

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2009
2.00 PM



PRESENT

Councillor Mike Exton in the Chair until the election of the new Chairman
Councillor Bob Adams Chairman

Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Christine Brough
Councillor Robert Broughton
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Elizabeth Channell
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Alan Davidson
Councillor John Dawson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Stuart Farrar
Councillor John Harvey
Councillor Robert Hearmon
Councillor Bryan Helyar
Councillor David Higgs
Councillor Trevor Holmes
Councillor Reginald Howard
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Mrs Maureen Jalili
Councillor Kenneth Joynson
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Albert Victor Kerr
Councillor Jock Kerr
Councillor Reg Lovelock M.B.E.

Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Stuart McBride
Councillor Andrew Moore
Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal
Councillor John Nicholson
Councillor Alan Parkin
Councillor Mrs Margery Radley
Councillor Bob Russell
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Trevor Scott
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Mrs Maureen Spencer-Gregson O.B.E.
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Michael Taylor
Councillor Jeffrey Thompson
Councillor Frank Turner
Councillor Tom Webster
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Graham Wheat
Councillor Avril Williams
Councillor Mike Williams
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Raymond Wootten



"Listening Learning Delivering"

South Kesteven District Council

STAMFORD • GRANTHAM • BOURNE • THE DEEPINGS

OFFICERS

Interim Chief Executive
Strategic Director, Ian Yates
Corporate Head, Finance & Customer
Services

OFFICERS

Legal Services Manager (Monitoring
Officer)
Democracy Service Manager
Democratic support Officer

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION: That Councillor Bob Adams be elected Chairman of the District Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Cook and seconded by Councillor Craft that Councillor Bob Adams be Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. In proposing Councillor Adams, Councillor Cook referred to his sharp wit and intelligence and strong sense of direction, qualities which would benefit the role of Chairman of the District Council.

There being no other nominations, the Council voted on the election of Councillor Adams which was duly carried.

The Chairman thanked the Council for their confidence in him and said he would endeavour to uphold the dignity and integrity of the office as his predecessors had done. He was then invested with the chain of office, made a declaration of acceptance of office, and took the chair.

COUNCILLOR BOB ADAMS IN THE CHAIR

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

A vote of thanks was made to the retiring Chairman proposed by Councillor Mike Williams. Councillor Williams said he was delighted to offer the vote of thanks to Councillor Exton as he had worked extremely hard for the Council and was an excellent ambassador. He had chaired Council meetings with dignity and fairness as well as carrying out a heavy schedule of civic engagements.

The new Chairman then presented Councillor Exton with gifts to commemorate his year of office, a past Chairman's badge, and a plaque showing the District Council's Coat of Arms.

3. RESPONSE BY THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Councillor Exton then responded by thanking members for their co-operation and patience which he said had helped to make his job easier. Councillor Exton thanked all the officers of the authority and his chaplain, the Reverend Roland who was unable to attend this meeting due to holiday commitments. He said he had enjoyed a fantastic year, his year of office probably being unique because during that time there had been five separate incumbents in the post of Chief Executive.

Councillor Exton then went on to thank personally three members of staff who had helped to support him with organising the civic diary, Viv Wyatt, Elaine Charity, and Debbie Thomas to whom he presented small gifts of appreciation.

In keeping with tradition, he presented his gift to the Council which was a silver dish.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION: That Councillor Mrs Margery Radley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bosworth and seconded by Councillor Farrar that Councillor Mrs Margery Radley be Vice-Chairman of the District Council for the ensuing year. In nominating Councillor Mrs Radley, Councillor Mrs Bosworth paid tribute to her as a good friend and a hard working, family orientated, caring, and adventurous person. In her many public roles she cared for those less fortunate.

A further nomination of Councillor Reg Howard was proposed by Councillor Vic Kerr and seconded by Councillor Broughton. In proposing Councillor Howard for Vice-Chairman, Councillor Kerr referred to his membership of the Council for over 20 years and how he rarely missed a meeting. Following a vote, Councillor Mrs Radley was elected Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Mrs Radley made a declaration of acceptance of office and thanked the Council for electing her. Councillor Howard said he wished to be the first to congratulate her.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Gaffigan and Councillor Newcombe-Jones.

Councillor Mrs Jalili advised members that Councillor Mrs Gaffigan's absence was because her husband had suffered a serious accident and was currently in

hospital.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, members agreed that a letter should be sent on behalf of the Council to Councillor Mrs Gaffigan and her husband to express everyone's concern and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor John Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute 18. His interest arose by virtue of his membership of a club which met within the Bourne Core Area.

Beverly Agass and Ian Yates declared a personal interest in minute 19 and indicated they would leave the Chamber when this item was discussed.

7. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2009 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6 APRIL 2009.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to an amendment at minute 89 parts c and f to indicate that those parts of the budget resolution were based on an addendum to report CHFCS25 that had been circulated at the meeting.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 6 April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

8. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS)

Circulated with the agenda was a list of the outgoing Chairman's engagements which was received and noted.

The Democracy Service Manager reminded any members who had yet to submit their outstanding travel claims for 2007/08 to do so before the cut off date of 30 April 2009.

9. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

DECISION: That Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed Leader of the District Council until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor, and seconded by Councillor Lovelock, that Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed Leader of the Council.

10. DETERMINATION AS TO THE NUMBER OF CABINET SEATS, CABINET MEMBERSHIP AND PORTFOLIOS

DECISION:

- (1) To set the Cabinet at six members including the Leader;
- (2) To note the following membership of the Cabinet and their respective portfolio responsibilities:

PORTFOLIO	MEMBER
Leader Strategic Partnerships	Councillor Mrs Linda Neal
Deputy Leader Corporate Governance & Housing	Councillor Paul Carpenter
Resources & Assets	Councillor Mike Taylor
Economic Development	Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Access & Engagement	Councillor Ray Auger
Healthy Environment	Councillor John Smith

The Leader advised that the size of the Cabinet would remain at six members (including the Leader). The Leader then expressed her personal thanks to Councillor Mrs Spencer-Gregson who had held the Assets and Resources portfolio for the last two years. Councillor Mrs Spencer-Gregson had now wished to step down from this position and Councillor Mike Taylor would now be appointed to this Cabinet portfolio responsibility.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS.

DECISION:

(1) Noting and accepting the wish of the Labour Group to relinquish its allocated seat on the Development Control Committee and to nominate Councillor Sam Jalili for that seat, to approve the following arrangements for the allocation of committee seats to members based on political groups' aggregate membership as a proportional share of Full Council seats:

Committee	Conservative	Independent	Liberal Dem't	Labour	Total
Development Control	10	4	3		17
Licensing	7	3	1		11
Resources PDG	5	1	1		7
Communities PDG	4	2	1		7
Engagement PDG	4	2		1	7
Scrutiny Committee	7	3	1		11
Constitution Committee	3	1	1		5
Governance & Audit Committee	3	1	1		5
Standards Committee	Political balance does not apply				4
Chief Executive's appraisal panel	3	1			4

(2) To endorse the names of the members of the Standards Committee as notified by the Leaders of the three largest Groups on the Council:

Councillor Lovelock M.B.E., Councillor Harvey, Councillor Moore, and Councillor Mike Williams

(3) To approve the following committee memberships:

Development Control Committee:

Councillor Adams
Councillor Exton
Councillor Mrs Gaffigan
Councillor Harvey

**Councillor Helyar
Councillor Higgs
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Howard
Councillor Mrs Jalili
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Vic Kerr
Councillor Newcombe-Jones
Councillor Parkin
Councillor Scott
Councillor Turner
Councillor Avril Williams**

Licensing Committee

**Councillor Mrs Bosworth
Councillor Brough
Councillor Broughton
Councillor Chivers
Councillor Exton
Councillor Howard
Councillor Mrs Radley
Councillor Russell
Councillor Turner
Councillor Wheat
Councillor Mike Williams**

Scrutiny Committee

**Councillor Mrs Bosworth
Councillor Farrar
Councillor Hearmon
Councillor Helyar
Councillor Higgs
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Joynson
Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Mike Williams**

Resources Policy Development Group

**Councillor Craft
Councillor Mrs Maureen Jalili
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Scott**

**Councillor Mrs Spencer-Gregson
Councillor Stokes**

Engagement Policy Development Group

**Councillor Cook
Councillor Exton
Councillor Jock Kerr
Councillor McBride
Councillor Russell
Councillor Selby
Councillor Tom Webster**

Communities Policy Development Group

**Councillor Bisnauthsing
Councillor Miss Channell
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Stephens
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Wootten**

Constitution Committee

**Councillor Mrs Gaffigan
Councillor Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Wootten**

Governance and Audit Committee

**Councillor Dawson
Councillor Farrar
Councillor Joynson
Councillor Lovelock
Councillor Moore**

Members had before them report number DEM024 presented by the Democracy Services Manager in which the Council was invited to consider its appointment of members to committees and policy development groups in accordance with the Constitution.

The Council then considered the existing memberships as appended to the report and, with the exception of a few amendments notified at the meeting by the respective group leaders, the memberships were moved and seconded en

bloc with a separate vote being taken for each committee and PDG.

12. APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMANSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS

DECISION: To award the positions of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of committees and groups to the following members:

Development Control Committee:

Councillor Parkin – Chairman

Councillor Adams – Vice-Chairman

Licensing Committee:

Councillor Mrs Bosworth – Chairman

Councillor Turner – Vice-Chairman

Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Joynson – Chairman

Councillor Mrs Judy Smith – Vice-Chairman

Resources Policy Development Group:

Councillor Craft – Chairman

Councillor Scott – Vice-Chairman

Communities Policy Development Group:

Councillor Nicholson – Chairman

Councillor Thompson – Vice-Chairman

Engagement Policy Development Group:

Councillor Exton – Chairman

Councillor Tom Webster – Vice-Chairman

Constitution Committee:

Councillor Martin-Mayhew – Chairman

Councillor Andrea Webster – Vice-Chairman

Governance & Audit Committee:

Councillor Lovelock – Chairman

Councillor Farrar – Vice-Chairman

In accordance with Council procedure rule 1.1 (viii), the Leader notified the Council of her recommendations for appointments to the Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of committees and Policy Development Groups. The proposals were seconded and voted upon en block.

13. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2009/10.

DECISION: In accordance with Council procedure rule 1.1 (xi), the public meetings of the Council and Committees be held in accordance with the draft programme as submitted.

Circulated with the agenda was a draft programme of meetings for the ensuing municipal year. This draft programme had been previously circulated for information at the Council meeting held on 22 January 2009.

14. REVISION OF GUIDELINE RENT 2009/10

DECISION: To endorse the Cabinet's recommendation that a positive response is given to the consultation to support a reduction in the rental increase (in respect of the Housing Revenue Account) for 2009/10 to a guideline rent increase of 3.1% in line with the proposal by the Minister for Housing announced on 6 March 2009.

Councillor Mrs Spencer-Gregson as outgoing Assets and Resources portfolio holder presented report number CHFCS37 in which reminded members that, at its budget meeting, the Council had decided to set dwelling rent increases in accordance with the Government guideline rent, but with a cap on individual rent increases of no more than 7%. Following that meeting, the Minister for Housing had announced a new proposal for a lower average guideline rent of 3.1% in response to the current economic climate and this proposal was out for consultation. The Cabinet had met on 6 April 2009 and recommended to support the reduction in the government guideline rent increase, noting that the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) will compensate Councils for their reduced income levels if they met the set criteria laid out in the consultation document.

The Corporate Head of Finance and Customer Services explained how the implementation of this lower average guideline rent would impact on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the General Fund. He further advised that if the Council wished to take up the offer from CLG in implementing the lower guideline average rent increase of 3.1% then this needed to be indicated with the CLG by 24 April 2009.

Discussion opened with a number of members expressing strong concern at the badly timed decision by the Government and the impact this would have on the HRA at a time when it was already under considerable pressure. Whilst supporting in principle a measure that would help tenants during the current economic climate, the speakers were very cross that the timing meant additional cost that could have been avoided; it would also mean confusion for many tenants. The Corporate Head confirmed that if the announcement had been made earlier, the Council would not have been placed in a position whereby it needed to redirect staff resources to deal with additional calculations on housing benefits. The Housing portfolio holder advised that he had spoken to the Customer Services Manager about sending out clear information in

advance to customers to avoid as much confusion as possible. An addendum to the motion was proposed that a letter be sent to the Housing Minister expressing this Council's strong concerns at the poor timing of this initiative.

A member referred to a Council meeting held last year when it was proposed to send similar letters of concern to the Government regarding the Lincolnshire Police Authority funding but which, on reflection, had not been supported. He suggested that the Council must be consistent in its approach and stated he would not support the addendum for that reason. The mover of the original motion confirmed she wished to put the recommendation as presented, without any addendum. On being put to the vote the motion to endorse the recommendation of the Cabinet was carried.

15. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009.

DECISION:

- (1) To approve the annual report of the Chairman of the Governance & Audit Committee for 2008/09;**
- (2) Note the work plan and timetable for 2009/10.**

The Chairman of the Governance & Audit Committee presented report number GAC001 advising the Council on the key outcomes arising from the work of the Governance & Audit Committee for 2008/09. These outcomes had helped to improve and strengthen the Council's overarching control environment and governance arrangements. The report also set out how the work of the Committee will be developed during 2009/10.

Councillor Lovelock advised the Council that the committee had met 7 times in the last year, three occasions being full day meetings. He thanked members and officers for their support. He also went on to advise that, with effect from 1 April this year, the Council was required to produce its accounts in accordance with international financial reporting procedures. Last years accounts would also have to be reformatted to meet this standard for comparison purposes. This was a burden on staff resources which the authority could well have done without. Councillor Mrs Spencer-Gregson seconded approval of the report, commenting that it demonstrated the important and wide ranging interest of this committee. She stated she had enjoyed working with Councillor Lovelock and his colleagues on the committee.

16. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

DECISION:

- (1) That the Leader, Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed to represent the Council on Local Government East Midlands;**
- (2) That the Leader, Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed to represent the Council on the East Midlands Regional Assembly;**
- (3) That the Leader, Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed to represent the Council on the Local Government Association General Assembly (or in her absence, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Carpenter);**
- (4) That Councillor John Smith as the Healthy Environment portfolio holder and Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew be appointed to represent the Council on the Local Government Association Rural Commission, with Councillor John Smith to hold the voting rights;**
- (5) That Councillor Hearmon be appointed to represent the Council on the Joint Lincolnshire Scrutiny Panel for the Sustainable Community Strategy;**
- (6) That Councillor Bisnauthsing be appointed to represent the Council on Community Care for the Elderly, Grantham;**
- (7) That the Council declines to appoint a representative to the South Lincolnshire Blind Society but refers the issue of why three district Councillors have resigned from this body to the Scrutiny Committee.**

The Democracy Services Manager presented her report number DEM023 concerning a number of annual appointments on outside regional bodies that were due for re-appointment at 1 May 2009, together with a number of other appointments to fill current vacancies and a new body, the Joint Lincolnshire Scrutiny Panel for the Sustainable Community Strategy. Members were advised that this latter appointment must come from a non executive member.

A motion to re-appoint the same members to the four regional bodies was moved and seconded. Councillor Hearmon was proposed and seconded to represent the Council on the Joint Lincolnshire Scrutiny Panel for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

A member enquired as to why the County Council member representatives were to be politically balanced but not the District representatives. The Leader explained that at the Leaders' and Chief Executives' meeting concern had been expressed that the number of members from the County Council should not outweigh the members from the district authorities; the County had felt it

important that their representation should be politically balanced. However, inviting representation from the districts it would not have been possible to determine political balance. A vote was taken on the nominations for the four regional bodies and the Joint Lincolnshire Scrutiny Panel for the Sustainable Community Strategy en bloc and carried.

Councillor Bisnauthsing was proposed and seconded as the Council's nomination for representation on the Community Care for the Elderly, Grantham. Upon being put to the vote, Councillor Bisnauthsing's nomination was carried.

Councillor Wootten stated he was no longer happy to service as the Council's representative on the South Lincolnshire Blind Society. A member stated she was saddened that Councillor Wootten had felt the need to resign and expressed concern that he was now the third member to resign from this organisation. She proposed that the matter be scrutinised.

Another member endorsed these concerns as the previous representatives had been high calibre appointees and suggested the Council ought to find out what was the issue here. The Leader advised that it was the role of the Charities Commission to investigate a charity but this Council's Scrutiny Committee could look into this authority's own appointments. Reference was made to when the Scrutiny Committee had previously considered the situation when Councillor Sam Jalili had resigned from this body. However, several members supported the motion for the Scrutiny Committee to investigate again as the situation was different in that now no one from South Kesteven District Council was prepared to sit on this organisation as its representative. The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee confirmed he would refer this matter to his committee. In the absence of any nominations to act as this authority's representative on the South Lincolnshire Blind Society, members voted on the motion, subsequently seconded, to refer the matter to the Scrutiny Committee. The motion was carried.

17. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DECISION: To note the report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee for the period May 2008 to April 2009.

The independent Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr Chris Holtom, presented his report number LEG043, copies of which had previously been circulated to members. He highlighted the fact that it had been a busy year for the committee as a result of the devolved regime previously undertaken by the Standards Board for England. This had meant the workload had increased considerably resulting in ten hearings and the necessity to set up two sub-committees to assess initial complaints.

The Committee continued to focus at parish level from where most of the problems arose yet where there was the least amount of support. Mr. Holtom stressed that the role of the Standards Committee was to help the parishes understand the importance of the Code of Conduct. To that end, five parish training sessions had been held that year and these had been received very positively and much appreciated.

Members were advised that this additional work had also fallen significantly on the Council's Legal Services and Democratic Services teams; Mr Holtom commended the support he and his committee had received from these sections particularly from the Monitoring Officer, Mrs Youles, and from the Principal Democracy Officer, Mr Morrison. Mr Morrison had consistently supported these training sessions out of normal office hours without complaint. Mr Holtom concluded by saying he felt that the message was getting out to the parishes in the district thanks to the support he had received.

The Corporate Governance portfolio holder stated that this served as a reminder that all members should be mindful of their role in all their undertakings both public and private.

The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to Mr Holton and his Vice-Chairman, Mr Mann, for the hard work they and the committee had put in over the course of the year.

[The refreshment break took place between 3.35pm and 3.55pm]

[Councillor John Smith left the Chamber before the Leader presented her report at minute 18.]

18. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON URGENT KEY AND NON KEY DECISIONS TAKEN.

DECISION: To note the Leader's report on an urgent key decision and urgent non key decision taken since the last ordinary meeting of the Council.

Members had before them report number CAB011 by the Leader concerning urgent decisions taken under access to information procedure rules 16 and 17.3.

[Beverly Agass left the meeting at this point. Her colleague, Ian Yates, had left the meeting at the refreshment break and had not returned.]

19. APPOINTMENT PANEL.

DECISION: To note the report by the Leader on progress made to date by

the Appointment Panel and to wish its members a speedy conclusion to their remit.

In her opening remarks, the Leader stated she was mindful that she was reporting in an open forum but was confident that she would be able to provide a useful report on the Panel's progress so far.

The Panel had met on 21 April assisted by a facilitator to consider the issue of how and what should replace the Head of Paid Service. She explained that Councillor Davidson had been unable to attend but he had been kept fully informed and was happy for this report to be given. The Panel had deliberated on what it considered was good and not so good about South Kesteven both in the local and national context. It had gone through a series of options, including not replacing the Head of Paid Service. Although it was a statutory requirement to have a Head of Paid Service, for the sake of completeness, this option had also been looked at. Other options included sharing a Chief Executive, appointment of a joint Chief Executive, and a fixed term contract. Mindful of best value consideration, the Panel had also looked at how the replacement should be found.

The Leader advised that the Panel were as one in coming to a conclusion that the Council should look to appoint a new Chief Executive on a similar basis to the previous appointment. The Panel felt that the district was too large to make sharing a Chief Executive feasible.

The Panel had also unanimously concluded that it should in the first instance put the post out to internal application only. If they were unable to recruit to the calibre required of this post, then they would proceed to external recruitment. The other members of the Panel, Councillor Mrs Jalili and Councillor Howard, endorsed the Leader's comments on how productive the discussions had been and the fact that had all agreed on the conclusions.

A question was raised on whether there was a legal obligation to seek external candidates. The Leader replied that there was no legal obligation, however, in pursuing the internal recruitment option there would be a need to satisfy the District Auditor that the Panel's conclusions were appropriate in relation to seeking that route. Several members expressed the hope that progress with a permanent appointment would be as swift as possible in order to provide the authority with the necessary stability and calmness. Another member said he hoped that a new culture would result whereby the organisation could introduce some fun alongside its hard work; he expressed the view that this aspect had been sadly lacking in recent years.

A member also commented that the Council had previously gone down the route of internal appointment with success.

The Deputy Leader advised members that he had taken the facilitator on a tour of the offices following which he had said how impressed he had been with the facilities and how friendly he had found the staff.

The Leader was asked to confirm whether or not successful internal recruitment would save the Council around £50,000. The Leader replied that the cost of an external recruitment exercise would be in the region of £50,000. However, she stressed that the most important issue was to get the right person for the job and for this organisation and if an internal recruitment procedure did not result in finding that person, an external recruitment process would be carried out. A question was put on whether there would be a wholesale management restructure afterwards. The Leader said she sincerely hoped not but with an external appointment there was always the possibility that a person new to the organisation would want to make major changes. If the new appointment was made internally she could not promise there would be no changes at all as it was part of the role of that person to look at how the organisation is managed.

The members of the Panel were thanked for their diligent work to date and hopes expressed as to a swift and successful conclusion to their remit.

20. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

One question on notice had been submitted by Councillor Ian Selby and referred to the Engagement PDG.

21. CLOSE OF MEETING.

The meeting closed at 4.13 p.m.