CITY OF WAKEFIELD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thursday, 23 May 2019

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Keith); The Deputy Mayor (Ms Austin); Councillors Ahmed, Ms Austin, Ayre, Mrs Binns, Box CBE, Miss Carrington, Cruise, Dagger, Ellis, Farmer, Fishwick, Forster, A Garbutt, Mrs Garbutt, Graham, Gordon, Harvey, Hemingway, Mrs Heptinstall, S Heptinstall, Miss Hemworth, Hunt, Mrs Jefferies, K Johnson, M Johnson, Jones, Kear, Keith, Mrs Kitching, Ms Loughran, Mrs Lund, Manifield, Mrs Malkin, Mrs Masterman, Mrs Mitchell, Morley JP, Miss Pickin, Mrs Rowley, Sanders, Mrs Scott, Shaw, Ms Speight, Ms Stansby, Stokes, Swift, R Taylor, Tennant, Mrs Tennant-King, Tulley, Wallis, Ward, Wassell, Whitehouse, Miss Williams and Womersley.

1. **PRAYERS**
The Mayor’s Chaplain, Reverend David Gerrard, led the Council in prayer.

2. **ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR**
Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Stokes, and

Resolved – That Councillor Charles Keith be, and is hereby appointed Mayor of the Wakefield District for the ensuing Municipal Year, and until the acceptance of office by his successor.

3. **DECLARATION AND INVESTITURE OF THE MAYOR 2019/20**
The Mayor Elect, Councillor Keith, made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Mayoral Office, and was invested with the Chain of Office.

The Mayor then took the Chair and returned thanks for his election. Councillor Mrs Jeffery and Councillor Ahmed, paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, and offered the support of the Council to the new Mayor during the forthcoming Mayoral Year.

4. **ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR**
Moved by Councillor Mrs Jeffery, seconded by Councillor Graham, and

Resolved – That Councillor Tracey Austin be, and is hereby appointed Deputy Mayor of the City of Wakefield Metropolitan District for the ensuing Municipal Year, and until the acceptance of office by her successor.

5. **DECLARATION AND INVESTITURE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR 2019/20**
The Deputy Mayor Elect, Councillor Ms Austin, made and signed the Declaration of Office, and was invested with the Deputy Mayor’s Chain of Office by the Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor then returned thanks for her appointment.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF MAYORESS**
The Mayor reported that Mrs Grace Keith would act as the Mayoress during the Mayoral Term of Office. The Mayoress, Mrs Keith, was invested with the Chain of Office. The Mayor also confirmed that he would be accompanied at Civic functions by Consorts of the Occasion should the need arise.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR’S CONSORT**
The Mayor reported that Mr Dwain Longley would act as the Deputy Mayor’s Consort
during the Mayoral Term of Office. The Mayoress invested Mr Longley with the Chain of Office. The Mayor also reported that the Deputy Mayor would be accompanied at Civic functions by Consorts of the Occasion should the need arise.

8. MEMBERS INTERESTS
The following Members made a non disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 15 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members’ Allowances and left the room to avoid a conflict of interest:-

Councillor Forster – If approved, I will be the recipient of the Group Business Manager Allowance for the Controlling Group.

Councillor Hunt – I know one of the members of the Panel.

Councillor Sanders – Whilst not receiving this allowance I may in future and will take myself from the room during the discussion and vote.

Councillor Ms Stansby – Personally know a member of the Panel.

9. MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS
Welcome
On behalf of Council, the Mayor, Councillor Keith, extended a very warm welcome to the many guests attending the Annual Council meeting including the Deputy Lieutenant, Squadron Leader David Dinmore and his wife Lorna; The High Sherriff, Mr Paul Lawrence, Lord St Oswald and the Very Reverend Simon Cowling, Dean of Wakefield Cathedral.

The Mayor’s Charity
The Mayor announced that he had chosen to support the Macular Degeneration Society and Wakefield Macular Degeneration Support Group as his Charities during the Mayoral Year.

Mayor Says Thanks Initiative
The Mayor drew attention to his new initiative to recognise the ‘unsung heroes’ in the District.

Finally, the Mayor extended an invitation to Members to join himself and the Mayoress at their Civic Parade and Service on Saturday 8 June 2019.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence submitted prior to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Mrs Blezard, Byford, Mrs Collins, Mrs Cummings, Graham and Margaret Isherwood, Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Taylor were accepted.

11. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2019
Moved by Councillor Box, seconded by Councillor Mrs Jeffery, and

Resolved - That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 17 April 2019, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

12. DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2019 - RESULTS
The Chief Executive/Returning Officer submitted a report to formally advise Council of the results of the District Council elections held on Thursday, 2 May 2019. The Mayor congratulated and extended a warm welcome to the five newly elected Councillors and to those Members who had successfully been re-elected to Council.
Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger, and

Resolved – (1) That congratulations and a warm welcome be extended to the five newly elected Councillors.

(2) That congratulations be conveyed to those Members who had successfully been re-elected to Council.

13. LEADER’S CABINET AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20
In accordance with his Executive Leader powers and responsibilities, the Executive Leader of the Council, Councillor P Box CBE, submitted a report setting out his decisions with regard to the Council’s Executive arrangements for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

In his report the Leader advised he had reviewed and revised the Cabinet Portfolios and detailed the appointments of the Portfolio and Deputy Portfolio Holders for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix A to the report. Responsibilities of Portfolio Holders were set out in Appendix B.

The report also provided details of the Leader’s review of delegations to Portfolio Holders for the ensuing Municipal Year which were set out in Appendix C to the report.

Moved by Councillor Box CBE, seconded by Councillor Mrs Jeffery, and

Resolved – That Council note and action the decisions of the Executive Leader of the Council as set out in the report.

14. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP
The Chief Executive submitted a report together with additional supplementary information circulated in advance of the meeting, which sought approval to the appointment of Chairs and, where appropriate, Deputy Chairs of Committees and the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group for 2019/2020 together with the appointment of Members to serve on the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group respectively.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger, and

Resolved – (1) That the appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs where appropriate of Committees, Sub-Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group for 2019/2020, be approved.

(2) That the appointment of six elected Members to serve on the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group, as detailed in the supplementary information pack, be approved.

(3) That the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive and relevant Group Whip, be given delegated authority to approve, if required, any mid-year changes to these Committee appointments.

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 - REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES 2019/20
The Chief Executive submitted a report to allocate seats on Committees of the
Council in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The report set out the principles under which the calculation of seats was undertaken, together with details of the two stage process in which the allocation was made.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger, and

Resolved – (1) That for best proportional fit, the Committee sizes as set out below be approved: -

- Audit and Governance Committee 7
- Planning and Highways Committee 17
- Licensing Committee 12
- Wakefield Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 7
- Adults Services, Public Health and the NHS O&SC 11
- Children, Young People and Skills O&SC 11
- Economic & environmental Wellbeing O&SC 11
- Standards Committee 6

(2) That before any necessary adjustments, seats on Committees be allocated as set out in the Table at paragraph 5.10 of the report.

(3) That the necessary adjustment as set out in the report be made by the Labour Group reallocating three seats to the Conservative Group (one), and two seats to be allocated to the Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors.

(4) That it be agreed that the rules of proportionality should not apply to the Standards Sub-Committee, the three Licensing Sub-Committees or the Corporate Parenting Committee as set out in Articles 9 and 10 of the Constitution.

(5) That the appointment of Members, and as necessary co-opted Members, to the Council’s Committees for 2019/20 in line with the details contained within the supplementary information pack, be agreed.

(6) That the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive and relevant Group Whip, be given delegated authority to approve, if required, any mid-year changes to Committee appointments.

(8) That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution.


The Chief Executive submitted a report to make appointments to the West Yorkshire Joint Authorities/Committee and to determine appointments to those Joint Bodies/Committees requiring specific approval of Council.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger, and

Resolved – (1) That in accordance with the political balance requirements and the wishes of the political groups, Members as reported at the meeting be appointed to the Joint Authorities/Committee as detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report and Appendix A (circulated in advance of the meeting) for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.
(2) That the rules of political proportionality be dis-applied to the Management Committee of the YPO Joint Committee and its Sub-Committees in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

(3) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to jointly appoint with other constituent councils of the Combined Authority (after consultation with relevant group whips) 3 additional Members to the Combined Authority and their substitutes, so that the 8 constituent council member taken as a whole reflect the balance of political parties for the time being among members of the Combined Authority’s constituent councils so far as reasonably practicable.

(4) That Members as reported at the meeting, be appointed to the Local Government Association General Assembly for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

(5) That the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive and relevant Group Whip, be given delegated authority to approve, if required, any mid-year changes to the Joint Authority/Committee appointments.

17. COUNCIL MEETINGS TIMETABLE 2019-20
The Chief Executive submitted a report which asked Council to confirm the date of Annual Council 2020, Budget Council 2020, the Ordinary Council meetings 2019/20 and to approve the calendar of meetings 2019/20.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger, and

Resolved – (1) That the dates of Annual Council 2020, Budget Council 2020 and ordinary meetings of the Council 2019/20 be confirmed.

(2) That the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/20 be approved.

(3) That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to make any necessary changes to the meetings calendar in accordance with the wishes of the appropriate Chair.

18. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - ANNUAL REVIEW
The Chief Legal Officer submitted a report which asked Council to approve amendments to the Council’s Constitution following an annual review.

To ensure that the Constitution remained fit for purpose, the Chief Legal Officer had undertaken a full review of the Constitution. Proposed revisions included details of persons/bodies consulted upon the proposals are set out in Appendix A. Whilst the majority of changes were minor they had been undertaken to improve clarity and readability of the document and ensure it aligned with good practice, current operational practice and legislation.

Members attention was drawn to new inserts in Part 5 – a Corporate Governance Framework which summarised and provided links to existing arrangements and replaced the separate Codes and Protocols documents which sat alongside the Constitution, the insertion of the Monitoring Officer and s151 Protocols into Part 5, and a new Code of Practice for Licensing.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger, and

Resolved – (1) That the revisions to the Constitution summarised in Appendix A and circulated to Members in advance of the meeting be approved.

(2) That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to update and publish the revised
document and make any minor amendments consequential on these changes.

19. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**
The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs submitted a report reviewing the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function during 2018/19.

Moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Forster, and

**Resolved** - That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018/19 be endorsed.

20. **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES**
The Chief Executive submitted a report detailed the recommendations of the Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel following its review of Members’ Allowances.

The primary role of the Independent Remuneration Panel was to assess and recommend the allowances to be made available to Elected Members, representing the diversity of communities that make up the Wakefield Metropolitan District both now and into the future.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Dagger.

Comments on the report were received from Councillors Ahmed, Mrs Harvey, Gordon and Shaw.

The Mayor indicated that a recorded vote had been suggested which received support from the necessary number of Members. The vote followed:-

**Members voting in favour of the report**
Councillors Box, Miss Carrington, Dagger, Ellis, A Garbutt, Mrs P Garbutt, Graham, Mrs Heptinstall, S Heptinstall, Miss Hepworth, Mrs Jeffery, M Johnson, Jones, Ms Loughran, Mrs Lund, Mrs Malkin, Manifield, Morley, Miss Pickin, Mrs Scott, Shaw, Ms Speight, Stokes, Switt, R Taylor, Tennant, Mrs Tennant-King, Wallis, Ward, Wassell and Miss Williams.

**Members voting against the report**
Councillors Ahmed, Ayre, Mrs Binns, Ms Cruise, Farmer, Fishwick, Gordon, Mrs Harvey, Hemingway, K Johnson, Kear, Mrs Kitching, Mrs Masterman, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Rowley, Tulley, Ms Whitehouse and Womersley.

**Members abstaining from the vote.**
Councillors Ms Austin (Deputy Mayor) and Keith (Mayor).

**Members absent when the vote was taken.**
Councillors Mrs Blezard, Byford, Mrs Collins, Mrs Cummings, Forster, Hunt, G Isherwood, Mrs Isherwood, Mrs Rhodes, Sanders, Ms Stansby and Mrs A Taylor.

**Resolved** – That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be accepted.

21. **MOTIONS**
In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, Councillor Box had given the required notice to submit the following Motion to Council:

**This Council notes that:**
The science is clear. Human caused climate change is real, it is happening and its effects are being felt right now.

Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) has given us only 11 years to act urgently on climate change or face runaway global warming and climate breakdown.

The IPPC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise and also confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act to limit the negative impacts of Global Warming, and recognises that a growing number of Councils across the country are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency, and committing resources to address this emergency.

Taking action to address many of the causes and impact of climate change will also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits both locally and worldwide.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency.
2. Pledge to make Wakefield Council a Carbon Neutral organisation before 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
3. Request that the Council’s Cabinet develops and reports back to Council within six months the specific emergency plans and actions needed to reach this target.
4. Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale.
5. Call on central government to provide the funding and powers to make this possible.
6. Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.
7. Continue to work with partners across the Wakefield District and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.

The Motion was formally moved by Councillor Box and seconded by Councillor Tulley.

Debate ensued on the Motion with contributions from Councillors Mrs Harvey, Wallis, Gordon, Wassell, M Johnson, Ahmed and Mrs Rowley.

On being put to the vote it was:

Resolved – (1) Declare a Climate Emergency.
(2) Pledge to make Wakefield Council a Carbon Neutral organisation before 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.

(3) Request that the Council’s Cabinet develops and reports back to Council within six months the specific emergency plans and actions needed to reach this target.

(4) Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale.

(5) Call on central government to provide the funding and powers to make this possible.

(6) Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.

(7) Continue to work with partners across the Wakefield District and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.