

DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY, 3 MAY 2018

Councillors Present: Dominic Boeck, Anthony Chadley, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, Lynne Doherty, Marcus Franks, Graham Jones and Rick Jones

Also Present: Paul Anstey (Head of Public Protection and Culture), Iain Bell (Revenues and Benefits Manager), Nick Carter (Chief Executive) and Rachael Wardell (Corporate Director - Communities), Councillor Jeff Brooks, Stephen Chard (Policy Officer), Councillor Lee Dillon (Shadow Executive Portfolio: Finance, Strategy & Performance, Economic Development, Property, Partnerships, Equality, Human Resources, Thatcham Vision, Pensions, Insurance, Health & Safety), Councillor Billy Drummond (Shadow Executive Portfolio: Highways and Transport, Newbury Vision), Councillor Mollie Lock (Shadow Executive Portfolio: Education, Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Health & Wellbeing) and Gabrielle Mancini (Group Executive - Conservatives)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: John Ashworth, Councillor Graham Bridgman and Councillor James Fredrickson

PART I

96. Minutes

Councillor Graham Jones introduced the meeting by welcoming Councillor Jeff Brooks back into the Chamber as a Council Member.

Councillor Graham Jones then bade farewell to Rachael Wardell, the Council's Corporate Director for Communities, who was leaving the Council on 4 May 2018 to join the London Borough of Merton. He gave thanks to Rachael for all her hard work and for the significant achievements that had been made during her time at the Council. Councillor Graham Jones then invited Councillors Lynne Doherty and Rick Jones to say a few words.

Councillor Doherty gave particular thanks to Rachael for her work in leading Children and Family Services. Councillor Doherty explained that Rachael's vision for the service was the key driver for successfully achieving its improvement journey from being rated as Inadequate by Ofsted to Good. Councillor Doherty stated that she would seek to ensure that high levels of service were maintained.

Councillor Doherty also praised Rachael's innovative approach and highlighted the Family Safeguarding Model and the Emotional Health Academy as positive examples of this.

Councillor Doherty highlighted the fact that 95% of West Berkshire's schools were rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. This was again a reflection of Rachael's vision.

Finally, Councillor Doherty highlighted the improvements made to the recruitment and retention of staff in Children and Family Services. This had enabled a reduction in the Council's use of agency staff.

Councillor Rick Jones commented from the Adult Social Care perspective. This service was also performing well and he particularly highlighted safeguarding work and that adults in care were very well cared for. He added that Rachael was leaving behind a definite legacy for the Directorate.

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Councillor Mollie Lock echoed the points made by Councillors Graham Jones, Lynne Doherty and Rick Jones. She also added that Rachael had provided new enthusiasm to the Directorate. Councillor Lock also noted that it had been interesting to see how well the Council's Looked After Children had progressed.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2018 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader.

97. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

98. **Public Questions**

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#).

(a) **Question submitted by Ms Julie Knapman to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Leisure**

A question standing in the name of Ms Julie Knapman on the subject of the criteria used in the selection of the Warren Road access within the Sandford Development was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Leisure.

(b) **Question submitted by Ms Julie Knapman to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Leisure**

A question standing in the name of Ms Julie Knapman on the subject of the research undertaken by the Council to confirm the suitability of the Warren Road access was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Leisure.

(c) **Question submitted by Ms Julie Knapman to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Leisure**

A question standing in the name of Ms Julie Knapman asking whether the Council would review the criteria for selecting the Warren Road access, when considering the objections raised against it, was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Leisure.

99. **Petitions**

There were no petitions presented to the Executive.

100. **Members' Questions**

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#).

(a) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment submitted by Councillor Jeff Brooks**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Jeff Brooks on the subject of charging for green waste collection was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Environment.

(b) **Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People submitted by Councillor Mollie Lock**

A question standing in the name of Councillor Mollie Lock on the subject of access for families to nursery provision in rural areas was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People.

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(c) Question to be answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport submitted by Councillor Lee Dillon

A question standing in the name of Councillor Lee Dillon on the subject of the number of pot holes that had been reported since January 2018 was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport.

101. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006. Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution also refers.

102. Housing Benefit Overpayment Write Off (EX3419)

*(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)
(Paragraph 2 – information identifying an individual)*

The Executive considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 8) which sought approval to write off an overpayment of Housing Benefit.

RESOLVED that the recommendation in the exempt report be agreed.

Reason for the decision: As outlined in the exempt report.

Other options considered: As outlined in the exempt report.

103. Children and Family Services Targeted Intervention Service

*(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)
(Paragraph 2 – information identifying an individual)*

The Executive considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 9) which sought permission from the Executive to make the redundancy payments associated with a restructure in the Targeted Intervention Service in Children and Family Services.

RESOLVED that the recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

Reason for the decision: As outlined in the exempt report.

Other options considered: As outlined in the exempt report.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and closed at 5.35 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature