



Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2012 at 7.15pm

Present:-

Councillor Mike Thompson (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Janet Coles, Alun Cooke, Philip Ede, David Elkin, Carolyn Heaps, Pat Hearn, Sandie Howlett, Gordon Jenkins, Tom Liddiard, Gill Mattock, Harun Miah, Colin Murdoch, Jim Murray, Alan Shuttleworth, Neil Stanley, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, David Tutt, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Patrick Warner and Annabelle West.

- 14. Apologies for absence.** An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Harris.
- 15. Disclosures of interests.** There were no declarations of interests.
- 16. Review of polling districts and polling places – part review in Old Town, St. Anthony’s and Upperton wards .** The Council considered the report of the Electoral Services Manager proposing revised arrangements in respect of polling districts and polling places in parts of the Old Town, St Anthony’s and Upperton wards (polling districts OTD, SAA, SAB and UPE).

In respect of the Old Town proposals, support was received from Councillor Ungar and Mr G Thompson subject to the venue not also being used as an Upperton ward polling station, and subject to a separate entrance being used for OTD voters respectively.

In respect of the Upperton proposals, support for the use of St. Mary’s Church and not the Town Hall was received from Councillors Liddiard and West, County Councillor Rodohan, and Mr G Thompson.

It was moved by Councillor Tester, seconded by Councillor Elkin, and

Resolved: (1) That the Returning Officer’s original proposals in respect of Old Town ward polling district OTD (Greenfield Methodist Church Hall to be designated as the polling place) and St Anthony’s ward polling districts SAA/SAB (re-drawn polling district boundary with Sun Coast Church and the Archery Youth Centre as the designated polling places) be approved.

(2) That the Returning Officer’s amended proposal in respect of Upperton ward UPE (St Mary’s Church hall to be designated as the polling place) be approved.

(3) That the Electoral Services Manager, on behalf of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, be authorised to implement the Council’s decisions in respect of the review.

- 17. Localism Act 2011 and the new standards regime – committee,**

constitutional and related matters. The Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Development proposing revisions to the Council's standards regime and amendments to the associated committee and decision making arrangements. This would be required for implementation of the various provisions in the Localism Act 2011 relating to a new ethical framework from 1 July 2012.

It was moved by Councillor Tester, seconded by Councillor Elkin, and

Resolved: (1) That the Standards and Audit Committees be disbanded on 30 June 2012.

(2) That the appointments of the three independent members of the Standards Committee be terminated as at 30 June 2012.

(3) That an Audit and Governance Committee (with a Standards Panel) be established as from 1 July 2012.

(4) That the Audit and Governance Committee and Standards Panel terms of reference and composition be as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

(5) That the draft code of conduct set out in appendix 3 to the report be approved in principle and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to continue working on the draft with a view to the Council giving formal approval at their next ordinary meeting on 18 July 2012. In the meantime the Council retain its current code of conduct.

(6) That the procedure documents (appendices 4, 5 and 6 to the report) in respect of the arrangements for dealing with complaints be approved and to note that the responsibility for reviewing and updating these documents will in future rest with the Audit and Governance Committee.

(7) That the matters to be included in the register of members' interests be as described in the code of conduct and regulations.

(8) That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority, in consultation with the lead Cabinet member and the lead opposition member, to recruit, select and submit recommendations to full Council in respect of the appointment of the independent persons

(9) That the remuneration of independent persons appointed by the Council be delegated to the Head of Corporate Development but that initially payments should be in line with the remuneration amount currently provided for the independent members of the Standards Committee.

(10) That the Council's scheme of delegation to officers and proper officer list be amended to add to the Monitoring Officer's delegated powers, the power to:

- Decide whether to investigate allegations of misconduct (but with the ability to consult with the independent person and/or refer to the

Standards Panel) and exercise discretion in accordance with the document arrangements for dealing with standards allegations under the Localism Act 2011, during the process for dealing with complaints.

- Establish, maintain and publish the register of interests.
- Grant dispensations for relief of interest restrictions but with ability to consult with the independent person and/or refer to Standards Panel).

and add to Head of Paid Service's delegated functions:

- The grant and supervision of exemptions from political restriction.

(11) That subject to approval of the foregoing recommendations, the Monitoring Officer be authorised make all necessary changes to the Council's constitution and supporting procedural documentation to bring them into line with the new standards regime.

- 18. Corporate Plan 2012/13 refresh.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Tester, seconded by Councillor Tutt, and

Resolved: That the revised and refreshed Corporate Plan for 2012/13 be approved.

- 19. Minutes of council bodies and items for discussion.** The minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-

Conservation Area Advisory Committee	21 February and 3 April 2012
Planning Committee	28 February, 27 March and 17 April 2012
Audit Committee	14 March 2012
Standards Committee	10 April 2012
Scrutiny Committee	16 April 2012
Cabinet	18 April 2012
General Licensing Committee	23 April 2012
Licensing Act Committee	23 April 2012

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was,

Resolved: That the minutes of the above Council Bodies be accepted.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

**Councillor Michael John Thompson,
Mayor, Chairman**

(pf:council\12.05.09\mins)