

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber - County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor J Lethbridge in the Chair**

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, P Atkinson, A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, A Batey, D Bell, E Bell, J Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, J Blakey, G Bleasdale, L Boyd, P Brookes, D Brown, J Brown, L Brown, C Carr, J Chaplow, J Charlton, J Clare, J Clark, M Clarke, I Cochrane, J Considine, K Corrigan (Vice-Chairman), P Crathorne, R Crute, M Davinson, S Dunn, S Durham, J Grant, O Gunn, D Hall, T Henderson, S Henig, D Hicks, A Hopgood, K Hopper, L Hovvels, P Howell, S Hugill, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, P Jopling, C Kay, L Kennedy, H Liddle, L Maddison, J Maitland, J Makepeace, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Marshall, C Martin, E Mavin, S McDonnell, 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, G Richardson, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, A Simpson, H Smith, T Smith, W Stelling, J Stephenson, B Stephens, D Stoker, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, O Temple, K Thompson, J Turnbull, A Willis, C Wilson, S Wilson and D Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Allen, B Avery, A Bell, D Boyes, J Carr, G Darkes, D Freeman, A Gardner, N Grayson, C Hampson, K Hawley, B Kellett, A Laing, K Liddell, L Mavin, P Oliver, J Robinson, S Robinson, A Savory, A Shield, M Simmons, F Tinsley, T Tucker, A Watson, M Wilkes, M Wilson, R Yorke and S Zair

### **1 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2018 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **3 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman invited Members to view the display currently in the Durham Room which highlighted help available from Clean and Green, Civic Pride, the landlord's service and the police.

The Chairman informed Council that staff had raised £456 from World Cup Wednesday and he had agreed that this sum be split equally between the Royal British Legion and the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

The Chairman informed the Council of events he had attended as Chairman since the last Council meeting, including the RAF centenary service at the Cathedral, Miners Gala and the unveiling of a memorial stone to the Durham Pals in France.

#### **4 Leader's Report**

The Leader informed Members that the Council had supported Armed Forces Day and the centenary of the Royal Air Force by flying the armed forces flag and the RAF Ensign at County Hall, as well as taking part in the RAF centenary service at the Cathedral.

On 5 July the main entrance to County Hall was lit up blue to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the NHS. Meanwhile, the Celebrating Durham message wall was currently on display at Spennymoor Leisure Centre and would move to Dalton Park Shopping Outlet in August.

The recently released annual tourism economic impact assessment showed continued positive growth in Durham County with visitors up by 2.4% and visitor expenditure up by 5% on 2016. Almost 20 million people visited County Durham and the numbers employed, directly or indirectly, in tourism also rose by 5% on 2016.

Binchester Roman Fort had reopened to the public after essential improvement work which included the installation of a new wooden structure to protect and preserve the Roman bathhouse. The new structure included painted murals that would have been used to decorate the original building.

At the end of June Man Engine, the largest mechanical puppet ever constructed in Britain, came to Willington as part of its national tour. Supported by Northern Heartlands, Durham County Council, Three Towns AAP and Willington Town Council the event was attended by an estimated 6,000 people, celebrating the mining history of the Willington community.

The Durham City Run would take place tonight and the Brass Festival would culminate at the weekend with Streets of Brass in Durham City. Throughout the week the Big Brass Bash programme had visited towns across County Durham, including Peterlee, Crook, Shildon, Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe before the finale at Wharton Park.

The Leader paid tribute to all staff and especially those from Neighbourhood Services who had the task of clearing up after these events. Their efforts, such as those after 200,000 people attended the Miners Gala, were hugely appreciated and shone a very positive light on the Council.

During the first week of the Great Exhibition of the North the Leader gave a presentation which included some of County Durham's great successes at the North East Cultural Partnership 'Thinking International' event at the Sage, Gateshead, which brought together more than 100 arts, heritage, university and business representatives for a strategic discussion about Brexit and the cultural

sector in the North East. While Brexit was now only a few months away, with many issues still to be resolved, the key priority must remain the economy and jobs.

To this end a six week County Durham Plan consultation was now underway. A series of activities were taking place to encourage residents to give their feedback. Activities included public events, social media, bus shelter adverts, radio adverts and leafleting at events with a high footfall. The consultation ended on 3 August 2018.

Consultation on the Chester-le-Street Masterplan was also underway and would run until 3 August, the consultation on the Bishop Auckland Masterplan would run until 20 August and the consultation on the Horden Masterplan closed on 5 July.

Members and staff had the opportunity to get an early view of the proposed new council headquarters ahead of the public pre-application consultation events which were held in Durham City and Freemans Quay. The reason for moving headquarters was to clear the Aykley Heads site for a new business park and 6,000 new jobs. Developments such as this and others across County Durham were essential to the future of County Durham. This was why the Council was promoting a second 'My Future is County Durham' video across its platforms and local press. As part of the Council's commitment to promote and facilitate high quality career opportunities for the future it had a focus on the office space of the future, promoting jobs linked to a range of industries including precision engineering, finance, photonics and the space and satellite application industries.

A key part of the Council's plans also included more staff being relocated to other key sites across County Durham as the new HQ building had been designed to be substantially smaller than the present County Hall. It was already very positive to see the increased number of staff working at Crook since the refit of the offices there and more staff would locate to offices across the County, such as Seaham, Meadowfield, and Green Lane, Spennymoor which would spread the economic benefits across the whole County.

The County had enjoyed a fine summer of events and also weather and the Leader hoped that this would continue in the weeks to come and hoped all members could enjoy some time off during the August recess before the next council meeting in September.

## **5 Questions from Area Action Partnerships**

Questions had been received from Weardale Area Action Partnership and the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership relating to the following:

- Support for the Mineral Products Association's proposed new Aggregates Levy Community Fund;
- Work the Council is doing with its partners to ensure National Government was aware of the importance of continued regeneration funding post-Brexit.

Angela Maddison, Weardale AAP Co-ordinator and Andrew Walker, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP Coordinator were in attendance to ask their questions. Councillor C Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration thanked both the

Weardale AAP and the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP for their questions and provided a response to both.

## **6 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

## **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 on 13 June 2018 (for copy see file of Minutes).

## **9 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18**

The Council considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017/2018 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor R Crute, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny informed Council that the Annual Report contained details of key Scrutiny activity and achievements during 2017/18 and also the work programmes for Overview and Scrutiny. The scrutiny work programme for the year had reflected a balanced programme of work and of improvement in the operation of scrutiny which met the four principles of effective public scrutiny.

A recruitment exercise to refresh the non-voting co-optees had been undertaken who would bring their own expertise and views to scrutiny, and provide external challenge to work programmes.

Councillor Crute thanked the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Scrutiny Committees and also the Scrutiny Support Team.

### **Resolved:**

That the Council receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017/18.

## **10 Motions on Notice**

In accordance with a Notice of Motion it was **Moved** by Councillor L Brown and **Seconded** by Councillor E Scott:

*This council notes that the Control of Pollution Act 1974 empowers local authorities to serve a notice imposing requirements as to how construction works should be carried out to minimise noise and nuisance. This council further notes that the majority of councils across the UK impose the following limits on working hours on building sites:*

- *Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm*
- *Saturdays, 8am-1pm*
- *No work on Sundays or bank holidays.*

*This council therefore resolves (without prejudice to its capacity vary such conditions as and when advisable) to formalise the standard condition on hours of working to be applied to planning consents across County Durham as follows:*

- *Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm*
- *Saturdays, 8am-1pm*
- *No work on Sundays or bank holidays.*

Upon a vote being taken the Motion was **Lost**.

## **11 Questions from Members**

There were no questions from Members.