

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Luttrell Room and Wyndham Room, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY, on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr P Clayton (Vice-Chair - in the Chair), Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr A Govier, Cllr D Hall, Cllr J Hunt, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr C Paul, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr B Revans, Cllr D Ruddle and Cllr J Woodman

In attendance: Cllr M Caswell

Other Members present remotely: Cllr M Best, Cllr A Bown, Cllr H Davies, Cllr G Fraschini, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Napper, Cllr G Noel, Cllr G Verdon and Cllr R Williams

36 **Apologies for Absence** - Agenda Item 1

Apologies were received from Cllr N Taylor and Cllr D Loveridge.

The Vice-Chair advised that line with legal requirements and planning for the meeting, the meeting is being held face to face but with attendance limited to 17 Councillors. Other Members are able to join online and participate at the meeting.

37 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no new declarations of interest made.

38 **Minutes from the meeting held on 23 February 2022** - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record, and were signed by the Vice Chair of the meeting subject to the following 2 minor amendments being made to Minute 25 (Report of the Leader and Cabinet): -

- second paragraph, third sentence - change 'divided' to 'dividend'
- fourth paragraph – delete first sentence.

39 **Chair's Announcements** - Agenda Item 4

The Vice Chair, Cllr Clayton presented the Chair of Somerset County Council Information Sheet No. 15 which had been circulated and published with the agenda and provided details of the activities and events attended since the report to the Council on 23 February 2022. He advised that he had attended the

Yeovil Civic Day on 26 April and had also visited Yeovil Town football club in the afternoon.

The Vice Chair then paid tribute to the following Councillors who were not standing for re election at the elections on 5 May 2022 –

Cllr Ann Bown – Bridgwater West

First elected – 2005

Years served as a County Councillor – 17

Highlights – Long standing Member on Scrutiny, Officer Appeals and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue. Most recently served as Vice Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee.

Cllr Anna Groskop – Wincanton and Bruton

First elected – 2009

Years served as a County Councillor – 13

Highlights – Served 3 years as Cabinet Member for HR, Health and Transformation. Most recently served as Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee.

Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper – Mendip South

First elected – 2017

Years served as a County Councillor – 5

Highlights – Served as a Member of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee, most recently served as Vice Chair of the Regulation Committee.

Cllr Mark Keating – Coker

First elected – 2017

Years served as a County Councillor - 5

Highlights – Served on Scrutiny and Regulation Committees. Served just under 3 years as Vice Chair of Council.

Cllr Jane Lock – Yeovil West

First Term – 1987 to 2001 representing Curry Rivel and then a Second term of 2013 to 2022

Years served as a County Councillor – 23

Highlights – Served as a Member of the Executive Board in the late 1990's. Spent several years as the Leader of the Opposition and most recently Opposition Spokesperson for Adult Social Care and Strategy, Customers and Communities.

Cllr Graham Noel – Mendip West

First elected – 2013

Years served as a County Councillor – 9

Highlights – Served as Chair of the Pensions Committee for several years.

Cllr Linda Oliver – Frome North

First elected – 2016

Years served as a County Councillor – 6

Highlights – Served on HR Policy and Scrutiny Committees.

Cllr Mike Pullin – Mendip Hills

First elected – 2017

Years served as a County Councillor – 5

Highlights – Most recently served as Junior Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

Cllr Nigel Taylor – Cheddar

First elected – 2017

Years served as a County Councillor – 5

Highlights – Served 4 years as Chair of Council. Also longstanding member of the Regulation Committee.

Cllr Josh Williams – Brympton

First elected – 2017

Years served as a County Councillor – 5

Highlights – Served on Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Fothergill paid tribute to the retiring Councillors and for their contribution to improving lives of people who live in Somerset.

The Leader of the Opposition, Cllr Revans echoed the comments and said that he hoped will be able to recognise the contribution of some of those as Alderman in the coming year and some sort of event to show appreciation for their services as well.

The Council received and noted the report.

40 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 5

There were no public questions received by the published submission deadline.

41 **Report of the Monitoring Officer** - Agenda Item 6

The Council considered a report by the Monitoring Officer, which set out proposals for Council to agree the accuracy of six sets of Committee minutes that were unable to be formally agreed under the Advisory Board model the Council implemented in January 2022 (Minute 18 refers) and now required formal sign off by Full Council. The Monitoring Officer also advised that the most recent set of Cabinet minutes (16 March 2022) and Regulation Committee minutes (13 January 2022) also required formal approval by Council as there had been no further opportunity to do so by the individual Committee.

The eight sets of minutes relate to the following meetings: -

1. Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee – 3rd November 2021 – attached as Appendix A
2. Constitution and Standards Committee – 12th November 2021 – attached as Appendix B
3. Audit Committee – 30th November 2021 – attached as Appendix C
4. Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee – 1st December 2021 – attached as Appendix D
5. Pensions Committee – 7th January 2022 – attached as Appendix E
6. Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee – 12th January 2022 – attached as Appendix F
7. Regulation Committee – 13th January 2022 – attached as Appendix G
8. Cabinet - 16th March 2022 – attached as Appendix H

Proposed by Councillor Fothergill and Seconded by Councillor Revans, the Council **RESOLVED:**

- 1) Agreed the accuracy of the 8 sets of minutes attached to the report as Appendices A to H.
- 2) Agreed that the Vice Chair of Council signs a copy of each of the 8 sets of Committee minutes on behalf of their respective Committee Chair.
- 3) Authorised the Monitoring Officer to take forward the implementation of the recommendations above and ensure accurate records are kept.

42 **Report of the Chief Executive** - Agenda Item 7

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive and Director of HR and Organisational Development which related to the recommendations relating to Chief Officers' pay awards for 2021/22, following consultation with the HR Policy Committee (Advisory Board) at its meeting on 5 April 2022.

At that meeting, Officers prepared a report confirming the nationally agreed Green Book pay award for staff of 1.75% for 2021/22 and in line with this made a proposal for Chief Officers Somerset Grades 1-3 to receive a pay award of 1.75% for the same period, which the HR Policy Committee advisory meeting considered and requested that the Cabinet Member for Resources present it to Full Council for its approval.

The HR Policy Committee forms a key part of the Council's constitutional arrangements which underpin the aims and delivery of the Somerset County Plan. The Committee exercises delegated authority from the Council in respect of the approval of the Council's HR policies and deciding and implementing pay awards for the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team. However, due to the pre-election period, the Committee met as an advisory board to Full Council.

Proposed by Councillor Chilcott and Seconded by Councillor Revans, the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Chief Executive and Chief Officers pay award proposal of 1.75%, in line with Green Book pay award, to be backdated to April 2021.

43 **Chair of Council's final remarks and closure** - Agenda Item 8

The Vice Chair, Cllr Clayton made some concluding remarks at the end of the quinquennium and thanked Members for attending the meeting and wished them well in the forthcoming elections. The Leader, Cllr Fothergill thanked Cllr Clayton for his work and for chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chair Cllr Taylor, who is unwell. The comments were echoed by the Leader of the Opposition, Cllr Revans and also asked that good wishes be passed to Cllr Taylor as well.

(The meeting ended at 10.30 am)

CHAIR