



EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Thursday 23 November 2017 at 6.00pm

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## **PRESENT**

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh
Councillor David Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Richard Hobbs
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor Mike Bradley	Councillor Chris Morris
Councillor David Brown	Councillor Hamish Ross
Councillor David Chaplin	Councillor Mike Rouse
Councillor Steve Cheetham	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Councillor Paul Cox	Councillor Carol Sennitt
Councillor Peter Cresswell (Chairman)	Councillor Alan Sharp
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor Stuart Smith
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Jo Webber
Councillor Mark Goldsack	Councillor Christine Whelan

### 46. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received from the public.

### 47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alderson, Allan, Austen, Beckett, Every, Green, Hitchin, Hugo, Pearson, Roberts, D Schumann, Shuter and Stubbs.

### 48. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of a Personal Interest was made Councillor Hunt regarding agenda item 7, as a family member had a prominent position within the Combined Authority.

### 49. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

By way of clarification, as this is a Special Council Meeting, minutes of our last meeting will be presented for approval at our next scheduled meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### Business Visit

As you are aware, one of my initiatives as Council Chairman has been to set up, in liaison with Officers, visits to local businesses. Our next visit is to the Eastern Agri-Tech Innovation Hub in Soham a week tomorrow, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. If you would like to join us and have not already registered, it is not too late to do so. Please have a word with me at the conclusion of this evening's meeting or email Jessica Dewsbury, Administrator of the E-Space Business Centres.

### Staff Christmas Reception

Another reminder – the Annual Staff Christmas Reception will be taking place here in the Council Chamber on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, commencing at 12:30pm. This is our opportunity to convey our thanks to all staff for the contribution they have made during the past year. If you are able to attend please advise Lynne Smart.

### Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

Finally, just to advise you that I sent a message of congratulations, on behalf of all residents of the district, to Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip on the occasion of their Platinum Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated earlier this week.

## 50. **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (BCE) 2018 CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW – EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON REVISED PROPOSALS**

Council considered a report, S176 previously circulated, detailing a proposed submission to the BCE consultation on the revised proposals for new constituency boundaries for England.

The Infrastructure and Strategy Manager reminded the Council that the BCE had published its revised proposals for boundary changes back in October. These included a proposal to move Littleport into the new South West Norfolk constituency with the remainder of the district remaining in the South East or North East Cambridgeshire constituencies. Therefore, under these proposals Littleport would lose its links to the rest of the district. Appendix 1 of the report expressed an alternative solution to enable Littleport to remain with the district and this solution was recommended for approval.

This was then proposed by Councillor Bailey and second by Councillor D Ambrose Smith.

Councillor Bailey, in speaking for the alternative solution, thanked the officer for their hard work in bringing about a sensible solution to a difficult issue, especially when considering it related to Parliamentary boundaries. Thanks were also given to all the local Littleport Members for their support in attempting to keep Littleport within a Cambridgeshire constituency. The alternative arrangement suggested met all the relevant criteria, it would be a better outcome for the BCE and respected the local government boundaries and ties. The proposal to move Littleport into a Norfolk constituency should be rejected and it should be kept with the Combined Authority's area. It was therefore imperative that Littleport remain within a Cambridgeshire constituency.

Councillor Hunt thought the alternative suggestion showed common sense, as it would not fit with a Norfolk constituency. It was understood that equality of elector numbers within constituencies made sense but Littleport already sat fine with the North East Cambridgeshire constituency. The suggestion that Roman Bank should be included with the Norfolk constituency was a better idea as those areas tended to look to Kings Lynn for services already. Littleport belonged to Cambridgeshire and whatever the Council could do to ensure it remained so should be done.

Councillor Dupre reminded the Council that central Government had ordered the review of boundaries, with a view to reducing the number of Members of Parliament. The intention of the review was to make sure all constituencies were of similar size. This meant that the east of England would have to lose one Member of Parliament and Norfolk would have half a Parliamentary seat left over. The BCE's view was that Littleport was the most appropriate area to be included with Norfolk to solve that issue. Littleport had good rail links and other transport services with Kings Lynn and people also looked to Kings Lynn for health services and other facilities. The BCE had rejected a Council response previously, as it believed it would have caused unnecessary disruption to the constituencies. This time the alternative suggestion was not quite as bad, but the justification for it did not add up. It was true that it sorted out the Littleport problem but only by dumping on an area in Fenland, which was suggested be moved into the new Norfolk constituency. The efforts made were utterly pointless anyway, as Members of Parliament would not vote for the alternative and no changes would be seen until after the next General Election.

Councillor Mike Bradley reminded the Council that the matter it was considering related to a local issue and not a national one. The question was whether the Council wished Littleport to continue to be part of East Cambridgeshire. The answer should be that it wanted to keep the town as part of the local community.

Councillor D Ambrose Smith reiterated that day-to-day life within Littleport related to Ely and Cambridge and not Norfolk, which had no part in the residents' daily lives. Therefore, Littleport should remain in Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Webber contended that all public services relating to Littleport were found in Cambridgeshire. So the town was and should remain part of a Cambridgeshire constituency. It was a shame that not all Members could support that idea.

Councillor Hunt then requested a recorded vote.

The recorded vote went thus:

For (24):

Councillors C Ambrose Smith, D Ambrose Smith, Bailey, Bovingdon, Bradley, Brown, Chaplin, Cheetham, Cox, Cresswell, Edwards, Goldsack, Griffin-Singh, Hobbs, Huffer, Hunt, Morris, Ross, Rouse, J Schumann, Sennitt, Sharp, Smith and Webber

Against (0)

Abstentions (2):

Councillors Dupre and Whelan.

It was resolved:

That the submission to the BCE attached as Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

#### 51. **TRANSFER OF WASTE SERVICES UPDATE**

Council was given an oral update on progress relating to the transfer of waste services to the East Cambridgeshire Trading Company.

Councillor Huffer advised the Council that the project had been rigorously managed against the agreed governance arrangements and was overseen by a Project Board that met monthly and received formal project reports and a Gantt chart to clearly evidence progress or issues arising. The Board of the Trading Company was also receiving formal progress reports.

All work streams within the overall project plan had been delivered on time, or were currently forecast to be delivered on time, reflecting the hard work put in by the Project Team under the leadership of the Director, Operations. The risk register was also showing no substantive risks that were not being effectively managed.

The Waste Services Team Leader had passed his operator's licence and congratulations were offered to him. The Memorandum of Agreement under which the waste and street cleansing services would be delivered by the Trading Company had been drafted and reviewed by an external legal advisor ready for approval by the Regulatory Services Committee in January 2018.

The waste policies of the Council had been fully reviewed to identify the now approved extension to recycling services. The provision of a second blue bin on request for a one-off fee of £25 would not place any additional financial burden on the Council. An awareness campaign was being carried out in low performing area for recycling to stimulate participation. All street cleansing requirements were being reviewed to better structure the service going forward and to move towards the cleansing standards in the Environmental Protection Act. A new fleet of refuse and street cleansing vehicles had been procured at lower than budgeted costs to replace vehicles currently owned by Veolia and a Service Level Agreement for the maintenance of vehicles had been negotiated at market rates with Cambridge City Council.

To improve the service provided to residents all workflows with the waste and street cleansing service were being reviewed to focus on first time fixes to drive up customer satisfaction with the services. A revised policy and process for dealing with incidents of fly tipping had been approved by Regulatory Services Committee. We aimed to remove fly tips on public land within 2 full working days of it being reported. A revised policy for dealing with waste collections from private and unadopted roads had been approved at Regulatory Services Committee. The next stage was for us to compile a register of all unadopted and private roads in our district. A staff forum had been established for the Veolia staff scheduled to transfer to the Trading Company to ensure they are fully involved in the future delivery of the service.

The priorities for the next 4 months:

- Finalise the budget envelope for the delivery of the services by the Trading Company to ensure affordability for the Council;
- Finalise the contract for the provision of fuel at market rates for waste and street cleansing services;
- Develop a costed refurbishment plan for the depot to meet core operational and health and safety requirements;
- Begin the consultation on the restructuring of the Veolia management team and Waste Team at the Council to create a fully integrated service;
- Secure the Operator's Licence for the running of the waste fleet;
- Manage the smooth TUPE transfer of the Veolia staff into the Trading Company.

Councillor Huffer was delighted at the progress made but was under no illusion that to get to where they were had taken an incredible amount of work and effort and she was proud to be part of that. This would be the biggest contract to be brought back to the Council for years. The aim was to provide a service that was second to none and one that the Council and its residents deserved. The officers working on this project were extraordinary. Their dedication and attention to detail was wonderful to see.

Councillor Dupre questioned the logic behind the report, as the waste service was to go to the Trading Company. However, the Trading Company would not be complying with its requirements so this cannot be accepted. Would it be going to the Trading Company and what were the plans for its re-structuring so it could accept this service?

The Chief Executive explained that these questions related to Teckal compliance and the Trading Company was looking to re-structure so it could accommodate the waste service. A paper would be going to the Shareholder Committee with a view to creating a separate waste company. This would come to members for approval and was scheduled to be brought to full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The Chairman offered thanks to Councillor Huffer on behalf of the Council for handling this matter so effectively.

52. **COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORT**

The Council noted the report.

The meeting concluded at 6.31pm.

Chairman.....

Date        4 January 2018