

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2017  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR JOHN FOX**

**Present:**

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Bisby, Bond, Brown, Bull, Casey, Cereste, Clark, Coles, Davidson, Dowson, Ellis, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Fower, Judy Fox, John Fox, Fuller, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, King, Lamb, Lane, Murphy, Nadeem, Nawaz, Okonkowski, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sandford, Seaton, Serluca, Shaheed, Sharp, Smith, Stokes, Sylvester, Walsh, and Whitby

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Khan, Lillis, Martin, Shearman, and Barkham.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 April 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**4. Mayor's Announcements**

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

**5. Political Groups and Group Officers 2017 / 2018**

The Mayor invited the Legal Officer to speak. The Legal Officer advised the Council that, following the resignation of Councillor Sanders from the Council, his name required removal from the political group list. Councillor Sanders' resignation further impacted on the political balance of the Council, to be discussed later in the agenda, as the Council was now in a position of no overall control. Group Leaders had met and agreed to maintain the status quo of political balance, to be reviewed following the 8 June 2017 bye-election. There were no committee meetings to be held before this date.

The membership of Political Groups and their Officers for the Municipal Year 2017 / 2018 were noted and agreed (unanimous), subject to the following amendments:

1. The removal of Councillor Sanders from the political group list;
2. The Labour Group 'Chairman' being amended to 'Chair';
3. The Conservative Group Secretary being amended to Councillor Ayres; and
4. The Conservative Group Press Officer being amended to Councillor Fitzgerald.

## 6. Appointment of the Executive and Leader's Scheme of Delegations

Councillor Holdich addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations as detailed within the report and presented his Scheme of Delegations advising that he would be retaining responsibility for 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority'. Councillor Holdich further named his Cabinet Members and advisors, their responsibilities and key areas to be addressed in the city during the year ahead, these included:

- Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Integrated Adult Social Care and Health
- Councillor Lynne Ayres - Cabinet Member for Education
- Councillor Gavin Elsey - Cabinet Member for Digital, Waste and Street Scene
- Councillor Peter Hiller - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development
- Councillor Diane Lamb - Cabinet Member for Public Health
- Councillor Irene Walsh - Cabinet Member for Communities
- Councillor Sam Smith - Cabinet Member for Children's Services
- Councillor David Seaton - Cabinet Member for Resources
- Councillor Steve Allen - Cabinet Advisor to the Leader
- Councillor June Stokes - Cabinet Advisor for Children's Safeguarding and Education

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

The Mayor invited Group Leaders and Members to comment on Councillor Holdich's proposals. In summary, key points raised included:

- Comment was made that the delegations proposed were no different than before.
- Focus on North Westgate and the Can Do area was welcomed, however it was noted that no comment was made on homelessness or the need for social housing.
- It was noted that while Peterborough was one of the smallest unitary authorities in the country, they had one of the largest Cabinets, and continued to appoint purely Conservative chairs. It was considered that this would be untenable if a position of no overall control was maintained.
- It was suggested that the level of Special Responsibility Allowance allocated to the Conservative Group needed to be addressed.
- Comment was made that action needed to be taken around the low attainment by local schools.
- It was noted that the Council's transport powers had been transferred to the Combined Authority, which did not appear to place Peterborough in a priority position.
- Concern was raised at the loss of dedicated Culture and City Centre portfolios.
- It was commented that support would be given to proposals that were good for the city, but that challenge would be made when necessary.
- It was hoped that proposed plans came to fruition, including those for a university in the city. Further comment was made that regrowth was needed in the outlying areas of the city, not just the city centre.

Councillor Fitzgerald exercised his right to speak as seconder of the recommendations and challenged opposition groups to present viable alternatives to proposals made. It was noted that a cross party review of homelessness had been undertaken, as well as the commencement of a housing company project with Cross Keys Homes.

Peterborough was a progressive city and the responsibility for culture and the city centre now lay within the Leader's portfolio.

Councillor Holdich summed up and advised that he would welcome input from other Groups into alternative ways of delivering services and noted that the Budget Working Group was cross party.

Following debate it was **AGREED** (unanimous) that Council:

- (a) Noted that the current Leader of the Council's term of office is until 2018;
- (b) Noted the appointment of the Cabinet and the Leader's Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members and officers (Appendix 1); and
- (c) Agreed to amend the Constitution to include the Leader's Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members and officers.

## 7. Committee Structures

Councillor Holdich addressed the meeting, moved recommendations as detailed within the report, and requested that Council note that the committee terms of reference had remained the same.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed by Councillor Holdich (unanimous) and it was **AGREED** that Council appoints the Committees listed below for the Municipal Year 2017/2018 and notes that no changes had been made to the terms of reference of these committees.

Committee
<u>Ordinary Committees subject to political balance seat allocations:</u> Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee Health Scrutiny Committee Children and Education Scrutiny Committee Employment Committee Licensing Committee (Regulatory) Planning and Environmental Protection Committee Appeals and Planning Review Committee Audit Committee Corporate Parenting Committee
<u>Other bodies to which Section 15 LGHA does not apply</u> Health and Wellbeing Board Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003)

## 8. Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats

Councillor Holdich addressed the meeting and moved recommendations as detailed

within the report. He acknowledged that the political balance of the Council had now changed, and may change again following the bye-election on 8 June 2017, and thanked Group Leaders for their agreement maintain the status quo until this date.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

Members were invited to comment on the recommendation and during debate queries were raised as to whether the proposals put forward were factually correct.

Councillor Fitzgerald exercised his right to speak and confirmed that it was well understood that the reality of the political balance of the Council was not as proposed in the report, however, the sensible approach was to maintain the status quo in light of further possible changes.

Councillor Holdich summed up as mover of the recommendations and noted that should a Conservative Member win the 8 June 2017 election, the Council would return to its previous political balance. Should a Member from another Group prevail, a special meeting of the Council would be called to review the political balance.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed by Councillor Holdich (unanimous) and it was **AGREED** that Council:

- (a) Noted the number of seats on committees;
- (b) Agreed the allocation of seats on those committees subject to the political balance arrangements (Appendix 1); and
- (c) Agreed the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements (Appendix 2).

## 9. Appointments to Committees

Councillor Holdich addressed the meeting and moved recommendations as detailed within the report and the supplementary information pack.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed by Councillor Holdich (unanimous) and it was **AGREED** that Council:

- (a) Agreed the appointments those Committee where the allocation of the seats has been determined under Agenda Item 8 (Appendix 1);
- (b) Appointed the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the Council's Committees (Appendix 1);
- (c) Confirmed the non-elected membership of committees, as described at paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7 of the report;
- (d) Authorised the Monitoring Officer as Proper Officer, in respect of any other appointments to be made, to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of the Political Groups in allocating members to committees, and appoints those Members with effect from the date at which the Proper Officer is advised of the names of such Members.

## 10. Appointments and Nominations to Other Authorities

Councillor Holdich addressed the meeting and moved recommendations as detailed within the report and the supplementary information pack.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations .

A vote was taken on the recommendations as proposed by Councillor Holdich (unanimous) and it was **AGREED** that Council made the following appointments or nominations for the municipal year 2017/2018, in line with the political balance set out in Appendix 1:

- (a) appointed the Leader of Council to act as the Council's appointee to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and one substitute member, as set out in Appendix 2;
- (b) nominated two members to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and two substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed, as set out in Appendix 2;
- (c) nominated one member to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee and one substitute member from the same political party, as set out in Appendix 2;
- (d) appointed three members to the Police and Crime Panel, as set out in Appendix 2;;
- (e) appointed four members to the Fire Authority, as set out in Appendix 2; and
- (f) authorised the Monitoring Officer as Proper Officer to make any amendments to the appointments and nominations in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority, Police and Crime Panel, or Fire Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

## **11. Calendar of Meetings**

The Mayor advised that the Council was requested to approve the revised calendar of meetings for 2017/18 as outlined within the supplementary document pack, and approve in principle the draft calendar of meetings for 2018/19

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **AGREED** that Council:

- (a) Approved the revised Calendar of Meetings (Appendix 1) for 2017 / 2018; and
- (b) Approved in principle the draft Calendar of Meetings (Appendix 2) to 2018 / 2019.

The Mayor  
7.45pm – 8:26pm

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