

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Council Chamber at County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on 26 November 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Stephen Gauntlett (Chair)

Councillors Johnny Denis (Vice-Chair), Graham Amy, Simon Barnes, Nancy Bikson, Liz Boorman, Wayne Botting, Julie Carr, Joanna Carter, Stephen Catlin, Mike Chartier, Sharon Davy, Will Elliott, Paul Franklin, Peter Gardiner, Bill Giles, Jackie Harrison-Hicks, Olivia Honeyman, Vic lent, Tom Jones, Alex Lambert, Isabelle Linington, Ron Maskell, Elayne Merry, Susan Murray, Dave Neave, Tony Nicholson, Ruth O'Keeffe, Sarah Osborne, Julian Peterson, Robbie Robertson, Tony Rowell, Steve Saunders, Jim Sheppard, Andy Smith and Richard Turner

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Ian Fitzpatrick (Director of Regeneration and Planning), Tim Whelan (Director of Service Delivery), Catherine Knight (Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services), Jane Goodall (Strategy and Partnership Lead (Quality Environment)), Gareth Robinson (Deputy Chief Finance Officer), Tondra Thom (Planning Policy Lead) and Simon Russell (Committee and Civic Services Manager)

31 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Enever, Loraine and Wallraven.

33 Declarations of interest

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 (Lewes District Local Plan Part 2: Site allocations and development management policies) as he had an acquaintance who owned one of the sites referenced in the report. He remained in the room and voted on the decision.

Councillor Saunders declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (questions from members of the public) as a trustee of the CTLA. He remained in the room whilst the item was considered.

34 Announcements

(i) Chair of the Council's engagements

The Council received a list of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the meeting of the Council held on 16 July 2018.

(ii) Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Finance Officer

The Chair and the Council welcomed Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer and Gareth Robinson, Deputy Chief Finance Officer to their first meeting of the Council.

35 Order of business

Given that the majority of questions from members of the public were in relation to agenda item 10, the Chair agreed to consider agenda item 6 (Questions from members of the public) after agenda items 7 to 9.

36 Recommendation from Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Denis seconded the motion, that the recommendations of Scrutiny Committee on the 13 September 2018, relating to the scrutiny annual work programme 2018/19 be approved.

Resolved (Carried):

That the annual work programme, as set out at appendix A of the report be approved.

Reason for decision:

Decision is in accordance with scrutiny procedure rule 7.

37 Questions from members of the public

The following questions were submitted by members of the public. Copies were circulated to all councillors at the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting.

Questioner: Paula Woolven

Question One: I would like to ask if the administration consider that CTLA meets the criteria set out in their policy statement and are therefore worthy of

applying for grant funding, to support the residents and communities of the whole District?

Former Coalition Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles, said when publishing his code of practice in 2011 “Transparency and openness must underpin every decision a council makes for its residents.”

The funding scheme was not open to all the strategic voluntary sector organisations in the District who meet the criteria listed in the policy on grants to voluntary organisations and Equality and Fairness Analysis and I am asking if this could be reconsidered.

Response by Councillor Nicholson: Thank you for the information you have provided to us with about CTLA Community Transport. You obviously provide a highly active and valued service in the area and we are sorry to hear that you had been experiencing financial challenges.

The Council recognised and valued the significant contributions that the community and voluntary sector play in delivering services to our residents.

Despite the challenging financial times, the council had continued to prioritise the allocation of grants totalling £216,840 to organisations which play a core role in the local communities of the district.

It was not currently council policy to conduct an open bidding process for grants, as we feel the organisations we currently fund are those which most closely meet our objectives and complement council services.

This policy was periodically reviewed, and we may in future choose to take a different approach. However, we intend that our grant decisions this year (which we would be making in February 2019) would follow the current policy and practice.

When considering the giving of grants, the council must always be mindful whether it is the most appropriate public body to support a particular cause or activity. It was clearly the County Council who was the lead agency for matters of public transport, under which we would consider community transport to fall. We also note that you had previously received funds from the NHS for providing services.

In these times of diminishing resources, we must focus our spending on those areas which were within our own jurisdiction, and not on services which are for others to fund. It was unlikely, therefore, even if we should establish a grants application process, that funding of community transport would command a high priority.

Question Two: Could I please ask how much of the development levies charged on new housing and other properties was dedicated to supporting Community Transport in the District? There were considerable developments

approved and were currently being built where residents may not be able to access public transport through a variety of reasons including disability, poor mobility, isolation and many other access barriers and I would like to know the level of investment from the District Council in transport facilities specifically to help these residents?

Response by Councillor Nicholson: LDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) governance required that after the first regulatory apportionment of 15% or 25% passed to the towns and parishes and 5% towards administration costs, 20% of the remaining CIL for every CIL liable development is ring-fenced into the Community Pot. This could be bid by Community Infrastructure providers such as the NHS, Police or Community Transport providers such as CTLA for funding the provision, maintenance or operation of infrastructure in accordance with the CIL Regulations.

The CIL Community Pot at present was £515,243. Demand notice for a further £288,813 was due within the coming year and the next bidding round would begin in summer 2019.

Questioner: Geoff King

Question One: How can Lewes District Council justify that Policy E1 is sound and sustainable when Policy E1 had the poorest score overall of the three proposed sites when measured against the 18 objectives listed in the Lewes District Council Local Plan Part 2 on pages 56 to 61 of the Sustainability Assessment as included with the consultation documents of September 2018. Table 36 on page 79 of the Sustainability Assessment showed Policy E1 to have the highest number of Amber scores (Likely Negative Effect) and lowest rating of Green scores (Likely Positive Effect). Thus Policy E1 had the poorest score overall of all three proposed sites. Therefore how could Lewes District Council justify selecting Policy E1 over the other proposed sites.

Response by Councillor Jones: Within the Sustainability Appraisal the employment sites were not compared to each other; each site was tested against the sustainability criteria to assess its sustainability. The Examination Inspector would hear all the objections and reach a decision on whether the policy was justified and sound.

Supplementary: As per the Council procedure rules, Mr King submitted a supplementary question, arising directly out of the original question or the reply. Councillor Jones agreed to send a written response following the meeting.

Question Two: It was recognised that Newhaven Port Access Road would occupy the western section of E1 but given that Newhaven Port and Properties are understood to have no interest in development further east than the Newhaven Port Access Road and given that E1 are not part of the Newhaven Enterprise Zone I ask why the eastern section of E1, the historic WW1 Seaplane Base and internationally recognised vegetated shingle beach,

which was part of the UNESCO World Biosphere, none of which was needed for the Newhaven Port Access Road, cannot be removed from Policy E1?

Response by Councillor Jones: Core Policy 4 of the adopted Local Plan Part 1 required the Council to retain the unimplemented employment site allocations from the 2003 Local Plan unless there was clear economic viability or environmental reasons for not doing so. Core Policy 4 also stated that the Council would support plans for expansion of the Port as identified in the Port Masterplan. Core Policy 4 was considered at the public examination into the Plan and found sound by an independent inspector. Policy E1 carried forward the unimplemented area of land allocated for the expansion of the Port in Policy NH20 of the 2003 Local Plan and supported the Port Masterplan, in accordance with Core Policy 4. Newhaven Port & Properties submitted a formal representation in support of Policy E1, clearly stating that the allocation was vital to the long-term viability of the Port and the economic regeneration of Newhaven.

Supplementary: As per the Council procedure rules, Mr King submitted a supplementary question, arising directly out of the original question or the reply. Councillor Jones agreed to send a written response following the meeting.

Questioner: Caroline Standen and Zoe Brown (The Old Brickworks Business Park)

Question One: Much time and effort had been put into examining whether GT01, the proposed Gypsy and Traveller site in Plumpton, would be a suitable site for Gypsies and Travellers but, to date, nobody from Lewes District Council had visited The Old Brickworks or spoken to any of our tenants, yet these people would be the ones most directly affected by the proposed GT01. What is the justification for ignoring the impact on this community of hard-working individuals?

Response by Councillor Jones: Officers from both the District Council and East Sussex County Council attended a Parish meeting on the 9th October which was well attended by members of the local community, including the Old Brickworks. The proposed site was discussed here at length and the officers present recognised that concerns were raised.

Question Two: If all our tenants were forced to relocate by the proximity of GT01 and The Old Brickworks Business Park had to close down then us, the directors of The Old Brickworks, shall be unable to meet the monthly mortgage payments and shall be forced into bankruptcy. How does Lewes District Council reconcile the needs of five Traveller families over and above the needs of the 30 families who are reliant on the continued security and prosperity of The Old Brickworks Business Park?

Response by Councillor Jones: You do not give a reason, and the Council does not accept that there is any reason, why proposed policy GT01 should force tenants to relocate.

The Council had a Public Sector Equality Duty which required the Council, as a matter of law, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment.

It must have regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (such as gypsies and travellers) and persons who did not.

It must also have regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between members of protected groups, and other persons

The Council must have regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty in the carrying out of all its functions and activities, including the carrying out of its planning functions. It must develop planning proposals which would serve the needs of all members of its community.

I want to point out too that allocating a site for a particular use is not the same as granting a planning permission. In the event of any planning application coming forward the Council would have a duty, at that time, to consult the neighbours and to give further consideration to the impact of the proposed development on the amenity of the immediate community.

Having regard to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty this was the only comment I propose to make in response to this line of questioning.

Question Three: Much attention had been paid to the "visual impact", traffic and ecological surveys of the proposed Gypsy and Traveller site, GT01, but how was Lewes District Council going to mitigate the social impact on Plumpton Village, the 21 businesses at The Old Brickworks Business Park, who would be forced to move elsewhere at great expense, if GT01 goes ahead with the loss of jobs, the loss of trade to our local village shop, pub and disruption to our close neighbours?

Response by Councillor Jones: Same answer as question 2 above.

Questioner: Seaford Town Councillor Penny Lower

Question: The officer's report stated that other than a change to the area covered by it, 'Draft Policy E1 essentially carried forward Policy NH20 from the Lewes District Local Plan 2003, which was retained'. This was simply not true.

The saved policy NH20 allocated this land for a proposed new ferry terminal i.e. "to respond to opportunities to introduce new, faster services such as the larger high-speed catamaran" (paragraph 12.80) in order to provide a

sufficient area to accommodate fully satisfactory operating conditions for an operator of cross-channel ferries. (paragraph 12.79)

E1, however, changed this purpose to any industrial use which bore a relation to port activity. We note that the term 'port-related' had recently been used to grant permission to a concrete manufacturing plant. Going even further, Draft Policy E1 also allowed for industrial use "which was not associated with port-related activity"

We ask therefore how can the Council possibly justify adding such a controversial and substantial change to a saved policy, at such a late stage of the local planning process, and how could this be considered either sound or acceptable?

Response by Councillor Jones: Policy NH20 allocated land at East Quay for the "upgrading and expansion of the port", with a possible extension further to the east if open storage was required to support the operation of the ferry service. Newhaven Port and Properties proposals for upgrading and expanding the port were set out in its Port Masterplan, which the District Council was committed to support, as formally set out in Core Policy 4 of the adopted Local Plan Part 1.

The Port Masterplan identified land at East Quay as an opportunity to accommodate a range of industrial and warehouse uses associated with the Port and this was reflected in the wording of Policy E1, as required by Core Policy 4. Newhaven Port & Properties had submitted a formal representation in support of Policy E1, clearly stating that the allocation was vital to the long-term viability of the Port and the economic regeneration of Newhaven. Officers would support a minor modification to the policy to remove the second sentence that currently suggested other uses; non-port related uses would be appropriate so long as they didn't undermine the operational use of the Port. A minor Schedule of Changes was proposed to accompany the Plan upon submission.

38 Lewes District Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

The Council considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning regarding the representations received to the Pre-Submission Local Plan Part 2. Council approval was sought to formally submit the Local Plan Part 2 to the Secretary of State for examination.

Councillor Jones moved, and Councillor Merry seconded the motion that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith and Cabinet member for Planning, Councillor Jones made a personal commitment to extend the consultation, detailed at resolutions two to four below, to all group leaders, on

any minor modifications or editorial changes to the Plan that are made by the Director of Regeneration and Planning under delegated authority.

Councillors requested a named vote on the motion, in accordance with the council procedure rules.

For: Barnes, Bikson, Boorman, Catlin, Davy, Franklin, Gardiner, Giles, Harrison-Hicks, Jones, Linington, Maskell, Merry, Nicholson, Peterson, Sheppard, Smith, Turner **(18)**

Against: Amy, Botting, Carr, Chartier, Denis, Elliott, Gauntlett, Honeyman, Ient, Lambert, Murray, Neave, O'Keeffe, Osborne, Robertson, Rowell, Saunders **(17)**

Abstentions: Carter **(1)**

Resolved (By 18 votes to 17, with 1 abstention):

- (1) To approve the submission of the Local Plan Part 2 to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations for examination, along with the other submission documents required by the regulations as referred to in Paragraphs 7.2 and 7.3 of the report;
- (2) To authorise the Director of Regeneration & Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to make minor editorial changes to the Local Plan Part 2 prior to submission to the Secretary of State;
- (3) To authorise the Director of Regeneration & Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to prepare a schedule of minor modifications to the Local Plan Part 2 prior to submission to the Secretary of State;
- (4) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to respond to issues arising during the examination and to agree any further or revised minor modifications to the Local Plan Part 2 during the examination process;
- (5) To approve and publish a revised Local Development Scheme with effect from 26 November 2018.

Reasons for decisions:

To ensure that the Local Plan Part 2 is progressed towards adoption in a timely manner, thereby supporting the implementation and delivery of the Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy through the allocation of additional development sites and up-to-date planning policies to assist in the determination of planning applications.

(N.B. Councillor Barnes withdrew for the remainder of the meeting following this item.)

39 Lewes District Council Plan – 2018/19 refresh

The Council considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning seeking approval for the further development and refinement of the Lewes District Council Plan as it moved into its third year.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded the motion that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

Councillor Rowell moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, an amendment as follows:

“To approve the officer recommendations, subject to the removal of the final bullet point under the success criteria for Housing and Development (Southern part of Newhaven Port area made accessible to development).

The amended motion was put to the meeting and:

Resolved (Carried):

That the design changes and updates to the Council plan, appended to the report be approved, subject to the removal of the final bullet point under the “Measuring our success” criteria for Housing and Development.

Reasons for decision:

During the period of a four year Council Plan, adjustments and refinements may need to be made to respond to changed circumstances and emerging opportunities. In acknowledgement of this an annual review is a helpful way of ensuring that the Plan remained focused on delivery of the organisations overall strategic objectives.

40 Standards - Appointment of independent persons

The Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer to consider interim appointments of Independent Persons for Eastbourne Borough and Lewes District Councils to support the statutory standards regime.

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Denis seconded the motion that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

The motion was put to the meeting and:

Resolved (Carried):

(1) That Mr Neal Robinson and Mr Vic Kempner be confirmed as interim Independent Standards Persons across both Eastbourne Borough and Lewes District Councils until July 2019.

(2) That an updated recruitment be held in 2019 to confirm two appointments for the next 4 years with aligned job descriptions and remuneration packages across both Councils.

(3) That the specific remuneration of the Independent Persons appointed by the Councils be delegated to the Monitoring Officers.

Reasons for decision:

(1) To provide each Council with sufficient Independent Person cover.

(2) To align the terms, across both Councils, on which Independent Persons are engaged.

41 Draft calendar of meetings 2019/20

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded the motion that the draft calendar of meeting for 2019/20 be provisionally approved.

It was requested and agreed that the option of a fifth Council meeting be added to the final proposed calendar that would be considered by Council on 15 May 2019.

The motion was put to the meeting and:

Resolved (Carried):

That the draft calendar of meetings for 2019/20 be approved, subject to final ratification at the Council's next annual meeting.

Reason for decision:

To facilitate the running of the Council's business in the municipal year 2019/2020.

42 Memberships

The Council noted the following appointment to an outside body:

- Sussex Rural Community Council (Action in Rural Sussex) – Councillor Linington replaced Councillor Nicholson

Resolved:

That the appointment be noted.

43 Notices of motion

The Chair of the Council reported that notices of motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 14.

1) The Planning System – Tackling Climate Change – Proposed by Councillor Ient

Councillor Ient moved, and Councillor Osborne seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“That from April 1st, 2019, all planning applications for the creation of new dwellings must be accompanied by a Compliance Statement to show how their development meets the requirements of Core Policies:

Core policy 9 – air-quality

Core policy 13 – sustainable travel

Core policy 14 – renewable and low carbon energy (a checklist has been developed to address Core Policy 14 and can be included within the Compliance Statement)

Further, applicants should be invited to submit an Exception Statement if they feel their application will not affect these Core Policies or is not relevant to these policies. The planning authority will then take both the compliance and exception statements into account when deciding upon the planning application”

The motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)**2) Climate action – Proposed by Councillor Denis**

Councillor Denis moved, and Councillor Ient seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“In order to facilitate the most rapid change possible this council agrees to:

- Establish, within this term of Council, a cross-group task and finish group, with a remit to seek advice from experts; to consider systematically each area of the council’s activities; to make recommendations and propose challenging targets for mitigation and adaptation.

- Require all report risk assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible.
- Task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Councils activities.
- Call on the government to establish a National Climate Taskforce across ministries and to include the Local Government Association, and to require Councils to produce – and provide resources for – Climate Action Plans to cut emissions quickly.”

Councillors requested a named vote on the motion, in accordance with the council procedure rules.

For: Amy, Bikson, Boorman, Botting, Carr, Carter, Catlin, Chartier, Davy, Denis, Elliott, Franklin, Gardiner, Gauntlett, Giles, Harrison-Hicks, Honeyman, Ient, Jones, Lambert, Maskell, Merry, Murray, Neave, Nicholson, O’Keeffe, Osborne, Peterson, Robertson, Rowell, Saunders, Sheppard and Smith **(33)**

Against: Linington and Turner **(2)**

Resolved (Carried) (By 33 votes to 2)

3) Air pollution – Proposed by Councillor Linington

Councillor Linington moved, and Councillor Davy seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“(1) That the Council continues to engage with Head Teachers, school managers and governors and erects signs within the vicinity of each infant, primary and secondary school within Lewes District requiring drivers to switch off their engines while waiting to pick up or drop off their children

(2) That an article on the subject is published in the DN Magazine in as early an edition as possible

(3) That the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Environment supporting the UK Health Alliance in its request to Government that the Government should implement legislation that enshrines WHO limits into law and creates a body that holds Government to account after the UK leaves the EU.”

The motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)

4) Governance arrangements – Proposed by Councillor Davy

Councillor Davy moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“Following the motion passed at February’s Council meeting, that a cross group Governance Working Group be formed and this will include Councillors with and without Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet responsibilities. The Working Group will strengthen the officer’s governance report and options paper that will be presented following the 2019 district council elections. Further that it be requested that the officer’s governance report and options paper include the option for a hybrid system.”

Councillors requested a named vote on the motion, in accordance with the council procedure rules.

For: Amy, Bikson, Boorman, Botting, Carter, Catlin, Davy, Denis, Elliott, Franklin, Gauntlett, Harrison-Hicks, Lambert, Murray, Neave, Nicholson, O’Keeffe, Robertson, Rowell, Sheppard and Turner **(21)**

Against: Carr, Chartier, Maskell, Merry, Osborne, Peterson, Saunders and Smith **(8)**

Abstentions: Gardiner, Giles, Honeyman, Ient, Jones and Linington **(6)**

Resolved (Carried) (By 21 votes to 8, with 6 abstentions)

5) The Lewes District Council quarterly 'Portfolio Progress and Performance Report' – Proposed by Councillor Ient

Councillor Ient moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“That from quarter 2 2019 (April 1st) the District Council include data in its portfolio progress and performance reports in relation to the following under the existing category 'data with no performance targets':

- a) Air quality data from its existing 2 air quality monitoring stations and its NOx tubes cited around the district.
- b) Number of planning permission given which include the provision of electric car charging points including the number per development set alongside a number of houses and the number of total car parking spaces provided.
- c) Number of planning permissions given where some form of renewable energy is included in the development with a note indicating the percentage of each type of renewable energy provided.

The data being compared quarter on quarter in the report”

The motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)

6) Rail transport in the District – Proposed by Councillor Ient

Councillor Ient moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“This Council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor, on behalf of the many commuters who live in the Lewes district, and request that whilst road fuel duty continues to be frozen that regulated train fare increases should be frozen too and accordingly the scheduled rail fare increases for 2019 be shelved”.

The motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)

7) Gatwick Airport proposed expansion and its potential effect on the District Council area – Proposed by Councillor Ient

Councillor Ient moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“That members of the Council be invited to submit representations to Democratic Services (committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) by Friday 30 November in relation to the current Gatwick ‘Master Plan’. Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 December will then be tasked with taking account of the views submitted and making a submission accordingly.”

The motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)

8) Leaving the European Union – Proposed by Councillor Ient

Councillor Ient moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“That Lewes District Council forms a Task Force and invites the County Council and other appropriate public & commercial organisations to participate in assessing the risks and developing proposals to limit the difficulties which may be faced in relation to the import-export location of Newhaven”.

Councillors requested a named vote on the motion, in accordance with the council procedure rules.

For: Amy, Botting, Carr, Carter, Catlin, Chartier, Denis, Elliott, Gardiner, Gauntlett, Honeyman, lent, Lambert, Murray, Neave, O’Keeffe, Osborne, Robertson, Rowell and Saunders **(20)**

Against: Bikson, Boorman, Davy, Franklin, Giles, Harrison-Hicks, Jones, Linington, Maskell, Merry, Peterson, Sheppard, Smith and Turner **(14)**

Abstentions: Nicholson **(1)**

Resolved (Carried) (By 20 votes to 14, with 1 abstention)

(N.B. Councillor Elliott withdrew for the remainder of the meeting following this motion)

9) Brexit – Proposed by Councillor Rowell

Councillor Rowell moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“Council notes the devastating impact that the Brexit ‘negotiations’ are having on the UK. Concerns about the impact on the economy and its negative effect on Lewes citizens welfare and prospects and the Irish border issue are just two such areas of concern. The government seems incapable of providing leadership in these turbulent times and Council therefore calls on the leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking for a general election to be called at the earliest opportunity.”

Councillors requested a named vote on the motion, in accordance with the council procedure rules.

For: Amy, Botting, Carr, Carter, Catlin, Chartier, Denis, Gardiner, Gauntlett, Honeyman, lent, Lambert, Neave, O’Keeffe, Osborne, Robertson, Rowell, Saunders **(18)**

Against: Bikson, Boorman, Davy, Franklin, Giles, Harrison-Hicks, Jones, Linington, Maskell, Merry, Murray, Nicholson, Peterson, Sheppard, Smith and Turner **(16)**

Resolved (Carried) (By 18 votes to 16)

10) A People’s Vote on Brexit – Proposed by Councillor Carter

Councillor Carter moved, and Councillor Smith seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

“This Council notes:

- the background of considerable political uncertainty, and continuing evidence of damage, that any form of Brexit will cause to the national economy according to the Treasury's own figures;
- that more detail is now available on the potential impact of Brexit on our local and regional economy, such as on our local tourism and hospitality sector, including Newhaven port;
- that more detail is also now available on the potential impact of Brexit on Lewes District residents welfare and prospects;
- that the best way to secure legitimacy for a deal, or for a change in direction, is to have a People's Vote including an option to remain, now that the implications of all options are much clearer.

This Council therefore requests:

- that the Chief Executive write to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, affirming this Council's desire for a People's Vote including an option to remain;
- that a report is written considering the strategic risks arising from Brexit that will affect the council and District, before February 2019; and
- that officer report authors be reminded that in the event of there being Brexit implications as a consequence of any proposal these should be set out in full in the body of the officer report, offering an assessment and analysis of any Brexit impact."

The motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)

11) Investment – Proposed by Councillor Denis

Councillor Denis moved, and Councillor Catlin seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

"That Lewes District Council will:

- (a) immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies (ie. the 100 coal companies and the 100 oil and gas companies whose proven fossil fuel reserves have the largest carbon content) and develop and implement a Responsible Investment Policy through which it will;
- (b) divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years;

(c) set out an approach to quantifying and addressing climate change risks affecting all other investments; and

(d) focus future investments in property and other assets on areas that minimise climate change risk and continue to reduce the council's carbon footprint, while ensuring that the investment continues to generate a sufficient level of return to ensure the current and future sustainability of the investment"

Secondly, that the Chief Executive of Lewes District Council writes to the Chair of East Sussex County Council Pension Committee asking the Committee:

(1) To immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies;

(2) To Commit itself, over the course of the next 5 years, to divest the East Sussex Pension Fund from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds; and

(3) To focus re-investment in areas that minimise climate change risk and reduce the Fund's carbon footprint; while ensuring the Fund continues to generate a sufficient level of return to ensure the current and future sustainability of the investment."

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Carr seconded, an amendment as follows:

To add the wording:

"Given how imperative it was that the Council does everything within its power to minimise climate change risks, the proposals contained in the motion be referred to the Audit and Standards Committee as soon as possible where it can fully study the detail and the implications of the recommendations in the motion and consider any further action the council might reasonably take. Thereafter the Audit and Standards Committee would present its findings to Full Council."

The amended motion was put to the meeting and it was:

Resolved (Carried)

12) Council tax reduction scheme – Proposed by Councillor Carter

Councillor Carter moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, the notice of motion as follows:

"That officers investigate and report back to the next available Cabinet, those ways in which the Council might make access to the exceptional

hardship fund more readily available to self-employed persons, particularly those on the minimum income floor, and to those persons generally who are on low income.”

Councillor Carter moved an amendment to her own motion as follows:

“That officers:

- Identify the barriers that prevent people (particularly those on low income, or self-employed and assessed as being on the minimum income floor) from accessing the exceptional hardship fund; and;
- Identify ways to remove these barriers, including reviewing the criteria for eligibility, in order to make access to the fund easier for those who need help; and;
- Report back to the next available Cabinet.”

Councillors requested a named vote on the amended motion, in accordance with the council procedure rules.

For: Amy, Bikson, Boorman, Botting, Carr, Carter, Catlin, Chartier, Davy, Denis, Franklin, Gardiner, Gauntlett, Giles, Harrison-Hicks, Honeyman, Ient, Jones, Lambert, Linington, Maskell, Merry, Murray, Neave, Nicholson, O’Keeffe, Osborne, Peterson, Robertson, Rowell, Saunders, Sheppard, Smith and Turner

Resolved (Carried) (By 34 votes)

44 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questioner	Question
Councillor Catlin	Is the Department for Work and Pensions investigating Lewes District Council?
	<p>Response</p> <p>The Council is not being investigated. The DWP are aware that the team in Lewes have transitioned to a new way of working and are rolling out universal credit. The team are working on an improved plan which has seen an improvement in performance for quarter 3. Further design improvements have been carried out to continue the reduction in the number of days to process a claim including training for staff. The DWP are satisfied no customers have</p>

	suffered financial hardship and will continue to monitor.
Questioner	Question
Councillor Honeyman	I understand that the air quality monitoring station in Newhaven is still out of action after 18 months. I'm sure you will appreciate that this is not a very satisfactory situation. I have spoken to the officers and they are urgently looking into matters. Please would you ask other departments such as property to give every assistance to environment health in overcoming any location problems so that this air monitoring station can come back into use on an urgent basis?
	Response
	I support what is being proposed.
Questioner	Question
Councillor Ient	Roll out of broadband to rural villages has been slow to say the least over the last 15 years. Despite government promises, rural villages are still not fully covered in our district. Southease villagers were told by East Sussex County Council that they would be included in a further tranche of broadband rollout but this appears not to be the case. This village has been waiting decades for broadband. It's unbelievable that in the UK, in a technically advanced society, we can't service a village in the crowded South East of England. Please would you write to the county council and ask them to get on and tackle the last few remaining villages including Southease?
	Response
	I support that we should write to East Sussex County Council.

Questioner	Question
Councillor Saunders	<p>Agenda Item 7 from the cabinet report of 18th January this year refers to the grant funding of various organisations, as well as setting aside a figure of £30,000 for voluntary organisations to apply for, in order to mitigate the risks raised by the Universal Credit roll-out. It also refers to the regular quarterly meetings held with larger recipients and annual meeting with smaller recipients. Could you please let me have details of the meetings that have been held with grant recipients since January, so that we can be advised of where the money has been spent and whether or not the £30,000 set aside for mitigation of the Universal Credit roll-out has been either applied for and/or given out to organisations requesting Grant Funding?</p>
	Response
	Officers would forward the requested information.

45 Reporting back on meetings of outside bodies

The Council considered the reports submitted by the Chair of the Council (3VA) and Councillor Catlin (GTR Stakeholder Forum).

Councillor Catlin advised the Council that the date of line closures referenced in his report was the 7-10 March 2019.

Resolved:

That the written reports submitted, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 9.48 pm

Councillor Stephen Gauntlett (Chair)