

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,  
PETERLEE ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUN A WATSON (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Hawley, S Simpson, K J Duffy, A C Long, S McDonnell, K Liddell, V Watson & M A Cartwright

Messrs:- C Watkins, S McGlen, S P Franklin, G Carne, S Miles, A Wilkinson R Moore, S Kirkup & J Robinson

56. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors T Duffy, & L Fenwick. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reasons submitted at the meeting for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

57. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. No declaration of interests were received.

58. Citizens Advice Reporting

The Committee welcomed Sarah and Wendy from Citizens Advice, Durham to the meeting. Sarah circulated a report to the Committee outlining the work that Citizens Advice have been able to do with the £12,000 grant made available by Peterlee Town Council for the employment of a Benefits Caseworker, with statistics for the calendar year January to December 2018.

Members noted that during this period the caseworker had dealt with 245 unique clients and 738 issues, of which, 699 were issues relating to benefits and tax credits. These issues had resulted in 364 interventions by the caseworker on behalf of the clients. As a direct result of these interventions there has been an income gain for Peterlee residents of at least £724,023 – the equivalent of £60.33 of income gain for every £1.00 invested by Peterlee Town Council in the project.

Following a number of questions and answers, Members gave a round of applause for Wendy, the caseworker and thanked Sarah and Wendy for their attendance at the

meeting. Members supported a proposal to increase the funding to around £18,000 per annum to allow the caseworker service to be extended to 3 days a week, and it was **RESOLVED that the Town Clerk with Citizens' Advice to develop proposals for the expansion of the current project in the 2018/19 financial year, subject to approval as part of the wider budget-setting process.**

59. The Minutes of the Last Meeting

Members approved the content of the draft minutes of the last meeting of this Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 and noted the typographical error in the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 minutes relating to the grant made to the Helford Under 7's being amended to £250.00 and not £200.00 as previously stated. The minutes were signed as a true and correct record.

60. The Report of the Finance Sub Committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

61. Neighbourhood Engagement Project Applications

The item on the Bright Eyes Initiative funding for road safety items was deferred to a future meeting.