

## **Council – 15 April 2014**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **15 April 2014** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr R R Dray	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr T E Goodwin	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr J D Griffin	Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr Mrs A V Hale	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr B T Hazlewood	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr M J Steptoe

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs P Aves, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, I H Ward and Mrs C A Weston.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

A Dave – Chief Executive  
A Bugeja – Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services  
J Bostock – Member Services Manager

### **87 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the replacement of 'Cllr D Hoy' with 'Cllr M Hoy' in the second paragraph of Minute 23, Declarations of Interest.

### **88 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman had been honoured to have attended a great many events on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

Thanks were extended to Members who would be retiring from Council service at the close of the Municipal Year.

### 89 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council received the Minutes of Executive and Committee meetings held between the period 15 February to 4 April 2014.

### 90 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE, COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS TO COUNCIL

#### (1) Electoral Review

Council considered the report of the Electoral Review Working Group containing a recommendation on Council size as required in the preliminary stage of the Electoral Review process.

Responding to questions, the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services confirmed that the proposed evidence base could be further reviewed to include:-

- Reference to additional forums and groups that Members are involved with as raised, including recognition that some Forums appoint Members to their own sub-Groups.
- Appropriate recognition of the contribution of the Local Highways Panel to decisions made by the County Council Portfolio Holder.
- The full title of Portfolio Holders as recognition of their remit.
- Appropriate reference to the number of decisions passed by Full Council.

Once the review was completed, a revised document would be issued to all Members for final confirmation.

It was noted that the level of Member Allowances was a matter for the Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to adjustment of the evidence base as detailed above, it be recommended to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England that the Council size remains at 39 Members. (HLEMS)

#### (2) Charter for Elected Member Development

Council considered the report of the Standards Committee containing recommendations in relation to the way forward on elected Member development.

On a show of hands it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That arrangements for Member development are kept as they are currently and the recommendations coming out of the recent Charter assessment are not implemented at this time.
- (2) That the Standards Committee retains responsibility for Member training and that an arrangement be introduced whereby a representative from each political group is involved at meetings when the training programme is considered.
- (3) That the Standards Committee explores how the training programme may be tailored more specifically for individual Members' training needs. (HLEMS)

### **(3) Review Committee Annual Report**

The Chairman of the Review Committee presented the Annual Report of the Committee on its workings.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Cllr C I Black, observed that, in terms of recognising the role of Overview and Scrutiny, it may be useful for the Chairman of the Review Committee to report on the Committee's work at each Council meeting.

### **Resolved**

That the Annual Report be received. (HLEMS)

### **(4) Regulation of Investigative Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)**

Council considered the report of the Review Committee containing a recommendation relating to approval of a revised RIPA Policy.

### **Resolved**

That the proposed changes to the Council's 'Covert Surveillance Policy and Procedure Manual' (RIPA Policy) be approved. (HLEMS)

## **91 CHARTER FOR ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

The Chairman was pleased to receive the Charter for Elected Member Development, presented to the Council by Cllr Tony Jackson, Chairman of the East of England Local Government Association.

## **92 REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Council received the following report from the Leader on the work of the Executive:-

"This is the final Council meeting for the Municipal Year 2013/14.

Since the last meeting I am delighted to announce that:-

- A wonderful Civic Dinner was hosted by the Chairman, who was joined by many dignitaries, colleagues and both our Members of Parliament. The overall winner of the Citizen of the Year Award, Martin Butler, was also announced at this event and official presentations to him and other category winners will take place on 16 May.
- The Rayleigh Windmill has been shortlisted for a National Museums and Heritage Excellence Award (Customer Service category) – winners will be announced on 14 May 2014. This has been possible because of the wonderful volunteers we have and the work the staff do with them. Well done to all concerned on the nomination.
- Continuing our effort to diversify our income streams we have successfully won a bid to provide elections payroll to Thurrock Council and Legal Services have gained two more instructions for work from Parish Councils.
- The expanded terminal at London Southend Airport has been officially opened by the Transport Secretary, Patrick McLoughlin.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner, Nick Alston, met with Rochford District residents on 13 March at a public meeting to discuss local crime and policing issues.

Since my last Leader's report into Council, the Executive has met on two occasions. We considered a number of items including:-

- The Rochford Growth Strategy for 2014 to 17.
- The Revenue and Benefits Capita telephone call handling contract.
- The Asset Management Plan.

My colleagues on the Executive and I have also been dealing with matters such as:-

- The South East Local Economic Partnership Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan. The Plan was submitted on 31st March.
- A Business Breakfast where we received excellent presentations from INVEST Essex, which is the Inward Investment and Business Growth Agency for the County, and from the Essex County Council Employability and Skills Unit, which provides initiatives to help young people in Essex achieve their full potential through learning by apprenticeships.
- A forthcoming Business Summit on 23rd April.

- The Flood Alleviation Advisory Group, which met in March and considered options and opportunities for a number of flood hot spots in the District, including Watery Lane and The Horse and Groom in Rochford – the Group is quickly proving its worth at bringing together the key organisations with an interest in flood related matters.
- The adoption of New Model Conditions for the licensing of Pet Shops, Dog Breeding and Cat Boarding establishments.
- The amendment of the Animal Welfare Charter.
- A fundamental review of our back office services.

Before I close there are two matters I would like to mention.

Firstly, in May 1984 (30 years ago) a number of memorable events took place including:-

- The Thames Barrier being officially opened by the Queen.
- The popular hit, 'Hello' by Lionel Richie being number one in the charts.
- And, most memorable, Cllr Chris Black was elected to this Council.

Secondly, I would like formally to thank you, Madam Chairman, for the fantastic diligence, great attendance and representation you have given to your role in this and the previous Civic Year. You have helped raise the profile of the Rochford District in the best possible way both through the media and through your personal interaction with both residents and others with whom you have come into contact as part of your duties. You had the most attractive dress, by far, at the recent Civic dinner.

You will be a tough act to follow but I am sure that your successor will look forward to having as good a year in Office.

My thanks Madam Chairman.

As always, I will be happy to take any questions from Members in respect of the work of the Executive and I am sure my Executive colleagues will be happy to contribute where appropriate.”

Responding to questions the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Heritage, Cllr K H Hudson, advised that:-

- There had been a number of public meetings in relation to the Core Strategy. Whilst it could be appropriate for there to be further such meetings, the Council would need to be mindful of their applicability in the context of a recent application for Judicial Review.

- The budget available to the Surface Water Flooding Advisory Group was £16,000. The Group was working on influencing appropriate agencies in advance of a future significant rain event. Officers from the organisations involved were working together through the auspices of the Group. New gutter clearing machinery was being utilised in the District and areas where drain clearance was outstanding had been identified. A meeting had been scheduled with the appropriate County Council Portfolio Holder. Where work could be required but a landowner cannot be identified the work may be commissioned on the basis that, once identified, the landowner would be billed.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr T G Cutmore, referred to the various forums facilitated by the Council, including business summits and breakfasts, meetings with the Town/Parish Councils and meetings with the Clinical Commissioning Group at which residents could ask questions. Whilst the detail was not immediately to hand, information could be provided on the additional income associated with the diversification of income streams.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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