

# Local Government Act 1972

## Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 20 May 2021

At the meeting of the Annual Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 20 May 2021 at 6.00 pm in - The Parks, Howdon Road, North Shields NE29 6TL at which a quorum of Members were present, that is to say: -

### Present

Councillor W Lott (in the Chair)  
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

Councillor L Arkley	Councillor K Barrie
Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor G Bell
Councillor L Bell	Councillor L Bones
Councillor T Brady	Councillor S Brockbank
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor C Burdis
Councillor J Cassidy	Councillor K Clark
Councillor D Cox	Councillor S Cox
Councillor N Craven	Councillor J Cruddas
Councillor E Darke	Councillor L Darke
Councillor S Day	Councillor D Drummond
Councillor P Earley	Councillor S Graham
Councillor M Green	Councillor M Hall
Councillor J Harrison	Councillor Janet Hunter
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor C Johnson
Councillor H Johnson	Councillor C Johnston
Councillor J Kirwin	Councillor F Lott
Councillor G Madden	Councillor A McMullen
Councillor J Mole	Councillor J Montague
Councillor A Newman	Councillor P Oliver
Councillor J O'Shea	Councillor A Percy
Councillor E Parker-Leonard	Councillor S Phillips
Councillor B Pickard	Councillor M Rankin
Councillor W Samuel	Councillor J Shaw
Councillor J Stirling	Councillor M Thirlaway
Councillor J Walker	Councillor J Wallace
Councillor G Westwater	Councillor M Wilson

**Apologies:** Councillor J Allan, Councillor C Davis, Councillor M Madden, Councillor T Mulvenna and Councillor P Richardson

### **C1/21 Councillor Ray Glindon and former Councillor Joan Bell**

Members observed a minute's silence following the recent passing of Councillor Ray Glindon, who had represented Battle Hill Ward from 2004-2006 and Camperdown ward from 2007-2021 and had been Cabinet Member for Finance from 2013-2021 and former

Councillor Joan Bell who had represented Monkseaton ward from 1994-2004 and Monkseaton North ward from 2004-2012 and had been Chair of the Council from 2007-2008.

**C2/21 Election of Chair**

The following nomination was received for the Office of Chair of the Council for the ensuing year:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Councillor D Drummond	Councillor N Craven	Councillor W Samuel

The nomination was approved by 46 votes to 0 votes.

**Resolved** that Councillor D Drummond be, and is hereby elected, Chair of the Council for the ensuing year and until the acceptance of Office by a successor.

**C3/21 Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Chair**

The Chair made the formal declaration of acceptance of Office in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Councillor D Drummond in the Chair).

**C4/21 Election of Deputy Chair**

The following nomination was received for the Office of Deputy Chair of the Council for the ensuing year:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Councillor P Oliver	Councillor P Earley	Councillor Janet Hunter

The nomination was approved by 46 votes to 0 votes.

**Resolved** that Councillor P Oliver be, and is hereby elected, Deputy Chair of the Council for the ensuing year and until the acceptance of Office by a successor.

**C5/21 Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Deputy Chair**

The Deputy Chair made the formal declaration of acceptance of Office in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

**C6/21 Vote of thanks to retiring Chair**

A vote of thanks for the retiring Chair, Councillor W Lott, was moved by Councillor B Pickard and seconded by Councillor C Johnson.

In response, Councillor W Lott stated it had been a honour to represent the Council as its civic head, providing the opportunity to go into the community and experience first-hand various projects and voluntary activity.

The last year had been unprecedented and she stated she had been overwhelmed seeing the community coming together to support each other in a time in need.

She was not only proud to be a representative of the borough but also being a part of it.

In the time served as Chair of the Council she had met many wonderful people and attended some fantastic events such as the Friendship Games and Citizenship Ceremonies.

She also stated she had been impressed by the young people of the borough and their dedication and commitment. Their achievements had been remarkable from activities such as swimming, dancing, volunteering and fund raising.

With regards to her two nominated charities Great North Air Ambulance and Operation Veteran had both received in excess of £8,500 each in the first year. In the second year Operation Veteran had received a further £6,000.

She thanked officers for all their support during her time as Chair of the Council.

The vote of thanks was approved.

#### **C7/21          Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest reported.

#### **C8/21          Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 March 2021 be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **C9/21          Municipal Elections - 6 May 2021 - Return of Councillors**

The Council received the following return of Councillors elected on 6 May 2021.

<b>WARD</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b>Battle Hill</b>	Carl Johnson
<b>Benton</b>	Pat Oliver
<b>Camperdown</b>	Jim Allan
<b>Chirton</b>	Hannah Johnson and John Stirling
<b>Collingwood</b>	Debbie Cox
<b>Cullercoats</b>	Linda Arkley
<b>Howdon</b>	John Hunter
<b>Killingworth</b>	Gary Bell
<b>Longbenton</b>	Eddie Darke
<b>Monkseaton North</b>	Jane Shaw
<b>Monkseaton South</b>	Naomi Craven
<b>Northumberland</b>	Jim Montague
<b>Preston</b>	Liam Bones and Cath Davis
<b>Riverside</b>	Frank Lott
<b>St Mary's</b>	Judith Wallace and George Westwater
<b>Tynemouth</b>	Christopher Johnston
<b>Valley</b>	Tommy Mulvenna

<b>Wallsend</b>	Gary Madden
<b>Weetslade</b>	Anthony McMullen
<b>Whitley Bay</b>	Sandra Graham

The Chair welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Members.

### **C10/21 Address by the Elected Mayor - Cabinet Composition and Delegation Scheme**

The Elected Mayor addressed the Chamber, expressing her sorrow at the passing of her close colleague Ray Glindon who had served on her Cabinet as Cabinet Member of Finance.

She also paid tribute to three outgoing Cabinet Members who had asked to stand down from their positions and thanked Councillors M Hall, G Bell and B Pickard for their service.

The Cabinet would consist of 9 Councillors and the Elected Mayor, as shown below.

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	<b>Key Areas of Responsibility</b>
Norma Redfearn	Elected Mayor	Overall Strategic Policy Direction National and Regional Engagement Leadership within the North of Tyne Combined Authority Devolution Leadership of the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership Law and Democracy
Councillor Carl Johnson	Deputy Mayor	Delivery and presentation of Strategic Policy Direction Regeneration and Economic Development Corporate Strategy (including Customer Service and the Engie Partnership) Planning and Strategic Transport Delivery of the Investment Programme
Councillor Martin Rankin	Cabinet Member responsible for Finance and Resources	Finance, ICT and HR Audit, Assurance and Risk Asset and Property Management Procurement and Supply Chain (including the Capita and Engie Partnerships) Delivery of the Investment Programme
Councillor Anthony McMullen	Cabinet Member responsible for Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Carers Champion Older People's Champion
Councillor Sarah Day	Cabinet Member responsible for Culture, Sport and	Culture, Tourism and Events Leisure and Sport

	Leisure	
Councillor Karen Clark	Cabinet Member responsible for Public Health and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy Public Health Tackling Inequalities
Councillor Steve Cox	Cabinet Member responsible for Housing	Housing Strategy Housing Management Housing Investment Affordable Homes Programme
Councillor Sandra Graham	Cabinet Member responsible for Environment	A Green North Tyneside Waste Management Environmental and Local Transport Services (including roads, pavements, parking, and the Capita Partnership) Cycling Champion
Councillor Carole Burdis	Cabinet Member responsible for Community Safety and Public Protection	Community Safety and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Public Protection (including Capita Partnership) Emergency Planning and Business Continuity
Councillor Peter Earley	Cabinet Member responsible for Children, Young People and Learning	Children, Young People and Learning Safeguarding Employment and Skills

Details of the Mayor's proposed approach to managing executive decision making, which included her delegation scheme of executive decision making to Cabinet Members, had also been circulated to Members.

The following decisions would be delegated to Cabinet Members in 2021/22:

- a) approving the Authority's response to government consultation papers;
- b) approval of service specific plans;
- c) debt write off up to £50,000 in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources);
- d) to approve responses to regional strategies that impact on the Borough;
- e) to determine Traffic Regulation Orders where any objections are not withdrawn (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment);
- f) to consider any representations received in relation to the proposed construction of road humps and thereafter determine if road humps should be installed (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment);
- g) to consider any representations received in relation to proposals to establish a pedestrian crossing and thereafter determine if a pedestrian crossing should be established (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment);
- h) to approve any proposals directly related to the delivery of objectives in the approved Our North Tyneside Plan;
- i) to approve the Member Development Programme (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources);

- j) to consider any applications received for discretionary relief for Council Tax or Business Rates, considered only when exceptional circumstances apply, as set out in the Policy for the awarding of local taxation discretionary relief (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources);
- k) debt write off between £3,000 and £50,000 in respect of current and former Council house tenant arrears and write off of credit balances between £3,000 and £10,000 associated with untraceable former tenants (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing); and
- l) to approve the appointment of representatives to serve on those outside bodies that exercise executive functions (Elected Mayor).

Executive decision making on other matters not listed above would, except in exceptional (urgent) circumstances, be taken by Cabinet collectively.

Any decisions taken by Cabinet Members would have to comply with many of the same good governance requirements that will applied to collective decision-making by Cabinet, namely:

- Publication on the Forward Plan
- Presentation of a written report to the Cabinet Member - the report to be in the same format as current Cabinet reports including reference to legal and financial implications background papers, etc.
- Publication of a record of the decision and availability for call in within specific deadlines.

#### **C11/21 Leaders of Political Groups**

1. It was reported that N Redfearn, Elected Mayor had been appointed as Leader of the Labour Group.
2. It was reported that Councillor S Brockbank had been appointed as Leader of the Conservative Group.

#### **C12/21 Deputy Leaders of Political Groups**

1. It was reported that Councillor C Johnson had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group
2. It was reported that Councillor G Westwater had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

#### **C13/21 Annual Review of the Constitution**

The Council received a report on the annual review of the Constitution and associated documents undertaken by the Monitoring Officer.

The report contained recommendations on proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations and Officer Delegation Scheme, to ensure they continued to be fit for purpose and provided a framework which ensured the efficient discharge of the Authority's business by allowing for decision making at the appropriate level.

The Financial Regulations had been reviewed to reflect organisational changes, changes in

personnel and legislative changes that had occurred since the previous version that was approved in 2013.

The key changes to the Officer Delegation Scheme comprised statutory duties to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism through a local panel; and to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism; and a new environmental protection enforcement duty in relation to plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers.

The Constitution Task Group had considered the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations and Officer Delegation Scheme that had been received for consideration as part of the latest annual review, and the changes had been approved by the Task Group and were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Constitution and associated documents would continue to be kept under review and updated to reflect any changes in the organisational structure of the Council or any legislative changes. The Council had previously authorised the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the Constitution Task Group, to make such changes when the power remained unaltered and these did not need to be reported to Council.

It was moved by Councillor F Lott and seconded by Councillor C Johnson that:

The Council approve the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations and Officer Delegation Scheme set out in Appendix 1 to the report and refer the approved changes to the Elected Mayor for her consent in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 54 votes to 0 votes.

#### **C14/21 Annual Appointments 2021/22**

The Council was requested to consider the appointment of committees and sub committees, Chairs and Deputy Chairs of those committees/sub committees, the allocation of seats to political groups on those committees/sub committees, the appointment of co-opted members on the Audit Committee and the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies that exercised non-executive functions for the 2021/22 Municipal year.

It was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor C Burdis that:

- (1) The following committees/sub committees be appointed for the 2021/22 municipal year on the basis of the number of seats indicated

<b>Committee/Sub-Committee</b>	<b>No of Seats</b>
Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	15
Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee	12
Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee	12
Culture and Leisure Sub Committee	12
Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee	12
Environment Sub-Committee	12

Finance Sub-Committee	7
Housing Sub Committee	12
Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	7
Audit Committee	9 (7 elected/2 independent)
Licensing Committee	15
Planning Committee	11
Regulation and Review Committee	18
Standards Committee	9
Health and Well Being Board	See Resolution 6 below

(2) the allocation of seats on committees/sub committees to political groups represented on the Council be as follows, and the Head of Law and Governance be informed of nominations of members to each committee/sub-committee by 12 noon on Friday 21 May 2021

<b>Committee</b>	<b>total seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Overview and Scrutiny	15	13	2
Finance Sub Committee	7	6	1
Economic Prosperity Sub Committee	12	10	2
Adult, Social Care, Health and Well Being Sub Committee	12	10	2
Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee	12	10	2
Culture and Leisure Sub Committee	12	10	2
Environment Sub Committee	12	10	2
Housing Sub Committee	12	10	2
Audit Committee	7	6	1
Licensing Committee	15	13	2
Planning Committee	11	9	2
Regulation and Review Committee	18	15	3
Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	7	6	1
Standards Committee	9	8	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>25</b>

(Note: The Elected mayor is not included in these figures as she did not wish to take up any committee seats).

(3) the following nomination of chairs and deputy chairs of committees/sub committees for the 2021/22 municipal year be approved:

	<b>Committee/Sub Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Deputy Chair</b>
1.	Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	Janet Hunter	Jim Allan
2.	Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee	Joe Kirwin	Jim Montague



3.	Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee	Matthew Thirlaway	Hannah Johnson
4.	Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee	Julie Cruddas	Margaret Hall
5.	Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee	Matt Wilson	Joan Walker
6.	Environment Sub-Committee	Brian Burdis	Linda Bell
7.	Finance Sub-Committee	Debbie Cox	Naomi Craven
8.	Housing Sub-Committee	Andy Newman	Erin P. Leonard
9.	Health and Wellbeing Board	Karen Clark	Muriel Green
10.	Licensing Committee	Steven Phillips	Paul Richardson
11.	Planning Committee	Willie Samuel	Trish Brady
12.	Regulation and Review Committee	Tommy Mulvenna	John Hunter
13.	Standards Committee	Frank Lott	Wendy Lott

(4) the appointment of Mr Kevin Robinson and Mr Malcolm Wilkinson as the two co-opted members on the Audit Committee for a further two year period be approved;

(5) the appointment of Reverend Michael Vine as the Church of England Diocesan representative and Stephen Fallon as the Roman Catholic Diocesan representative on the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee be noted;

(6) it be noted that the Elected Mayor will appoint at least one Councillor onto the Health and Wellbeing Board for the 2021/22 Municipal Year; and

(7) the following nomination representatives to serve on outside bodies that do not exercise executive functions for the 2021/22 municipal year, be approved:

<b>Body</b>	<b>Appointments/Nominations 2021/22</b>
Association of North East Councils Resources Task and Finish Group	1. Councillor Anthony McMullen Substitute: Councillor D Cox  2. Councillor Willie Samuel Substitute: Councillor N Craven

British Destinations	Councillor S Day
Local Government Association Assembly	1. Mrs N Redfearn, Elected Mayor 2.Councillor C Johnson 3.Councillor Janet Hunter 4.Councillor CA Burdis
Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee	Councillor M A Green
North East Migration Partnership Members Forum	Councillor S Cox
North East Regional Employers Organisation	1. Councillor C Johnson 2. Councillor C Burdis 3.Councillor M Thirlaway
North Tyneside Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillor C Burdis
North Tyneside Veterans Committee	Councillor A Newman
Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and North Durham Sustainability and Transformation Plan Joint Health Scrutiny Committee	1. Councillor K Clark 2. Councillor J Kirwin 3. Councillor T Mulvenna  Substitutes: 1. Councillor S Graham 2.Councillor E Parker-Leonard 3.Councillor T Brady
Percy Hedley School Governors Board	Councillor Pat Oliver
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	1. Councillor P Earley (Chair) 2. Councillor G Bell 3.Councillor M Thirlaway 4.Councillor L Bell
Wallsend Charitable (Victor Mann) Trust	Up to 10 members to be appointed by the Leader of the Labour Group  These will be 3-year appointments expiring in May 2024
Cullercoats Education Trust	1.Councillor W Samuel 2.Councillor S Graham  These are 4-year appointments expiring end of April 2023
Kettlewell Education Foundation	1. Councillor P Oliver 2. Councillor P Earley 3. Councillor Janet Hunter

	<p>4. Councillor S Day</p> <p>These are 3-year appointments expiring May 2023</p>
--	---

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 46 votes to 0 votes, with 5 abstentions.

#### **C15/21          Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny 2020/21**

The Council received the Annual Scrutiny Report which summarised the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and its key achievements during 2020/21

In presenting the report, the Chair of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for 2020/21, Councillor S Graham stated that it had not been a normal year for anyone due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Scrutiny members, along with all members and officers of the authority, had to quickly adapt to new ways of working, including a move to virtual and live-streamed meetings.

Over the year, Scrutiny had played an important role in scrutinising the response of the local authority to the pandemic, as well as reflecting the views of local residents in relation to the public health crisis and the continued provision of essential services across the borough.

Councillor Graham thanked all of the Members, co-opted members, officers, and representatives of partner organisations for their support and contributions to the scrutiny process over the past year.

The Council received the report.

#### **C16/21          Annual Report of Standards Committee 2020/21 and 2019/20**

The Council received the Annual Report of the Standards Committee which summarised the work undertaken by the Committee during 2020/21.

In presenting the report, the Chair of the Standards Committee for 2020/21, Councillor M Rankin stated that the work of the Committee had reduced over the last year due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Committee had met on two occasions in 2020/21 and one occasion to consider applications for dispensations under the Code of Conduct. Due to the pandemic, it had not been possible to submit the Standards Committee Annual Report 2019-20 to Annual Council in May 2020 and it was therefore being submitted to this meeting, alongside the Annual Report for 2020-21.

The Council received the report.

#### **C17/21          Chair's Announcements**

The Chair offered his congratulations to those members that were new or re-elected to the Council following the recent elections.

He also stated that his nominated charities would be SPARCS, a charity that provided a

range of accessible and affordable activities for autistic people and those with related conditions and their families within the local community and the Cat and Dog Shelter at Benton.

### **C18/21 Mayor's Announcements**

The Elected Mayor congratulated those members who had been elected and re-elected to the Council following the recent elections. She was honoured to be re-elected as Mayor for the third time and she stated that many people had contributed to the Council's success.

She stated that she would continue to lead a listening Council that put its residents at the heart of the decision making.

She thanked the retiring Chair Councillor Wendy Lott and her consort Councillor Frank Lott for their hard work over the last two years, through some very difficult times. She stated that through all the difficulties the Chair had continued to raise a lot of money for her charities.

She thanked the Council's hard-working employees, stating that many had put their lives at risk over the last year to save people and deliver essential services. She stated that every employee she had met had continued to deliver the services with a smile on their face.

She finally thanked the Chief Executive and his Strategic Leadership Team in ensuring the delivery of services throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.