

Minutes

Extraordinary Council Wednesday, 26th January, 2022

Attendance

Cllr Ms Sanders (Mayor)	Cllr Kendall
Cllr Reed (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Laplain
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Barber	Cllr McLaren
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Mynott
Cllr Dr Barrett	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Bridge	Cllr Nolan
Cllr J Cloke	Cllr Parker
Cllr S Cloke	Cllr Mrs Pearson
Cllr Cuthbert	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Fryd	Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Russell
Cllr Gelderbloem	Cllr Tanner
Cllr Haigh	Cllr Tierney
Cllr Heard	Cllr Wagland
Cllr Mrs Hones	Cllr White
Cllr Hossack	Cllr Wiles

Apologies

Cllr Mrs Davies
Cllr Hirst
Cllr Jakobsson

Officers Present

Amanda Julian	- Corporate Director (Law & Governance) and Monitoring Officer
Claire Mayhew	- Corporate Manager (Democratic Services)
Jonathan Stephenson	- Chief Executive
Jacqueline Van Mellaerts	- Corporate Director (Finance & Resources)
Steve Summers	- Strategic Director
Ian Winslet	- Strategic Director
Tracey Lilley	- Corporate Director (Housing & Enforcement)
Angela Hutchings	- Strategic Director (Rochford District Council)

LIVE BROADCAST

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

274. To appoint a Member to preside at the meeting if the Mayor nor the Deputy Mayor are present and able to preside

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were both present at the meeting.

275. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hirst, Jakobsson and Mrs Davies.

276. Declaration of Interest from Members and Officers

There was none at this stage.

277. Brentwood/Rochford Partnership

Members were asked to approve the creation of a formal strategic partnership between Brentwood Borough Council (the Council) and Rochford District Council (RDC) in accordance with Heads of Terms agreed between the two councils.

To approve the drawdown of £300,000 to programme resource the Transformation Unit and for the implementation of the organisational structure required to deliver the strategic outcomes of the partnership.

To consider the recommendations made by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee following their pre-scrutiny of this report on 12 January 2022 and the additional recommendations made by the Rochford District Council's Review Committee on 13 January 2022.

Mr Summers informed Members of an amendment to recommendation 8, to state the inclusion of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee (Brentwood) together with the Review Committee (Rochford).

Cllr Nolan, Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee presented a brief overview of the meeting on 12 January 2022 and the recommendations from that meeting that have been included in this report.

Cllr Hossack advised that the Leader and Deputy Leader of Rochford District Council, Cllr's Wootton and Roe, were in attendance. Cllr Hossack also thanked officers, especially Steve Summers and Angela Hutchings for their

work on the partnership arrangements and the work over the last 6 months by Mr Stephenson at the Interim Chief Executive for both authorities.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Nolan **SECONDED** the recommendations within the report.

After a full discussion, Cllr Lewis **MOVED** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** an amendment to the recommendation to include:

not more than six months from the date of the agreement there will be an evaluation and review of and these there are five points:-

1. *the performance and effectiveness of the partnership*
2. *the impact of the partnership upon the council's staff*
3. *impact of the partnership upon the council and its finances*
4. *whether or not the partnership is in the best interests of the council*
5. *to evaluate and review the partnership annually in accordance with paragraphs one to four above with a written report being brought before full council for consideration by members*

Cllr Hossack, the **MOVER** of the motion, did not accept the amendment.

Members expressed concerns over lack of consultation with residents and the scrutiny of the partnership arrangement.

After a full discussion, a vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion was **LOST**.

Members returned to the **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**.

Cllr Lewis **MOVED** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** an amendment to the substantive motion to include finance pressures relating to resource.

Cllr Hossack, the **MOVER** of the motion, did not accept the amendment.

After clarification from Officers, Cllr Lewis **WITHDREW** his amendment.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllrs Aspinell, Hossack, Parker, Laplain and Mynott and was taken in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.5.

The members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Barber, Bridge, J Cloke, Gelderbloem, Heard, Hones, Hossack, McLaren, Nolan, Parker, Pearson, Poppy, Pound, Reed, Russell, Sanders, Tanner, Tierney, Wagland, White and Wiles (21)

AGAINST: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Dr Barrett, S Cloke, Cuthbert, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis, Mynott and Naylor (13)

ABSTAIN: (0)

It was **RESOLVED.**

- R1. To agree the Strategic Partnership between Rochford District Council and Brentwood Borough Council and that Jonathan Stephenson is the Joint Chief Executive for both councils with effect from 1 February 2022.**
- R2. To approve the Heads of Terms set out in Appendix A.**
- R3. That the Joint Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer of each council, be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of each council, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and s113 Agreement to give effect to the Partnership.**
- R4. That the Joint Chief Executive be given delegated authority to undertake a restructure of Tiers 2 and 3 of the councils in consultation with the Leader of each council.**
- R5. That a maximum of £300,000 (as set out in paragraph 6.7 of this report) be allocated from general reserves to fund the additional programme resource for the Transformation Unit.**
- R6. That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority in consultation with the Constitution Working Group to make any required changes to the Constitution to give effect to the recommendations in this report.**
- R7. That the MOU and s113 Agreement makes provision for robust Exit Arrangements and a member led Conflict Resolution Process.**
- R8. That the s113 Agreement comes to the Review Committee (Rochford) and Audit & Scrutiny (Brentwood) for scrutiny before it is executed.**
- R9. That feedback from residents as to the impact of the partnership on services is regularly sought and reported upon.**
- R10. That there be an early review of technology in Phase 2 of the Transformation Programme to identify threats and/or opportunities.**
- R11. That the MOU and/or document that underpins the Strategic Partnership makes clear that whilst the division of the savings achieved as part of the transformation process is to be agreed**

between the two councils, that the starting point for that discussion should be 50/50.

278. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 20.08
