

**Minutes of Meeting of
Adur District Council
5 October 2006**

Councillor Brian Coomber (Chairman)
Councillor Brenda Collard (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Carson Albury
Councillor Gavin Ayling
Councillor Brian Boggis
*Councillor Carol Bradburn
*Councillor Richard Burt
Councillor Keith Dollemore
Councillor Angus Dunn
Councillor Robert Dunn
Councillor Carol Eade
Councillor Carl English
Councillor Keith Fayers-Morrissey
Councillor Jim Funnell
Councillor Wendy Gray

Councillor Laura Graysmark
Councillor Mike Howard
Councillor Debbie Kennard
Councillor Liza McKinney
Councillor Angie Mills
Councillor Janet Mockridge
Councillor Tony Nicklen
Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Victoria Parkin
Councillor Nicholas Pigott
Councillor Julie Searle
Councillor David Simmons
*Councillor Jaynie Sykes-Strudwick
Councillor Christine Turner

* = Absent

Councillor Keith Dollemore arrived at 7:23pm during item 3. Councillor Graysmark left the room during 7:30-7:32. Councillor Victoria Parkin left the room during 7:32-7:36. Councillor Tony Nicklen left the room during 7:58-8:02.

C/305/06-07 Questions and Statements by the Public

Members of the public were invited to ask questions or make statements about any matter for which the Council had a responsibility or which affected the District. There were no questions or statements.

C/306/06-07 Declarations of Interest

Councillors were invited to declare any interests in relation to matters appearing on the Agenda. There were no declarations from Members.

The Head of Paid Service advised if there were to be discussion on point 10 of the recommendations he would leave the room.

C/307/06-07 Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

Councillor Neil Parkin proposed that Council Procedure Rule 20.5 be moved as, he wished to suspend Council Procedure Rules to allow an open debate on the next item on the agenda.

This was seconded by Councillor Victoria Parkin and on a vote, carried.

Resolved: that the Council Procedure Rules be suspended during the discussion of item 3 on the agenda

C/308/06-07 Recommendation from Simultaneous Executive Meeting

Simultaneous Executive Meeting -

The Council had before it a recommendation from the Simultaneous Executive Meeting dated 21 September 2006, Minute Reference SEM/xx/06-07, a copy of which has been circulated to all members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes as item 3. An additional report by the Chief Executive which has been circulated to all members and a copy of this is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes as item 3.

SEM/xx/06-07 - Partnership Working – Towards a Strategy

The Head of Paid Service (Adur's Chief Executive and Worthing Borough Council's Interim Chief Executive) made a presentation to the members entitled "Partnership Strategy", this explained the background of the report and the recommendations from the Simultaneous Executive Meeting.

Members asked questions of the Head of Paid Service on his presentation. Questions included what would happen if there was to be a change of the majority party and how will the two authorities ensure that they are sticking to their priorities.

Members made statements about the proposal before them stating that it was the first stage towards a joint Officer Structure within two Councils. The first stage allows a business case to be developed, but noted the tight timescale that it was to be achieved in.

Members felt that the presentation which was made before them tonight should be used within a press conference. The Head of Paid Service stated that it would be made available immediately and suggested that this would be appropriate in due course and that this should be part of the Communication Strategy.

Councillor Neil Parkin thanked the Head of Paid Service for his presentation and advised that a Communication Strategy was included within the recommendations and this was particularly important with regards to keeping staff involved. He wanted to reinforce that Adur and Worthing were equal partners and that it is important to protect the frontline services. The move would mean going from being the fourth smallest District Council in the Country to the seventh largest. Members were assured that this only the first stage of the process and that Adur will not be disappearing. Councillors spoke in strong support of the strategic approach before them.

Councillor Neil Parkin as the Chairman of the Simultaneous Executive Meeting moved the recommendations before the Council, these were seconded by Councillor Angie Mills.

Resolved

- (i) that the progress and timetable outlined for the production and agreement of a partnership strategy between the two authorities be noted;
- (ii) that the attendance by both Leader of the two Councils at the Officers Seminar on 29 September 2006 to outline the Member view of the way forward on partnership working be endorsed;

- (iii) that it be recommended that Option 4 'Work towards a comprehensive merger of services' be agreed as the likely preferred strategic approach for partnership working;
- (iv) that a joint committee of 3 members of Worthing Borough Council's Cabinet and 3 members of Adur District Council's Policy and Strategy Committee plus one non-voting observing member from Worthing Borough Council's opposition be appointed to select and instruct suitable consultants to advise upon the following, in conjunction with an officer team from the two Councils appointed by the Chief Executive (Adur) and the Interim Chief Executive (Worthing):
 - (a) the maintenance of services, the benefits, potential efficiency savings and the costs for the two Councils arising from the establishment of a single officer structure for both;
 - (b) the risks and potential barriers to delivering such a structure;
 - (c) the administrative, employment, legal and financial arrangements for such a structure;
 - (d) the management structure;
 - (e) the development of a business case;
- (v) that the members appointed to the joint committee in (iv) above be agreed as Adur District Councillors Robert Dunn, Julie Searle and Liza McKinney and Worthing Borough Councillors Keith Mercer, Brian Turner and Paul High and Councillor Bob Smytherman as the non-voting observer member;
- (vi) that it be recommended that a Joint Appointments Committee comprised of 3 members from each Council be established to deal with the staff employment outcomes arising from the consultant's advice. To include at this stage:
 - (a) preparation for a recruitment and selection exercise;
 - (b) preparation for the terms and conditions of a joint Chief Executive and staff at the first and second tiers of the officer structure;
 and that further authority from the Council will need to be obtained before the Appointments Committee proceeds to implement the recruitment and selection exercise and (in the case of Worthing) that its General Purposes Committee endorses this recommendation to Council;
- (vii) that the costs of the consultants to provide the advice referred to in (iv) above be met in equal parts by the two Councils from the reserve fund at Adur and from the special and other emergency expenditure reserve funds at Worthing and that the costs be agreed by the Director of Resources (Adur) and the Director of Resources (Worthing) in consultation with the Leader of each Council;
- (viii) that it be recommended that the Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) (Worthing) and the Head of Corporate and Legal Services (Adur) be authorised to determine all procedural matters relating to the Joint Appointments Committee;
- (ix) that a Joint Working Party comprising of the Leader and Deputy Leader of each Council be appointed to assist in informing the Simultaneous Executive upon the outcomes of the advice work referred to in recommendation (iv) above;
- (x) that it be recommended that an arrangement whereby Ian Lowrie is the Interim Chief Executive for Worthing be extended to 30 June 2007 and that the Director of Services (Worthing) be authorised to agree all necessary terms for the continuation of this arrangement for Worthing;

- (xi) that the Chief Executive (Adur) / Interim Chief Executive (Worthing) draw up a communications strategy for the public and staff - the strategy to include a joint press conference;
- (xii) that the Chief Executive (Adur) / Interim Chief Executive (Worthing) present a preliminary outline business case to the next meetings of each Council

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm, it having commenced at 7.00pm.

Chairman