

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber - County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 10.00 am.**

Present:

Councillor B Kellett (Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Atkinson, P Atkinson, B Avery, A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, A Batey, A Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, J Blakey, L Boyd, D Boyes, P Brookes, D Brown, J Brown, L Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, J Clark, M Clarke, I Cochrane, K Corrigan, P Crathorne, R Crute, G Darkes, M Davinson, S Dunn, S Durham, D Freeman, A Gardner, J Grant, N Grayson, O Gunn, D Hall, C Hampson, K Hawley, T Henderson, S Henig, A Hopgood, K Hopper, L Hovvels, P Howell, S Hugill, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, P Jopling, C Kay, L Kennedy, A Laing, J Lethbridge (Vice-Chairman), K Liddell, H Liddle, L Maddison, J Makepeace, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Marshall, C Martin, E Mavin, L Mavin, M McGaun, M McKeon, I McLean, O Milburn, S Morrison, A Napier, H Nicholson, J Nicholson, R Ormerod, A Patterson, C Potts, L Pounder, S Quinn, A Reed, J Robinson, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton, K Shaw, A Shield, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, A Simpson, H Smith, T Smith, J Stephenson, B Stephens, D Stoker, A Surtees, P Taylor, O Temple, K Thompson, F Tinsley, T Tucker, J Turnbull, A Watson, A Willis, C Wilson, M Wilson, S Wilson, D Wood and S Zair

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bell, E Bell, J Bell, G Bleasdale, J Charlton, D Hicks, J Maitland, S McDonnell, P Oliver, G Richardson, S Robinson, A Savory and L Taylor

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman reported with great sadness the death of former Durham City Councillor and Alderman George 'Geordie' Marsden who had represented the Cassop-cum-Quarrington Ward on the former City Council from 1987 to 2009.

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

1 Election of Chairman

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

Resolved:

That Councillor J Lethbridge be elected to the Office of Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor J Lethbridge subscribed the Statutory Declaration accepting the Office.

Councillor B Kellett vacated the Chair.

Councillor J Lethbridge 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 Royal British Legion.

2 Presentation to Retiring Chairman

The Chairman paid tribute to the services of Councillor Kellett during his term of office and presented a Past Chairman's Medal to Councillor Kellett 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 Kellett's consort, Councillor Chaplow, who had been a great support to Councillor Kellett during his period of office.

Further tributes to Councillor Kellett'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 R Bell (Leader of the Conservative Group), Councillor Shuttleworth (Leader of the Durham County Council Independent Group), Councillor Maddison (Leader of the Spennymoor Independent Group) and Councillor Hawley (Leader of the North East Group).

In response, Councillor Kellett 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 and thanked Councillor Lethbridge for his support as Vice-Chairman throughout the year.

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

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

Councillor Kellett informed Council that, to date, £16,000 had been raised for his chosen charity, the Great North Air Ambulance, during his term of office.

3 Election of Vice-Chairman

Moved by Councillor R Crute, **Seconded** by Councillor A Laing and

Resolved:

That Councillor K Corrigan be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Corrigan subscribed the Statutory Declaration accepting the Office.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2018 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to Councillor Reed's apologies for absence being noted.

5 Declarations of Interest

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

6 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.

Register of Interests Forms

The Chairman reminded all Members of the need to review and update Register of Interests form, on the basis that appointments to Joint and Other Bodies were agreed at the meeting.

Processing following conclusion of Council Meeting

The Chairman requested that at the conclusion of all meetings all councillors should remain in the Chamber to allow himself and the officials on the dais to leave the Chamber. Members were then free to leave.

7 Annual Review of the Constitution

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which presented proposals for the revision of the Council's Constitution (for copy see file of Minutes).

In **moving** approval of the revision to the Constitution Councillor Henig informed Council that the proposed amendments had been considered by the Constitution Working Group.

Seconded by Councillor Hopgood.

Councillor Shuttleworth informed the Council that he had objected to the abolition of the Human Resources Committee when the proposed revisions were considered by the Constitution Working Group.

Resolved:

That the proposed revisions to the Constitution be approved.

8 Request for Dispensation

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which sought approval to grant a dispensation under section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Hawley, **Seconded** by Councillor Liddell and

Resolved:

That Councillor McDonnell’s request for a dispensation under section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 be approved.

9 Leaders Announcement of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members

Councillor Henig announced that there were no changes proposed to Cabinet Members or Portfolios for the forthcoming year.

However, there was an amendment to Cabinet Support Members as follows:

Councillor J Clare as Cabinet Support Member to Councillor C Marshall
 Councillor T Tucker as Cabinet Support Member to Councillor K Shaw
 Councillor M Davinson as Cabinet Support Member to Councillor J Allen

Councillor Henig welcomed these new Members into their Cabinet Support roles.

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| <p>Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Simon Henig</p> | <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+ |
| <p>Deputy Leader and Finance</p> <p>Cllr Alan Napier Cllr Lyn Boyd</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance ● Legal and Democratic Services+ ● Risk Management |
| <p>Adult and Health Services</p> <p>Cllr Lucy Hovvels Cllr Audrey Laing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Social Care Services ● Adult Safeguarding ● Adult Social Care Commissioning ● Health and Wellbeing |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Health ● Community Safety ● Links with Durham Police ● Veterans champion ● Mental Health champion |
| <p>Children and Young People's Services</p> <p>Cllr Olwyn Gunn Cllr Maura McKeon</p> | <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 John Clare</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 and HR</p> <p>Cllr Jane Brown Cllr Angela Surtees</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carers ● Human Resources ● Welfare reform and impact ● Welfare rights ● Equality and Diversity |
| <p>Strategic Housing and Assets</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Shaw Cllr Tanya Tucker</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 |

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|---|---|
| <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 Mark Davinson</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council transformation programme ● ICT ● Customer Services ● Libraries ● Emergency planning ● Humanitarian Support Partnership |

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 Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the appointment of Council Bodies and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups under Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (for copy see file of Minutes).

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.

An amendment to the list of Vice-Chairs for Scrutiny Committees was **Moved** by Councillor Hopgood and **Seconded** by Councillor Maddison as follows:

Economy and Enterprise – Councillor Paul Howell
 Children and Young People – Councillor Mamie Simmons
 Safer and Stronger Communities- Councillor Joan Nicholson
 Environment and Sustainable Communities- Councillor Alan Gardner
 Adults, Wellbeing and Health – Councillor Owen Temple

Upon a vote being taken the amendment was **lost**.

Upon a further vote being taken the circulated list of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees was **approved**.

| Non-Executive/Regulatory Committees | Chairman | Vice-Chairman |
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| 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 |
| 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 J Robinson | Councillor J Chaplow |

12 Appointments to Joint and Other Bodies 2018/2019

The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services detailing appointments to joint and other bodies for 2018/19 (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 2.
- (b) That the Council agrees the allocation of the memberships of the bodies detailed in Appendix 3 for 2018/19, 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 15 to 16 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 2018/19.
- (e) That the allocation of seats on the Chartered Trust as detailed in Appendix 4 be agreed. That Councillor C Marshall be appointed as the Cabinet Member to serve on the Trust.

- (f) That the allocation of seats on the Police and Crime Panel as detailed in Appendix 5 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, Crime and Victim's Commissioner.

Moved by Councillor A Laing, **Seconded** by Councillor J Robinson 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 members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor A Batey and M Clarke
- 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 T Tucker.

13 Dates of Council meetings for 2018/19:

Resolved:

That the dates of meetings of the County Council for 2018/19 be as follows:

Wednesday 20 June 2018
Wednesday 18 July 2018
Wednesday 19 September 2018
Wednesday 31 October 2018
Wednesday 5 December 2018
Wednesday 23 January 2019
Wednesday 20 February 2019
Wednesday 27 March 2019
Wednesday 22 May 2019