
West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

8 June 2018

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 8 June 2018, at County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mr L H Barnard (Chairman)

Mr W E Acraman	Mr R A Lanzer
Lt Cdr N A Atkins, RD	Mr A C Lea
Mr A N Baldwin	Ms K Lord
Mr D H Barling	Mr G T Markwell
Mr A J Barrett-Miles	Mr P A Marshall
Lt Col G R Barton, TD	Mr S A McDonald
Mr K Boram	Mr C R Mitchell
Mr P J J Bradbury	Mr J A P Montyn
Mr D Bradford	Mrs S R Mullins
Mrs A Bridges	Mr S J Oakley
Mrs H A Brunson	Dr K F B O'Kelly
Mr I R J Buckland	Mr F R J Oppler
Mr R D Burrett	Mr C G Oxlade
Mr P C Catchpole	Mr V K Parikh
Mr M A Cloake	Mr A Patel
Mr D Crow	Mrs J A Pendleton
Mrs J A Dennis	Mr C J Petts
Dr N P S Dennis	Mr D M Purchase
Mr D Edwards	Mrs L C Purnell
Mr R C Elkins	Mr B J Quinn
Ms H A Flynn	Mrs J E Russell
Ms M L Goldsmith	Mr D J Simmons
Mrs A D Hall	Mrs B A Smith
Mr P D High	Mr R J Smytherman
Mr S R Hillier	Mrs C E Sparkes
Mr J C Hunt	Mr B W Turner
Mrs A F Jones, MBE	Mrs D L Urquhart
Mr M G Jones	Mr S G Waight
Mrs A J Jupp	Mr D R Whittington
Mr N P S Jupp	Mr L S Wickremaratchi
Mrs L Kitchen	

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

28 Mrs Sparkes was appointed Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

Apologies and attendance

29 Apologies were received from Mrs Arculus, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Duncton, Mr Fitzjohn, Ms Kennard, Mrs Millson, Mr R J Oakley and Dr Walsh. Apologies for the morning session were received from Mr S J Oakley,

Dr O’Kelly and Mrs Purnell. Mrs Brunson, Mr Cloake and Mr Lea gave their apologies for the afternoon session. Mr Whittington arrived at 2.20 p.m. for the afternoon session. Mr Oppler left at 2.30 p.m. and Mr Markwell left at 3.00 p.m.

Interests

30 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

Minutes

31 It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the County Council held on 20 April 2018 (pages 49 to 74) be approved as a correct record.

Committee Appointments

32 The Council approved appointments as set out below.

Committee	Change
Planning Committee	Ms Lord in place of Mr Buckland
Planning Committee substitute	Mr Buckland in place of Mrs Millson
Treasury Management Panel	Dr O’Kelly in place of Ms Lord

Notice of Motion by Mrs Millson

33 At the meeting of the County Council on 20 April 2018 the following motion had been moved by Mrs Millson, seconded by Mr Baldwin and referred to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for consideration. A report by the Cabinet Member was included with the agenda (pages 75 and 76). In the absence of Mrs Millson the motion was introduced by Mr Oppler.

‘This Council notes that:

- (a) 105 - 110 young people (aged 16 or over) leave the care of West Sussex County Council every year, and begin the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood.
- (b) Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
- (c) This Council has statutory corporate parenting responsibilities towards young people who have left care up until the age of 25.
- (d) The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district and borough councils for the first time, requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.

This Council believes that:

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- (1) To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, the burden of council tax should be relieved until they are 25; and
 - (2) Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

This Council, therefore, resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to use the County Council's convening powers and expertise in corporate parenting to work with all district and borough councils in West Sussex to explore the options for relieving the council tax burden for all care leavers in the county up to the age of 25, sharing any arising costs proportionately, and to provide other such support as may be agreed.'

34 An amendment was moved by Mr Hillier and seconded by Mr Bradbury as set out below:

'This Council notes that:

- (a) 105 - 110 young people (aged 16 or over) leave the care of West Sussex County Council every year, and begin the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood.
- (b) Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
- (c) This Council has statutory corporate parenting responsibilities towards young people who have left care up until the age of 25.
- (d) The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district and borough councils for the first time, requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.

This Council believes that:

- (1) To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, the burden of council tax should be relieved until they are **21 or 25**; and
- (2) Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

This Council, therefore, resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to use the County Council's convening powers and expertise in corporate parenting to work with all district and borough councils in West Sussex to explore the options for relieving the council tax burden for all care leavers in the county up to the age of **21 or 25, who wish to take up the exemption** ~~sharing any arising costs proportionately,~~ and to provide other such support as may be agreed.

There are several competing priorities the County Council is focused on tackling in terms of issues that adversely impact on the lives of care leavers, including the limited supply of housing and barriers to employment. The County Council will, as a priority, maintain focus on these issues with partners, and defer exploring options for relieving the council tax burden for care leavers until the latter part of 2018. The Council therefore asks the Corporate Parenting Panel to monitor the outcome of this exploratory work before the end of 2018 and report its conclusions to the Cabinet Member.'

35 The amendment was carried.

36 The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

'This Council notes that:

- (a) 105 - 110 young people (aged 16 or over) leave the care of West Sussex County Council every year, and begin the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood.
- (b) Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
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- (2) Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

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Notice of Motion by Mr Turner

- 37** The following motion was moved by Mr Turner and seconded by Lt Cdr Atkins.

'This Council is committed to ensuring that people living with disabilities – of any kind - and those who are caring for them, should be treated with respect and provided with timely information, preventive services, and access to care and support when and where they require it.

As part of this commitment, this Council agrees it should join other local authorities in adopting the Charter of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, which provides a statement of respect, care and support that people living with Motor Neurone Disease and their carers should expect. The five points of the Charter are:

- (1) The right to an early diagnosis and information;
- (2) The right to access quality care and treatments;
- (3) The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect;
- (4) The right to maximise their quality of life; and that
- (5) Carers of people with motor neurone disease have the right to be valued, respected, listened to, and well-supported.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Adults' and Health to formally adopt this Charter, as a policy of the County Council, to ensure its aims are widely understood and followed.'

- 38** An amendment was moved by Ms Lord and seconded by Mr Smytherman as set out below:

'This Council is committed to ensuring that people living with disabilities – of any kind - and those who are caring for them, should be treated with respect and provided with timely information, preventive services, and access to care and support when and where they require it.

As part of this commitment, this Council agrees it should join other local authorities in adopting the Charter of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, which provides a statement of respect, care and support that people living with Motor Neurone Disease and their carers should expect. The five points of the Charter are:

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 - (2) The right to access quality care and treatments;
 - (3) The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect;
 - (4) The right to maximise their quality of life; and that
 - (5) Carers of people with motor neurone disease have the right to be valued, respected, listened to, and well-supported.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Adults' and Health to formally adopt this Charter, as a policy of the County Council, to ensure its aims are widely understood and followed **and to follow its principles for other people with disabilities, chronic and life-threatening conditions wherever possible.**

39 The amendment was carried.

40 The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

'This Council is committed to ensuring that people living with disabilities – of any kind - and those who are caring for them, should be treated with respect and provided with timely information, preventive services, and access to care and support when and where they require it.

As part of this commitment, this Council agrees it should join other local authorities in adopting the Charter of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, which provides a statement of respect, care and support that people living with Motor Neurone Disease and their carers should expect. The five points of the Charter are:

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This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Adults' and Health to formally adopt this Charter, as a policy of the County Council, to ensure its aims are widely understood and followed and to follow its principles for other people with disabilities, chronic and life-threatening conditions wherever possible.'

Notice of Motion by Mr Jones

41 The following motion was moved by Mr Jones and seconded by Mrs Mullins.

'This Council is extremely concerned about the current situation at Thomas Bennett Community College, a secondary school in Crawley which became an Academy in 2012 under the control of the Kemnal Academies Trust (TKAT). It is understood that TKAT are proposing to cut £987k from the school's budget, a move that the National Education Union (NEU) has said would see at least 22 teachers and support staff lose their jobs, including 6 teachers from the Special Educational Needs structure.

This Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

- (1) Pursue options to renegotiate or extend the terms of the PFI contract, and seek an agreement from the Kemnal Academies Trust that they will put their plans for any proposed re-structure or staffing cuts on hold until such time as negotiations have concluded and to work with this authority regarding any future such proposals; and
- (2) Formally alert the Regional Schools Commissioner to this Council's concerns about the safety of pupils and staff in light of the proposed staffing re-structure and request a meeting with him to see what action can be taken to safeguard the future education of the pupils in light of these proposed cuts, including ascertaining whether there is any scope for the Thomas Bennett Community College being returned to local authority control.'

42 The motion was referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for consideration.

Question Time

43 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios, questioned the Leader on matters currently relevant to the County Council and asked questions of chairmen, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 77 to 88) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 15(2) (set out at Appendix 2).

Notice of Motion by Ms Lord

44 At the meeting of the County Council on 16 February 2018 the following motion had been moved by Ms Lord, seconded by Dr O'Kelly and referred to the Governance Committee via the Member Development Group for consideration. A report by the Governance Committee was included with the agenda (pages 89 and 90).

'On 6 February 1918, the Representation of the People Act which extended the franchise to women for the first time, received its Royal Assent. One

hundred years on, we have a woman Prime Minister, a woman First Minister of Scotland and a woman Leader of West Sussex County Council with a Cabinet containing three women colleagues.

Yet still women's representation in local and central government lags behind that of men. Nationally, just one in three local councillors is a woman and, with the slow pace of change, 50:50 representation is not expected until 2065. Only 23 of West Sussex's 70 councillors are women, and we are one of the 96% of councils that do not have a maternity leave, parental leave or carers' policy for councillors.

This Council has an opportunity over the next three years to work to increase the number of women who stand for election as county councillor and to become a leading Council nationally on this issue.

In this anniversary year, this Council agrees to undertake a project to explore the barriers that exist for women wanting to become councillors in West Sussex and make recommendations on how to increase the number of women who stand in the 2021 elections, and to implement its recommendations.'

- 45** An amendment was moved by Mrs Joy and seconded by Mrs Jones as set out below:

'On 6 February 1918, the Representation of the People Act which extended the franchise to women for the first time, received its Royal Assent. One hundred years on, we have a woman Prime Minister, a woman First Minister of Scotland and a woman Leader of West Sussex County Council with a Cabinet containing three women colleagues.

Yet still women's representation in local and central government lags behind that of men **with only 23 of West Sussex's 70 councillors being women**. Nationally, just one in three local councillors is a woman and, with the slow pace of change, 50:50 representation is not expected until 2065. ~~Only 23 of West Sussex's 70 councillors are women,~~ and **We** are one of the 96% of councils that do not have a maternity leave, parental leave or carers' policy for councillors.

This Council has an opportunity over the next three years to work to increase the number of women who stand for election as county councillor ~~and to become a leading Council nationally on this issue.~~

In this anniversary year, this Council agrees to **ask the Member Development Group** undertake a project to explore the barriers that exist for **to actively look at ways to encourage** women **together with other under-represented groups** wanting to become councillors in West Sussex and make recommendations on how to increase the number of women who stand in the 2021 elections, and to implement its recommendations.'

- 46** The amendment was carried.

47 The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

'On 6 February 1918, the Representation of the People Act which extended the franchise to women for the first time, received its Royal Assent. One hundred years on, we have a woman Prime Minister, a woman First Minister of Scotland and a woman Leader of West Sussex County Council with a Cabinet containing three women colleagues.

Yet still women's representation in local and central government lags behind that of men with only 23 of West Sussex's 70 councillors being women. Nationally, just one in three local councillors is a woman and, with the slow pace of change, 50:50 representation is not expected until 2065. We are one of the 96% of councils that do not have a maternity leave, parental leave or carers' policy for councillors.

This Council has an opportunity over the next three years to work to increase the number of women who stand for election as county councillor.

In this anniversary year, this Council agrees to ask the Member Development Group to actively look at ways to encourage women together with other under-represented groups wanting to become councillors in West Sussex and make recommendations on how to increase the number who stand in the 2021 elections, and to implement its recommendations.'

Notice of Motion by Dr Walsh

48 With the agreement of the Council the motion on the EU was withdrawn.

Report of Urgent Action

49 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (page 91) was noted.

Chairman

The Council rose at 3.20 p.m.