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## West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

**16 July 2021**

At the virtual informal Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 16 July 2021, the members present being:

Cllr Bradbury (Chairman)

Cllr Albury	Cllr Kenyon
Cllr Ali	Cllr Lanzer
Cllr Atkins, RD	Cllr Linehan
Cllr Baldwin	Cllr Lord
Cllr Baxter	Cllr Markwell
Cllr Bence	Cllr Marshall
Cllr Bennett	Cllr McDonald
Cllr Boram	Cllr McGregor
Cllr Britton	Cllr Mercer
Cllr Burgess	Cllr Milne
Cllr Burrett	Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Charles	Cllr Montyn
Cllr Cherry	Cllr Nagel
Cllr Chowdhury	Cllr Oakley
Cllr Condie	Cllr O'Kelly
Cllr A Cooper	Cllr Oppler
Cllr B Cooper	Cllr Oxlade
Cllr Cornell	Cllr Patel
Cllr Crow	Cllr Payne
Cllr J Dennis	Cllr Pendleton
Cllr N Dennis	Cllr Pudaloff
Cllr Duncton	Cllr Quinn
Cllr Dunn	Cllr Richardson
Cllr Elkins	Cllr Russell
Cllr Evans	Cllr Sharp
Cllr Forbes	Cllr Smith
Cllr Gibson	Cllr Sparkes
Cllr Greenway	Cllr Turley
Cllr Hall	Cllr Urquhart
Cllr Hunt	Cllr Waight
Cllr Johnson	Cllr Wall
Cllr Joy	Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD
Cllr A Jupp	Cllr Wickremaratchi
Cllr N Jupp	

### **12 Format of Council meeting**

- 12.1 The Chairman reminded members that, as the meeting was being held virtually and was therefore not a formal meeting of the Council, any vote taken on any business would be indicative only.

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12.2 Any decisions which needed to be taken on the business on the agenda would be dealt with after the meeting using the Council's Standing Orders on urgent action. Resolutions recorded in these minutes are therefore indicative only.

### **13 Apologies for Absence**

13.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Hillier and Cllr Magill.

13.2 Cllr Patel arrived for the morning session at 10.42 am. Cllr Kenyon and Cllr Markwell gave apologies for the end of the morning session and left at 11.05 am and 12.44 pm respectively. Cllr Nagel left the morning session at 12 noon and Cllr Hall at 12.15 pm.

13.3 Cllr B Copper gave her apologies and was absent from 2.37 pm until 3.38 pm.

13.4 Cllr Markwell left at 3.47 pm, Cllr Quinn at 4.12 pm, Cllr Albury at 4.15 pm and Cllr Oppler at 4.20 pm.

### **14 Members' Interests**

14.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

### **15 Minutes**

15.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the County Council held on 21 May 2021 (pages 5 to 16) be endorsed for approval as a correct record, subject to the additional of the sentence set out below to the minute on notification of Cabinet Members:

'10.3 The Liberal Democrat Group Leader stated that the Group was not supportive of the addition of a Cabinet Member post without explanation.'

### **16 Appointments**

16.1 The Council endorsed the approval of appointments as set out below.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Change</b>
Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Evans to fill Conservative substitute vacancy
Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Baldwin in place of Cllr Payne
Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Albury to fill Conservative substitute vacancy

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Change</b>
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Payne to fill vacancy  Cllr Bence to fill Conservative substitute vacancy
Outside Body (Governance Committee appointment): South East Employers	Cllr Cherry to fill vacancy

## **17 Address by a Cabinet Member**

17.1 Members received an address by the Cabinet Member for Adults Services on Social Care and Health integration.

## **18 Governance Committee: Plans for future Member Community Engagement to replace County Local Committees**

18.1 The Council considered a proposal that County Local Committees be replaced by more informal local community engagement forums, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 17 to 20).

18.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr O’Kelly.

‘Changes to the existing recommendations on pages 19 to 20 shown in **bold italic type** and strikethrough of text.

- (1) ~~That County Local Committees be removed from the Constitution and~~ decision-making arrangements for Traffic Regulation Orders and outside body appointments **are** allocated to the relevant Cabinet Members in consultation with local members **for the duration of the trial;**
- (2) That the Governance Committee considers detailed proposals at its next meeting for a trial of district/borough-based County Local Forums; and
- (3) That the arrangements be reviewed by the end March 2022, to determine future arrangements and resource requirements, **and any necessary changes to the Constitution and permanent decision-making procedures are made once the future arrangements are finalised.**

18.3 The amendment by Cllr Lord was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

- (a) For the amendment – 22

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Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr Condie, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr Cornell, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Joy, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Smith, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

(b) Against the amendment – 44

Cllr Albury, Cllr Ali, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bence, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Charles, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Linehan, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Nagel, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Payne, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Richardson, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Wall and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(c) Abstentions – 0

18.4 The amendment was lost.

18.5 The recommendations were put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For the recommendations – 44

Cllr Albury, Cllr Ali, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bence, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Britton, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Charles, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Evans, Cllr Forbes, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Linehan, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr McGregor, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Nagel, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Patel, Cllr Payne, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Richardson, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Wall and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the recommendations – 3

Cllr Gibson, Cllr Johnson and Cllr Sharp.

(c) Abstentions – 19

Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Chowdhury, Cllr Condie, Cllr B Cooper, Cllr Cornell, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Joy, Cllr Lord, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Milne, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr Oppler, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Pudaloff, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Smith, Cllr Turley and Cllr Walsh.

18.6 The recommendations were carried.

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18.7 Resolved – that the approval of the following recommendations be endorsed:

- (1) That County Local Committees be removed from the Constitution and decision-making arrangements for Traffic Regulation Orders and outside body appointments allocated to the relevant Cabinet Members in consultation with local members;
- (2) That the Governance Committee considers detailed proposals at its next meeting for a trial of district/borough-based County Local Forums; and
- (3) That the arrangements be reviewed by the end March 2022, to determine future arrangements and resource requirements.

## **19 Governance Committee: Review of the Constitution**

19.1 The Council considered a number of minor changes to the Constitution, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 21 to 54).

19.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr O’Kelly.

### **‘Written Questions**

#### **Original text as per page 52 of the Council booklet:**

2.38 Subject to the giving of the notice required by Standing Order 2.39, a member may ask a question on any matter in relation to which the County Council has powers or duties or which affects West Sussex (including any matter considered by the Executive, a scrutiny committee or non-executive committee) ~~which is~~. **The subject should not already otherwise be** on the agenda for the meeting, and ~~which the Chairman does not~~ **may rule out any questions considered** to be irrelevant or inappropriate. The question **will be deferred for a later reply** if it involves the expenditure of a disproportionate amount of time or money to prepare the answers.

#### **Proposed amendment:**

2.38 Subject to the giving of the notice required by Standing Order 2.39, a member may ask a question on any matter in relation to which the County Council has powers or duties or which affects West Sussex (including any matter considered by the Executive, a scrutiny committee or non-executive committee) ~~which is not otherwise on the agenda for the meeting, and~~ which the Chairman, **in collaboration with group leaders**, does not rule to be irrelevant or inappropriate. **The question will be deferred for a later reply if it** ~~or~~ involves the

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expenditure of a disproportionate amount of time or money to prepare the answers.

### **Notices of Motion**

#### **Original text as per page 53 of the Council booklet:**

2.48 The Chairman, in consultation with political group leaders, may decide that a motion shall be:

- (a) moved and debated at the next meeting (***usually no more than two per meeting unless the Chairman determines otherwise***);

#### **Proposed amendment:**

2.48 The Chairman, in consultation with political group leaders, may decide that a motion shall be:

- (a) moved and debated at the next meeting;'

19.3 The amendment was lost.

19.4 An amendment was moved by Cllr Sharp and seconded by Cllr O'Kelly.

'Changes to the existing recommendations in item 7, Appendix 1 are shown in bold, underlined type.

Page 40 – Part 3, Appendix 8D, Communities, **Highways** and Environment Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference:

3. To undertake the scrutiny of the performance of the council's services against the outcomes, objectives and measures ***including scrutiny of how effectively relevant corporate, and service and climate change risks are managed*** ~~set through a relevant commissioning process.~~

Page 57 – Part 3 – Appendix 22, ACCESS Joint Committee Terms of Reference

#### ***11.4 Performance against the strategic business plan and climate change strategy agreed by the Councils.'***

19.5 The amendment was lost.

19.6 Resolved – that the approval of the following recommendation be endorsed:

That the proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

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## **20 Standards Committee: Code of Conduct Updates, including IT Policy**

- 20.1 The Council considered proposed minor changes to the Code of Conduct in the Constitution, in the light of a report by the Standards Committee (pages 55 to 60).
- 20.2 Resolved – that the approval of the following recommendations be endorsed:
- (1) That the removal of the term ‘senior adviser’ to Cabinet Member in paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct be approved; and
  - (2) That the proposed changes to the IT Policy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

## **21 Standards Committee Annual Report**

- 21.1 The Council noted a report from the Standards Committee on its activities for the period from April 2020 to March 2021 (pages 61 and 62).
- 21.2 Resolved -
- That the report be noted.

## **22 Question Time**

- 22.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios and asked questions of chairmen, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 63 to 68) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 2).

## **23 Motion on Mental Health**

- 23.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr Oxlade and seconded by Cllr Lord.

‘Although the coronavirus pandemic has impacted everyone in West Sussex, not everyone will have been experienced its consequences in the same way. The effects of social distancing, lockdown, the loss of loved ones to the virus and stress-inducing media reports has had a huge impact on the mental health and wellbeing of a large number of our residents and will continue to have lasting effects long after lockdown is over. West Sussex County Council has a vital role to play in ensuring that residents of West Sussex experiencing mental health issues have access to the support they need. This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to:

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- (1) Ensure that access to mental health services will remain a priority both whilst public health restrictions remain in place and beyond; and
  - (2) Consider the potential impact on the mental health of residents when taking decisions for the foreseeable future.'

23.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Wall and seconded by Cllr Albury as set out below:

'Although the coronavirus pandemic has impacted everyone in West Sussex, not everyone will have been experienced its consequences in the same way. The effects of social distancing, lockdown, the loss of loved ones to the virus and stress-inducing media reports has had a huge impact on the mental health and wellbeing of a large number of our residents and will continue to have lasting effects long after lockdown is over. West Sussex County Council has a vital role to play in ensuring that residents of West Sussex experiencing mental health issues have access to the support they need. This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to:

- (1) Ensure that access to mental health services will remain a priority both whilst public health restrictions remain in place and beyond; ~~and~~
- (2) consider the potential impact on the mental health of residents when taking decisions for the foreseeable future; **and**
- (3) ***Express its thanks for the collaborative working of partner organisations in delivering mental health services and their commitment to continue working together on this very important topic.***

23.3 The amendment was carried.

23.4 The motion as amended and set out below was carried and endorsed for approval.

'Although the coronavirus pandemic has impacted everyone in West Sussex, not everyone will have been experienced its consequences in the same way. The effects of social distancing, lockdown, the loss of loved ones to the virus and stress-inducing media reports has had a huge impact on the mental health and wellbeing of a large number of our residents and will continue to have lasting effects long after lockdown is over. West Sussex County Council has a vital role to play in ensuring that residents of West Sussex experiencing mental health issues have access to the support they need. This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to:

- (1) Ensure that access to mental health services will remain a priority both whilst public health restrictions remain in place and beyond;



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- (2) consider the potential impact on the mental health of residents when taking decisions for the foreseeable future; and
  - (3) Express its thanks for the collaborative working of partner organisations in delivering mental health services and their commitment to continue working together on this very important topic.'

## **24 Motion on Emergency Services**

- 24.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr Boram and seconded by Cllr Burrett.

'This Council supports the campaign to build the UK's first 'Emergency Services Cenotaph', dedicated to all who have served and volunteered in the NHS and all the emergency services, including Fire and Rescue - whom we are very proud to have as part of West Sussex County Council.

Additionally, this Council records its support for the UK's annual national 'Emergency Services Day' which is held on 9 September and which is supported by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; and that this Council places on record its sincere appreciation for the two million people who work and volunteer in the NHS and emergency services, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the demands placed upon our emergency services have significantly increased.

In recognition of Emergency Services Day, this Council asks the Chairman to agree to fly the official flag of the 'Emergency Services Day' at County Hall on 9 September each year.'

- 24.2 The motion, as set out at minute 24.1 above, was carried and endorsed for approval.

## **25 Motion on 20mph Speed Limits**

- 25.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr O'Kelly and seconded by Cllr Condie:

'This Council believes that 20mph as a speed limit in built up, residential areas including our villages, is desirable in terms of safety and noise, particularly around shopping centres and schools or on roads handling primarily local traffic.

This Council believes that promoting active travel is a priority and encouraging take up of a 20mph speed limit, where appropriate, will increase the number of journeys taken on foot or cycle.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to introduce a more flexible policy on speed reduction

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including the 20mph limit – and calls on her to work with residents and partners to implement a change in speed limit reducing it to 20mph if:

- (1) it is demonstrated that there is clear community support for the reduction
- (2) the road is in a residential area
- (3) the road is not an A road or major through route.'

25.2 The motion was referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for consideration.

## **26 Motion on Land Use**

26.1 The following motion was moved by Cllr Milne and seconded by Cllr Mercer:

'This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property to put in place a clear process, such that any currently-owned Council land will always be first considered for possible social, community or environmental use, particularly where this complements the Council's ambitions relating to climate change, prior to deeming it surplus to requirements, which could see it allocated for development within West Sussex County Council's Joint Venture development company.'

26.2 The motion was referred to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property for consideration.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.23 pm