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## ANNUAL COUNCIL

20 MAY 2015

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bruce Dowling (in the Chair), Councillors Rogers, Batsford, Cartwright, Charlesworth, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Hodges, Howard, Poole, Pragnell, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins and Edwards

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor paid tribute to Councillor Jeremy Birch who had served as Leader of Hastings Borough until his sudden death on 6 May 2015. Members of the Council stood and observed one minutes silence in memory of Councillor Birch.

### **35. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

Councillor Dowling announced that he was seeking re-election as Mayor of the Borough of Hastings and withdrew from the meeting to allow the Deputy Mayor to preside over the election.

Councillor Scott proposed that Councillor Bruce Dowling be elected Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the current municipal year, which was seconded by Councillor Westley. No further nominations were received.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Councillor Bruce Dowling is elected as Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the current municipal year**

Councillor Dowling made the declaration prescribed by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **36. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor Rogers announced that she was seeking re-election as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Hastings and withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Hodges proposed that Councillor Judy Rogers be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the current municipal year, which was seconded by Councillor Sinden. No further nominations were received.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Councillor Judy Rogers is elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the current municipal year**

Councillor Rogers made the declaration prescribed by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **37. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2015**

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**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2015 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

### 38. **ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Turner proposed that Councillor Peter Chowney be elected Leader of the Council for a four year term of office, which was seconded by Councillor Davies. No further nominations were received.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that Councillor Peter Chowney be elected Leader of the Council for a four year term of office

Councillor Chowney addressed the meeting; during his speech he paid tribute to the work of Councillor Birch and his dedication to improving Hastings and St Leonards. The Leader of the Conservative group, Councillor Atkins, then addressed the meeting and paid tribute to Councillor Birch.

### 39. **TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Chowney announced that Councillor Kim Forward had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council and Housing, Communications and Equalities Portfolio Holder for the current municipal year.

### 40. **TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF CABINET APPOINTED**

Councillor Chowney reported that: -

- (1) membership of the council's Cabinet would be 8 Councillors, and
- (2) the seats on Cabinet be allocated 6 to the Labour group (to include the Chair of the Charity Committee) and 2 to the Conservative group and members be appointed in accordance with the nomination of groups as shown in Schedule A.

### 41. **TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT ON THE CABINET PORTFOLIOS AND THEIR ALLOCATION TO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

Councillor Chowney reported that the allocation of responsibilities of Cabinet Lead Members would be as follows:

<u>Cabinet Lead Member</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
Councillor Chowney	Leader of the Council and Finance Portfolio Holder
Councillor Forward	Deputy Leader of the Council and Housing, Communications and Equalities Portfolio Holder

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Councillor Poole	Regeneration, Communities and Culture Portfolio Holder
Councillor Davies	Environment, Leisure and Amenities Portfolio Holder
Councillor Cartwright	Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor Hodges	Charity Committee Chair

**42. TO AGREE THE APPOINTMENT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED that Overview and Scrutiny committees be appointed with the following key areas of responsibility: -**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Services**

**Strategy Targets, reviewing progress on the implementation of Cabinet decisions, policy development work with portfolio holders, officers and partners and service reviews.**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Resources**

**Collection of Council Tax and other charges, payment of benefits, management of resources, public sector efficiency programmes, progress on the implementation of Cabinet decisions, policy development work with portfolio holders, officers and partners, service reviews and cross cutting issues.**

**43. TO APPOINT THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, TO DETERMINE THE REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THOSE COMMITTEES, TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THOSE COMMITTEES AND TO APPOINT THE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS (AS INDICATED) FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16 (LIST TO BE CIRCULATED SEPARATELY)**

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion regarding the appointment of committees as set out in the resolution below. He added that Councillors Rogers, Turner and Wincott had been nominated to sit on Employment Committee, with the Chair and Vice-Chair places allocated as shown on Appendix A to the minutes. Councillor Atkins announced that Councillor Cooke had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group and would therefore take up the second seat on Cabinet. Councillor Pragnell had been appointed to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Resources, as shown on Appendix A to the minutes.

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**RESOLVED** that the council adopts the following arrangements for the appointment of committees:

- (1) membership of the Council's committees be as follows:-

	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Non-Councillors</u>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Services	7	-
Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Resources	7	-
Audit Committee	5	-
Standards Committee	5	2
Licensing Committee	15	-
Council Appointments Committee	5	-
Employment Committee	4	-
Employment Appeals Committee	4	-
Planning Committee	10	-
Environment and Safety Committee	5	-

- (2) following a review of the political balance on the council, that the seats on the committees of the council be allocated to political groups and members be appointed to those committees in accordance with the nominations of the political groups as shown in Schedule A; and
- (3) the Chairs and Vice – Chairs of the committees be appointed as shown on schedule A

(The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 4.23pm and the remaining business stood referred to the re-convened meeting to be held on 20 May 2015 at 6.00pm)

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### RE-CONVENED ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT ST MARY IN THE CASTLE, HASTINGS ON 20 MAY 2015

#### 44. THE YEAR'S PROGRAMME

In accordance with the Constitution Rule 1.1 (xii) the Leader of the Council outlined proposals for the ensuing municipal year.

**RESOLVED** (by 22 votes for 0 against with 7 abstentions) that the council agrees the programme for the ensuing municipal year as proposed by the Leader of the Council

#### 45. COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015/16

**RESOLVED** that meetings of the council be held on the following dates: -

6.00pm on 22 July 2015

6.00pm on 21 October 2015

6.00pm on 16 December 2015

6.00pm on 10 February 2016

6.00pm on 24 February 2016 (Budget Meeting) (Provisional)

6.00pm on 13 April 2016

4.00pm on 18 May 2016 (Annual Council – Part 1)

6.00pm on 18 May 2016 (Annual Council – Part 2)

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at. 7.15 pm)

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**SCHEDULE A**

**HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES – AS OF COUNCIL ON MAY 2015  
POLITICAL BALANCE RULES APPLY TO COMMITTEES**

				NOMINATIONS FOR 2015/16		NOTES
COMMITTEE	SEATS TO BE FILLED	ALLOCATION TO POLITICAL GROUPS		LABOUR GROUP	CONSERVATIVE GROUP	
		LAB	CON			
Cabinet	Up to 10	6	2	Chowney (Leader) Forward (Deputy Leader) Cartwright Davies Hodges Poole	Atkins Cooke	1 member from the majority group to be a non-portfolio holder and to Chair the Charity Committee.
Audit Committee	5	4	1	Clark (Vice Chair) Charman Chowney (ex officio) Westley	Beaver (Chair)	The Leader of the Council, who shall not be the Chair, is a member ex officio. With the exception of the above, members of this Committee may not be members of Cabinet. The Chair may not be in the same political group as the Leader of the Council.
Council Appointments Committee	5	4	1	Chowney (Chair) Poole Forward	Cooke	
Standards Committee	5 (+ 2 independents)	4	1	Roberts (Chair) Webb (Vice Chair) Sinden Street	Cooke	No more than 1 Cabinet member who is not to be the Leader. Members may not appoint substitutes.

**SCHEDULE A**

				NOMINATIONS FOR 2015/16		NOTES
COMMITTEE	SEATS TO BE FILLED	ALLOCATION TO POLITICAL GROUPS		LABOUR GROUP	CONSERVATIVE GROUP	
		LAB	CON			
Employment Appeals Committee	4	3	1	Chowney (Chair) Dowling Sinden	Beaver	
Employment Committee	4	3	1	Wincott (Chair) Turner (Vice Chair) Rogers	Edwards	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Services	7	5	2	Westley (Chair) Fitzgerald (Vice Chair) Charman Scott Turner	Edwards Lee	No Cabinet Member may sit on O & S Committees. Mayor and Deputy Mayor not eligible for membership. Political Balance applies to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of O&S Committees
Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Resources	7	5	2	Webb (Chair) Howard (Vice Chair) Batsford Roberts Sinden	Beaver Pragnell	No Cabinet Member may sit on O & S committees Mayor and Deputy Mayor not eligible for membership. Political Balance applies to Chair and Vice-Chairs of O&S Committees

**SCHEDULE A**

				<b>NOMINATIONS FOR 2015/16</b>		<b>NOTES</b>
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SEATS TO BE FILLED</b>	<b>ALLOCATION TO POLITICAL GROUPS</b>		<b>LABOUR GROUP</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</b>	
Licensing Committee	15	11	4	Sabetian (Chair) Sinden (Vice Chair) Batsford Beaney Charman Dowling Fitzgerald Howard Roberts Street Webb	Cooke Charlesworth Lee Pragnell	No Cabinet member with Portfolio. No more than 5 members of Planning Committee. Chair and Vice-Chair not to be elected from members of the Planning Committee.
Planning Committee	10	7	3	Street (Chair) Scott (Vice Chair) Beaney Dowling Roberts Rogers Wincott	Beaver Edwards Lee	No Cabinet member with portfolio
Environment and Safety Committee	5	4	1	Roberts (Chair) Rogers (Vice Chair) Dowling Sinden	Charlesworth	No Cabinet member with Portfolio.

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