

Medway Council
Meeting of Medway Council
Wednesday, 14 May 2014
7.00pm to 8.05pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next Full Council meeting

Present: The Worshipful The (outgoing) Mayor of Medway (Councillor Iles)
The (outgoing) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Etheridge)
The Worshipful The (incoming) Mayor of Medway (Councillor Kemp)
The (incoming) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Maisey)
Councillors Avey, Baker, Bowler, Brake, Carr,
Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers, Chishti, Chitty,
Clarke, Cooper, Craven, Doe, Filmer, Gilry, Christine Godwin,
Paul Godwin, Griffin, Griffiths, Adrian Gulvin, Pat Gulvin,
Harriott, Hicks, Hubbard, Igwe, Jarrett, Juby, Kearney,
Mackinlay, Mackness, Maple, Mason, Murray, O'Brien, Price,
Purdy, Rodberg, Royle, Shaw, Smith, Stamp, Tolhurst, Turpin,
Wicks and Wildey

In Attendance: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Dr Alison Barnett, Director of Public Health
Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture
Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer
Wayne Hemingway, Democratic Services Officer
Richard Hicks, Deputy Director Customer Contact, Leisure, Culture, Democracy and Governance
Perry Holmes, Assistant Director, Legal and Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
David Quirke-Thornton, Deputy Director, Children and Adults Services
John Staples, Media Manager
Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bright, Colman, Hewett, Irvine, Osborne and Watson. Clive Mailing (Roman Catholic voting representative on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny

Council, 14 May 2014

Committee) had submitted apologies for absence for the Joint Meeting of Committees.

2 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2014/2015

Discussion:

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), Councillor O'Brien proposed and Councillor Carr supported the nomination of Councillor Kemp to the Office of the Mayor of Medway for the forthcoming municipal year. Councillor Kemp was duly elected.

Councillor Mackness proposed and Councillor Avey supported the nomination of Councillor Maisey to the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Medway for the forthcoming municipal year. Councillor Maisey was duly elected.

The newly elected Mayor made the declaration required by law and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. The Mayor also accepted the ceremonial sword and silver oar as symbols of his office as Constable of Rochester Castle and Admiral of the Water of Medway from Sheerness to Hawkwood respectively.

The newly elected Deputy Mayor made the declaration required by law and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor then addressed the Council and announced that his nominated charities would be Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, Medway Young Carers, Oliver Fisher Special Baby Care Trust, Streetcops Trust and Headway.

Councillor Mackness proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor, supported by Councillor Carr.

The Mayor presented the outgoing Mayor and Consort each with a past mayoral badge and flowers were presented to the retiring Mayor's Consort and the Deputy Mayor's Consort. The outgoing Mayor (Councillor Iles) responded to the vote of thanks and highlighted a number of successful events that she took part in during the year. She also stated that approximately £8,000 had been raised for her chosen charities during the year (Demelza Kent, Help for Heroes, Medway Age UK and Caring Hands in the Community).

Decision:

- (a) That Councillor Kemp be elected to the Office of Mayor of Medway for the 2014/2015 municipal year.
- (b) That Councillor Maisey be elected to the Office of Deputy Mayor for the 2014/2015 municipal year.
- (c) That a vote of thanks be given to the Outgoing Mayor.

3 Appointment of Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor announced that Reverend Judy Henning had accepted an invitation to act as his Chaplain for the forthcoming year.

4 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that the remaining business on the agenda would be followed by a short Joint Meeting of Committees.

The Mayor also thanked Heather Baker for arranging the flowers at this meeting.

5 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

6 Executive Responsibilities and Scheme of Delegations (Executive and Non-Executive)

Discussion:

This report provided details of the Members of the Cabinet for 2014/2015 as appointed by the Leader of the Council, and their Portfolios.

Details of the Cabinet portfolios were tabled at the meeting as Appendix A to the report (Supplementary Agenda No.2). The report also included details of the delegation of executive functions to officers agreed by the Leader as set out in Appendix B to the report. This also incorporated the scheme of officer delegations for matters which were not the responsibility of the Cabinet and were a matter for Council.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Rodney Chambers, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Deputy Leader, Councillor Jarrett, proposed the recommendations as set out in the report.

Decision:

- (a) The Council noted the details of those appointed by the Leader to serve as Deputy Leader and Members of the Cabinet and the extent of their individual portfolios together with appointment to the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Council, 14 May 2014

- (b) The Council noted the delegations to officers agreed by the Leader in relation to executive functions and agreed to the delegation of non-executive functions to officers as set out in Appendix B to the report.

7 Establishment of Committees, Appointments and Schedule of Meetings 2014/2015

Discussion:

This report provided details of the position regarding the overall allocation of seats on committees and set out a number of recommendations regarding the membership of Committees, Joint Committees and other bodies, and the schedule of meetings for 2014/2015.

The report asked Council to make recommendations to the Joint Meeting of Committees, immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Council, which set out details of the establishment and membership of Sub-Committees and the current Task Group.

Appendices A and B to the report had been circulated to Members in Supplementary Agenda No.1.

The Mayor informed the meeting of two updates to the appendices, namely that in Appendix A Councillor Tolhurst should be listed as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board instead of Councillor Hicks and in Appendix B Councillor Tolhurst should be appointed to represent the Council on the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, instead of Councillor Mackness.

Decision:

- (a) The Council agreed the establishment of committees, their size and the allocation of seats to political groups as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report together with terms of reference as set out in the Council's Constitution.
- (b) The Council agreed the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the removal of Council appointed school governors as and when necessary and to waive political balance in respect of this Committee.
- (c) The Council agreed the membership of each committee as set out in Appendix A to the report, including the appointment of voting and non-voting co-optees on Committees, subject to the following change to the membership of Health and Wellbeing Board:

Replace Councillor Hicks with Councillor Tolhurst.

Council, 14 May 2014

- (d) The Council agreed the appointments to Joint Committees, outside bodies and other bodies as set out in Appendix B to the report, subject to the following change to the appointment to the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority:

Replace Councillor Mackness with Councillor Tolhurst.

- (e) The Council agreed the timetable of meetings for the 2014/2015 municipal year as set out in Appendix C to the report.
- (f) The Council recommended to the Joint Meeting of Committees the appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees as set out in Appendix A to the report.
- (g) The Council recommended to the Joint Meeting of Committees the establishment of Sub Committees (with terms of reference as set out in the Council's constitution), the Welfare Reform Task Group, their size and the allocation of seats to political groups as set out in Appendix A to the report.

8 Vote of Thanks to Staff

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Rodney Chambers, supported by the Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Maple, proposed a vote of thanks to staff.

In making the proposal, the Leader paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of staff, some of whom had embraced changes in their role over the last year or so.

The Leader made particular reference to the continuing high standards of service delivery and outstanding work carried out by many of the Council's staff.

The Leader also expressed thanks to all those staff who had undertaken a variety of challenges, often on top of their normal working activities to fundraise for good causes including Breakthrough Breast Cancer, Children in Need, the NSPCC, the Bobby Moore Fund, the Saturation Trust, the Wisdom Hospice, Cancer Research UK and Sport Relief to name but a few.

Councillor Maple paid tribute to staff with particular reference to those staff who had passed away during the past year. He also thanked staff who had continued to work tirelessly to deliver services and those who worked for other employers, including Medway Norse, delivering Council services.

Councillor Maple also referred to those Councillors who would be standing down in May 2015 and thanked them for their service to the Council.

The Chief Executive responded on behalf of staff.

Council, 14 May 2014

Decision:

That a vote of thanks be given to staff.

Mayor

Date:

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