

Extraordinary Council – 25 January 2022

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of **Council** held on **25 January 2022** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Gooding
Acting Vice-Chairman: Cllr R R Dray

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr J E Newport
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr L J Newport
Cllr Mrs T L Carter	Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr R P Constable	Cllr Mrs L Shaw
Cllr D S Efde	Cllr P J Shaw
Cllr A H Eves	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr I A Foster	Cllr D S Sperring
Cllr Mrs E P Gadsdon	Cllr C M Stanley
Cllr J N Gooding	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr B T Hazlewood	Cllr M J Webb
Cllr T D Knight	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson	Cllr M G Wilkinson
Cllr D Merrick	Cllr A L Williams
Cllr R Milne	Cllr S A Wilson
Cllr G W Myers	Cllr S E Wootton

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Hoy, J L Lawmon, Mrs J R Lumley, Mrs C M Mason, Mrs C A Pavelin and M J Steptoe.

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Stephenson	- Chief Executive
A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Place and Environment
A Law	- Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic
N Lucas	- Assistant Director, Resources
L Moss	- Assistant Director, People and Communities
S Worthington	- Principal Democratic and Corporate Services Officer
W Szyszka	- Democratic Services Officer

Cllr Mrs J R Gooding moved a Motion that Cllr R R Dray act as Vice-Chairman for the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr S E Wootton.

Resolved

That Cllr R R Dray act as Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

(This was unanimously agreed.)

13 REPORT FROM THE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL: PRE-SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED REPORT TO COUNCIL RE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council received an update from the Review Committee in respect of its pre-scrutiny of proposals for a strategic partnership with Brentwood Borough Council.

The Chairman of the Review Committee advised that the Committee had scrutinised the report prior to this extraordinary meeting and unanimously supported the proposals set out in appendix 1 and those proposals, together with the additional recommendations summarised in paragraph 1.2 of the report, are set out in a final report to this meeting at item 4 of the Agenda.

14 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council considered the report of the Strategic Director seeking approval for the creation of a formal strategic partnership between the Council and Brentwood Borough Council in accordance with Heads of Terms agreed between the two Councils.

The Leader commended Cllrs S A Wilson and Mrs J E McPherson for the pre-scrutiny during the review process of the report and further advised that a copy of the Partnership handbook would be appended to the Minutes.

Cllr S E Wootton moved a Motion that the recommendations set out at paragraph 9.1 be approved, and this was seconded by Cllr C E Roe.

A Member questioned how the savings and projected savings would be reported on to the Council.

Officers advised that the report would come through the programme management of the Transformation Unit details of which were set out at paragraph 5 on page 3.8 of the report. This would go through individual corporate governance and would be presented in advance to the Review Committee to be scrutinised.

A Member endorsed the proposed partnership and commended the work of the Review Committee.

Resolved

- (1) To agree the Strategic Partnership between Rochford District Council and Brentwood Borough Council and that Jonathan Stephenson is the Joint Chief Executive for both Councils with effect from 1 February 2022.
- (2) To appoint Jonathan Stephenson as the Council's Head of Paid Service with effect from 1 February 2022.

- (3) To approve the Heads of Terms set out in Appendix A.
 - (4) That the Joint Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer of each Council be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of each Council, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and s113 Agreement to give effect to the Partnership.
 - (5) That the Joint Chief Executive be given delegated authority to undertake restructure of Tiers 2 and 3 of the Councils in consultation with the Leader of each Council.
 - (6) That the designated Head of Paid Service is the proper officer under s270(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.
 - (7) That a maximum of £300,000 (as set out in paragraph 6.7 of this report) be allocated from general reserves to fund the additional programme resource for the Transformation Unit.
 - (8) That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Governance to make any required changes to the Constitution to give effect recommendations in this report.
 - (9) That the MOU and s113 Agreement makes provision for robust Exit Arrangements and a Member-led Conflict Resolution Process.
 - (10) That the s113 Agreement comes to the Review Committee for scrutiny before it is executed.
 - (11) That feedback from residents as to the impact of the partnership on services is regularly sought and reported upon.
 - (12) That there be an early review of technology in Phase 2 of the Transformation Programme to identify threats and/or opportunities.
 - (13) That the MOU and/or other document that underpins the Strategic Partnership makes clear that whilst the division of the savings achieved as part of the transformation process is to be agreed between the two Councils, that the starting point for that discussion should be 50/50. (SD)
- (This was unanimously agreed.)

15 REPORT FROM THE LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL

Council considered the report of the Licensing & Appeals Committee with proposals relating to the statement of licensing policy (Gambling Act 2005).

Resolved

That the Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005) 2022 – 2025 be approved for adoption and publication. (ADPE)

(This was unanimously agreed.)

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.

Chairman

Date

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