

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday 30 November 2011 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S R Nicholas

Councillors:

J S Back	T J Bartlett	P M Beresford
T A Bond	B W Butcher	P I Carter
S S Chandler	N J Collor	M D Conolly
R J Frost	D Hannent	P G Heath
N S Kenton	P S Le Chevalier	S M Le Chevalier
G Lymer	S C Manion	K E Morris
M J Ovenden	J A Rock	M A Russell
F J W Scales	C J Smith	R S Walkden
P A Watkins		

Officers: Chief Executive
Director of Environment and Corporate Assets
Director of Finance
Director of Governance
Head of Inward Investment
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B W Bano, P M Brivio, G Cowan, J A Cronk, M R Eddy, B Gardner, J H Goodwin, P J Hawkins, G J Hood, S J Jones, L A Keen, K Mills, A S Pollitt, D G Smallwood, A R Smith, J M Smith, R J Thompson, J F Tranter and P Walker.

286 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

287 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 September 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

288 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (a) To invite Members to join her for the mince pies she had purchased for after the meeting.
- (b) To announce the death of local businessman Mr John Turnpenny and to advise that she had instructed for the civic flag to be flown at half mast for his funeral. The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Leader of the Council included the following matters in his report:

- (a) The work of the Pfizer Task Force in securing future employment at the site. It was expected that Pfizer would retain approximately 800 jobs on the site engaged in scientific research and that along with allied companies who might relocate to it. The site would continue as a mixed science centre. Overall, it seemed the impact of the changes in unemployment had not been at the level originally envisaged with many Pfizer workers securing work at other locations or with other employers.
- (b) The pressure on the Planning Department to deliver the Local Development Order for the Pfizer site and the impact this was having on other major projects in the District.
- (c) The Regional Growth Fund awards for East Kent which consisted of two tranches of £20 million. One of these would be allocated to rail infrastructure improvements.
- (d) The announcement of the Harbour Revision Order on Tuesday 29 November 2011 which would act as a catalyst for the redevelopment of the Dover Waterfront area. The rights of access granted by the Order would apply to any future owner of the Port of Dover and safeguard other DDC development plans in the town.
- (e) The Government's Strategy for Growth which set the priorities for restoring the health of the economy.
- (f) The new models for regeneration set out in the Localism Act and the implications for the Council. The LEP would be instrumental making decisions on how regeneration funding would be allocated and the Council would be bidding against other authorities in Kent, Essex and East Sussex. It was therefore important that any scheme the Council submitted was ready to go straight away as the money would only be available to spend within a finite period.
- (g) There were concerns about the proposed allocation of monies from the New Homes Bonus at a regional level. The Council would continue to press for the use of monies from the New Homes Bonus to be decided at a local level.
- (h) Councillor P G Heath advised that Dover Ambulance Station had closed and transferred to the Ashford Make Ready station. It had been replaced by two new locations for ambulances in Dover and this was expected to improve response times locally. He had spoken to South East Coast Ambulance Service and they had extended an invitation for one of the Council's scrutiny committees to visit the Ashford Make Ready Centre.

In the absence of the Opposition Leader and his deputy there were no matters to report under Opposition Leader's time and no right of reply for the Leader of the Council.

290 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules the Leader of the Council responded to the following question from Mrs W Hansell:

"Five years ago Dover District Council spent a great deal on money employing consultants to look at public transport within the Dover District. Can the Leader of the Council tell me what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of this consultation?"

The Leader of the Council called upon the Portfolio Holder for Access and Property Management, Councillor N J Collor, to answer the question on his behalf.

Councillor N J Collor advised that he presumed the question related to the Dover Transport Study and Model which was completed in June 2008 by WSP in support of the Local Development Framework. It was intended that the proposals in the study would be funded by developers and other partners rather than Council. He cited the public realm works at Dover Priory Station as one of several examples.

Mrs W Hansell asked as her supplementary question when improvements would be made to bus services to the lower part of Shepherdswell. Councillor N J Collor responded by advising that public transport was a matter for Kent County Council but he would be happy to take it up on her behalf.

291 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PORT OF CALAIS AND AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON DTIZ

The Head of Inward Investment gave a presentation to Council on the development opportunities at the Port of Calais and an update on progress on DTIZ.

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Head of Inward Investment be thanked for his presentation.

292 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

There were no changes from either of the political groups.

293 DELIVERING EFFECTIVE SERVICES – CHANGES TO THE CHIEF OFFICER STRUCTURE

The Chief Executive presented the report on the proposed changes to the Chief Officer structure.

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: (a) That Council approves the redistribution of functions between the Chief Officers who form the Council's Corporate Management Team.

(b) That Council approves the flexible retirement request of the Director of Community and Development (a Chief Officer) from 1 December 2011, pursuant to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) 2007 Regulation

18(1) and that it be noted that this request would result in no detrimental effect on the overall service provided by this Council.

- (c) That Council approves resultant changes to the Scheme of Officer Delegations (Council Functions) as outlined at Appendix 2 of the report.

294 MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUPS

The Democratic Support Officer presented the report on Member appointments to Fairtrade Steering Groups.

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet:

- (a) That it accepts the invitation from the Deal Fairtrade Steering Group and the Dover Fairtrade Steering Group to appoint a Member to each body.
- (b) That Councillors D Hannent and P J Hawkins be nominated as the Members to be appointed.
- (c) That the appointments be made on an annual basis each May.

295 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

The Democratic Services Manager presented the review of parliamentary constituency boundaries.

It was moved by Councillor S S Chandler, duly seconded and

- RESOLVED: (a) That the Boundary Commission for England be advised that the Council supports the initial proposals in respect of the new Dover Constituency and request that the name of the Constituency remain unchanged.
- (b) That the Boundary Commission for England be requested to consider the following amendments to the scheme on the grounds set out:
 - (i) The Margate and Ramsgate constituency include the Dover Ward of Little Stour and Ashstone but exclude the Thanet Ward of Salmestone. It is further suggested that in order to properly reflect the community identity the Constituency be named East Thanet and Sandwich.
 - (ii) The Herne Bay Constituency include the Thanet Ward of Salmestone but exclude the Dover Ward of Little Stour and Ashstone.

- (iii) The proposed changes to the Boundary Commission for England initial proposals would:
 - (A) Ensure that the local ties between Little Stour and Ashstone and Sandwich would be maintained.
 - (B) It would prevent "orphan wards" being created in respect of Little Stour and Ashstone in Dover and Salmestone in Thanet.
 - (C) Maintain the existing boundary of the Constituency for Dover District Wards (currently in South Thanet).
 - (E) Prove administratively more effective in reducing the number of local authority areas covered by the Constituencies from three to two thus ensuring a stronger tie with the Member of Parliament.

296 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS

The Democratic Services Manager presented the review of polling districts and polling stations.

It was moved by Councillor S S Chandler, duly seconded and

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That the existing Polling District and Polling Place scheme be confirmed without change.
 - (b) That the Polling Place be designated as the existing Polling District.
 - (c) That the Chief Executive be authorised to designate an adjoining Polling District as the Polling Place where necessary.

297 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Chairman of the Council announced that in the absence of a request from the questioners that she put the questions on their behalf in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.7, the questions would not be dealt with.

298 DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS BETWEEN CABINET AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the following items be received and noted:

- U07 Amendment to the Scheme of Officer Delegations in respect of executive housing functions

299 MOTIONS

The Chairman of the Council announced that in the absence of the Members who gave notice of their intention to move the Motions that they would be withdrawn in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 13.2.

300 DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS BETWEEN CABINET AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the following items be received and noted:

U08 The sale of St Nicholas House, Ash

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.