

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 16th June, 2020

Present:- **Councillors** Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, Winston Duguid, Mark Elliott, Michael Evans, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michelle O'Doherty, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Chris Watt, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: None

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer issued a general dispensation to all Councillors who had received financial remuneration from the government (eg; furloughing or business grants etc).

There were no individual declarations of interest.

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

The Chairman took this opportunity to recognise the physical, economic and mental health impacts on the community from the coronavirus pandemic and offered his thoughts and sympathies on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Manda Rigby on her recent appointment as Mayor of Bath.

12 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

13 COVID-19 - UPDATE REPORT AND POSITION STATEMENT

The Council considered this report which had previously been considered by the Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel and the Cabinet.

During debate, comments were made by Councillors Dine Romero, Richard Samuel, Paul Myers, Winston Duguid, Duncan Hounsell, Andy Wait, Tom Davies, Dr Kumar, Joel Hirst, Alison Born, Colin Blackburn, Chris Watt, Liz Hardman, Tim Ball, Shelley Bromley, Rob Appleyard, Joanna Wright, Sarah Warren, Michael Evans, Paul May,

Robin Moss, Matt McCabe, Vic Pritchard, Kevin Guy, Shaun Stephenson Mc-Gall and Grant Johnson.

Many Members praised incredible community efforts and creative initiatives that had been developed in responding to the effects of the virus and offered thanks to a wide number of local groups, as well as staff, 3SG and key workers such as health and teaching staff.

Members noted that the financial support from the Government did not meet the budget deficit and comments were made both in support of and against the Government's handling of the pandemic and the approach to be taken to address the deficit.

Some Members offered their view that the paper lacked financial detail making proper scrutiny difficult.

Members raised various points for consideration by the Cabinet when bringing forward their financial recovery framework. Several Cabinet Members acknowledged that they were returning to a 'new normal' and flexibility would be needed as the Council moved into the recovery phase of its response.

Before bringing the debate to a close, the Chairman thanked Members for all their comments (which can be viewed in full on the Council's YouTube channel) and called upon the Cabinet to give these comments due cognisance prior to their consideration of the Covid-19 2020/21 Financial Recovery plan report at their next meeting on 2nd July 2020.

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Richard Samuel, it was

RESOLVED

1. To note the report on the Council response to COVID – 19 pandemic; and
2. To agree a formal vote of thanks, on behalf of the Council and all residents of Bath and North East Somerset, to all Council staff, NHS staff, Health and Care workers, key workers, volunteers and all other members of the community who have been involved in the response to Covid-19 either professionally or in a personal capacity.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was carried with 48 Councillors voting in favour and 11 Councillors voting against.*
2. *During debate, Councillor Blackburn asked for his comments to be noted – see the YouTube channel for full details.]*

The meeting ended at 6.25 pm

Chairman

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services