

MEETING OF THE
TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

7 DECEMBER 2010

Present:- Councillor A Goggin (Chairman of the Council), Councillor V Chapman (Vice-Chairman of the Council), Councillor D J Aldis, Councillor I K Beckett, Councillor M J Bragg, Councillor J A Broderick, Councillor R J Bucke, Councillor R Callender, Councillor G W J Calver, Councillor S Candy, Councillor D J Casey, Councillor M A Cossens, Councillor J Cripps, Councillor M Dew, Councillor L J Double, Councillor G L Downing, Councillor T J Fawcett, Councillor T M Ferguson, Councillor C W Griffiths, Councillor G V Guglielmi, Councillor V E Guglielmi, Councillor P Halliday, Councillor R A Heaney, Councillor S R Henderson, Councillor A M Hockridge, Councillor P B Honeywood (except items 75 (part) - 85), Councillor S A Honeywood (except items 75 (part) - 85), Councillor J M Hughes, Councillor I Johnson, Councillor J King, Councillor K T King, Councillor D J Lines, Councillor D R Mayzes, Councillor S S Mayzes, Councillor D P McLeod, Councillor L A McWilliams, Councillor A J Mitchell, Councillor D Oxley, Councillor L Payne, Councillor J A Powell, Councillor D Rutson, Councillor P I Sambridge, Councillor G G I Scott, Councillor P S Scott, Councillor H A Shearing, Councillor S E Shearing, Councillor M J D Skeels, Councillor G D Steady, Councillor N R Stock, Councillor M J Talbot, Councillor C A Turner, Councillor N W Turner, Councillor G F Watling, Councillor K P Watson, Councillor B Whitson

Also Present:- Mr J Addison (Chairman of the Standards Committee)

In Attendance:- Chief Executive, Chief Executive - Designate, Acting Management Board Member (DA), Acting Management Board Member (MBK), Head of Financial Services, Assistant Head of Legal Services (Democratic Services), Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Communications and Public Relations Manager, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

(7.30 p.m. - 8.51 p.m.)

71. PRAYERS

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brown, De-Vaux Balbirnie, P J Oxley, Patten, Steady and Walker.

73. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 October 2010, having previously been circulated, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)

(1) Recording and Broadcasting of this meeting

The Chairman reminded Members that, in accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2009, this meeting was being recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's website.

(2) Mobile Telephones and I-Pads

The Chairman requested that, as a matter of courtesy, all mobile phones and i-pads should either be switched off or set to silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

(3) Chairman's Charity Quiz

The Chairman was pleased to inform Members that his latest Charity Quiz held on 26 November 2010 had raised £750.00. The Chairman paid thanks to Councillor Casey.

(4) Christmas Civic Reception

The Chairman reminded Members that the Chairman's Civic Reception would be held this coming Friday 10 December 2010. Any Member who wished to attend who had not yet booked a table was requested to contact his Secretary, Mrs Janice Stapleton, as soon as possible.

(5) Keith Price, Assistant Head of Housing Services (Allocations)

The Chairman informed Members that Keith Price the Assistant Head of Housing Services (Allocations) would be retiring at the end of the year. He paid tribute to his service with the Council and the Housing Portfolio Holder, Councillor Henderson, also paid tribute to Mr Price's service with the Authority. Members showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

(6) Functions

The Chairman reported that he had been very proud and honoured to represent the Council at the Sports Awards Evening held on 2 November 2010 and at the Remembrance Day Service held on 14 November 2010 at the Clacton War Memorial when he, accompanied by the Chief Executive had laid wreaths on behalf of the Council.

(7) Chairman's Ball

The Chairman further informed Members that the Chairman's Ball due to have been held on Friday 29 April 2011 had been brought forward to Friday 15 April 2011 to avoid clashing with the Royal Wedding between Prince William and Miss Kate Middleton.

(8) Agenda Item 13 – Report A.2 – Annual Review of the Constitution

The Chairman informed Members that consideration of this item would be deferred until a future meeting of the Council.

(9) "Think Safe" Mental Health DVD

The Vice-Chairman drew to the Council's attention that a "Think Safe" Mental Health DVD had been filmed and produced in this District on behalf of the whole county.

75. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (IF ANY)

This was the last meeting of the Council that the Chief Executive would be attending before his retirement and the Chief Executive therefore took the opportunity with the Chairman's permission to address the Council as follows:-

"This is my final Council meeting Chairman and with your leave I would just like to say a

few words and more particularly some thank-yous.

Firstly, to the Council itself in having given me the opportunity for the past thirteen years to be its Chief Executive, it has been a fantastic experience and a marvellous note on which to end nearly 42 years local government service.

Secondly, there are so many Councillors who have given me great support and indeed friendship over the years and I will be doing my best over the next few weeks to speak personally to them. It is inevitable that there have been times when not everyone has agreed with what I have proposed to do or have done but I am so grateful for the many acts of kindness that have helped me shoulder what at times has been a lonely burden. It would take too long to mention tonight all the special Councillors and their acts of kindness but I do just want to mention Councillor Double because not only was he one of those Councillors who was responsible for my original appointment but he has often given me encouragement and been firm in his support. We have not always agreed but our disagreements have been conducted in a proper spirit. Thank you Les. As I said I will be speaking to many other Councillors personally to give them my thanks.

Thirdly, I would like to thank so many colleagues in our partner organisations for their help and support – in Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, in the health sector, in the third sector, within many other local authorities, in schools, colleges and universities and in many government agencies. Whenever help and assistance has been needed I have always received it and I am so very grateful for this.

But finally, I must thank the most important people of all, the staff of TDC who over so many years have been a joy to work with and who continually achieve for the Council great success in a professional and dedicated manner. I am a strong believer in the strength and virtues of the public service and in our staff we have a workforce to be proud of. So my special thanks to all the staff of TDC I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 20 years or so and my very best wishes to my successor, Ian Davidson, whom I am sure brings to the position first class skills and professionalism which exemplify the very best of the public service.

Thank you.”

Councillors Stock, Lines, Double, H A Shearing, Henderson and Talbot each in turn paid their own personal tributes to the Chief Executive on behalf of themselves and the Members of their respective political groups. Councillor Halliday also paid a personal tribute to the Chief Executive. The Chairman, on behalf of himself and his wife, made a personal presentation to the Chief Executive.

Members rose in their places and gave an ovation in gratitude to the service that John Hawkins had given to this Council.

76. STATEMENTS BY THE MEMBERS OF CABINET

The relevant Portfolio Holders made statements relating to the matters indicated below and, when asked, responded to Members questions thereon:-

(a) Leisure Portfolio

The Council's Leisure Centres and Sports Facilities – The Commissioning of a Consultants Report on the Options for Service Delivery and Management in the Future

Finance Portfolio

Expected date of receipt of the Government Financial Settlement figure – Monday 13 December 2010

77. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.2

(1) Allocation of Affordable Homes at the New St Johns Road Site being developed by Bloor Homes

Councillor Whitson asked the Housing Portfolio Holder (Councillor Henderson):-

“Bloor Homes are in the process of developing 157 new affordable homes at the St Johns Road site. Of this number of homes how many will go to Tendring residents, how many will come from the Tendring housing register? Will the homes be taken up with maximum occupancy? How many people are currently on the housing register for a home?”

The Housing Portfolio Holder replied as follows:-

“I would like to thank Councillor Whitson for his question and as I am sure that he will appreciate I am very pleased to have been associated with the securing of very scarce grant funding from the Homes and Community Agency which has enabled this development to progress and I hope that this first phase will enable the other open market properties to also follow.

Clearly, in these very challenging economic conditions, particularly for the building industry, I am very proud that my portfolio has been able to bring some economic stimulation to the local economy and will also assist the most vulnerable residents off the housing waiting list into affordable homes.

Turning now to Councillor Whitson’s specific questions, 110 of the homes will be for social rent and all of these will be nominated by Tendring District Council from our housing register and will be existing Tendring residents. 20 of the properties will be intermediate rent properties and will be part of the local lettings plan which is still being finalised, but we will also be looking to ensure that these are also filled via the housing register. 27 will be rent to buy and will also fall within the same arrangements.

As Members will be aware I am keen to consider the wider benefit that such a new development could bring in terms of tackling issues such as poor or sub-standard housing and living conditions and as such I am working with Officers to investigate options which may address some of the challenges residents in poor housing within the District experience. This new development may provide opportunities to address some of these issues but I am concerned that we do not help just one household out of poor housing which immediately gets re-filled by another household thereby perpetuating some of the unacceptable conditions we all witness in the private rented sector. Whilst, to varying extents, we are all aware of some of the welfare reforms being proposed by the coalition government I do feel that more could be done to ensure that some private landlords are encouraged or obliged to make improvements to sub-standard homes, particularly where they are in receipt of large sums of public money.

I am working with Officers to consider how the local lettings plan can both deliver opportunities to alleviate poor housing conditions but also being mindful not to create new ones and so it is likely that maximum occupancy of these properties will not be pursued at the expense of ensuring that there is a balanced and sustainable community within the new development.

The number of households on the register as at 31 October was 3337 but as Members

may have noticed from the Minister for Housing's Statement on 22 November, he is currently consulting on a raft of changes around tenure changes, homelessness, the housing register and allocations, all of which could dramatically impact on the numbers on the housing register.

As already mentioned the 157 affordable housing units form the first phase of this development with a further 235 private units being built later in the development as well as a public hall, health facilities and retail units to meet local needs.

I hope that this addresses the question."

Councillor Whitson then asked the following supplementary question of the Housing Portfolio Holder:-

"Thank you Chairman. I would just like to clarify one thing that an assurance that all these homes are going to Tendring residents, I think that is what you said. I would just like an assurance clearly, that is the case.

The Housing Portfolio Holder replied as follows:-

I can read the statement out again and you will hear that I said exactly that.

(2) Consultation with Local Residents in respect of the proposal for 700 New Dwellings at Sladburys Lane, Holland-on-Sea and in respect of the proposal for 3100 new Dwellings off St Johns Road, Clacton-on-Sea

Councillor H A Shearing asked the Planning Portfolio (Councillor G V Guglielmi):-

"Knowing that the Portfolio Holder attended a meeting of the Holland-on-Sea Residents' Association on 24 November where great concern was raised at the proposal for 700 new dwellings at Sladburys Lane, Holland-on-Sea, might I asked what consultation has taken place with the residents and also what consultation has taken place with regard to the proposal for 3100 new dwellings off St Johns Road, Clacton-on-Sea and what response has their been regarding the housing, in both of these areas?"

The Planning Portfolio Holder replied as follows:-

"Thank you Chairman and thank you Councillor Shearing for your three questions. Please allow me to give you some pertinent and relevant background.

As no doubt you are aware, the Core Strategy and Development Policies document has been under preparation since December 2007. Several Member training sessions, presentations, talks and workshops have been held since that time, affirming the active Members involvement that so far has taken place. This in fact has probably been a document in the making with the most pro-active Member participation this Council has ever produced.

Consultation has been a number one priority in the preparation thus far: the first round of public involvement with associated exhibitions was held between 23 March and 1 May 2009, the responses and comments received have all been published in the "Core Strategy Discussion Document – Issues and Possible Policies - Regulation 25 Consultation Report", and the clue is in the wording, "discussion document". This consultation was widely publicised through the Council's Communications Manager to all the local press titles; public notices were duly printed in the Clacton, Frinton and Walton Gazettes and the Harwich, Manningtree and Essex County Standards during the first 14 days of the 6 weeks consultation period, for everyone in the District as well as the residents in Sladburys Lane and West Clacton. Schools, churches, main supermarkets, statutory consultation bodies

and stakeholders were written to and copies of the proposed discussion documents placed on-line and in public libraries and of course they were available at the Weeley Council Office as well as here at the Town Hall.

This was in addition to the comprehensive coverage given on air from Dream 100 and the various press releases given out to publicise the programme of planned exhibitions throughout the District. Every Member was informed of this by post, was provided with a discussion document and was urged to communicate this event to as many residents as possible. From those responses Officers have formulated the proposals in front of us today.

Exactly the same procedure was conducted for the next round of public consultation which started on 21 October and ended yesterday Monday 6 December 2010. I will not repeat all the publicity exercises conducted as they reflect entirely what was done nineteen months ago but I must stress that again every Member was informed of the impending consultation and encouraged to publicise the events as much as they could.

Evidence of this is the success achieved by the Members representing Holland-on-Sea and east Clacton who after making sure that as many residents as possible attended the public exhibition in Great Clacton Community Hall on 20 November even organised a public meeting where I was invited to attend; indeed I duly accepted together with Gary Guiver the Council's Officer responsible for the project management of this document. We answered questions, we listened to the concerns raised, we gave explanations to issues put forward and we urged people to submit their points and comments to the Core Strategy Team and I thank those Members for their pro-active approach.

Before I give specific answers to the three questions I must state that our Council has fully complied every step of the way with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Regulations Section 27, which stipulates the criteria for public consultation. With this in mind consultation with the residents of Sladburys Lane was conducted:-

1. In accordance with Section 27 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2008;
2. In the form of a public exhibition attended by Officers;
3. Extensive radio advertising and press coverage; and
4. In the form of an open public meeting.

Unlike east Clacton there has been no pro-active Member involvement or approach that I know about in organising a similar meeting to discuss the Hartley Meadow proposals in west Clacton to the one held in Great Clacton on 24 November.

There was however:-

1. Over and above the requirements of Section 27 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2008 a public exhibition on 23 October at the Clacton Coastal Academy (formerly Bishops Park College) where Officers were on hand to answer questions and concerns from the public and a great number of people attended this session.
2. As with the previous consultation extensive radio advertising and the same press coverage.

Finally in reply to the third question with respect to what response there has been in the proposed Project Five for west Clacton and the proposed Project Eleven for east Clacton Officers are now collating and analysing all comments, letters and completed leaflets received by post and on-line and the results will be made public as soon as they have been

compiled and registered which is hoped to be towards the end of January with a view to having Officers' considerations and recommendations by late April 2011.

Thank you".

Councillor H A Shearing then asked the following supplementary question of the Planning Portfolio Holder:-

Thank you. Just a brief comment to get my comments into some sort of order if I may. It is quite astonishing that if you follow all of the regulations and you get it wrong, and it is clearly wrong, because people don't understand the document or don't know about the document then it is someone else's fault. It is not your fault, it is not your document and it's not your fault it must be someone else's fault. It is entirely my fault that people don't know about their document. Can I get a clear commitment from the Portfolio Holder that he will undertake further consultation with the people of Holland-on-Sea and Clacton-on-Sea with regard to the vast amount of development that he insists on dumping on them through his Development Framework document. Even if that takes the simple form of a postcard. Thank you.

The Planning Portfolio Holder replied as follows:-

He asked a similar question at the public exhibition and public meeting that I attended at Great Holland. This Council possibly has not followed my explanation before the answer to his question. This Council follows all the criteria laid down by the Town and Country Planning Regulations for public consultation for exactly what is needed. Normally the Council has complied with the requirements the Council have gone way up and above to what is needed, organising exhibitions for people to come in and show and make comments directly to Officers. He is probably not aware that Colchester Borough Council when they compiled their Core Strategy did not hold one single public exhibition and I think that should be my reply to his question.

78. ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2011/12

Further to minute 87 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 November 2010 the Council considered whether to approve the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2011/12.

It was moved by Councillor Halliday and:-

RESOLVED - That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2011/12, as set out in Appendix A to item A.5 of the Report of the Head of Financial Services submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 November 2010, be approved.

79. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the under-mentioned Committees as circulated, be received and noted:-

Standards	-	25/10/10
Corporate Management	-	25/10/10
Community Leadership and Partnerships	-	1/11/10
Service Development and Delivery	-	8/11/10

The Chairman of the Service Development and Delivery Committee undertook to respond

in writing to Councillor Broderick in respect of the question she raised in relation to minute 21 of the meeting of the Service Development and Delivery Committee held on 8 November 2010 which concerned to the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan.

80. A.1 COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNTS

Further to minute 96 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 November 2010 the Council considered the level of Council Tax discretionary discounts to be implemented in 2011/12.

It was moved by Councillor Hughes and:-

RESOLVED - (a) That the discount on second homes be set at 10% for 2011/12.

(b) That no discount is allowed for empty properties for 2011/12.

(c) That no locally defined discretions be introduced for 2011/12.

It was then moved by Councillor Aldis, seconded by Councillor Lines and:-

RESOLVED – (d) That the current policy of having no discount on empty properties be reviewed early in the next financial year by the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

81. A.2 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Chairman informed the Council that this item had been deferred until a future meeting of the Council in order that the proposed amendments could be considered alongside any proposed changes to the Constitution that would arise from the structural review that would be undertaken by the new Chief Executive.

82. LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Further to minute 30 of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 2 November 2010 the Council considered whether to adopt the revised Statement of Licensing Policy for the Licensing Act 2003 in accordance with the statutory requirements.

It was moved by Councillor Downing, seconded by Councillor Fawcett and:-

RESOLVED – That the Statement of Licensing Policy, as set out in the Appendix to item A.4 of the Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer submitted to the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 2 November 2010, be formally adopted for the three year period commencing on 7 January 2011.

83. RESIGNATION AS A MEMBER OF THE TENDRING FIRST GROUP

The Chief Executive formally informed Members that on 27 October 2010 Councillor Kevin Watson had given notice that he no longer wished to be treated as a member of the Tendring First group for the purposes of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The Council noted the foregoing.

84. APPOINTMENT OF THE HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE, ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER FOR DISTRICT AND PARISH ELECTIONS

The Council were aware that at their meeting held on 19 October 2010 they had received the recommendations of the Chief Executive Appointment Panel in respect of the appointment of a new Chief Executive and had decided to appoint Ian Davidson as Chief Executive with effect from 4 January 2011.

The Council's approval was now formally sought to appoint Ian Davidson as the Electoral Registration Officer and as the Returning Officer for District and Parish Elections and to designate him the Head of the Paid Service.

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor Lines and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That Ian Davidson be designated the Council's Head of the Paid Service as from 4 January 2011.

(b) That Ian Davidson be appointed as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and the Returning Officer for District and Parish Elections as from 4 January 2011.

85. INVITATION TO JOIN THE CHAIRMAN IN HIS PARLOUR

The Chairman invited all Members, Officers and public present to join him in his Parlour after the meeting for a Christmas drink and refreshments.

86. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive formally reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the Holland Residents' Group and the Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group and the authority delegated to him, the following appointments had been made:

Planning Committee

Councillor G G I Scott had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor J A Broderick.

Regulatory Committee

Councillor J A Broderick had been appointed to serve in place of the Councillor G G I Scott.

Council noted the foregoing.

87. CLOSURE OF TENDRING REGENERATION LIMITED

Insofar as they were also serving Directors of Tendring Regeneration Limited, Councillors R Callender, Goggin, McWilliams and Sambridge each declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to this matter. Councillor Page declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter insofar as he was the appointed Sole Member Representative of Tendring Regeneration Limited.

The Council's formal authority was sought for the closure of Tendring Regeneration Limited ("the Company").

Members were aware that the Company had been inactive since its last Directors' Board meeting on 23 May 2013 and that keeping the Company in existence cost the Council approximately £2,500 a year for Directors' insurance, auditors' charges and the fees for

filing statutory returns at the Companies' Registry. It was reported that the Company was solvent and had bank balances of £43,459 as at 31 March 2014. The Company had agreed to pay up to £10,000 to Essex County Council (ECC) for road traffic regulation orders if proposals for the Dovercourt Market site proceeded.

It was felt that there was no current need for the Company and that if it was closed down and dissolved, there would be savings to the Council of about £2,500 a year. In the event that the need for such a company arose in the future, a new one could be formed relatively quickly and cheaply.

It was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Watling and:

RESOLVED that

(a) the decisions set out below are made by the Council acting as full Council and also as sole member of Tendring Regeneration Limited ("the Company") as appropriate;

(b) pursuant to Section 307 of the Companies Act 2006 and Article 21 of the Company's Articles of Association, this meeting also constituted a duly convened extraordinary general meeting of the Company as sole member and that the provisions requiring any longer notice were duly waived;

(c) subject as mentioned below, the Company was no longer required and should be dissolved as soon as reasonably possible;

(d) after paying any of the Company's known debts, arranging (and paying for) run-off insurance for the Directors, holding the Company's Annual General Meeting and attending to any applicable statutory requirements, the Company would close its bank accounts and return any surplus assets held by it to the Council;

(e) subject to (d) above, the Council would be responsible for the Company's financial liability (if any, and not exceeding £10,000 in any case) to Essex County Council for road traffic regulation orders at Dovercourt should such liability arise;

(f) any surplus assets transferred by the Company to the Council be reallocated to the Business Investment and Growth Budget;

(g) subject as mentioned above, the Directors were authorised to sign and lodge with the Registrar of Companies form DS1 (pursuant to Section 1003 of the Companies Act 2006) requesting that the Company be struck off the register;

(h) the Directors were authorised to take such other steps as were reasonably necessary to give effect to the above; and

(i) the Chief Executive of the Council (and/or such other person(s) as are authorised by him) and the Council's Regeneration Manager were each authorised to take whatever steps were necessary to give effect to the above.

88. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

With the Chairman's permission, Councillor D R Mayzes tabled the following letter of apology to the Council:

"Dear Members

I am writing with regard to the complaint made against me by the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer about an incident that occurred on 8 October 2013 on Twitter.

As you will be aware I was suspended by the Conservative Group following the tweet and this suspension came to an end on 31 December 2013. I completely accept the decision of the Conservative Group regarding my suspension and served this suspension with full co-operation including disabling my Twitter account and accepting a suspension of my Council Committee activities. I also sent a written apology to the Chief Executive of the Council, the Chairman of the Clacton Conservative Association and the Leader of the Council and Conservative Group expressing my regret for my action.

The Investigating Officer's report concludes that I breached the Members' Code of Conduct when sending the tweet. I accept this finding and wish to apologise to the Chairman of the Council, its Members and to Officers for this breach of the Code.

I have voluntarily suggested undertaking media training (including social media) and hope to complete this training as soon as the Council can facilitate it. I have also written to the Chief Executive asking for all Members to be offered this training.

I will continue to represent the Council, and my residents, to the best of my ability and with the success that I have done so up until now.

Yours sincerely

Councillor D R Mayzes"

89. REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BY AN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were none.

90. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A.4 Membership of Committees

The Chief Executive formally reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the Conservative Group and the authority delegated to him, the following appointments had been made:

Corporate Management Committee

Councillor R Callender had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor M Platt.

Human Resources Committee

Councillor S Richardson had been appointed to serve in place of the late Councillor A J Mitchell.

Licensing Committee

Councillor M Skeels had been appointed to serve in place of the late Councillor A J Mitchell.

Councillor A Wood had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor M Platt.

Regulatory Committee

Councillor S Richardson had been appointed to serve in place of the late Councillor G Downing.

Councillor M Skeels had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor M Platt.

Appeals Sub-Committee

Councillor M Skeels had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor M Platt.

Licensing (General Purposes) Sub-Committee

Councillor G Mitchell had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor M Platt.

The Council noted the foregoing.

A.5 Formation of a new Political Group of the Council

The Chief Executive reported that, on 11 March 2014, he had received a formal notice pursuant to Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and signed by Councillors Joy Broderick, K T King and Colin Winfield stating that they wished to be treated as a political group for the purposes of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The notice had further stated that the name of the group was to be the Holland-on-Sea Residents' Group and that the Leader of the Group was to be Councillor Joy Broderick.

Pursuant to Regulation 17(b) of the aforementioned Regulations a review of the allocation of seats to political groups would be carried out and, in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the Holland-on-Sea Residents' Group and the Leader of the Independent Group and the authority delegated to him the appropriate changes to Committee etc. memberships would be made.

The Council noted the foregoing.

91. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014/15

Further to minute 21 (A.2) of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 25 February 2014 the Council gave consideration to a proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 which would meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 (Section 38).

The Chief Executive declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item.

It was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Turner and:-

RESOLVED that

(a) the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15, as set out in the Appendix to item A.6 of the Report of the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), be adopted with immediate effect; and

(b) costs be met from existing salary/vacancy provision within budgets.

92. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

(3) Retail Relief Scheme for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016

Further to Minute 106 above, Councillors Cossens, De-Vaux Balbirnie, Goggin, G V Guglielmi, V E Guglielmi, Johnson, King, McLeod, Platt, Patten, Sambridge, D C Skeels, M J D Skeels, Stock and Winfield each declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration thereof and the voting thereon. Councillor Hawkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of this item and withdrew

from the meeting during the consideration thereof and the voting thereon.

Also further to Minute 106 above Councillors Aldis, Scott, Shearing and Tracey each declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of this item.

As the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman had both withdrawn, it was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Watling and:

RESOLVED that Councillor Talbot chair the meeting for this item.

The Council had before it the Cabinet minute of 28 February 2014, as set out in the Council agenda, and considered whether to approve the introduction of a local Business Rates Retail Rate Relief Scheme for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

It was moved by Councillor P J Oxley, seconded by Councillor Page and:

RESOLVED that

(a) The retail rate relief scheme be introduced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance document, issued in January 2014; and

(b) In respect of the Government's Flood Support Scheme, delegation be given to the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Benefits and Revenues to develop and implement the scheme.

93. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.2

The Council had received questions from Members in relation to:

1. Control of Dogs;
2. Lighting of the High Street Car Park, Clacton-on-Sea;
3. Insurance for Members whilst on Council business;
4. Windblown sand on the Martello Bay Estate, Clacton-on-Sea;
5. The Council's input into the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal and Strategic Economic Plan;
6. Prosecutions and fixed penalty notices relating to Dog Fouling; and
7. Public meeting request in respect of Part Night Lighting.

Notice of the questions had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.4(a).

Chairman