

Meeting of the

EASTBOURNE AREA COMMITTEE

held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 19 November 2002

PRESENT:-

Eastbourne Borough Councillors: STANLEY (Chairman), ELKIN, LEGGETT, TAYLOR THOMPSON and WARNER.

East Sussex County Councillors: Mrs HEALY (Vice-Chairman), SKILTON, TUNWELL, TUTT and Miss WOODALL.

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Berry and Harris (EBC) and Ellis, Mrs Leigh and Vickers (ESCC).

Officers:

Eastbourne Borough Council: Mr M Ray, Chief Executive and Mr D Robinson, Member Services Manager

East Sussex County Council: Mr H Cartwright, Director of Legal and Community Services.

10. MINUTES. The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2002 as a correct record.

11. FUTURE OF THE AREA COMMITTEE. The Chairman gave his reasons for calling this special meeting in the light of the County's proposal to disband the Committee.

The Committee considered the report of the Member Services Manager as previously submitted to the Borough Council's Cabinet on 7 November 2002. Appended to the report was the report of the County's Director of Legal and Community Services to the County's Governance Committee held on 22 October 2002, together with a letter from the Director notifying the Governance Committee's recommendation to the County Council that the Area Committees for Eastbourne and Hastings be wound up. The Borough had been invited to comment and any views would be reported to the meeting of the County Council to be held on the 3 December 2002 when a final decision would be taken on the future of the Area Committees. The Borough's Cabinet had indicated that a formal response would be made to the County in line with the views expressed by this Committee.

Members spoke of the need to maintain a bridge between the Borough and County Councils and retain the benefits of a forum where issues of mutual concern could be aired, views expressed, the concerns of constituents raised and information and answers sought. Members believed the Area Committee meetings had been useful and informative although there was an acknowledgement of certain shortcomings.

In their discussions Members indicated a willingness to accept changes that would retain the acknowledged benefits of a joint meeting or forum but in a less formalised setting and perhaps at a lesser frequency than at present. At the same time the two Councils should continue to invite each others' Members to relevant briefings, provide information for Members' newsletters and otherwise promote opportunities for close working.

RESOLVED (Nem con) (1) That the continuing need for the two Councils to

	<p>12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS. The following dates for 2003 were previously agreed (note, these dates are subject to the outcome of minute 11 above):-</p> <p>15 January 2003</p> <p>26 March 2003</p> <p>All meetings at 6.00 pm on Wednesdays.</p> <p>NOTED.</p>	
The meeting closed at 6.42 pm.		
		<p>N D A Stanley</p> <p>Chairman</p>
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