

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

M D Seymour (Chairman)
R Grocock (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock
G R Aley
D Ashby
J R Astill
J Avery
F Biggadike
M D Booth
C J T H Brewis
P E Coupland
G J Taylor
T A Carter

A Casson
M G Chandler
R Clark
G K Dark
H Drury
L J Eldridge
P C Foyster
A Harrison
C N Johnson
C J Lawton
J D McLean

A M Newton
M J Pullen
J L Reynolds
S-A Slade
E J Sneath
A C Tennant
J Tyrrell
A R Woolf
C N Worth

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors R Gamba-Jones, J L King, G A Porter and P A Williams.

In Attendance: Chief Executive, Executive Director – Place, Interim Executive Director – Commercialisation, Executive Manager – Information, Executive Manager – Governance and Lead Democratic Services Officer.

67. MINUTES

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016.

DECISION:

That the minutes be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

68. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Councillors Coupland and Newton declared an interest in agenda item 9 – ‘Report from the Cabinet meeting held on 8 November 2016’ (and corresponding exempt appendix at agenda item 17) as they were Directors of Compass Point Business Services. These were not Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, but declarations made in the interests of transparency. They did not vote on this item.

Councillor Worth, as Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services at Lincolnshire County Council did not vote

Action By

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - 7
December 2016

on agenda item 11 – ‘Staffing Structure – Emergency Planning and Property Services’.

69. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman referred to the list of his engagements which were available to be viewed in the Council Chamber.

The Council would be raising money for the Chairman's charity 'Macmillan Cancer Support' by having a Christmas Jumper day on Tuesday 20 December 2016.

70. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

On behalf of the Leader, the Deputy Leader made an announcement about Devolution. Members noted that at the last meeting Council received results of public consultation on the proposed establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for Lincolnshire. Members were asked to consider whether they supported the establishment of a mayoral Combined Authority on the basis of the previously published scheme and in the light of the public consultation exercise. After a full debate the Council had supported the making of an Order by the Secretary of State for the establishment of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority.

Members recalled that two of the Lincolnshire authorities did not support the proposals. As the final decision rested with the relevant Council Leaders, it was not known at that point what the final position of those two authorities would be.

Members noted that the outcome was unchanged. The Government had previously made it clear that the devolution deal, as signed up to by all ten Lincolnshire Councils, would not be able to progress in those circumstances. The Government had now confirmed that there would be no further work on the draft Order and that the devolution deal for greater Lincolnshire was at an end. Whilst this particular deal was no longer proceeding, the Council would continue to engage with its partners in order to deliver joined-up and effective services to its residents.

In response to questions, members noted that the Council's involvement in growth deals through the Local Enterprise Partnership were ongoing and would be unchanged.

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - 7
December 2016

71. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

There were no questions asked under Standing Order 6.

72. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Question to: Councillor Lawson
Question from: Councillor Newton
Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Site

MC
SJ

Councillor Newton congratulated all those involved in moving the travellers from Gosberton Clough on to the new site. What budget was left should a third travellers site be needed?

Councillor Lawton reported that she was pleased that the move had been completed and that the former site had been permanently secured. She did not have detail of the exact budget remaining but the figures would be circulated to Councillors.

Question to: Councillor Chandler
Question from: Councillor Foyster
Subject: Devolution

Councillor Foyster said that a number of residents had asked him to ask how much progressing the Devolution proposals had cost the Council ?

Councillor Chandler replied that a response would be circulated.

Question to: Councillor Coupland
Question from: Councillor Booth
Subject: Business Rates

Councillor Booth referred to a Business Rate revaluation that had taken place. As a result, it was possible that Business Rate valuations could increase by 90% in Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge whereas Spalding rates could decrease. Was this the same all over the District and what could the Council do to assist?

Councillor Coupland replied that it was a great concern but it was not something in which the Council was bale to get involved.

The Interim Executive Director - Commercialisation informed the Council that she was aware of the issues. The valuations were conducted independently and these were the first valuations for 7

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - 7
December 2016

years. Businesses were able to lodge appeals. As billing authority the Council was not able to support individual appeals but was able to advise businesses on how to appeal.

Question to: Councillor Alcock
Question from: Councillor Slade
Subject: Department of Work and Pensions
Targets

Councillor Alcock asked whether assurances could be given that the Council was not going to miss the Department of Work and Pensions targets for benefits processing.

The Interim Executive Director of Commercialisation informed the Council that it was unlikely that the Council would face a financial penalty for not complying with the benefits error rate. Further details on this would be circulated to Councillors.

73. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee of the Licensing Authority – 18 October 2016

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Licensing Committee – 18 October 2016

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Joint Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel – 25 October 2016

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Policy Development Panel – 1 November 2016

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - 7
December 2016

Planning Committee – 2 November 2016

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Performance Monitoring Panel – 8 November 2016

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

74. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2016

The Council considered the report from the Cabinet meeting held on 8 November 2016 concerning the UK Municipal Bond Agency and ICT Service Infrastructure. (Both of these items included exempt material in their appendices which Councillors considered in closed session later in the meeting before making the following decisions.)

DECISION:

UK Municipal Bond Agency

- a) That the Council's entry into the Framework Agreement and its accompanying schedules including the joint and several guarantee be agreed;
- b) That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director, Commercialisation as Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to agree amendments to the Framework Agreement as appropriate; and
- c) That subject to due diligence and assessment of the legal and financial implications of the proposal, delegated authority be given to the Executive Director, Commercialisation as Section 151 Officer and the Executive Director, Strategy and Governance as Monitoring Officer to sign the agreed final documents, as appropriate, on behalf of the Council.

(Councillor Brewis wished it to be recorded that he did not support the recommendations).

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - 7
December 2016

ICT Service and Infrastructure

- a) That the Council approves a capital budget of £523,000 to fund infrastructure improvements, a device refresh programme, and enhanced network connection to Breckland Council as part of an improved disaster recovery plan, and to enable Council-wide transformation benefits.

(As Directors of Compass Point Business Services, Councillors Coupland and Newton did not vote on this item.)

75. KEY DECISION PLAN

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be received.

76. STAFFING STRUCTURE - EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PROPERTY SERVICES

The Council considered a report by the Portfolio Holder for Place and Head of Paid Service setting out proposed changes to the staffing structure regarding Emergency Planning and Property Services.

The changes were to ensure that the Council was well resourced to prepare for and manage Emergency Planning and Business Continuity situations effectively and with less impact on core Council services and delivery.

DECISION:

- 1) That the establishment is increased and 0.6 FTE Emergency Planning Officer (Grade F) and 1 FTE Strategic Property Officer (Grade I) posts are created.
- 2) That the post of Leisure Manager is deleted from the establishment.

(As Councillor Worth was the Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services at Lincolnshire County Council he did not vote on this recommendation.)

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - 7
December 2016

77. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.

No nominations were received or changes to the Constitution proposed.

78. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no urgent items.

79. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

That, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Act

80. JOINT PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL - 25 OCTOBER 2016 (EXEMPT MINUTES)

DECISION:

That the exempt minutes be received.

81. UK MUNICIPAL BOND AGENCY

Councillors considered the information contained in the exempt appendix to agenda item 9 – Report from the Cabinet meeting held on 8 November 2016.

82. ICT SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillors considered the information contained in the exempt appendix to agenda item 9 – Report from the Cabinet meeting held on 8 November 2016.

(The meeting ended at 7.58 pm)

(End of minutes)