

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Sessions House on Thursday, 11 July 2019.

PRESENT:

Mrs A D Allen, MBE (Chairman)
Mr G K Gibbens (Vice-Chairman)

Mr M J Angell, Mr M A C Balfour, Mr P V Barrington-King, Mr P Bartlett, Mrs C Bell, Mrs P M Beresford, Mrs R Binks, Mr R H Bird, Mr T Bond, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J Burden, Mr D Butler, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, CBE, Mrs S Chandler, Mr N J D Chard, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr J Clinch, Mrs P T Cole, Mr N J Collor, Ms K Constantine, Mr A Cook, Mr G Cooke, Mr P C Cooper, Mrs M E Crabtree, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Miss E Dawson, Mr D Farrell, Mrs L Game, Mr R W Gough, Ms S Hamilton, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr A R Hills, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr P J Homewood, Mr E E C Hotson, Mrs L Hurst, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr P W A Lake, Mr B H Lewis, Ida Linfield, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr G Lymer, Mr R A Marsh, Ms D Marsh, Mr J P McInroy, Mr P J Messenger, Mr D Murphy, Mr M J Northey, Mr P J Oakford, Mr J M Ozog, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr M D Payne, Mrs S Prendergast, Mr K Pugh, Miss C Rankin, Mr A M Ridgers, Mr C Simkins, Mrs P A V Stockell, Dr L Sullivan, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr I Thomas, Mr R J Thomas, Mr M Whiting, Mr M E Whybrow and Mr J Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Abbott (Director of Education Planning and Access), Mr D Cockburn (Corporate Director Strategic & Corporate Services), Mrs B Cooper (Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport), Mrs C Head (Head of Finance Operations), Mr A Scott-Clark (Director of Public Health), Richard Smith (Interim Portfolio Manager) and Mr B Watts (General Counsel)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

146. Apologies for Absence

The General Counsel reported apologies from Mr Hook, Mr Rayner, Mr Manion, Mr Booth, Mr Horwood, Mrs Dean and Mr Monk.

147. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests in items on the agenda

(1) Dr Sullivan declared an interest, as her husband was employed by the County Council in the Early Help and Prevention Team.

(2) Mr Lewis declared an interest as his wife was employed by the County Council.

148. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2019 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

149. Chairman's Announcements

Birthday Honours List

(1) The Chairman referred Members to the list of honours recipients from Kent following the recent announcement in The Queen's Birthday Honours List.

(2) The Chairman informed Members that Viscount De L'Isle, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, had become a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order for services to The Sovereign, Mr Clive Emson, a former Kent Invicta Award recipient and Kent Ambassador, had received an MBE for services to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in Kent, and Ms Jo James, Chief Executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and Kent Ambassador, had received an OBE for Services to the economy in Kent.

(3) The Chairman, on behalf of the County Council, offered sincere congratulations to all of those Honours recipients.

Newly Appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Kent

(4) The Chairman referred Members to the list of newly appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Kent, published on 20 June 2019. Each of the seven new Deputy Lieutenants had been appointed for their positive contributions to the County and the Nation.

(5) The Chairman formally congratulated all those appointed, but in particular, Miss Jo Holmes, Head of the Civic Office and Deputy Clerk to the Lieutenancy at Kent County Council.

The Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service

(6) The Chairman drew Members attention to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which was the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. Any group of two or more people doing volunteering work could be nominated for the award, but the group should have been running for three years or more, with the majority of the group being volunteers. She encouraged Member's to look for nominees from their community and stated that further information would be e-mailed to Members and confirmed that the deadline for nominations was 13 September 2019. Further information was available from the Civic office.

Local Government Honours

(7) The Chairman announced that The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had invited Kent County Council's Members to make recommendations for the Birthday 2020 Honours. She stated that further information

would be e-mailed to Members and that completed forms should be returned to the Civic office by 16 August 2019.

Highway Tree Planting and Member Grants

(8) The Chairman announced that at 1:00pm, the Soft Landscape Team from Highways, Transportation & Waste would be holding a tree-planting event outside County Hall. The event celebrated the continued support of Kent resident, Sophie Scott, who had provided Highways, schools and other organisations with funding to plant urban and highway trees for over 20 years. At the event, Mr Payne, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste, would be planting a ceremonial tree and Ms Scott would be presented with a second tree, which would be planted at a site of her choice in Canterbury.

(9) The Chairman stated that the Soft Landscape Team would be on hand during the lunch break to answer queries from Members about the best time to allocate their Member Grant funding to obtain the best nursery stock, and how highways trees were planted to minimise root disruption to pavements and roads.

(10) The Chairman invited Members to join her at the tree-planting event and to take the opportunity to speak to the Soft Landscape Team.

Local Government Association Challenge winner

(11) The Chairman announced that Rob Comber, Service Development Manager in the Children, Young People and Education directorate had won the national Local Government Association (LGA) Challenge at the LGA Conference in Bournemouth on Wednesday 3 July 2019. The challenge was in its tenth year and was part of the legacy of the late, great Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, former Leader of Kent County Council and Chairman of the LGA. Rob was selected as the winner by a panel of judges and would receive the £10,000 Bruce Lockhart scholarship to develop his project, "Summer Slide", that aimed to tackle the educational impact of child poverty through summer schools.

(12) The Chairman congratulated Mr Comber on winning the Local Government Challenge.

Corporate Parent Challenge Champions 2019

(13) The Chairman announced that the Corporate Parent Challenge Champions 2019 event would take place on the afternoon of Thursday 25 July 2019 at Teston Country Park.

(14) The Chairman invited Members to the event to celebrate the achievements of Kent's young people.

Kent County Show – Award

(15) The Chairman congratulated Miss Carey and officers for the hard work and planning that they had undertaken at the Kent County Show which took place on 5th, 6th, 7th July at The Detling Showground, Maidstone. Kent County Council had taken second place out of 400 for 'best large trade stand'.

Low Energy Strategy and Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy

(16) The Chairman stated that copies of the consultation on the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2019 – 2044 were available outside of the Council Chamber

150. Questions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.17(4), 11 questions were asked and replies given. A record of all questions put and answers given at the meeting are available [online](#) with the papers for this meeting.

151. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)

(1) The Leader updated the Council on events since the previous meeting.

(2) Mr Carter, the Leader of the Council, referred to the recent announcement by the Government of £4m toward the construction of a new medical school campus in Canterbury, with a further £4m in the following autumn subject to the anticipated cancellation or delays of current South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) projects. Mr Carter confirmed that the Canterbury medical school, which was a joint venture between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, would take its first cohort of 100 medical students from September 2020.

(3) Mr Carter referred to the apprenticeship nursing programme that was offered by the Kent Community Health Foundation Trust and confirmed that Kent would gain an additional 50 qualified nurses each year through the programmes.

(4) Mr Carter outlined the proposed changes to the governance arrangements in relation to LEPs and the consequences of these changes for the future of Kent and Medway's membership of the South East LEP which would be affected by the scheduled changes.

(5) Mr Carter presented a series of slides which contained extracts from an open letter to the two candidates for the Leadership of the Conservative Party, which he had written on behalf of the Conservative Group of Leaders, as Members of the County Council Network. The letter set out significant social and funding issues facing local government. The responses from Mr Hunt and Mr Johnson were displayed.

(6) Mr Carter had expressed the view in a recent interview for Radio 4 that any new Ministers would have a lot of work to do not only in relation to Brexit, but also regarding the Fair Funding Review and various social issues affecting local government.

(7) Mr Bird, the Leader of the Opposition, welcomed the recent announcement by the Government of £4m to be invested into the new medical school in Kent and the positive impact that the new medical school would have on Kent's residents.

(8) Mr Bird outlined the advantages and disadvantages of LEPs, the future of LEPs and the importance of ensuring that the Kent and Medway Economic

Partnership continued to drive forward economic growth, whilst considering the ever-increasing population in Kent and Medway.

(9) Mr Bird expressed his views in relation to the responses that had been provided by the Conservative Party Leadership candidates to Mr Carter's open letter.

(10) Mr Bird referred to the process for policy making within the Liberal Democrat Party and shared information with Members which related to the Party's plans for the devolution of tax powers to local authorities, focusing more closely on primary care, social care and specialised care services and tackling inequalities within the education system through funding.

(11) Mr Farrell, Leader of the Labour Group, referred to the Conservative Party Leadership election and the need for significant investment in public services for this period of austerity. Mr Farrell highlighted the important role of Councillors across the country in addressing the challenges facing society and the need for central government to define new relationships with local councils.

(12) Mr Farrell welcomed the recent announcement by the Government of £4m to be invested into the new medical school in Kent and the positive impact that the new medical school would have in driving up standards in healthcare and encouraging the brightest Kent minds to stay within the county.

(13) Mr Farrell reiterated Mr Bird's comments in relation to LEPs and expressed the view that councils were best placed to drive strategic growth drawing upon the skills and expertise of the business sector.

(14) Mr Whybrow, Leader of the Independents Group, referred to the information contained within Mr Carter's open letter to Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt and emphasised the importance of local government receiving long term funding from central government. He stated that the lack of continuity at central government level had led to an inability to have long-term discussions with them on local government and this was a key issue.

(15) Mr Whybrow referred to a positive debate which had taken place at a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting on SEND funding and how it was linked to issues within the education system.

(16) Mr Whybrow emphasised the significant need for additional funding and power for local authorities to address the climate emergency.

(17) In replying to the other Leaders' comments, Mr Carter stated that public finances were in a much better state than they had been for some time. Mr Carter clarified that the £4m funding from NHS England for the medical school was capital funding. He referred to a recent discussion which took place at the Sustainability Transformation Partnership Programme Board relating to the potential for the health economy in Kent to find additional revenue funds for the new medical school in Kent.

(18) Mr Carter highlighted the need for the country's future Prime Minister to recognise the importance of the partnership between the business community and local government and restore the parity, at least 50:50 of how LEPs were constituted especially in light of the potential prosperity fund.

(19) Mr Carter referred to the importance of the responses received from the candidates for the Conservative Party Leadership which would enable them to be held to account. Also, there was recognition of the significant need for additional high needs funding within schools for children with special educational needs.

(20) He emphasised the recognition of the positive steps that needed to be taken by government in relation to post 16 skills and ensuring that all young people were given the opportunity to explore their skills, analyse their strengths and weaknesses and pursue a career by accessing the appropriate training.

152. Kent Youth County Council - Annual report

(1) Mrs Prendergast moved and Mr Gough seconded the following motion:

“County Council is asked to note the annual report and thanks the Members of the Youth Council for their work and their contribution to the debate.”

(2) The Chairman welcomed three Members of Kent Youth County Council, Eleanor Burnaby-Rouse, Alice McDonald and Alex McGovern to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation on their annual report and to answer questions from Members.

(3) Following the debate, the motion was agreed without a formal vote.

(4) RESOLVED that the annual report be noted and, the Members of the Youth Council be thanked for their work and contribution to the debate on this item.

153. Kent's Plan Bee - Kent County Council Pollinator Action Plan

(1) Mr Whiting moved and Mr Holden seconded the following motion:

“County Council is asked to agree adoption of Kent’s Plan Bee – the Kent County Council Pollinator Action Plan.”

(2) Following the debate, the motion was agreed without a formal vote.

(3) RESOLVED that the Kent’s Plan Bee – the Kent County Council Pollinator Action Plan, be adopted.

154. End of Year Performance Report 2018/19

(1) Miss Carey moved and Mr Kite seconded the following motion:

“County Council is asked to note the End of Year Performance Report 2018/19.”

(2) Following the debate, the motion was agreed without a formal vote.

(3) RESOLVED that the End of Year Performance Report 2018/19 be noted.

155. Motion for Time Limited Debate

Disabled Person's Bus Pass in Kent

(1) Mr Chittenden moved the following motion:

"The council commits to including an amendment to the terms and conditions of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) for Kent due to be published in November 2019, which will remove the peak time restrictions applicable to both the Disabled Person's Bus Pass and Disabled Person + Companion Pass, effective from April 2020."

(2) Ms Head (Head of Finance - Operations), on behalf of Mr Shipton (Acting Section 151 Officer), advised that although the motion for time limited debate had been submitted and accepted in accordance with section 1.21(1), Appendix 4 Part 1 of Kent County Council's Constitution, the motion failed the Section 151 test because there was no funding associated with the request.

(3) Based on the Section 151 Officer's advice, the Chairman decided not to consider the motion at this meeting.

(Miss Carey declared an interest as her mother in Law had a disabled person's bus pass, Mr Collor declared an interest as his sister had a disabled person's bus pass and Mr Gibbens declared an interest as he had a disabled nephew who lived outside of Kent)

156. Corporate Parenting Panel - minutes for noting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel on 27th March 2019 be noted.