BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 12th July, 2018

Present:- **Councillors** Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, Jasper Becker, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, John Bull, Neil Butters, Anthony Clarke, Matt Cochrane, Craig. Paul Crossley. Chris Dando, Matthew Davies, Sally Davis. Andrew Furse, Douglas Deacon, Emma Dixon, Michael Evans, Charles Gerrish, Lizzie Gladwyn. Bob Goodman. Francine Haeberling. Liz Hardman. Steve Hedges. Deirdre Horstmann, Eleanor Jackson, Steve Jeffries. Les Kew. Marie Longstaff, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Robin Moss, Barry Macrae, Paul May, Alison Millar, Paul Myers, Michael Norton, Lisa O'Brien, Michelle O'Doherty, Lin Patterson, June Player, Joe Rayment, Dine Romero, Richard Samuel, Will Sandry, Mark Shelford, Brian Simmons, Peter Turner, David Veale, Martin Veal, Karen Walker, Geoff Ward, Tim Warren and Karen Warrington

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Cherry Beath, Ian Gilchrist, Alan Hale, Bryan Organ, Vic Pritchard, Liz Richardson, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts and Chris Watt

13 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Paul May declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 7 (Public statements) as a non executive Director of Sirona, and left the meeting while the public statement on this issue was being made.

Councillor Paul Crossley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 7 (Public statements) as his wife is a former employee of Sirona and receives a small pension for this. The Monitoring Officer issued a dispensation for this item.

Councillor Joe Rayment declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 9 – Youth Justice Plan, as Project 28 (mentioned in the report) is a DHI service, for whom Councillor Rayment works. He left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Councillors Mark Shelford, Charles Gerrish, John Bull, Lin Patterson and Liz Hardman declared an 'other' interest in item 13 – Environmental Sustainability motion, as shareholders (below the financial threshold) in the Bath & West Community Energy Company.

Councillors Robin Moss, Tim Warren, Jasper Becker and June Player declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items 14 & 16 – Short Term Lets, as having involvement in properties that are rented out.

Councillor Neil Butters, Colin Blackburn and Martin Veal declared an 'other' interest in items 14 & 16 – Short Term Lets, due to business or family links with rented accommodation.

The Monitoring Officer issued a general dispensation for all Councillors with interests in Airbnb, short term lets, hotels, guest houses etc to enable them to take part in the debate and vote.

15 MINUTES - 10TH MAY 2018

Councillor Dine Romero sought clarification on a point of accuracy, which was clarified by the Monitoring Officer.

On a motion from Councillor Steve Hedges, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 10th May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made the customary announcements regarding mobile phones, webcasting, Councillors accessing meeting papers via their ipads and a comfort break. She explained that the exempt item 15 would be brought forward to before item 14.

She then welcomed Councillor Sue Craig as the new Councillor elected for Kingsmead ward on 5th July 2018.

She concluded by congratulating the Council's Environment & Design Team's WaterSpace partnership project on reaching the top 2 in the Canals & Rivers Trust UK Living Waterways Award 2018, for best large scale community engagement project relating to the river and canal.

17 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

18 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Paul Roles made a statement setting out a series of problems regarding Curo accommodation in Kingsmead including locked bin stores, laundry rooms and bike facilities. He explained that, due to recent changes in waste collection and locked bin rooms, waste may be outside for days for seagulls to attack. He asked for help from the Council to solve these problems. Councillor Dine Romero noted Paul's comment that there had been no notice of locked facilities and asked about the impact of these on residents. Paul responded that 70% of the residents at Rosewall

Court on Monmouth Street were classed as vulnerable, having come from DHI, and explained some of their difficulties. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked Paul if Curo had responded by increasing residents' service charges to which Paul responded that they had doubled in the last year. The Chair thanked Paul for his statement which would be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member.

David Redgewell made a statement about the cross country rail franchise. He explained there was only one train a day from Bath to York which they want to withdraw and mentioned other issues about the service and level of the rolling stock. He commented that a response was needed by the Metro Mayor, with input from B&NES. Councillor Neil Butters asked whether a cross party approach with WECA would be the most appropriate response when facing up to this, to which David responded that would be the best way and added that the route knowledge of cross country staff needed to be maintained. Councillor Robin Moss asked if David knew what the Metro Mayor was doing about this; David responded that the Mayor was sending officers to meetings, there was a scrutiny panel coming up, and then the Board meeting and it was vital that the Mayor led on a response to this. The Chair thanked David for his statement and referred it to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Hannah Powell from the Youth Parliament made a statement about bus transport in North East Somerset which she described as being practically non-existent. She called on the Council to exert their influence to improve the service, particularly with regards to young people. She queried why over 16s, still in full time education, were charged adult fares, making travel very expensive for them. She suggested various ways this could be improved, citing examples from other UK cities, and outlined the improvements this would mean to air quality amongst other benefits. She concluded by calling on Councillors to recognise young people as worthwhile to the Council. Councillor Tim Warren thanked Hannah for her statement and invited Youth Parliament members to meet with him and First Bus. Councillor Neil Butters asked if Hannah thought that cheaper and more frequent buses would have an effect on congestion, to which she responded that she absolutely agreed and mentioned the Wellsway during rush hour as being a nightmare. Councillor John Bull hoped that Hannah would come and speak to the Communities, Transport & Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel and asked if she was aware that it was WECA who would be responsible for putting in place many of the initiatives Hannah had mentioned, and also asked whether she was aware that a Labour government would put in place free transport for under 25s. Hannah replied that free transport would be great but they needed to work now with the current government to make improvements. In response to a question from Councillor Sarah Bevan asking for Hannah's opinion of the single worst thing about the current situation, Hannah replied that it was the feeling of being ignored. She added that First Bus knew how many people relied on the bus service and yet the service was still so unreliable, leading to many young people being effectively isolated. The Chair thanked Hannah for her statement which would be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Joel Hirst presented a petition to Council regarding secondary school places (240 signatures, a further 40 to follow) asking for the Council to review the policies on secondary school places. He expressed concern about the disadvantage to families in the south west of Bath accessing their school of choice, the lack of local school places for these children, the time and cost impact of children travelling from south west Bath to St Mark's school and the impact of this travel on Bath traffic. He called

on the Council to provide a secondary school local to south west Bath, put in appropriate transport arrangements and address the injustice of the current admissions policies. Councillor Dine Romero asked if Joel thought that admissions policies should be looked at collectively, to which Joel responded that that would be helpful as Ralph Allen's was geared towards those from outside the city, and they needed looking at in the round. Councillor Joe Rayment asked if Joel was aware that Councillor Rayment had an active complaint lodged with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator about the Beechen Cliff policy of 40, 40, 20 as it excludes pupils from the south west of Bath. Joel replied that he had been aware of Councillor Rayment raising this issue generally, but hadn't known about the specific complaint. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked if Joel considered the academy programme had made this situation worse, to which he responded that he didn't know the details but was aware that the Council now had less of a role in effecting a change. The Chair thanked Joel for his statement which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Mel Clarke, a support worker at St John's Court, made a statement to the meeting. She explained the recent changes that Sirona had proposed to pay and hours, and described how many of her colleagues, the majority of whom had their own caring responsibilities, could not afford to take a pay cut. Councillor Steve Hedges asked about how many residents they typically looked after in a week, and how vital was the rest break, to which Mel responded that they rarely managed to have the rest break, and that in a 5 hour shift, they would make about 24 visits. Councillor Robin Moss asked, when workers were underpaid, overworked and undervalued, they managed to maintain the standard of care. Mel responded that it was hard but they kept a professional attitude and supported each other. She called on the Council to follow the lead of Bristol City Council and the work they had recently done to transform their care sector. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked about how the nature of the rest break worked in practice, to which Mel responded that she thought they were supposed to stay on the premises and it rarely really happened. Councillor Paul Crossley asked if the statement could referred to Scrutiny. The Chair thanked Mel for her statement which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member and Health & Wellbeing Select Committee.

Sharon Gillings made a statement to Council about the experience of Curo residents, a full copy of which has been placed on the Minute book and added to the online minutes. Councillor Bob Goodman asked Sharon if she was aware that officers had been meeting with Curo over the last 3 months, and Curo were now about to invest considerable sums to address some of the problems she had raised. responded that she welcomed this, but that the bins were only a small part of the failing. Councillor Andy Furse asked if Sharon was aware of similar issues relating to Knightstone and Sanctuary Housing Associations about which he had raised a question at Cabinet, and asked if Sharon would agree that the Cabinet needed to be more proactive about this. Sharon responded that she was aware that others had their problems but as Curo was next to her surgery, she had focussed on that. Councillor Robin Moss asked Sharon, in her capacity as a GP, to explain any potential health hazards resulting from these problems. Sharon responded that poor housing underpinned every part of a patient's physical and mental wellbeing. Councillor Sarah Bevan referred to a comment Sharon had made about not getting responses to emails to Curo, and offered the option of taking contact through the dedicated email Councillors have been given to deal with residents' issue. Sharon acknowledged there were other access points but wanted to make sure residents received responses to their emails, and described the unacceptable complaints process. The Chair thanked Sharon for her statement which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member and Communities, Transport & Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel.

Michael Lee-Wright from the Motor Neurone Disease Association made a statement asking Members to support the Motor Neurone Disease Charter. He spoke about his own experience of living with this condition for the last 9 years and the devastating effect it has, making even the smallest activity difficult. He explained the complex and expensive adaptations that sufferers usually needed to make to their homes. Councillor Dine Romero asked if Michael was aware how many people in B&NES have Motor Neurone Disease, to which he responded that he wasn't sure but was aware of about 20 in the area. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked what would be the single most helpful thing that Councillors could do, to which Michael responded that he was aware of how many demands there were on Councillors and that raising awareness was key. He explained that small adaptations made a huge difference eg; size of parking spaces, height of rails etc so ideally this could be considered through service provision. The Chair thanked Michael for his statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member for consideration.

Following a point of order being raised about actions that Council could take with regards to statements, the Chief Executive clarified that Council could agree to refer a statement to a Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel, which did not bind the Panel, but took the form of a request to a PDSP Chair to consider an item for their Panel as part of agenda planning.

19 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS 2018

The Council considered a report concerning the forthcoming publication from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England of its final recommendations on the electoral review of Bath & North East Somerset, and the consequent need to re-align the polling districts, places and stations. This report notes the review process and timetable for implementation.

On a motion from Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. To note the statutory requirements of the review process; and
- 2. To approve the timetable for the implementation of the review.

20 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2018 - 2019

The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in consultation with key partner agencies Health, Police and Probation, to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.

On a motion from Councillor Paul May, seconded by Councillor Michael Evans, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. To agree that the Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales;
- 2. That the Youth Justice Plan is adopted as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and can be accommodated within the Council budget; and
- 3. That the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel oversees progress and performance.

21 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The Council considered the Standards Committee Annual report for 2017-18.

On a motion from Councillor Sarah Bevan, seconded by Councillor Sally Davis, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to note the work of the Standards Committee as set out in the Annual report.

22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2017/18

The Council considered a report giving details of performance against the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan 2017/18.

On a motion from Councillor Charles Gerrish, seconded by Councillor Paul May, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. To note the Treasury Management report to 31st March 2018, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code, is noted;
- 2. To note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31st March are noted.

23 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND RELATED BUSINESS

The Committee considered a report setting out various proposed amendments to the Constitution. The Monitoring Officer made reference to 2 minor amendments which she had already approved, which she would circulate separately to Members for information.

On a motion from Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. To agree the revised Officer delegation scheme (Part 3, Section 4 A-E) as set out in Appendix 1;
- 2. To agree the revised Proper Officer functions table (Part 3, Section 4 C-1) as set out in Appendix 2;
- 3. To agree the revised Development Management delegation scheme (Part 3 Responsibility for Functions) as set out in Appendix 3;
- 4. To agree the revised Housing Services delegation scheme (Part 3 Responsibility for Functions) as set out in Appendix 4;
- 5. To agree the proposed revisions to the Employment rules (Part 4K) as set out in Appendix 5;
- 6. To agree the revised Restructuring Implementation Committee Terms of Reference (Part 5) as set out in Appendix 6; and
- 7. To agree that the Indemnities Scheme for Members and Officers be amended to specifically mention panel and co-opted Members.

24 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

On a motion from Councillor Mark Shelford, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

This Council:

- Notes that, since last summer the Environmental Sustainability Partnership Board has been working on a new Sustainability vision statement to bring to Full Council as a motion to reaffirm the Council's position on, and commitment to, sustainability.
- Therefore resolves to adopt the following as its Environmental Sustainability Vision Statement, in recognition of the importance of sustainability to everything the Council does:

B&NES Environmental Sustainability Vision Statement 2018:

Environmental sustainability is about our ability to survive and thrive into the future. Everything else that we seek to achieve – such as improved health and well-being and economic prosperity - is dependent on a clean environment and stable climate.

In Bath & North East Somerset, our ambition is to provide the leadership to enable the whole community to benefit from an environmentally sustainable, healthy, low carbon future that is resilient to changes in our climate. We seek to be a leading place for innovation and achievement in pursuit of these goals.

Benefits:

- Cleaner, greener and more affordable energy with more of it produced and owned locally
- Warmer and cheaper to run homes and businesses
- Less traffic and congestion, cleaner air & streets where people can walk and cycle easily, including increased pedestrianisation
- Healthier and more sustainable local food supply
- New jobs from increased local food and energy production, increased home energy retrofitting, growth in local circular economy
- Reduction in waste production, increase in recycling rates and energy from food waste
- Increased local stewardship of local water resources and better flood resilience
- Enhanced beauty of the local natural environment and increased public engagement
- Increased ability to withstand changes to the climate through greater local food and energy security

Enabling Partnerships, Strategies & Action Plans:

• There are a range of relevant partnerships, strategies and action plans that enable action on sustainability, locally and within the West of England. Please see Appendix (i) for the full list.

Approach:

The Environmental Sustainability Partnership's strategic approach to leading and supporting action utilises three principles:

- Partnership Working: Bringing together the right people to make things happen
- Community Enablement: Enabling residents and community groups to achieve their sustainability aims
- Leading by Example: Bold action from the Council and our partners.

Appendix (i): List of Enabling Partnerships, Strategies & Action Plans

- B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership:
 - Environmental Sustainability & Change Strategy
 - Local Food Strategy
 - Community Energy Strategy
 - o Bath & West Community Energy Co-operation Agreement
 - Keynsham Community Energy Co-operation Agreement
- Other B&NES Partnership Strategies
 - Health & Well-being Strategy and Healthy & Sustainable Places Group
 - Green Infrastructure Strategy
 - Fit for Life Strategy
- Council Service Delivery Strategies & Plans:

- Transport Strategies
- o Air Quality Action Plans
- Waste Strategy
- Planning Framework:
 - Core Strategy & Place Making Plan
 - Local Plan
- Beyond B&NES Partnerships & Plans:
 - West of England Nature Partnership
 - o Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
 - West of England Energy Strategy (in development)
 - o West of England Joint Strategic Plans and Joint Transport Plans

25 MOTION FROM THE INDEPENDENT GROUP - MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CHARTER

On a motion from Councillor Sarah Bevan, seconded by Councillor Anthony Clarke, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

Council notes that:

- Motor Neurone Disease is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord.
- It can leave people locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe.
- A person's lifetime risk of developing MND is up to one in 300.
- It kills around 30% of people within 12 months of diagnosis, more than 50% within two years.
- It affects people from all communities
- It has no cure.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) has recently published a Motor Neurone Disease Charter which it is asking Local Authorities to adopt.

Council resolves to

note the charter and support its principles and seek to ensure they are met within our services, strategies and commissioning arrangements.

The Charter:

1. People with MND have the right to an early diagnosis and information.

- 2. People with MND have the right to access quality care and treatments.
- 3. People with MND have the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect.
- 4. People with MND have the right to maximise their quality of life.
- 5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well supported.

26 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - SHORT TERM LETTINGS

On a motion from Councillor Joe Rayment, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was

RESOLVED that

Council notes:

- Home-sharing services are often attractive to tourists and they provide direct income to host households. However, regulation has been slow to keep up with the growth in these services and the impact they have on both the housing market and on amenity issues for residents;
- 2. In Bath and North East Somerset, we are experiencing a housing crisis, yet at the same time, properties are being removed from the private rental market as the earnings from short-term lettings can prove <u>lucrative</u> to landlords;
- 3. The difficulty in obtaining accurate figures around short-term lettings as there is no requirement to notify the Council of an intention to use a property in this way.
- 4. A report by Tom Copley (London Assembly Member) highlights recent changes to legislation allowing the short-term letting of whole residential properties for up to 90 days in a calendar year in London but that the report also identifies a need for additional measures to enable London authorities to investigate and effectively enforce the new legislation.
- 5. The B&NES Visitor Accommodation Study which this Council has commissioned to help provide evidence for the Local Plan includes considering the extent of and growth in short-term holiday lets and the implications and problems of short-term lets in relation to, for example, both the housing stock and the operation of other forms of visitor accommodation.
- 6. The Leader of Council has written to the Minister asking for a new use class to be introduced for short-term lets so that they are differentiated from dwelling houses.
- 7. The owners of properties <u>available</u> for short-term lets for up to 140 <u>nights</u> per year are liable for Council tax.

8. The Planning, Housing & Economic Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is due to discuss short term holiday lets at its September meeting, which will provide an additional opportunity for public engagement and evidence gathering.

Council believes that:

- 9. There is a need to find effective solutions which allow legitimate home-sharing to continue while at the same time addressing the widespread concern about the growing professionalised sector.
- 10. Bath & North East Somerset should be able to benefit from a change in legislation in the way that London has, and that, at the same time, the lessons should be learnt from the London experience with additional measures and resources to support enforcement of any new law.
- 11. There isn't a level playing field when hoteliers and registered B&Bs running legitimate businesses must comply with health and safety rules and licensing rules and contribute to the Council funds with business rate payments whilst 'Short Term Lets' do not.
- 12. This discrepancy could have implications on the health and safety grounds.
- 13. The increase in Party Houses is having a detrimental impact on communities.
- 14. Residential properties are lost to the tourist industry when they are badly needed for families.

Council agrees therefore to ask the Leader of Council to:

- 15. <u>Continue discussions with</u> the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking for:
 - a. A change in the law around short-term lets, limiting the short-term letting of whole residential properties to 90 days in a calendar year;
 - b. Other legislative measures such as a change to the use classes order, to make short-term holiday lets its own specific use class so that they are differentiated from dwelling houses;
 - c. The resources and tools needed to ensure that the costs of implementing any new legislation do not fall on Council taxpayers and to enable effective enforcement including, but not limited to, the introduction of a requirement that short-term lettings hosts must register with the Local Authority and that home-sharing platforms must share details of property owners suspected of breaching any new requirements;
 - d. Support with the creation of an ombudsman by the home-sharing platforms paid for by the industry to address home-sharing fraud, help with enforcement, resolve disputes and investigate complaints.
 - e. <u>Assurances that the costs of implementing any new legislation do not fall on Council taxpayers;</u>

- f. Tools to enable effective enforcement such as the introduction of a requirement that short-term lettings hosts must register with the local authority and that home-sharing platforms must share details of property owners suspected of breaching any new requirements;
- g. The introduction of a licensing and registration scheme to enable effective monitoring and control of anti-social behaviour and the use of enforcement powers where appropriate;
- h. The same regulatory framework for short-term lets and other forms of visitor accommodation;
- i. Any future Tourism Levy to apply to short-term lettings;
- j. An extension to the defined exemptions for "sole or main residence" within the Housing Act 2004 to include properties wholly used as short-terms holiday lets, thus enabling them to be subject to a licencing scheme.
- 16. Write to Housing Associations asking them to remind their tenants that they must not sub-let their homes.

[Notes;

- The underlined wording in resolutions 2, 7 ('available'), 11-14, 15, 15b and 15e-i above was proposed by Councillor Tim Warren, and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder of the motion.
- 2. The underlined wording in resolution 7 ('nights') was proposed by Councillor Dine Romero and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder of the motion.
- 3. The underlined wording in resolutions 8 and 15j was proposed by Councillor Will Sandry and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder of the motion.
- 4. The above resolutions were carried with one Councillor abstaining (Councillor Lin Patterson) and all other Councillors voting in favour.]

27 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - UNREGULATED SHORT TERM HOLIDAY LETS

Following a full debate on this issue on the previous item on the agenda, Councillor Will Sandry withdrew this motion.

28 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - SOMERSET COUNCILS

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

RESOLVED that

Council notes:

- 1. Discussions within Somerset councils to create one or more unitary councils to replace the current county and district model.
- 2. Media reports that the Leader of B&NES Council is 'interested in pursuing' a three-unitary model covering the area currently served by Somerset County, B&NES and North Somerset Councils.

3. That plans to replace nine councils in Dorset with two unitary authorities are now subject to a judicial review.

Council:

- 4. Believes it is appropriate for B&NES Council to be involved in discussions about future local government structures in Somerset.
- 5. Agrees that the creation of a Somerset super-unitary authority incorporating B&NES Council would be undesirable and would not benefit B&NES residents.
- 6. Believes that evidence would be required to show whether a unitary authority covering the areas of B&NES and Mendip District Councils would be of benefit to residents and businesses in both areas before any further steps are taken.
- 7. Instructs the Leader to ensure that discussions on this issue are carried out with full transparency and that no formal processes are to take place without democratic oversight by Council.

Notes;

1. The above resolution was carried with 38 Councillors voting in favour, 9 Councillors voting against and 2 abstentions.]

29 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no items from Councillors.

The meeting ended at 9.55 p	m
Chairman	
Date Confirmed and Signed	
Prepared by Democratic Service	S