

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillors Ashbee, Bambridge, Bayford, Braidwood, Brimm, Buckley, Campbell, K Coleman-Cooke, Connor, Constantine, Crow-Brown, Curran, Dawson, Day, Dellar, Dennis, Dexter, Dixon, Edwards, J Elenor, Evans, J Fairbrass, L Fairbrass, Falcon, Fenner, Game, I Gregory, K Gregory, Grove, Hayton, G Hillman, Howes, Jaye-Jones, Larkins, Martin, Matterface, Parsons, L Piper, S Piper, L Potts, R Potts, Rogers, Rusiecki, D Saunders, M Saunders, Savage, Stummer-Schmertzling, Taylor, Taylor-Smith, Tomlinson, Townend and Wells.

MINUTES SILENCE

In response to the London terrorist incident, Members held a minute silence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors G Coleman-Cooke, Johnston, Partington and Shonk.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and agreed, that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 February 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. BUSINESS CASE, SINGLE EAST KENT COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor Wells and seconded by Councillor L Fairbrass that Members agreed the recommendations within the report, namely:

“Recommended that Council resolve:

1. That having considered the business case it becomes the policy of this Council to explore further the abolition of the local government district areas of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet and the constitution of a new local government district area of East Kent comprising the areas of those districts.
2. That the unspent balance of the £20,000 previously agreed by the Council to fund the preparation of the business case be made available to fund a consultation and public engagement exercise.

3. That the Cabinet be requested to ensure an appropriate consultation and public engagement exercise is undertaken to ascertain views on the proposal set out in 1 above.
4. That a further report be submitted to the Council prior to the making of any submission to the Secretary of state."

Councillor Constantine proposed, seconded by Councillor Matterface, an amendment to the motion which replaced recommendation three with the following wording:

"That this Council gives the residents of Thanet the opportunity to voice their opinions via a referendum."

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

Following further debate, Members voted on the substantive motion and agreed to approve to the four recommendations as shown above.

6. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received by the Council in accordance with the petition scheme.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was noted that no questions from the press and public had been received in accordance with council procedure rule number 13.

8. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

It was noted that no questions had been received from Members of the Council in accordance with council procedure rule 14.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was noted that no motions on notice had been received in accordance with council procedure rule 3.

10. LEADERS REPORT

It was noted that item 10, The Leaders Report, had been withdrawn from the meeting.

11. ANNUAL REPORT - CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

Councillor D Saunders, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, presented his report and noted the new scrutiny arrangements introduced in 2016/17, this included a trial of public speaking which would continue into 2017/18. On behalf of the Panel he expressed his thanks for the support provided by officers over the year.

Members noted the report.

12. ANNUAL REPORT - CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor Buckley, Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, presented his report on the work of the Committee and drew Members attention to the action plan for 2017/18. He wished to thank officers and Members of the committee for their effort over the 2016/17 year.

Members noted the report.

13. ANNUAL REPORT - CHAIRMAN OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Dr Sexton, the Independent Chairman of Standards Committee presented his annual report which summarised and commented on the work of the Committee over the 2016/17 year.

Dr Sexton was thanked for his service to the Council and Members noted the report.

14. PAY POLICY STATEMENT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18

It was proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor L Fairbrass and Members agreed the recommendation as shown in the report, namely that Members agree:

“To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 as set out in Annex 1, after which it will be published.”

15. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017-20

It was proposed by Councillor L Fairbrass, seconded by Councillor Wells and Members agreed to approve the Thanet Community Safety Plan for 2017-20.

Meeting concluded: 7.50 pm