

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 3 April 2008.

PRESENT:

Mr L B Ridings (Chairman)
Mr P W A Lake (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr T J Birkett, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr C J Capon, Ms S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr C G Findlay, Mr M J Fittock, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr I T N Jones, DL, Mr R E King, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr K G Lynes, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr M J Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr A R Poole, Dr T R Robinson, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr G Rowe, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E M Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr C T Wells, Mr B P Wood and Mr F Wood-Brignall

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive) and Mr G Wild (Director of Law and Governance)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(a) **Declarations of Interest**

Mr M Snelling made a declaration of interest in respect of Item 6 on the agenda as a non-executive Director of Kent Top Temps.

1. Minutes for Approval

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February (subject to deletion of Mr K Sansum's name in minute 4(8)) and 13 March 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

3. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.18, 10 questions were asked and replies were given. 4 questions remained unanswered at the end of thirty minutes and written answers were given.

4. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)

The Leader of the Council updated the Council on the Localism agenda, Operation Stack, progress on LAA Partnerships and working towards an Economic Development Strategy for the South East.

5. 2012 Progress Report

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. Item for Time-limited Debate by Mrs T Dean

(1) Mrs T Dean, Mr M J Vye seconded that:-

The County Council notes the concern and distrust expressed by Kent businesses about the activities of KCC's arms length companies and agrees to:-

- (a) ask its external Auditors to confirm that there is no cross subsidy from rate payers, and to set out clearly the trading and financial relationship between the County Council and these companies, and
- (b) assist in the setting up of a county wide forum which would speak for Kent businesses, large and small, on issues affecting the viability of commerce and industry and therefore employment in Kent.

(2) Mr N Chard moved, Mr M Snelling seconded, as an amendment, that:-

The County Council notes "the importance of maintaining the understanding of Kent businesses about the Council's commercial operations" and agrees to:-

- (a) "continue as in previous years" to ask its auditors to confirm that there is no cross subsidiary from tax payers and to set out clearly the trading and financial relationships between the County Council and these companies,
- (b) "use its existing communications channels to communicate effectively the purpose and activity of these companies to the business community, and
- (c) note the significant effectiveness of the Council's activities outsourced to the private sector which is valued at many millions per year.

(3) The Chairman then put to the vote the amendment set out in (2) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 46

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr C G Findlay, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R G Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R

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Robinson, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J Simmonds, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C J Wells and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Abstain – 21

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr L Christie, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mrs T Dean, Dr M Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Ms E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr I T N Jones, Mr T Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr D Smyth, Mr R Truelove, Mr M J Vye.

This was carried and became the substantive motion

The Chairman then put to the vote the substantive motion set out in (2) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 33

Mr M J Angell, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr J R Bullock, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr W A Hayton, Mr G A Horne, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr M Northey, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Mr J E Scholes, Mr M V Snelling, Mr C J Wells and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Against – 8

Mrs A D Allen, Mr C J Capon, Mr I Chittenden, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J Simmonds and Mr M J Vye.

Abstain – 20

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr L Christie, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M Eddy, Ms E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr I T N Jones, Mr T Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr D Smyth and Mr R Truelove.

Carried

- (5) RESOLVED that the County Council notes the importance of maintaining the understanding of Kent businesses about the Council's commercial operations and agrees to:-
- (a) "continue as in previous years" to ask its auditors to confirm that there is no cross subsidiary from tax payers and to set out clearly the trading and financial relationships between the County Council and these companies,
 - (b) "use its existing communications channels to communicate effectively the purpose and activity of these companies to the business community, and
 - (c) note the significant effectiveness of the Council's activities outsourced to the private sector which is valued at many millions per year.

7. Select Committee: Alcohol Misuse

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report, its recommendations and the action plan for taking forward the Select Committee's recommendations be endorsed;
- (b) the Select Committee be thanked for an excellent report on a complex, challenging and emotive issue;
- (c) the witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the work of the Select Committee be thanked;
- (d) those partners and stakeholders who took part in the informal roundtable discussions be thanked for their professional commitment and support; and
- (e) the Cabinet's resolution to hold a countywide event to launch this very important report, together with an event involving young people via the Kent Youth County Council be agreed.