

COUNCIL

28 July 2010

Present:-

The Worshipful the Mayor

(Councillor Mrs Ann Heames) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Bannister, James MacKenzie
Barber, Christian Stephen
Beech, Mrs Ann Elizabeth
Bishop, Mrs Elizabeth Ellen
Boden, Edward Michael
Bowyer, Mrs Sandra Phyllis
Braithwaite, Mrs Eileen
Burgess, Mrs Silvia
Burke, Mrs Yvonne Carmel
Cairns, George O'Kane
Clarke, David
Cooper, John, CC
Cooper, Miss Julie Margaret
Cornes, Mrs C Dylis, JP CC
Fear, Andrew Thomas
Gilmore, Ian David
Hailstones, Mrs Linda
Hailstones, Peter James, JP
Hambleton, Mrs Sandra
Hambleton, Trevor
Heesom, Mrs Gillian Mary
Howells, Robert Ashley
Huckfield, Derrick, CC
Johnson, Mrs Hilda
Jones, William Nigel

Lewis, Mrs Barbara Mary
Matthews, Ian John
Morrey, Mrs Tina
Morris, Mrs Helen Mary JP
Myatt, Mrs Freda Dorothea
Naylon, Mrs Wenslie
Nixon, David Ernest, CC
Olszewski, Mark Joseph, JP
Richards, Dennis John
Robinson, Kyle
Shenton, Mrs Elizabeth
Short, Miss Susan Elizabeth
Slater, Raymond André
Snell, Gareth Craig
Studd, Robin
Sweeney, Stephen J M, CC
Tagg, John Henry
Tagg, Simon John, CC
Taylor, Kyle-Noel
Tomkins, Brian Ronald
Walklate, Miss June
Welsh, Billy
Wemyss, Andrew Robert
Williams, Mrs Gill
Williams, John

143. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Becket, Blair, Clarke M, Daniels, Heesom, Miss Reddish, Mrs Simpson, Wilkes and Woolley.

144. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2010 be approved as a correct record.

145. **RHS FLOWER SHOW, TATTON PARK**

Councillor Mrs Naylon, the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Active Communities, reported that the Council had again been successful at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park and had achieved a Silver Gilt award for its display which had been made of recycled material and depicted the food waste process.

Resolved:- That the workforce be congratulated on its achievements in attaining the award.

146. **PETITIONS SCHEME – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (10/11)**

Further to the above resolution a report was submitted detailing the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in respect of the threshold limits required to trigger the necessary action.

Resolved:- That the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be accepted as follows:

(a) The threshold for the number of signatures required for a debate at the full Council be revised to 1,500.

(b) The threshold for the number of signatures required to hold an officer to account at a meeting of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee be revised to 750.

(c) Where petitions affect no more than two wards, the threshold for signatures required to trigger a debate at a meeting of the full Council be set at 200.

(d) Where petitions affect no more than two wards, the threshold for signatures required to hold an officer to account at a meeting of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee be set at 100.

(e) A report on the number and type of petitions received be submitted to the Council on an annual basis in order to determine the appropriateness of the petition scheme.

(f) The Head of Central Services be designated as the Petitions Officer for the Borough Council.

147. **CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS ON COMMITTEE**

A report was submitted advising Members of change in the political balance of the Council and the entitlement of political groups to seats on Committees following the decision of Councillor Slater to register as a Member of the Conservative Group on the Council.

The size of the political group was now as follows:-

Conservative Group	- 24
Liberal Democrat Group	- 17
Labour Group	- 14
UKIP Group	- 5

Resolved:- (a) That the revised political balance of the Council be noted.

(b) That Councillor Slater be appointed to serve on the Licensing Committee.

(c) That Councillor Slater replaces Councillor Matthews on the Audit & Risk Committee.

(d) That consideration of the nominations of the Liberal Democrat Group to fill the vacant seats on the Planning Committee and Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

148. STATEMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a statement submitted by the Leader of the Council detailing the activities and recent decisions of the Cabinet and items included in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Questions were put and responses received from the Leader and other Cabinet Members on a number of matters raised.

Resolved:- That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

149. REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees referred to the various activities that had been undertaken since the previous meeting of the Council.

Resolved:- That the reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs be received.

150. PETITIONS

Pursuant to Standing Order No.17 the Mayor received a petition from residents requesting the Council to put pressure on the County Council to introduce speeding restrictions on the A525 Keele Road, Newcastle.

151. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

152. IDENTIFICATION AND DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS LAND

A report was submitted seeking approval to the release and disposal of surplus parcels of land at various locations throughout the Borough, details of which were considered.

Resolved:- (a) That, subject to the deletion of one site listed approval be given to the release and disposal of sites identified in the report at Appendix A, subject to having first secured outline planning permissions for appropriate development of each parcel of land.

(b) That approval be given to the procurement of specialist professional services, as outlined in this report, for the purposes of preparing and

submitting planning applications (supported by appropriate technical reports) the details of which were to be agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning.

(c) That all receipts derived from this disposal programme be directed to support the Council's capital programme requirements and to finance the procurement of the specialist professional services referred to in (b).

(d) Further to recommendation (c), the first priority for use of receipts was to support the proposed strategic acquisition referred to elsewhere on this agenda.

153. **FREEHOLD ACQUISITION OF LAND AND PROPERTY – NOS. 10-16
LIVERPOOL ROAD, NEWCASTLE**

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to the proposed freehold acquisition by the Council, of the above land and property which was of strategic importance to the regeneration of the Ryecroft area of the Town Centre.

Details of the options considered and the reasons for the preferred solution were submitted.

Resolved:- (a) That the officers be authorised to undertake the necessary actions to secure the freehold acquisition of the subject land/premises with vacant possession, on the basis of the terms set out in the report.

(b) That the officers be authorised to commission specialist advisers to undertake due diligence checks on the subject land/property.

(c) That the officers procure the services of specialist legal advisers to act for the Council in completion of the documentation associated with the proposed acquisition.

(d) That the officers investigate the Council's own future occupational requirements and to establish whether there is a business case to relocate to alternative premises to facilitate the site assembly for the Ryecroft redevelopment.

(e) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting on progress with all matters arising from the above recommendations.

MRS A HEAMES
Chair