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## West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

**17 July 2020**

At the virtual Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.00 am on Friday, 17 July 2020, the members present being:

Cllr Duncton (Chairman)

Cllr Patel	Cllr Kitchen
Cllr Acraman	Cllr Lanzer
Cllr Arculus	Clr Lea
Cllr Atkins, RD	Cllr Lord
Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Magill
Cllr Barling	Cllr Markwell
Cllr Barnard	Cllr Marshall
Cllr Barrett-Miles	Cllr McDonald
Cllr Bennett	Cllr Millson
Cllr Boram	Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Bradbury	Cllr Montyn
Cllr Bradford	Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr Bridges	Cllr R Oakley
Cllr Brunsdon	Cllr S Oakley
Cllr Buckland	Cllr Oppler
Cllr Burgess	Cllr Oxlade
Cllr Burrett	Cllr Pendleton
Cllr Catchpole	Cllr Purchase
Cllr Cloake	Cllr Purnell
Cllr Crow	Cllr Quinn
Cllr J Dennis	Cllr Russell
Cllr N Dennis	Cllr Simmons
Cllr Elkins	Cllr Smith
Cllr Fitzjohn	Cllr Smytherman
Cllr Goldsmith	Cllr Sparkes
Cllr Hall	Cllr Sudan
Cllr High	Cllr Turner
Cllr Hillier	Cllr Urquhart
Cllr Hunt	Cllr Waight
Cllr M Jones	Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD
Cllr A Jupp	Cllr Whittington
Cllr N Jupp	Cllr Wickremaratchi
Cllr Kennard	

### **1 Public Health Emergency**

- 1.1 On behalf of all members, the Chairman thanked residents and staff for their many sacrifices and hard work in limiting the spread of and responding to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 virus in the county.

### **2 Deaths of former colleagues**

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- 2.1 The Chairman reported the death of a current member of the Council, Cllr Hilary Flynn, who had represented the Felpham division since 2017.
  - 2.2 She also reported the deaths of Dr Howard Bloom, who had represented the Southgate and Crawley Central division from 2009 to 2013, Mrs Bernice Briggs, who had represented the Crawley Number 7 division from 1981 to 1984, Mr Geoff Hart who had represented the East Worthing division from 1993 to 1997, Mr Neil Matthewson, who had represented the Holbrook division from 1993 to 2001 and Mr John Sheridan, who had represented the Pulborough division from 1976 to 1996.
  - 2.3 The Chairman also reported the death of Mr John Hooley, DL, former Chief Executive of the County Council, who was Deputy Clerk to the Council from 1967, County Secretary from 1974 and then Chief Executive from 1975 to 1990.
  - 2.4 Members held a minute's silence.

### **3 Equality and diversity**

- 3.1 The Chairman referred to recent incidents of racism across the world which had raised again the need for everyone to speak out against all forms of racism. She affirmed the Council's support for the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign.
- 3.2 The Chairman also referred to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and urged all members to continue to promote equality, to challenge hateful behaviour and to welcome diversity in their communities.

### **4 Apologies for Absence**

- 4.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Barton, Cllr Edwards and Cllr A Jones.
- 4.2 Cllr Purchase and Cllr Whittington joined the meeting at 10.58 am and 11.00 am respectively.
- 4.3 Cllr Bridges left the meeting at 12.50 pm, Cllr Brunsdon and Cllr Smith at 1.00 pm, Cllr Oppler at 1.05 pm, Cllr Fitzjohn at 1.12 pm, Cllr Barling at 1.20 pm, Cllr Mitchell at 1.25 pm, Cllr Arculus at 1.28 pm, Cllr Goldsmith at 1.30 pm and Cllr Lea and Cllr Sudan at 1.32 pm.

### **5 Members' Interests**

- 5.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

### **6 Minutes**

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- 6.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 14 February 2020 (pages 5 to 36) be approved as a correct record.

## 7 Appointments

- 7.1 The Council approved appointments as set out below.

Committee	Change
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Oxlade in place of Cllr Sudan Cllr Pendleton to fill vacancy

## 8 COVID-19 Response

- 8.1 The Leader introduced the report on the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (pages 37 to 66). The Council also had before it answers to written questions submitted in advance by members under Standing Order 11.22 (Appendix 2).
- 8.2 Members asked questions as set out at Appendix 3.

## 9 West Sussex: Reset and Reboot

- 9.1 The Leader introduced a report on a framework by which to address corporate, service and financial challenges facing the County Council in 2020/21 and beyond, and an approach to settling priorities for the future and how to achieve them (pages 67 to 116). The Council also had before it answers to written questions submitted in advance by members under Standing Order 11.23 (Appendix 4).
- 9.2 An amendment to recommendation (5) was moved by Cllr O'Kelly and seconded by Cllr Walsh.
- (5) Agree the priority outcomes for discussion over the summer, as the basis of the County Council's business and financial planning, as set out at paragraph 29 **and additionally agree that climate change is an overarching theme;**
- 9.3 The amendment was carried.
- 9.4 In accordance with Standing Order 11.23, the Leader and Chief Executive answered questions from members during the debate.
- 9.5 Resolved -
- (1) That the proposed approach to creating a Reset Plan, using agreed priority outcomes to drive our activities, deployment of resources, performance management, strengthening of partnerships and communications and lobbying work be approved;

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- (2) That the local evidence base (Appendix 1 to the report) and the national and local policy outlook (Appendix 2 to the report) be noted;
  - (3) That the summary of performance in 2019/20 (Appendix 3 to the report) be noted;
  - (4) That the overview of our financial position and projections (paragraph 17 and Appendix 4 of the report) and identify any additional areas for exploration during the development of plans be noted;
  - (5) That the priority outcomes for discussion over the summer, as the basis of the County Council's business and financial planning, as set out at paragraph 29 be agreed and, additionally, that climate change is an overarching theme be agreed;
  - (6) That officers work up, in consultation with members, staff, and partners, activity, spending and saving proposals and a revised capital programme;
  - (7) That reports on more detailed plans for 2021/22 and beyond be received in the autumn when there is greater certainty about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on West Sussex and future resources; and
  - (8) That the substantial progress already made to strengthen the governance arrangements and approve the next steps laid out at paragraph 35 to reboot how we work be noted.

## **10 Address by Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

- 10.1 Members asked questions of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the Children First Improvement Plan and considered a report (pages 117 to 120).

## **11 Address by the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities**

- 11.1 Members asked questions of the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue Service and Communities on the Fire & Rescue Service Improvement Plan and considered a report (pages 121 to 126).
- 11.2 In response to a request from Cllr Smytherman for evidence of reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring authorities for responding to incidents to be shared with the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet Member said he would seek advice and respond to Cllr Smytherman.
- 11.3 In response to a question from Cllr M Jones the Cabinet Member said he would provide Cllr Jones with statistics about cross-border

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calls and look into updating members on the frequency of such occurrences.

**12 Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20 and Work Programme 2020/21**

12.1 The Council considered the Annual Scrutiny Newsletter 2019/20 which summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committees and reports the performance measures for the end of the year and the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/21, in the light of a report by the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee (supplement pages 3 to 20).

12.2 Resolved –

(1) That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20 be approved; and

(2) That the Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21 be approved.

**13 Governance Committee: Joint leadership arrangement with East Sussex County Council**

13.1 The Council noted a review of the joint leadership arrangements with East Sussex County Council, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 127 to 128).

13.2 Resolved –

That the report be noted.

**14 Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19**

14.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 129 and 130) was noted.

**15 Report of Urgent Action**

15.1 The report of urgent action taken by the Director of Law and Assurance, in consultation with the Chairman (pages 131 and 132), was noted.

Chairman

The Council rose at 1.41 pm