

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

At the Annual Meeting of the **Northumberland County Council** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 at 3.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor S.J. Dickinson  
(in the Chair)

### **MEMBERS**

Armstrong, E.	Murray, A.H.
Bawn, D.	Nisbet, K.
Beynon, J.A.	Oliver, N.
Campbell, D.	Parry, K.
Cartie, E.	Pattison, W.
Castle, G.	Pidcock, B.
Cessford, T.	Purvis, M.A.
Clark, T.	Quinn, K.
Crosby, B.	Reid, J.
Dale, P.A.M.	Renner-Thompson, G.
Davey, J.G.	Richards, M.E.
Davey, S.	Rickerby, L.J.
Dodd, R.R.	Riddle, J.R.
Dunbar, C.	Robinson, M.
Dunn, L.	Roughead, G.
Flux, B.	Sanderson, H.G.H.
Foster, J.D.	Seymour, C.
Gallacher, B.	Sharp, A.
Gibson, R.	Simpson, E.
Gobin, J.J.	Stewart, G.
Grimshaw, L.	Stow, K.G.
Hill, G.	Swinburn, M.D.
Homer, C.	Swithenbank, I.C.F.
Horncastle, C.W.	Thorne, T.N.
Hutchinson, J.I.	Towns, D.J.
Jackson, P.A.	Wallace, R.
Jones, V.	Watson, J.G.
Kennedy, D.	Wearmouth R.W.
Lawrie, R.M.G.	Webb, G.
Ledger, D.	Wilson, T.S.
Moore, R.	

### **OFFICERS**

Hadfield, K.	Committee Services Manager
Henry, L.	Legal Services Manager

Lally, D.  
Roll, J.

Deputy Chief Executive  
Democratic Services Manager

Around 45 members of the press and public were in attendance

## **1. ELECTION OF BUSINESS CHAIR AND DEPUTY BUSINESS CHAIR**

Councillor Jackson nominated Councillor Dodd as Business Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Sanderson. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Dodd be elected Business Chair for the ensuing year.

### **Councillor Dodd in the Chair.**

Councillor Dodd then asked members to stand for a minute's silence in memory of those who had died in the recent terrorist attack in Manchester.

He also asked members to recognise the passing of the former mayor of Berwick upon Tweed Mr Peter Herdman. He then welcomed all members, new and returning, and hoped it would be a productive four years.

Councillor Dodd then nominated Councillor Barry Flux as Deputy Business Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Sanderson. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Flux be elected Deputy Business Chair.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bridgett, Dungworth, Hepple, Lang and Towns.

## **3. APPOINTMENT OF CIVIC HEAD AND DEPUTY CIVIC HEAD**

Councillor Daley nominated Councillor Murray as Civic Head. This was seconded by Councillor Sanderson. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Murray be elected Civic Head for the ensuing year.

In handing over the chains of office, the outgoing civic head, Alan Sambrook, thanked members and officers for the support shown to him during his year of office and in raising funds for his two charities - the Children's Heart Unit Fund and the Northumberland Scout Association.

Councillor Murray thanked Alan for the way he had conducted himself as civic head during the previous year and for the effort he had put into helping young people. He promised to represent all of Northumberland in the year ahead in the best way he could, and would advise about his chosen charities as soon as he could. He then presented Alan with the past Civic Head's badge.

Councillor Sanderson then nominated Councillor Jeff Watson as Deputy Civic Head. This was seconded by Councillor Riddle. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Watson be elected Deputy Civic Head for the ensuing year.

Councillor Watson thanked members for their support.

#### **4. MINUTES**

With regard to Minute No. 87(e), (Minutes of Corporate Performance OSC), Councillor J.G. Davey queried the accuracy of the wording used in the paragraph beginning "With regard to minute no.23 (2)..." and suggested that the actual words used by Councillor Jones be lodged with the signed minutes. The Monitoring Officer advised that it was difficult to accept this challenge to the minutes without any further detail. He suggested that it be referred to the July meeting of Council for further debate, which members accepted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 5 April 2017, be confirmed as a true record and sealed with the Common Seal of the Council, subject to further debate of the issue raised by Councillor J.G. Davey.

#### **5. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Castle disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of item 16(1) on the agenda (Potential Loan to Alnwick Town Council), as both an Alnwick Town Councillor and a member of Alnwick Town Juniors FC. He advised he would leave the chamber whilst this matter was discussed.

Councillor Moore disclosed an interest in the same item, having recently been co-opted to Alnwick Town Council. He advised that he would remain in the room and would update his DOI form in due course.

Councillor Sanderson disclosed an interest in Minute No. 86 of the Cabinet minutes of 11 April 2017 (The Borderlands Initiative) as Chairman of the Northumberland National Park Authority.

#### **6. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

**RESOLVED** that the return of the persons elected as Councillors on 4 May 2017 (as set out in Appendix One to the agenda) be received.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS**

### **(1) LEADER**

Councillor Daley moved, seconded by Councillor Homer, that Councillor Jackson be appointed Leader of the Council. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Jackson be appointed Leader of the Council for a four year term.

### **(2) DEPUTY LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

The Leader confirmed the portfolio holders and their portfolios as follows:-

**Deputy Leader and Children's Services - Councillor W. Daley**

**Corporate Services and Cabinet Secretary - Councillor N. Oliver**

**Economic Development - Councillor R. Wearmouth**

**Environment and Local Services - Councillor G. Sanderson**

**Planning, Housing and Resilience - Councillor J. Riddle**

**Culture, Arts and Leisure - Councillor C. Homer**

**Adult Wellbeing and Health - Councillor V. Jones**

Councillor Jackson commented that the emphatic election result had demonstrated the desire for change in the County and the issues of contention had been clear - the planned move of County Hall, towns and communities feeling forgotten, ignored and not listened to, public worries about increasing debt levels and an autocratic and distant Council. He outlined the following plans from the new Administration:-

- No move from County Hall
- The reinstatement of public notices in the Hexham Courant
- No gambling with public money
- A review of projects to ensure the business cases were sound
- The introduction of local area councils with decision making powers and devolved budgets which would gradually increase. This would allow local decision making by local members with local accountability and public involvement.
- A programme of action would be brought forward to address a number of issues.

The Leader added that discussions had revealed that the Authority was currently £1bn in debt with no plans to manage or repay it. The previous Administration had planned to develop on the green belt and had failed to plan

for basic infrastructure in communities. Parents could not get their children into schools and there was a culture of fear and intimidation amongst staff. These issues would be addressed by the new Administration as Council staff were valued, and he confirmed no major upheavals or privatisation of services were planned. However, some staff would be located in local area offices to assist in developing a strong community culture.

**RESOLVED** that the appointments be noted.

## 8. CHANGES TO THE POLITICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The report sought agreement to changes to the political management arrangements and the decision making process to reflect the change in political administration.

The Leader advised that the proposed Local Area Councils would make the Council more connected to its communities and would break up the existing centralised committee structure.

Councillor Ledger expressed his concerns about the proposed boundaries of the local area councils, commenting that they would divide communities, with some streets in his ward being split into two separate areas. Stakeford would be similarly affected and he queried how such arrangements would work. He asked that the boundaries be given further consideration.

Councillor Grimshaw was also concerned about the proposal to include Bothal ward in the Castle Morpeth area. Residents were not supportive of this.

The Leader responded that these issues could be looked at but he reminded members that the areas had been aligned to County Council electoral division boundaries created by the Boundary Commission. However, consideration would be given to the concerns raised and he would write to those members raising specific queries. Also, the arrangements would be reviewed in due course.

Councillor Pidcock expressed his concern that no reference was made to Seaton Valley in the name of the Cramlington and Bedlington LAC and it was suggested that this be looked at

On the required number of members calling for a named vote on the proposals, the votes were cast as follows:-

**FOR: 39** as follows:-

Armstrong, E.	Murray, A.H.
Bawn, D.L.	Oliver, N.

Beynon, J.A.	Pattison, W.
Castle, G.	Quinn, K.R.
Cessford, T.	Reid, J.
Dale, P.A.M.	Renner-Thompson, G.
Daley, W.	Rickerby, L.J.
Dodd, R.R.	Riddle, J.R.
Dunbar, C.L.	Robinson, M.
Flux, B.	Roughead, G.A.
Gibson, R.	Sanderson, H.G.H.
Hill, G.	Seymour, C.
Homer, C.	Sharp, A.
Horncastle, C.W.	Stewart, G.
Hutchinson, J.I.	Stow, K.
Jackson, P.A.	Swinburn, M.D.
Jones, V.	Thorne, T.N.
Kennedy, D.	Watson, J.G.
Lawrie, R.M.G.	Wearmouth, R.W.
Moore, R.	

**AGAINST: 23** as follows:-

Campbell, D.	Ledger, D.
Cartie, E.	Nisbet, K.
Clark, T.S.	Parry, K.
Crosby, B.	Pidcock, B.
Davey, J.G.	Purvis, M.
Davey, S.	Richards, M.E.
Dickinson, S.	Simpson, E.
Dunn, L.	Swithenbank, I.C.F.

Foster, J.	Wallace, R.
Gallacher, B.	Webb, G.
Gobin, J.J.	Wilson, T.S.
Grimshaw, L.	

**ABSTENTIONS: 0**

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the reduction of central committees by 8 be agreed and their work re-allocated within the proposed structure (Proposed Committee Structure appended to the report);
- (ii) the amended Timetable of Meetings appended to the report be agreed (incorporating the amendments circulated at the meeting), and authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager to make any further minor arrangements;
- (iii) the establishment of 5 Local Area Councils be agreed, namely: North Northumberland, Tynedale, Castle Morpeth, Ashington & Blyth and Cramlington & Bedlington (subject to further consideration of the name) as detailed in para 4.1 of the report;
- (iv) the duties of the existing seven Overview and Scrutiny Committees be re-allocated to four, namely Family and Children's Services; Health and Well Being; Corporate Services and Economic Growth; and Communities and Place, with the terms of reference as detailed in Appendix Two to the Council agenda;
- (v) authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution arising from the proposals contained within the agenda; and
- (vi) a report be sought from the Independent Remuneration Panel to assess the Special Responsibility Allowances payable in respect of any changes to the responsibilities. However, it is anticipated that the new proposals will save around £62k in allowances compared with the present system.

## 9. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

### (1) Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and Working Groups

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the appointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs listed below, as circulated at the meeting, be agreed; and
- (ii) the appointment of a further Vice Chair (Planning) to each of the Local Area Councils be agreed. The Vice Chair will take a lead on committee related planning matters, including chairing that part of the meeting dealing with planning applications. In the event that the Vice Chair cannot chair a particular meeting, the Chair of the Local Area Council will fulfil that role.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>VICE CHAIR</b>
Audit	G. Hill	M. Swinburn
Communities and Place OSC	J. Reid	I.C.F. Swithenbank
Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC	D. Bawn	L. Grimshaw
County Emergency Committee	J.R. Riddle	R.R. Dodd
FACS OSC	G. Renner Thompson	M. Swinburn
Governing Body of Netherton Park	E. Armstrong	Trustee Manager
Health and Wellbeing Board	R.R. Dodd	Board representative
Health and Wellbeing OSC	J.G. Watson	L.J. Rickerby
JCC	B. Flux	TU representative
Licensing	J.I. Hutchinson	R.M. Gibson
Licensing and Regulatory	J.I. Hutchinson	R.M. Gibson

North Northumberland LAC	G. Castle	S. Bridgett T.N.Thorne (VC Planning)
Tynedale LAC	G. Stewart	T. Cessford R. Gibson (VC Planning)
Castle Morpeth LAC	E. Armstrong	J. Beynon S. Dickinson (VC Planning)
Cramlington and Bedlington LAC	C. Dunbar	M. Robinson B.Pidcock (VC Planning)
Ashington and Blyth LAC	G. Webb	E. Simpson B. Gallacher (VC Planning)
Pension Fund Panel	J.G. Watson	D. Kennedy
Petitions	R.R. Dodd	B. Flux
Strategic Planning	C.W. Horncastle	T.N. Thorne
Rights of Way	R. Moore	A. Sharp
Staff and Appointments	P.A. Jackson	W. Daley
Standards	Mr J. Jackson	E. Armstrong
SACRE	W. Daley	A faith representative
LDF WG	C.W. Horncastle	T.N. Thorne
LAC Chairs Briefing	G. Castle	C. Dunbar
Member Services WG	A. Sharp	K. Nisbet
Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting	A.H. Murray	K. Stow
Town and Parish Council Liaison WG	G. Roughead	R. Wallace
VCS Liaison Group	W. Pattison	D. Towns

## (2) Committees

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) members be appointed to the Committees and Working Groups as detailed in Appendix Two circulated at the meeting (copy attached to the sealed minutes), and their terms of reference and delegated powers (including the revised terms of reference for the Strategic Planning Committee) be agreed;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive to agree the allocation of any leftover minority group places in consultation with the Group Leaders; and
- (iii) approval be given to the appointment of the Primary Care Applications Working Party (as detailed in the amendments to the agenda circulated at the meeting), consisting of four members of the Health and Wellbeing OSC - Chair, Vice Chair, and two members of the Committee (names to be supplied).

## 10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

**RESOLVED** that the following nominations be made to the outside bodies listed below:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Nominations</b>
Combined Authority Leadership Board	Leader plus sub - P. Jackson, W. Daley (sub)
Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Two</b> (must not be members of Leadership Board, or Transport North East Committee, and to be based on regional political balance, <b>plus two subs</b> (must not be members of Leadership Board, or Transport North East Committee, and to be based on regional political balance -  B. Flux, R.R. Dodd C. Homer, G. Stewart (subs)
Combined Authority Governance	<b>One</b> (must be a member of Audit or Standards and to be based on regional political balance, <b>plus one sub</b> (also to be a member of Audit or Standards) - M. Swinburn G. Castle (sub)
Combined Authority Transport North East Committee	<b>Two</b> (one to be portfolio holder for transport), <b>plus one sub</b> -  H.G.H. Sanderson, J.R. Riddle J.G. Watson (sub)
Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board	<b>One</b> (must be portfolio holder for Economic Development), <b>plus sub</b> -

	R. Wearmouth N. Oliver (sub)
Environment Agency Regional Flood And Coastal Committee	One, plus one deputy - R. Wearmouth N. Oliver (deputy)
Kielder Water and Forest Park Development	One - J.I. Hutchinson
National Park Authority	Six - E. Cartie, J. Foster, A.H. Murray, J.R. Riddle, H.G.H. Sanderson, A. Sharp
Newcastle Royal Grammar School	One - T.N.Thorne
North of England Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	One - G. Castle
North Pennines AONB Partnership	One - C.W. Horncastle
Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership	Four - L. Dunn, R. Moore, G. Renner-Thompson, J.G. Watson
Northumberland College Board	One plus one officer - W. Daley
Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority	Six - S. Dickinson, L. Dunn, R.M.G. Lawrie, W. Pattison, G. Renner-Thompson, G. Roughead
Northumberland Sport	One - C. Homer
Northumbria Police and Crime Panel	Two - S. Davey, B. Flux
NTC Touring Theatre Company	One - B. Flux
Pupil Referral Unit Management Committee	One - W. Daley

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Business Chair reminded members that refreshments would be available in the Chairman's Dining Room following the meeting. He drew members' attention to some changes to the induction and training sessions and reminded them that, as they would all now determine planning applications at LACs, they all needed up to date training.

12. **QUESTIONS** to be put to the Business Chair, a member of the Cabinet or the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee, in accordance with the Constitution's Rules of Procedure No.10.

### **Question 1 from Councillor D Bawn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

Please can we have an update regarding the investigation by the Forestry Commission into the illegal felling of trees on the County Hall site and confirmation of Council's plans to remedy the situation?

Councillor Sanderson replied that the Administration had given a commitment to planting over 150 large trees in the areas where they had been cut down by the end of June. These would include the original varieties of maple and sycamore ensuring the retention of the Northumberland County Council colour theme. The courtyard would be replanted with trees and shrubs, and benches would be provided for staff and visitors to enjoy.

He advised that he had written to the Forestry Commission asking that the penalties still overhanging the Council were reconsidered given the new Administration's commitment to substantial replanting and wish to have a constructive and good relationship with the Forestry Commission going forward.

He reminded members of his request to his predecessor to apologise for the tree destruction which had taken place, which he felt was an unforgivable act. However, the Administration's actions demonstrated their commitment to County Hall and to rectifying the mistakes of the previous Administration.

### **Question 2 from Councillor G. Hill to the Leader**

What update can be given, in terms of timescales and process, for the abolition of Arch?

Councillor Jackson responded that it was still early days and members were currently working to understand the full details of the Council's arrangements with Arch and the legal and financial implications of them. He gave an assurance that Arch as it had been known would not continue to operate under the new Administration, but until there had been a full analysis of Arch's and the Council's commitments and the risks associated with them, a timetable would not be set for dismantling the current arrangements. Substantial sums of public money were tied up in Arch and the first priority would be to safeguard the financial future of the Council and its services.

Councillor Hill referred to the Conservative manifesto which had pledged to abolish Arch, and which had been supported by voters. She asked for the Leader's response to concerns that he was backtracking and setting up Arch under another name. The Leader confirmed that manifesto promises would be kept, but the issue would take time to be properly looked at. However, Arch would be scrapped in its current form.

### **Question 3 from Councillor G. Hill to the Leader**

Does the new administration intend to be open, accountable, transparent and one which welcomes scrutiny?

The Leader confirmed this would be the case. The Scrutiny committees had been reduced to four, but he expected them to be more open, accountable and engaging.

Councillor Hill welcomed this and enquired whether there would be any investigation of live streaming these meetings. The Leader advised that the practicalities of this would have to be looked at, and reminded members that

opposition members would have chair and vice chair positions on some of the scrutiny committees.

**Question 4 from Councillor I. Swithenbank to the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

With the Council accepting a balanced, legal budget on 22 February 2017 with the Council in a financially prudent borrowing position, also the Council reaping the rewards from investments leaving it in a strong and stable position that will lead to it being debt free by 2027, what are the current Administration's plans to perpetuate that excellent financial position?

The Leader agreed that the budget had been balanced and legal but did not agree that the Council was in a financially prudent borrowing position, nor that that there had been any plans to be debt free. The budget had been supported by the use of £9m in reserves, leaving the Council in a difficult financial position and this needed to be stabilised quickly.

Councillor Swithenbank asked that, given the need for confidence in the officer structure, if it was found going forward, that the Authority was heading into financial difficulties, would that information be shared with the Council and not just the Administration? The Leader confirmed the Administration was prepared to do that, and would welcome any credible proposals from the opposition to reduce the level of debt.

**Question 5 from Councillor Hepple to the Leader**

Can the new Administration give assurances that the members code of conduct will be strictly adhered to and any transgressions punished with full transparency?

As Councillor Hepple was not present, a written answer would be provided.

**Question 6 from Councillor B. Pidcock to the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

The new Conservative Administration is committed to scrapping ARCH. How will the £25 million dividend and profits planned to save council services over the lifetime of this new administration be found?

The Leader responded that, again, he did not accept the premise of the question. The £25m figure quoted was highly dubious and aimed at deceiving Northumberland residents.

Councillor Pidcock suggested that the ideology of Arch was something that Conservatives would be supportive of. He queried whether the abolition of Arch suggested a change in Conservative leanings and whether this could be sustained for four years. The Leader responded that the Administration were simply trying to bring some common sense to the situation.

**13. CABINET MINUTES**

Councillor J.G. Davey moved the Cabinet minutes of 11 April 2017. This was seconded by Councillor Ledger.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 11 April 2017 be received.

#### **14. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

##### **(1) Family and Children's Services OSC**

These were presented by Councillor Gallacher who referred to the productive work undertaken by the Committee in the previous year, and rejected any suggestion to the contrary.

Councillor J.G. Davey referred to Minute No. 70 (Report of the Audit Committee Working Group). He queried how the Conservatives planned to deal with the impact of removing £16m from education budgets and 9000 surplus places in Northumberland.

Councillor Daley commented that there were clear challenges for education in the County as the dash to build had not taken into account the delivery of education in Northumberland. There was an absolute commitment from the Administration to support schools, a mixed economy and educational attainment in the County.

Councillor Dale hoped that the education of Northumberland children would be of concern to all members. She referred to the letter sent on behalf of the F40 Group to the government regarding the level of funding for Northumberland and queried whether a response had yet been received. The Business Chair replied that a response had not been received, but this was something which could be pursued with Councillor Daley in future.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Family and Children's Services OSC be received.

##### **(2) Care and Wellbeing OSC**

These were presented by Councillor Campbell.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Care and Wellbeing OSC be received.

##### **(3) Corporate Resources & Regional Affairs OSC**

These were presented by Councillor S. Davey.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Corporate Resources and Regional Affairs OSC be received.

##### **(4) Health and Wellbeing Board**

These were presented by Councillor Dickinson.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board be received.

## **15. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **(1) Potential Loan to Alnwick Town Council**

The report provided details of a potential loan facility to Alnwick Town Council for £190,000. The Town Council will subsequently lend £190,000 to Alnwick Town Juniors Football Club for the provision of new club house facilities including, changing rooms, toilets and club room.

In accordance with Minute No. 5 above, Councillor Castle left the Chamber whilst this matter was under consideration.

The Leader commented that the proposal had considerable local support and the figures did stand up. He commended the recommendations to Council, which was seconded by Councillor Reid.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to a loan facility of up to £190,000 to Alnwick Town Council subject to:

- the Council receiving;
  - Alnwick Town Council's Secretary of State approval to borrow,
  - Final project costs, and
  - A signed copy of the legal agreement between Alnwick Town Council and Alnwick Town Juniors Football Club.
- a signed copy of the new lease agreement between Northumberland Estates and Alnwick Town Juniors Football Club being supplied to the Council prior to any loan draw down; and.
- the Council's Legal Team agreeing a legal agreement with Alnwick Town Council in advance of any loan draw down by the Town Council, containing the terms and conditions set out within the report.

Only once all of these conditions have been met can the loan be drawn down.

### **(2) Potential Loan to North East Equality and Diversity Ltd (NEED)**

The report provided details of a proposed loan facility to North East Equality and Diversity (NEED) Ltd of £450,000 for the purchase of the former Fire Station at South Road, Alnwick; along with a short term advance for up to 4 months of £90,000 to cover VAT associated cash flow implications.

The Leader confirmed that the proposal had been subject to satisfactory checks and was justified. This was seconded by Councillor Reid.

**RESOLVED** that Council approve the two Loan Facilities of £450,000 and £90,000 to North East Equality and Diversity (NEED) Ltd subject to the following;

- o The Council's Legal Team agreeing a legal agreement with North East Equality and Diversity (NEED) Ltd in advance of any loan draw down by the organisation, containing the terms and conditions set out within the report; and
- o The Council's Legal Team placing a legal charge on the asset which the organisation purchase using the loan facility in advance of any loan draw down by the organisation.

## **16. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND PENSION FUND PANEL**

### **(1) Standards Committee**

Councillor Hill referred to item 2, the Hoey Ainscough Review, and the comment that the report had been well received by the Town Council. This was a broad statement and the minutes of the Town Council meeting did not reflect the same view.

### **(2) Pension Fund Panel**

Councillor Watson presented the report and drew members' attention to the strong position of the Fund shown on the last page. The previous chairman, Tony Reid, had done an excellent job as Chair and the Fund remained in good hands.

**RESOLVED** that the annual reports be received.

## **17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</b>
19(1)	1, 3 and 4 - Information relating to any individual, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), and information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or any contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any

labour relations matter arising between the Authority and or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority.

The public interest in seeking this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because disclosure would adversely affect the Authority's ability to conduct its affairs.

**Agenda Item      Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A**

- 19(2)      1, 3 and 4 - Information relating to any individual, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), and information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or any contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority and or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority.  
The public interest in seeking this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because disclosure would adversely affect the Authority's ability to conduct its affairs.

The following reports were circulated to members in the Chamber, which they were given time to read.

**18.      (1)      REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Approval of Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Head of Paid Service Exit Arrangements and Compensatory Remuneration**

The report sought approval of the proposed arrangements for the Chief Executive, S151 Officer and Head of Paid Service to leave the Council with effect from 31 May 2017 and to consider the compensation remuneration package.

The Monitoring Officer reminded members about the confidential nature of the information in front of them and the requirements of the code of conduct. Any agreement reached with the officer concerned bound the County Council and therefore all members in a legal agreement, with serious consequences, including the risk of being sued both for the Council and members individually, should there be any breach of that agreement.

The Leader advised that a press release agreed by both parties would be issued the following day and he strongly urged members to abide by it in the event of any queries. He moved the recommendations, which was seconded by Councillor JG. Davey.

A number of queries and comments were made by members about the details of the report.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, all members voted in support by a show of hands. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED** that recommendations 1-5 , as detailed in the report, be approved.

## **(2) REPORT OF THE LEADER**

### **Changes to Leadership Arrangements for Corporate Leadership Team**

Council was asked to consider a number of changes to the Corporate Leadership arrangements for the Council. The report also sought authority to allow the Deputy Chief Executive to implement the recommendations.

The Leader highlighted that these were interim arrangements and moved the recommendations, which was seconded by Councillor J.G. Davey.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, all members voted in support by a show of hands. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED** that recommendations 1-10 , as detailed in the report, be approved.

The Common Seal of the County Council  
of Northumberland was hereunto affixed  
in the presence of:-

.....  
Chair of the County Council

.....  
Duly Authorised Officer