

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2018

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NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON 9 JULY 2018

Present:

Councillor J Ridgway Chair
Councillor C A Smith..... Vice Chair

Councillor P Antcliff

“ W Armitage
“ J Austen
“ N Barker
“ B Barnes
“ J Barry
“ G Baxter MBE
“ L Blanshard
“ S Boyle
“ G Butler
“ A Cooper
“ S Cornwell
“ C Cupit
“ A Dale
“ S Ellis
“ A Foster
“ M Foster
“ A Garrett
“ M Gordon
“ R Hall
“ D Hancock
“ E A Hill

Councillor P A Holmes

“ C D Huckerby
“ C Hunt
“ P R Kerry
“ H Laws
“ J Lilley
“ T Mansbridge
“ R Marriott
“ A Powell
“ T Reader
“ B Rice
“ B Ridgway
“ L Robinson
“ K Rouse
“ K Skinner
“ R Smith
“ L Stone
“ K Tait
“ M E Thacker MBE
“ R Welton
“ J Windle
“ B Wright

Also in attendance:-

D Swaine - Joint Chief Executive
K Hanson - Joint Strategic Director - Place
L Hickin - Joint Strategic Director - People
S Sternberg - Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Solicitor to the
Council & Monitoring Officer
D Clarke - Joint Head of Finance & Resources
K Drury - Information, Engagement & Performance Manager (for Minute
No 104 only)
D Cairns - Senior Governance Officer

97 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors P Elliott, M Emmens, B Lewis, S Peters and C Tite.

98 Declarations of Interest

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillors N Barker, G Butler, E A Hill and R Welton declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 12 - Treasury Management Update arising from their membership of the Board of Rykneld Homes Ltd. and indicated that they would withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

99 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Councillor D Hancock stated that he considered that Minute No 739, relating to Public Participation at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 21 May 2018, was an incomplete record and lacked the detail of the statements made which were subject to a complaint arising from the meeting.

In relation to Minute No 742, also of the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 21 May 2018 relating to a Motion on Member Development, Councillor D Hancock commented that the Minute only referred to some Members supporting the Motion and he requested that the names of those Members be specified, as it included his own. As the names of the Members who supported the Motion had not been recorded at the meeting the Minute could not be amended.

Councillor D Hancock's comments were noted.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Council and Annual Council held on 21 May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

100 Chair's Announcements

The Chair updated Council on the events and engagements that she had recently attended and also thanked Members for their support towards her appeal so far, including the purchase of flowers after the Annual Meeting in May.

The Chair also informed Members of the 60th Annual Brass Band Festival that would be taking place on Saturday, 22 September 2018 at Dronfield Sports Centre.

101 Public Participation

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8 members of the public were allowed to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period of up to 15

minutes. The replies to any such questions would be given by the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon seven clear working days before the meeting.

No questions from the public had been submitted.

102 Questions from Members under Procedure Rule No 9.2

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 9.2 Members were permitted to ask the Chair of the Council or relevant Committee or the appropriate Cabinet Member questions about Council activities.

No questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule No 9.2 for this meeting.

103 Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10

No motions had been submitted under Procedure Rule No 10 for this meeting.

104 Customer Service Excellence

Council received a presentation on Customer Service Excellence from the Information, Engagement and Performance Manager, which outlined the criteria for achieving the Customer Service Excellence standard and the assessment process. Council were also informed of the outcome of the Council's recent assessment.

The assessment had taken place in January and February 2018 and the Council was awarded council-wide Customer Service Excellence Accreditation on 15 February 2018. The assessment report praised the Council's high degree of awareness of its customers' needs across both residents and business customers. Highlights from the report were given in the presentation. On-going improvements and the rolling programme of reviews were also outlined.

The Leader noted that the Accreditation was a national standard and independently assessed. He paid compliment to all Council staff that took part in achieving the standard and praised them for their hard work and dedication to customer service. He also noted the role of Members of the controlling group, including Portfolio Holders in working with officers to steer the ethos of the Council in delivering excellent services to residents and business customers.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE also praised the staff involved in achieving the standards, however, noted that all elected Members should be recognised in their role in delivering customer service at a high level to all residents.

RESOLVED - That the presentation be noted.

105 Polling Place Review

Council considered a report of the Electoral Registration Officer, which set out the proposals for revised polling districts and polling places following a review undertaken in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to implement the new electoral arrangements determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Councillor B Wright entered the meeting at this point

The new electoral arrangements would come in to force at the local elections in 2019 which reduce the number of wards from 25 to 24. Changes had also been made to the boundaries of 15 of the existing wards and there were revised electoral arrangements for Dronfield, Eckington, North Wingfield and Wingerworth Parishes.

As required by the legislation a public consultation was held between the 19 March and 20 April 2018 inviting responses from all electors and stakeholders.

The report set out the legislative requirements and the matters that the Council was required to give due regard during the review.

In total five responses were received during the consultation, one of which was later withdrawn.

The report set out the summary of the four responses and the comments in response to each.

A copy of the final proposals was attached to the report which set out the proposed new polling districts and polling places required to implement the new electoral arrangements. Subject to approval of the final proposals it was necessary to publish a revised schedule of new polling districts and polling places, together with the relevant maps, and a draft of the schedule was attached to the report.

Details of the new polling districts and places would be made available to the public on the Council's website and at the Council offices following approval.

The report also gave details of the appeals process which would apply.

The proposed polling districts and places would be in place for the election in May 2018 following which a further review would take place.

When moving the recommendations, Councillor R Smith commented on the requests to move polling stations out of schools and to alternative locations, such as in Unstone. She noted the comments in the report and that the arrangements in place for 2019 would be reviewed again.

Members discussed that disabled access should be a high priority when undertaking the review.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (1) Council approves the final proposals setting out the changes to the polling districts and polling places and the revised schedule of designated polling places and polling district as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report.
- (2) The Chief Executive Officer be requested to formally publish the notice of conclusion of the review, its findings, the responses from consultees and all other relevant documentation.
- (3) In the event of a polling place being unavailable in the run up to an election, the (Acting) Returning Officer be delegated authority to select an appropriate alternative.
- (4) The Electoral Registration Officer will incorporate the changes to the polling districts and polling places in the revised electoral register to be published on 1 December 2016.

106 Draft Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

Council considered a report of Councillor R Smith, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance to seek approval for publication of the draft Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Pay Policy Statement for the Council had been reviewed as part of an annual process and updated for 2018/19. The Pay Policy Statement included the recently approved pay award, agreed nationally for 2018/19. While the agreement of the new chief officer pay scales was still awaited, the proposed 2% increase was included in the report.

Details were also provided on securing equal pay within the organisation, the lowest paid employees and Chief Officer salaries. In addition, the Policy Statement covered pensions, incremental progression and flexible retirement.

When moving the recommendations Councillor R Smith commented that the Pay Policy Statement was a factual report required by law to set out specified information and was not seeking Council's endorsement of the rates of pay contained within the report as the budget had been set previously.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE queried the 2% pay rise across all staff, including senior officers, and suggested a graduated approach to pay awards may be more suitable. Councillor R Smith confirmed that pay awards for staff were nationally negotiated and applied to all Councils.

RESOLVED – That Council approves for publication the Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

107 Dying to Work Charter – Employees with Terminal Ill Health

Council considered a report of Councillor R Smith, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, which sought support for North East Derbyshire District Council to sign up to the Dying to Work Charter developed by the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

Councillor R Smith advised Members that the Council already had many of the principles of the Charter in place and had good practices ingrained within the organisation. To any affected employees who unfortunately were diagnosed with a terminal illness the Charter represented a statement and reassurance that those individuals would be treated fairly and fully supported by the Council.

It was commented by Councillor M E Thacker MBE and Councillor D Hancock that the support offered to employees in this situation was welcomed, however, the Council need not have waited for the TUC to produce the Charter and should have already been providing this support.

Councillor R Smith welcomed the cross party support for the Charter and referred Members to the report which detailed the arrangements the Council already had in place for supporting all staff suffering from ill health.

RESOLVED – That Council sign up to the Dying to Work Charter developed by the Trades Union Congress.

108 Exclusion of Public

It was moved by Councillor D Hancock and duly seconded that the Treasury Management Strategy Update report be considered in the public session of this meeting as Councillor D Hancock did not consider any exempt information to be contained within the report.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

It was moved and seconded that the public be excluded as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

Councillors N Barker, G Butler, E A Hill and R Welton left the meeting at this point.

109 Treasury Management Strategy Update

Council considered a report of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder for Finance, which sought approval to undertake Housing Revenue Account borrowing to continue the regeneration of the Pine View Estate in Danesmoor and to complete the External Wall Insulation work at Grassmoor. Approval

was also sought for General Fund borrowing in the form of a loan to Rykneld Homes on condition that the borrowing will only be accessed following final Cabinet approval of the purchase of Hallowes Court, Dronfield and Cabinet's formal approval of the loan.

It was recommended that should the borrowing be approved, the Council update the Treasury Management Strategy to ensure that these amounts would be reflected in the Authorised Borrowing Limit, the Operational Boundary and the Capital Financing Requirement and that Council agree that the recommended schemes at Danesmoor and Grassmoor are added to the Council's added Capital Programme for the HRA.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE expressed concerned about the level of detail within the report relating to the three projects contained within it, that without the due diligence reports and full details of the merits for and against each proposal he did not consider that the recommendations could be supported. Councillor D Hancock also expressed his view that he could not support the Hallowes Court proposal due to the lack of information and proposed that the whole report be deferred to a future meeting.

This motion was duly seconded.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4 three Members present at the meeting requested a recorded vote.

For the motion – 13

(Councillors P Antcliff, W Armitage, L Blanshard, C Cupit, S Ellis, A Foster, M Foster, R Hall, D Hancock, C D Huckerby, A Powell, K Tait, M E Thacker MBE).

Against the motion – 28

(Councillors J Austen, B Barnes, J Barry, G Baxter MBE, S Boyle, A Cooper, S Cornwell, A Garrett, M Gordon, P A Holmes, C Hunt, P R Kerry, H Laws, J Lilley, T Mansbridge, R Marriott, T Reader, B Rice, B Ridgway, J Ridgway, L Robinson, K Rouse, D Skinner, C A Smith, R Smith, L Stone, J Windle and B Wright).

Abstentions – 0

The motion was defeated.

The recommendations within the report were moved and seconded.

RESOLVED – That Council:-

- (1) Approves up to £1.5m HRA Prudential Borrowing to fund the Pine View regeneration proposal over two financial years (2018/19 and 2019/20).

- (2) Approves additional HRA Prudential borrowing of £0.395m in the 2018/19 HRA capital programme to complete External Wall Insulation works in the current financial year.
- (3) Approve up to £3.5m General Fund Prudential Borrowing for Hallows Court, Dronfield, conditional upon the satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations and due diligence work and following final Cabinet approval for Rykneld Homes to purchase the units and Cabinet's formal approval of the loan.
- (4) Approves the schemes outlined within this report for inclusion into the approved Capital Programme.
- (5) Approves the revised Capital Financing Requirement, operational Boundary and Authorised Limit as set out in paragraph 1.17 of the report.

(Paragraph 3)