

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance Committee held at Room CC2, County Hall, Lewes on 21 April 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair), Nick Bennett, Godfrey Daniel, Rupert Simmons and David Tutt

Councillor Standley spoke on item 5 (minute 48)

45 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2020

45.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

46 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

46.1 Councillor Godfrey Daniel declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 5 as a member of the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel.

47 REPORTS

47.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

48 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

48.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive regarding a report of the Local Government Ombudsman.

48.2 The Committee RESOLVED (by 4 votes to 0) – to note the contents of the Local Government Ombudsman's report in respect of complaint reference 18 012 500 and to agree the recommendations set out in section 3 of the report.
[Councillor Godfrey Daniel abstained from the vote]

49 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS

49.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive regarding temporary measures in relation to Council meetings as a result of Covid-19 disruption. The Committee agreed that paragraph 2.6(iii) should be amended to read:

'in relation to the Governance Committee - to delegate the functions of the Governance Committee in so far as the law allows to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the members of the Committee'

49.2 The Committee RESOLVED to recommend the County Council to:

1) approve the approach in relation to Lead Member decisions being made virtually and to its continuation;

2) agree that the Leader will assume all the powers of the Cabinet where required as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report;

3) agree the delegations to officers in relation to the functions of the Planning, Pensions and Governance Committees and the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report including the amendment referred to above;

4) agree that Member non-attendance related to Covid-19 be considered as an absence approved by the Council as set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report;

5) agree that the Chief Executive (or in her absence the Assistant Chief Executive) be authorised to cancel or postpone meetings, in consultation with the relevant Chair or Cabinet Member;

6) review these measures at the October 2020 meeting of the Council (or before if requested by a Group Leader) or as soon as practicable thereafter; and

7) agree to amend the Constitution accordingly.

50 CORONAVIRUS - ENTITLEMENT TO OCCUPATIONAL SICK PAY

50.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer regarding entitlement to Occupational Sick Pay for any sickness absence that is related to Covid-19.

50.2 The Committee RESOLVED to agree to the temporary suspension of the current policy of not paying Occupational Sick Pay to staff in their first year of service (probation) for any absence that is related to Covid-19.

51 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

51.1 The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive regarding the appointment of a County Council representative to the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

51.2 The Committee RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Webb as a Council representative on the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority for the period to 11 May 2011.