

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2013 at 10.00 am.

Present Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Birch, Daniel, Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Fawthrop, Field, Freebody, Freeman, Glazier, Harris, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Hughes, Jones CBE, Kenward, Livings, Lock, Maynard, O'Keeffe, Pragnell, Reid, Rodohan, Rogers OBE, Scott, D Shing, S Shing, Simmons, Sparks, Stogdon, St Pierre, Stroude, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Mrs Tidy, Tidy MBE, Tutt, Waite, Webb and Whetstone.

61 Minutes of last meeting

61.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 12 February 2013 as a correct record.

62. Apologies for absence

62.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gadd, Lambert and Ost

63. Chairman's Business

SOUTH EAST SEVEN (SE7) CONFERENCE

63.1 The Chairman reported that on 7 March, the County Council organised the inaugural SE7 conference which provided 275 delegates with the opportunity to hear Councillor Jones and other speakers discuss the origins of the partnership, its programme of work and its ambition for the future. Delegates came from within the SE7 councils and, where applicable, their District and Borough councils, central government, partner organisations and other interested organisations across the public and private sector. In addition, delegates also had the opportunity to attend workshops on the SE7 workstreams. The workshop on the Special Educational Needs and Disability collaboration (which is being led by ESCC) was facilitated by the Lead Member for Children's and Adults' Services and involved officers and parent representatives from across the SE7. The Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, delivered the closing address of the conference, setting out the challenge for local authorities and acknowledging the vital contribution the SE7 is making to deliver improvements and savings. An evaluation exercise is taking place and early feedback suggests that the conference was well received and enabled the building of professional networks.

MATT DUNKLEY

63.2 The Chairman announced that Matt Dunkley was leaving the Council to take up a new post in Australia, working for the State Government of Victoria, as Regional Director for Education and Early Childhood Services for South Western Victoria. Matt

has worked at the Council for 21 years and has been Director of Children's Services for the last 8 years. The Chairman thanked Matt for what has been achieved within children's services during a period of great change and to acknowledge that the Council is well placed to move forward given initiatives such as the Thrive Programme and the developing partnership arrangements with schools. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Matt for his guidance and support and wished him and his family all the very best for the future. Other members including the four Group Leaders also paid tribute to the contribution Matt had made during his time at the Council.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE CHALLENGE

63.3 On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated the two schools in East Sussex who participated in the Make a Difference Challenge, namely Hartfield and Hurst Green Schools, who had successfully completed the Challenge which is organised by the Citizenship Foundation and sponsored by the Cabinet Office and the Pears Foundation.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

63.4 The Chairman announced that he had attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the 'Meet the Buyer' event at Eastbourne, the Pestalozzi Trust's International celebration Day and I joined the Mayor of Lewes and Town Councillors for the Beating of the Bounds Walk. I also gave a presentation at the Parkinson's UK local branch meeting. The Vice Chairman has attended a number of events including a jazz performance at Respond Academy, Hastings and a performance by DV8 students in conjunction with Bexhill Library. The Vice Chairman and I had undertaken 20 engagements in total since the last County Council meeting.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

63.5 The Chairman announced that this is the last full Council meeting before the elections in May. The Chairman wished all councillors good luck for their futures whether they were seeking re-election or were retiring and thanked all councillors for their work on behalf of the people of East Sussex. Other members including the four Group Leaders also paid tribute to the contribution councillors, particularly those who were retiring, had made during their time on the Council. The Chairman reminded councillors that purdah had come into force and of the need to exercise discretion during the coming weeks.

PRAYERS

63.6 The Chairman thanked Right Reverend Kieran Conry, Roman Catholic Bishop of Brighton and Arundel, Lewes for leading the prayers before the meeting.

PETITIONS

67.7 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received petitions from members as follows:

Councillor Freeman	- calling upon the County Council to provide a safe crossing on Belgrave Road, Seaford in the area of Kingsmead
Councillor O’Keeffe	- calling on the County Council to time restrict parking by non-residents in the shared use bays at the end of Leicester Road nearest the junction with Valence Road and along Valence Road, Lewes to prevent all day parking by non residents.
Councillor O’Keeffe	- calling on the County Council to determine fully and finally the permitted usage of all parts of the way referred to in correspondence with the Kingston Road and Cranedown Residents Association as ‘Cockshut Lane’.
Councillor Rogers	- calling upon the County Council to reduce the existing 50mph speed limit along the C7 from Lewes to Newhaven to 40mph
Councillor D Shing	- calling on the County Council to reinstate the street lights that are turned off after midnight in Southfield, Polegate
Councillor S Shing	- calling on the County Council to reinstate the street lights that are turned off after midnight in the Eastern Avenue area, Polegate
Councillor Stroude	- calling on the County Council to provide a safer crossing solution on the A272
Councillor Tutt	- calling on the County Council to use the investment provided by central government to mend potholes across the County on a permanent basis
Councillor Webb	- calling upon the County Council to make the pavements in the Ashford Road area of Hastings safe and accessible including the installation of dropped kerbs

64 Questions from Members of the Public

64.1 There were no questions from members of the public

65. Declarations of Interest

65.1 The following members declared personal interests in items on the agenda as follows:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Birch	Leader of Hastings Borough Council	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No
Councillor Maynard	Leader of Rother District Council	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No
Councillor Tutt	Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council	Cabinet report, paragraph 3	No

66. Reports

CALLOVER

66.1 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following paragraphs for discussion:

Cabinet

- paragraphs 1 and 2

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

66.2 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED those paragraphs in the reports of the Committees that had not been reserved for discussion.

67 Cabinet Report – reserved paragraphs

67.1 Councillor Jones moved the reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet's report.

67.2 The motions were carried after debate

68. Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

68.1 The following members asked questions of the Lead Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Bentley	Approach to be followed in relation to children reported missing
Councillor Heaps	Councillor Elkin	Initiatives to tackle children living in poverty in East Sussex
Councillor Freeman	Councillor Belsey	Compensation payments made by May Gurney as a result of the failure to repair and seal potholes
Councillor Webb	Councillor Elkin	Industrial action by staff at William Parker Sports College
Councillor Birch	Councillor Belsey	Impact of potential reduction of housing benefit for registered foster carers in East Sussex and monitoring of the impact in the future
Councillor Thomas	Councillor Maynard	Completion of the works on the A21 ahead of schedule
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Winter maintenance regime on highways during the snow in early March
Councillor Pragnell	Councillor Jones	Update regarding progress in relation the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road.
Councillor Thomas	Councillor Freebody	Future of mobile library service in the Willingdon area
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Freebody	Future provision of mobile library service
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Maynard	Number of vehicle damage claims, number where payment was made and number refused since 1 January 2013.

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Maynard	Compensation payments made regarding vehicle damage claims during 2012/13 and quality control monitoring of pothole repairs
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Bennett	Requirement for extra primary school places in East Sussex

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

68.2 A written question was received from Councillor St Pierre for the Lead Member for Children's and Adults Services. The question and answer are attached to these minutes.

68.3 The Lead Member responded to supplementary questions by the questioner for the purposes of clarification.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.03 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor St Pierre to Councillor Elkin, Lead Member for Children's and Adults Services

I note with interest the following statement:

*In the Autumn Statement on 5 December 2012, the Chancellor announced that the Government will provide an **additional £982 million** investment in schools in England over the remainder of this Parliament over and above existing allocations.*

*The Department for Education (DfE) is now launching the **Targeted Basic Need Programme** to fund the provision of new, high quality school places in locations experiencing basic need pressures in order to prepare for further rises in pupil numbers.*

As LAs have a statutory responsibility for providing sufficient school places in their area, they will be responsible for submitting applications for capital funding to meet the identified need for high quality places in their area. This document sets out the application process for LAs that wish to be considered for inclusion in the programme.

LAs will need to provide evidence of basic need to support proposals for new pupil places that meet the needs of pupils, parents and communities. All LAs can apply for funding but LAs with significant proportionate levels of basic need pressures are encouraged to apply for this programme.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/executiveagencies/efa/schoolscapital/a00222248/targeted-basic-need-programme>

Bidding for the fund opened this month and applications for existing maintained schools are within the remit of this Programme. There is a need for good purpose built classrooms in the county. Applications continue to come before the Planning committee to renew planning consent for old "mobile and temporary" classrooms. Additionally within the county there are a number of schools which are forced to take on an increased intake of numbers unsuitable for the current site.

Would Cllr Elkin update the Council on the status of applications made by ESCC under the Targeted Basic Need Programme and the number of old mobile classrooms and overcrowded school sites he hopes will be improved as a result?

Answer by Councillor Elkin

Thank you Councillor St. Pierre, and I can clarify that that under the Targeted Basic Need Programme

1. Local Authorities (LAs) can bid for funding to:

- Build high quality new schools on their own sites. These must be established as an Academy or Free School via the Academy presumption arrangements; and
- Permanently expand existing good and outstanding Academies and maintained schools. However, only the strongest proposals will receive funding, that is where there is clear evidence of high quality provision and significant oversubscription for places

2. The first additional places must be available from September 2014 and the remainder will become available from September 2015. In order to meet this timetable the DfE anticipate that building work will commence in autumn 2013.

3. Only LAs can apply for funding. Dioceses, for example, cannot apply for funding to establish a new VA school under section 11 of the Education Act. They would have to submit a bid to the LA to run the new academy like other interested parties.

4. LAs must provide details of their current and planned capital programme to deliver additional school places, including the funding stream. LAs must explain why the new provision that forms the basis of the application cannot be funded through other capital funding streams including normal basic need funding allocations from the DfE and other capital sources, such as S106 contributions.

5. The level of funding is based on the Education Funding Agency's (EFA) Contractors' Framework rates, is formulaically driven and takes account of baseline designs. The funding covers: building, site costs, abnormals, professional fees, fixtures, fittings and equipment (FF&E), ICT infrastructure and ICT hardware. In addition, a separate amount of up to £150,000 will be provided for each project to cover technical adviser fees (including project management). A funding example given for LAs outside of London is:

- For a two form entry primary school (420 places) £3.7m

6. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is currently considering its case for bidding into the Targeted Basic Need Programme, in light of the criteria and information provided by DfE/EFA, and based on the pupil place planning forecast data and the recently approved ESCC Capital Programme. There are other considerations to take into account when bidding including whether the relevant timescales for providing new school places can be met given the statutory requirements for consultation for expansion or provision of new schools.

Taking all of this into account, a bid to the programme from ESCC will be informed by the following:

7. ESCC has yet to start the process of advertising for academy providers to establish new schools. It is therefore likely that the earliest we could realistically expand existing schools is September 2015 as we need to carry out statutory consultations on our proposals before we are in a position to implement any capital projects.

8. ESCC will need to investigate how a bid to this programme can be aligned with funding already approved in its capital programme to deliver additional places by September 2015.

To address Councillor St. Pierre's question around "*the need for good purpose built classrooms in the county... and that... Applications continue to come before the Planning committee to renew planning consent for old "mobile and temporary" classrooms*", I would point out the following:

9. It does not appear that the Targeted Basic Need Programme can be used to address existing classrooms in temporary accommodation. It is aimed at providing new schools and expanding existing good and outstanding schools. However, ESCC was successful last year in securing funding through the capital programme to deliver five key priority projects to address the issue of temporary accommodation at schools in areas of pupil growth. In a programme of some £7 million temporary accommodation is being replaced with high quality state of the art permanent accommodation at:

- All Saints C of E Primary School, Bexhill
- Chantry Community Primary School, Bexhill
- Dudley Infant School, Hastings
- Hankham Primary School
- Battle and Langton C of E Primary School