

## West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

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**19 February 2016**

At the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 19 February 2016, at the County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mrs P A C Arculus (Chairman)

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr W E Acraman       | Mr R A Lanzer            |
| Mr D H Barling       | Mr G V McAra             |
| Mr L H Barnard       | Mr P G Metcalfe          |
| Mr A J Barrett-Miles | Mrs M E Millson          |
| Mrs E A Bennett      | Mrs J S Mockridge        |
| Mr P J J Bradbury    | Mr J A P Montyn          |
| Mr M J Brown         | Mrs S R Mullins          |
| Mrs H A Brunsdon     | Mr R J Oakley            |
| Mr I R J Buckland    | Mr S J Oakley            |
| Mr R D Burrett       | Mr J J O'Brien           |
| Mr P C Catchpole     | Mr F R J Oppler          |
| Mr P J Circus        | Mr C G Oxlade            |
| Mr M R Clark         | Mr L W Parsons           |
| Mr D G Crow          | Mr A Patel               |
| Dr N P S Dennis      | Mr A P Petch             |
| Mrs J E Duncton      | Mr N F Peters            |
| Mrs E M Evans        | Mrs J E Phillips         |
| Mr P C Evans         | Mr B J Quinn             |
| Mrs C M Field        | Mr J G Rae               |
| Mr M J Glennon       | Mrs A M Rapnik           |
| Ms M L Goldsmith     | Mr J L Rogers            |
| Mr P A D Griffiths   | Mr R Rogers              |
| Mrs P A Hall         | Mr D P Sheldon           |
| Mr P D High          | Mr R J Smytherman        |
| Mr S R Hillier       | Mr A C Sutcliffe         |
| Mr J C Hunt          | Mr B W Turner            |
| Ms S James           | Mr G M Tyler             |
| Mrs A F Jones, MBE   | Mrs D L Urquhart         |
| Mr G L Jones         | Mr S G Waight            |
| Mr M G Jones         | Dr J M M Walsh, KStJ, RD |
| Mrs A J Jupp         | Mr B R A D Watson, OBE   |
| Ms D M K Kennard     | Mr D R Whittington       |
| Mrs L Kitchen        | Mr L S Wickremaratchi    |
| Mr P K Lamb          |                          |

### **Gill Steward**

**181** The Chairman reported that Gill Steward, the Chief Operating Officer, was leaving the County Council at the end of March. Members expressed their thanks to Ms Steward for her work for the Council over the last two years and wished her well in her new role as Chief Executive of the London Borough of Bexley.

## Minutes: Item 4

---

### Senior Officers

**182** The Chairman welcomed three new members of the Corporate Leadership Team, Dr Nike Arowobusoye, the Director of Public Health, Katharine Eberhart, the Director of Finance and Mark Howell, the Director of Adults' Operations.

### Apologies and attendance

**183** Apologies were received from Mr Cloake and Mrs Smith. Mr Smith was absent. Mr Turner gave his apologies for the afternoon session. Mr Oxlade and Mr Rae left at 3.00 p.m. Ms James and Mr McAra left at 4.15 p.m. Mr Bradbury, Mr Buckland, Mr Tyler and Mr Wickremaratchi left at 4.30 p.m. Mr Acraman, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Brown, Mrs Brunsdon, Mr M G Jones and Mrs Mockridge left at 4.50 p.m.

### Interests

**184** Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

### Minutes

**185** It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 11 December 2015 (pages 437 to 459) be approved as a correct record.

### Review of Proportionality

**186** The County Council was reminded of its statutory duty to review the proportionality on its committees following the resignation of Mr G L Jones from the UKIP Group. A paper on the application of the proportionality rules and how they were applied was set out at pages 459A and 459B together with a table showing the number of seats on committees.

**187** Resolved –

That the review of proportionality on committees be agreed.

### Committee Appointments

**188** The Council approved appointments as set out below.

| <b>Committee</b>                                      | <b>Change</b>                    |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Children and Young People's Services Select Committee | Mrs Jones in place of Mr Hillier |
| Environmental and Community Services Select Committee | Mr G L Jones to remain a member  |

| <b>Committee</b>  | <b>Change</b>                     |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee                 | Mr Peters to fill vacancy         |
| Governance Committee  | Ms James in place of Mr G L Jones |
| Pensions Panel membership and chairmanship                    | Mr Hunt in place of Mr Brown      |
| Pension Reform Working Group membership and chairmanship      | Mr Hunt in place of Mr Brown      |
| PropCo Panel<br>(with effect from 31 March 2016)              | Mr Hunt as Chairman               |
| Treasury Management Panel<br>(with effect from 31 March 2016) | Mr Hunt as Chairman               |

### **Capita Partnership Board Appointment**

**189** The Council noted that Dr Walsh had been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board.

### **Governance Committee: Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Term of Office**

**190** The Council considered a further extension of the term of office of two members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in the light of the report by the Governance Committee (page 460).

**191** Resolved -

That the term of office of Mr Consterdine and Mr Croucher on the Independent Remuneration Panel be extended until the end of the calendar year or the current work of the Panel is completed.

### **Future West Sussex Plan 2015-19 and Draft Budget 2016/17 to 2019/20 and Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17**

**192** The Leader moved the report on the Future West Sussex Plan 2015-19 and Draft Budget 2016/17 to 2019/20 (pages 461 to 465).

**193** The Cabinet Member for Finance moved the report on the Draft Budget (pages 1 to 44 of Appendix 2). Members also had before then a statement from the Cabinet Member for Finance on the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement issued on 8 February, which included some additional temporary transitional funding, and the more recent

## Minutes: Item 4

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announcement on Public Health Grant. The transitional funding required minor changes to the recommendations in the budget report and corresponding revisions to Table 1 in the budget pack at Appendix 2 which had been circulated. The replacement also included recommendations 10(g) and (h) which had been omitted in error from the original report. Further impacts on other budget tables and service portfolios would be referred to a later meeting if the County Council accepted the recommendation to consider in detail the impact from the late Final Settlement and the announcement on Public Health Grant. The Cabinet Member also moved the report on the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 3).

- 194** The following amendment to the Draft Budget was proposed by Dr Walsh and seconded by Mrs Millson:

'The Council resolves to add up to 50% of the extra grant settlement to the Highways and Transport budget, specifically to address rolling on the Better Roads programme, pavement maintenance, safer routes to school, and restoring disappearing white lines on the highway.'

- 195** The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For the amendment – 19

Mr Buckland, Mr Clark, Dr Dennis, Mr M G Jones, Mr Lamb, Mrs Millson, Mrs Mullins, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Parsons, Mr Petch, Mrs Phillips, Mr Quinn, Mrs Rapnik, Mr R Rogers, Mr Sheldon, Mr Smytherman, Mr Sutcliffe and Dr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment - 43

Mrs Arculus, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Bennett, Mr Bradbury, Mr Brown, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Circus, Mr Crow, Mrs Duncton, Mrs Evans, Mr Evans, Mrs Field, Ms Goldsmith, Mr Griffiths, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mr G L Jones, Mrs Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr McAra, Mr Metcalfe, Mrs Mockridge, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr O'Brien, Mr Patel, Mr Peters, Mr Rae, Mr J L Rogers, Mr Tyler, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Waight, Mr Watson, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 5

Mr Acraman, Mrs Brunson, Mr Glennon, Mrs Hall and Ms James.

- 196** The amendment was lost.

- 197** The replacement recommendations, as circulated, were put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 36(1).

(a) For the revised recommendations – 42

Mr Acraman, Mrs Arculus, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles,

Mrs Bennett, Mrs Brunsdon, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mr Circus, Mr Crow, Mrs Duncton, Mrs Evans, Mr Evans, Mrs Field, Ms Goldsmith, Mr Griffiths, Mr High, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jones, Mr G L Jones, Mrs Jupp, Ms Kennard, Mrs Kitchen, Mr Lanzer, Mr McAra, Mr Metcalfe, Mr Montyn, Mr R J Oakley, Mr S J Oakley, Mr O'Brien, Mr Patel, Mr Peters, Mr Rae, Mr J L Rogers, Mr Sheldon, Mr Tyler, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Watson, Mr Whittington and Mr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the revised recommendations - 0

(c) Abstentions – 25

Mr Bradbury, Mr Brown, Mr Buckland, Mr Clark, Dr Dennis, Mr Glennon, Mrs Hall, Ms James, Mr M G Jones, Mr Lamb, Mrs Millson, Mrs Mockridge, Mrs Mullins, Mr Oppler, Mr Oxlade, Mr Parsons, Mr Petch, Mrs Phillips, Mr Quinn, Mrs Rapnik, Mr R Rogers, Mr Smytherman, Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Waight and Dr Walsh.

**198** Resolved –

- (1) That the Future West Sussex Plan 2015-19, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) That the County Council Draft Budget for 2016/17, as set out in the Budget Pack at Appendix 2 to the report, subject to the revised recommendations as set out below, be approved.

That, taking account of Council priorities, finance strategy, the Local Government Finance Settlement and the results of internal and external consultation, the following items be approved:

- (1)** Net revenue expenditure of £534.953m (paragraph 3.1 and Table 1 of Appendix 2);
- (2)** An increase in council tax of 3.95% for 2016/17. This comprises 2% specifically for Adults' Social Care and 1.95% for the Council's other functions. The calculation is below the Government-prescribed threshold level and therefore does not trigger a referendum. The calculation has been made in accordance with the provisions of Part 1, Chapter IV ZA Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- (3)** Service commitments and net additional funding of £15.9m (paragraph 3.4 and columns 3 and 7 of Table 2 of Appendix 2);
- (4)** Expenditure savings and income generation of £18.6m (paragraph 4.1 and Table 3 of Appendix 2);
- (5)** Capital expenditure of £135.0m in 2016/17 and £113.2m in 2017/18, for the core programme and £23.4m in

## Minutes: Item 4

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2016/17 and £14.0m for 2017/18 relating to the income generating initiatives (paragraph 7.1 and Table 8 of Appendix 2);

- (6)** Proposed methods of financing capital expenditure between 2016/17 and 2020/21 (paragraph 7.8 of Appendix 2);
- (7)** A maximum operational borrowing limit of £575.371m for outstanding debt and an authorised borrowing limit of £615.371m, including £40m of borrowing for temporary cash flow purposes (paragraphs 7.26 to 7.29, and Table 7 of Appendix 2);
- (8)** A limit of 100% on borrowing at fixed rates and 25% on borrowing at variable rates (paragraph 7.29 of Appendix 2);
- (9)** The Director of Finance's assessment of the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves (paragraph 8.1 of Appendix 2);
- (10)** The following amounts be approved for the financial year 2016/17 in accordance with Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - (a)** That the budget requirement to meet net expenditure of the County Council for the financial year 2016/17 is £534.953m, and the council tax requirement for 2016/17 is £382.266m.
  - (b)** That the following sums be payable for the year into the County Council's revenue fund:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Settlement Funding Assessment                         | £125.614<br>m |
| Business Rates Local Growth                           | £1.949m       |
| Business Rate Cap Grant                               | £1.949m       |
| Education Services Grant (ESG)                        | £7.438m       |
| New Homes Bonus Grant                                 | £5.357m       |
| Local Services Support Grant                          | £0.521m       |
| Transitional grant                                    | £6.174m       |
| Net surplus from District Council<br>Collection Funds | £3.685m       |
  - (c)** The council tax base for the year 2016/17 is the aggregate amount calculated by the billing authorities to which the County Council issues precepts totalling 316,473.80 Band D equivalents.
  - (d)** The amount of council tax being the budget requirement at 10(a) above, less the amounts receivable in 10(b) above, all divided by the council

tax base at 10(c) above, shall be £1,207.89 to the nearest penny.

- (e)** The amount of council tax payable for dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, calculated in accordance with the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, shall be as follows:

| Valuation Band | Amount    | Valuation Band | Amount    |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| A              | £805.26   | E              | £1,476.31 |
| B              | £939.47   | F              | £1,744.73 |
| C              | £1,073.68 | G              | £2,013.15 |
| D              | £1,207.89 | H              | £2,415.78 |

- (f)** That the district councils be requested to make payments of sums due under precepts calculated in proportion to their council tax Band D equivalents as follows:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Adur District Council       | £24,786,627.53 |
| Arun District Council       | £69,819,665.67 |
| Chichester District Council | £61,889,747.03 |
| Crawley Borough Council     | £40,305,477.47 |
| Horsham District Council    | £70,308,740.33 |
| Mid Sussex District Council | £70,028,147.48 |
| Worthing Borough Council    | £45,127,132.77 |

- (g)** That the district councils be required to make payments of precept by equal instalments of the above sums due on or before:

|                  |                  |                 |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 14 April 2016    | 19 May 2016      | 23 June 2016    |
| 28 July 2016     | 1 September 2016 | 6 October 2016  |
| 10 November 2016 | 8 December 2016  | 12 January 2017 |
| 16 February 2017 |                  |                 |

- (h)** Additionally, that payments be made by the district councils in respect of the estimated surplus on their collection funds on 31 March 2016:

|                             | Council Tax | Business Rates |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Adur District Council       | £33,819.65  | £95,160.00     |
| Arun District Council       | £726,000.00 |                |
| Chichester District Council | £393,799.00 |                |

## Minutes: Item 4

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|                             |               |             |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Crawley Borough Council     | £441,319.42   | £507,891.00 |
| Horsham District Council    | £1,014,329.00 |             |
| Mid Sussex District Council | £989,970.00   |             |
| Worthing Borough Council    | £260,752.81   |             |

And payments be made to the district councils in respect of the estimated deficits on their collection funds on 31 March 2016:

|                             | Council Tax | Business Rates |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Arun District Council       |             | £361,148.00    |
| Chichester District Council |             | £39,288.00     |
| Horsham District Council    |             | £160,000.00    |
| Mid Sussex District Council |             | £174,258.00    |
| Worthing Borough Council    |             | £43,697.00     |

- (11)** The context of the Equalities Act 2010 in making budget proposals (paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 of Appendix 2).
- (12)** The County Council is also asked to note that the savings proposals for 2017/18 and a one-off contribution from reserves of £1.1m (on current estimates) would enable the budget to be balanced in that year with a council tax increase of 3.95%. This is based on current information around funding and budget pressures – clearly more work will be undertaken over the coming 12 months to prepare additional proposals, in particular to maximise efficiency savings and avoid the use of reserves (see paragraph 6.7 of Appendix 2). Details of the budget for 2017/18 will be presented to the Council for approval in February 2017.
- (13)** The impact arising from the funding changes announced at the Final Settlement (net additional spending available £6.169m) and from the Public Health Grant announcement (reduction of £2.870m required due to a shortfall in the grant) will be considered by Performance and Finance Select Committee on 16 March 2016 and be subject to further debate at the County Council on 15 April 2016.

**199** Resolved -

- (1) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17, as set out at the Appendix to the report, be approved; and
- (2) That the investment policies approved for 2016/17 be implemented with immediate effect for the remainder of 2015/16.

### Notice of Motion by Mr M G Jones

**200** The Chairman had originally decided that the motion should be referred to the Leader for consideration. However, following representations she had reconsidered her decision and agreed that the motion could be debated at the meeting. Council therefore agreed to waive Standing Orders to allow that to happen. The following motion was therefore moved by Mr M G Jones and seconded by Mr Glennon:

'This Council notes the on-going work that is being undertaken by the County Council leadership on setting up new devolved arrangements based on a 'three counties' model.

While acknowledging the potential benefits of devolution for residents, this Council expresses its concern that unless this is done correctly, there is a risk of just putting in another tier of local government without sufficient benefits to the county and risks just becoming another 'talking shop'. This Council also expresses its concern that there has been very little member involvement so far in the debate on what devolution would look like locally, its governance structure and how a new authority would operate.

This Council believes that county councillors should be given the opportunity to scrutinise and contribute to the shape of any devolution as it would affect West Sussex, as part of the democratic process and from members' perspective as local representatives for their communities before any deal is made with the Government. The Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council ensures that any decision to formally endorse the proposed '3SC' devolution bid or its proposed governance arrangements would only occur after a debate of the full County Council, followed by an affirmative vote from the majority of councillors.'

**201** Mr Jones agreed to a suggestion that the word 'or' in the last sentence of the motion should be changed to read 'and'.

**202** An amendment was moved by Mrs Duncton and seconded by Mrs Brunson as set out below:

'This Council notes the on-going work that is being undertaken by the County Council leadership on setting up new devolved arrangements based on a 'three counties' model.

~~While acknowledging the potential benefits of devolution for residents, this Council expresses its concern that unless this is done correctly, there is a risk of just putting in another tier of local government without sufficient benefits to the county and risks just becoming another 'talking shop'. This Council also expresses its concern that there has been very little member~~

## Minutes: Item 4

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~~involvement so far in the debate on what devolution would look like locally, its governance structure and how a new authority would operate.~~

This Council believes that county councillors should be given the opportunity to scrutinise and contribute to the shape of any devolution as it would affect West Sussex, as part of the democratic process and from members' perspective as local representatives for their communities before any deal is made with the Government. The Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council ensures that any decision to formally endorse the proposed '3SC' devolution bid or its proposed governance arrangements would only occur after a debate of the full County Council, followed by an affirmative vote from the majority of councillors.'

**203** The amendment was carried.

**204** The amended motion, including the change in wording as set out in minute 201, as set out below, was agreed.

'This Council notes the on-going work that is being undertaken by the County Council leadership on setting up new devolved arrangements based on a 'three counties' model.

This Council believes that county councillors should be given the opportunity to scrutinise and contribute to the shape of any devolution as it would affect West Sussex, as part of the democratic process and from members' perspective as local representatives for their communities before any deal is made with the Government. The Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council ensures that any decision to formally endorse the proposed '3SC' devolution bid and its proposed governance arrangements would only occur after a debate of the full County Council, followed by an affirmative vote from the majority of councillors.'

### Notice of Motion by Mr Sheldon

**205** The following motion was moved by Mr Sheldon and seconded by Mrs Millson:

'This Council expresses its concern that current proposals under the Housing and Planning Bill 2015 will have a significant impact on some of the most vulnerable residents of West Sussex and may, as a result, have serious implications for the County Council's social care services. The proposal to limit the level of housing benefit available to all tenants of social housing to the Local Housing Allowance will put the supported housing services currently offered by a number of organisations at a risk and mean that those with higher levels of need may no longer be able to receive the support they need.

The Council calls upon the Cabinet to work with leaders and cabinets of the West Sussex district and borough councils to make these concerns known to Ministers and local MPs and to seek a delay in any implementation of these proposals until such a time as their full impact has

been understood and methods of ensuring the future funding for provision of supported housing services have been developed.'

- 206** The motion was referred to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health for consideration.

### Written Questions

- 207** Questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 15(2), as set out at Appendix 2, were circulated. Members asked questions on the answers as set out at Appendix 2. The Council agreed to waive Standing Order 15(2)(b) to remove the right of other members to put one question arising from the original reply.

### Cabinet Member Question Time

- 208** Members asked questions of Cabinet Members on matters relevant to their portfolios, including those in the Cabinet Members' reports (pages 466 to 476), as set out at Appendix 3.

### Leader's Question Time

- 209** Members questioned the Leader on matters currently relevant to the County Council, including on the Leader's report (page 477), as set out at Appendix 3.

### Governance Committee: Corporate Leadership

- 210** The County Council considered the re-establishment of the post of Chief Executive as Head of the Paid Service, in the light of the report by the Governance Committee (pages 478 to 481).

- 211** Resolved -

- (1) That the post of Chief Executive be re-established as Head of the Paid Service and that the post of Chief Operating Officer be deleted, such changes to take effect on appointment to the new role; and
- (2) That the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders be amended, as set out at the Appendix to the report, and other changes to the Constitution, including to Standing Orders, be made by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy provided they are necessary for and consistent with the changes that are approved.

### Governance Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2016/17

- 212** The County Council considered the Pay Policy Statement 2016/17, in the light of the report by the Governance Committee (pages 482 to 495). Members noted that the references in the policy to 'Chief Executive Officer' should read 'Chief Executive' in line with the Council's decision under the previous item.

## Minutes: Item 4

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### 213 Resolved -

- (1) That the proposed revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the amendment to the title of the Chief Executive, be approved; and
- (2) That authority to approve any subsequent changes to the wording of the Pay Policy Statement relating to changes to:
  - legislation regarding exit payments in the public sector;
  - the authority's approach to withholding incremental progression for staff on Chief Officer and Hay pay grades; and
  - changes to the corporate leadership structure (as set out at Appendix 3 to the report)

be delegated to the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy.

### **Governance Committee: Changes to Constitution**

**214** The County Council considered changes to the Constitution in relation to clarification of the inclusion of reports on significant work of Select Committees in Cabinet Member Question Time and increased flexibility in the way members receive the summons and agendas for meetings, in the light of the report by the Governance Committee (pages 496 to 500). It was noted that the references to appendices 1 and 2 in the text of the report were the wrong way round.

### 215 Resolved -

- (1) That the proposed clarification to Standing Orders in relation to the inclusion of topics considered by Select Committees in Cabinet Member Question Time, as set out at Appendix 2, be approved;
- (2) That the proposed flexibility for how members receive any summons and agenda for meetings be supported; and
- (3) That the proposed change to Standing Orders as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

### **Chairman**

The Council rose at 5.07 p.m.

### Agenda Item No. 1 – Interests

Members declared interests as set out below. All the interests listed below were personal but not pecuniary or prejudicial unless indicated.

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Member</b> | <b>Nature of Interest</b>   |
|--|---------------|---|
| Agenda Item 5 – Future West Sussex Plan and Draft Budget | Mr High       | Member of Worthing Borough Council  |
|  | Mr M G Jones  | Member of Crawley Borough Council   |
|  | Mr Lamb       | Member of Crawley Borough Council in receipt of a special responsibility allowance                                      |
|  | Mr Oxlade     | Chair of Crawley Open House (in relation to any discussion on local assistance networks)                                |
|  | Mr Quinn      | Member of Crawley Borough Council   |
|  | Mr Rae        | Registered carer, company secretary and accountant of domiciliary care company based in West Sussex and school governor |
|  | Mr Smytherman | Member of Worthing Borough Council  |
|  | Mr Turner     | Member of Worthing Borough Council  |
| Agenda Item 6(a) – Notice of Motion on Devolution        | Mr Burrett    | Member of Crawley Borough Council   |
|  | Mr M G Jones  | Member of Crawley Borough Council   |
|  | Mr Lamb       | Member of Crawley Borough Council in receipt of a special responsibility allowance                                      |
|  | Mr Quinn      | Member of Crawley Borough Council   |
|  | Dr Walsh      | Member of Arun District Council   |

## Minutes: Item 4 - Appendix 1

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Member</b> | <b>Nature of Interest</b>   |
|--|---------------|---|
| Agenda Item 6(b) – Notice of Motion on Local Housing Allowance                   | Mr Lamb       | Member of Crawley Borough Council in receipt of a special responsibility allowance              |
| Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 1 (Ofsted)  | Mr Oppler     | Foster Carer  |
| Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 2 (Visits to Special Schools)                           | Mr Oppler     | Foster Carer  |
| Agenda Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 3 (Aspire Sussex)                                | Mr Burrett    | County Council-appointed trustee and member of Aspire Sussex Ltd                                |
|  | Mr Griffiths  | Governor of Albourne CofE Primary School, Downlands Community School and Chailey Heritage Trust |
| Agenda Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 4 (Fairer funding for West Sussex Schools)       | Mr Bradbury   | Trustee of Sussex Learning Trust  |
|  | Mr Griffiths  | Governor of Albourne CofE Primary School, Downlands Community School and Chailey Heritage Trust |
| Agenda Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 6 (Carers Support following Care Act)            | Mr Catchpole  | Spouse employed by Carers Support West Sussex   |
| Agenda Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 7 (Development of Dementia Friendly Communities) | Mr Griffiths  | Carer   |
|  | Mrs Millson   | Carer   |
| Agenda Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 12 (Community Support Teams)                     | Mr Bradbury   | Member of Mid Sussex District Council   |
|  | Mr S J Oakley | Member of Chichester District Council   |
| Agenda Item 7(b) CMQT paragraph 24 (Fair Trade)                                  | Mrs Millson   | Member of the Fair Trade county steering group  |
| Agenda Item 7(b) Mental Health Crisis Care                                       | Mrs Jones     | Member of Mid Sussex District Council and Burgess Hill Town Council                             |

**19 February 2016**

- 1. Written question from Mr Lamb for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

### **Question**

While the impact of heavy rainfall in recent months on West Sussex has been far less than that seen elsewhere in the country, there remain a number of weak points in the county's highways network when it comes to surface drainage.

In my own division two key crossing points between the East and West of Crawley were rendered unnavigable at one stage last month due to insufficient drainage from the highway.

Could I ask what steps will now be taken to prevent flooding problems re-emerging at these weak points during future bouts of heavy rainfall?

### **Answer**

There are a number of activities currently in progress to manage the risk from flooding across the county. As part of its flood strategy, the County Council is looking at a number of locations to establish if any improvements can be carried out.

A Flood Defence Programme has also been established which is focused on three priorities:

- (a) Gully cleansing - Optimising gully cleansing schedules by prioritising the 'high risk' areas of the network;
- (b) Active communities - To support communities in tackling localised issues of flooding, a further Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund has been proposed for 2016/17. It is the aim of this proposed funding to continue to build upon community engagement in emergency and resilience planning, especially focused on flood-related issues; and
- (c) Major works – Progression of schemes related to Adur Tidal Walls and Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

In times of intense rainfall, there are unfortunately a number of locations within the county that suffer from flooding and officers are aware of recent carriageway flooding issues at St Mary's Drive, under the railway bridge, and Hazelwick Avenue in Crawley. Both of the highway drainage systems at these locations discharge into the Gatwick stream. When water levels in the Gatwick stream are high, as was the case earlier this year, the outlets are completely submerged meaning the highway drainage systems are unable to discharge.

Some years ago, improvements were made to the highway drainage system under the railway bridge in St Mary's Drive. These improvements allowed the system to store more water during periods when the Gatwick stream was high.

## Minutes: Item 4 – Appendix 2

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But still from time to time this system is overwhelmed, leading to carriageway flooding for a period of time until levels in the Gatwick stream have fallen below the outfall. The Gatwick stream reacts very quickly to intense rainfall events, with water levels dropping in a short period of time to enable the local highway drainage system to work again.

Highways officers ensure that the existing systems at these locations are clear and working efficiently; giving any flooding on the highway the best chance to drain quickly away once levels in the Gatwick stream allow.

### Supplementary Question

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that no action is proposed at the current time to resolve the flooding problems in my division?

### Supplementary Answer

The problem in Mr Lamb's division is due to the river flooding. Work has been done to allow water to drain away and keep gullies clear but in times of heavy rain there will unfortunately be an issue.

### 2. Written question from **Mrs Mullins** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

#### Question

I first submitted a motion to Council in December 2014 calling for action to be taken to tackle the growing parking crisis. That motion, calling for a programme of parking audits, to be carried out across each locality in West Sussex, was debated, amended and agreed in March 2015.

Almost a year has passed and there appears to have been very little progress made on an issue that blights the lives of many West Sussex residents.

Can the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport please:

- (a) Advise me of the estimated cost of the Chichester road-space audit, prior to it being commissioned; the likely cost once completed; and how much Chichester District Council will have contributed to it?
- (b) Confirm whether he is satisfied with the Chichester road-space scope, progress to date, and the breadth of the consultation process, given that only a handful of residents appeared to have completed the on-line survey, which could suggest it has not been promoted enough?
- (c) Confirm what provision has been made in the 2016/17 budget for carrying out further parking audits across the county?
- (d) Advise what the estimated cost to the county was in 2014/15, broken down by District & Borough, to reinstate damaged grass verges?

- (e) Tell me when the joint working group, to ensure broader parking and alternative options are considered, will be convened and who he anticipates will participate?
- (f) Confirm when and how he anticipates sharing with members the outcome of the pilot audit and his plans for implementing the solutions identified, as a result of it. Furthermore, can he tell me how he intends to share the details of his evaluation of the pilot; how it might be refined, prioritised, rolled out to other parts of the county and ultimately how he envisages the solutions to tackle the issues identified will be implemented, funded and integrated into current plans such as the integrated work plan and the impending West Sussex Growth Plan?
- (g) Confirm the likely order in which other locations to be audited, given that they are to be selected having taking into account known parking problems, economic priorities, planned investment.

### Answer

- (a) The tender value for the Chichester Road Space Audit is £28,500 and to date there is nothing to suggest that the final cost will differ from this. Chichester District Council has not contributed financially to this project but has been actively engaged as a partner throughout.
- (b) The Cabinet Member is content with the progress made on Chichester Road Space Audit although he considers that it is too early to comment on the effectiveness of this work. In respect of consultation, key stakeholders (including all known residents' associations in Chichester) have been contacted and asked to respond to the initial concepts that are being considered. Stakeholders have been asked to discuss as appropriate with their members and to provide a single response. Consultation with individual residents will be carried out when/if specific measures are proposed for implementation in their area.
- (c) Parking studies are typically funded from the county-wide parking account. When the Chichester Road Space Audit is concluded (expected April 2016) consideration will be given to whether this approach is suitable for expansion. Therefore, no specific financial provision has been made at this time.
- (d) The County Council carried out 130 verge repairs under 5sqm as part of the county-wide Safety Plus defect intervention works programme which was approximately 0.5% of the total volume of safety defects repaired. The total cost of the Safety Plus programme was £1.1m in 2014/15. However, it is not possible to disaggregate verge repairs from the many other safety defect interventions carried out each year. A further 104sqm of verge repairs over 5sqm was carried out as programmed works, costing an estimated £1,300. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs by district and borough council area. There were no specific verge repair schemes carried out as part of the capital maintenance programme during 2014/15.

## **Minutes: Item 4 – Appendix 2**

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- (e) City, District and County members, together with other key stakeholders, are contributing to the development of the pilot study in Chichester, due to be completed in April 2016. Once the results of the Chichester pilot are known, the Cabinet Member will be able to determine how the results are shared, the appropriateness of carrying out road space audits elsewhere in the county, how these might be funded and integrated with the broader growth agenda and what form of joint working group is necessary to take this work forward countywide.
- (f) Please see response to (e).
- (g) Please see response to (e).

### **Supplementary Question**

Is the Cabinet Member satisfied that the Council is sending out a strong enough message to residents about how serious it is in tackling an issue that impacts on their lives every day?

### **Supplementary Answer**

Parking is an issue but there is no easy answer. The pilot is looking holistically at the situation and, once the results for Chichester are known, the implications for the rest of the county and how best to manage need can be investigated.

### **Agenda Item No. 7(b) - Cabinet Member Question Time**

Members asked questions of the Cabinet Members and Leader (in respect of the Economy portfolio) as set out below. In instances where a Cabinet Member or Leader undertook to take follow-up action, this is also noted below.

#### **Start of Life**

##### **Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

Paragraph 2, Visits to Special Schools, from Mr R J Oakley.

The Cabinet Member said he would be happy for local members to join him on visits to special school and would email local members when he was visiting schools in their areas.

Issues with the redesign of the fostering and adoption services, from Mr Oppler.

##### **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

Paragraph 3, Aspire Sussex, from Mr Griffiths and Mrs Mullins.

In response to a question from Mr Griffiths about pottery classes in Burgess Hill which had been suspended due to security issues around the venues, the Cabinet Member said he would be happy to pass on suggestions from Mr Griffiths of possible alternative venues to the Aspire representatives.

Protecting teachers against intimidation, from Mr Glennon.

Performance of the Littlehampton and Lancing Robert Woodard Academies, from Mr Clark.

In response to a question about what the County Council was doing to help the Littlehampton and Lancing Robert Woodard Academies improve their performance following the Department for Education's intervention, the Cabinet Member said he would find out and let him know.

Why the Council was embarking on the STARS reorganisation when the Government's policy was for academies and free schools, from Mr Parsons.

On-going problems at St Andrew's Primary School, Furnace Green, Crawley, from Mr Quinn.

#### **Later Life**

##### **Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

## **Minutes: Item 4 – Appendix 3**

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Paragraph 6, Carers Support following the Care Act, from Mrs Jupp.

The Cabinet Member agreed to send to all members and take to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee the results of the review of the assessments once they were available.

Crisis in adult care homes, from Mrs Brunsdon.

### **Stronger Communities**

#### **Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

Paragraph 10, Improvements to the A27, from Mrs Evans and Dr Walsh.

Paragraph 11, National Highways and Transport Network, from Mrs Millson, Mrs Rapnik and Mr Watson.

Paragraph 12, Community Support Teams, from Mr G L Jones, Mr S J Oakley and Mr J L Rogers.

#### **Cabinet Member for Residents' Services**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following matters.

Paragraph 17, Multi-agency work to protect properties in Arundel, from Mr Peters.

Paragraph 20, Update on work of Trading Standards, from Mr Acraman and Mrs Kitchen.

In response to a request from Mr Acraman, the Cabinet Member agreed to let him know the number of prosecutions there had been in the last year for the supply of illicit tobacco and how much money was involved.

In response to comments from Mrs Kitchen about the excellent work of Trading Standards in relation to illegal and road car parking around Gatwick Airport, the Cabinet Member agreed to pass on Mrs Kitchen's thanks.

### **Effective Council**

#### **Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations**

The Cabinet Member answered questions on paragraph 21, Time to Change – Employer Pledge, from Ms Kennard.

### **Agenda Item No. 7(c) - Leader's Question Time**

The Leader answered questions from members on the following matters.

Closure of the Crown, County and Magistrates' Courts in Chichester, from Dr Walsh.

In response to a request from Dr Walsh the Leader said she would be happy to write a letter making further representations which all group leaders could sign.

Alleged irregularities in Adur and Worthing Council's procurement process for voluntary services, and a request that the Leader express concern via the on-going negotiations regarding the County Council's contributions to the contract, from Mr Glennon.

Whilst not wishing to comment on the actions of other councils, the Leader said she would take the matter up with the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing.

Membership of Sussex County Cricket Club, from Mr Oppler.

In response to a question about the appropriateness of the County Council's membership of Sussex County Cricket Club and, in particular the complimentary corporate season ticket which was available for use by members and senior officers, the Leader referred the matter to the County Chairman who said she would be happy to consider asking those who used the ticket to make a donation either to charity or back to the County Council.

Consultation on Devolution plans, from Mr Sutcliffe.

Future of Children and Family Centres, from Mrs Jones.

Investment in Horsham on the Novartis site and plans for other parts of the county, from Mr Watson.

Report on mental health services, from Mrs Jones, Mrs Mullins and Dr Walsh.