

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017**

At a Meeting of Rugby Borough Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Bragg), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Allen, Mrs Avis, Brown, Butlin, Cade, Mrs Crane, Cranham, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Ms Edwards, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Leigh Hunt, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Mahoney, Mistry, Mrs Nash, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Poole, Ms Robbins, Mrs Roberts, Roberts, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Sandison, Shera, Srivastava, Stokes, Mrs Timms and Ms Watson-Merret.

### **88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Keeling, Mrs Parker and Williams.

### **89. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

### **90. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made the following statement :-

“The Equality Duty is a duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions. It ensures that public bodies consider the needs of all individuals in their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services, and in relation to their own employees. The Duty is a key measure of the Equality Act 2010.

In Rugby we are Excellent at this and we are proud to have been the first District/Borough Council in the country to have achieved the Excellent Standard back in 2014. But it doesn't stop there; in order to retain the standard, the Council will be undergoing its 3 yearly re-accreditation review on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May. It is important that Members attend the meetings they have been invited to during the 2 days LGA Assessors are on site.

As Councillors it is key that we share our experiences of the work the Council undertakes and decisions Councillors make in order to have a positive impact on the lives of Rugby Borough's customers and communities - your support would be greatly appreciated.”

The Mayor reminded Members that the Rotary Spring Fair was scheduled to be held on Monday 1 May 2017 at Rugby Recreation Ground. Many local voluntary groups would be involved with the event. One of the Mayor's charities, Rugby Area Talent Trust (RATT), will be performing at the Fair. Members were urged to support the event.

**91. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**(A) Councillor Ellis asked the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes -**

“The Leader stated in the local press that he would reappoint a member for responsibility for the Armed Forces Covenant .... why has this not happened?”

**Councillor Stokes replied as follows:-**

“It’s difficult to answer such a question without the detail around any comments that I may, or may not have made. Furthermore, Cllr Ellis’s statement as to ‘why has this not happened’ are incorrect. However, I can clarify that since Cllr Ellis was removed from the role, I personally undertook this important task.

I can also confirm that in the new municipal year, the post will be re-allocated to another member who has displayed a genuine interest in the role and has a strong military background.”

Councillor Ellis then asked who had been informed that Councillor Stokes would be undertaking this role.

Councillor Stokes replied that those who needed to know had been informed.

**92. REPORT OF CABINET – 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2017**

**RESOLVED THAT** - the report be confirmed and adopted

**93. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**(a) Proposed Electoral Review of Rugby – Report of the Executive Director.**

Council considered the report of the Executive Director concerning a proposed Electoral Review of Rugby.

**RESOLVED THAT** - an application be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) along the lines set out in the appendix to the report to conduct an electoral review of Rugby Borough.

**(b) Localism Act – Pay Policy Statement – Report of the Executive Director.**

Council considered the report of the Executive Director concerning the Pay Policy Statement.

**RESOLVED THAT** - the new Pay Policy Statement shown in the appendix to the report be adopted with immediate effect.

**(c) Corporate Strategy 2017-20 – Report of the Executive Director.**

Council considered the report of the Executive Director concerning the Corporate Strategy for 2017-20.

On being put to the vote 20 members voted in favour of the recommendation, the remaining 17 abstained from voting.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Corporate Strategy 2017-20 attached at the appendix to the report be approved and adopted.

**(d) Equality and Diversity Policy Statement – Report of Head of Communities & Homes.**

Council considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes concerning the Equality and Diversity Policy Statement.

**RESOLVED THAT-** the updated Equality & Diversity Policy Statement and Equality objectives for Rugby Borough Council be adopted.

**94. NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11**

Councillor Leigh Hunt moved and Councillor Crane seconded that,

*“During recent weeks there has been great focus in the media on the provision of services by the NHS. In West Lindsey, for example, there are places within the district where appointments with a doctor involve a 4 week wait, longer than the national average quoted, and a very different experience to that found in many urban areas. This is in part due to the inability to attract GP’s to serve in a rural area.*

*At a recent meeting of the West Lindsey Health Commission this issue was given consideration and a suggestion was put forward, based on an idea originating from a Councillor, that the Council ask the local MP to lobby the Secretary of State for Health to introduce a scheme of ‘rural weighting’ for GP’s who accept positions in rural areas. Similar to the accepted practice of ‘London weighting’, such a scheme would act to attract the needed physicians and in turn would facilitate the better provision of health services.*

*Furthermore, West Lindsey would like to encourage other rural authorities to support them in this and lobby their MPs as well. To this end I ask that Council support this action and that a letter be sent to the MP and to other rural authorities asking them to lobby based on these proposals.”*

**RESOLVED THAT** - the Notice of Motion be supported, subject to the inclusion of reference to the whole Borough of Rugby rather than specifically related to rural areas.

**95. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**96. COMMON SEAL**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

**RESOLVED THAT** - the Common Seal be affixed to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the Panels and Committees reports adopted at this meeting.

**MAYOR**