

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Wednesday, 1 November 2017 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

R Grocock (Chairman)
H Drury (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock	G K Dark	G A Porter
G R Aley	L J Eldridge	M D Seymour
D Ashby	P C Foyster	S-A Slade
J R Astill	R Gambba-Jones	E J Sneath
F Biggadike	A Harrison	G J Taylor
M D Booth	J L King	J Tyrrell
C J T H Brewis	C N Johnson	P A Williams
P E Coupland	C J Lawton	C N Worth
A Casson	J D McLean	
M G Chandler	A M Newton	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors J Avery, T A Carter, R Clark, J L Reynolds, A C Tennant and A R Woolf.

In Attendance: The Chief Executive, the Executive Director Commercialisation, the Executive Manager Governance, the Executive Manager - People and Public Protection, the HR Manager and the Democratic Services Officer.

52. MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

It was noted that, although Councillors Coupland and Newton did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 13 – Compass Point Business Services Options, in the interests of transparency they wished it to be recorded that they were Directors of the Company.

54. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman announced that a copy of his appointments was in the Members' Room.

Action By

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The Chairman also advised that Item 18 on the agenda – South Holland Centre Planned Maintenance and Essential Remedial Works – had been withdrawn, and would be submitted at a later date.

55. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

Councillor Chandler advised that work was being undertaken with a new IT and software company in order to obtain certification from the Public Services Network in relation to ensuring discreet security was in place with other partners, for example, the DWP. This had now been achieved, and the Authority was PSN compliant. Councillor Chandler congratulated the IT department in helping to achieve this.

56. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

There were no questions asked on notice under Standing Order 6.

57. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Question to: Councillor Porter and Councillor Lawton
Question from: Councillor Newton
Subject: Priority assistance to ISIS fighters

Councillor Newton commented that on a national level, there had been suggestions that individuals returning to the UK after fighting with ISIS may be entitled to priority assistance in areas such as housing. She stated that the Authority should not prioritise these individuals to the disadvantage of existing residents.

Councillor Lawton replied that she had heard similar suggestions, and was not in favour of providing priority assistance to these individuals. She would find out more on the issue and feed back in due course.

Question to: Councillor Chandler
Question from: Councillor Foyster
Subject: Increased funding for Lincolnshire

Councillor Foyster stated that parishes had been asked to subscribe to a campaign to increase funding for Lincolnshire. What had been the outcome of this?

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Councillor Grocock explained that this issue was being dealt with in a report entitled 'Fair Funding Deal', at agenda item 10.

Question to: Councillor Worth
Question from: Councillor Booth
Subject: Improvements to the A17 at Gedney roundabout, Long Sutton

Councillor Booth asked whether a letter of support had been sent to Lincolnshire County Council from the Authority.

Councillor Worth advised that a letter of support had been sent, for the general principle of obtaining funding for a highway scheme.

58. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Performance Monitoring Panel – 5 September 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Planning Committee – 6 September 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Governance and Audit -12 September 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes be received

Standards Panel - 27 September 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

Policy Development Panel – 3 October 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

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Planning Committee – 4 October 2017

DECISION:

That the minutes be received.

59. KEY DECISION PLAN

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be received.

60. FAIR FUNDING DEAL

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Executive Director Commercialisation to seek endorsement from the Council to re-engage with relevant stakeholders to raise the issue of the need for additional funding for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

Councils and other public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire had experienced consistently low relative levels of central government financial support over a long period. With a new government in place, the time was considered right to re-engage with relevant stakeholders to raise the issue of the need for additional funding for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

Members were in favour of the proposals although some concern was raised with regard to authorities that currently received more funding and whether they would be willing to support the proposals if they would lose some of this.

Councillor Chandler explained that fairer funding did not only cover Lincolnshire. The funding formula would mean that SHDC would not lose out, and that Lincolnshire would gain. However, nationally it was likely to adversely affect some of the inner London boroughs.

Members also asked whether all Lincolnshire authorities would continue to support the proposals and if not, whether this would disadvantage Lincolnshire as a whole? Councillor Chandler stated that the issues had been debated and approved and that he had been given confidence that there would be continued agreement.

DECISION:

That the Council supports the proposal to engage in a communications strategy which was aiming to achieve an improved funding deal for Greater Lincolnshire going forward, in line with the contents of the report.

CM

61. OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council considered the Executive Manager People and Public Protection's report seeking to update the Officer Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct was a common reference document for all employees that defined the standards of conduct that employees were expected to observe when carrying out their duties.

DECISION:

That the Code of Conduct be approved and implemented in line with changes highlighted within Section 2 of the report.

PA

62. REVIEW OF STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council considered the report of the Executive Director, Strategy and Governance, seeking to review the existing Standards Arrangements and Code of Conduct to ensure that they are proportionate and otherwise fit for purpose.

The current arrangements had been in place for over four years and, whilst appropriate at the time, were now on occasions cumbersome and unnecessarily complicated. The current arrangements were largely based on a model set of arrangements that were adopted by a number of authorities at a time. A number of authorities had subsequently reviewed and simplified their arrangements to allow greater flexibility for the Monitoring Officer to deal with a complaint in a timely and efficient manner. The Standards Panel had considered proposals for a revised set of arrangements.

Members were in agreement with the proposals. However, it was requested that a recommended timeline be added for responses, with the proviso that occasionally, the guidelines may not be met.

DECISION:

That the Council adopts a revised set of Local Arrangements for

MS

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dealing with Standards Complaints, and that the highlighted amendments to the Code of Conduct be approved, subject to the addition of a recommended timeline for responses, with the provision that occasionally these guidelines may not be met.

63. COMPASS POINT BUSINESS SERVICES OPTIONS

Consideration was given to a report by the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Cabinet regarding options identified by Grant Thornton for the future of Compass Point Business Services (East Coast) Limited

Members were advised that this was the first of two reports concerning the future of Compass Point Business Services (CPBS). This first report laid out the future options for CPBS, identified by Grant Thornton. The recommended option was to continue with current arrangements in regard to CPBS. A second report would be brought in January 2018, before which a working group would be liaising with East Lindsey District Council. In addition, there would be a briefing for all members, prior to submission of the second report. This would be an opportunity for members to feed into the process.

The confidential appendices attached at item 17 of the agenda were not discussed in detail and the item was therefore considered in open session.

DECISION:

- a) That the Council agrees to the principle of extending the current arrangements in regard to Compass Point Business Services (East Coast) Ltd beyond the current end date of 2020; and
- b) That a further report is brought forward to consider the detailed arrangements necessary to extend agreements beyond 2020.

MS

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

There were no nominations for Committees and other seats or proposed changes to the Constitution.

65. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no urgent items.

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66. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was not necessary to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting.

67. COMPASS POINT BUSINESS SERVICES OPTIONS

This item was discussed and agreed in open session.

68. SOUTH HOLLAND CENTRE PLANNED MAINTENANCE & ESSENTIAL REMEDIAL WORKS

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda, and would be submitted at a later date.

(The meeting ended at 7.14 pm)

(End of minutes)