Present: Councillors Peter Tyson, in the Chair; Carla Arrighi, David Banks, Jackie Bowman, John Bowman, Hugh Brannen, John Burns, Yvonne Clarkson, Peter Connolly, John Dirom, Gwynneth Everett, Neil Ferguson, Allan Forster, Jeanette Forster, Raymond Gill, Ian Hill, Keith Hitchen, Lena Hogg, Allan Holliday, Mark Holliday, Joan Hully, Alan Jacob, Linda Jones-Bulman, Jean Lewthwaite, Charles Maudling, Michael McVeigh, Sam Meteer, David Moore, Brian O’Kane, Sam Pollen, Andy Pratt, Christopher Reay, David Riley, Graham Sunderland, Paul Whalley, Doug Wilson and Felicity Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin Barbour, Anne Bradshaw, Denise Burness, Raymond Cole, Fred Gleaves, Michael Guest, John Kane, Bob Kelly, William Kirkbride, Alistair Norwood, Graham Roberts, Gilbert Scurrah, Peter Stephenson and Gillian Troughton.

C70 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C71 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items:

Councillor Jean Lewthwaite declared an interest in issues relating to small business rates relief.

Councillors Graham Sunderland and Joan Hully declared interests in Agenda Item 8 – Mayor’s Executive report on issues relating to Regeneration North East Copeland due to being directors.

Councillor Graham Sunderland declared an interest in Item 8 – Mayor’s Executive report on issues relating to Private Sector Housing due to being a landlord.

Councillor Joan Hully declared an interest in issues relating to Cleator Moor Town Council, Social Housing and Council Tax.

C72 Chairman’s Announcements

Prior to the Chairman making his announcements he asked Members of the Council to stand for a minute silence in order to pay their respects to Honorary Alderman Ossie Coyles who passed away on the 10th December 2016.

The Chairman then went on to refer to the various engagements he had attended since the last meeting of Council.

C73 Petitions

No petitions had been received.
Questions from Members of the Public

No questions were received from members of the public.

Questions by Members

Councillor Paul Whalley asked the following written question of the Mayor:

“While welcoming the news that the Elected Mayor is to meet with shopkeepers from in and around the Market area in Whitehaven. Would the Elected Mayor outline the financial cost to Copeland Borough Council in the involvement with Whitehaven Town Council regarding the setting up cost of Whitehaven Market.

Also the cost of running the Market since the set up last year. Would he also include the details of income from those who have paid rent for stalls since the set up, to the end of January.”

The Mayor replied as follows:

“A grant from Whitehaven Town Council of £39500 funded the cost of the equipment used (stalls, weights, tables & rails). Other expenditure relating to the market includes the NNDR of £1233.60, marketing £3709 and £1287 for Security for the relaunch weekend.

Also, the cost of running the Market since the set up last year. Since there is currently no dedicated market resources, the cost of running the market is spread across a number of cost centres within the Waste and Enforcement service area. The team have managed Copeland’s markets for a number of years with members of the support services team providing administration support for all 3 markets as well as carrying out the role of market inspector supported by the Enforcement Officers who cover the role on Saturdays. Members of the administration team worked additional hours in supporting the relaunch and this amounted to around £500 in overtime costs. The additional work relating to the storage, transportation, erection and dismantling of stalls is carried out by staff across waste services. Around 28 hours per week is spent on market related activities, some of these are outside normal working hours and are therefore paid at the appropriate enhanced hourly rate. The cost of the current operation equates to around £21,000 per annum. The Town Council have agreed to fund 50% of the running costs, therefore the cost to Copeland is £10,500.

Income to date for 2016-17 for is £10,750 with approximately £6,000 of that attributed to the last 4 months.”

Councillor Paul Whalley asked a verbal supplementary question to the Mayor relating to value for money to which the Mayor replied.

“I think we will have a much clearer picture of that when we’ve got through the summer months remember we launched the market in October. We are taking feedback from shop keepers and stall holders and we are starting to get a fair bit of interest from new stall holders and it is part of a bigger solution for Whitehaven. We are in discussion with Taste Cumbria
who along with the Motor Show which runs on the harbour every year they are looking at doing a Saturday and Sunday which has been welcomed by all traders. What we need to do is work with the traders to get the best way to make this work.”

Councillor Ian Hill asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder:

“What progress has been made in the management of childhood obesity?”

The Portfolio Holder Councillor Dave Banks replies as follows.

The Council is contributing to managing childhood obesity through two key routes:

“Our leisure contract through Greenwich Leisure and grant to Millom Recreation Centre both assist in providing leisure and fitness provision for residents of all ages. In particular, the local engagement with the gymnastics programmes through both providers has been strong from primary age children where our biggest impact is needed. The Copeland Pool is active every weekday providing school swimming sessions, lessons and family swim times.

The Council chairs and works with the County Council to facilitate the Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum. The Forum has prioritised children’s health and wellbeing as a key area for joint work and commissioning of activities to reduce and prevent childhood obesity. £60,000 public health money has been allocated to this key issue and a working group is preparing the commissioning briefs to fund a range of activities around children’s health including managing obesity and encouraging healthy weight.

The statistics for Copeland show the difference between obesity on starting school and finishing primary school. For 2014/15 this was 22.2% obese at year 6 and 11.7% obese at reception level. Last year 2015/16 the figures show a reduction to 20.6% for year 6 children.”

**C76 Oral Questions by Members**

The Mayor and the Executive received and answered oral questions from Members of the Council.

**C77 Mayor’s Executive Report**

The Mayor’s Executive report was moved and noted.

**C78 2016–2020 Corporate Strategy Refresh, Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2017/18 Draft Budget Proposals**

Consideration was given to the 2016 – 20 Corporate Strategy Refresh, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 2017/18 draft budget proposals. The Mayor introduced the proposals by providing a presentation to members. Councillor Mark Holliday, on behalf of the Task and Finish Group reviewing corporate reserves, provided an update to members on the work that the Group had undertaken. After consideration of the budget proposals by members it was:

**RESOLVED – That**
1. receipt of the Elected Mayor and Executive’s proposals, as set out below, be acknowledged to enable the consideration process to begin:

   a) 2016-2020 Corporate Strategy Refresh for 2017/18;
   b) 2016-2020 Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections & 2017/18 Draft Revenue Budget Proposals;
   c) 2017/18 Reserves and Balances Review;
   d) 2017 – 2020 Proposed Capital Programme; and

2. the Executive’s responses to the reports from the Overview Scrutiny and Committee (Appendix A to the report) and the Review of Reserves Task and Finish Group (Appendix B to the report) be noted and that they will be considered further by the Executive at its meeting on 14 February 2017 and that the responses will be shared with all Members as soon as they are published (paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 refer to the report).

3. the additional information in relation to the proposed Town Centre Regeneration Improvement Grants project included in the 2017-2020 Capital Programme (paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the report refer) be noted.

C79 Code of Conduct - New Proposed Procedures

Consideration was given to proposed changes to the procedure for investigating and determining code of conduct matters and to consider whether any changes to the sanctions should be made.

That:

(a) the procedure for investigating code of conduct complaints be changed to that shown in appendix 2 of the report;

(b) in respect of code of conduct matters, the terms of reference of the Audit and Governance Committee be extended to include a new paragraph 10(iv) in chapter 15 of the Constitution to read as follows:

“(iv) To hear and determine complaints relating to alleged breaches of the codes of conduct in accordance with the Council’s procedure for investigating code of conduct complaints and to impose sanctions, as appropriate, in respect of proven complaints.”

(c) the sanction of removing a member’s access to the use of a Council computer, laptop, phone, etc. or web sites maintained or associated with the Council be re-introduced and that the sanctions are detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report be approved.

C80 Appointment of External Auditors

Members considered a report advising that from the 31st December 2017 local authorities were required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to have in place their own
appointed external auditor. Consideration was given to three options for the appointment of external auditors for the Council from December 2017.

**RESOLVED** – That Option 1 - being the invitation from Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd (PSAA) to opt in to sector-led arrangements for the appointment of the External Auditor for Copeland Borough Council from 31 December 2017 be accepted.

**C81 Date and Time of the Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 6.00pm in the Bainbridge Room, The Copeland Centre, Whitehaven.

**The Meeting closed at 7.55pm**

Chairman