

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 16 May 2013

Present:

Attendance

Ben Adams	John Francis	Ian Parry
George Adamson	Bob Fraser	Sheree Peaple
Charlotte Atkins	Michael Greatorex	Kath Perry
Philip Atkins	Mrs S Hambleton	Trish Rowlands
Ann Beech	Gill Heath	Jeff Sheriff
Len Bloomer	Ian Hollinshead	David Smith
Frank Chapman	Derrick Huckfield	Alison Spicer
Ron Clarke	Kevin Jackson	Mark Sutton
Maureen Compton	Keith James	Stephen Sweeney
Chris Cooke	Brian Jenkins	Simon Tagg
Tim Corbett	Philip Jones	John Taylor
Mike Davies	Mike Lawrence	Martyn Tittley
Peter Davies	Ian Lawson	Diane Todd
Derek Davis, OBE	David Loades	Alan White
William Day	Robert Marshall	Conor Wileman
Carol Dean	Geoffrey Martin	David John Williams
Mark Deaville	Shelagh McKiernan	Mark Winnington
Janet Eagland	Christine Mitchell	Susan Woodward
Brian Edwards	Geoff Morrison	Caroline Wood
Terry Finn	Mark Joseph Olszewski	Mike Worthington

Apologies for absence: Margaret Astle and Alan Dudson

PART ONE

1. Election of the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year

Mr M. Deaville proposed, and Mr L. Bloomer seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That Mr I.S. Lawson be elected Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 March 2013

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2013 be confirmed.

3. Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year

Mr T. Finn moved, and Mrs K. Perry seconded, and it was:-

RESOLVED – That Mrs J. Eagland be appointed Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

4. Chairman's Correspondence

Chairman's Civic Service

The Chairman extended an invitation to all Members to attend the Civic Church Service to be held at St. Mary's Church, Stafford on Sunday, 9 June commencing at 11:30 am.

5. Questions

Mr J. Taylor asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

In the light of media reports last week saying that the number of officers at Staffordshire County Council earning over £100,000 had increased, can the Leader tell me how many staff (in-house and agency staff) are on the National Minimum wage?"

Reply

Staffordshire County Council employs no one on the National Minimum wage; all of our employees currently earn more than the National Minimum wage.

Supplementary Question

Being as there are no employees of the County Council on the National Minimum Wage, does that include agency staff and, secondly, does that mean that it is a policy of the County Council not to have employees on below the "Living Wage"?

Reply

It would be our policy not to pay people at or below the National Minimum Wage; similarly, it would be our policy not to pay people who work indirectly for us at or below the National Minimum Wage. As far as the Living Wage is concerned, I do not have that information here with me today and so I will respond after the meeting.

Mr J. Taylor asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

The Labour Group is committed to enhancing opportunities for all young people in Staffordshire, including through apprenticeships. Can the Leader therefore tell me how apprenticeships have been created within the Authority and across Staffordshire in the last 4 years?

Reply

Between 2009/10 to 2011/12 14,146 young people from Staffordshire have started an apprenticeship. Over the three year period apprenticeships have increased year on year with 5,212 young people starting an apprenticeship in 2011/12 compared to 3,912 in 2009/10, an increase of 33% in apprenticeship starts over the period.

Within Staffordshire County Council, since September 2009, a total of 336 apprentices have been recruited and successfully completed the apprenticeship course. Of these, 130 have been successful in gaining a substantive post within Staffordshire County Council following completion of their apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship opportunities have been offered in a variety of functions including corporately as Outdoor Education Instructors, Grounds maintenance, ICT technicians, Catering, Social Care and customer services, Business Administration and Animal Health. In addition within Schools as Teaching Assistants, ICT Technicians, Support Supervisors and Business Administration Support.

Supplementary Question

Of the 336 apprentices that have been recruited by the County Council, can the Cabinet Member tell me how many of those were young people from the "Looked After" system?

Reply

I do not have that information here with me today and so I will respond after the meeting.

Ms S. Woodward asked the following question of the Leader of the Council whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

A consortium of charities, including Barnardo's & the Fostering Network, said last week that care leavers were being abandoned by their corporate parents, by which they mean each and every member here, and called for care leavers to be entitled to on-going support until they are 25 including being able to remain with foster carers with until they are 21. What plans does the Leader have to respond to this call in the light of every member's responsibility as a corporate parent?

Reply

Staffordshire County Council is very proud of the services it provides to its looked after children and care leavers. As these children and young people's corporate parents we take these responsibilities seriously. I am pleased to be able to advise Ms Woodward that, despite the challenging financial situation, Staffordshire has protected its services to this vulnerable group of young adults, ensuring that we meet these young people's needs in accordance with our statutory responsibilities.

Staffordshire has developed a strong profile regionally as Corporate parent through the work of its Corporate Parenting Panel and its relationship with the Children in Care Council. The current legislation requires this corporate parenting responsibility to extend until a child who has been cared for by Staffordshire County Council reaches the age of 21. Where a child is still receiving education this extends until the young person reaches the age of 25.

Across the region Staffordshire has led on a regional supported accommodation tender to ensure that our young people leaving care are able to reside in suitable accommodation that meets their needs and where they can receive the correct amount of support. Staffordshire also has policies that allow children, in certain cases, to remain with their foster carers after they reach the age of 18 where this is considered in their best interests.

Staffordshire offers a range of support to care leavers post 18 years of age.

The combined pressures that exist across front line services to our looked after children and care leavers needs to be considered in the context of increased demand. Nationally it is estimated that an extra 9000 foster carers are required for those children aged up to 18. Locally we are campaigning hard with considerable success, to ensure that more people come forward to foster for Staffordshire's children. Extending the age that all children can remain with their foster carers into adulthood would increase pressures on the availability of carers and our capacity to meet the needs of younger Looked After children.

Supplementary Question

The Leader says in his response that Staffordshire County Council lead on a regional supported accommodation tender to ensure that our young people leaving care are able to reside in suitable accommodation including support; I would like to know what the result of that tender was and what sort of liaison took place between the County Council, District Councils (with their housing responsibility) and registered social landlords. Clearly providing appropriate accommodation for young people leaving the care system is crucial and I would welcome more information on this?

Reply

I obviously have not got all that information to hand now but would suggest that Ms Woodward has a good look at Families First and the way that we work.

6. Results of the County Council Elections - 2 May 2013

The Chairman presented an Election return detailing the names of candidates elected and the number of seats won by each of the political parties, together with the percentage of votes cast.

RESOLVED – That the Election return be received.

7. Members not re-elected

The Chairman presented a report detailing those former Members of the Authority who were not re-elected at the County Council Elections on 2 May 2013. The Leader of the Council and Mr D. Davis paid tribute to the contributions the former Members had made to the work of the Council.

RESOLVED – That the former Members named below be thanked for the valuable contribution they had made to the work of the Authority during their term(s) of office:

- Paul Atkins – 2009 - 2013 - Burntwood South (Lichfield)
- Ray Barron – 2009 - 2013 - Stafford North (Stafford)
- John Bernard – 2009 - 2013 - Hednesford and Rawnsley (Cannock Chase)
- John Cooper – 2009 - 2013 - Wolstanton (Newcastle)
- Pat Corfield - 2009 - 2013 - Cannock Town Centre (Cannock Chase)
- Dylis Cornes – 2009 - 2013 - Audley and Chesterton (Newcastle)
- Christina Jebb – 1989 - 2013 - Biddulph South and Endon (Staffordshire Moorlands)
- Ivan Jennings – 2009 - 2013 - Stafford West (Stafford)
- Geoffrey Locke – 2009 - 2013 - Kidsgrove and Talke (Newcastle)
- David Nixon – 2001 - 2005 and 2009 – 2013 - Cross Heath and Silverdale (Newcastle)
- Jeremy Oates – 2009 - 2013 - Amington (Tamworth)
- Michael Oates – 2009 - 2013 - Bolebridge (Tamworth)
- John Rowley - 2009 - 2013 - Cannock Villages (Cannock Chase)
- Liz Staples – 2009 - 2013 - Horninglow and Stretton (East Staffordshire)
- Steve Tranter – 2009 - 2013 - Burntwood North (Lichfield)

8. Appointment of the Leader of the Council

Mr I.M. Parry moved and Mr B. Adams seconded, and it was:-

RESOLVED – That Mr. P.E.B. Atkins be appointed Leader of the County Council.

9. To set the maximum number of members of the Cabinet

On the motion of Leader of the Council it was: –

RESOLVED – That the maximum the number of members of the Cabinet be set at five, plus the Leader of the Council.

10. Statement by the Leader of the Council of the members appointed to the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council outlined his plans for the Council for the next four years including promoting economic prosperity for the County and protecting the most vulnerable in our society. He also circulated a statement setting out his Cabinet, as follows:-

Cabinet Member

Leader of the Council	Philip Atkins
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Transformation	Ian Parry
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Robbie Marshall
Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills	Ben Adams
Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure	Mark Winnington
Cabinet Member for Communities and Localism	Mike Lawrence

Support Members (4)

Care	Alan White
Public Health and Community Safety	Mark Sutton
Environment and Rural Affairs	Gill Heath
Transport and the Connected County	Simon Tagg

The Leader of the Labour Group on the Council made a statement setting out his Shadow Cabinet, as follows:

- George Adamson
- Maureen Compton
- Brian Jenkins
- Sheree People
- Sue Woodward

11. Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Section 10 (Officers)

The Council considered a report of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation concerning proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution by providing for a new Scheme of Delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People.

RESOLVED - (a) That the new Scheme of Delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) be approved.

(b) That the Constitution, as revised, be approved.

12. Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Committee Arrangements

The Council considered a report of the Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation concerning proposed changes to Cabinet Member responsibilities; the Council's Committee arrangements and the re-introduction of the proposal for a Shadow Cabinet. In response to questions from Members, the Monitoring Officer explained that the report had been tabled rather than being sent out with the papers for the meeting due to the tight timescale between the elections and the Annual Council Meeting.

Mrs Compton enquired as to which Select Committee would be responsible for scrutinising Entrust. The Leader of the Council responded by indicating that Entrust was a separate legal entity and that the County Council had two seats on the company's management board. He added that one of the Council's Select Committees would be responsible for scrutinising the commissioning of services through Entrust.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) the Council be recommended to make the amendments to the Constitution as outlined in this report;
- (b) the Constitution is amended to reflect changes to Cabinet titles and the Shadow Cabinet with Cabinet responsibilities being determined by the Leader following Full Council;
- (c) authority is given to the Political Group Leaders to agree membership of the All Party Member Groups following Full Council;
- (d) the powers of Health Scrutiny be discharged by the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee;
- (e) the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee becomes the Council's statutory crime and disorder panel;
- (f) the Director for Democracy, Law and Transformation be granted authority to make any minor subsequent changes to the Constitution as a consequence of the changes set out in this report; and
- (g) the Constitution, as revised, be approved by Council.

13. Committee Membership

RESOLVED – That the members indicated below serve on the Committees indicated for the period up to the annual Council meeting in 2013:-

Corporate Review Committee	
Frank Chapman	Brian Jenkins
Carol Dean	Philip Jones
Tim Corbett	Kath Perry
Brian Edwards	John Taylor
John Francis	Sue Woodward
Derrick Huckfield	Mike Worthington
Keith Jackson	

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee	
George Adamson	Geoff Martin
Ann Beech	Geoff Morrison
Len Bloomer	Mark Olszewski
Mark Deaville	Martyn Tittley
Brian Edwards	Diane Todd

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee	
Margaret Astle	John Francis
Maureen Compton	Alison Spicer
Michael Davies	Stephen Sweeney
Derek Davis	Conor Wileman
Terry Finn	David Williams

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee	
Charlotte Atkins	Christine Mitchell
Frank Chapman	Sheree People
Chris Cooke	Kath Perry
Bob Fraser	Trish Rowlands
Michael Greatorex	David Smith
David Loades	Mike Worthington
Shelagh McKiernan	

Planning Committee	
Ann Beech	Ian Lawson
Ron Clarke	David Loades
Chris Cooke	Geoff Martin
Tim Corbett	Mark Olszewski
Mark Deaville	Jeff Sheriff
Alan Dudson	David Smith
John Francis	David Williams
Ian Hollinshead	

Pensions Committee	
Philip Atkins	Philip Jones
Ron Clarke	Mike Lawrence
Derek Davis	Shelagh McKiernan
Carol Dean	Stephen Sweeney
Bob Fraser	

Audit and Standards Committee	
Frank Chapman	Philip Jones
Derek Davis	Alison Spicer
Bill Day	Martyn Tittley
Janet Eagland	Diane Todd
Michael Greatorex	Conor Wileman
Derrick Huckfield	Caroline Wood
Kevin Jackson	Mike Worthington
Keith James	

Corporate Parenting Panel	
Margaret Astle	Mike Lawrence
Peter Davies	Ian Lawson
Bill Day	David Loades
Janet Eagland	Geoff Morrison
Bob Fraser	Trish Rowlands
Terry Finn	Jeff Sheriff
Sandra Hambleton	Caroline Wood
Keith James	

14. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

RESOLVED – That the under-mentioned be appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committees stated for the period up to the annual Council meeting in 2014:-

Corporate Review Committee

Chairman

Philip Jones

Vice-Chairman

Frank Chapman

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

Chairman

Brian Edwards

Vice-Chairman

Martyn Tittley

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

Chairman John Francis
Vice-Chairman David Williams

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

Chairman Kath Perry
Vice-Chairman David Loades

Planning Committee

Chairman Tim Corbett
Vice-Chairman David Smith

Pensions Committee

Chairman Stephen Sweeney
Vice-Chairman Bob Fraser

Audit and Standards Committee

Chairman Mike Worthington
Vice-Chairman Keith James

Corporate Parenting Panel

Chairman Mike Lawrence
Vice-Chairman Janet Eagland

15. Appointment of Members to Outside Bodies 2013/14

RESOLVED – (a) That the following members be appointed to serve on the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority for 2013/14:

Charlotte Atkins	Sandra Hambleton
Len Bloomer	Ian Hollinshead
Ron Clarke	Keith James
Bill Day	Geoff Martin
Peter Davies	Christine Mitchell
Mike Davies	Jeffrey Sherriff

Mark Deaville	Stephen Sweeney
Terry Finn	Mark Winnington
Bob Fraser	Caroline Wood
Michael Greatorex	

(b) That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, be authorised to approve the appointment of members to the remaining Outside Bodies for 2013/14 and. subsequently to make any changes to those appointments as necessary.

16. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority Periodic Report of the Chairman on Authority Matters

Mr P. Davies paid tribute to Mr L. Bloomer for is Chairmanship of the Fire and Rescue Authority over the past four years.

RESOLVED – That the Periodic Report of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority be received.

Chairman