

Medway Council
Meeting of Medway Council
Thursday, 22 February 2018
7.00pm to 10.56pm

Record of the meeting

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

Present: The Worshipful The Mayor of Medway (Councillor Wildey)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Opara)
Councillors Aldous, Avey, Bhutia, Bowler, Brake, Carr,
Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers, OBE, Chitty, Clarke,
Cooper, Craven, Doe, Fearn, Filmer, Franklin, Freshwater,
Godwin, Griffin, Etheridge, Griffiths, Gulvin, Hall, Hicks, Howard,
Mrs Josie Iles, Steve Iles, Jarrett, Johnson, Joy, Kemp, Khan,
Mackness, Maple, McDonald, Murray, Osborne, Pendergast,
Potter, Price, Purdy, Saroy, Stamp, Tejan, Tranter, Turpin and
Wicks

In Attendance: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Jan Guyler, Head of Legal Services/Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wayne Hemingway, Democratic Services Officer
Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and
Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
Carrie McKenzie, Assistant Director, Transformation
Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services
Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer
James Williams, Director of Public Health

781 Record of meeting

The record of the two meetings held on 25 January 2018 were agreed and signed by The Worshipful The Mayor of Medway as a correct record.

782 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chishti, Gilry, Royle, Shaw and Williams.

783 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

Councillor Griffiths declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 (Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19) should there be any substantive reference to Medway Community Healthcare Community Interest Company (MCH) because he is the Deputy Chairman of MCH. He stated that MCH had some pre-existing contractual arrangements with the Council and whilst there was no specific reference to MCH in the report, he would leave the meeting should there be any specific reference to MCH.

Other significant interests

There were none.

Other interests

The Worshipful the Mayor of Medway stated that he had been advised by the Monitoring Officer that a personal and potentially financial interest regarding pay for some officers should be recorded in the minutes on behalf of any officers present affected by the proposals.

Councillor Opara declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 8 (Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19) and 10 (Pay Policy Statement 2018/2019) because her daughter is employed by the Council. She stated that having taken advice from the Monitoring Officer there was no need for her to leave the meeting.

Councillor Saroy declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 8 (Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19) and 10 (Pay Policy Statement 2018/2019) because she has family who works for the Council.

784 Mayor's announcements

With support of all Members of the Council, The Worshipful The Mayor of Medway placed on record Members' condolences to the family of Gary Vyse who very sadly died last week. Gary was Chief Executive of The Williamson Trust and in that role oversaw the running of six schools in Medway including his own school, The Hundred of Hoo Academy. The Mayor stated that he would be greatly missed. Councillors Mackness and Khan also paid tribute to Gary Vyse.

The Mayor reported that Councillor Royle was not at the meeting as he was unwell and that he would send on Members' best wishes to him for speedy recovery.

The Mayor reminded Members of his forthcoming charity events:

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Tuesday 20 March 2018 – Charity Theatre Night at the Oasthouse Theatre in Rainham, featuring “Ladies’ Night”, a comedy by Amanda Whittington.

Tuesday 27 March 2018 – A second Charity Chinese Night at Confucius as the Chinese New Year Night held on 13 February had been oversubscribed.

Saturday 14 April 2018 – Murder Mystery Night with a 3-course Dinner at the St George’s Centre.

He stated that further information was available from the Mayor’s PA.

The Mayor proposed to suspend Council Rule 11.1.1 in respect of time limits on speeches in relation to agenda item 8 only (Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19) to allow one Member from each Group to speak for an unlimited time. The normal time limits would then apply. This was agreed.

The Mayor asked Members to speak clearly into the microphones to ensure people in the public gallery could hear and he reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded and the recording would be made available on the Council’s website. In addition, he asked Members to provide written copies of any amendments to the top table first.

785 Leader's announcements

There were none.

786 Council Plan Refresh 2018/19

Discussion:

This report provided details of the annual review of the Council Plan which was undertaken to ensure that it remained relevant and that the Council continued to focus resources on its priorities. The summary of proposals was set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

The report had been considered by both the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee (30 January 2018) and Cabinet (6 February 2018), comments of which were set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report respectively.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the proposals as set out in Appendix B to the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Turpin, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

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Decision:

- a) The Council noted the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet as set out in sections 5 and 6 of the report respectively.
- b) The Council approved the proposed changes to programmes summarised in Table A at paragraph 3.2 and key measures of success and targets as detailed in Appendix A of the report.
- c) The Council agreed to grant delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to make any necessary changes to align the Plan's indicator set to the agreed budget.

787 Treasury Management Strategy 2018/2019

Discussion:

This report provided details of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for the 2018/2019 financial year. The Strategy had been prepared in line with CIPFA's Local Authority Treasury Management Code, and set out the Council's borrowing requirement and strategy, its strategy in respect of investments and details of the Council's current portfolio position. It also provided details of the prudential and treasury indicators that would be used to monitor and measure treasury performance.

The report had been considered by the Audit Committee (9 January 2018) and Cabinet (6 February 2018), comments of which were set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy as set out in Appendix B to the report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, supported by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Decision:

- a) The Council noted the comments of the Audit Committee and the Cabinet, as set out in sections 6 and 7 of the report respectively.
- b) The Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/2019, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

788 Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19

Discussion:

This report provided details of the revenue and capital budget proposals for 2018/2019.

The Cabinet had considered initial budget proposals on 21 November 2018, which had been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In accordance with the budget and policy framework rules within the Constitution the Overview and Scrutiny Committees had then considered the Cabinet's proposals prior to Cabinet's consideration of the draft budget on 6 February 2018.

It was noted that an overarching Diversity Impact Assessment, as set out in Appendix 8 to the report, summarised the results of the Diversity Impact Assessments which had been completed for each of the services affected by the proposed budget changes.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, supported by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, proposed the recommendations in the report, together with the following detailed changes listed below in relation to recommendation 26.3 on page 125 of the Agenda:

"That the following reductions, generating £1,783,000 of headroom, are made to revenue allocations as follows:

- Education Grants: Charge the 0-25 team to the DSG High Needs Block giving £833,000.
- Centralisation of ICT contracts giving £200,000.
- Rephasing the BRMF (Building Repairs and Maintenance Fund) programme giving £750,000.

And that this headroom is invested as follows:

Reduce Leisure pressure	£100,000
Festivals	£200,000
'C' Company – Freedom of the Borough	£21,000
HMS Medway – Freedom of the Borough	£21,000
Commemoration for Major McCudden VC	£5,000
Royal Voluntary Service Grant	£17,500
Further provision for Pay Award at 0.5%	£382,000
Invest to Save – Shared Lives	£70,000
Invest to Save – SEN Transport	£70,000
Invest to Save – PAUSE	£300,000
Invest to Save – Systemic Therapy	£100,000
Continue Free Parking at Christmas	£75,000

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Feasibility Study for new Sporting facilities – Hoo Peninsula and Rainham	£50,000
Investment in Skills	59,000
Highways	£312,500

It should also be noted that car parking charges for pay and display for 2018/19 in Medway are frozen, with the intention of no increase for a further two years, that is until 2020/21.”

In accordance with rule 12.5 of the Council Rules, a recorded vote on the proposal was taken.

For: Councillors Aldous, Avey, Bhutia, Brake, Carr, Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers OBE, Chitty, Clarke, Doe, Etheridge, Fearn, Filmer, Franklin, Griffin, Gulvin, Hicks, Mrs Josie Iles, Steve Iles, Jarrett, Joy, Kemp, Mackness, Opara, Potter, Purdy, Saroy, Tejan, Tranter, Turpin, Wicks and Wildey. (32)

Against: Councillors Bowler, Cooper, Craven, Freshwater, Godwin, Griffiths, Johnson, Khan, Maple, McDonald, Murray, Osborne, Pendergast, Price, and Stamp. (15)

Note: Councillors Hall and Howard were not present for the recorded vote.

The proposal was agreed.

Decision:

- a) The Council approved the recommendations of Employment Matters Committee on 31 January 2018 regarding the proposals for a pay award as set out at paragraph 4.5 of the report, as amended by decision b) below.
- b) The Council approved the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report in the sum of £290.677 million with the following changes listed below:

That the following reductions, generating £1,783,000 of headroom, are made to revenue allocations as follows:

- Education Grants: Charge the 0-25 team to the DSG High Needs Block giving £833,000.
- Centralisation of ICT contracts giving £200,000.
- Rephasing the BRMF (Building and Repairs Maintenance Fund) programme giving £750,000.

And that this headroom is invested as follows:

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Reduce Leisure pressure	£100,000
Festivals	£200,000
'C' Company – Freedom of the Borough	£21,000
HMS Medway – Freedom of the Borough	£21,000
Commemoration for Major McCudden VC	£5,000
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Feasibility Study for new Sporting facilities – Hoo Peninsula and Rainham	£50,000
Investment in Skills	59,000
Highways	£312,500

It should also be noted that car parking charges for pay and display for 2018/19 in Medway are frozen, with the intention of no increase for a further two years, that is until 2020/21.

- c) The Council approved the proposed capital programme as set out in Appendix 3 to the report and paragraphs 12 to 16 of the report.
- d) The Council noted the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's precept requirement.
- e) The Council noted the Kent Fire and Rescue Service precept requirement.
- f) The Council noted the parish council precept requirements of £454,790 as detailed at Appendix 5 to the report.
- g) The Council agreed the schedule of precept instalment dates as set out in section 19 of the report.
- h) The Council approved the basic rate of Council Tax at band D for 2018/19, before adding the police, fire and parish precepts, at £1,374.28.
- i) The Council, as part of the budget proposals, approved fees and charges, as recommended by Cabinet and set out in the booklet 'Medway Council - Fees and Charges April 2018' as set out in Appendix 7 to the report.
- j) The Council agreed the recommendations set out in paragraphs 17.3 to 17.12 of the report with regard to the Housing Revenue Account and detailed in the following appendices:
 - The proposed decrease in rents as set out at Appendix 4a to the report;

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- The proposed service charges as set out at Appendix 4b to the report;
 - The budget proposed as summarised at Appendix 4c to the report;
 - The 30 year business plan projections at Appendix 4d to the report.
- k) The Council adopted the formal resolution for the Council Tax requirement and schedule of Council Tax charges for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 6 to the report. The amendments referred to in decision b) above have a net nil effect on the budget requirement and therefore do not change the Council Tax resolution set out in Appendix 6 to the report.
- l) The Council noted the findings of the Diversity Impact Assessments as set out in Appendix 8 to the report, and the proposal to continue, where necessary, to report through quarterly monitoring any further unidentified or unintentional impact.

789 Shared Human Resources (HR) Service Between Medway Council and Gravesham Borough Council

Discussion:

This report provided details of proposals that Medway Council should assume responsibility for the discharge of Gravesham Borough Council's HR functions. This was permitted under Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 which allowed local authorities to delegate non-executive functions to other local authorities.

The report had been considered by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee (30 January 2018) and the Cabinet (6 February 2018), comments of which were set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 respectively. In addition, a report on the proposals had been considered and approved by Gravesham Borough Council's Cabinet on 4 September 2017.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Mackness, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Decision:

- a) The Council agreed option two, set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report, whereby Medway Council shall assume responsibility for the discharge of Gravesham Borough Council's HR Services functions under Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 which allows local authorities to delegate non-executive functions to other local authorities.
- b) The Council agreed to accept the delegation by Gravesham Borough Council of its HR Services functions to Medway Council.

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- c) The Council agreed to delegate authority to Medway's Assistant Director - Transformation to assume responsibility for the management and delivery of HR services for Gravesham Borough Council jointly with the services provided for Medway Council and for this to be reflected in the Council's Scheme of Delegation, as set out in paragraph 9.5 of the report.

790 Pay Policy Statement 2018/2019

Discussion:

This report provided details of the Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for the financial year 2018/2019 in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. It was noted that the PPS must be approved by a resolution of Full Council before it came into force and had to be prepared and approved before 31 March 2018 for the following financial year.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been carried out on the PPS, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Chairman of the Employment Matters Committee, Councillor Wicks supported by Councillor Tranter, proposed the recommendation set out in the report.

Decision:

The Council approved the Pay Policy Statement 2018/2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

791 Establishment of a New Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Kent, Medway, East Sussex and Bexley

Discussion:

This report provided details of the proposal for the establishment of a new Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Kent County Council, Medway Council, East Sussex County Council and Bexley Council to meet the requirements of health scrutiny legislation in relation to consultation by the NHS with these local authorities on proposed changes to Hyper Acute and Acute Stroke Services in Kent and Medway.

The report provided details of the background to this matter including the NHS's proposed changes to the provision of Hyper Acute and Acute Stroke Services in Kent and Medway and its potential impact on East Sussex and Bexley and the informal discussions between the four local authorities regarding the membership of the proposed Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Purdy, supported by Councillor the Portfolio Holder for

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Adults' Services, Councillor Brake, proposed the recommendation set out in the report.

Decision:

The Council agreed:

- (i) the establishment of a new Joint Health and Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Kent County Council, Medway Council, East Sussex County Council and Bexley Council with Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) that the Committee should comprise 12 seats allocated as follows; Kent County Council 4, Medway Council 4 , East Sussex County Council 2 and Bexley Council 2;
- (iii) the allocation of the Medway seats as follows; three seats to the Medway Conservative Group and one seat to the Medway Labour Group in accordance with the legislation on political balance;
- (iv) the appointment of Councillors Purdy, Wildey, Royle and Murray to the Committee;
- (v) to delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to agree any further minor amendments to the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Mayor

Date:

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