

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 11 JULY 2017 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors John Barnes MBE, Matthew Beaver, Colin Belsey, Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Bob Bowdler, Tania Charman, Charles Clark, Martin Clarke, Godfrey Daniel, Philip Daniel, Angharad Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Stuart Earl, David Elkin, Nigel Enever, Michael Ensor (Chairman), Kathryn Field, Gerard Fox, Roy Galley, Keith Glazier, Darren Grover, Carolyn Lambert, Tom Liddiard, Laurie Loe, Carl Maynard, Ruth O'Keeffe MBE, Peter Pragnell (Vice Chairman), Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Jim Sheppard, Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth, Rupert Simmons, Andy Smith, Bob Standley, Richard Stogdon, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, Sylvia Tidy, David Tutt, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Trevor Webb and Francis Whetstone

19 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2017

19.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 23 May 2017 as a correct record

20 Apologies for absence

20.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Boorman, Simon Elford, Sarah Osborne and Daniel Shing

21 Chairman's business

LOUISE BAXTER

21.1 On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated Louise Baxter who was made an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours. Louise heads up the National Trading Standards Scams Team, which is hosted by the County Council. Through the work of the Scams Team and Louise's determination, many residents have been protected from financial fraud. Louise has fought on behalf of potential victims for many years and I am delighted that her work has been recognised in this way

BRIEFING FROM DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER MARK ANDREWS

21.2 The Chairman informed all councillors that there would be a briefing from DCFO Mark Andrews regarding the latest position in relation to high rise buildings in the County immediately after the conclusion of the Council meeting

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

21.3 The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of engagements since the last meeting including: the Chaseley Trust Open Day, a Citizenship Ceremony, a Hire a Hero Gala

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Ball, the Eastbourne Samaritans AGM, the Seahaven Armed Forces Day, the Millennium Squadron Annual Presentation Evening at Hailsham, the Bishop of Chichester's Choral Evensong and reception, the Opening Ceremony of the Eastbourne 999 Combined Emergency Services Display and the Lord Lieutenant's Reception and Open Air Concert. The Chairman reported that he had hosted a Summer Reception. The Chairman welcomed back the Vice Chairman after his recent period of ill health.

PRAYERS

21.4 The Chairman thanked Inspector Daniel Russell of Sussex Police for leading the prayers before the meeting

PETITIONS

21.5 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting the following petition had been received from a member:

Councillor Tutt - calling on the County Council to address the dangerous levels of congestion on Ashgate Road in Langley, Eastbourne

22 Questions from members of the public

22.1 Copies of questions asked by Gabriel Carlyle from St Leonards on Sea, Patricia Petterson-Vanegas from Ashurst Wood, Dirk Campbell from Lewes and Christina Letanka from Heathfield and the answers from Councillor Stogdon (Chair of the Pension Committee) are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked and responded to.

23 Declarations of Interest

23.1 The following member declared personal interests in items on the agenda as follows:

Member	Position giving rise to interest	Agenda item	Whether interest was prejudicial
Councillor Simmons	Council's representative on Sea Change Sussex	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No

24 Reports

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

Cabinet - paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - paragraph 1
Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee - paragraph 1

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NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

24.2 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 as follows:

Governance Committee report paragraph 1 – Amendments to Constitution – Transport and Student Support Panel

Standards Committee report paragraph 1 – Annual Report

25 Report of the Cabinet

Paragraph 1 – Council Monitoring 2016/17

25.1 Councillor Glazier moved this paragraph of the report

25.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

Paragraph 2 – Reconciling Policy Performance and Resources – State of the County

25.3 Following debate, and in moving this paragraph of the Cabinet's report, Councillor Elkin moved the following amendment:

'agree to the priority outcome "driving economic growth" being replaced with "driving sustainable [insert] (economic) growth'

25.4 The amended motion was CARRIED after debate.

Cabinet Report – Other Reserved Paragraphs

25.5 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 3 (Educational Attainment at Key Stage 4) of the Cabinet report with the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and paragraph 4 (Superfast Broadband) of the Cabinet report with the report of Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

26 Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT KEY STAGE 4

26.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 3 of the Cabinet's report

26.2 Councillor Galley moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

26.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

26.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

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27 Report of the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SUPERFAST BROADBAND

27.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 4 of the Cabinet's report

27.2 Councillor Stogdon moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

27.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

27.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

28 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Glazier	Review of policy regarding installation of sprinkler systems in buildings and review of emergency procedures.
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Standley	Lead Member meetings for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Councillor Ungar	Councillor Maynard	Number of residents receiving direct payments for social care
Councillor Scott	Councillor Bennett	Funding for highway repairs in Hastings and work on highways in Hastings by Southern Water
Councillor Godfrey Daniel	Councillor Standley	Funding for the East Sussex Music Service
Councillor Webb	Councillor Maynard	Care Quality Commission inspection ratings of establishments/services in East Sussex
Councillor Charman	Councillor Bentley	Response to cases of harassment and stalking
Councillor Godfrey Daniel	Councillor Bennett	Removal of graffiti on bridges on the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road

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Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Stephen Shing	Councillor Standley	Policy for temporary short term home to school transport support for families
Councillor Stephen Shing	Councillor Standley	Proposals to expand Polegate Primary School

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

28.2 There were no written questions from councillors.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.47 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

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QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Gabriel Carlyle, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex

According to figures presented by Hymans Robertson at the East Sussex Pension Committee's 13 June training day, the East Sussex Pension Fund currently has roughly £150m of local people's pension monies invested in oil and gas companies. Of these, only about £6m are invested directly with the remainder invested indirectly through pooled funds such as Legal & General's Equity Index Fund. Which oil and gas companies is the Fund currently exposed to through these indirect investments and at what levels?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Fund currently has indirect equity exposure with its passive investments with Legal and General and State Street Global Advisors. These investments track market indices and hold all the stocks within the index and at a commensurate level to its representation in the index. The indication is that the Pension Fund currently holds around 9% of its current equity exposure in oil and gas companies.

2. Question from Patricia Patterson-Vanegas, Ashurst Wood

According to the latest data, the East Sussex Pension Fund currently has £2m of local people's pension monies in Imperial Oil. Is the East Sussex Pension Committee aware of the recent report produced by Legal & General, Carbon Tracker, UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and other leading institutional investors ('2 degrees of separation: Transition risk for oil and gas in a low carbon world') which estimates that 50 – 60% of Imperial Oil's capital expenditure for the period 2017 – 2035 'may fail to deliver an acceptable return in the scenario of a world limited to 2 degrees Celsius global warming'?

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Committee members and the Pension Board representatives are aware of the previous report on why a 2°C business model is less risky than 'business-as-usual' for oil companies, and 'Engaging for a Low Carbon Transition', launched by LAPFF and Carbon Tracker. The June 2017 report from Carbon Tracker titled '2 degrees of separation: Transition risk for oil and gas in a low carbon world' report is scheduled to be circulated to the Pension Committee and Board before their July 2017 and August 2017 meetings respectively.

3. Question from Dirk Campbell, Lewes East Sussex

According to figures provided by East Sussex County Council, as at 30 April 2017 the East Sussex Pension Fund had £3.2 billion of local people's pension monies invested in pooled funds such as MPF Fundamental Index Global Equity. What is the Pension Fund's exposure to coal companies through these indirect investments?

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Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

As at 31 March 2017 the total value of the East Sussex Pension Fund was £3.3bn of which £1.5bn is invested in our passive pooled funds. These investments track market indices and hold all the stocks within the index and at a commensurate level to its representation in the index. The indication is that the Pension Fund currently holding less than 0.09% of its current equity exposure in coal companies.

4. Question from Christina Letanka, Heathfield, East Sussex

In view of the economic uncertainty and potential environmental risks associated with fracking, is the Pension Committee prepared to withdraw its investments from companies involved in this industry

Response by the Chair of the Pension Committee

The East Sussex Pension Fund does have concerns on the investment implications of climate change and other environmental risks. At this point in time, the Fund believes active engagement with investee companies is the preferred option to bring about change whilst managing overall investment risk issues. The approach of direct and collaborative engagement contrasts with blanket divestment. Once an asset owner divests, their ability to influence both the short and long-term direction of individual companies within the national and international energy sector is severely curtailed.

Money from the fund is invested to secure the best realistic return over the long-term to meet pension commitments, within an acceptable level of risk, by ensuring there is diversification across all asset classes and to keep employer contribution rates stable. Investments are regularly reviewed taking into account a number of factors.