



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL  
HELD ON 5th JUNE 2014**

PRESENT: Mayor 2013/14 J Garner, Councillors R Kingstone, M Gant, J Chesworth, M Clarke, S Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, C Cooke, M Couchman, S Doyle, J Faulkner, D Foster, J Goodall, M Greatorex, G Hiron, A James, J Jenkins, A Lunn, T Madge, M McDermid, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, S Peaple, T Peaple, R Pritchard, E Rowe, P Seekings, P Standen and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Ryan Keyte (Senior Legal Officer), Lara Allman (Democratic & Election Services Officer) and Linda Street (Democratic & Elections Officer)

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**2 MAYOR'S CADET**

Matthew Feenan was inaugurated as the Mayor's Cadet for 2014/15.

**3 TO ELECT A MAYOR**

Councillor R Kingstone was elected as Mayor and proposed a vote of thanks for Councillor John Garner's year as Mayor.

*(Moved by Councillor A James and seconded by Councillor M Gant)*

**4 TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor M Gant was elected as Deputy Mayor.

*(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor A Lunn)*

**5 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor D Cook was elected as Leader of the Council.

*(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)*

**6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**7 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were approved, subject to amendments to the supplementary answers at Question Time, and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

**8 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Tributes were paid to the late Gerald Pinner.

**Councillor J Oates**

I've spent the last few days realising how privileged I am as I knew Gerry at his best. He looked after me and took me under his wing when I was first elected and we shared some fantastic times. I remember a leaflet drop in 2002, cutting across peoples' gardens and Gerry fell on his face after tripping over a wire fence. We had a chuckle and cracked on. We spent a lot of time chatting and he always had a story to tell. It's a shame a lot of people in the room have only known him since he's been ill. He was a fantastic chap. I feel guilty I've not spent more time with him. He's had a massive influence on me and he will be missed.

**Councillor K Norchi**

I'm very proud to say that Gerry and I became friends very quickly. We shared many a drink together at Bolehall Swifts. He was a great character. The night he was elected he wore a wonderful waistcoat and a bright tie. I was in Bulgaria and the phone rang. It was Gerry and he'd forgotten I was there, the call ended very quickly! On Friday 30 I had a phone call to say he was going into hospital. I feel very bad that I missed a call from his daughter on the Monday night. I feel very proud to have known the man and will miss him.

**Councillor M Oates**

I've known Gerry for over 30 years and had very few arguments with him. He was a great character and his loyalty was fantastic. One night I was at the flats canvassing and he told me 'you won't get many votes here', and he was right too! Let's celebrate his life, it's a privilege to have known and worked with him.

**Councillor M Clarke**

I can't claim to have been drinking with him! We had a hotspot for antisocial behaviour in Stonydelph and Gerry asked my husband if he could join me to sit with youngsters and just listen to them. He was a gentleman.

**Councillor A James**

I first met Gerry in 1996 when I first joined the Conservative Group. He had many words of advice; I listened to some of it, not all of it! I remember his bright waistcoats, he was a character. He ran the south side of the town with Ronnie Cook. He was a gentleman and will be missed.

**9 QUESTION TIME:**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.1**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor M Couchman asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

"I understand that you have stated that there will be no provision for Social Housing as part of your proposed sale of the golf course. Is this correct?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

Yes.

**Supplementary question:**

On this side we remain committed to no additional housing development on the Golf Course, but if as it seems, you are determined to push ahead with housing, are you trying too late to appease some Amington residents?

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

No I'm not trying to appease anyone. There is a need for Social Housing and these will be built on old garage sites. We have to be realistic and there will be affordable housing on the site as we have to move with the market. We are committed to using assets so the people of Tamworth get the best we can give them.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.2**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor M Couchman asked the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor R Pritchard, the following question:-**

"Last year the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme had to make a saving of £700,000. Can you tell us if the scheme has made a surplus or deficit and by how much?"

**Councillor R Pritchard gave the following reply:**

I can confirm that £5.38 million was the net amount paid out in 2012/13 for Council Tax Benefit. For 2013/14 under the new scheme it was £4.48 million which indicated a £200,000 surplus as the accounts were not closed.

**Supplementary question:**

Will you now look again at removing child maintenance payments from the scheme which last year affected 152 householders making them at least £250 worse off and only saved the Council £10,000 thereby no longer being the Tamworth Tories taxing toddlers?

**Councillor R Pritchard gave the following reply:**

The policy is reviewed every year and until we know the output for the year we won't know how much surplus there is, if any.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.3**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor S People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

"In the light of the recent Peer Review when will the controlling Conservative group agree to a scrutiny committee being chaired by a member of the opposition as is done elsewhere?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

Thank you Mr Mayor,

I am pleased Councillor People has raised last year's Peer Review in this Chamber. I wonder if he also noted the section that praised the Political leadership of this Council as being very strong.

If I understand the question correctly, Councillor People would like me to give the Labour group something that is quite simply not mine to give. I am entirely sure that nominating Scrutiny chairman is not within my gift as Leader of this authority. I am sure it is down to the 9 Members of the Committee. I would also refer Councillor People to his deputy, Councillor Faulkner, who requested of me in mid-2012 in one of the chambers that as Leader of the Council I stay away from interfering with the election of Scrutiny Chairmen or Scrutiny business. I shall indeed do so here.

However, again just referring to the Peer Review findings, I believe it recommended, not enforced, just recommended the idea of the Scrutiny Chairman and the Vice-Chairman being of opposing political parties. It did not recommend that the opposition should chair Scrutiny committees.

**Supplementary question:**

I am quite aware of what the Peer Review said. Rugby have a Chair from the opposition and they are a Conservative Council. I wondered how you would deal with the question from a new Leader. I refer to something that Councillor Faulkner has said in the past and ask you again to consider having a Chair from the

opposition. This would give quality scrutiny and be a positive way forward and I think all Councils should do it.

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

I rest on my first answer.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.4**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor S People asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

"With a number of major brown field sites still potentially available for development / subject to bids, why is the Leader of the Council so insistent upon selling off valuable green space in Amington?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

Thank you Mr Mayor.

I thank Councillor People for the opportunity AGAIN to demonstrate the "all talk no action" approach of his group. I really do hope he will fix that during his year of leadership.

Councillor People may recall about 15 months ago the Labour group asked for the members working group on the development of the Local Plan to be politically balanced, 3 Conservatives and 3 Labour Councillors. I agreed as this issue was too big for political football. The number of new houses needed in the Borough has never been a matter of disagreement between the Conservatives and Labour. We agree the figure; hence Councillor Faulkner has twice seconded the Local Plan developments through this Council in this period.

I am accepting where they go is now the matter of debate. If the Labour group feel the allocation should be away from the Golf Course, then maybe they should suggest where. Oh hang on..... At the Local Plan Sub-Group meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014, a finalised list of proposed allocations to meet employment and housing needs was discussed with the Working Group. And the Labour Councillors displayed outrage that the Golf Course was a potential site, never mind the fact I had informed their leader and Councillor Chris Cooke as a meeting a month before. I love communication.

Noting their opposition, Councillor Claymore invited the Labour Group (Councillor Couchman and McDermid were present) to suggest any new sites that could be assessed instead of the golf course. Basically, can the Labour party suggest an alternative to our legal need? The full list of sites that were not coming forward as allocations was also presented. Yet here we are 4 months later and still no alternative has been offered. This has partly stalled the working group. Again, they are happy to make public sound bites, very little meat on the bones. I eagerly await their suggestions.

However, it is worth noting. The draft Local Plan proposes to allocate 19 brownfield sites for housing development, across the plan period these sites will bring forward approximately 399 new houses. There are 19 brownfield sites rejected through the process for many reasons, but most notably the owners of the land have absolutely no interest in housing going on this land. Last I understood we did not live in Stalinist Russia, it's difficult to make land owners do what they do not want to do.

The 19 sites not to be placed as potential sites in the Local plan would have a equated to another 369 new houses, I think we can agree this is a more than a little short of the 1,100 we require to meet the Local Plan.

Actually, Tamworth has a very high level of housing completions on brownfield sites. As of 31 March 2014 there have been 1,284 completions on brownfield sites. That represents 93% of all new housing since 2006– this is incredibly high. In 2013 – 2014 100% of new housing development was on brownfield sites. It is inevitable that in such a small borough as Tamworth which has seen exceptional levels of brownfield development over the past 8 years that the supply of brownfield sites will diminish and future development will need to look to more Greenfield sites.

It is also worth noting that the golf course is not green belt, in fact it was originally a colliery that was remediated. It is not that far off legally defined Brownfield. However, I fully accept locals to the site see this differently and do not begrudge them that.

If Councillor Peuple, as his question suggests, has other sites, not reviewed, that could come forward to meet our housing needs at the levels both parties have agreed, then I welcome their suggestions, even if 4 months later than offered. I suspect the Gungate site will be mentioned in the supplementary and I agree thus we are constantly reviewing, but the land is not owned by this Council and it would not even touch the required 1,100 required to balance the evidence base set out in the Local Plan.

**Supplementary question:**

I'm not sure why this year's leadership has surprised you and why you thought that Councillor M Couchman was odds on favourite to be Leader. You do not get to vote on the Labour Leader. Councillor Cook has demonstrated he is not fulfilling the leadership he claims. Why has Councillor Cook gone onto the Amington residents' website and refused to deal with them?

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

I have sat in 35 living rooms, met five different groups in the Gate Inn, I'll sit and talk to anyone. This displays the leadership needed. I am not impressed with the group being set up with help. I have not said that we will not consult with residents I have just said that we need to look at how we do it.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.5**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor T Madge will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

"Do the council employ people on zero hour contracts and if they do, are they re considering this position in light of recent figures from the British chambers of commerce who have upgrading its GDP growth forecast from 2.8% to 3.1% for 2014 – the highest rate of growth since 2007.

By virtue of not guaranteeing a set number of hours of work for individuals, zero-hours contracts can create tremendous uncertainty for workers, particularly those with children who are more reliant on a stable income. Fluctuating earnings make even basic household budgeting difficult and can make planning for things like child care impossible"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

Currently we have 2 staff members on zero hour's contracts. However, I have absolutely no intention of discussing individual staff members and their employment rights in a public forum, EVER.

**Supplementary question:**

I am not asking you to discuss individual members of staff. This is a matter of principle. A Select Committee looked at zero hour contracts and found them to show abusive, exploitative, sloppy and incompetent management. I worry that Tamworth Borough Council are using staff in this manner.

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

I hope you're not accusing staff of sloppy management? The two staff may be agency workers for all I know. I suggest you take this up with the MP as it is a legislation issue. I have no alternative solution at this time. It is something that needs reviewing at National Level.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.6**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

"With the ever increasing complexity of benefits law I have recently noticed that benefit claims to the Council seem to be taking longer to deal with and claimants' paperwork is being held onto longer. I am concerned on the effect that this has on claimant's Council Tax and Housing Benefits arrears and the stress this causes to claimants. Will the Leader assure me that whilst such claims are being processed penalty fees, charges and eviction notices will not be issued until the benefits claim has been dealt with and then, if part or all of the claim is finally refused a claimant will be given reasonable time to either pay any arrears or to make an arrangement with the Council to do so?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

Thank you Mr Mayor,

Councillor Cooke, we have analysed the Covalent performance system, it reveals Benefits' average performance figure, month by month, over the last two years. You have suggested that there is a downward trend in processing times, which the statistics prove to be completely incorrect. I have the figures here if you wish to see them.

In regards to Council Tax benefit, whilst a customer will submit a claim in respect of Local Council Tax Reduction, we always ask that they pay as per their Council Tax bill where possible pending the outcome of their claim. Council Tax law clearly states that the submission of a claim does not mean a person should withhold payment. In many cases receiving no or little discount will mean they are accumulating arrears. Therefore we do not advise that they adopt that approach.

However in certain circumstances if it is clear that the customer will be entitled to full Local Council Tax Reduction we ensure that the case is put on hold for a short period to allow the Benefits Team to process it.

In regards to Council tenants' rents, no repossession proceedings will be taken against a council tenant where all the information required to assess the housing benefit claim has been supplied. If a tenant continually fails to provide information requested possession proceeding will only then commence. If the case is cancelled or the information is not forthcoming court action will be taken and a suspended possession is likely to be sought if there is no guarantee that housing benefit will be paid.

Tenants can often put a claim in for housing benefit days before a court hearing. The judges will not agree to an eviction warrant if there is evidence suggests that there is a valid claim in and the tenant is doing all they can to provide the necessary information. The judges will adjourn the case to allow for the claim to be processed. If the tenant fails to engage with the housing benefit team then at the adjourned hearing the judge is likely to agree to the eviction warrant. The judge will decide if the tenant has to pay the court costs.

I believe this organisation, corporately, works hard and fairly for those in our society who need us.

**Supplementary question:**

My concerns about resident's stress levels also apply to Tamworth Council's own staff. Can the portfolio holder tell me how stress to our staff is monitored and what policies are in place to reduce workplace stress particularly within the benefits section where officers must often deal with residents who themselves are very limited in their grasp of the benefits law and often very anxious and upset when things appear to be going wrong?



**Chief Executive gave the following reply:**

We have Human Resources processes to support staff, not just in housing benefits. All staff are involved in regular performance and progress meetings with managers. Staff are encouraged to express their views and impacts on their ability to perform. There are a number of support mechanisms available including Counselling or they can be referred to an independent occupational health therapist. If I was to criticise the process it would be that we rely on individuals coming forward. We are looking at new mechanisms.

The Chief Executive agreed to forward details of support offered/ provided to front line staff.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.7**  
**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke asked the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor S People, the following question:-**

"Given the change in leadership in the local Labour group can the Labour leader advise me if his local party's policy towards Tamworth Golf Course will change?"

**Councillor S People gave the following reply:**

I can advise that there is no change in policy.

**Supplementary question:**

Will the Leader of the Main Opposition group join with our Independence group to gain the minimum five signatures necessary to debate the issue on a Full Council agenda? Or would he prefer to get those signatures from amongst his own group membership?

**Councillor S People gave the following reply:**

I am amused that Councillor Cooke sees fit for me to join him as Leader of the main opposition group. There is only one leader of the opposition and that is I.

I don't see the need to dance to Councillor Cooke's tune. We had a debate and the controlling group voted for the budget and the opposition group did not. I will not decide my approach based on Councillor Cooke's agenda nor will I change my campaign. We would not support development on the golf course. I've only ever stood for the Labour Party and not any other party and in answer to your question I have spoken to and stood with people and with enormous honour made a pledge, along with Councillor Tom People, that we are opposed to development.

Following Thomas People being voted in as Councillor I could not be prouder. I want to thank the NHS as 24 years ago he would of died if not for the skill of the surgeons. Thank you to all at Rawlett School who have helped make me very proud.

The people of Amington should be under no illusion, we won't change our position.

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The membership of Cabinet for 2014/15 was received and circulated at the meeting as follows:

<b>Leader of the Council Cllr Daniel Cook</b>	<b>Operations and Assets Cllr Rob Pritchard (Deputy leader)</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Corporate Assessments</b>	<b>Corporate Finance &amp; procurement</b>
<b>Engagement Overview</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Governance</b>
<b>Financial Planning</b>	<b>Service Transformation</b>
<b>Performance Management</b>	<b>HR and ICT</b>
<b>Member Development</b>	<b>Corporate/HRA commercial Property &amp; Asset Management</b>
<b>Strategic Overview</b>	<b>Constitution</b>
<b>Strategic Partnerships</b>	<b>Treasury Management</b>
<b>Budget Consultation</b>	<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>
<b>Participatory Budgeting</b>	<b>Legal and Democratic Services</b>
<b>Tamworth Listens</b>	<b>PR and Coms Management (TBC &amp; HRA)</b>
<b>Reputation</b>	<b>Corporate Consultation</b>
<b>Organisational Capacity</b>	<b>Graphics &amp; Publications</b>
	<b>Car Parks</b>
	<b>Civil Parking Enforcement</b>
	<b>Customer Services</b>
	<b>Council Tax and NNDR</b>
	<b>Tourism</b>
	<b>Place Steering Group</b>
	<b>Outdoor Events</b>
<b>Community Development and Voluntary Sector Cllr Stephen Doyle</b>	<b>Economy and Education Cllr Steve Claymore</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Safer &amp; Stronger Communities</b>	<b>Town Centre Development</b>
<b>Community Safety, ASB Reduction &amp; Crime</b>	<b>Town Centre Economy / Cultural Qtr</b>
<b>Tackling Fear of Crime</b>	<b>Education / Educational Attainment</b>
<b>Integrated Enforcement</b>	<b>Career Skills and Training</b>
<b>CCTV Management</b>	<b>Business Liaison</b>
<b>Community Development</b>	<b>Business Development</b>
<b>Locality Working</b>	<b>Development Management</b>
<b>Services for Young People</b>	<b>Building Control</b>
<b>Youth Council</b>	<b>Market Development</b>
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner Panel</b>	<b>Local Plan</b>
<b>Third Sector Engagement</b>	<b>Southern Staffordshire Partnership (SSP)</b>
<b>Voluntary Sector Engagement and Funding</b>	<b>LEP Board Member</b>

<b>Community Sports Activities</b>	<b>Infrastructure / Transport / LTB</b>
<b>Half Term / Summer Holiday Activities</b>	<b>Planning</b>
<b>Leisure Services &amp; Sport</b>	<b>Decent &amp; Affordable Housing Development</b>
<b>GP Commissioning / PCT Engagement</b>	<b>Gateways Project</b>
<b>Healthier Communities / Lifestyles</b>	<b>Heritage Conservation</b>
<b>Environment &amp; Waste Management</b>	<b>Public Housing and Vulnerable People</b>
<b>Cllr Michelle Thurgood</b>	<b>Cllr Michael Greatorex</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Strategic Waste Management</b>	<b>Strategic Housing</b>
<b>Refuse Collection</b>	<b>Homelessness Prevention</b>
<b>Recycling Services</b>	<b>Housing Advice</b>
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>	<b>Landlord Services</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>Private Sector Housing</b>
<b>Community Health &amp; Safety</b>	<b>Child Protection</b>
<b>Corporate Health and Safety</b>	<b>Safeguarding Children</b>
<b>Licensing</b>	<b>Vulnerable Adults</b>
<b>Streetscene</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Renewal</b>
<b>Tamworth in Bloom Operations</b>	<b>Healthier Housing</b>
<b>Clean Streets Enforcements</b>	<b>Public Sector Garages</b>
<b>Street Furniture Maintenance</b>	<b>HRA Business Planning</b>
<b>Parks and Play</b>	<b>HRA Consultation</b>
<b>Nature Reserves</b>	<b>Tenant Engagement</b>
<b>Street Wardens</b>	<b>Decent Homes Standard</b>
<b>Integrated Enforcement</b>	

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to Councillor Jeremy Oates as former Leader and former Cabinet Member and thanked him for his work in these roles.

## 11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The constitution and membership of Committees for 2014/15 was received and circulated at the meeting as follows:

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 2013/14

#### CABINET

Councillors	Danny Cook	Leader with Portfolio
	Robert Pritchard	Deputy Leader/Operations & Assets Portfolio
	Michelle Thurgood	Environment & Waste Management Portfolio
	Stephen Doyle	Community Development & Voluntary Sector
Portfolio	Steven Claymore	Economy & Education Portfolio
	Michael Greatorex	Public Housing & Vulnerable People Portfolio

**ASPIRE & PROSPER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillors Tina Clements  
Garry Hirons  
Joy Goodall  
Andrew James  
Matthew McDermid  
Tony Madge  
Jeremy Oates  
Michael Oates  
Patrick Standen

**HEALTHIER & SAFER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillors John Chesworth  
Marion Couchman  
John Faulkner  
Andrew James  
Joan Jenkins  
Allan Lunn  
Michael Oates  
Tom People  
Evelyn Rowe

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillors John Chesworth  
Steven Claymore  
Margaret Clarke  
Chris Cooke  
Marion Couchman  
Michael Greatorex  
Ken Norchi  
Jeremy Oates  
Michael Oates  
Tom People  
Evelyn Rowe  
Patrick Standen  
Michelle Thurgood

**AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillors John Chesworth  
Marion Couchman  
John Faulkner  
Maureen Gant  
Richard Kingstone  
Jeremy Oates  
Peter Seekings

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Councillors      Margaret Clarke  
                         Tina Clements  
                         Danny Cook  
                         Stephen Doyle  
                         Maureen Gant  
                         Joy Goodall  
                         Garry Hirons  
                         Andrew James  
                         Joan Jenkins  
                         Allan Lunn  
                         Matthew McDermid  
                         Tom Peaple  
                         Peter Seekings

**APPOINTMENTS AND STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Councillors      Danny Cook  
                         Chris Cooke  
                         Michael Greatorex  
                         Simon Peaple  
                         Robert Pritchard

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Councillors      Margaret Clarke  
                         Tina Clements  
                         Joy Goodall  
                         Tony Madge  
                         Evelyn Rowe

**CHIEF OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

Councillors      David Foster  
                         Joan Jenkins  
                         Richard Kingstone  
                         Allan Lunn  
                         Simon Peaple

**CABINET (GRANTS) SUB COMMITTEE**

Councillors      Steven Claymore  
                         Stephen Doyle  
                         Robert Pritchard

## 12 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) REGULATIONS 2012

The Report of the Leader of the Council seeking to advise Members of the particulars of each urgent executive decision and a summary of the matters in respect of which the decision was made under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 Regulation 19 was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Executive Arrangements report be endorsed.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

## 13 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Report of the Leader of the Council and Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer seeking to obtain Council comments, endorsement and approval of the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- 1 Endorsed the changes to the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation;
- 2 Adopted and approved the changes as presented, and;
- 3 Referred the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to Audit and Governance Committee for consideration and overview.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

## 14 REGULATION OF MEMBERS' CONDUCT

The Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer advising Members on the number of complaints received for the period 01 May 2013 until 30 April 2014 in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct arising from implementation of Part 1 Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 which introduced provisions to assist with the regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors was considered.

**Resolved:** That Council endorsed the findings and content of the report.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor M Clarke)*

## 15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Calendar of Meetings for 2014/15 was received and circulated at the meeting.

**Resolved:** That this Council accept the calendar of meetings 2014/2015

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

## 16 FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets seeking approval from Council to adopt the Fees and Charges Policy as part of the Council's Financial Regulations was considered.

**Resolved:** That Council:

1. Approved the Fees and Charges Policy for adoption within the Council's Financial regulations, and;
2. Agreed the request for Heads of Service to review the basis of the Fees and Charges within their service area as part of the Sustainability Strategy Service Review process and identify whether service provision is subsidised, part subsidised or full cost recovery and consider opportunities to revise fees and charges as appropriate.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

## EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**RESOLVED:** That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1, of Part 1 to Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**17 LOCALISM ACT 2011 INDEPENDENT PERSON**

The Report of the Solicitor of the Council and Monitoring Officer providing the outcome of the discussions between the Leader and the selection panel following Council on 18 March 2014 was considered. Three members of Audit and Governance Committee formed a panel and interviewed applicants for the position and appointment of an Independent Person and a reserve Independent Person in terms of the Localism Act 2011. The appointments require recommendation from Council. The report also advises of the allowances and expenses for the Independent Person role.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

1. Agreed to endorse the appointment of Mr Paul Darby and Mr Stanley Orton as Independent Person(s) from 5 June 2014 for a period of 2 years;
2. Agreed that following the period of said appointments, the posts will be subject to re-application and open competition, and;
3. Noted the allowance and expenses set for the Independent Persons at the rates indicated in the report.

*(Moved by Councillor M Gant seconded by Councillor S Peuple)*

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The Mayor