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Council

26 September 2017

Present:

Councillor Chris Burke (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Yvonne Bodger, Councillor Kathleen Brothwell,
Councillor Bob Bushell, Councillor Thomas Dyer,
Councillor Gary Hewson, Councillor Ronald Hills,
Councillor Andy Kerry, Councillor Jackie Kirk, Councillor
Jane Loffhagen, Councillor Adrianna McNulty, Councillor
Ric Metcalfe, Councillor Neil Murray, Councillor
Donald Nannestad, Councillor Fay Smith, Councillor
Tony Speakman, Councillor Edmund Strengiel, Councillor
Ralph Toofany, Councillor Naomi Twedde, Councillor
Keith Weaver, Councillor Peter West and Councillor
Lorraine Woolley

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Biff Bean, Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor
Gill Clayton-Hewson, Councillor Geoff Ellis, Councillor
Paul Gowen, Councillor Jim Hanrahan, Councillor
Rosanne Kirk, Councillor Helena Mair, Councillor
Liz Maxwell and Councillor Pat Vaughan

17. Confirmation of Minutes - 27 June 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 be confirmed.

18. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Donald Nannestad and Ralph Toofany declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in minute number 22(a) as the report made reference to investment in allotments and both Members currently leased allotments at the site referred to in the report. A dispensation had been granted to all members who had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for any license to occupy land in the area of the authority for a month or longer. In view of this, Councillors Nannestad and Toofany remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.

19. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor reported that he had attended 31 engagements in the last 30 days.

The Mayor welcomed the City Sheriff to the meeting, who was observing from the public gallery, and thanked her and her consort for the huge amount of work they had undertaken so far for the mayoralty and on behalf of the City Council.

20. Receive Any Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11 from Members of the Public and Provide Answers thereon

The following question had been received by members of the public:

Matty Armstrong

“I would like to know if there would be funding available for a determined group of skaters wanting to build a community skate park in Lincoln, or if there was anything the Council could do to help with the project.”

Mr Armstrong was not in attendance to put his question to the Council. The Portfolio Holder therefore agreed to provide a written response to the question.

21. Receive Any Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12 from Members and Provide Answers thereon

No questions from members were received.

**22. Receive Reports under Council Procedure Rule 2 (vi) from Members
(a) Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management and Customer Services**

Councillor Eddie Strengiel declared a Personal Interest in this item as Chairman of Birchwood Big.

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management and Customer Services, presented Council with a report on the work of his portfolio.

It was noted that the report had been drafted a couple of months ago, but Councillor Metcalfe provided the following highlights by way of an update:

- the Government's intentions about the future structure of local government, future policy on public sector pay and whether there would be any relaxation on continued reduction in public expenditure would be made clearer as part of the Autumn Statement due on 22 November 2017;
- a fairer funding review had been launched in respect of the financial support provided to local government. Lincolnshire local authorities were considering the launch of a fairer funding campaign, which would seek to achieve a better deal for Lincolnshire's Councils as part of that review;
- the question of business rates remained uncertain, with Government still working on how repatriation could work fairly. A provisional decision had been taken to submit a bid for a pilot which would involve all authorities in the Greater Lincolnshire area. An update report on this pilot scheme would be presented at a later date;
- the collapse of a devolution deal for Lincolnshire was disappointing. However, very recent discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency had taken place regarding the possibility of a housing deal for the area;
- the County Council had indicated that it did not intend to undertake a consultation on the structure of local government in Lincolnshire at the current time.

Council noted the report.

(b) Chair of the Ethics and Engagement Committee

Councillor Adrianna McNulty, Vice-Chair of the Ethics and Engagement Committee, presented a report on behalf of the Chair of the Committee setting out an annual review of the Committee's work.

She took this opportunity to record the Committee's thanks to Chris Elkington, Independent Person, and Roger Vine, Reserve Independent Person, for their continued support.

Council noted the report.

(c) Chair of the Policy Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jackie Kirk, Chair of the Policy Scrutiny Committee, presented a report with provided an update on the work of the Policy Scrutiny Committee.

Council noted the report.

23. To Consider the Following Recommendations of the Executive and Committees of the Council

(a) Statement of Accounts 2016/17

It was proposed by Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad, Deputy Leader of the Council, debated and

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 be approved.

(b) City of Lincoln Council Annual Report 2016/17

Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, proposed that the Annual Report for 2016/17 be approved, stating that the document presented many positive features and demonstrated a significant year of achievements. He took this opportunity to thank all members who had contributed and the praised excellent support received from officers.

Councillor Donald Nannestad, Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded the proposal.

Debating the proposal and the content of the Annual Report for 2016/17, the following points were noted:

- the Annual Report referred to ongoing discussions with Network Rail in respect of the Western Growth Corridor. Clarification was sought in respect of the provision and necessity of a bridge or bridges and whether this aspect of the scheme would be paid for by Network Rail, the City Council, the County Council, the developer or from any other funding source. It was suggested that a lot of problems would be created in the south of the city if at least one bridge was not put in place as part of the scheme;
- reference to the city's unemployment rate being above the national average came across as negative in the Annual Report and did not portray an accurate representation of the fact that there were more employment opportunities available in the city.

Councillor Metcalfe said that the Western Growth Corridor represented a significant opportunity for the city's sustainable growth and would allow for more housing, more employment opportunities and improvements in leisure provision and facilities across Lincoln. The significance of the scheme and its impact on the city was quantified by the fact that the Western Growth Corridor consisted of a tenth of the city's land mass. It was therefore a very large area, close to the city centre and involved a mixture of greenfield and brownfield sites, re-development and re-design of major roads and links to the city centre, the crossing of railway lines and significant flood mitigation. The scheme was therefore very complex and the provision of a bridge or bridges was a small part of the necessary infrastructure implications associated with the project. Councillor Metcalfe

confirmed that the project team had a good understanding of the required infrastructure for the scheme.

In relation to unemployment rates, Councillor Metcalfe was of the view that the Annual Report did portray an optimistic reflection of the city's position but, equally, it had to be a realistic account.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report for 2016/17 be approved for adoption and publication.

24. Amendments to Committee Membership

It was proposed by Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Donald Nannestad, Deputy Leader of the Council, debated and

RESOLVED that Councillor Paul Gowen be appointed to the currently vacant position as a member of the Housing Scrutiny Committee and Naomi Tweddle be appointed to the currently vacant position as a member of the Equality and Diversity Group, and be appointed as Chair of the Group.