

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

At a Meeting of Rugby Borough Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Garcia), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Allen, Mrs Avis, Brader, Mrs Bragg, Brown, Butlin, Cade, Mrs Crane, Douglas, Ms Edwards, Ellis, Gillias, Leigh Hunt, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Mahoney, Mistry, Mrs Nash, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Mrs Parker, Poole, Roberts, Ms Robbins, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Sandison, Dr Shera, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Stokes, Mrs Timms and Ms Watson-Merret.

## 47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Cranham, Miss Dumbleton, Lowe, Mrs Roberts and Dr Williams.

## 48. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

## 49. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had no announcements to make.

## 50. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

**(a) Councillor Roodhouse asked the following question of the Environment and Public Realm Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Parker:**

"Could the Portfolio Holder update the Council on the work that is currently being undertaken by Warwickshire Waste Partnership (WWP)?"

**Councillor Mrs Parker replied as detailed below:**

"The Warwickshire Waste Partnership is currently working to reduce the volume of household waste being sent to landfill and increase dry recycling across the County.

As a partnership they are also looking at joint procurement opportunities, with regard to the purchase of vehicles, materials and the provision of new bins.

The waste partnership are also exploring sharing resources to manage the increase in housing growth across the County.

This involves the sharing of operational resources until each partnership authority has sufficient new growth to financially justify additional collection rounds.”

Councillor Roodhouse then asked the Portfolio Holder when reports would be submitted to Cabinet and scrutiny committees outlining the opportunities identified by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.

Councillor Mrs Parker replied that this would happen as soon as the WWP had undertaken appropriate consultation and had firm proposals.

**(b) Councillor Brader asked the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stokes:**

“Would the leader of the council agree that Universal Credit has had a disastrous effect since it has been rolled out in Rugby and needs to be fixed to help people claiming Universal Credit here, and to avoid similar damage as it is rolled out nationally?”

**Councillor Stokes replied as detailed below:**

“Normally, it is not appropriate for Members to ask a question at Council which asks me to express an opinion. However, I recognise that Councillor Brader is raising a particularly important topic here and I would like Council to understand how this council is determined to make the implementation of Universal Credit as successful as possible.

Universal Credit was initially rolled out in Rugby from November 2013 and since then has gradually seen an increase in the number of residents applying for Universal Credit. In May 2016, the Full Service was introduced which resulted in a significant increase in residents applying for Universal Credit. For the majority of our customers Universal Credit works well and allows them greater flexibility in their work choices and working hours.

I recognise, however, that there have been issues for some customers, both here in Rugby as well as nationally. The Council continues to work with external partners to support our residents in receipt of Universal Credit and we have been reviewing the services we provide to support our residents even better. Council Officers and our partners have regular meetings with the Department for Work and Pensions where any concerns about the way that Universal Credit is working can be discussed. These issues are then reported back to the Universal Credit Implementation Team for their consideration to help improve the overall scheme.”

Councillor Stokes added that he was pleased to inform Council that a meeting was scheduled to be held next week between Damian Hines, the Communities and Homes Portfolio Holder and the Member of Parliament for Rugby, Mark Pawsey to discuss Universal Credit.

Councillor Brader then asked the Leader of the Council what his statement that Universal Credit was working for the majority of people was based on.

Councillor Stokes reiterated his previous statement as detailed above and emphasised that Rugby currently had a record low unemployment level.

## 51. REPORT OF CABINET – 4 DECEMBER 2017

On item (3), 'A potential council-led lottery for Rugby', Councillor Roodhouse moved and Councillor Sandison seconded the following amendment:-

*"IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Homes to*

- 1) progress with due diligence works required to develop a robust business case for a Rugby Borough Council led lottery; and*

*Delete second bullet and replace*

- 2) the Communities and Homes Portfolio Holder and Head of Communities and Homes present the business case to scrutiny prior to any launch of a Rugby Borough Council led lottery."*

Following discussion the Mayor put the amendment to the vote and declared it carried.

**RESOLVED THAT** - subject to the amendment to item (3), the report of Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.

## 52. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### (a) Constitution Update

Council considered the report of the Executive Director and Monitoring Officer concerning an update of the Constitution.

**RESOLVED THAT** - the constitution be amended as detailed in the report.

### (b) Appointment of Independent Persons

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer concerning the appointment of Independent Persons.

**RESOLVED THAT** - the persons in Appendix A to the report be appointed as independent persons for a four year term of office.

## 53. NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

The Mayor considered it advisable and convenient to deal with the Notice of Motion set out at item 7 on the agenda at the meeting.

Councillor Mrs O'Rourke moved and Councillor Ms Edwards seconded the following motion set out at item 7 of the agenda.

*“We would ask this full Council to undertake a joint feasibility study with public and private partners currently based in the town centre area to identify opportunities to collectively use their building assets in a more efficient and productive way. The study should include the Rugby Benn Hall and Town Hall, Magistrates Court, Police, Fire Service, Adult Social Care, Social Services, Children Services, Age Uk, WCAVA, CAB and CEMEX.*

*We believe by the collective pulling of resources we could save money, have a modern building fit for the future that will reduce overheads and provide a seamless service to our local Communities. Land that is freed up could then be used to build social housing to help bring down housing waiting lists in the Borough. This would ensure the future sustainability of our town centre businesses who would undoubtedly benefit from those living in the new homes we could build in this area.”*

Following discussion the Mayor put the Motion to the vote and declared it lost.

#### **54. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

#### **55. COMMON SEAL**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

**RESOLVED THAT** - the Common Seal be affixed to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the Committee reports adopted at this meeting.

**MAYOR**