

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor E Bell in the Chair

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, P Atkinson, B Avery, A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, A Batey, A Bell, J Bell, J Blakey, G Bleasdale, L Boyd, D Boyes, P Brookes, J Brown, L Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, J Clark, M Clarke, I Cochrane, J Considine, K Corrigan, P Crathorne, R Crute, G Darkes, M Davinson, S Dunn, S Durham, D Freeman, A Gardner, N Grayson, O Gunn, C Hampson, K Hawley, T Henderson, S Henig, D Hicks, A Hopgood, K Hopper, L Hovvells, P Howell, S Hugill, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, P Jopling, C Kay, B Kellett, A Laing, J Lethbridge, K Liddell, J Maitland, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Marshall, C Martin, E Mavin, L Mavin, M McGaun, M McKeon, I McLean, S Morrison, A Napier, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, J Nicholson, A Patterson, C Potts, L Pounder, S Quinn, G Richardson, J Robinson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, E Scott, P Sexton, K Shaw, A Shield, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, A Simpson, H Smith, T Smith, W Stelling, J Stephenson, B Stephens, D Stoker, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, O Temple, K Thompson, F Tinsley, T Tucker, J Turnbull, A Watson, M Wilkes, A Willis, C Wilson, M Wilson, D Wood, R Yorke and S Zair

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Allen, D Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, J Charlton, H Liddle, L Maddison, J Makepeace, S McDonnell, O Milburn, P Oliver, R Ormerod, A Reed and S Robinson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman referred to the recent act of terrorism in Manchester which had claimed many young lives. The Chairman also reported the death of former Teesdale District Councillor and Alderman Ken Robinson who had held the positions of Chairman and Leader of the Council and had also served on Lynesack and Softley Parish Council.

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

1 Election of Chairman

Moved by Councillor C Carr, **Seconded** by Councillor K Shaw and

Resolved:

That Councillor B Kellett be elected to the Office of Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor B Kellett subscribed the Statutory Declaration accepting the Office.

Councillor E Bell vacated the Chair.

Councillor B Kellett in the Chair

In accepting the Office of Chairman of the Council the Chairman informed Council that it would be an honour and privilege to carry out such a role.

The Chairman informed Council that the charity he would be supporting during his Term of Office was the Great North Air Ambulance.

2 Presentation to Retiring Chairman

The Chairman paid tribute to the services of Councillor Bell during his term of office and presented a Past Chairman's Medal to Councillor Bell incorporating the Council's Coat of Arms as a token of the Council's appreciation of his services during his period of office. The Chairman also paid tribute to Councillor Bell's wife and consort, Jennifer, who had been a great support to Councillor Bell during his period of office.

Further tributes to Councillor Bell's ambassadorial service, the diligent, exceptional, professional and dignified way he had conducted himself during his term of office both locally, regionally, nationally and internationally were given by Councillor Henig (Leader of the Labour Group), Councillor Hopgood (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group), Councillor Shield (Leader of the Durham Independent Group), Councillor Henderson (on behalf of the Conservative Group), Councillor Shuttleworth (Leader of the Durham County Council Independent Group) and Councillor Thompson (on behalf of the Spennymoor Independent Group).

In response, Councillor Bell thanked both the incoming Chairman and all Councillors for the presentation and expressed his appreciation to all who had supported and assisted him during the year. Councillor Bell particularly thanked Councillors Blakey, Brookes and Smith for their fundraising activities for his chosen charities, the North East District Resource Centre and Dementia Durham. Councillor Bell thanked former Councillor Dixon for his support as Vice-Chairman throughout the year.

Councillor Bell offered his congratulations to Councillor Kellett and his consort and wished him well for his year in office. Finally, Councillor Bell thanked his wife and consort, Jennifer, for her unwavering support throughout the year.

The Chairman then presented Jennifer with a gift in appreciation of her efforts in supporting Councillor Bell during his term of office.

Councillor Bell informed Council that over £20,000 had been raised for his chosen charities during his term of office and presented a cheque for £5,000 to the North East Disability Resource Centre. A number of dementia clubs in County Durham would receive cheques for £500.

3 Election of Vice-Chairman

Moved by Councillor C Kay, **Seconded** by Councillor J Robinson and

Resolved:

That Councillor J Lethbridge be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Lethbridge subscribed the Statutory Declaration accepting the Office.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Declarations of Interest

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

6 Statement from the Returning Officer

The Council noted the Statement of the County Returning Officer which showed the names of the persons elected at the Elections on 4 May 2017 (for copy see file of Minutes).

7 Chairman's Announcements

Photographs during proceedings

The Chairman informed Members that photographs would be taken during the course of the meeting and that the traditional Council photograph would be taken at the end of the meeting.

Code of Conduct

The Chairman reminded all Members of their obligations under the Code of Conduct and asked that all Members address each other in the correct manner during meetings and show respect at all times.

Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests Forms

The Chairman reminded all Members of the need to complete and return their Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests form, on the basis that appointments to Joint and Other Bodies were agreed at the meeting.

Members had 28 days from the date of election to complete and return this form. Members who had completed and returned their forms would need to check to make sure that there was nothing to add further since they had completed the form.

Chairman's Charity

The Chairman informed Council that his chosen charity for his term of office was the Great North Air Ambulance.

8 Election of Leader of the Council

Moved by Councillor J Robinson, **Seconded** by Councillor A Laing and

Resolved:

That Councillor Henig be elected Leader of the Council.

9 Leaders Announcement of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members

Councillor Henig announced the following Cabinet Members, along with their respective portfolios and Support Members:

Leader of the Council Cllr Simon Henig Cllr Stuart Dunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Overall co-ordination of policy, including MTFP● Council strategy● Performance framework and monitoring● County Durham Partnership● External Partnerships● Communications● Legal and Democratic Services+
Deputy Leader and Finance Cllr Alan Napier Cllr Lyn Boyd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Finance● Legal and Democratic Services+● Risk Management
Adult and Health Services Cllr Lucy Hovvels Cllr Audrey Laing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adult Social Care Services● Adult Safeguarding● Adult Social Care Commissioning● Health and Wellbeing● Public Health● Community Safety● Links with Durham Police● Veterans champion● Mental Health champion
Children and Young People's Services Cllr Olwyn Gunn Cllr Maura McKeon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Education 0-19● Specialist and Safeguarding Children's Services● Youth Services, including Youth Offending Services● Children's Centres● Adult learning● Health and wellbeing board member

<p>Economic Regeneration</p> <p>Cllr Carl Marshall Cllr Simon Wilson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic Development ● Town Centres ● Regeneration ● Skills agenda ● Spatial Planning / County Durham Plan ● Strategic Transport / Local Transport Plan ● Development Control
<p>Neighbourhoods and local partnerships</p> <p>Cllr Brian Stephens Cllr Rob Yorke</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Area Action Partnerships ● Relationships with Town and Parish Councils ● Community Development ● Community Facilities ● Neighbourhood Streetscene ● Environment Policy, including sustainability & climate change ● Environment, Health and Consumer Protection ● Highways ● Waste Management ● Direct Services ● Bereavement services
<p>Social Inclusion</p> <p>Cllr Jane Brown Cllr Angela Surtees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carers ● Human Resources ● Welfare reform and impact ● Welfare rights
<p>Strategic Housing and Assets</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Shaw Cllr Ian McLean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing strategy ● Homelessness ● Private sector housing issues ● Fuel poverty / Energy efficiency ● Links with Housing providers ● Assets (land and property) ● Travellers liaison service
<p>Tourism, Culture, Leisure and Rural Issues</p> <p>Cllr Ossie Johnson Cllr Tracie Smith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tourism, Arts and Culture ● Events ● Leisure services ● Parks ● Allotments ● Rural champion
<p>Transformation</p> <p>Cllr Joy Allen Cllr Katie Corrigan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council transformation programme ● ICT ● Customer Services ● Libraries ● Emergency planning ● Equality and Diversity ● Humanitarian Support Partnership

Councillor Henig thanked former Councillors N Foster, M Plews and E Tomlinson for their service to the Cabinet and the Council.

10 **Appointments of Council Bodies and allocation of seats to Political Groups under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989**

The Council considered a report of the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the appointment of Council Bodies and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Henig advised that his nomination of representatives to the Health and Wellbeing Board were:

Portfolio Holders for Adult and Health Services, Children and Young People's Services and the Chairman of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee.

Moved by Councillor A Laing, **Seconded** by Councillor J Robinson and

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

11 **Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen**

Moved by Councillor Laing, **Seconded** by Councillor Robinson that the circulated list of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees be approved.

Councillor Hopgood referred to the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to non-executive and regulatory committees and requested that the Constitution Working Group produce a report on best practice for filling these positions. Councillor Henig replied that the Constitution Working Group was established to examine all parts of the Constitution, however, any recommendations from the Group needed to be approved by Council.

Non-Executive/Regulatory Committees	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Appeals and Complaints Committee	Councillor J Bell	Councillor D Wood
Audit Committee	Councillor E Bell	*Councillor J Rowlandson
Chief Officer Appointments Committee	Councillor S Henig	Councillor A Napier
Highways Committee	Councillor C Kay	Councillor S Morrison
Human Resources Committee	Councillor S Iveson	Councillor J Clark
General Licensing and Registration Committee	Councillor C Carr	Councillor J Maitland
Statutory Licensing Committee	Councillor C Carr	Councillor L Marshall Councillor P Crathorne
General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee's	Councillor L Marshall (1) Councillor C Carr (2)	

	Councillor P Crathorne (3)	
Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee	Councillor L Marshall (1) Councillor C Carr (2) Councillor P Crathorne (3)	
Standards Committee	Councillor B Kellett	Councillor E Huntington
County Planning Committee	Councillor J Robinson	Councillor F Tinsley
Area Planning Committee (North)	Councillor I Jewell	Councillor S Wilson
Area Planning Committee (Central and East)	Councillor P Taylor	Councillor A Laing
Area Planning Committee (South and West)	Councillor H Nicholson	Councillor J Clare
Pension Fund Committee	Councillor M Davinson	*Councillor O Temple
Corporate Parenting Panel	Councillor P Brookes	Councillor H Smith
Overview and Scrutiny Committees		
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	Councillor R Crute	Councillor A Patterson
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	Councillor C Potts	Councillor H Smith
Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee	Councillor D Boyes	Councillor H Liddle
Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Councillor E Adam	Councillor O Milburn
Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee	Councillor A Batey	Councillor M Clarke
Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee	Councillor M Nicholls	Councillor J Chaplow

*Minority Group

12 Appointments to Joint and Other Bodies 2017/2018

The Council considered a report of the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services detailing appointments to joint and other bodies for 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

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

Resolved:

- (a) That the Council agrees the allocation of seats on the joint body detailed in Appendix 1.
- (b) That the Council agrees the allocation of the memberships of the bodies detailed in Appendix 2 for 2017/18, and agrees that with the revised number of groups on the Council, the number of seats on the County Durham Development Company be increased from 14 to 15 to include representation by each of the group leaders on the Council.

- (c) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the appropriate Group Leader(s), be authorised to make appointments to the other outside bodies to which the Council are invited to nominate, in accordance with the following criteria:-
- (i) identify those organisations whose purpose is aligned to a specific Cabinet Portfolio, and nominate Members accordingly.
 - (ii) identify local outside bodies from each electoral division and allocate those to local members. If there are more seats on an outside body than local members then the political balance would be applied. For those local bodies which are strategic in nature representation by a specific Cabinet Portfolio would be appropriate.

If a consensus on the allocation of seats to Members within the electoral division could not be reached, should the division be represented by Members from different parties and agreement could not be reached, the party with the largest proportion of seats on the Council would be allocated the seat.
 - (iii) the bodies which are not local to a particular electoral division, for example, those with a County or Regional remit, appointments be made in accordance with the overall political proportionality of the Council, except in the case of Housing Associations and bodies providing services in one particular locality, in such circumstances the membership would be from that locality. This does not include appointments to the County Durham Housing Group Board, or its Operations Committee.
- (d) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised, in consultation with the appropriate Group Leader(s), to make any changes to memberships of the main outside bodies/joint bodies approved by Council, which may become necessary during the course of 2017/18.
- (e) That the allocation of seats on the Chartered Trust as detailed in Appendix 3 be agreed. That Councillor C Marshall be appointed as the Cabinet Member to serve on the Trust and that Councillor E Bell be the additional Member.
- (f) That the allocation of seats on the Police and Crime Panel as detailed in Appendix 4 be agreed.
- (g) That Councillor E Bell be appointed to serve on the Joint Audit Committee to assist the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, noting the nomination would be subject to approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Moved by Councillor J Robinson, **Seconded** by Councillor L Marshall and

Resolved:

Appointments be made to the positions on the North East Combined Authority as follows:

- a) The Council Representative of the North East Leadership Board (NELB) – Councillor S Henig;
- b) Substitute member of the NELB – Councillor A Napier;
- c) Two members to the Transport North East Committee (TNEC) – Councillors C Marshall and K Shaw;
- d) Substitute member to the TNEC – Councillor J Allen;
- e) One member to the Governance Committee – Councillor E Bell;
- f) Substitute member to the Governance Committee – Councillor B Kellett;
- g) Two members to be representatives on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillors R Crute and A Patterson
- h) Substitute member on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor A Batey
- i) One member to the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board – Councillor C Marshall
- j) Substitute member to the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board – Councillor K Shaw

Appointments to the County Durham Housing Group

- a) Two members to the County Durham Housing Group Board – Councillors D Boyes and K Shaw
- b) Three members to the County Durham Housing Group Operations Committee – Councillors J Clark, B Kellett and C Wilson.

13 The Constitution

The Council considered a report of the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services which presented the Constitution of the new Council (for copy see file of Minutes).

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

Resolved:

- (a) That the new Constitution be approved;
- (b) That the Scheme of Delegations as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution be approved;
- (c) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised, following consultation with the Constitution Working Group, to make future changes to the Constitution to reflect decisions of the Council, or a Council body, to comply with legal requirements, or to correct inaccuracies.

14 Dates of Council meetings for 2017/18

Resolved:

That the dates of meetings of the County Council for 2017/18 be as follows:

Wednesday 21 June 2017
Wednesday 19 July 2017
Wednesday 20 September 2017
Wednesday 1 November 2017
Wednesday 6 December 2017
Wednesday 24 January 2018
Wednesday 21 February 2018
Wednesday 18 April 2018
Wednesday 23 May 2018