

Shadow Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Shadow Council** held on **Tuesday 17 July 2018** at **6.30pm** at the **Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Chair Sarah Stamp

Vice Chair Brian Harvey

Ruth Allen	Mary Evans	David Palmer
Michael Anderson	Robert Everitt	Robin Pilley
Chris Barker	Paula Fox	Clive Pollington
Trevor Beckwith	Susan Glossop	Alaric Pugh
John Bloodworth	John Griffiths	Joanna Rayner
David Bowman	Diane Hind	Karen Richardson
Ruth Bowman J.P.	Beccy Hopfensperger	David Roach
Simon Brown	Paul Hopfensperger	Barry Robbins
Tony Brown	Ian Houlder	Richard Rout
Carol Bull	Victor Lukaniuk	Reg Silvester
John Burns	Carol Lynch	Andrew Smith
Mike Chester	Margaret Marks	Clive Springett
Patrick Chung	Christine Mason	Peter Stevens
Max Clarke	Elaine McManus	Peter Thompson
Terry Clements	Sara Mildmay-White	Jim Thorndyke
Simon Cole	Robin Millar	Julia Wakelam
Roger Dicker	David Nettleton	Frank Warby
Andy Drummond	Robert Nobbs	Patricia Warby
Stephen Edwards	Colin Noble	

20. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 30 May 2018 and 12 June 2018 were received as an accurate record, with 54 voting for the motion and with 3 abstentions, and were signed by the Chair.

21. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair drew attention to the work that was ongoing in respect of the civic leadership for the West Suffolk Council. She encouraged all Members to take part in the debate and to similarly encourage their constituents to do the same.

22. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Broughton, Rona Burt, Louis Busuttil, Jason Crooks, Wayne Hailstone, Jane Midwood, Peter Ridgwell, Nigel Roman, Lance Stanbury, James Waters and Anthony Williams.

Councillors Andrew Appleby, Louise Marston and Andrew Speed were also unable to attend the meeting.

23. **Declarations of Interests**

Members declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

24. **Leader's Statement (Report No: COU/SA/18/006)**

Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Shadow Council, presented his Leader's Statement as contained in Paper No: COU/SA/18/006.

25. **Public Participation**

The following question was put and answered during Public Question Time:

Robert Houlton-Hart, Secretary of Moreton Hall Residents' Association, addressed the meeting with regard to the draft recommendations proposed for the West Suffolk Council Electoral Arrangements, with particular reference to the draft warding proposals for Moreton Hall, as set out in Report No: COU/SA/18/008, to be considered later at agenda item 8.

Mr Houlton-Hart welcomed the proposal put forward for Moreton Hall which the Residents' Association considered to accurately reflect the distinct community of the area and the future growth.

In response, Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Shadow Council, thanked Mr Houlton-Hart for his comments and also gave thanks to the Moreton Hall Residents' Association for their valued engagement with the ward review process.

Councillor Griffiths reminded all present that the West Suffolk Shadow Council carried no greater weight in their response than any other organisation/individual. As such, he was encouraging all interested parties to respond to the consultation.

26. **Referrals report of recommendations from the Shadow Executive (Cabinet) (Report No: COU/SA/18/007)**

Councillors Patrick Chung, John Griffiths, Beccy Hopfensperger, Victor Lukaniuk, Carol Lynch, Margaret Marks, Robin Pilley and Clive Pollington declared non-pecuniary interests in referral item 3 (West Suffolk Council Tax Technical Changes), as they were private sector landlords, they indicated that they would remain in the meeting during the item but would abstain from voting.

Councillor Paul Hopfensperger declared a pecuniary interest in referral items 2 and 3 (Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and West Suffolk Council Tax Technical Changes) he indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of these items.

The Shadow Council considered the Referrals Report of Recommendations from the Shadow Executive (Cabinet) contained within Report No: COU/SA/18/007.

Referrals from Shadow Executive (Cabinet): 10 July 2018

1. West Suffolk Council – Setting the Strategic Context for the Development of the 2019/2020 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plans

This report set out the strategic context (proposed principles, approach and timescales) for the development of the 2019/2020 budget and Medium Term Financial Plans for the new West Suffolk Council from 1 April 2019.

Councillors Stephen Edwards and Ian Houlder, FHDC and SEBC Portfolio Holders for Resources and Performance respectively, drew relevant aspects of the report to the attention of the Shadow Council.

The Portfolio Holders encouraged all Members to attend the programme of briefings being delivered by Finance Officers on the budget work.

On the motion of Councillor Stephen Edwards, seconded by Councillor Ian Houlder, and with the vote being unanimous it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The West Suffolk Strategic Framework (subject to rebranding; wording changes from "councils" to "council" and other consequential amendments, which will be completed by Officers) as its Strategic Framework from 1 April 2019, be adopted.
 2. Both the West Suffolk Medium Term Financial Strategy, contained at Appendix A and West Suffolk Capital Strategy contained at Appendix B to Report No: EXC/SA/18/002 as its strategic financial framework from 1 April 2019, be adopted.
 3. The key principles and approach for the development of the 2019-2020 budget and medium term financial plans for West Suffolk Council as set out in Section 3 of Report No: EXC/SA/18/002, be supported, including the consideration of a further report (setting out the proposed approach to achieve these principles) to the Joint Informal Performance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 25 July 2018.
2. West Suffolk – Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/2020

This report set out the proposed West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) to take effect from 1 April 2019.

Councillors Stephen Edwards and Ian Houlder, FHDC and SEBC Portfolio Holders for Resources and Performance respectively, drew relevant aspects of the report to the attention of the Shadow Council.

On the motion of Councillor Ian Houlder, seconded by Councillor Stephen Edwards, and with the vote being unanimous it was

RESOLVED:

That the West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for West Suffolk be approved, to take effect from 1 April 2019 as attached at Appendix A and as detailed in Section 5 of Report No: EXC/SA/18/003.

3. West Suffolk Council Tax Technical Changes – Including Empty Property Reliefs and Premiums Changes

This report set out the proposed West Suffolk Council Tax Technical Changes (including Empty Property Reliefs and Premiums) from 1 April 2019.

Councillors Stephen Edwards and Ian Houlder, FHDC and SEBC Portfolio Holders for Resources and Performance respectively, drew relevant aspects of the report to the attention of the Shadow Council.

Councillors Carol Lynch, Margaret Marks and Robin Pilley all made comments on the report and posed questions on the item which were responded to by the Portfolio Holders.

A typographical error was noted in respect of Recommendation 3, in that the word 'empty' needed to be added as follows "...long term **empty** properties...".

On the motion of Councillor Stephen Edwards, seconded by Councillor Ian Houlder, and with 48 voting for the motion and with 8 abstentions, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The West Suffolk Council Tax Technical Changes – Second Homes set out in Section 1.4 of Report No: EXC/SA/18/004, from 1st April 2019, be approved.
2. The West Suffolk Council Tax Technical Changes – Empty Property Reliefs as set out in Section 1.4 of Report No: EXC/SA/18/004, from 1st April 2019, be approved.
3. Subject to the coming into force of legislation accordingly on 1 April 2019, an additional 50% Council Tax premium on long term empty properties raising the current premium to 200% as set out in Section 1.4 of Report No: EXC/SA/18/004, be approved.

27. **Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) Draft Recommendations for new Electoral Arrangements for West Suffolk Council (Report No: COU/SA/18/008)**

This report set out the draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for the West Suffolk Council as issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and invited consultation responses by the deadline of 27 August 2018.

Councillors Ruth Bowman and Carol Bull, FHDC and SEBC Portfolio Holders for Future Governance respectively, gave thanks to the LGBCE and all parties who had contributed towards the process to date.

Members were advised that the Future Governance Steering Group was next due to meet on 27 July 2018 and all Councillors were invited to attend.

The Chair reminded the meeting that should Members wish to inform the Council's response to the LGBCE's consultation they would need to submit comments to Officers by 9am on Friday 20 July 2018.

All Councillors were also encouraged to submit their own direct responses to the LGBCE by the deadline of 27 August 2018.

On the motion of Councillor Carol Bull, seconded by Councillor Ruth Bowman and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The Head of Paid Service be authorised to prepare and submit the Shadow Authority's observations and any new local evidence in respect of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for West Suffolk Council before the deadline on 27 August 2018; taking account the views of the Future Governance Steering Group and any additional representations received from Councillors; and
2. All interested parties, including individual Councillors, are encouraged to make their own direct consultation responses to the LGBCE.

(Councillor Mary Evans joined the meeting at 7.11pm during the preliminary discussion of this item.)

28. **Urgent Questions on Notice**

No urgent questions on notice had been received.

The meeting concluded at 7.16pm

Signed by:

Chairman
