

PUBLIC

MINUTES of the meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**
held on 14 September 2016 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor S Freeborn (In the Chair)

Councillors D Allen, Mrs E Atkins, S A Bambrick, Mrs G Birkin, Mrs S L Blank, Mrs M W Booth, A Botham, K Buttery, Mrs D W E Charles, Mrs L M Chilton, D Collins, Mrs C M Cox, J A Coyle, R Davison, J E Dixon, P Dunn, S J Ellis, J A Frudd, Mrs P A Gilby, K Gillott, Mrs C A Hart, Mrs Janet A Hill, Ms Julie A Hill, Mrs J M Innes, P Jones, T A Kemp, Mrs K D Lauro, B Lewis, D W Lomax, W Major, D McGregor, R R Mihaly, C R Moesby, K P Morgan, J R Owen, R A Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, Mrs I Ratcliffe, P J Smith, S A Spencer, Mrs M Stockdale, Mrs J S Street, D H Taylor, Mrs J A Twigg, D Walton, Ms A Western, D J Wilcox, E S Wilcox, Ms J Wild, D A Williams and B Wright.

61/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ms C Bisknell, S J Bradford, S Brittain, S Bull, M Ford, D T Greenhalgh, R L Hosker, S Marshall-Clarke, C E Neill, B Ridgway, T Southerd and J G Williams.

62/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

63/16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The following announcements were made:-

(1) Dean Wallace, the new Director of Public Health, was welcomed to the meeting.

(2) Council was informed of the sad death, earlier in the day, of Edwin Bull, son of Councillor Steve Bull. The condolences of the Council would be passed on to Councillor Bull and his family.

64/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS On the motion of Councillor S Freeborn, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 8 June and 27 July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

65/16 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor A Western, Leader of the Council, reported that the legal challenge in respect of the Sheffield City Region's consultation had now been lodged.

There were no questions on the report.

66/16 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question from Luke Layton to Councillor J A Coyle, Cabinet Member – Children's Services

What is the County Council doing regarding jobs for people with disabilities, how are they finding a way of dealing with this with other partner agencies and when people leave colleges, could there be more investment from the County Council in learning disability services to help support people in the transition to work and adulthood?

Councillor Coyle responded as follows:-

I will try and give you some answers if I can. First of all, Adult Employment Support provision works very closely with colleagues in Children's Services so that young adults are aware of all employment support opportunities, and there are lots of them.

Adult Care Learning Daily Disability Service provision promotes employment aspirations where they have been identified. There are several projects which are linked to day services which provide people with opportunities to get an insight into workplace activities and be in a supportive environment, which is very important. We actually need to support people in these situations. Specific employment support is available for people who are looking for paid work or who are volunteering. We have a service called Community Connect which is directly provided by Adult Care and it helps people to access a wide variety of activities in the community. This includes work and volunteering opportunities. If people need longer-term support then this can come from the Disability Employment Service. I do have a flier here which explains the services that are provided by the Disability Employment Service. This is funded directly and provided by the County Council. It supports disabled people who face the biggest employment barriers to find work. The support includes matching people to appropriate job opportunities; setting up work experience opportunities in the Council; helping people with CVs and with job application techniques; helping people to prepare for interviews and actually supporting people to maintain their job or a voluntary role when they are having problems at work, so that is a service that we also provide.

When people are about to leave college, we have personal assistants who work with young people and their families and the college to plan for young people leaving at the end of their course to help them identify the next provider. The colleges are required by law to provide a careers service and careers advice and guidance to produce an action plan.

Finally, there is currently a European Social Fund proposal, which is called 'Employ Local'. The Council has made a joint bid with Derby City Council, part of whose aims will be to assist those into work.

Having said all that, I am aware that you have had some personal problems that have actually caused you some distress. I have spoken to Councillor Smith about this before. What we would like to do is invite you into County Hall for maybe half a day to speak with myself, Councillor Smith and our officers to ensure that other people don't have the same problems that I understand you have had.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

What are the County Council doing to prevent things like this from happening in the future?

Councillor Coyle responded as follows:-

Well there are two answers to that question. First of all we have to try and get more funds from Central Government who are determined to cut our funding here so it is much more difficult to provide services. However, you have said nothing with which I disagree and that is why I would like to invite you in so we can actually use your experiences to try to make sure that it doesn't happen to anyone else. That invitation stands. Councillor Smith and I will be delighted to host you for half a day.

67/16 **RECEIPT OF PETITIONS** There were no petitions to report.

68/16 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE** At its meeting on 5th December 2012, the Council appointed Mr Peter Smith, Mr Lloyd Newby and Mr Keith Jackson-Horner to sit on the Standards Committee as Independent Persons for a term of four years.

The Independent Persons' terms of office would come to an end in December 2016. In view of the experience which they had gained, it would be helpful to secure their continuation in office and they had all indicated they would be happy to continue for a second term. The

Council was, therefore, requested to confirm their appointment for a second term of four years, expiring in December 2020.

On the motion of Councillor A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to re-appoint Mr Peter Smith, Mr Lloyd Newby and Mr Keith Jackson-Horner as Independent Persons to the Standards Committee for a second four year term.

69/16 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required the Director of Finance to certify the pre-audit Statement of Accounts by 30 June and the Audit Committee to approve the post-audit version before 30 September. At the planning stage of the audit, it was agreed with the external auditors, KPMG, that, like the previous year, the timetable for completion of the accounts would be accelerated; the Statement of Accounts would be certified and available for audit on 3 June, (27 days earlier than the statutory deadline) and Audit Committee approval would also be scheduled to take place earlier than the previous year. Both these deadlines were achieved, with the auditors acknowledging the well-established strong accounts production process, the high standard of accounts and supporting working papers and the excellent support provided by the finance teams during their audit, with officers dealing promptly and efficiently with audit queries.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required an earlier timetable for the preparation and publication of the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2017-18. Local authorities must bring forward the certification and approval deadlines to 31 May and 31 July, respectively. The Council had achieved the accelerated timetable for three consecutive years, without having a negative impact on the quality of supporting working papers. Therefore, the Council was well placed to ensure that it will meet the revised statutory deadlines.

Under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (Sections 25 to 28) and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Regulations 10, 14 and 15), the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) were made available for public inspection from 6 June 2016 to 15 July 2016. No queries were raised.

In addition to the full Statement of Accounts being approved at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 21 July 2016, the Pension Fund Accounts would also be reported to the Pensions and Investment Committee. The audit of the Statement of Accounts was completed within the planned timescale and the external auditors presented their 'Report to those charged with governance 2015-16' and audit opinion to

members of the Audit Committee on 21 July 2016. There were no material changes to the Statement of Accounts and only three recommendations of improvement. Two audit disclosure adjustments were required. Neither of these disclosure adjustments impacted on the Council's overall financial position as set out in the accounts that were presented for audit. Action proposed in response to the matters raised were reported.

On the motion of Councillor A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to note the report, the external auditor's 'Report to those charged with governance 2015-16' and the approved Statement of Accounts 2015-16.

70/16 PRESENTATIONS There were no presentations.

71/16 REPORT OF CABINET AND MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT Councillor A Western, Leader of the Council, presented a report on the decisions that had been taken at meetings on Cabinet held on 14 June, 12 and 26 July 2016.

There were no questions on the report.

On the motion of Councillor A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

72/16 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

There were no Councillor questions.

73/16 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES On the motion of Councillor S Freeborn, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be received:-

- (a) Regulatory – Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 23 May and 25 July 2016
- (b) Regulatory – Planning Committee held on 6 June, 11 July and 8 August 2016
- (c) Pensions and Investment Committee held on 1 and 22 June and 3 August 2016
- (d) Audit Committee held on 21 July 2016
- (e) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 26 May and 21 July 2016

- (f) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People held on 6 July 2016
- (g) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places held on 20 July 2016
- (h) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 18 July 2016
- (i) Health and Wellbeing Board held on 12 May and 14 July 2016
- (j) Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel held on 26 May and 14 July 2016.