

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2015

Councillors Present: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle (Chairman), Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Rob Denton-Powell, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Marcus Franks, James Fredrickson, Dave Goff, Nick Goodes, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hwer, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Mollie Lock, Gordon Lundie, Alan Macro, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, James Podger, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb (Vice-Chairman), Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko

Also Present: John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), David Holling (Head of Legal Services) and Rachael Wardell (Corporate Director - Communities), Honorary Alderman Geoff Findlay (Honorary Alderman), Moira Fraser (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), Jo Reeves (Policy Officer), Jude Thomas (Member Services Officer) and Jo Watt (Member Services Officer)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Jeremy Bartlett, Councillor Jeanette Clifford, Councillor Billy Drummond, Councillor Adrian Edwards, Councillor Sheila Ellison, Councillor Rick Jones, Honorary Alderman Alan Thorpe and Councillor Virginia von Celsing

PART I

1. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all the newly elected Councillors to the Chamber. He also thanked all those Councillors that had either stood down or had not been re-elected for the service they had provided over the years and wished them well for the future.

The Chairman reported that he had attended 29 events since the last Council meeting. In total he had attended 142 events over the year, the Vice Chairman had attended 14 events and other Councillors had attended seven events on his behalf.

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman, Councillor Graham Jones, for his support over the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

The Chairman informed Members that with regret he had to announce that John Bingham, one of the Council's Independent Persons had sadly passed away on the 7th May 2015. John had joined the Standards Committee in 2006 as an Independent Member and was soon appointed as Vice Chairman of the Committee. In June 2012, when the new Standards Regime came into being, John was appointed as one of the Council's two Independent Persons, a role he filled with great professionalism, wisdom and good humor. Councillor Jeff Beck asked all those present to observe a minute's silence in John's honour. Members requested that the Council's condolences be passed on to John's widow, Jane, and their sons Andrew and Lawrence.

2. Presentations

The Chairman explained that he was due to present a cheque of £3k to Claire Phillips of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, his chosen charity for his year in office. Unfortunately Claire's car had broken down en route but he would ensure that the donation was presented to the Trust.

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The Chairman then presented Councillor Mollie Lock with an award for 20 years of service. He thanked Mollie for the outstanding service she had provided to the residents of the District.

The Chairman thanked his wife Alma and his son Roger for the support that they had provided to him during his year in office. He also thanked Jo Watt, Jude Thomas, David Holling, Andy Day and Moira Fraser for the support they had given him during the year.

Councillor Graham Jones thanked Councillor Beck for his dedication to the role of Chairman which had been exemplary. The Vice Chairman also thanked Alma and Roger for their commitment and support.

(Councillor Gordon Lundie arrived at 7.10pm)

3. **Election of Chairman for the Municipal Year 2015/16 (C2853)**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Emma Webster and seconded by Councillor Tim Metcalfe that Councillor Peter Argyle be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2015/16. There were no further nominations.

Councillor Webster in proposing Councillor Argyle for the role of Chairman noted that Councillor Argyle was passionate about children's education and development. She was confident that he would work tirelessly for the residents of the District and would be a great representative of the Council. Councillor Metcalfe stated that Councillor Argyle was a statesman and that he had proved to be an excellent Chairman when he previously held the position and he trusted that he would do so again.

RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Argyle be elected as Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

(Councillor Peter Argyle in the Chair)

The new Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Argyle thanked the Council for electing him and Councillors Webster and Metcalfe for their kind words. He stated that he would do his best to represent the Council.

Councillor Argyle reported that his chosen charity for 2015/16 was Helen and Douglas House.

Councillor Argyle thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Jeff Beck, for fulfilling his role with great integrity, good grace and purpose during his year of office. He also thanked Mrs Alma Beck for the support she had afforded to Councillor Beck during his year in office.

(Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge arrived at 7.15pm).

4. **Appointment of Vice Chairman for the Municipal Year 2015/16 (C2854)**

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2015/16. In response to this request Councillor Quentin Webb was nominated by Councillor Graham Pask and the nomination was seconded by Councillor Richard Crumly. There were no further nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Pask stated that he was sure that that Councillor Webb would fulfil the role with great dignity and pride.

RESOLVED that Councillor Webb be appointed Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

The Vice-Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Webb thanked the Council for electing him. He noted that this was a huge honour and he would support Councillor Argyle to the best of his ability.

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5. Minutes

The Chairman reminded Members that only those present at the meeting on the 3rd March 2015 should vote to approve the minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2015 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the inclusion of the following amendment to Item 105 (page 19) – Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Updated Version “Priority 5 – Health Damaging Behaviours – remove the words ‘alcohol and smoking’ leaving just Health Damaging Behaviours so this priority could also cover drug use. Rather than adding the words drug use.”

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

7. Report of the Returning Officer (C2988)

The Returning Officer presented the short report to Members and described it as self explanatory. He thanked all staff, in particular, the Elections Team and the Agents, in particular Dominic Boeck and Tony Vickers, for all their hard work in preparing for and during the elections. The Returning Officer also noted that Appendix A in the Supplemental Pack should be dated the 10th May 2015 and not the 10th April 2015.

The Returning Officer commented that it had subsequently emerged that an issue had arisen in respect of the District Council election for the Thatcham North Ward. Unfortunately the issues had not been picked up as part of the control process. As the result had been declared there was nothing more that he could do other than to note that an issue had occurred.

The Returning Officer also commented on the sheer length of the process and he noted Members’ concerns about this aspect of the election especially in relation to the time it had taken to verify the ballot papers.

He noted that some of the delays could have been the result of having to deal with three elections at the same time. Consideration would therefore be given to pacing the count accordingly when this next occurred.

Councillor Emma Webster, speaking as the Chairman of the Conservative Group, requested that consideration be given to setting up a Task and Finish Group under the auspices of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission to see what lessons could be learnt from the election process. Councillor Alan Macro was supportive of the proposal.

8. Election of the Strong Leader (C2855)

The Council considered nominations for the Strong Leader of the Council for the next four years.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Roger Croft:

That the Council:

“appoints Councillor Gordon Lundie as the Strong Leader for the next four years”.

Councillor Hilary Cole stated that since becoming Leader almost three years ago Councillor Lundie had to steer the Council through some difficult financial times especially around the Care Act. He had done this successfully and she was therefore pleased to nominate him as the Strong Leader for the next four years. She stated that Councillor Lundie was a great thinker and an outstanding orator. He was focussed on achieving results most notably increasing education standards whilst keeping Council

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Tax low. He had led the Conservative Group to a significant victory at the last election and she was confident in his leadership skills.

Councillor Roger Croft stated that Councillor Lundie had led the group with energy and he was focussed on outcomes and end results. He was therefore pleased to second the nomination.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Councillor Lundie thanked Councillors Cole and Croft for their kind words and he thanked the Council for their continuing support. He stated that the role of the Leader was difficult and challenging and he acknowledged that he did not always get it right. It was however a privilege to be elected to this role.

9. **Appointment of the Executive by the Leader of the Council for the 2015/16 Municipal Year (C2856)**

Councillor Gordon Lundie announced the appointment of Members to the Executive for 2015/16 as follows:

Leader of the Council, Strategy & Performance, Legal & Strategic Support	Gordon Lundie
Deputy Leader, Finance, Insurance, Health & Safety, HR, Pensions, ICT & Corporate Support	Roger Croft
Children's Services	Lynne Doherty
Education	Dominic Boeck
Adult Social Care, Housing	Hilary Cole
Planning, Economic Development, Newbury, Hungerford, Thatcham and Eastern Area Visions	Alan Law
Highways, Transport, Emergency Planning	Garth Simpson
Partnerships, Equality, Community Safety	Marcus Franks
Health and Wellbeing	Graham Jones
Property, Culture, Customer Services, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Countryside, Cleaner & Greener, Waste	Keith Chopping

Councillor Lundie thanked Councillors Graham Pask, Pamela Bale and Irene Neill for their contribution to the previous Executive. He welcomed Councillor Graham Jones back onto the Executive and also welcomed Councillor Lynne Doherty onto the Executive. He asked the Council to give their full support to the new Executive who would strive to serve the Council well.

The Leader then made a statement to the Council on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection. The Leader stated that a full report would be brought to the next Council meeting. The Leader thanked Rachael Wardell and her team who had managed a difficult inspection well.

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10. **Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2015/16 Municipal Year (C2857)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 11) concerning the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees and associated bodies for the next Municipal Year and the report also sought to agree the Council's Policy Framework for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Gordon Lundie and seconded by Councillor Emma Webster:

"That the Council:

1. Notes that under Paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 1.1 of the report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively;
2. Agrees to the appointment of the various Committees and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 2.2 (Table A);
3. Agrees to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 3.4 (Table B);
4. The number of substitutes on Committees and Commissions be as set out in paragraph 4.1 (Table C);
5. In respect of the District and Area Planning Committees, the substitute Members are all drawn from Members representing Wards within the Committee's area who are not appointed to the Committee. Where substitutes attend the District Planning meeting they need to be drawn from the same Area Planning meeting as the Member they are substituting for;
6. Approves the appointment of Members to the Committees as set out in Appendix A and in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups;
7. In accordance with Regulation 4, Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2008, agrees the Council's Policy Framework for 2015/16 be as set out in paragraph 6.1 and that any appropriate amendments be made to the Council's Constitution should this be necessary;
8. In accordance with Regulation 5, Schedule 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, approves that all other plans, policies and strategies requiring approval and not included in the approved Policy Framework be delegated to the Council's Executive;
9. Agrees that Paragraph 2.6.5 of Article 6, setting out the Executive Portfolios, be amended to reflect any changes made by the Leader of the Council at the Annual Council meeting;
10. The appointment of two non voting co-opted Parish/Town Councillors be made to the Standards Committee;
11. The appointment of two Parish/Town Councillors and two independent members be made to the Standards Committee's Advisory Panel;
12. Appoint two Independent Persons;

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13. Agree to the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in paragraph 9.1;
14. Authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required to the Constitution as a result of the appointments to Committees;
15. Agrees to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to merge the Governance and Audit and Standards Committees at the July 2015 Council meeting."

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

11. **Recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2015 (C2843)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 12) concerning the recommendations of the West Berkshire Council Independent Remuneration Panel 2015.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Gordon Lundie and seconded by Councillor Roger Croft:

"That the Council agree the recommendations of the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel 2015 as set out below:

1. The Basic Allowance be increased from £6,288 to £7,324 per annum and is inclusive of all items listed in paragraph 2.1 of the Panel's Report (Appendix 1).
2. The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council should be 2.5 x the recommended Basic Allowance which equates to £18,310 per annum.
3. The Deputy Leader and the Executive Members (up to 8) continue to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of 50% of the Leader's allowance which equates to £9,155.
4. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission receive a Special Responsibility Allowance set at 30% of the Leader's recommended Special Responsibility Allowance (£18,310) which equates to £5,493.
5. The Chairman of the Council receives a Special Responsibility Allowance set at 30% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance which equates to £5,493 per annum.
6. The Vice-Chairman of the Council receives a Special Responsibility Allowance set at 20% of the Council Chairman's Special Responsibility Allowance which equates to £1,099.
7. The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairmen of the two Planning Committees be maintained at 25% of the Leader's Allowance which equates to £4,578.
8. The Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Licensing Committee continues to be set at the current ratio of 15% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance, which equates to £2,747.
9. A Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee set at 15% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance which equates to £2,747.
10. No Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to Chairmen of the Licensing Sub Committees, Personnel Committee and Standards Committee or any Co-opted Members of the Council.
11. The Leader of the Opposition should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance set at 40% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance which equates to £7,324.
12. The Opposition Spokespersons should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance set at 30% of the Leader of the Opposition's Special Responsibility Allowance which equates to £2,197 per annum and that this Special Responsibility Allowance

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- should be paid to a maximum of four members of the Opposition (in addition to the Leader of the Opposition).
13. The Leader of any Minority Groups should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance set at 10% of the Leader's Special Responsibility Allowance which equates to £1,831 but that this allowance is only payable if they have a minimum of five Members
 14. No Councillor shall be entitled to more than one Special Responsibility Allowance paid by the Council.
 15. Travel Allowance rates should continue to be in line with Inland Revenue approved rates and that they should only rise in accordance with any increase in the Inland Revenue rates.
 16. When claiming a Travel Allowance for attending an approved duty within the district then that claim will be made with the starting point being a Member's usual place of residence or work within the District, or, if the usual place of residence or work is outside the District boundary, then the total return journey for which that claim can be made is capped at 36 miles.
 17. The current Subsistence Allowances remain unchanged but are indexed linked to relevant Officers' rates.
 18. The current Dependants' Carers' Allowance of £6.13 per hour up to a maximum of 40 hours per month per Councillor be increased to the current UK Living Wage (currently £7.85 per hour) up to a maximum of 40 hours per month per Councillor.
 19. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) be removed from the Members' Allowances Scheme.
 20. The Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to state that Members shall submit all claims relating to travelling, subsistence and Child Care and Dependants' Carers Allowance within two months of the date of the meeting being claimed for.
 21. The level of indexation for the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances be automatically linked to that used for West Berkshire Council Officers unless Members choose to forgo index linked increases in a particular year.
 22. In accordance with the 2003 Members' Allowances Regulations (21.1e) the level of indexation be revisited in February 2019 if not before.
 23. The scheme to be implemented from the 20th May 2015 onwards and any amendments made to the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances be payable from June 2015."

In introducing the report Councillor Lundie requested that recommendation 12 be approved and adopted subject to the addition of the following words after the word "opposition" on the last line:

"That Opposition Spokespersons Special Responsibility Allowances be paid in proportion to those paid to the Administration."

Councillor Croft seconded the amendment.

Councillor Lundie stated that it was challenging to introduce an increase in Members' Allowances. The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) (which usually met every four years) was set up so that politicians did not decide on the level of their own remuneration.

Councillor Lundie noted that the IRP had recommended that the Basic Allowance be increased from £6,288 to £7,234 which equated to an increase of 16%. There was also an associated uplift recommended in relation to a number of Special Responsibility Allowances. The Leader stated that the increase needed to be considered in the context

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of a saving of £15k as a result of the removal of allowances in respect of Broadband and IT Consumables. In addition, Members were no longer permitted to be members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. This would result in a 15% reduction in allowances. The actual additional cost, once these reductions and the amendment were taken into account, would result in a net increase of around £14k.

Members Allowances would always be a controversial issue often as a result of the public only having a limited understanding of the role that Councillors played. Low levels of remuneration could make it very difficult to attract high calibre candidates to this difficult and challenging role. It could also mean that too many local councillors were elderly or wealthy. The levels of remuneration therefore needed to be set at a level where a wide range of people would be willing to serve as a councillor. He noted that the role of a councillor often came at a high personal and family cost.

He commented that in respect of the recent election the Conservative Group had had to work very hard to attract the excellent candidates they had managed to sign up.

Councillor Lee Dillon commented that the Liberal Democrat Group had been willing to support the report until the amendment had been introduced. As there were only a few Members of the Opposition they would have to work even harder to hold the Administration to account.

Councillor Mollie Lock stated that she had listened carefully to the comments of the Leader and noted how hard the Executive had to work. She reminded Members that the Shadow Portfolio Holders would each have to hold three Portfolio Holders to account and she therefore asked Members to reconsider the amendment that had been proposed.

Councillor Lundie reminded Members that the IRP report had highlighted that it was unusual to provide a Special Responsibility Allowance to Opposition Spokesmen. Councillor Lundie explained that when he had met the IRP he had defended the role that the Opposition Spokesmen played. The amendment was to ensure that proportionally the number of Opposition Members paid did not exceed the number of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the Administration.

The Substantive Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried.

12. **Adjournment of the Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 8.15pm.

RESOLVED that the meeting of Council be adjourned to enable the various Committees to determine their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

13. **Recommencement of the Meeting**

The meeting was reconvened at 8.25pm.

14. **Changes to the Constitution - Parts 2 (Articles of the Constitution), 4 (Council Rules of Procedure), 11 (Contract Rules of Procedure) and 12 (Personnel Rules of Procedure) (C2969)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) concerning changes to Parts 2 (Articles of the Constitution), 4 (Council Rules of Procedure), 11 (Contract Rules of Procedure) and 12 (Personnel Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Quentin Webb and seconded by Councillor Jeff Beck:

“That the Council:

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1. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend Appendix A to Parts 5 (Executive Rules of Procedure), 6 (Overview and Scrutiny Rules of Procedure) and 7 (Regulatory and Other Committees Rules of Procedure) in line with any changes agreed to Appendix A to Part 4 of the Constitution.
2. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any additional amendments to the Constitution arising from the enactment of The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
3. Agrees that the changes will come into effect on the 20 May 2015.”

Councillor Webb, in introducing the item, stated that the Constitution was continuously being updated. The changes proposed to these sections had been tracked for easy reference.

Councillor Alan Macro commented that the Governance and Audit Committee had not supported the amendment in relation to the amended timescales for submitting questions to Council where the question pertained to items on the agenda. He felt that extending the timeframe to two days before the meeting would not give members of the public sufficient time to submit their questions.

Councillor Webb noted this comment but explained that the proposal was to amend the timescale.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

15. **Members ICT Protocol 2015 (C2984)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 16) concerning approval for an updated Members ICT Protocol.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Roger Croft and seconded by Councillor Gordon Lundie:

“That the Council approve the Members ICT Protocol 2015”

In introducing the report Councillor Croft explained that Members had been provided with new IT equipment thereby replacing the laptops which were first issued in 2007 which were no longer fit for purpose. A pilot group had been set up six months ago to trial the equipment and most of the technical issues had been resolved.

Councillors Anthony Stansfeld, Graham Pask and Mollie Lock all voiced their support for the new equipment which they felt was a vast improvement on the technology they had been provided with in the past.

Councillor Alan Macro queried whether it was still intended to switch off the ability to auto forward emails. Councillor Croft explained that there were still a few areas that were being addressed but that Officers were working towards cessation of this function. Councillor Macro responded that this might be problematic for those Members that worked and who would not have access to their equipment at work. He therefore requested that a mechanism be put in place to inform Members if a meeting was cancelled.

Councillor Croft agreed that the equipment was an improvement and he was pleased to report that it was also compliant with the requirements of the Public Services Network in respect of information security.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

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16. **Standards Committee Annual Report 2014/15 (C2858)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) which outlined the activity of the Standards Committee for 2014/15.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Garth Simpson and seconded by Councillor Mollie Lock:

“That the Council:

- Note the content of the report.
- Circulate the report to all Town and Parish Councils in the District”

Councillor Simpson noted that nine complaints had been received during the 2014/15 Municipal Year. Seven of those complaints pertained to Town or Parish Councillors and the remaining two to District Councillors. Three of those complaints were being investigated. He invited Members to note the report.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

17. **West Berkshire Council Strategy 2015/19 Consultation Feedback Report (C2838b)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 18) concerning the feedback received from the consultation on the Draft Council Strategy 2015/16.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Roger Croft and seconded by Councillor Gordon Lundie:

“That the Council

1. Note the feedback received to the proposed Council Strategy.
2. In response to the feedback received:
 - (2.1) refer all of the comments in relation to the east of the district to the Eastern Area Vision Task Group for them to consider when formulating their new vision.
 - (2.2) develop a "Delivery Plan" to support the Council Strategy 2015-2019.
 - (2.3) approve a number of textual changes offering more clarity and format changes.
3. Adopt the West Berkshire Council Strategy for 2015 - 2019 as amended following consultation.”

Councillors Croft and Lundie accepted the following amendment tabled by the Liberal Democrat Group:

“Recommendation (2.2) be amended as follows:

‘To develop a “Delivery Plan” to support the Council Strategy 2015-2019 including incorporating appropriate actions associated with the Ofsted report published in May 2015.’”

In introducing the report Councillor Croft explained that 118 responses had been received during the consultation. The majority of the responses were submitted by members of the public. Councillor Croft noted that the Council Strategy did not cover everything that the Council did but that it highlighted areas requiring particular improvement.

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Three changes were being proposed as a result of the feedback namely:

1. comments in relation to the east of the district would be referred to the Eastern Area Vision Task Group for them to consider while renewing their vision document;
2. a delivery plan would be developed to support the Strategy;
3. some minor textual changes had been made to aid clarity and correct typographical errors.

Councillor Croft reported that the Council Strategy was aligned to the Conservative Manifesto. However not all the Manifesto commitments were reflected in the Strategy as it would have been improper to do so in advance of the election. Further work would be undertaken to align the documents post the May 2015 election.

Councillor Alan Macro stated that he felt that the Strategy lacked ambition especially in relation to environmental issues such as recycling rates, sustainability and climate change. He noted that green initiatives often saved money and cited the example of replacing the Council's streetlights with LED lights. The Liberal Democrat Group also felt that the Council could have been more ambitious in respect of the affordable homes target as they were of the opinion that there was a real need for more affordable rented homes in the District.

Councillor Tim Metcalfe welcomed the document which he felt was well prepared and highlighted the breadth of work undertaken by the Council. He noted that at least a third of the consultation responses related to the resources and infrastructure in the east of the District. He was therefore delighted that more emphasis was being placed on the Eastern Area Vision Task Group and he hoped that this vision would be appropriately resourced.

Councillor Croft noted Councillor Metcalfe's comments in relation to the Eastern Area Vision. He responded to Councillor Macro by stating that the Conservative Manifesto made reference to increasing recycling rates to 90% as opposed to the reference to 65% in the Liberal Democrat Manifesto. He also noted that the Council Strategy was clear about the target in respect of Affordable Homes.

The Substantive Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

The Amendment was put to the meeting and declared carried.

18. **Outside Body Appointments - Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel (C2968)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 19) concerning West Berkshire Council's nominations to the following outside bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Authority;
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Gordon Lundie and seconded by Councillor Emma Webster:

"That the Council agree the following representatives for the 2015/16 Municipal Year:

- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Councillors Emma Webster, Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, Anthony Chadley and Carol Jackson-Doerge.
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Quentin Webb"

Councillor Webster noted that it had previously been agreed that the Council's representatives on the Fire Authority would be appointed based on the Council's proportionality rules. Given the current make-up of the Council discussions had taken

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place with the Fire Authority who had confirmed that West Berkshire Council would be permitted to appoint five Conservative Councillors. The Fire Authority would be reviewing their membership during this Municipal Year.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

19. **A339/Fleming Road Junction Compulsory Purchase Order (C2955)**

This item was withdrawn after the agenda was published.

20. **Licensing Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 24th March 2015.

21. **Personnel Committee**

The Council was asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Personnel Committee had not met.

22. **Governance and Audit Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Governance and Audit Committee had met on 27th April 2015.

23. **District Planning Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the District Planning Committee had met on 25th March 2015.

24. **Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had met on 31st March 2015.

25. **Standards Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Standards Committee had met on 20th April 2015.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.45pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature