

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

28 March 2019

### BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Borough Council was held on 28 March 2019 at the Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart.

**PRESENT** His Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Teasdale), Councillors Ayre, Baldwin, Bendelow, Brown, Cawley, Clarke, Davies, Dick, Foggo, Foley-McCormack, Mrs Forster, Goddard, Griffiths, Hannaway, Higgins, Hodgson, Holyoake, Hunt, Dr C Jackson, E Jackson, I Jeffrey, S Jeffrey, Jones, Kay, King, Lanigan, Mason, Massey, Morgan, G Nightingale, I Nightingale, Norton, O'Brien, Ovens, Pallister, Rider, Smith, Thomson, Thrower, Turner, Walsh, Watts, Wells, Williams, Wilson and Wright.

**OFFICIALS** D Calderwood, L Donaghue, S Newton, J Sampson, B Shaw, P Rice, S Robson and A Skelton.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Cooney, Dennis, Firman, Harding, Mrs Higgins, C Jeffery, G Jeffery, McLuckie, Quartermain, Quigley, Reed and Stainthorpe.

#### 56. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor E Jackson declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Loftus as a Member of Loftus Town Council.

Councillor Griffiths declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Guisborough as a Member of Guisborough Town Council, a Member of Guisborough Town Pride and as a Member of Take Heart Support Group.

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8B as an employee of Beyond Housing.

Councillor Thrower declared a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to Guisborough as a Member of Guisborough Town Council, Friends of Guisborough Cemetery, Guisborough in Bloom and Chaloner Street Market. She also declared a non-pecuniary interest as a private landlord.

#### 57. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 and the minutes of the Special meeting held on 28 February 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

28 March 2019

58. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

58.1 **Mayor's Announcements**

58.1.1 **Charity Ball**

The Mayor announced that his Charity Ball would be taking place at Gisborough Hall on Thursday 25 April 2019.

58.2 **Leader's Announcements**

58.2.1 **Spring Statement from the Chancellor**

The Leader of the Council gave an update on the spending cuts. She advised that the area desperately needed funding for local services which were under pressure. Nationally, Councils still faced a funding gap of more than £3 billion in 2019/20.

The Spending Review would not be published until the Autumn Budget. This meant there would be no certainty about future funding and it would severely hamper the Local Authority's ability to plan ahead for next year and beyond. The budget that had been agreed at the previous meeting was precariously balanced, and it would be very difficult to deal with any additional demand led growth or cut in income both of which could be caused by a crash-out Brexit.

The Leader asked Members to lobby the Government to ensure the Spending Review genuinely secured the financial sustainability of local services and Councils.

58.2.2 **South Tees Development Corporation**

The Leader of the Council announced that TVCA funding had been used to purchase part of the South Tees Development Corporation site and work would commence shortly to make it ready for investors.

She advised that a bid that had been made to the Government for significant funding for redevelopment of the site. This was still being discussed and an announcement would be made in the autumn.

58.2.3 **Redcar and Cleveland College Progress**

The Leader of the Council announced that Redcar and Cleveland College were doing really well since the merger with Stockton College and there had been growth in student numbers.

The Leader had met with OFSTED inspectors to say how pleased this Council was with what was happening at the College and that this Council considered them to be an important strategic partner.

28 March 2019

**58.2.4 Coastal Communities Funding**

The Leader of the Council announced that the Authority continued to make bids for funding to support key schemes in the Borough. Two recent bids for Coastal Communities Funding had been rejected by the Government; Redcar Station and the Arlington Co-op building in Loftus.

The Authority had also recently made a bid to the Future High Streets Fund for Loftus, which was submitted on 22 March 2019.

**58.2.5 Events**

The Leader of the Council announced that she had recently attended events including: The Inspiring Women Awards, The Shine Event and an event for Social Enterprises in the Borough.

The Leader of the Council also expressed her good wishes to all those involved in the Klondike Grand Prix on 14 April 2019.

**58.3 Cabinet Members' Announcements**

**58.3.1 Public Sector Transformation Awards 2019**

The Cabinet Member for Children announced that this Council had received the bronze award for Community Focus at the recent Public Sector Transformation Awards in London.

He congratulated the Business Support Team who presented the award to the Mayor.

**59. TO DEAL WITH THE REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE LAST BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING.**

**59.1 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS**

**MOVED** by Councillor King and duly seconded by Councillor Mason that:

“This Council notes:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt on communities, natural habitats, and biodiversity levels around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1.1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. This is mainly due to build-up of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels released by burning fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide levels are now at 410 ppm (and still increasing) compared to 280ppm before the industrial revolution. If nothing changes this

28 March 2019

would lead to temperatures far above those deemed to be safe for the current global ecosystem and would cause great hardship for humanity.

2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that we do all we can reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.
3. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm. There is overwhelming evidence indicating that human activity has resulted in global climate change that threatens our future and those of generations to come. It is clear that we must all take significant steps to address our lifestyles immediately in order to slow and, in time, reverse this damage. In our position as a local authority, we have a crucial role to play in leading by example, influencing the way that the residents and businesses of the Borough live and work and supporting everyone to make the necessary changes in their lives and work.
4. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of carbon emissions. The scheme to convert street lamps from sodium to more efficient LED bulbs will result in the reduction of carbon emissions by more than 1,000 tonnes every year including a fall in energy consumption of more than 50%, our Greenhouse Gas emissions have already been reduced by 13.2% from 2016/7, this council has improved the energy efficiency of its buildings and officers are currently working towards signing the UK 100 pledge to meet commitments made both nationally and internationally at the Paris Summit for 100% clean energy by 2050 and officers are currently supporting the Council to engage in and explore initiatives including – The 'RE100' - a voluntary initiative led by The Climate Group where organisations commit to sourcing their supply of electricity by renewables, The 'UK100' – another voluntary initiative led by a network of local government leaders across the UK looking to move the borough to 100% clean energy by 2050 and The 'Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020' – a voluntary initiative led by UK Government and targeting a reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions of 30% by 2020/21 (compared to a 2009/10 baseline).
5. Unfortunately, these plans and actions are not enough as the world is already on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.

6. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in Autumn 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and reported that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from all citizens and authorities.
7. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency, and at least 12 Councils in the UK have passed motions declaring a Climate Emergency.

This Council acknowledges that:

It is proud of the work undertaken by Officers and Members in recent years to start to address the causes and impact of Climate Change in the Borough and beyond. However, there is much more that needs to be done and the Council knows that effective action to address these issues will take time to implement. We cannot expect residents to change their habits if we are not prepared to lead by example in the fight against climate change and the resulting habitat and biodiversity loss for the sake of everyone in the Borough both now and in the future.

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown, habitat destruction and biodiversity loss and that Local Governments should not rely on national Government instruction to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Redcar and Cleveland and the rest of the UK that communities commit to carbon neutrality as soon as possible.

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening should be humanity's number one priority.

Bold climate action can deliver benefits to the local, national and international community and improved well-being for people and wildlife worldwide.

This Council resolves to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to take action with a view to making the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
3. Call on the national Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

---

28 March 2019

4. Work with other Governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the Borough, region and neighbouring authorities to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; and,
6. Report to the Borough Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to play its part in addressing this emergency.”

**AMENDMENT MOVED** By Councillor S Jeffrey, seconded by Councillor Massey that:

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2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that we do all we can reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;
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5. Unfortunately, these plans and actions are not enough as the world is already on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050;
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7. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency, and at least 12 Councils in the UK have passed motions declaring a Climate Emergency.

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28 March 2019

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This Council resolves to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to take action with a view to making the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
3. Recognises that to achieve this national government must provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible. This must include protecting our manufacturing industry and associated jobs by facilitating an industrial Carbon Capture Storage and Utilisation (CCSU) network in our Borough including:
  - Backing the development of the clean gas low-carbon electricity generation project at the South Tees Development Corporation by providing the necessary support and funding, in particular by agreeing a Contract For Difference (CFD) to provide the clear, stable and predictable revenue that is needed to make this project viable.
  - Putting the necessary legislation in place to make the transport and storage infrastructure for carbon sequestration a nationally regulated asset (like the national grid) to ensure the risks of setting up and running a CCSU network are properly managed and owned.
4. Work with other local and regional Governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5C;

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

---

28 March 2019

5. Continue to work with partners across the Borough, region and neighbouring authorities to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; and,
6. Report to the Borough Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to play its part in addressing this emergency.

This amendment was accepted by Councillors King and Mason, with the consent of the meeting, whereupon it was:

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion by Councillor King and duly seconded by Councillor Mason that:

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28 March 2019

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4. Work with other local and regional Governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the Borough, region and neighbouring authorities to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; and,

6. Report to the Borough Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to play its part in addressing this emergency.

60. **DELIVERING A FLOURISHING FUTURE OUTTURN REPORT**

The Council received and considered a report presented by Councillor S Jeffrey and duly seconded by Councillor Massey that set out the key achievements and progress in relation to each of the priorities of Our Flourishing Future for 2018/19. Councillor S Jeffrey recommended that the achievements in delivering many improvements as set out in the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan 2019/19 be endorsed.

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor S Jeffrey and duly seconded by Councillor Massey the Delivering a Flourishing Future Outturn Report be approved.

61. **REDCAR AND CLEVELAND HOUSING STRATEGY 2019-2024**

The Council received and considered a report presented by Councillor Norton and duly seconded by Councillor Pallister presenting the Housing Strategy for 2019-2024. Members were reminded that a Cross Party Housing Strategy Forum had been established to consider all housing options and other such policies that were available in the review of the Council's current housing strategy.

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor Norton and duly seconded by Councillor Pallister the Redcar and Cleveland Housing Strategy for 2019-2024 be approved and that:

1. An amendment be made to the Council's constitution in order to include the Housing Strategy within the policy framework; and,
2. The Housing Strategy Forum be open to all Members and refreshed following the local elections, and will continue to meet into the future in order to monitor the delivery of the Redcar and Cleveland Housing Strategy 2019-2024.

62. **CHILDREN IN OUR CARE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The Council received and considered a report presented by Councillor Hannaway, the Cabinet Member for Children, which gave an update on the functions of the Children in Care Team and Child Sexual Exploitation.

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor Hannaway and duly seconded by Councillor S Jeffrey that the Looked After Children Unit and Child Sexual Exploitation report be approved and noted.

28 March 2019

**63. TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**63.1 Question 1 - Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Pallister, Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Welfare:**

“Given that in Smoke Control Areas in the Borough of Redcar & Cleveland, the guidance to owners of Wood Burning and Multi - Fuel Stoves is to only burn approved 'smokeless' fuels, well-seasoned dry wood with a moisture content below 20%, paper and firelighters to start a fire and to use 'Ready to Burn' dry wood for immediate use in some cases being ignored with a detrimental effect on air quality, the production of unacceptable levels of particulates failure and consequently the impairment of the health of residents living in the vicinity, what controls does the Council exercise to ensure that these guidelines are followed?”

**63.2 Response from Councillor S Jeffrey, Leader of the Council, in the absence of Councillor Pallister:**

“Most of our Borough is in a smoke free area which means you can only burn authorised fuels, however if you have installed a stove that DEFRA have tested then you can burn other fuels. This applies to hundreds of stoves and if you go onto the DEFRA website there are the lists of all these stoves.

It is not possible for us to investigate complaints of odour from domestic properties. If it is established that smoke emissions are arising from non-authorised fuels in a non-exempt appliance, then the appropriate enforcement action will be taken. However, if it is established that the correct appliance and fuels are being used then no further action can be taken as the premises is compliant with the Clean Air Act 1993.

It is also not possible to investigate complaints of odour from domestic properties. However, the building control section does hold information detailing which individual properties in the Borough have notified them to have exempt appliances installed and Air Quality England provides details on air quality captured from our monitoring station in the Borough.

We monitor for PM10 which is used as an indicator for PM2.5 which is the emission associated with the use of wood burners and our PM10 levels show that there is no current need to carry out monitoring for PM2.5 because we don't exceed the Government limits. We are actively monitoring, and continue to actively monitor pollution levels from PM10 in the Borough.”

28 March 2019

**63.3 Supplementary question from Councillor Thomson:**

“Thank you for the reply. I would just briefly say that the PM10 levels, although we are not exceeding them or appearing to infringe upon the minimum, the difficulty that residents have in when they are experiencing pollution both visually and from a breathing point of view, they need to have some sort of guidance. You have mentioned a whole list of websites, my supplementary question attempts to address awareness and what we can do recognising our powers of enforcement are limited. Will the Council do all that it is able to do through its extensive communications network to advise residents of the current legislation appertaining to the legitimate use of fuel in wood burning and multi fuel stoves and suggest guidelines for residents to legitimately address such situations where the legislation guidelines are not followed.”

**63.4 Response from Councillor S Jeffrey:**

“I’m not sure that we can suggest guidelines outweighing what national Government provides. There was a new clean air strategy published on 18 January 2019 and that is proposing that new powers will be given to Local Authorities in the future to take action in areas of high pollution although we don’t know the timeline for these new powers and what the details of them might be but we probably need to understand that before we talk about applying new levels or standards.

I think your point about promotion of existing levels and what people should and shouldn’t be doing is a good one. We do already produce a leaflet but if there’s more that we can do through the Council magazine or something like that, and I think just in terms of the whole issue about air quality we are at the moment working with Middlesbrough Council looking at air quality across the whole South Tees area and there was recently a workshop to look at that, and the things we are looking at are the public impacts on local air pollution, actions we can take, how we can work together with partners to improve air quality and what are the barriers to implementation, so there’s some good work going on, but certainly the point about publicity we will pick up.”

**63.5 Question 2 – Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Norton, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth:**

“As the practice of cold calling on residents seeking donations to a charity, and often seeking to encourage residents to commit to signing for regular donations, can on many occasions be upsetting for residents, particularly where these approaches are unsolicited, what measures does Redcar & Cleveland Council have in place to mitigate against such cold calling?”

28 March 2019

**63.6 Response from Councillor Norton:**

“I have a detailed response which I’m quite content to leave with you but just to say in relation to cold calling there is indeed a scheme operated by this Local Authority in terms of assisting those people who want to deter people calling at their properties. However, it is not totally under the control of this Authority.

There is under the House to House Collections Act of 1939 a list of national exemption holders for door to door collections who do not then require a licence from this Authority but we ask them to let the Authority know what’s going on so that we can avoid more than one or two of these people turning up on your street.

We do have a very proactive scheme and its run by the Trading Standards office and those of us that have been out campaigning over the years will see these signs often on the doors. The information in relation to that is available through areas such as our libraries, Citizens Advice Bureau and our Social Workers who encourage people to adopt that scheme wherever they can. I think it boils down to the values of the individual that knocks on the door and perhaps disturbs individuals. I’m happy to leave a longer response to that question as I am aware that we are short of time.”

**63.7 Supplementary question from Councillor Thomson:**

“All of that information we know is in the public domain, the question is how can that be better communicated to residents who are vulnerable and who frequently approach us to say what can we do? Will the Council do all that it is able to do through its extensive communications network to advise residents of the current legislation appertaining to cold calling and suggest guidelines for addressing such situations when the occur.”

**63.8 Response from Councillor Norton:**

“I am content to do that for Councillor Thomson and I will speak to Officers to see what the current method of communication is and I am sure that we can find ways to improve it and ensure that the information gets to them.”

28 March 2019

63.9 **Question 3 – Question from Councillor Wilson to Councillor S Jeffrey, Leader of the Council:**

“The Marske resident group having met several times over many months with Councillors, Officers and other agencies and held their last formal meeting in September 2018. That meeting produced a declaration of intent, including a number of desired outcomes. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth agreed, in an exchange of emails, their support for the outcomes and intent. Would the Leader again confirm the continued support of her administration to the arrangement arrived at in September 2018?”

63.10 **Response from Councillor S Jeffrey:**

“I am very pleased to say that I am happy to confirm that position, yes. We have been working with the Marske traffic light group, I am very happy to do that, and as much as I may have any control of the next administration I will ensure that this position statement that we negotiated between us should go ahead.”

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.