

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

9TH JUNE 2016

At a special meeting of Rugby Borough Council held on 9th June 2016.

PRESENT:

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

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence for the meeting were received from Councillors Mistry, Mrs Roodhouse, Shera and Dr Williams.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the special meeting held on 19th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4 of Part 1 – West Midlands Combined Authority – Councillors Butlin, Mrs O'Rourke, Roberts, Roodhouse and Mrs Timms (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Warwickshire County Councillors).

Item 4 of Part 1 - West Midlands Combined Authority – Councillors Leigh Hunt (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a Warwickshire County Council employee).

17. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Council that one of her chosen charities for her mayoral year, the Oral Health Foundation, was celebrating National Smile Month during June.

18. WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 4) concerning the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Councillor Stokes moved and Councillor Leigh Hunt seconded that -

- (1) Rugby Borough Council joins the WMCA as a non-constituent member;
- (2) the Leader and Executive Director are given authority to attend meetings and participate on behalf of Rugby Borough Council;
- (3) the Council engage in activities to communicate the decision and known implications in the form of media, on-line and public meetings;
- (4) the Council uses this public engagement to seek public opinion on Rugby's 'ask' as being part of the WMCA;
- (5) a regular meeting be established for the 'Leaders Steering Group' and this be used as a vehicle for ongoing ad-hoc communication between Council meetings; and
- (6) a report be brought back to Council at a minimum of every six months until further notice regarding the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Following further discussion, Councillor Ms Edwards moved and Councillor Mrs O'Rourke seconded the following amendment:

- (1) Rugby Borough Council joins the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) as a non-constituent member in order to influence its future development and ensure better joined up working in the region and to ensure a strong voice in the most easterly part of the WMCA;*
- (2) Rugby Borough Council considers joining as a full member of the WMCA at the appropriate time;*
- (3) the Leader and Executive Director keep Group Leaders informed on a monthly basis as to developments and in addition regularly feed back to Full Council;*
- (4) WMCA be invited to visit Rugby and invited to hold at least one meeting a year in Rugby;*
- (5) arrangements for overview and scrutiny of decision making be investigated as a matter of urgency and a report be made to Council in July about the role of non-constituent members in that process;*
- (6) Rugby Borough Council fully engages and consults with Rugby residents and businesses on the decision to join; and*
- (7) Rugby Borough Council uses that engagement to assist in developing a longer term plan as to Rugby's developing role as a member, and the benefits for the borough as a whole.*

Councillor Roodhouse then moved and Councillor Sandison seconded the following amendment:

- (1) Rugby Borough Council joins as a non- constituent member of the WMCA;*
- (2) the Executive Director be requested to bring forward a report within 6 months that presents the “ASKS” for Rugby Borough which should include the following, high value skills and employment, the Infrastructure needs of the Borough, Public services and investment for the town; and*
- (3) the Council embarks on an information campaign for local residents about the WMCA.*

Councillor Stokes then moved and Councillor Leigh Hunt seconded the following proposal which included the Liberal Democrat amendment and elements of the Labour amendment:

- (1) Rugby Borough Council joins the WMCA as a non-constituent member;
- (2) the Leader and Executive Director be given authority to attend meetings and participate on behalf of Rugby Borough Council;
- (3) the Council engages in an information and consultation campaign for local residents and businesses about the WMCA, to communicate the decision and known implications in the form of media, on-line and public meetings;
- (4) Rugby Borough Council uses that engagement to assist in developing a longer term plan as to Rugby’s developing role as a member, and the benefits for the borough as a whole;
- (5) the Council uses this public engagement to seek public opinion on Rugby's 'ask' as being part of the WMCA (including high value skills and employment, the infrastructure needs of the borough and public services and investment for the town) and a report be submitted to Council in six months on these outcomes;
- (6) a regular meeting be established for the ‘Leaders Steering Group’ and this be used as a vehicle for ongoing ad-hoc communication between Council meetings;
- (7) WMCA be invited to visit Rugby and invited to hold at least one meeting a year in Rugby;
- (8) a report be brought back to Council at a minimum of every six months until further notice regarding the West Midlands Combined Authority.

After further discussion the Mayor put the proposal to the vote.

Three members then demanded, pursuant to Standing Order 15.4 that the names of members voting be recorded in the minutes.

For the motion – Councillors Allen, Mrs Avis, Birkett, Mrs Bragg, Brown, Butlin, Cade, Cranham, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Ms Edwards, Gillias, Leigh Hunt, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Mahoney, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Mrs Parker, Ms Robbins, Roodhouse, Sandison, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Stokes, Helen Taylor, Mrs Timms.

28 votes

Against the motion – Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Mrs Crane, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Mrs New, Mrs Roberts, Roberts.

7 votes

Abstentions from voting – Councillors Mrs Nash, Poole, Ms Watson-Merret
3 votes

The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) Rugby Borough Council joins the WMCA as a non-constituent member;
- (2) the Leader and Executive Director be given authority to attend meetings and participate on behalf of Rugby Borough Council;
- (3) the Council engages in an information and consultation campaign for local residents and businesses about the WMCA, to communicate the decision and known implications in the form of media, on-line and public meetings;
- (4) Rugby Borough Council uses that engagement to assist in developing a longer term plan as to Rugby's developing role as a member, and the benefits for the borough as a whole;
- (5) the Council uses this public engagement to seek public opinion on Rugby's 'ask' as being part of the WMCA (including high value skills and employment, the infrastructure needs of the borough and public services and investment for the town) and a report be submitted to Council in six months on these outcomes;
- (6) a regular meeting be established for the 'Leaders Steering Group' and this be used as a vehicle for ongoing ad-hoc communication between Council meetings;
- (7) WMCA be invited to visit Rugby and invited to hold at least one meeting a year in Rugby;
- (8) a report be brought back to Council at a minimum of every six months until further notice regarding the West Midlands Combined Authority.

MAYOR

