

## COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Priory Suite, Taunton Rugby Football Club, Taunton, on Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr M Best, Cllr A Bown, Cllr P Clayton (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr S Coles, Cllr H Davies, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr G Frascini, Cllr A Govier, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr D Hall, Cllr P Ham, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr M Keating, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr T Munt, Cllr T Napper, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr G Noel, Cllr J Parham, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr M Pullin, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr D Ruddle, Cllr N Taylor (Chair), Cllr J Thorne, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr R Williams and Cllr J Woodman.

### 58 **Election of Chair** - Agenda Item 1

- (1) Cllr William Wallace welcomed all Members to the meeting and thanked the Council for the honour of being Chair.
- (2) Cllr Wallace invited nominations for the election of the Chair of the County Council, and on the nomination of Cllr David Fothergill, seconded by Cllr Leigh Redman, Cllr Nigel Taylor was elected as Chair of the County Council for the ensuing year. Cllr Taylor accepted the Chain of Office, made the statutory declaration of office, took the Chair and thanked Members of the Council for electing him.
- (3) Cllr Taylor paid tribute to the former Chair of the Council, Cllr Wallace, and presented him with a gift to commemorate his time in office from 2017 to 2018.
- (4) Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey also paid tribute to Cllr Wallace in the way he carried out his duties as Chair of the Council as she has spent a lot of time with him at events in the past year in her role as Mayor of Taunton Deane.
- (5) Cllr Taylor requested that there be no repetition at meetings, clarified when applause at meetings was appropriate, and asked Members not to use mobile phones during public meetings.

### 59 **Appointment of Vice Chair** - Agenda Item 2

- (1) On the motion of Cllr David Fothergill, seconded by Cllr Jane Lock, Cllr Peter Clayton was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Cllr Clayton made the statutory declaration of office and took the Chair.

### 60 **Apologies for Absence** - Agenda Item 3

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Broom, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr A Dance, Cllr M Healey, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr L Oliver, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr J Williams

61 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 4

Members' written notifications of interests were affixed to a Presentation Board in the Priory Suite for the duration of the meeting.

62 **Minutes from the Council meeting held on 21 February 2018** - Agenda Item 5

Cllr Dean Ruddle asked for his name to be added to the minutes as he was present at the meeting.

Cllr Jane Lock asked why her comments about the Leader and Cabinet Report regarding Capital Programme were not included in the minutes.

It was agreed that an addendum including Cllr J Lock's comments would be put together for approval at the next council meeting.

The Minutes, including attached Appendices, of the Council meeting and held on 21 February were then signed as a correct record.

63 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 6

(1) Public Questions / Statements / Petitions (under 5000 signatures): Notice was received of questions / statements / petitions regarding: Public Questions / Statements:

**1. Family Support Services**

From Katherine See

*Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families*

**2. PIMS**

From Katherine See

*Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families*

**3. Learning Disability Services Contract**

From Cheryl Freeman

*Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council*

**4. Learning Disability Services Contract**

From Sarah Mainwaring

*Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council*

**5. Learning Disability Services Contract**

From Ewa Marcinkowska

*Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council*

**6. Libraries Consultation and proposed Unitary(ies) Authority (ies)**

From Nigel Behan

*Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council*

## **7. Changes to the Physical Impairment and Medical Support Team (PIMS)**

From Nigel Behan

*Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families*

## **8. Learning Disability Service (Discovery – Dimensions UK Ltd)**

From Nigel Behan

*Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council*

## **9. PIMS**

From Adam and Gemma Lovey

*Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families*

Full details of the questions and responses given at the meeting and / or in writing following the meeting are set out in Appendix A to these Minutes.

## **64 Report of the Monitoring Officer - Agenda Item 7**

- (1) The Council considered a report by the Monitoring Officer and Strategic Manager – Governance and Risk which set out decisions on procedural matters and appointments. Members were asked to approve the appointment schedule set out in Appendix 1 to the report, meeting dates, and review of the constitution.
- (2) Cllr Martin Dimmery asked if consideration could be made for the appointment of a Vice Chair for the Constitution and Standards Committee. It was agreed this could be debated at the next meeting of Constitution and Standards Committee.
- (3) Members further discussed appointments to the scrutiny committees and audio recordings and were reminded they could listen to audio recordings at any time.
- (4) Cllr Tony Lock was formally thanked for his work as Chair of Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee.
- (5) The recommendations were proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Mandy Chilcott.
- (6) The Council RESOLVED unanimously to:
  - Approve the Appointments Schedule – see section 3.2 and Appendix 1 to this report.
  - Approve the programme of ordinary meetings of the Full Council for the year as set out in section 3.3 of this report and to delegate to the

Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Group Leaders and committee chairmen agreement of the detailed calendar of meetings of the committees of the Council for 2018/19.

- Approve the revised Constitution set out as Appendix 3 as recommended by the Constitution and Standards Committee from its May meeting.

**65 Report of the Leader and Cabinet – for decision - Agenda Item 78**

- (1) The Council considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet which set out the recommendation to Council regarding the Vision for Somerset following consideration at Cabinet and County Council meetings in November 2017 and subsequent consultation with partners and stakeholders.
- (2) The recommendations were proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Liz Leyshon.
- (3) The Council RESOLVED unanimously to:
  1. Endorse and note the newly drafted Vision:
    - (i) Can only be delivered along with partners across the public, private and voluntary sector.
    - (ii) Is a long-term aspiration with a timescale for delivery over more than one Administration term.
    - (iii) Will form the basis for all decisions and impact assessments across the Council.
  2. Endorse the approach that a wider Vision for Somerset be pursued with key partners and stakeholders through the Health and Wellbeing Board and its “Improving Lives” strategy
- (3) The Council then considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet which set out a recommendation to Council regarding the 2018/19 Capital Investment Programme – Schools Programme arising from the meeting held on 2 May.
- (4) The recommendations were proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Peter Clayton.
- (5) There was discussion about the very competitive marketplace, the need for officers to place contracts early to ensure school builds were completed on time and to budget and the continual pressure on government for fairer funding.
- (6) The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve a commitment to fund the full Capital Investment Programme requirement for the Schools and Early Years 2018/19 starts of £109,372,000 shown in table 1 of Paper B, noting the capital resources set out in section 2 of the report.

**66 Report of the HR Policy Committee – for decision – Agenda Item 9**

- (1) The Council considered a report from the HR Policy Committee which set out a recommendation for the Health and Safety Policy 2018 following consideration at the HR Policy Committee on 30 April 2018.
- (2) The recommendation was proposed by Cllr Anna Groskop and seconded by Cllr Liz Leyshon.
- (3) The Council RESOLVED unanimously to authorise the Chief Executive and Leader of Council to sign the Health and Safety Policy 2018 on Friday 15 June 2018.

**67 Chair's Announcements – Agenda item 10**

- (1) The Chair invited Cllr Giuseppe Frascini say some words regarding his grandfather, a former county councillor, who recently passed away. Leslie Johnson QFM was county councillor for the North Curry ward from 1982 to 1985. He was also Chief Fire Officer in the county from 1974 to 1978. The Leader of the Council, who is also the county councillor for Monkton and North Curry, also paid tribute to Mr Johnson for his council service.
- (2) The former Chair, Cllr William Wallace, informed members of the visits he had made between March and May 2018 and thanked the Vice- Chair for attending those events he was unable to make. He said he had enjoyed attending the events throughout the year and hoped the new Chair would enjoy a similar year. The Vice-Chair, Cllr Peter Clayton, said he looked forward to representing the council again for the forthcoming year. Cllr Wallace also highlighted Somerset Day and said it was a great day. A significant amount of money was raised for St Margarets Hospice.
- (3) The Chair acknowledged Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey and Cllr Dave Loveridge's 25 years of service as a county councillor which would be formally marked at the next council meeting in July.
- (4) The service of Kevin Nacey, Director of Finance, Legal and Governance and Richard Williams, Commercial and Business Services Director were also acknowledged as they were both leaving the council shortly.

**68 Report of the Leader and Cabinet - Items for Information - Agenda Item 12**

- (1) The Council considered a report that summarised the key decisions taken by the Leader and Cabinet Members and officers between 13 February 2018 and 4 May 2018, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet Meetings on 21 March 2018 and 2 May 2018.
- (2) Cllr David Fothergill responded to a written question from Cllr Simon Coles regarding shared council services and Cllr Liz Leyshon regarding the unitary proposal.
- (3) Cllr Mandy Chilcott responded to a written question from Cllr Liz Leyshon regarding council finances and Cllr Tessa Munt regarding the asset list.
- (4) Cllr David Hall responded to a written question from Cllr Liz Leyshon regarding the library service consultation.

- (5) Cllr John Woodman responded to written questions from Cllr Simon Coles regarding the pot hole fund and the small improvements scheme.
- (6) Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to a written question from Cllr Jane Lock and Cllr Tessa Munt regarding children's services.
- (7) Cllr David Fothergill, on behalf of Cllr David Huxtable, responded to a written question from Cllr Bill Revans regarding learning disabilities and Cllr Simon Coles regarding the adult social care budget.

Full details of the questions and responses given at the meeting and / or in writing following the meeting are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

**69 Leader of the Council Annual Report – Agenda item 13**

- (1) The Council received the Annual Report of the Leader of the Council. He highlighted a number of achievements during the last 12 months including the new Vision for Somerset, the changing focus in adult social care, the improvement in Children's Services, the commitment to build 24 new schools, superfast broadband, partnership working including the Joint Committee, and starting the conversation about local government organisation in Somerset.
- (2) Members had a full debate about this and discussed the different views that existed for the proposed unitary authority and to make things clearer and easier for residents. The Leader reminded members that this was at an extremely early stage with conversations only just starting.
- (3) The Council RESOLVED to note the report.

**70 Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities – Agenda item 14**

- (1) The Council received the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities which highlighted a number of key achievements including the success of the contact centre and the achievement of Joshua Pimm in the Business Intelligence Team who won the national public sector 'Apprentice of the Year' award.
- (2) The Council RESOLVED to note the report.

**71 Annual Report of the Audit Committee – Agenda item 15**

- (1) The Council received and noted the Annual Report of the Audit Committee. The Chair of the Committee thanked all members for their support and for the Director of Finance and the Strategic Manager for Financial Governance for their assistance.

**72 Annual Report of the Constitution and Standards Committee – Agenda item 16**

- (1) The Council received and noted the Annual Report of the Constitution and Standards Committee. The former Monitoring Officer was formally thanked for quality of support and advice to the committee.

**73 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee - Agenda Item 17**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Polices, Adults and Health Committee Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey. Cllrs Rod Williams and Mandy Chilcott were thanked for their assistance as Vice Chairs of the Committee during the past year. She looked forward to working with Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul in the forthcoming year.

**74 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - Agenda Item 18**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Cllr Leigh Redman. Cllr Mike Pullin was thanked for his assistance as Vice Chair and Cllr Rod Williams was welcomed as the new Vice Chair.

**75 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee – Agenda Item 19**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Cllr Tony Lock. Cllr Mike Lewis was thanked for his assistance as Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Manager was thanked for his support.

**76 Report of the Chief Executive – Agenda Item 20**

- (1) The Council received a report from the Chief Executive which focused on council finances, vision for Somerset, Corporate Peer Challenge, and the future organisational management structure.
- (2) Members were also informed that the post of Director of Commercial and Business Services would be deleted.
- (3) The Council noted the report.

**(The meeting ended at 13.10)**

**CHAIR**