

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL duly convened and held on Thursday, 25th February, 2010 at 7.00 pm at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury

Present: Councillor Cragg (Lord Mayor)

Councillor Anderson, Councillor Austin, Councillor Berridge, Councillor Bissett, Councillor Calvert-Mindell, Councillor Carnell, Councillor Davis, Councillor Dixey, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Dye, Councillor Ellis, Councillor M Flaherty, Councillor R Flaherty, Councillor Flanagan, Councillor Gilbey, Councillor Hando, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Law, Councillor Lee, Councillor Linfield, Councillor MacCaul, Councillor McCabe, Councillor McMahan, Councillor Parsons, Councillor Patterson, Councillor A Perkins, Councillor J Perkins, Councillor Pickersgill, Councillor Reuby, Councillor Samper, Councillor Sharp, Councillor Sonnex, Councillor Staley, Councillor Steed, Councillor A Taylor, Councillor H Taylor, Councillor Thomas, Councillor Todd, Councillor Vickers, Councillor Vickery-Jones, Councillor Vye, Councillor Windsor and Councillor Wratten

629 PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayers by the Lord Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Canon Norman Woods.

The Lord Mayor remarked that he was pleased to see his Chaplain at the meeting following his recent hip operation.

630 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eden-Green, Fisher, Matthews, Parry and Seath and for lateness from Councillor Vickers.

631 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors Gilbey, A Perkins and Wratten each made a statement on behalf of the Members of their respective groups that any interests, which had been declared by their Members, as set out in previous meetings in so far as they related to the business for this meeting, were deemed to be declared again for this meeting.

Councillor Calvert-Mindell declared a personal interest in the item regarding East Kent Joint Housing Landlord Services because of her position as a leaseholder of council accommodation.

632 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor reminded the council that following the decision to allow an audio recording of the meeting on 18 February 2010 and because the whole of the

business for that meeting had not been completed that evening, there would be an audio recording of this meeting.

633 EXECUTIVE MINUTES/ REPORTS TO FULL COUNCIL

(A) East Kent Joint Housing Landlord Services

(At the commencement of the meeting, Councillor Calvert-Mindell had declared a personal interest in this item because of her position as a leaseholder of council accommodation).

- (1) It was proposed by Councillor Gilbey, seconded by Councillor Mrs Law, that the council approve the following recommendation at Minute No. E208 of the Executive meeting held on 4 February 2010 -

That the council merge the delivery of housing management landlord services between two or more of the East Kent councils by agreement of the following:

1. that the arms length housing shared service option be confirmed as the preferred method for sharing landlord services in East Kent subject to final agreement by each council following the undertaking of appropriate consultation with tenants to satisfy the requirements of s27 of the Housing Act 1985;
2. that any vacancies related to the housing management activities to be undertaken by the Housing Shared Service Vehicle be managed to minimise potential severance costs;
3. that the housing management functions set out in Appendix A, Annex 2 are approved activities to be undertaken by the Housing Shared service Vehicle;
4. that the housing shared service vehicle is set up as a company limited by guarantee;
5. that the board of the company will comprise twelve people – four elected members nominated by the local authority, four independents and four tenant/leaseholder representatives;
6. that Area Boards be set up in each participating council area;
7. that the draft Memorandum and Articles for the SSV company reflect the governance and legal issues set out in Appendix A , Annex 3 subject to the addition of provisions for internal audit;
8. that each council's Chief Executive be authorised to make any decisions and any changes necessary to these proposals, in consultation with the Leader, to pursue the project up to final council approval to join the Housing Shared Service Vehicle.

WHEREUPON

- (2) It was proposed by Councillor A Perkins, seconded by Councillor MacCaul that the consultation in this District be via a vote of each tenant on whether they wish to join in.
- (3) Following a debate, the amendment at (2) above was then put and it was LOST.

(4) The original motion at (1) above was then put and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

(B) East Kent Shared Support Services

(1) It was proposed by Councillor Gilbey, seconded by Councillor Mrs Law, that the council approve the following recommendations at Minute No. E209 of the Executive Meeting held on 4 February 2010 -

That the East Kent District Councils of Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, The District Council of Shepway and Thanet District Council ("the East Kent Authorities") are minded to merge the delivery of each of the services generally described as ICT, face to face and contact centre customer services, revenues and benefits, residual housing services and building control ("the services") between two or more of them subject to the following process which the Council is recommended to approve:-

- (a) A business case or business cases shall be prepared in respect of each of the services which shall amongst other things describe the proposed merged service, the arrangements between the parties, the savings to be achieved both generally and for each Council and the level of service it is proposed to provide, such business cases to be presented in an agreed format to each of the East Kent Authorities.
- (b) The Council shall delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader the power to approve a business case on its behalf mindful that the business case shows to his satisfaction that savings of 10% against the existing combined budgets must be achieved in the first two years and that an acceptable level of service to his council can be delivered.
- (c) If the Chief Executive is not so satisfied for those or any other reasons he shall expeditiously refer the business case for consideration to the Council's executive if it concerns an executive function or to the appropriate committee if it is a council function
- (d) If the Chief Executive or the executive or the committee as the case may be is so satisfied then a delegation to the East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee shall thereupon occur of the powers and duties of the Council as defined in the business case such delegation to take effect on 1st April 2011 or such other date or dates as the Chief Executives of the East Kent Authorities who have made similar delegations shall mutually agree in respect of that service.
- (e) The East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee will delegate such powers to officers as it thinks fit in relation to the services and is requested to appoint one of the East Kent Authorities as the host authority by whom all such officers will be employed.
- (f) Vacancy management arrangements shall be developed by the Chief Executives of the East Kent Authorities in relation to each of the services proposed to be merged pending such merger.
- (g) Any decision regarding the delivery of the services by other methods by the Council and by each of the East Kent Authorities be deferred and be reconsidered no earlier than May 2011.

- (h) To authorise the Chief Executive to take any steps necessary on behalf of the Council to explore or facilitate the joint delivery of the services.
- (i) To appoint the Director of Shared Services with the intent he or she will take up their post as quickly as possible after some or all of the East Kent Authorities have adopted these proposals.

WHEREUPON

- (2) Following a debate, it was proposed by Councillor A Perkins, seconded by Councillor Dixey that the Council do not take a decision on the proposal for six months.

(At this point Councillor Vye declared a personal interest in the item because of his position as Vice-Chairman of the East Kent (Joint Scrutiny) Committee. He indicated that he wished to speak on the item as a Member of the Council).

- (3) Following a debate, the amendment at (2) above was then put and it was LOST.
- (4) It was then proposed by Councillor Berridge and seconded by Councillor Vye that paragraph (b) in the original motion at (1) above be amended by the deletion of the word "shows" where it appears in the third line and the insertion of the words "must show".
- (5) The Chief Executive then advised that this amendment had the same meaning as the original motion, but indicated that it was acceptable if the council was minded to approve the amendment.
- (6) Councillor Gilbey, as the proposer of the original motion at (1) above, then indicated that he was happy to accept the amendment at (4) above.
- (7) Following a debate, the amendment at (4) above was then put and it was CARRIED.
- (8) Following a debate, the original motion at (1) above as amended by the details at (4), was then put and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

(C) Treasury Management and Annual Strategy for 2010/11 including Prudential Borrowing limits for 2010/11 to 2012/13

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbey, seconded by Councillor Mrs Law, and

RESOLVED – That the council approve the following recommendations at Minute No. E206 of the Executive meeting held on 4 February 2010 -

- 1. That the Council should formally adopt the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice (the Code) as revised in 2009;
- 2. That the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy (as detailed in paragraphs 1.4 – 8 and as now amended by the addition of a Special Interest Bearing Call Account with Nat West Bank) for 2010/11 be approved;

3. That the Council will create and maintain:
 - a) A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities (Appendix 5);
 - b) Suitable treasury management practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.
 - c) The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Executive, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Director of Corporate Services, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.
 - d) The Council nominates the Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.
 - e) Members should be provided with access to relevant training. Those charged with governance are personally responsible for ensuring they have the necessary skills and training.
4. That for the purposes of Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003, for the financial years 2010/11 – 2012/13:

The Council's Prudential Borrowing and other limits shall be as shown in section 3 and 1c.

5. That the Statement of Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision in section 8 be approved.
6. That the Director of Corporate Services be allowed to vary the policy of using major capital receipts to fund major capital projects where it is in the council's interest to use receipts in order to reduce borrowing charges.

(D) Executive Meeting - 21 January 2010 - Minutes

The council received the minutes of the above meeting.

(E) Executive Meeting - 4 February 2010 - Minutes

The council received the minutes of the above meeting.

634 QUESTIONS

There were no questions for the meeting under Rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules.

635 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 14 January 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

636 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27 JANUARY 2010**

It was proposed by Councillor Samper, seconded by Councillor Reuby, and

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 January 2010 be received.

637 **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 5 JANUARY 2010**

It was proposed by Councillor Samper, seconded by Councillor McCabe, and

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 5 January 2010 be received.

638 **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 8 FEBRUARY 2010**

It was proposed by Councillor Sharp, seconded by Councillor H Taylor, and

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 8 February 2010 be received and the recommendations contained therein at Minute No. 611 (Review of Members' Allowances) be approved.

639 **HOUSING APPEALS AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2010**

It was proposed by Councillor MacCaul, seconded by Councillor Linfield, and

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Appeals and Benefits Committee held on 29 January 2010 be received.

640 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was proposed by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor J Perkins, and

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 21 December 2009, 5 and 14 January 2010 be received.

641 **WHITSTABLE HARBOUR BOARD - 22 JANUARY 2010**

It was proposed by Councillor Dixey, seconded by Councillor Harrison, and

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Whitstable Harbour Board held on 22 January 2010 be received and the recommendation contained therein at Minute No. 570(b) (reduction in future staffing budget) be approved.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.