

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 27 March 2014.

## PRESENT:

Mr E E C Hotson (Chairman)  
Mr P J Homewood (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr D Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr M A C Balfour, Mr R H Bird, Mr H Birkby, Mr N J Bond, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mrs P Brivio, Mr R E Brookbank, Mr L Burgess, Mr C W Caller, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, CBE, Mr N J D Chard, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr B E Clark, Mrs P T Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr G Cowan, Mrs M E Crabtree, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr J Elenor, Mrs M Elenor, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Harman, Ms A Harrison, Mr M Heale, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr C P D Hoare, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mrs S Howes, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr R A Latchford, OBE, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr G Lymer, Mr B E MacDowall, Mr T A Maddison, Mr S C Manion, Mr R A Marsh, Mr F McKenna, Mr P J Oakford, Mr J M Ozog, Mr R J Parry, Mr C R Pearman, Mr L B Ridings, MBE, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr J E Scholes, Mr W Scobie, Mr T L Shonk, Mr C Simkins, Mr J D Simmonds, MBE, Mr C P Smith, Mr D Smyth, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr A Terry, Mr N S Thandi, Mr R Truelove, Mr M J Vye, Mr J N Wedgbury, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M E Whybrow, Mr M A Wickham and Mrs Z Wiltshire

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Wild (Director of Governance and Law) and Peter Sass (Head of Democratic Services)

## UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

### **63. Apologies for Absence**

The Director of Governance and Law reported apologies for absence from the following Members:

Mr Mike Harrison  
Mr Bob Neaves  
Mr Michael Northey

### **64. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests**

Mr Bond, Mrs Brivio, Mr Caller, Mr Maddison and Mrs Whittle all declared an Other Significant Interest in Item 11 – Localism Act: openness and accountability in local pay as they all had relatives who work for Kent County Council. The Chairman reminded these Members that under the County Council's Code of Conduct, they were required to leave the Chamber during consideration of Item 11 and not participate in the debate or vote on the recommendation contained in the report.

**65. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2014 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2014 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

**66. Chairman's Announcements**

(a) Partnership Achievement of the Year Award

(1) The Chairman informed Members that Mrs Jenny Whittle had won the Partnership Achievement of the Year award in the 2014 Councillor Achievement Awards.

(2) The Partnership Award is for someone who had made significant personal commitment and drive to make working in partnership an integral part of how the council delivered outcomes locally, and shown improvements in service delivery, efficiency savings and delivery of outcomes as a result of the partnership working that this councillor had been involved with.

(3) Mrs Whittle was nominated for her work with Coram to improve the adoption service in the county, moving to a cross-sector partnership model.

(4) On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman offered his congratulations to Mrs Whittle.

(b) FareShare Kent

(5) FareShare was a national UK charity supporting communities to relieve food poverty and it was at the centre of two of the most urgent issues that face the UK: food poverty and food waste.

(6) FareShare Kent had been established as a Community Interest Company, wholly owned by the Children and Families Ltd charity. FareShare would establish a network of Community Food Members able to utilise the surplus food available to their benefit, in return paying a reasonable administration fee that helped build a sustainable business into the future. FareShare Kent would also develop employment training programmes to help its mainly volunteer workforce develop valuable skills and experience to enable them to move more easily into local full-time employment.

(7) The Chairman had been asked by Miss Harrison, the local Member for Sheerness, to present a cheque for £28,055 to Alan Bayford, from Fareshare Kent on behalf of Miss Harrison and 44 other Members of the Council who had contributed to this amount from their Member Grants.

(8) Mr Bayford spoke briefly to offer his sincere thanks.

(c) Winter Olympics and Paralympics

(9) The Chairman informed Members that Kent had had one competitor in the Sochi Winter Olympics, Lizzy Yarnold, from Sevenoaks, who had won Gold in the Skeleton event. Group Leaders had unanimously agreed that the Kent Invicta Award

should be presented to Lizzy Yarnold and along with it a cheque for £5,000 for the charity of her choice. The Chairman stated that he and officers had been trying to arrange it so that the award could be presented to Lizzy Yarnold at this meeting but this had not been possible. He was adamant that, whenever the presentation did occur, Members would be involved.

(10) Paralympics GB had nominated four individuals to run with the Paralympic Torch in Russia ahead of the Paralympics, and one of those four was from Kent. 20 year old student Andrew Norman was a School Ambassador and student at Valence School in Kent who regularly contributed to many areas of school sport and activities, wider community events, regional competitions and cultural performances.

(11) Kent also had two competitors in the Sochi Winter Paralympic Games. One, Millie Knight, the 15 year old from Canterbury who carried the Flag at the Opening Ceremony was Team GB's youngest ever competitor in a winter Games. Millie would be one of the Baton Bearers of the Queen's Baton Relay in June. Millie was a visually impaired skier and KCC provided grant support to her in the run up to the Paralympics (£250).

(12) The other Kent athlete at the Paralympics was Charlotte Evans (technically, Medway), who won Gold (Britain's first ever Gold at a Winter Paralympics) as the sighted guide to Kelly Gallagher (a visually impaired skier).

(13) On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman offered his sincere congratulations to all those competitors and their supporters in the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

(d) Flooding

(14) The Chairman announced that he had received a letter from the Mayor and Leader of Carlisle City Council expressing their heartfelt commiserations to the Council and to the residents of Kent on the recent flooding in the county.

(15) Having been faced with devastating floods themselves in 2005 the Council had sympathy with what has been experienced and the not considerable clean-up operations that have occurred and were still ongoing.

(e) Petition

(16) The Chairman stated that he had taken receipt of a petition from the Chairman of Langley Parish Council. The Parish Council had been campaigning for some time to get a reduction in the speed limit along the A274 Sutton Road in Langley, from the beginning of the parish at Langley South to Five Wents Crossroads. The Chairman then formally presented the petition to Mr Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, for investigation and response.

(f) "Time to Change" Pledge

(17) Time to Change was a national anti-stigma campaign run by the leading mental health charities, Mind and Rethink. Time to Change aimed to improve public attitudes towards people with mental health problems. On the 6 February 2014 Graham Gibbens, on behalf of KCC, signed the Time to Change organisational

pledge. The pledge was a public statement of aspiration where an organisation wants to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination. This was a commitment that KCC would be taking serious action with and it was hoped would reduce mental health discrimination across the County.

(g) Karen Mannering

(18) Karen Mannering in Democratic Services was due to retire from KCC on Friday 28 March having joined the County Council in the summer of 1969, some 44 years ago. The Chairman state that he was sure all Members would agree that this was a tremendous lifetime of commitment to public service and this County Council. On behalf of all Members, the Chairman wished Karen a long, happy, healthy and thoroughly well-deserved retirement and gave his sincere thanks and appreciation for all her hard work on Members' behalf.

## **67. Questions**

Under Procedure Rule 1.17 (4) 6 questions were asked and replies given.

## **68. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)**

(1) Mr Carter began his Leader's report by stating that it contained mainly positive news but, as Ofsted would say, a few areas of concern. Starting with the positives he stated that he was hugely grateful to everybody who had been involved in the recent LGA Peer Review. Opposition leaders had been very much involved in the review and had been at the feedback session and in summary the LGA were enormously impressed with everything they had seen and heard.

(2) He stated that there was also an enormous positive in the progress and direction of travel in 'Facing the Challenge' with, pleasingly, a culture of openness and honesty from all members and staff interviewed but there would be more on Facing the Challenge later in morning.

(3) He had been delighted to attend the Health and Wellbeing Board the previous evening to collectively sign-off with the lead clinicians and accountable officers from the seven CCGs in Kent their better care and commissioning plans, which would be submitted to the Department for Health over the coming few days.

(4) The plans set out by the CCGs proposed to deliver:

- 7 day a week access to GP teams
- 24/7 access to emergency primary and community nursing and social care support
- Dedicated neighbourhood/community teams directed by GPs to support their patients with more Health visitors, District Nurses, Physiotherapists, social care support and specialist mental health practitioners
- Teams that will help and support particularly the elderly, vulnerable, and sick in their own homes as far as is possible
- Dedicated specialist teams that have intimate knowledge and understanding of their patients and bring humanity and personal care back into primary and community health.

(5) The Leader stated that the previous day the executive of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had signed off the Kent, Essex and East Sussex 'Strategic Economic Plan', which most importantly contained the Kent and Medway chapter, which set out the economic growth plans for the region over the next six years. The Plan had to be with government by Monday in the hope and expectation that significant money would flow from them as they delivered their promise for a single pot growth allocation covering this period, some £70million to £80million per year anticipated with much of this money earmarked for transport schemes (60%) as well as support for housing and commercial growth (40%). This announcement was expected before the summer recess. Finally, in relation to the LEP, the Leader stated that he was pleased to announce that David Godfrey had been unanimously appointed as the new director to head up the Partnership.

(6) Continuing on the economic development front, the Leader stated that he had been pleased to receive the pre-budgetary announcement of a £200m support package for Ebbsfleet, Eastern Quarry, and the Swanscombe peninsular to accelerate progress in the growth agenda in the Thames Gateway, as well as the establishment of an urban development corporation, the details of which were eagerly anticipated.

(7) With regard to East Kent, the Leader stated that he was sure Members had been saddened by the announcement of the potential closure of Manston airport. For many, many, years KCC had helped and supported Manston airport and would continue to support Sir Roger Gale, MP, who was working closely with Mark Dance and KCC's Economic Development team, to help and support in any way possible.

(8) Turning to areas of concern the Leader stated that it continued to be a great area of concern that as yet there had been no reasonable explanation from the Department for Education as to why KCC was £30m short on the basic need school expansion programme for 2014 to 2017. Likewise he was concerned that the recent consultation on fairer school revenue funding did nothing to address the poor Age Weighted Pupil (AWP) allocation in Kent, stating that where other similar authorities got increases, Kent got nothing.

(9) With regard to asylum the Leader stated that he and Andrew Ireland had had a very positive meeting with the new Home Office, Minister James Brokenshire, and he was hopeful that the Council would shortly get adjustments to the grant regime that would effectively remove the financial burden on Council Tax payers, and he hoped that there might be an offer on the historic debt owed as well.

(10) Finally, he stated that he was grateful that the government had granted Kent County Council an additional £8.6million for emergency road repairs following the exceptionally wet winter, with the hope that the Bellwin Scheme might deliver further help and support.

(11) Mr Latchford, Mr Cowan, Mrs Dean and Mr Whybrow all responded to the Leader's report.

(12) Mr Carter acknowledged and responded to the opposition group leaders' comments and the Leader's report was noted.

## **69. Facing the Challenge: Progress to Date and Phase 2**

- (1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Simmonds seconded that the Council should note:
- (1) The progress to date on Phase 1 of Facing the Challenge;
  - (2) That the outturn of all Phase 1 Market Engagement and Service Reviews will be reported to County Council at its meeting in May 2014;
  - (3) The lessons learned as part of Phase 1 transformation;
  - (4) The need to bring additional resources into the organisation to support Phase 2;
  - (5) The proposal to close Bold Steps for Kent as the Medium Term Plan [strategic statement] for KCC;
  - (6) The development of a new strategic commissioning plan [strategic statement] for KCC to be developed as part of Phase 2 transformation; and
  - (7) The services set out in paragraph 5.4 which will form the basis of Phase 2 Market Engagement and Service Reviews.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Council note the recommendations as set out in paragraphs (1) (1) to (7) above.

## **70. Transformation - Cabinet Committees Reform**

- (1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Simmonds seconded that the Council note the changes made to Cabinet Committees to be introduced on 1 April 2014 as set out in the report.
- (2) RESOLVED that the changes to the Cabinet Committee structure be noted.

## **71. Select Committee: Maximising the Benefits from Kent's European Relationship**

- (1) Mr Dance moved, Mr Holden seconded that the Council support the following recommendations:
1. That the Select Committee be thanked for its work and for producing a relevant and balanced document;
  2. That the witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the Select Committee be thanked; and
  3. That Council's comments on the report and its recommendations were welcomed.
- (2) Following a debate the Chairman put the recommendations to the vote when the voting was as follows:

For (65)

Mrs A Allen, Mr M Angell, Mr M Balfour, Mr R Bird, Mr A Bowles, Mr D Brazier, Mrs P Brivio, Mr R Brookbank, Mr C Caller, Miss S Carey, Mr P Carter, Mr N Chard, Mr I Chittenden, Mr B Clark, Mrs P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr G Cowan, Mrs M Crabtree, Ms J Cribbon, Mrs V Dagger, Mr D Daley, Mr M Dance, Mr J Davies, Mrs T Dean, Dr M Eddy, Mr T Gates, Mr G Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr P Harman, Ms A Harrison, Mr M Hill, Mrs S Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr P Homewood, Mr E Hotson, Ms S Howes, Mr A King, Mr J Kite, Mr G Koowaree, Mr R Long, Mr G Lymer, Mr T Maddison, Mr S Manion, Mr A Marsh, Mr P Oakford, Mr J Ozog, Mr R Parry, Mr C Pearman, Mr L Ridings, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr J Scholes, Mr W Scobie, Mr C Simkins, Mr J Simmonds, Mr C Smith, Mr D Smyth, Mrs P Stockell, Mr B Sweetland, Mr N Thandi, Mr R Truelove, Mr M Vye, Mr J Wedgbury, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M Whybrow, Mr A Wickham

Abstain (11)

Mr D Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr H Birkby, Mr L Burgess, Mr A Crowther, Mr J Elenor, Mrs M Elenor, Mr C Hoare, Mr F McKenna, Mr R Latchford, Mrs Z Wiltshire

Against (5)

Mr N Bond, Mr M Heale, Mr B MacDowall, Mr T Shonk, Mr A Terry

*Carried*

(3) RESOLVED that the recommendations be endorsed.

**72. Initial response to the Select Committee Report, 'Maximising the Benefits of Kent's European Relationship' - February 2014**

(1) Mr Dance moved, Mr Holden seconded that the Council:

- (a) note and discuss the Directorate's initial response to the recommendations of the Select Committee Report on Kent's European Relationships and the actions it proposes to take; and
- (b) that a further paper, including progress in implementing the Select Committee's recommendations, be provided to the County Council in three months' time.

(2) RESOLVED that the recommendations be agreed.

**73. Localism Act: Openness and accountability in local pay**

(1) Mr Bond, Mrs Brivio, Mr Caller, Mr Maddison and Mrs Whittle all left the Chamber and did not participate in the debate or vote in relation to this matter as they had declared an Other Significant Interest in this item as members of their family were all employed by Kent County Council.

(2) Mr Cooke moved, Mr Carter seconded that the County Council endorses the attached Pay Policy Statement.

(3) RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement be endorsed.

**74. Treasury Management 6 Month Review 2013/14**

- (1) Mr Simmonds moved, Miss Carey seconded that the Council note the report.
- (2) RESOLVED that the report be noted.