

FULL COUNCIL

23 OCTOBER 2019

Present: Councillors Sinden (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Barnett, Batsford, Battley, S Beaney, Berelson, Bishop, Charman, Chowney, Cox, Davies, Evans, Fitzgerald, Levane, O’Callaghan, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Turner, Webb, Louise, Lee, K Beaney, Beaver, Edwards, Foster, Marlow-Eastwood, and Rankin.

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillors Forward and Patmore.

83. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24TH JULY 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 24th July 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillors	Committee	Minutes	Interest
Bacon	Full Council – 23 rd October	87 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – works in a school
All Labour Councillors	Full Council – 23 rd October	87 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – member of a trade union
Rankin, Marlow-Eastwood and Foster	Full Council – 23 rd October	87 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal - member of a trade union

85. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Mayor led a minute silence in honour of Andrew Cartwright, a former member of the Council who passed away in August.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the 39 people who tragically died in a shipping container in Essex. The thoughts of the Council are with their families.

86. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

86(a). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER RULE 11

A written question was received from Julia Hilton regarding the Council’s carbon reduction pathway. Councillor Evans provided a written response. Copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

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Ms Hilton asked a supplementary question. Too often the process of developing strategies and plans can be used as a way of delaying action. What immediate actions will the Council be taking?

Councillor Evans replied the Council declared a climate emergency in February and despite financial difficulties the Council is taking tackling climate change extremely seriously. The Council has seconded a senior officer to work on the climate change programme and last week appointed an energy officer to look at increasing energy efficiency.

A written question was received from Nick Perry regarding the latest Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the Council's plans to tackle deprivation in the town. Councillor Chowney provided a written response. Copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

Nick Perry did not ask a supplementary question.

A written question was received from Pete Welch regarding the Government's consultation on planning regulations relating to 5G installations. Councillor Chowney provided a written response. Copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

Mr Welch asked a supplementary question. In his response Councillor Chowney said he expects a letter from the Minister for Digital and Broadband constraining planning objections to 5G. In light of peer reviewed research and considerable public concern, how will the Council reconcile this diktat with its duty of care for residents?

Councillor Chowney replied that the Council will have to comply with Government regulations. The Council will make a response to the consultation and will raise concerns that more research needs to be done.

86(b). COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12

Questions to the Leader, Deputy Leader and portfolio holders were asked and answered in accordance with Rule 12.1 as follows:

Questioner	Subject	Reply given by
Councillor Lee	<p><u>Street Cleaning DSO</u> – Can you tell us the revenue costs for running the DSO for the next year and in five years' time?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that he would get back to Councillor Lee with the exact figures. The DSO was market tested and the cost of bringing the service in-house was no more expensive than an external contractor.</p>	Councillor Chowney

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<p>Councillor Barnett</p>	<p><u>Summer activities</u> - Thrilled to see the quality and quantity of activities in Hollington this summer. There was a great response from residents. How did Active Hastings manage across the town this summer?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that Active Hastings is an incredible resource making sure children remain active, healthy and engaged in positive activity.</p>	<p>Councillor Batsford</p>
<p>Councillor K Beaney</p>	<p><u>West Marina development</u> – It is over 12 months since Cabinet agreed a preferred developer for the West Marina site. Can you provide a progress update?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that Heads of Terms were signed in the summer. The full lease should be signed in the next fortnight. It is a detailed long lease and so negotiations have taken time. As soon as that happens the Council will be able to start the formal consultation.</p>	<p>Councillor Chowney</p>
<p>Councillor Turner</p>	<p><u>Station Plaza walk-in centre - East Sussex County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u> has agreed that the Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group proposals for Station Plaza walk-in centre no longer constitute a substantial variation in services. Do you agree this decision is significant in providing good health services to residents and visitors?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney agreed and said this essentially means the walk-in centre has been saved. Thank you to everyone involved in the campaign.</p>	<p>Councillor Chowney</p>
<p>Councillor Charman</p>	<p><u>Indices of Multiple Deprivation</u> – The latest Indices of Multiple Deprivation predate Universal Credit and other benefit changes. What do you perceive to be the situation in Hastings now?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that compared to 2015 Hastings is more deprived, having moved from 20th most deprived to 13th most deprived. Hastings needs better transport</p>	<p>Councillor Chowney</p>

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	links, better quality jobs and upskilling of the workforce.	
Councillor Edwards	<p><u>Solar panels</u> – The Council had plans for installing solar panels on Council properties. The plan was fully costed and seemed to be a proposal for tackling fuel poverty and generating green energy. Can the Leader provide an update?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the Council is still looking at installing solar panels in the country park. There are already solar panels installed on Muriel Matters House and several other properties. Anything which the Council leases is not as easy as the lease holder has a say. Because the Government cancelled the feed in tariff it is becoming less viable to put solar panels on roofs.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Scott	<p><u>Climate change priorities</u> - If you were able to profile 2 or 3 things what would you choose in terms of priorities and performance?</p> <p>Councillor Evans informed the Council that she was invited to a roundtable in Parliament to present Hastings' ambition to be part of a green new deal. Councillor Evans acknowledged that engaging the community is an essential part of tackling climate change and she had been doing that over the past 6 months. Additionally, the Council will be looking at procurement practices and will be reviewing the Local Plan to ensure new developments are as sustainable as possible.</p>	Councillor Evans
Councillor Rankin	<p><u>Hastings Housing Company</u> - Can you give me an update on the targets and expand on your own personal commitment to this project?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that Hastings Housing Company (HHC) has a 13 room HMO and a portfolio of mixed residential and commercial properties. However the Council has moved on slightly from HHC. It saves money if the Council acquire houses for temporary accommodation but for various reasons this cannot be done through HHC.</p>	Councillor Chowney

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	The Government are making it easier for Council's to build social housing directly and this is being looked into.	
Councillor Sabetian	<p><u>Joint Waste Committee</u> - Could you update us on key learning points from the last Joint Waste Committee discussion on recycling?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald replied that there is a lack of recycling infrastructure in the UK. There is a need for investment in infrastructure to improve recycling processing. The Council would need to work in partnership to address this.</p>	Councillor Fitzgerald
Councillor O'Callaghan	<p><u>Bonfire night</u> – how did the street cleaning DSO perform on bonfire night?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald celebrated the work of the street cleaners. Workers were out very quickly after bonfire night tidying up.</p>	Councillor Fitzgerald

87. **MOTION (RULE 14)**

Councillor Rogers proposed a motion, as set out in the agenda, which was seconded by Councillor Webb.

Councillors debated the motion.

RESOLVED (by 22 for, 7 against with 1 abstention) that the Council do accept the motion as set out below:

This council notes:

- Government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their

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value since 2009/10.

- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government work force.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our communities clean, care for those in need, and keep our towns and cities running.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.
- The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Communicate with all local government workers encouraging them to join a trade union.

88. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion, as set out in the agenda, which was seconded by Councillor Levane.

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RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Council do accept the motion as set out below:

Hastings Borough Council agree to:

Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply. We also call on East Sussex County Council to adopt the same protocols.

1. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
2. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
3. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
4. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
5. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
7. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
8. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
9. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

89. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion regarding the membership of committees, as set out in the resolution below.

RESOLVED that the council adopt the following arrangements for the membership of committees:

1. **Councillor Roberts be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in place of Councillor Charman.**

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2. Councillor Barnett be appointed to the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, in place of Councillor Cox.

90. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Mayor having called over the minutes set out in the agenda, the following minutes were reserved for discussion.

RESOLVED that under rule 13.3 the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda, including those items on which a council decision was required, be received and agreed. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows:

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Audit Committee, 30 July 2019	63 – Audit Committee Report to Full Council	Rankin
Cabinet, 2 September 2019	198.1 – 12/13 York Buildings (Part 1)	Lee
Cabinet, 2 September 2019	198.2 – 12/13 York Buildings (Part 2)	Lee
Cabinet, 7 October 2019	202 – Update on Social Lettings Agency	Davies
Cabinet, 7 October 2019	205 – Acquisition of Land in Ore Valley	Turner
Cabinet, 7 October 2019	207 – Old Town Hall	Lee
Cabinet, 7 October 2019	208 – Cornwallis Street Car Park – Potential Development	Levane

Minute 203 of Cabinet on 7th October 2019, Polling Places Review 2019, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Under rule 13.3, the minutes were approved without being called for discussion.

Minute 209 of Cabinet on 7th October 2019, Constitutional Amendments, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Under rule 13.3, the minutes were approved without being called for discussion.

Councillors debated minute 63 of Audit Committee on 30th July 2019, minutes 198.1 and 198.2 of Cabinet on 2nd September 2019, and minutes 202, 205, 207 and 208 of Cabinet on 7th October 2019. These matters did not require approval of Full Council.

Minute number 198.2 of Cabinet on 2nd September 2019, 12/13 York Buildings (Part 2), was an exempt item. When this item was reached, Councillor Fitzgerald proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute number 198.2 of the Cabinet meeting held on 2nd

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September 2019, 12/13 York Buildings (Part 2), because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

No motions for reference to Overview and Scrutiny Committee or reference back to Cabinet were approved in respect of the items reserved for discussion and they were therefore received.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 9.00 pm)