

MINUTES of the meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**
held on 19 September 2012 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor G D Wharmby (in the Chair)

Councillors D Allen, J A Allsop, Mrs S M Allsop, Mrs E Atkins, R B Baldry, Mrs G Birkin, , Mrs M W Booth, D Bowley, S J Bradford, W Burrows, D Chapman, Mrs C M Cox, J A Coyle, Ms T Critchlow, J E Dixon, S J Ellis, Mrs G A Farrington, S Flitter, M Ford, K Gillott, J P Harrison, Mrs C A Hart, G K Hickton, M A Higginbottom, R L Hosker, J C Jackson, C W Jones, M Lacey, A I Lewer, B Lewis, M V Longden, B C Lucas, G J E MacDonald, W Major, P Makin, P Murray, K L Parkinson, R A Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, Mrs C Pidgeon, G W Purdy, Mrs G P Reddy, B Ridgway, A H Rogers, R W Russell, P J Smith, S A Spencer, J N Stevens, K Stevenson, Mrs M Stockdale, D Stone, D B Taylor, Mrs J A Twigg, Ms A Western, Mrs J Wharmby, D J Wilcox, and D Wilson.

69/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A F Charles, C R Moesby, K P Morgan, P Riggott and J G Williams.

70/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor K Gillott declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14(1) – Notice of Motion on regional and local public sector pay, as he was employed in the public sector.

71/12 MINUTE'S SILENCE The meeting observed a minute's silence in honour of the two Greater Manchester Police Officers who had been tragically killed whilst undertaking of their duties.

72/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The following announcements were made:-

(1) The Derbyshire Baton Challenge was a journey of 212 miles starting on 22 July from the Olympic Park in London to the finish point on 27 July at County Hall. The baton was carried by groups of young people, and families the entire distance whilst walking, running, canoeing, horse riding, biking and wheel-chairing. Ian Price, Head of Sport, Outdoor and Residential Education at Lea Green and Adrian Green and Janine Price

from the Children and Younger Adults Department were presented with an award to commemorate the challenge.

(2) Engineers from the Council had won an award at the Institution of Civil Engineers East Midlands Merit Awards, Small Project Category, for the Chesterfield Canal Staveley Town Basin Land Reclamation Scheme. Peter Storey and Selwyn Jones from the Environmental Services Department were presented with the award.

73/12 PUBLIC QUESTIONS There were no public questions.

74/12 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS Councillors asked questions as follows:-

1. Council question to Councillor C W Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Care from Councillor D Stone.

When do payments for Social Services stop for those clients who lose their attendance allowance for whatever reason and can no longer access home care services?

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

I do not know whether you are aware but Attendance Allowance and Disability Allowance are DWP registered payments. Social Services have been asking for some time for these Allowances to be transferred to our care but they have not under the new system and they did not under the old.

Social Services do not work on the basis of the Allowances in or out. When they are given we ask for a proportion, which is about 50% of it, to be put towards their care when they are given a full care allowance so their services won't be stopped.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

Can I just clarify, are payments stopped when people go into hospital?

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

In exceptional circumstances when there are extended periods in hospital but the payments that they get are stopped at DWP. We would freeze ours when their payments get stopped. If it is not stopped then we would normally ask them to continue their subsidy towards their Social Services' entitlement.

2. Council question to Councillor S A Spencer, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport from Councillor D Stone.

Has the Council considered the Dial a Bus Service is under prescribed because it no longer offers what the service users want?

Councillor Spencer responded as follows:-

As Councillor Stone will know our Community Transport providers across the County are autonomous organisations run by Boards and many volunteers are involved in that process. As you will also know the Dial a Bus Service is focused at this moment in time on older persons, disabled persons or people who do not have access to conventional forms of public transport.

What I would say is with regard to the changes that have taken place – and I am assuming that Councillor Stone is referring to his own particular area – with regard to the changes that have taken place, with regard to the flat rate charging there has been a change in the way in which the service has been used. In some rural areas where public transport is not available that has had no predominant effect whatsoever, but of course in areas where there are alternative public transport facilities available people have chosen to use those public transport facilities.

With regard to the way in which the organisations across the County function, it will be fair to say there have been changes and there have been consultation processes taking place in the way in which service delivery takes place, particularly in the Chesterfield and Amber Valley areas where Community Transport are operating. We have been through a consultation process with service users on the type of service that they wish to see moving forward. We wanted to make the service more easy to understand for the users. We wanted to reduce the time spent on the bus by the passengers; reduce the pick-up areas; reduce excessive mileage and make service time and fuel more efficient. With regard to that a consultation process was carried out by the local Community Transport organisation to address the concerns that those residents and users had.

With regard to those organisations, we have 120 vehicles across the County and the funding going in from Derbyshire County is about £1.4m. That has been a considerable investment by this Authority and we continue to invest in Community Transport delivery across our

County because we recognise the benefit to our communities who use those services.

We also have at this moment in time, nearly half-a-million pound that has come from other funding streams to bring about changes within the Community Transport organisation. We are running pilot programmes, or will be running pilot programmes very shortly, and there will be a Cabinet paper to myself in the next two weeks to discuss the proposals that have been done in consultation with all the Community Transports within the County at liaison meetings that have been taking place on a regular three monthly cycle. The ideas and schemes that have been put forward come about by the initiatives put in place by the local Community Transports so, Councillor Stone, in a nutshell what we are doing is working very closely with our Community Transport organisations across the County to deliver a more comprehensive service that delivers a more comprehensive service for disabled people and people who need access to facilities across the County as a whole.

We also intend introducing these pilot schemes that are shaped around the needs of individual Community Transports. They are all slightly different, as I am sure you can appreciate. The urban areas have different requirements to the rural areas across our County and it is absolutely imperative that we as an organisation are there to facilitate help and help them deliver a more comprehensive service. One of the initiatives that will be put in place in due course is better advertising and encouraging more people to use the services that Community Transport deliver.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

I am going to focus on what you said, "focus on people's needs", my question will focus on that.

The issue for me, and the issue from my own area, is that Community Transport used to move forward a day and now it is on the same day every week which theoretically because you have focused on people's needs everybody has different needs. It means that people who want to go to Tesco one day they can't. They have to go to Morrisons. People who go to Morrisons one day want to go to Tesco. People who want to go to the market on market day can't get to market day. People who don't want to go to the market end up going on market day because it is the same day of the week. Am I correct?

Councillor Spencer responded as follows:-

I think it is fair to say that the Chesterfield and Amber Valley Community Transport organisation have changed their scheduling. As I have already indicated in my initial response there is methodology behind that. It was not done on a carte blanche approach it was done in a consultation method with all service users through different mechanisms of consultation. Just let me give you a few examples of that consultation taking place.

Officers travelled on board the Community Transport buses and listened to verbal feedback from the users. Drivers instructed passengers on the new proposals and the routes. Leaflets were produced and given out to all passenger users. Officers personally contacted people with sight or hearing difficulties to talk to them or otherwise about the proposals in place. I understand that Chesterfield have put forward these proposals on a trial basis. They are going to trial to see how that service is delivered and my understanding is that you are quite right in saying that they have rescheduled, instead of having a rolling programme of a different day each week going to a same location. It was purely and simply to make sure that people understand exactly what services were being delivered on what particular day. Whether that remains to be the case in months to come after an assessment of the new service has taken place remains to be seen but at this moment in time Chesterfield and Amber Valley Community Transport have made that decision and I have to respect that.

3. Council question to Councillor M V Longden, Cabinet Member for Education from Councillor B C Lucas.

After the long and detailed interviews in which Governors, DCC officers, Cabinet Member for Education and Council Leader to make Ormiston Academies Trust responsible for the education of the then Bennerley Business Enterprise College only to find that this Academy has now betrayed the students, staff, Derbyshire County Council, and the Cotmanhay community in now wanting to close this site by September 2014 and transferring the £7.4m to another Ormiston Academy in Ilkeston which Ormiston took over after this agreement was made for Bennerley, will the Cabinet Member for Education inform me that what this organisation has done is legal and that all promises made to develop the old Bennerley site and to invest, market, make a 6th form at this site on the Government monies awarded to be spent in Cotmanhay cannot be challenged by this Authority?

Councillor Longden responded as follows:-

I will give a direct answer to the question asked first of all. Is what this organisation has done in Bennerley legal? The brief answer is yes. We continue to research the legality of it to see if there are any issues that we should address.

The second question: can the Authority challenge the use of capital at Ilkeston that was promised to the Bennerley site? Again the brief answer is that we do not have any jurisdiction over the use of that funding but will use the opportunity in public consultation to make our representations around the whole issue of Ormiston, its conduct at Bennerley and its decision to close the Academy after only eight months of operation.

Councillor Lucas may wish to ask me a second question. I feel the question needs a broader statement about the issues there and I will perhaps include that, subject to what Councillor Lucas' question is.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

Within the community of Cotmanhay they feel extremely let down on this, as Councillor Longden knows, and I am sure the Leader who was involved in these interviews as well. I find it quite bizarre to feel that we, as a billion pound Authority and business, could have been turned over by such a small organisation and charity as Ormiston. I would like to ask if within the legal process whether there is any merit in looking for outside advice with counsel, ie a barrister, to look at these documents to try and ensure that those monies and the promises made are carried out by this organisation and supported by this Authority?

Councillor Longden responded as follows:-

Be reassured, Councillor Lucas, we will explore all avenues to look at whether there are issues here that we can address in relation to Ormiston's withdrawal.

I do think this whole situation warrants a broader statement from me. Bennerley was converted into an Academy in September 2011 by an Academy Order. Under that procedure there is no requirement for Ormiston Trust or the Department for Education to consult with the local authority. The local authority's role is simply to process the standard documentation that exists for that process, particularly in relation to transfer of staff and land at that school. We were not involved at all in the funding agreement and it is that document that deals with the provision for change and/or termination of the Academy process where that exists. We have no jurisdiction over that at all but I repeat again, we continue to look at the documentation.

I think you will agree we carried out a pretty robust selection process out of which we decided to appoint Ormiston based on their proposal and particularly how they intended to address the issues that existed at that school. Councillor Lucas and his governing body were fully aware of, and an integral part of that process, along with the Leader and myself. I think particularly we robustly challenged how they would deal with the low numbers at the school and the ensuing short-term financial viability of the proposal.

Following the decision to appoint Ormiston we formed a Transition Group – and I think Councillor Lucas you are a member of that – and also a project working group to monitor progress of the transition.

I will read some of the minutes that came out of the Transition Group meeting. The Transition Group had regular updates on the plans as they progressed and the Transition Group had in their possession a three year financial budget from the company, a risk assessment report and various other project planning reports. The latest budget report, which was produced back in May 2011, forecast that they would make, in my opinion, substantial profits in the year following appointment and the ensuing further two years and in the third year, 2013/14, they projected £250,000 profit.

The issue of student recruitment was also recognised throughout the transition process. Ormiston Trust said they were confident that their specialist marketing team could reverse the drift away from the catchment and this confidence was regularly repeated at various meetings attended by both DCC and Department for Education and that frankly, Brian, as you know was why I chose Ormiston because they gave me the impression they had the marketing clout to address what is, and was, a major issue.

They had a final risk assessment entitled “Academy’s Readiness for the Opening Process”. Ed Midler, the principal at that school, said they were “Predicting a balanced budget with £290,000 carried forward, some staffing reductions that would lead to increased surpluses and the budget will still rebalance if numbers don’t go up significantly” in other words “We can still address that issue if numbers don’t go up immediately.”

The most interesting comment that was picked up in the minutes was one of their final reports. It says this:

“This is a predecessor school which has lost its way. It is a change to do something for a community that deserves a good school.”

That is what Ormiston said eight months before they closed the school.

Just to sum up, Councillor Lucas, I share the disappointment of your community and yourself with what has happened at Bennerley. I am engaging with the local MP. I would like to make Ministers aware of the situation at Bennerley and we will do everything to support the community. We continue to have into the future as an Authority an overarching responsibility for those children at Bennerley to ensure they get a good educational provision and will do that.

75/12 QUESTIONS ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DERBYSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AND THE DERBYSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY No questions had been received.

76/12 COUNCIL MINUTES On the motion of Councillor G D Wharmby, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

77/12 CABINET On the motion of Councillor A I Lower, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 3 July, 24 July and 4 September 2012 be received and adopted.

78/12 REGULATORY – LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE On the motion of Councillor R A Parkinson, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory – Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 23 July and 3 September 2012 be received and adopted.

79/12 REGULATORY – PLANNING COMMITTEE On the motion of Councillor M Ford, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory - Planning Committee held on 28 May, 25 June, 16 July and 13 August 2012 be received and adopted.

80/12 AUDIT COMMITTEE On the motion of Councillor S J Bradford, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 10 July 2012 be received and adopted.

81/12 IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE On the motion of Councillor Mrs G A Farrington, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People held on 27 June 2012 be received and adopted.

82/12 IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES On the motion of Councillor P Murray, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 19 July 2012 be received and adopted.

83/12 IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES On the motion of Councillor Mrs J A Twigg, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places held on 11 July 2012 be received and adopted.

84/12 IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE On the motion of Councillor Mrs J A Twigg, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Improvement and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 12 June and 24 July 2012 be received and adopted.

85/12 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE DERBYSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AND THE DERBYSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

The Minutes of the meetings of the Derbyshire Police Authority held on 16 March, 19 April and 21 June 2012 were received.

86/12 NOTICES OF MOTION Council considered Notices of Motion as set out below:-

(1) Motion submitted by Councillor Ms A Western:-

Regional and local public sector pay

Moved by Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

“This Council notes that the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2012 Budget the Government’s desire to introduce ‘more market facing’ public sector pay. This could mean regional or local public sector pay.

Council believes:

- All of the UK outside London and the South East stands to be affected by this, with the possibility of years of pay falling behind the cost of living.
- Workers in Derbyshire are already paid less than the national average.
- It will make it harder for schools and other public services to recruit and retain good quality professionals who could earn more for doing the same job elsewhere.
- This policy will not improve the pay of private sector workers but instead could encourage further depression of wages in all sectors.
- This policy is therefore counter to our collective vision and ambitions for Derbyshire for the future.

Council resolves:

- To write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Secretary to the Treasury stating this Council’s opposition to plans for regional and localised public sector pay.
- To write to all local MPs within the next month outlining concerns about the impact that this policy would have on services and the local economy.”

The motion was debated by Council.

Councillor Western’s motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

At the request of at least 5 Members, a recorded vote was taken and recorded as follows –

For the motion – (22) Councillors D Allen, Mrs E Atkins, R B Baldry, Mrs G Birkin, Mrs M W Booth, W Burrows, Mrs C M Cox, S Flitter, K Gillott, M A Higginbottom, R L Hosker, B C Lucas, Mrs C Pidgeon, B Ridgway, A H Rogers, R W Russell, P J Smith, K Stevenson, Mrs M Stockdale, D B Taylor, Ms A Western and D J Wilcox.

Against the motion – (32) - Councillors J A Allsop, Mrs S M Allsop, D Bowley, S J Bradford, Ms T Critchlow, S J Ellis, Mrs G A Farrington, M Ford, J P Harrison, Mrs C A Hart, G K Hickton, J C Jackson, C W Jones, M Lacey, A I Lewer, B Lewis, M V Longden, G J E MacDonald, W Major, P Makin, P Murray, K L Parkinson, R A Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, G W Purdy, Mrs G P Reddy, S A Spencer, J N Stevens, Mrs J A Twigg, G D Wharmby, Mrs J Wharmby and D Wilson.

Abstained – (0)

(2) Motion submitted by Councillor Ms A Western:-

Remploy

Moved by Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

“This Council believes that Remploy factories transform the lives of disabled people and those experiencing complex barriers to work by providing sustainable employment opportunities.

This Council supports the workers of the Remploy factory in Chesterfield who face job losses as a result of the Government’s plans to sell off the factory.

This Council resolves to write to all local MPs and the new Minister for Disabilities within the next month stating the Council’s opposition to the sale of the Chesterfield factory.”

The motion was debated by Council.

Councillor Western’s motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

At the request of at least 5 Members, a recorded vote was taken and recorded as follows –

For the motion – (21) Councillors D Allen, Mrs E Atkins, Mrs G Birkin, Mrs M W Booth, W Burrows, Mrs C M Cox, S Flitter, K Gillott, M A Higginbottom, R L Hosker, B C Lucas, Mrs C Pidgeon, B Ridgway, A H Rogers, R W Russell, P J Smith, K Stevenson, Mrs M Stockdale, D B Taylor, Ms A Western and D J Wilcox.

Against the motion – (33) - Councillors J A Allsop, Mrs S M Allsop, R B Baldry, D Bowley, S J Bradford, Ms T Critchlow, S J Ellis, Mrs G A Farrington, M Ford, J P Harrison, Mrs C A Hart, G K Hickton, J C Jackson, C W Jones, M Lacey, A I Lewer, B Lewis, M V Longden, G J E MacDonald, W Major, P Makin, P Murray, K L Parkinson, R A

Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, G W Purdy, Mrs G P Reddy, S A Spencer, J N Stevens, Mrs J A Twigg, G D Wharmby, Mrs J Wharmby and D Wilson.

Abstained – (0)

87/12 COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT The Council's Annual Report was intended to communicate to the Council's stakeholders, how the Council was performing and its plans for the future. The report highlighted the Authority's achievements against the following five key priorities:

- Leading the way
- Good use of public money
- Raising aspirations
- High quality personalised services that meet individual needs
- Places where people want to be

The report also summarised the Authority's 2011/12 financial performance and outlined key challenges for the year ahead.

On the motion of Councillor A I Lewer, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to approve the Council's Annual Report for 2011/12.

88/12 AGREEMENT TO WAIVE THE CALL-IN PROVISIONS On the motion of Councillor A I Lewer, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to note the report on the agreements to waive the call-in provisions.

89/12 ORDER OF BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

With the recent increase in the number of members of the public attending Council meetings, it had become apparent that the normal order of business could be improved.

The Council's Constitution provided that:-

"The order of business at the Council will be as follows:-

- (a) If necessary, the appointment of the Chairman
- (b) Chairman's announcements
- (c) Questions submitted by the public
- (d) Questions submitted by Members
- (e) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (f) Motions concerning the minutes of committees and the Cabinet

- (g) Motions of which notice has been given”

The items which were of particular interest to the public tended to be items (c) (Questions by the Public), (d) (Questions by Members) and (g) (Motions). It was therefore proposed that the consideration of motions should be brought forward on the standard agenda so that this followed on from public and members’ questions. This would avoid the need for members of the public to be in attendance during the consideration of minutes, which could be protracted.

The amended Constitution would read as follows:-

“The order of business at the Council will be as follows:-

- (a) If necessary, the appointment of the Chairman
- (b) Chairman’s announcements
- (c) Questions submitted by the public
- (d) Questions submitted by Members
- (e) Motions of which notice has been given
- (f) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (g) Motions concerning the minutes of committees and the Cabinet”

On the motion of Councillor A I Lewer, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to approve the variation to the order of business at Council meetings as set out above.

90/12 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION –
DELEGATIONS TO CHIEF OFFICERS Part C of the Appendix to Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution set out specific delegations to Chief Officers. The list of delegations had recently been reviewed to ensure that it remained up to date and that functions were dealt with at the appropriate level.

It was recommended that the following be added to the list of specific delegations to the Strategic Director of Environmental Services:-

SDES36 To revoke prescribed improvement lines and prescribed building lines under sections 73 and 74 of the Highways Act 1980 (improvement and building lines prescribe the width of streets and the frontage lines for buildings and may be removed when they are no longer necessary or desirable).

SDES37 To authorise enforcement action orders under sections 143, 149 and 164 of the Highways Act 1980 (these orders require the

removal of structures and deposits from highways and the removal of barbed wire from adjoining land).

SDES38 To approve the rescinding of new street orders made under section 159 of the Highways Act 1959 (this enables the highway authority to secure land for highway improvements where building operations are taking place adjacent to an existing highway).

SDES39 To approve applications to site objects on highway land such as noticeboards or signs made under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

SDES40 To authorise development on land under section 219(4)(e) of the Highways Act 1980 (this section enables an authority to exempt a development from the requirement to pay a sum in certain circumstances).

SDES41 To approve the adoption of privately maintainable highways or streets under Sections 37, 38 and 228 of the Highways Act 1980 so that the highways or streets become maintainable by the Council at public expense.

SDES42 To authorise the erection, alteration, maintenance or removal of structures (including raised paving, pillars, walls, rails, fences or barriers) on highways, bridleways or footpaths under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1980.

SDES43 In consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, to award Greenwatch Action Grants.

SDES44 To accept grants up to £50,000 in respect of projects undertaken by the Environmental Services Department.

SDES45 To respond to consultations received relating to applications to stop up or divert sections of highway under section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where it is necessary for the purpose of enabling a development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission or as specified by a government department.

In accordance with good practice, the Cabinet Member and local Members will be kept appropriately informed of decision making in respect of the above.

On the motion of Councillor A I Lewer, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to approve the amendments to the list of specific delegations to the Strategic Director of Environmental Services as set out above.

91/12 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS At its
meeting on 20 June 2012 Council:-

- established the new Standards Committee;
- agreed the arrangements for dealing with complaints;
- agreed the process for recruiting three Independent Persons; and
- agreed to the retention of the National Code of Conduct pending the adoption of a new Code.

Council authorised the Chief Executive, the Director of Legal Services and the Director of Human Resources to commence the process of recruitment of three Independent Persons for appointment by the Council. The recruitment process had now been undertaken and it was to be recommended that Mr Keith Jackson-Horner, Mr Peter Smith and Ms Saira Ali be appointed, subject to satisfactory references. It was proposed that each Independent Person should be paid an allowance of £125 per session for attendance at meetings, hearings or events.

An early task for the new Standards Committee would be to consider the possibility of the Council adopting a new, lighter touch style of Code of Conduct based on a model provided by the Local Government Association (LGA). The Localism Act still required each authority to have a code of conduct, with each authority having a discretion as to the provisions of its code, provided that it is consistent with the seven “Nolan” Principles of standards in public life – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Additionally, the Localism Act and supplementary regulations required that an authority’s code of conduct include the provisions that the authority considered appropriate in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other interests. A proposed new Code for approval and adoption was presented.

Arrangements were being made for training Members on the new Code and legislative requirements. A half-day training session was to take place on 15 October, with a further session to be held following the 2013 Council elections.

On the motion of Councillor A I Lewer, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to (1) note that the proposed appointment of Independent Persons would be reported to the next Council meeting following the receipt of references;

(2) approve and adopt the Code of Conduct for Members at Appendix 1 to the report;

(3) note the Guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding Members' Interests at Appendix 2 to the report;

(4) approve and adopt the proposed amendment to the Council's Rules of Procedure relating to the withdrawal from meetings at Appendix 3 to the report; and

(5) note the proposal for training Members on the new Code.

92/12 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT On the motion of Councillor Mrs J A Twigg, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to receive the Annual Report on the work of the Council's Improvement and Scrutiny Committees during 2011/12.