
- (m) The Chief Executive be instructed to publish a notice in accordance with Section 11A (6) and 11B (6) of the Act, relating to the discount set.

12 Local Government Pension Scheme - Asset Pooling through the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which recommended an approach which ensured that the Council as Administering Authority of the Durham County Council Pension Fund ('the Durham Pension Fund'), part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), could meet the regulatory requirement for pension fund asset pooling by participating in the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership ("BCPP") and to authorise consequential changes to the constitution in respect of the operation of the Council's Pensions Committee (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor M Davinson, **Seconded** by Councillor N Martin and

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 Elected Member Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources regarding a recommendation by the Constitution Working Group to review the process of DBS checking for elected Members (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor Temple and

Resolved:

That the recommendation be approved.

14 Statutory Appointments - Returning Officer and Monitoring Officer

The Council considered report of the Corporate Director of Resources regarding the need to make two statutory appointments arising from the intended retirement of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor Napier and

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

15 Decision to opt in to the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources regarding proposals for appointing the external auditor to the Council for the 2018/19 accounts and beyond (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Napier, **Seconded** by Councillor Henig and

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

16 Motions on Notice

There were no Motions on Notice.

17 Questions from Members

There were no questions from Members.