

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 22 March 2017

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Alan Ewart-James, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Miss Susie Govett, Ms Janet Holben (Chairman), Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Mrs Claire Jeffrey, Mrs Mary Lawes, Len Laws, Rory Love, Philip Martin, Frank McKenna, Ian Meyers, David Monk, David Owen, Dick Pascoe, Paul Peacock, Stuart Peall, Damon Robinson, Carol Sacre, Peter Simmons, Mrs Susan Wallace, Mrs Rodica Wheeler and Roger Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Michael Lyons

187. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

188. Annual Pay Policy Statement

Report A/16/27 presented the pay policy statement for 2017/18 for approval.

Proposed by Councillor David Monk;
Seconded by Councillor Alan Ewart-James, and

RESOLVED –

1. Report A/16/27 be received and noted.
2. Under S38(1) Localism Act 2011 the Pay Policy Statement appended to this report for 2017/18, be approved.

(Voting: For 29; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

189. East Kent Project Business Case

Proposed by Councillor Frank McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Mary Lawes and

RESOLVED That the application be considered “in committee” in accordance with council procedure rule 15.14.1, and that for the duration of this meeting the following rules be suspended:

- Procedure rule 15.3 (the prerogative of a Councillor seconding a motion to reserve their speech to later in the debate);
- Rule 15.4 (content and length of speeches)
- Rule 15.5 (when a Councillor may speak again) and
- Rule 21.1 (Councillors standing to speak).

(Voting: For 25; Against 1; Abstentions 3).

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Report A/16/28 presented the business case commissioned by the East Kent District Councils (as approved by each Council in July 2016). Local Partnerships and the Local Government Association (LGA) were commissioned to prepare the Business Case. Based on the emerging findings, Ashford Borough Council decided it no longer intended to be involved in the creation of a single council, however, the merits of the case for the remaining four districts were clear and a four way business case was subsequently prepared.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lawes;
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Govett,

That all talks around the East Kent Merger cease, and Shepway be removed from all discussions. Following advice from officers, Councillor Mrs Lawes accepted that the motion did not comply with the Council Procedure Rules.

Proposed by Councillor Monk;
seconded by Councillor Miss Carey, and

RESOLVED that the debate end, and the motion to accept the recommendations set out in the report be put to the vote.

(Voting: For 15; Against 13; Abstentions 1).

Proposed by Councillor Monk;
Seconded by Councillor Ewart-James, that

1. Report No A/16/28 be received and noted.
2. That having considered the business case, Council authorises Cabinet to explore further the abolition of the local government district areas of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet and the constitution of a new local government district area of East Kent comprising the areas of those districts.
3. That the unspent balance of the £20,000 previously agreed by the Council to fund the preparation of the business case be made available to fund a public consultation and engagement exercise.
4. That the Cabinet be requested to ensure an appropriate public consultation and engagement exercise is undertaken to ascertain views on the proposal set out in 2 above.
5. That a further report be submitted to the Council prior to the making of any submission to the Secretary of State, whilst Cabinet has the authority to proceed if so desired.

(Voting: For 8; Against 19; Abstentions 2).

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The motion was therefore defeated.