
EXTRAORDINARY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**DRAFT MINUTES**

From a virtual/remote meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2020 at 7.00 pm to 7.15 pm

Councillors present:

Councillors Sara Bedford (Chairman) (Local Plan)
Matthew Bedford (Resources and Shared Services)
Stephen Cox
Steve Drury (Infrastructure & Planning Policy)
Stephen Giles-Medhurst (Transport and Economic Development)
Alex Hayward
Reena Ranger

Chris Lloyd (Vice-Chairman) (Leisure)
Phil Williams (Environmental Services and Sustainability)
Andrew Scarth (Housing)
Roger Seabourne (Community Safety and Partnerships)

Officers Present: Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
Geof Muggerridge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Anne Morgan – Solicitor to the Council
Alison Scott, Interim Director of Finance
James Baldwin – Principal Solicitor
Carl Harris – Customer Contact Programme Manager
Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager
Sherrie Ralton – Committee Manager

Also Present: Councillors Alex Michaels and Sarah Nelmes

Councillor Alison Wall connection to the virtual meeting was unsuccessful due to broadband issues and Councillor David Sansom joined the meeting for the Part II business but was only able to listen to the debate and was not able to speak on the item or vote.

PR89/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

PR90/19 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that agenda Item 4a – Setting up a sub-committee - had not been available 5 working days before the meeting.

The reason for urgency was that the sub-committee needed to be set up in order to be able to meet and recommend any necessary decisions on Covid-19 response to the Policy and Resources Committee. Things were moving very quickly and Officers needed to be able to bring items to the sub-committee.

PR91/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

PR92/19 SETTING UP SUB-COMMITTEES

The report requested that the Committee set up a new sub-committee of the Policy and Resources called Covid-19 Response.

A Member asked why the sub-committee was required in addition to the Policy and Resources Committee. The Chairman advised that this was to enable a more speedy way of doing things between Committee meetings without the need to get an entire Policy and Resources Committee together. Items could be looked at in greater detail and would enable the Council to be as agile as possible when dealing with Covid-19 situations.

The Member queried why this sub-committee had not been set up sooner. The Chairman advised this was the first Policy and Resources Committee meeting since the lockdown began and it had taken some time to gauge the situation. Officers had been frantically busy but things had settled slightly and now was a more appropriate time to do so.

A Member expressed thanks on behalf of their Group to all the Officers for working so tirelessly during such unprecedented times. It was very much appreciated by both Councillors and Residents.

On being put to the Committee the recommendations were declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That a new sub-committee called Covid-19 Response sub-committee be established under the Policy and Resources Committee with the following proportion:

- 9 Members on the Covid-19 Response sub-committee with the political proportionality being 6, 2, 1.
- That no decision making powers be delegated to the sub-committees; and
- That substitute Members be allowed.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:

That the Remit of the Policy and Resources Committee be amended to include Covid-19 Response.

PR93/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman moved, duly seconded, the following motion.

“that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

At this point the public livestreaming was turned off as the meeting moved into Part II confidential business.

PR94/19 PROPERTY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Committee received a report on a property investment opportunity.

On being put to the Committee the recommendation was declared CARRIED the voting being 8 For, 0 Against and 3 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That public access to the report and decision be denied subject to the Non-Disclosure Agreement.

CHAIRMAN