

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Thursday, 27th February, 2020 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Jean Green (Chair), Terry Tyler (Vice-Chair), Ian Albert, Kate Aspinwall, David Barnard, Clare Billing, Judi Billing, John Bishop, Ruth Brown, Val Bryant, Paul Clark, George Davies, Steve Deakin-Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Morgan Derbyshire, Gary Grindal, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Keith Hoskins, Mike Hughson, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Jim McNally, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Lisa Nash, Sue Ngwala, Sam North, Helen Oliver, Sean Prendergast, Mike Rice, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Carol Stanier, Martin Stears-Handscomb, Claire Strong, Kay Tart, Richard Thake, Tom Tyson and Michael Weeks

IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Kirk (East of England Local Government Association), Ian Couper (Service Director - Resources), Jeanette Thompson (Service Director - Legal and Community), Melanie Stimpson (Democratic Services Manager) and Hilary Dineen (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager)

75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – Session 1 - 1 minute 21 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daniel Allen, Sam Collins, Faye Frost, Sean Prendergast, Deepak Sangha and Val Shanley.

76 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – Session 1 - 2 minutes 5 seconds

(1) Mobile Phones

The Chair requested that mobile phones were turned off or the ring tone and other sounds muted.

(2) Audio Recording

The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council policy this meeting was being audio recorded and that Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting.

(3) Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members to make declarations of interest before an item, and that the detailed reminder about this and speaking rights was set out under Chair's Announcements on the agenda.

(4) Refreshments

The Chair advised that, this being an extraordinary meeting, there would be no refreshments this evening.

(5) Comfort break

The Chair advised that, if the meeting went on beyond 9pm, she would call a 5 minute comfort break. Members were asked to remain in the room prior to this to ensure that they could vote.

(6) Rules of Debate

The Chair advised that, in accordance with the Constitution please could Members ensure that no speech exceeded five minutes without the consent of the Chair.

(7) Order of Business

The Chair advised that, in respect of the items entitled Senior Management Arrangements, the Part 1 item would be considered, then the meeting would go into Part 2 to make a Part 2 decision, following which the meeting would return to Part 1 to make a Part 1 decision.

77 REFERRAL FROM EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Audio Recording – Session 1 - 3 minutes 58 seconds

The Chair advised that the referral from the Employment Committee regarding the Senior Management Arrangements would be taken with the Part 2 Item of the same name.

78 SENIOR MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Audio recording – Session 1 - 4 minutes 8 seconds and Session 2 – 11 seconds

The Leader of the Council presented the report entitled Senior Management Arrangements

At this point the meeting considered the Part 2 report (Minute 80 refers), following which, the meeting returned to Part 1.

For the benefit of the public, the Leader of the Council read out the Part 2 resolutions and asked that Members vote on them in Part 1

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council agrees to the deletion of the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and the post of Deputy Chief Executive and establishment of a new post of Managing Director (Head of Paid Service), subject to consultation with those affected and at a suitable date to be determined;
- (2) That Council accept the voluntary redundancy request of the Chief Executive, with an effective leaving date of 17th July 2020;
- (3) That Council approves the use of the Special Reserve to fund the potential redundancy outlined in paragraph 8.3;
- (4) That Council notes that a further report with a proposed new senior management structure will be brought to Full Council on 2 April 2020.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To effect savings to support the Councils objective of reducing costs.

79 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Audio Recording – 5 minutes 54 seconds

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

80 SENIOR MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Audio recording – Not recorded as Part 2 Item

The Leader of the Council presented the report entitled Senior Management Arrangements together with the referral from the Employment Committee.

The following Members asked questions and took part in the debate:

- Councillor Richard Thake;
- Councillor Simon Harwood;
- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Jim McNally;
- Councillor Michael Weeks;
- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor John Bishop;
- Councillor Judi Billing;
- Councillor George Davies;
- Councillor Simon Harwood.

Questions were answered by:

- The Leader of the Council;
- The Service Director – Resources;
- The Representative from the East of England Local Government Association;
- The Service Director – Legal and Community.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council agrees to the deletion of the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and the post of Deputy Chief Executive and establishment of a new post of Managing Director (Head of Paid Service), subject to consultation with those affected and at a suitable date to be determined;
- (2) That Council accept the voluntary redundancy request of the Chief Executive, with an effective leaving date of 17th July 2020;
- (3) That Council approves the use of the Special Reserve to fund the potential redundancy outlined in paragraph 8.3;
- (4) That Council notes that a further report with a proposed new senior management structure will be brought to Full Council on 2 April 2020.

Thursday, 27th February, 2020

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To effect savings to support the Councils objective of reducing costs.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chair