

MINUTES

ANNUAL COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2021, 1.00 PM

The Meres Leisure Centre,
Trent Rd, Grantham, NG31 7XQ



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Stokes (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Bob Adams	Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Ashley Baxter	Councillor Robert Reid
Councillor David Bellamy	Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing	Councillor Penny Robins
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth	Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Robert Broughton	Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Louise Clack	Councillor Jacky Smith
Councillor Kelham Cooke	Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor John Cottier	Councillor Lee Steptoe
Councillor Helen Crawford	Councillor Judy Stevens
Councillor John Dawson	Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Phil Dilks	Councillor Jill Thomas
Councillor Barry Dobson	Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew
Councillor Paul Fellows	Councillor Sarah Trotter
Councillor Helen Goral	Councillor Dean Ward
Councillor Jan Hansen	Councillor Hilary Westropp
Councillor Graham Jeal	Councillor Amanda Wheeler
Councillor Gloria Johnson	Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown	Councillor Jane Wood
Councillor Anna Kelly	Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Ms Jane Kingman	Councillor Sue Woolley
Councillor Philip Knowles	Councillor Ray Wooten
Councillor Matthew Lee	Councillor Linda Wooten
Councillor Nikki Manterfield	

OFFICERS

Karen Bradford (Chief Executive)
Alan Robinson (Deputy Chief Executive)
Gary Smith (Strategic Director, Commercial and Operations)
Nicola McCoy-Brown (Director for Growth and Culture)
Andrew Cotton (Director for Housing and Property)
Richard Wyles (Interim Director of Finance (s151 Officer))
Ken Lyon (Assistant Chief Executive)
Shahin Ismail (Monitoring Officer)
Chris Stratford (Interim Assistant Director of Housing)
Shelley Thirkell (Acting Principal Democratic Officer)
Naomi Page (Democratic Officer)
Anita Eckersley (Civic and Member Services Officer)
Sam Selby (Cabinet and Member Development Assistant)
Vicky Gisby (Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive)
Louise Field (Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Council)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Chivers, Mike Exton, Jan Hansen, Charmaine Morgan, Dr Peter Moseley and Hannah Westropp.

Council agreed to extend its best wishes to Councillor Mike Exton for a speedy recovery, who was currently recovering from a recent operation.

(Councillor Jan Hansen joined the meeting at 14:34)

2. Election of the Chairman of South Kesteven District Council

Members were invited to make nominations for the Chairman of the Council.

A proposition was made and seconded that Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin be re-elected as the Chairman of South Kesteven District Council.

A vote was taken and the Council **AGREED**:

To elect Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin as the Chairman of the Council

The Chairman was invested with the chain of office and Members offered their congratulations with a round of applause.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support and committed to do her very best to get the district noticed for the right reasons, reporting that she would continue with the same two charities she had supported in the previous municipal year.

3. Election of the Vice-Chairman of South Kesteven District Council

Councillor Ian Stokes was proposed and seconded for the role of Vice Chairman of South Kesteven District Council.

A vote was taken and the Council **AGREED**:

To elect Councillor Ian Stokes as the Vice-Chairman of South Kesteven District Council.

Councillor Stokes was invested with the Vice-Chairman's medallion and members of the Council congratulated him on his election with a round of applause. He took the opportunity to thank Members for their vote of confidence in him to undertake the role.

4. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Penny Robins to her first meeting of Council since her election, representing Glen Ward.

5. Disclosure of Interests

No interests were disclosed.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2021 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

7. Announcement by the Leader of the Council on the size and membership of the Cabinet and Cabinet Members' remits

Councillor Kelham Cooke, Leader of the Council, reflected that this meeting of Council was taking place at the Meres Leisure Centre following the recent ruling of the High Court that the Authority's public meetings could not be held remotely or via a hybrid of physical and remote meetings. The meeting would, however, be live streamed and meetings of the Council's Committees would continue to be held in the Council Chamber, where sufficient social distancing could be maintained. These meetings would also be live streamed. Councillor Cooke confirmed that he would continue to lobby for the ability to hold public meetings remotely or via a hybrid option through the Local Government Association.

The Leader made reference to the Covid-19 vaccination programme which he said had been an astounding success, protecting communities and assisting with the easing of restrictions, stating how fantastic it was to see town centres becoming busy again and businesses reopening.

The Council continued to provide the key services residents and businesses needed throughout the pandemic whilst swiftly reacting to ensure that the right support was in place at the right time for those who needed it. A number of examples included:

- dealing with approximately 122,000 enquiries over the telephone;
- responding to approximately 30,000 emails;
- supporting over 2,700 businesses with grant funding, equating to just under £50 million;
- supporting 631 people and preventing them from becoming homeless;
- contacting approximately 18,000 people at the commencement of the pandemic by way of personal contact to ensure that they were receiving the support they needed;
- re-deploying staff across the Authority and protecting the most vulnerable people in the district's communities;
- operating a 'business as usual approach', with the household waste collection team being an example whereby over 80,000 household waste bins continued to be collected every week.

The pandemic had left a significant impact on the Council's resources, with deficits made up through the Council's reserves without any detriment to frontline services. The Leader was proud that the Council had led the way, providing community leadership and working with the NHS and other partners to support and enable the first vaccination centre in Lincolnshire to open in Grantham. The South Kesteven Community Hub was also established quickly and provided help to those shielding or those residents within the vulnerable category.

South Kesteven District Council had also been extremely active on the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum throughout the pandemic and Councillor Kelham made the

comment that he had never experienced such strong partnership working between all District Councils and the County Council in Lincolnshire before.

The Leader took the opportunity to thank officers for their rapid transformation and the way in which the agile project enabled over 400 people to work remotely from home and ensure key services and support could continue to be delivered.

Councillor Kelham reminded Council that it had adopted a Corporate Plan which encompassed five priorities, all of which would be supported by an action plan and key deliverables, underpinned by performance indicators which would be reviewed by frequent meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These were noted as follows:

- growth and our economy;
- housing that meets the needs of all residents;
- healthy, strong communities;
- clean and sustainable environment;
- high performing Council

A corporate restructure had been undertaken which resulted in a leaner and more strategic management team for the Council, ensuing that resources were aligned with the ambitions of the Corporate Plan.

Council also noted the following announcements from the Leader:

- Grantham had secured £5.56 million of funding to support the regeneration and redevelopment of its town centre from the Government's Future High Street Fund;
- LeisureSK Ltd had been established in four months with a Board of Directors in place to drive forward service improvements;
- significant work had been undertaken on the climate change reduction programme, with the Council identifying a carbon emissions baseline reduction of 30% by 2030;
- following the hugely disappointing findings of the housing landlord health and safety function, the Council took the right step to refer itself to the Regulator of social housing, demonstrating honesty and transparency in relation to its failings in respect of management and responsibility as a social landlord. The regulator confirmed that the Council was in breach of the homes standard and in response to this a significant programme of work had been developed by the Council to improve all aspects of housing and asset management, including capital programmes and asset management.

The Leader took this opportunity to place on record the achievements of his Cabinet for the previous municipal year and set out changes to his new Cabinet for 2021/22. Cabinet Portfolios and responsibilities were therefore confirmed as follows:

Councillor Kelham Cooke, Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth

Councillor Barry Dobson, Deputy Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member for Leisure

Councillor Annie Mason
Cabinet Member for People and Safer Communities

Councillor Robert Reid
Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Councillor Adam Stokes
Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew
Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy

Councillor Dr Peter Moseley
Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations

Councillor Linda Wootten
Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance

Councillor Nick Robins
Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Policy

In closing, the Leader highlighted that the Council would celebrate unsung heroes through the South Kesteven Community Awards, which would be launched shortly. He encouraged everyone to nominate groups or individuals who had made a difference over the last year.

It was proposed and seconded that the relevant Council Procedure Rule be suspended to allow for Members to ask the Leader questions as part of this item. Enough Members as prescribed in the Constitution indicated their request for a record vote, which was held as follows:

For: Councillors Bisnauthsing, Baxter, Clack, Dilks, Fellows, Kelly, Knowles, Milnes, Moran, Selby, Steptoe, Wheeler, Jane Wood and Paul Wood

Against: Councillors Adams, Bellamy, Bosworth, Broughton, Cooke, Cottier, Crawford, Dawson, Dobson, Fellows, Goral, Griffin, Jeal, Johnson, Kaberry-Brown, Kingman, Lee, Manterfield, Mason, Reid, Nick Robins, Penny Robins, Sandall, Jacky Smith, Judy Smith, Stevens, Adam Stokes, Ian Stokes, Thomas, Trollope-Bellew, Trotter, Ward, Hilary Westropp, Whittington, Woolley, Linda Wootten and Ray Wootten.

Abstain: -

The motion was lost.

Council noted the announcement by the Leader of the Council on the size and membership of the Cabinet and Cabinet Members' remits.

8. Appointments to Committees, (including Overview and Scrutiny Committees) and Panels of the Council and the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Members were presented with a report of the Chief Executive on the appointments to Committees, (including Overview and Scrutiny Committees) and Panels of the Council and the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

Group Leaders were responsible for nominating Members from within their respective Groups to each Committee, in accordance with Political Balance, as appropriate. The appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Committee, in accordance with

Article 4.4.1(a)(viii) of the Council's Constitution were to be appointed by The Leader of the Council.

Members considered the Group nominations and noted that the Conservative Group had gifted 1 seat to the non-aligned Member of the Council in respect of the Planning Committee. Councillor Ian Selby thanked the Conservative Group for the gifting of the seat, for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

A number of Members wished to express their concern regarding the proposed change to the Chairmanship for the Planning Committee. Those Members who had served on the Planning Committee conveyed their support and gratitude to Councillor Bob Adams for his time as the Chairman and requested that the Leader reconsider his recommendation for the Committees Chairmanship. Councillor Adams thanked those Members for their support and wished the proposed new Chairman luck in their new role.

The Leader thanked Members for their consideration of his recommendations and confirmed that the appointments to each Chairman and Vice-Chairmanship were in line with the requirements of the Constitution. The Leader added further thanks for those kind words expressed from Members regarding Councillor Adams.

The recommendations of the report were proposed and seconded. Enough Members as prescribed in the Constitution indicated their request for a record vote, which was held as follows:

For: Councillors Adams, Bellamy, Bosworth, Broughton, Cooke, Cottier, Crawford, Dawson, Dobson, Fellows, Goral, Griffin, Jeal, Johnson, Kaberry-Brown, Kingman, Lee, Manterfield, Mason, Reid, Nick Robins, Penny Robins, Sandall, Selby, Jacky Smith, Judy Smith, Stevens, Adam Stokes, Ian Stokes, Thomas, Trollope-Bellew, Trotter, Ward, Hilary Westropp, Whittington, Woolley, Linda Wootten and Ray Wootten.
Against: Councillors Bisnauthsing, Baxter, Clack, Dilks, Fellows, Kelly, Knowles, Milnes, Moran, Steptoe, Jane Wood and Paul Wood
Abstain: Councillor Wheeler

The recommendations were **AGREED**.

DECISIONS:

That the Council

- 1. Noted the political balance on its Committees and Panels as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- 2. Appointed members to its Committees and Panels taking account of the requirements for political balance.**
- 3. Appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of its Committees.**
- 4. The Leader appointed one of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen to act as the Chairman of the joint meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees referred to in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution.**

9. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

Members received a report of the Chief Executive on the appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies, in accordance with Article 4 of the Council's Constitution.

The report detailed those appointments which were to be made for 1 year only and asked Members to note those appointments which were made in 2019 and 2020, which were for a period of 3 or 4 years.

A proposal was made that the appointee for the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel be changed, Councillor Ray Wootten to be replaced by Councillor Sarah Trotter, for the remainder of the appointment, which was due to expire in May 2023.

The recommendation of appointments to Outside Bodies were proposed, seconded and **AGREED**:

DECISIONS:

That the Council

- 1. Considered nominations and made appointments to the Outside Bodies set out in Table 1 for one year:**
 - **Councillor Kelham Cooke, Leader of the Council being appointed to:**
 - **East Midlands Councils**
 - **The Local Government Association**
 - **Councillor Barry Dobson, Deputy Leader of the Council being the Leader's named substitute.**
- 2. Notes those appointments made in 2019 and 2020.**
- 3. That Councillor Sarah Trotter be named as representative on the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel, until the expiry of the appointment in May 2023.**

10. Programme of meetings of Council and Committees for 2021/22

A report of the Chief Executive on the Programme of meetings of the Council's Committees, Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other Committees of the Council. for 2021/22 was presented to Members.

The Chairman informed Member of some proposed changes to the schedule of meetings, which was appended to the report.

- The Governance and Audit Committee on Thursday, 10 June 2021 to be moved to Wednesday, 9 June 2021
- The Governance and Audit Committee Monday, 20 December 2021 to be moved to Wednesday, 22 December 2021
- The Governance and Audit Committee Thursday 17 March 2022 to Wednesday 16 March 2022

The recommendations of the report, along with the changes noted by the Chairman, were proposed, seconded and **AGREED**.

DECISION:

That Council approved the dates of all Committee meetings of the Council, as attached as Appendix A to the report, subject to the changes noted for meetings of the Governance and Audit Committee.

11. Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2021

Members received a report of the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, which presented the Annual Report of the Committee, for the year ending March 2021. The Annual Report advised Member of the key outcomes arisen from the work of the Committee 2020/21 and asked for the indicative work plan for 2021/22 to be noted.

Members noted that the Committee had achieved a considerable amount of work during the past year. It was requested that the Committee consider the inclusion of the Council's successes and failures, in future years' reports.

The recommendations of the report where proposed, seconded and **AGREED**.

DECISIONS:

That full Council

- 1. Accepted the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2020-21.**
- 2. Noted the indicative work plan and timetable for 2021-22, which reflected the terms of reference of the Committee.**

12. Decisions made under urgency provisions and delegated powers

A report of the Leader of the Council, on Decisions made under urgency provisions and delegated powers, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Constitution.

Two decisions had been taken by the Chief Executive; Adoption of Land on Collins Avenue, Stamford and Acceptance of Green Grant Funding.

Members were in agreement that the decision taken regarding the Green Grant Funding was particularly welcomed and were looking forward to hearing of its progress.

The recommendation of the report was proposed, seconded and **AGREED**:

DECISION:

That Council noted the contents of the report.

13. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14:49.