

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 19 January 2017 at 6.00pm at The Place, Oakengates, Telford

Present:

Councillors J C Ashford, S L Barnes, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E J Carter, L D Carter, E A Clare, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans (Mayor), I T W Fletcher, J A Francis, C A Furnival, E J Greenaway, M B Hosken, J Jones, R T Kiernan, A Lawrence, J Loveridge, N C Lowery, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta, J C Minor, T J Nelson, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds, H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, R J Sloan, C F Smith (Speaker), K T Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling and D G Wright

63. Prayers

In the absence of a member of the Clergy, no prayers were said.

64. Apologies for Absence

Councillors V A Fletcher, A A Meredith, M J Smith and B D Tillotson.

(NB Councillors G K Cook, K R Guy and L A Murray were also absent from the meeting.)

65. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer referred to Minute Number 71 – Council Tax Support Scheme – and advised that any Member in receipt of Council Tax Support or Council Tax Hardship funds should leave the room during discussion of the item. He also updated Members on existing case law regarding the reading and understanding of the report.

66. Minutes of the Council

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 24 November 2016 and 7 December 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

67. Leader's Report & Announcements

The Leader wished all present a happy new year and welcomed Councillor R Mehta to his first Council meeting. He reminded the meeting that the Cabinet had recently published its Budget Strategy for 2017/18 for consultation and views were being sought from residents regarding the Government's proposals that Councils may take the opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the Adult Social Care Precept with increases of 3% in 2017/18 and in 2018/19 rather than the original assumption of 2% in each of the next 3 years. The Leader commented on the extent of Government funding cuts and the Council's efforts to generate its own income and

attract business to the area through its 'Business Winning, Business Supporting' ethos. He noted that the Borough's unemployment figures were reducing and were lower than the regional average and thanked the Youth Unemployment Team for their work in reducing youth unemployment. The Leader went on to remind the meeting that consultation was ongoing until 27 January on proposed changes to the school catchment boundaries, that the European Christmas Market would return this year following last year's success, that the 2016 pantomime had been the most successful to date and every library in the borough had been safeguarded. Finally, the Leader reported on the current PRH4Me campaign and urged the Council to unite and work together on this important issue.

68. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor highlighted that she would be holding a Charity Ball on 17 March 2017 in support of her chosen charities for the year. She also announced the launch of the "£s for LBs" challenge and thanked the Healthy Lifestyles Team for their support with this fundraising opportunity.

The Mayor also expressed congratulations to a number of local young people who had recently achieved the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and she was pleased to honour them further with a certificate of achievement from the Council. Certificates would be sent to: E Sullman, R Burke, R Thomas, R Edwards, J Kirk, K Wong, A Pugh, P Humphreys and J Llewellyn.

69. Public Questions

The following question to Cllr A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services was submitted by Carol Scott MBE:

"I am pleased that Telford and Wrekin have launched "My Telford". Can you advise what advances are being made to update each incident status so that the reporting individual knows what action is being taken and are there plans to identify replications to save duplication of time and effort?"

Cllr A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services responded that My Telford launched in August 2016 and to date 7800 personal accounts had been created. The current version of the application allowed residents to report issues of concern, track history and status of reports, apply for school places and apply for permits. Additional functionality had been made available through the application on a regular basis and there were some final changes to be made before the application would be launch and marketed in April 2017 and the Cabinet Member encouraged all residents to sign up. This would include notifying the user if a report had already been made and further developments were planned for later in the year. The application had been created in-house at saving of £1m in design costs.

70. Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council.

Service & Financial Planning 2017/18 to 2019/20

Councillor A J Eade believed that the two unitary authorities in Shropshire were unable to work together due to a Motion carried in May 2014. He asked what plans were in place to rectify this so that efficiency savings could be made.

Councillor S Davies responded that there were a number of areas in which this Council and the County Council worked jointly, eg adoption, financial services and pensions. The Leader made no apology for the Administration not sharing senior posts with the County as he believed a single authority would be conflicted on issues such as securing business for the borough and retention of hospital services in Telford, issues to which this Administration was committed and would not support what he considered would amount to a takeover from Shropshire Council.

Local Development Order – Householder Extensions and Alterations

Councillor N A Dugmore asked if a neighbour dispute precipitated by the adoption of the LDO ended up in Court, what liability would this Council have?

Councillor R A Overton responded that the LDO related to non-controversial applications and that would mean if a dispute was identified during the LDO process, it would require full planning permission.

School Funding Formula 2017/18

Councillor N A Dugmore asked what adjustments would be made to the School Funding Formula in light of the borough's secondary schools performance?

Councillor G C W Reynolds responded that the School Funding Formula was unchanged. The Funding Formula was changing later this year resulting in the loss of £2m Educational Services Grant which made a real difference to what could be done to improve schools. The aim was to drive up performance in Secondary Schools. The borough had excellent performance in Primary Schools and she considered this would also be achieved in Secondary Schools, as the Council continued to work with staff and students to ensure they embraced the change and continue to improve.

71. Recommendations from Cabinet

Cabinet – 5 January 2017

(i) 2016/17 Financial Management Report

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance, Partnerships & Commercial Services, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & HR. He noted that the Financial Management report to Cabinet on 5 January 2017 had provided an update on progress relating to the capital programme. This subsequent report highlighted some new capital allocations and slippage which required formal approval by Full Council.

RESOLVED that the changes to the capital programme in section 1 of the report be approved

(ii) Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance, Partnerships & Commercial Services, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services which recommended approval of the revised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 and the continuation of the Council Tax Hardship Policy and Fund.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the Council Tax Support Scheme Policy for 2017/18 as shown at Appendix A of the report be approved.**
- (b) the continuation of the Council Tax Hardship Policy and accompanying funding be approved.**

72. Setting of the Council Tax Base for 2017/18

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources (Chief Finance Officer) which determined the Council Tax base for General and Special Fund purposes for 2017/18. In doing so, it was noted that the report referred to “Wrockwardine & Trench” Ward when this should be “Wrockwardine Wood & Trench”.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the calculation of the tax base for 2017/18 as at paragraph 5.6 and Appendix 1 of the report be approved.**
- (b) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), the amount calculated for Telford and Wrekin Council Tax base for 2017/18 for its Special Fund Area shall be as per the appropriate parish amounts detailed in Appendix 1 of the report for the parishes listed in paragraph 5.7 of the report subject to “Wrockwardine & Trench” Ward being amended to read “Wrockwardine Wood & Trench”.**

73. Update to the Council’s Constitution and Political Balance

Councillor S Davies, Leader, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning which set out the options relating to the power of referral to the Secretary of State following the Joint Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Health Scrutiny Committee’s consideration of a substantial variation or development in health services and informed Members of changes in the Council’s political balance. He drew attention to the revised political balance calculation and nominations to Committees and Boards which had been tabled following Cllr C A Furnival joining the Conservative Group.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) **the Constitution be amended to the effect that Telford & Wrekin Council retains the power of referral following consideration of a substantial variation or development in health service by the Joint Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Joint Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (b) **following the consideration of a contested substantial variation or development in health service that the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee has the power to recommend to Full Council that the contested change in service is referred to the Secretary of State. Any referral to the Secretary of State will be made by Full Council;**
- (c) **the change to the Council's political balance as detailed in the tabled revision be noted;**
- (d) **the corresponding changes in the number and allocation of seats on the Council's Committees/Boards be endorsed; and**
- (e) **Council appoints the Committees/Boards and membership thereof, as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes, for the remainder of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.**

74. Questions

The following questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 6.2.2:-

- (a) **Councillor S J Reynolds asked the following question of Councillor A R H England, Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care & Older People**

“The current government seems determined to ignore the significant pressure currently faced by the health and social care sector. Would the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care explain what impact this is having on our ability to provide an effective adult care service and to maintain a resilient provider market?”

Councillor A R H England responded noted that government austerity measures had a detrimental effect on the vulnerable and disabled in society. It was disappointing that the autumn statement did not reference adult social care pressures and the Local Government financial settlement cut the New Homes Bonus to support one off adult social care support grant or pass on cuts to local tax payers by increasing the adult social care precept more quickly. However, he offered reassurance that the Council was working with public sector partners to build greater resilience in communities, restructuring the work force, developing new systems and pathways to work with clients in a different way. He went on to thank all staff working in this area for their commitment and understanding while these changes took effect. This approach would be based on providing the right help at the right time and promote independence. Early signs, in the borough and in trailblazing authorities such as Essex and Hertfordshire, indicated this approach could work by providing better outcomes at lower cost but it would take considerable time to put in place. Government cuts did not, however, allow sufficient time or provide sufficient funding

to support the significant costs of change or to support neighbourhood working, a key part of the STP strategy to manage demand away from hospitals. Throughout this process, the market would need to be carefully managed as demand for traditional care placements reduced, failure could occur and this would need to be managed by working with the sector to diversify to meet the challenges ahead.

Councillor S J Reynolds asked whether the Cabinet Member explain what Telford & Wrekin were doing across the Borough to support our older residents, to lessen the impact of the underfunding crisis in Adult Care.

Councillor A R H England indicated that despite a lack of funding, the new approach referred to was based on pilot work undertaken approx. 12 months ago and the experience of early trailblazing work elsewhere which would lessen the impact to older residents. The Council would also work with providers to enable them to adapt their model to one capable of supporting older people remain in their own homes allowing more resources to be invested in community care and health which was considerably less expensive than a hospital or residential unit.

(b) Councillor N A M England asked the following question of Councillor S Davies, Leader

“We all know that the Council is doing all it can to protect our local services at the Princess Royal Hospital and that you have been standing up for residents and holding those involved to account. Please could you update the Council on how the meeting went with the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, and what progress has been made since the meeting?”

In his response, Councillor S Davies paid tribute to the NHS frontline staff and reminded the Council that the Council’s issue was not with them but with underfunding of the NHS and Adult Social Care by the Government. He advised that Mark Pritchard MP had arranged the meeting with the Secretary of State went well and, although no assurances were made in respect of retaining both emergency departments, the Health Secretary did concede that the final decision rested with him due to the power of referral discussed earlier in the meeting. He assured the Council that he would continue to press the case for two well funded and well resourced accident and emergency departments in the County.

The Leader noted it was almost two years since the Royal Visit to open the £20m Women’s and Children’s Unit. He considered that the Secretary of State had a moral and legal obligation to protect NHS funds and should, therefore, intervene in this crisis.

Councillor N A M England whether, following calls for better collaborative working with our local MPs, the Leader had noticed an improvement in the working relationship?

Councillor S Davies responded that it depended on the MP.

(c) Councillor I T W Fletcher asked the following question of Councillor A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services Leader

“Following on from the response given to my question at the 24th November meeting regarding approaches to Severn Trent over their delays in the work at Limekiln roundabout. Would the Cabinet member advise the Council if any compensation has been forthcoming from Severn Trent for the delays?”

Councillor A D McClements responded that following a robust intervention by the Council, work had been completed before Christmas and she thanked those individuals who had paid key roles in ensuring completion of the works. Whilst the works had been disruptive, there had been a positive response to the results of the improvement works. The Council was now in ongoing discussions with Severn Trent regarding the financial consequences and working with them towards a solution but those negotiations were at a critical stage and were required to be kept confidential.

Councillor I T W Fletcher asked whether the residents of Priorslee would be compensated.

Councillor A D McClements reiterated that discussions with Severn Trent were ongoing but that Councillor Fletcher would be kept updated on the outcome.

(d) Councillor I T W Fletcher asked the following question of Councillor A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services Leader

“Would you advise members what action is being taken by this Council to advise pensioners how to renew their concessionary nationwide bus passes?”

Councillor A D McClements responded that the process was automated. Since September 2016, an ICT software package to allow the Council to automatically renew bus passes as age was the only qualifying criteria. This removed the requirement for each applicant to apply on expiry. Renewed passes were ordered 6 days before expiry so that they were received by the customer in good time before the existing pass ran out. On average, approximately 400 passes were renewed per month. Bus passes could be awarded for a maximum of five years and between January and March 12,000 passes would reach their five year renewal anniversary. To prepare for this mass renewal, concessionary travel data had been cross checked against a number of Council databases to minimise the risk of error. The process would be more convenient for customers and efficient and cost effective to the Council as opposed to asking each individual to reapply. A press release had been issued, there had been media coverage and the Pensioners Forum had been advised.

Councillor I T W Fletcher thanked the Cabinet Member for her response as he had had to apply online for his own renewal.

75. Notices of Motion

(a) Councillor K S Sahota moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

“Since the Brexit vote we have seen a rise in hate crime across the Country.

We are proud to represent and live in a diverse, multi cultural and tolerant community where Racism, Xenophobia and other hate crimes have no place in the Borough of Telford and Wrekin.

This council condemns Hate Crime in the strongest possible terms and will not allow it to remain unchallenged or to be accepted.

We will work with our partners to ensure that we have the necessary support and the resources to reduce these crimes.

We would like to reassure everyone living in the Borough of Telford and Wrekin, regardless of their background, that they are a valued member of our community.”

Councillor A J Burford seconded the Motion.

Following a robust debate, the Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

RESOLVED - that the motion be approved

The meeting ended at 7.19pm

Mayor:

Date:

GOVERNANCE

Standards Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr J C Ashford (Con) Cllr S Barnes (Con) Cllr A R H England (Lab) Cllr N A M England (Lab) Cllr C A Furnival (Con) Cllr R T Kiernan (Con) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) Cllr K S Sahota (Lab) – Chair Cllr M J Smith (Lab) – Vice Chair	

Audit Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) Cllr A Lawrence (Con) Cllr R Mehta (Lab) Cllr K S Sahota (Lab) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) – Chair Cllr C F Smith (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr W L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind) Cllr D G Wright (Con)	

Council Constitution Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr A G J Eade (Con) Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr R A Overton (Lab) Cllr K S Sahota (Lab) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) Cllr C F Smith (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr M J Smith (Lab) – Chair Cllr B D Tillotson (Con) Cllr W L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind)	

Boundary Review Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr K T Blundell (Lib Dem/Ind) Cllr N A Dugmore (Con) Cllr A J Eade (Con) Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) Cllr A D McClements (Lab) Cllr R A Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr G C W Reynolds (Lab) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) – Chair	

REGULATORY

Planning Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr N A Dugmore (Con) Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr J Loveridge (Lab) Cllr N C Lowery (Con) Cllr J C Minor (Lab) – Chair Cllr L A Murray (Lab) Cllr S J Reynolds (Lab) Cllr P J Scott (Lib Dem/Ind) Cllr C R Turley (Lab) – Vice-Chair	<u>Labour Subs</u> Cllr G H Cook Cllr R Mehta Cllr C F Smith Cllr M J Smith <u>Conservative Subs</u> Cllr J A Francis Cllr R T Kiernan Cllr E J Greenaway <u>Lib Dem/Ind Sub</u> Cllr W L Tomlinson

Licensing Committee –11 Seats	
Cllr M Boylan (Con) Cllr G H Cook (Lab) Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr J A Francis (Con) Cllr M B Hosken (Con) Cllr C N Mason (Lab) – Chair Cllr S J Reynolds (Lab) Cllr J M Seymour (Con) Cllr C F Smith (Lab) Cllr M J Smith (Lab) Cllr C R Turley (Lab) – Vice Chair	<u>Labour Subs</u> Cllr K R Guy Cllr J Jones Cllr J C Minor Cllr J A Pinter <u>Conservative Subs</u> Cllr J C Ashford Cllr S P Burrell Cllr R T Kiernan Cllr N C Lowery Vacant

SCRUTINY

Scrutiny Management Board – 9 Seats	
Cllr S Bentley (Con) Cllr A J Burford (Lab) Cllr N A M England (Lab) Cllr V A Fletcher (Con) Cllr E J Greenaway (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab) - Chair Cllr J M Seymour (Con) Cllr C R Turley (Lab)	

Scrutiny Committee – Finance & Enterprise – 9 Seats

Cllr S Bentley (Con)
Cllr S P Burrell (Con)
Cllr A J Burford (Lab)
Cllr N A Dugmore (Con)
Cllr R Mehta (Lab)
Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab) – Chair
Cllr R J Sloan (Lab)
Cllr C F Smith (Lab)
Cllr D G Wright (Con)

Scrutiny Committee – Children & Young People – 9 Seats

Cllr S Barnes (Con)
Cllr J A Francis (Con)
Cllr K R Guy (Lab) – Chair
Cllr J Jones (Lab)
Cllr N C Lowery (Con)
Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab)
Cllr K S Sahota (Lab)
Cllr J A Pinter (Lab)
Cllr K L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind)

Scrutiny Committee – Customer, Community & Partnership – 9 Seats

Cllr J C Ashford (Con)
Cllr N A M England (Lab) - Chair
Cllr K R Guy (Lab)
Cllr L A Murray (Lab)
Cllr S J Reynolds (Lab)
Cllr P J Scott (Lib Dem/I)
Cllr J M Seymour (Con)
Cllr B D Tillotson (Con)
Cllr C R Turley (Lab)

Scrutiny Committee – Health & Adult Care – 9 Seats

Cllr M Boylan (Con)
Cllr A J Burford (Lab) – Chair
Cllr V A Fletcher (Con)
Cllr C A Furnival (Con)
Cllr R Mehta (Lab)
Cllr L A Murray (Lab)
Cllr T Nelson (Con)
Cllr J A Pinter (Lab)
Cllr R J Sloan (Lab)

Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee – 3 Seats	
Cllr A J Burford (Lab) – Chair Cllr V A Fletcher (Con) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab)	

PERSONNEL

Appeals Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr J C Ashford (Con) Cllr J A Francis (Con) Cllr C A Furnival (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr M J Smith (Lab) – Chair Cllr C N Mason (Lab) Cllr A A Meredith (Con) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) Cllr C F Smith (Lab)	<u>Labour Subs</u> Cllr K S Sahota Vacant Vacant Vacant <u>Conservative Subs</u> Cllr S P Burrell Cllr N A Dugmore Cllr D G Wright

Personnel Committee – 9 Seats	
Cllr S Bentley (Con) Cllr A J Burford (Lab) Cllr L Carter (Lab) Cllr S Davies (Lab) – Chair Cllr N A Dugmore (Con) Cllr A J Eade (Con) Cllr R A Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr P R Watling (Lab) Cllr W L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind)	

OTHER

Health & Wellbeing Board – 14 Seats	
Cllr E A Clare	Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks, Events & Green Spaces
Cllr A R H England	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care & Older People
Cllr R A Overton – Chair	Cabinet Member - Housing, Leisure & Health
Cllr K L Tomlinson	Lib Dem/Independent Group
Cllr J M Seymour	Conservative Group Chief Operating Officer,
Cllr P R Watling	Cabinet Member – Children, Young People & Communities
D Evans	Chief Operating Officer, Telford & Wrekin CCG
Dr J Leahy – Vice Chair	Chair, Telford & Wrekin CCG
C Jones	Director of Adult and Children’s Services, TWC
R Woods	NHS England
E Noakes	Director of Public Health, TWC
J Chaplin	Healthwatch
T Harding	Community Safety Partnership

Combined Fire Authority – 6 Seats	
Cllr E J Carter (Con)	
Cllr M B Hosken (Con)	
Cllr L A Murray (Lab)	
Cllr J Pinter (Lab)	
Cllr K S Sahota (Lab)	
Cllr C R Turley (Lab)	

West Mercia Energy Joint Committee	
Cllr L D Carter (Lab)	Substitutes
Cllr H Rhodes (Lab)	Cllr R A Overton (Lab)
	Cllr P R Watling (Lab)

WMCA Board	
Cllr S Davies (Lab)	Substitute
	Cllr R A Overton (Lab)

WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
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Cllr N A M England (Lab)	<u>Substitute</u> Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab)
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WMCA Audit Committee	
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Cllr R J Sloan (Lab)	<u>Substitute</u> Cllr C F Smith (Lab)
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