

## Dorset County Council

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,  
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 3 December 2014.

### Present:

John Wilson (Chairman)  
Andrew Cattaway (Vice-Chairman)

Michael Bevan, Richard Biggs, Steve Butler, Mike Byatt, Andy Canning, Ronald Coatsworth, Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Hilary Cox, Deborah Crony, Lesley Dedman, Janet Dover, Fred Drane, Beryl Ezzard, Peter Finney, Robert Gould, Peter Hall, David Harris, Jill Haynes, Colin Jamieson, Susan Jefferies, David Jones, Trevor Jones, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Mike Lovell, David Mannings, Margaret Phipps, Peter Richardson, Ian Smith, William Trite, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Peter Wharf and Kate Wheller.

### Officers attending:

Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Jonathan Mair (Acting Director for Corporate Resources), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services), Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager), Denise Hunt (Democratic Services Officer) and David Northover (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

(Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the County Council to be held on **12 February 2015**.)

### **Apologies for Absence**

84. Apologies for absence were received from Pauline Batstone, Dan Brember, Barrie Cooper, Spencer Flower, Ros Kayes and Mark Tewkesbury.

### **Code of Conduct**

85. There were no declarations by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

### **Public Participation**

#### Public Speaking

86.1 There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

86.2 There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

#### Petitions

86.3 There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme at this meeting.

### **Chairman's Announcements**

87.1 The Chairman reported on the following death of a former member of the County Council:

Mr Neill Evans on 24 November 2014, who served on the County Council between 1993 and 1997, representing the Corfe Mullen electoral division.

87.2 Members paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of the former member. The County Council then stood in silent tribute.

### **Leader of the Council**

88. The County Council was invited to consider the arrangements for the appointment of Leader of the Council. The Chief Executive explained that the Leader of the Council had given notice on 2 December 2014 that he would stand down as Leader with immediate effect. It was therefore necessary to appoint a new Leader of the Council for the remainder of the electoral cycle until 2017. On being put to the vote Robert Gould was duly elected as Leader of the Council.

### **Resolved**

89. That Robert Gould be appointed Leader of the Council for the period up until the annual County Council meeting in 2017.

### **The Cabinet**

90.1 The Leader of the Council drew attention to the challenging and difficult work ahead and that he intended to do everything possible to continue on the course set by the former Leader, which was gaining momentum in delivering transformational and cultural change to serve the residents of Dorset. He announced that he would retain all existing Cabinet Members at present and he would review the portfolios to match the priorities of the Council. It was noted that when the review had been concluded in the next few weeks the appointments to portfolios would be reported to members as soon as possible.

90.2 In relation to the role of the Deputy Leader, the Council was informed that Peter Finney had been appointed to the position.

90.3 It was noted that the Leader of the Council would directly replace the former Leader on the Staffing Committee, and as a consequence it was proposed that Peter Finney should also be appointed to the Committee. On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

### **Resolved**

91.1 That the review of Cabinet member portfolios be noted, and that it would be reported back to members in due course.

91.2 That the appointment of Peter Finney as Deputy Leader of the Council be noted.

91.3 That Peter Finney be appointed to serve on the Staffing Committee.

91.4 That the arrangements for executive decision making remain unchanged.

### **Questions from Members of the Council**

92. No questions were presented under standing order 20 to the Chairman of the Council, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members, or chairmen of appropriate committees to answer questions on any business not covered on this agenda, including any questions on the discharge of the functions of the Fire Authority.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am to 10.20am