

COUNCIL

30th October 2018

Present: **The Mayor, Councillor Riaz, in the Chair**

Councillors Agar, Altaf, A. Amos, B. Amos, Bayliss, Berry, Biggs, Cawthorne, Collins, Cronin, Denham, Denlegh-Maxwell, Ditta, Feeney, Geraghty, Gregson, Griffiths, Hodges, Mrs L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Johnson, Jones, Knight, Lamb, Laurenson, Mitchell, Roberts, G. Squires, J. Squires, Stafford, Stalker, Stanley, Stephen and Udall

39 Apologies for Absence

None.

40 Declarations of Interest

None.

41 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

42 Mayor's Communications

Welcome to Students from the University of Worcester

The Mayor welcomed Lecturer Christine Challand and second year journalism students from the University of Worcester who were attending the meeting.

Forthcoming Events

The Mayor highlighted a number of forthcoming events:

- The Remembrance Day Service and Parade on Sunday 11th November at 11am
- The St Richards Hospice Charity Quiz at the Guildhall on Thursday 1st November
- The Elgar Chorale Charity Concert on Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm

Thanks

The Mayor thanked all Members who had supported recent events, including the unveiling of the Swordbearer's Portrait, the Civic Banquet and the posthumous granting of the Freedom of the City of Worcester to Basil D'Oliveira. He also thanked all the Council staff who had helped to make the many recent public events that have taken place in the City a success, in particular the Economic Development Team.

Refreshments

The Mayor invited all those present to the Parlour after the Council meeting for refreshments.

43 Public Participation

Karen Lawrance, Vice-Chair of Worcestershire Europe, spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, People's Vote, Agenda Item 7.

Liz Smith, Chairman of Worcester Twinning Association, spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, Friendship Pact with Gouzeaucourt, Agenda Item 7.

44 Questions

Question No. 1	
Question From:	Councillor Mitchell
Question To:	Councillor Marc Bayliss, Deputy Leader of the Council
Question:	Councillor Bayliss, as the Leader of the Council and Member with overall responsibility for Council activity, could you enlighten me as to why there was a break from the tradition in which all serving Members of the Council and their long suffering partners are invited to the civic reception. My understanding is that this is a way of saying thank you for their hard work, but particularly as a way of thanking their partners who have to put up with the many absences in the evenings, weekend surgeries, late night calls from residents etc. Further all former Mayors and their partners were also invited in recognition of their long service to the City. I was both surprised and disappointed not to receive an invite this year, as were many of my colleagues and some former Mayors who I have spoken to. My understanding is that the guest list is the responsibility of the Mayor, in this case Cllr Jabba Riaz, could you please explain why this tradition has changed and what, if any advice officers from democratic services gave in this matter?
Answer:	<p>Thank you for your question, Councillor Mitchell. I am aware that there are traditions in relation to such matters. On this occasion, the Mayor put forward his proposed invitation list for the Banquet to officers from Democratic and Civic Services, at which point he was made aware that all Members and their partners, and also former Mayors and their partners, are traditionally invited.</p> <p>All Mayors have discretion over who to invite, and some choose to have a guest list that differs from this tradition. On this occasion, the Mayor had a</p>

	<p>preferred list, and in the absence of any agreed written civic protocol on this matter, he decided to go ahead and invite his chosen guests.</p> <p>Some Members questioned why they had not been invited, and this matter has subsequently been discussed with Group Leaders. As a consequence a series of protocols are being drawn up and a protocol covering the Mayor's Charity Ball has already been agreed by Group Leaders.</p>
Supplementary Question:	Can you give me reassurances that this will not happen again?
Answer:	Group Leaders have discussed the matter and have agreed Protocols in going forward.

Question No. 2	
Question From:	Councillor Roberts
Question To:	Councillor Marc Bayliss, Deputy Leader of the Council
Question:	In the last four years have any Council employees left its employ under confidentiality agreements, gagging orders or similar, and if so how many?
Answer:	Thank you. Since April 2014, 323 people have left the Council's employ. Of these, the following numbers of staff have left with confidentiality agreements in place: 2015 - 0; 2016 - 5; 2017 - 3; 2018 - 1.
Supplementary Question:	I have been hampered in getting information in the past and am concerned that we can't know to who the nine agreements are referred to and how much they cost as there is no detail in the budget. Would you agree that if someone is incompetent they should not receive extra payment and the ratepayers money should not be spent on agreements that are aimed at keeping them in the dark by restricting information from the press?
Answer:	<p>Thank you Mr. Mayor. I don't know how much it has cost, but the requirement may be becoming more prevalent in the public sector, with the assumption that when an employee severs their employment they do not disclose confidential information. If there is a fear about confidential information being disclosed by former employees, then it is right that the rate payer should pay for their silence so that they don't speak to the press.</p> <p>I am unfamiliar with the terms of any confidentiality agreements, and so I can't discuss any details. Settlement agreements are a necessity in the private sector. Non-disclosure agreements are often included</p>

	in these. Unfortunately they are not particularly so in the public sector. Buying silence shouldn't be a necessity, but I will ask the Managing Director for more details, and a report could be taken to the Personnel and General Purposes Committee so that the appropriate committee can determine the correct position in relation to these matters.
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Question No. 3	
Question From:	Councillor Laurenson
Question To:	Councillor Marc Bayliss, Deputy Leader of the Council
Question:	In the latest edition of the local government magazine 'First', it is reported that main government grant funding for local services will be cut by a further £1.3 billion (36 per cent) in 2019/20 despite many councils already struggling to balance the books - what is your view on this Council's financial viability over the next few years?
Answer:	<p>Thank you for your question. The past few years have undoubtedly been a tough time for almost every element of the public sector as the government nationally has sought to bring under control the deficit they inherited. I note from the budget yesterday that the deficit is down from £200bn per annum to around £25bn this year. This has had implications for local government like any other sector.</p> <p>This Council has however weathered the period of austerity very well in my opinion. For each of the last 6 years this Council has made a surplus, including quite sizeable ones. In the last 3 years alone we made a 600k surplus, then a £500k surplus, the a £900k surplus in the most recent year. This Council has, thanks to robust governance and management over recent years, created a pot of money equal to about £10m in reserves. £1 was ring fenced, £9m ring fenced in reserves.</p> <p>This Council is able to invest in things that other councils are not. I personally believe this Council is in as good financial health as at any time in my 17 years as a member of it. As I said, this is thanks to good debt management from both Members and Officers, and a robust culture that has been fostered particularly through our committee system in the last two years.</p> <p>I think clearly there is a point in which government grants can't go it alone in the sense of making us</p>

	<p>viable. I would certainly join up with other council leaders across the public sector in making a case that we need to see growth in local government funding in the future, but I think we also need to do what we can as an authority to raise income, which we've done. The setting up of the Income Generation Sub-Committee is a good step in that direction, and I think we need to continue to be masters of our own destiny, raising as much as we can locally in order to enable us to push forward that City Plan vision.</p>
Supplementary Question:	<p>Thank you for your response, Councillor Bayliss. Despite your confidence in the Council's financial outlook, and according to the Government announcement that so-called austerity is to be ended, will you nevertheless be calling on the government to restore the revenue support grant to ensure we can continue to provide essential services such as homelessness and outreach services?</p>
Answer:	<p>As I said in my first answer, I will support any moves to help the government to recognise that councils do need to be appropriately funded. You mentioned one source, the business rates and new homes bonus are much more important sources of local government finance than the revenue support grant, so I wouldn't limit myself to any one fund.</p> <p>Government needs to play its part in financing local government, so do our citizens in terms of trading surpluses as well. So I see it very much as a combination of sources that will maintain this Council's good health.</p> <p>What I would say, as I've said before, this Council is a viable organisation for the long term, and is doing very good things and people are also using money very wisely. I would like to see that going forward.</p>

45 Notice of Motion

The Council considered the following Notices of Motion, which had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8:

Leader of the Council

Council resolves that the decision made at the Full Council meeting on 27th March 2018 namely *"that in the event of a hung Council the Leader of the Council is drawn from the largest group and the Deputy Leader of the Council is drawn from the second largest group. Where the two largest parties have the same number of seats two members (one from each party) are to be elected Co-leaders"* be rescinded (as identified at minute 70).

That the Monitoring Officer makes the necessary changes to the Constitution to implement this change.

The proposer, Councillor Gregson and the seconder, Councillor J. Squires spoke in support of the Motion.

Members then entered into a debate on the Motion where support and opposition was expressed across the Chamber.

The Motion was then put to the vote and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.2 a named vote was requested by Councillor Bayliss and supported by four Members. On being put to the vote the Notice of Motion was lost.

Record of Voting

For: Councillors	Against: Councillors
Agar, Berry, Biggs, Cawthorne, Collins, Cronin, Denham, Gregson, Hodges, Lamb, Laurenson, Riaz, G. Squires, J. Squires, Stalker, Stephen and Udall.	Altaf, A. Amos, B. Amos, Bayliss, Denlegh-Maxwell, Ditta, Feeney, Geraghty, Griffiths, L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Johnson, Jones, Knight, Mitchell, Roberts, Stafford and Stanley.
Total: 17	Total: 18

People's Vote

Council notes that two years have passed since the EU Referendum.

The People's Vote campaign has worked hard to develop cross-party support at the highest level, with signatories from parties from across the political spectrum supporting the campaign to allow the British people the final say on the final negotiated deal.

Accordingly, Worcester City Council resolves to:

1. support a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal with an option to remain in the EU; and
2. mandate the Managing Director to write to the Worcester's MP, to urge him, in the event of a no-deal Brexit to join the campaign for a People's Vote to give the British people the final say on Brexit.

The proposer, Councillor Stephen and the seconder, Councillor Laurenson both spoke in support of the Motion.

Members then entered into a debate on the Motion where support and opposition was expressed across the Chamber.

The Motion was then put to the vote and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.2 a named vote was requested and supported by four Members. On being put to the vote the Notice of Motion was lost.

Record of Voting

For: Councillors	Against: Councillors	Abstention: Councillor
Agar, Berry, Biggs, Cawthorne, Collins, Cronin, Denham, Gregson, Griffiths, Hodges, Lamb, Laurenson, Riaz, J. Squires, Stalker and Stephen.	Altaf, A. Amos, B. Amos, Bayliss, Denlegh-Maxwell, Ditta, Feeney, Geraghty, L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Johnson, Jones, Knight, Mitchell, Roberts, Stafford, Stanley and Udall	G. Squires
Total: 16	Total: 18	Total: 1

Friendship Pact with Gouzeaucourt

Worcester Twinning Association calls on Worcester City Council to extend the period of the Friendship Pact which exists between Worcester and Gouzeaucourt to February 2021. This is the date of the 100th anniversary of the official adoption of Gouzeaucourt by Worcester City Council under the British League of Help organisation. This act of friendship towards Gouzeaucourt was regarded as the first example of a Friendship Pact that Worcester had with a foreign town.

The proposer, Councillor Hodges and the seconder, Councillor Knight both spoke in support of the Motion.

On being out to the vote, the Motion was unanimously agreed and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council extends the period of the Friendship Pact between Worcester and Gouzeaucourt to February 2021.

Domestic Abuse

Council is concerned about the growing rates of reported domestic abuse in Worcester and the UK as a whole and wishes to offer our own employees help to escape any abuse and/or violence. Council asks Officers to present a report to Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee to consider amending relevant policies including granting our employees who are victims of domestic abuse ten days' paid leave to allow them to leave their partners, find new homes and to protect themselves and their children.

The proposer, Councillor Udall and the seconder, Councillor Stalker both spoke in support of the Motion.

Members then entered into a debate on the Motion where support was expressed across the Chamber.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was unanimously agreed and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council request Officers to present a report to the Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee to consider amending relevant policies including granting employees who are victims of domestic abuse ten days' paid leave to allow them to leave their partners, find new homes and to protect themselves and their children.

Full Service Universal Credit

Worcester City Council is concerned that the roll out of Full Service Universal Credit in Worcester will cause hardship to many families and vulnerable individuals in the city. Council notes with concern that where Full Service Universal Credit has already been introduced, foodbank use has increased by 50%, rent arrears have spiralled and many have fallen into debt. Council further notes that as many as 6,600 local families, including 11,300 children, will be affected by the roll out of Universal Credit in Worcester.

In order to address the financial hardship these families and vulnerable individuals may experience as a result of being put onto Universal Credit, Council directs officers to report back to the next available Communities Committee with:

1. initiatives that should include setting up a Universal Credit Hardship Fund of up to £50,000 to help with the immediate, short-term needs of vulnerable households who are experiencing a crisis or exceptional financial pressure as a direct result of their transition to Universal Credit;
2. agreed guidance and procedures for the administration of such a Universal Credit Hardship Fund that enables applications to be assessed and authorised and funds made available within three days; and
3. a plan to monitor the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit in Worcester through regular monitoring reports to Communities Committee, drawing on evidence from DWP and partner organisations, including voluntary sector and charitable organisations.

The proposer, Councillor Denham and the seconder, Councillor Collins spoke in support of the Motion.

Members then entered into a debate on the Motion where support and opposition was expressed across the Chamber.

The Motion was then put to the vote and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.2 a named vote was requested and supported by four Members. On being put to the vote the Notice of Motion was agreed and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council request Officers to report back to the next available Communities Committee with:

1. **initiatives that should include setting up a Universal Credit Hardship Fund of up to £50,000 to help with the immediate, short-term needs of vulnerable households who are experiencing a crisis or exceptional financial pressure as a direct result of their transition to Universal Credit;**

2. **agreed guidance and procedures for the administration of such a Universal Credit Hardship Fund that enables applications to be assessed and authorised and funds made available within three days; and**
3. **a plan to monitor the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit in Worcester through regular monitoring reports to Communities Committee, drawing on evidence from DWP and partner organisations, including voluntary sector and charitable organisations.**

Record of Voting

For: Councillors	Against: Councillors
Agar, Berry, Biggs, Cawthorne, Collins, Cronin, Denham, Gregson, Griffiths, Hodges, Lamb, Laurenson, Riaz, G. Squires, J. Squires, Stalker, Stephen and Udall.	Altaf, A. Amos, B. Amos, Bayliss, Denlegh-Maxwell, Ditta, Feeney, Geraghty, L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Johnson, Jones, Knight, Mitchell, Roberts, Stafford and Stanley.
Total: 18	Total: 17

46 Report from the Relevant Committee on Matters which are Referred to Council for Decision

Referral Report from, Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee – Local Development Scheme 2018/2021

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee to approve the Local Development Scheme 2018/2021.

At its meeting on 22nd October 2018, the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee considered the Local Development Scheme 2018/2021.

The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to full Council the approval of the Local Development Scheme 2018/2021.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs L. Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Gregson and on being put to the vote was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council:

1. **agrees the Local Development Scheme 2018-2021 as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report which comes into effect from 1st November 2018; and**
2. **delegates authority to the Corporate Director – Place in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to make minor amendments to the Local Development Scheme prior to publication.**

Referral Report from Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee – South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) Review – Issues and Options Consultation

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee to approve the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) Review – Issues and Options Consultation.

At its meeting on 22nd October 2018, the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee considered the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) Review – Issues and Options Consultation.

The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to full Council the approval of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) Review – Issues and Options Consultation.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs L. Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Agar and on being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council:

1. **approves the South Worcestershire Development Plan Issues and Options Paper as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the full Committee report for consultation between 5th November 2018 and 17th December 2018 and that consultation be undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Plan set out at Appendix 3 attached to the full Committee report; and**
2. **delegates authority to the Corporate Director – Place in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to make minor amendments to the Issues and Options Paper prior to consultation.**

Referral Report from Licensing and Environmental Health Committee – Animal Establishment \licensing Reforms

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Health Committee to approve the Animal Establishment Licensing Reforms.

At its meeting on 10th September 2018, the Licensing and Environmental Health Committee considered the Animal Establishment Licensing Reforms.

The Committee agreed to recommend to full Council the approval of the Animal Establishment Licensing Reforms.

It was proposed by Councillor Cronin, seconded by Councillor Knight and on being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council agree the following:

1. **determination of all licensing applications in respect of Animal Welfare Act 2006 is removed from para 3, Schedule 2, Part II (Matters not Delegated) of the Worcestershire Shared Services Agreement dated 1 April 2016;**
2. **the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 are added to Schedule 1 Appendix, Part II of the Worcestershire Shared Services Agreement dated 1 April 2016;**
3. **wording is added to Part II "Animal Health and Welfare" section of Appendix 1- Statement of Partner Service Requirements to Worcestershire Shared Services Agreement dated 1 April 2016;**

Activity	Outcomes/ critical success factors	Performance measures/ performance indicators and targets	Applicable polices, strategies, service standards, statutory codes or guidance
Licensing of Activities Involving Animals	Premises meet Licensing Conditions and License issued on time. Animal welfare issues addressed and protected. All appropriate persons and premises licensed.	Compliance with License conditions and standards.	The Animal Welfare Act 2006 The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

4. **delegate to the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services authority to grant, vary, suspend, refuse and revoke applications for animal activity licences; and**
5. **approve the proposed fees and charges as detailed in the report.**

Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee – Property Development – Revision of Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the revision of Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt.

At its meeting on 30th July 2018, the Policy and Resources Committee considered the revision of Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt.

The Committee agreed to recommend to full Council the approval of the revision of Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen, seconded by Councillor Bayliss and on being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt are revised in accordance with the proposals set out in the report.

Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee – No's 2 and 4 Copenhagen Street

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to approve an increase in the capital programme of £350,000 in 2018/19 for essential repairs and refurbishment of nos. 2 and 4 Copenhagen Street,

At its meeting on 10th September 2018, the Policy and Resources Committee considered the increase in the capital programme of £350,000 in 2018/19 for essential repairs and refurbishment of nos. 2 and 4 Copenhagen Street.

The Committee agreed to recommend to full Council the approval of the capital programme of £350,000 in 2018/19 for essential repairs and refurbishment of nos. 2 and 4 Copenhagen Street.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen, seconded by Councillor Gregson and on being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees to the increase in the capital programme of £350,000 in 2018/2019 for essential repairs and refurbishment of numbers 2 and 4 Copenhagen Street.

Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee – Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18.

At its meeting on 30th July 2018 the Policy and Resources Committee considered the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18.

The Committee agreed that the Annual Report for 2017/18 be referred for information to full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen, seconded by Councillor Bayliss and on being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/2018.

Referral Report from Standards Committee – Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee to receive the Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18.

At its meeting on 5th September 2018 the Standards Committee received the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18.

The Committee agreed that the Annual Report for 2017/18 be referred to full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodges, seconded by Councillor Jones and on being out to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council receive the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2017/2018.

Referral Report from Audit and Governance Committee – Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2017/18

The Council considered a referral report from the Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee to receive the Annual Report 2017/18.

At its meeting on 19th September 2018 the Audit and Governance Committee received the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18.

The Committee agreed that the Annual Report for 2017/18 be referred to full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Amos, seconded by Councillor G. Squires and on being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That the Council receive the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report for 2017/2018.

47 Report from the Leader of the Council on any matters which he is of the opinion require urgent consideration by The Council

The Leader of the Council stated that as this was the first meeting of full Council since the passing of Worcester University student, Tom Jones, he asked Members to observe a minute's silence.

48 Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

The Council considered the statutory appointment of an Interim Monitoring Officer.

The post was currently held by Tim O'Gara, Deputy Director – Governance. Mr O'Gara's last day of service was the 31st October 2018. The recruitment process for the Deputy Director was currently underway.

It was recommended that the Council make an interim appointment to the statutory role of Monitoring Officer. This appointment was a matter reserved for full Council.

Maria Memoli had been appointed to undertake the role of Deputy Director – Governance on an interim basis. The Monitoring Officer role fitted closely with the Deputy Director in terms of governance, conduct and legislative compliance. Ms Memoli has the appropriate skills and knowledge to undertake the role of Monitoring Officer.

It was proposed by Councillor Bayliss and seconded by Councillor Gregson that Maria Memoli be appointed as Interim Monitoring Officer with effect from 1st November 2018.

RESOLVED: That the Council appoint Maria Memoli as Interim Monitoring Officer with effect from 1st November 2018.

49 Statutory Appointment of Interim Returning Officer and Interim Electoral Registration Officer

The Council considered the statutory appointment of an Interim Returning Officer and Interim Electoral Registration Officer.

The posts were currently held by Tom O’Gara, Deputy Director – Governance. Mr O’Gara’s last day of service was the 31st October 2018. The recruitment process for the Deputy Director was currently underway.

It was recommended that the Council make an interim appointment to the statutory posts of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. These appointments were reserved for full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Gregson and seconded by Councillor Bayliss that Shane Flynn, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources, be appointed to these positions on an interim basis with immediate effect. Mr Flynn has been closely involved in the delivery of elections at his previous authorities and had the necessary skills and experience to fulfil these roles.

RESOLVED: That the Council:

- 1. approve the appointment of Shane Flynn, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources as Interim Returning Officer and Interim Electoral Registration Officer with immediate effect, and the Council agrees:**
- 2. that in the terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation with immediate effect Shane Flynn be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer for the Council; and in terms of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all related legislation with immediate effect Shane Flynn be appointed as Returning Officer for the Council with authority to act in that capacity for elections to the Council and all or any Parish and Town Councils within the Council area;**

3. that the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for the Council be also appointed or authorised to act in respect of all related elector, poll or referendum duties, including in relation to County Council elections, and for national and regional polls or referendums;
4. that in relation to the duties of Returning Officer or any other electoral, referendum, or polling duties arising from such an appointment, the Returning Officer shall be entitled to be remunerated in accordance with the approved scale of fees for local elections or the relevant scale of fees prescribed by a fees order in respect of national and regional polls or referendums;
5. that in all cases where it is a legal requirement or normal practice to do so, fees paid to the Returning Officer shall be superannuable and the Council shall pay the appropriate employer's contribution to the superannuation fund, recovering such employer's contributions from Central Government or other local authorities or agencies where this can be done;
6. that, in relation to the conduct of local authority elections and polls, and elections to the United Kingdom Parliament, and all other electoral duties where the Council is entitled by law to do so, the Council shall take out and maintain in force insurance indemnifying the Council and the Returning Officer including any appointed Deputy Returning Officers against legal expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the defence of any proceedings brought against the Council or the Returning Officer including any appointed Deputy Returning Officers and/or the cost of holding another election in the event of the original election being declared invalid (provided that such proceedings or invalidation are the result of the accidental contravention of the Representation of the People Acts or other legislation governing the electoral process, or accidental breach of any ministerial or other duty by the Returning Officer or any other person employed by or officially acting for him in connection with the election or poll); and
7. that, in the event of such insurance carrying an 'excess' clause by which an initial portion of risk is not insured, the Council, through its internal insurance fund or otherwise, will indemnify the Returning Officer and any appointed Deputy Returning Officers up to the value of such excess.

50 Items Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information

None.

51 Any Exempt Issues

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.20p.m. to 10.25p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on
19th February 2019