

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW COUNCIL

Tuesday, 2nd June 2020**Present:**

| Councillor | Authority | Councillor | Authority |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Ann Addison | SNC | Gregor Hopkins | SNC |
| Mark Allen | SNC | Amy Howard | DDC/NCC |
| Johnnie Amos | DDC | Wayne Howard | DDC |
| Tony Ansell | NBC | Cécile Irving-Swift | DDC/NCC |
| Rufia Ashraf | NBC | David James | DDC |
| Robert Atkinson | SNC | Martin Johns | SNC |
| Richard Auger | DDC/NCC | Paul Joyce | NBC |
| Mohammed Azizur Rahman | NBC | Andrew Kilbride | NBC/NCC |
| Anthony Bagot-Webb | SNC | Anna King | NBC |
| Fiona Baker | SNC/NCC | Jamie Lane | NBC |
| Dermot Bambridge | SNC | Phil Larratt | NBC |
| Sandra Barnes MBE | SNC | Chris Lofts | SNC |
| Sally Beardsworth | NBC | Catherine Lomax | DDC |
| Phil Bignell | SNC | Malcolm Longley | DDC/NCC |
| Caryl Billingham MBE | SNC | Dennis Loveland | SNC |
| Jane Birch | NBC/NCC | Ian McCord | SNC |
| Lizzy Bowen | NCC | Christopher Malpas | NBC |
| Rebecca Breese | SNC/NCC | Charles Manners | SNC |
| Adam Brown | DDC/NCC | Brian Markham | NBC |
| John Budden | SNC | Mary Markham | NBC |
| Nick Bunting | DDC | Les Marriott | NBC |
| Muna Cali | NBC | Dennis Meredith | NBC/NCC |
| Alan Chantler | DDC | Chris Millar | DDC |
| Pinder Chauhan | NCC | Colin Morgan | DDC |
| Nazim Choudary | NBC | Jonathan Nunn | NBC |
| Clement Chunga | NBC | Alice Kim Ord | SNC |
| Michael Clarke | NCC | Nilesh Ramesh Parekh | NBC |
| Stephen Clarke | SNC | Kevin Parker | DDC |
| Karen Cooper | SNC | Suresh Patel | NBC/NCC |
| Daniel Cribbin | DDC | Jason Pritchard | DDC |
| Stephen Dabbs | DDC | Ken Prichard | SNC |
| Julie Davenport | NBC/NCC | Wendy Randall | DDC |
| Peter Davies | SNC | Peter Rawlinson | SNC |
| Janice Duffy | NBC | Ken Ritchie | DDC |
| Gareth Eales | NBC/NCC | Emma Roberts | NBC |
| Terrie Eales | NBC | Anjona Roy | NCC |
| Brandon Eldred | NBC | Sam Rumens | NCC |
| Penelope Flavell | NBC | Catherine Russell | NBC |
| Rupert Frost | DDC | Lisa Samiotis | SNC |
| Valerie Furniss | SNC | Brian Sargeant | NBC |
| Jo Gilford | DDC | John Shephard | DDC |
| Matthew Golby | NBC/NCC | Judy Shephard | NCC |
| André Gonzalez de Savage | NCC | Sandi Smallman | SNC |
| Andrew Grant | SNC | David Smith | DDC |
| Luke Graystone | NBC | Zoe Smith | NBC |
| Liz Griffin | DDC | Danielle Stone | NBC/NCC |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Tim Hadland | NBC | Winston Strachan | NCC |
| Mike Hallam | NBC/NCC | Catherine Tarbun | SNC |
| Anamul Haque | NBC | Allen Walker | SNC/NCC |
| David Harries BEM | SNC | Graham Walker | NBC |
| Lauryn Harrington-Carter | DDC | Mike Warren | DDC |
| Jonathan Harris | DDC | Mark Wesley | DDC |
| Rosie Herring | SNC | Elaine Wiltshire | SNC |
| Stephen Hibbert | NBC | Paul Wiltshire | SNC |
| James Hill | NBC | Lesley Woolnough | DDC |
| Alan Hills | DDC | | |

Officers in attendance:

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|----------------|---|
| Ed Bostock | Democratic Services Officer, NBC |
| George Candler | Interim Chief Executive, West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority |
| Anna Earnshaw | Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults' Services, Public Health and Wellbeing |
| Richard Ellis | Chief Executive, SNC |
| Theresa Grant | Chief Executive, NCC and Strategic Delivery Director, Northamptonshire LGR Programme |
| Paul Hanson | Democratic Services Manager, NCC |
| Paul Helsby | Programme Director, Northamptonshire Unitary Integrated Programme |
| Martin Henry | Interim Chief Finance Officer, West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority |
| Kathryn Holton | Democratic Services Officer, DDC |
| Andrew Hunkin | Executive Director: Resources (Monitoring Officer), SNC and Legal and Democratic Lead, Future Northants Programme |
| Maisie McInnes | Democratic Services Officer, NBC |
| Rebecca Peck | Assistant Director to the Chief Executive, NCC |
| Jeremy Rawling | Head of Programme Management Office, Future Northants Programme |
| Tracy Tiff | Democratic Services Manager, NBC |
| Ian Vincent | Chief Executive, SNC |
| Richard Woods | Democratic Services Officer, SNC |
| Susan Zeiss | Interim Monitoring Officer, West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority |

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Theresa Grant, Proper Officer, called the meeting to order and invited the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Mr Paul Parsons Esq., to address the meeting.

Mr Parsons stated that the first meeting of the Shadow Authority represented an historic occasion. He summarised the historic ties between the office of High Sheriff and the county of Northamptonshire, noting their origins in the middle ages. He noted that the reorganisation of local government in the county had only taken place on such a scale on one other occasion since the late 19th century.

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE SHADOW AUTHORITY

The Democratic Services Manager called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Shadow Authority for the period 2020-21.

Councillor Alan Hills proposed and Councillor Mary Markham seconded “That Councillor Chris Millar be elected Chair of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority for the year 2020-21”. Councillor Hills explained that he had known Councillor Millar from the time he was first elected in 2002. He praised his leadership of Daventry District Council through both good and difficult times. Councillor Markham stated that she had worked alongside Councillor Millar and felt he would make an excellent Chair.

Upon the vote being taken, the motion was carried and Councillor Chris Millar was elected Chair. He accepted office by making the Declaration of Acceptance to Office and then took the Chair.

Councillor Millar thanked members for electing him as Chair of the Shadow Authority. He explained that he intended to manage meetings in a way that would be fair and mindful of the rights of members, but also efficient and effective. He explained the procedures by which meetings would be managed and thanked members for their cooperation.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Arthur McCutcheon (NBC/NCC), Councillor Peter Matten (DDC), Councillor Abigail Medina (SNC), Councillor Ian Morris (NCC), Councillor Brian Oldham (NBC) and Councillor Lisa Samiotis (SNC)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5. CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

Councillor Rawlinson proposed the report of the Governance Task and Finish Group of the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee for adoption. In doing so, he explained that the Task and Finish Group had sought to make the Shadow Authority as open and transparent as possible, without compromising its efficiency.

Councillor Larratt seconded adoption of the report.

Shadow Councillors commented as follows:

- The Task and Finish Group members had worked well together and had formed recommendations by consensus;
- The Shadow Authority should recognise the importance of engagement with young people and revisit the issue of a youth council;
- The Shadow Authority should find a way to advance the cause of localism in a relatively large authority area. The views of parish and town councils and voluntary organisations would be important;
- It was suggested that the importance of climate change should be reflected in the principles of decisions making set out at Article 12;
- The Chair should hold the explicit power to reorder the business of meetings so as not to inconvenience members of the public exercising their right to attend;
- The gender neutrality of the constitution was praised; and
- Some members felt that opposition councillors should have greater representation on task and finish groups.

In responding to comments, Councillor Rawlinson wished the new Task and Finish Group well in their endeavours.

RESOLVED: that the Shadow Authority:

- a) noted the work undertaken by the Governance Task and Finish Group of the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee (WNJC) in relation to the draft Constitution, including the Code of Conduct for Members;
- b) approved and adopted the draft Constitution for the Shadow Authority attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
- c) approved the draft Code of Conduct for Members attached to the Constitution;
- d) approved the use of a system of recording member attendance at meetings of the Shadow Authority, its Executive, Committees and Sub-committees;
- e) delegated to the Interim/Appointed Monitoring Officer of the Shadow Authority the power to make typographical and non-substantial changes to the approved constitution, in consultation with the Chair of the Governance Task and Finish Group / Shadow Executive member responsible for governance; and
- f) Agreed that the Interim/Appointed Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee and the Chair of the Governance Task and Finish Group commences recruitment for Statutory Independent Persons to perform the functions required in relation to standards under Article 10 of the Constitution and in relation to statutory officers' disciplinary procedures under the Staff Employment Procedure Rules.

6. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Shadow Authority for the period 2020-21.

Councillor André Gonzalez de Savage proposed and Councillor John Shephard seconded "That Councillor Pinder Chauhan be appointed Vice-Chair of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority for the year 2020-21". Councillor Gonzalez de Savage praised Councillor Chauhan's ability to work with businesses and the community in the local area.

Upon the vote being taken, the motion was carried and Councillor Chauhan was appointed Vice-Chair. She accepted office by making the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Chauhan thanked shadow councillors for electing her. She stated that she would act as the link between shadow councillors and the Chair and would represent all councillors in this regard.

7. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM STATUTORY OFFICERS

Councillor Ian McCord proposed and Councillor Jonathan Nunn seconded the adoption of the recommendations set out in the report. Councillor Alan Chantler advised the Shadow Council that, as Chair of the relevant Task and Finish Group, he was pleased that the process and resulted in a satisfactory outcome.

RESOLVED that: the Shadow Authority agreed the following officer recommendations for statutory designations as below:

- a) Mr George Candler as the Interim Head of Paid Service;
- b) Ms Susan Zeiss as the Interim Monitoring Officer; and
- c) Mr Martin Henry as the Interim Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer).

8. COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to present the report. The Monitoring Officer advised shadow councillors that the report asked the Shadow Authority to note or confirm a number of decisions relating to the structure and governance of the Shadow Authority. She asked members to note that the Structural Change Order mandated that the Shadow Authority adopt a Leader and Cabinet Executive as defined by Part 1A of the Local Government 2000, as well as setting out the names of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Shadow Authority.

Shadow Councillors were advised that it remained for the Shadow Authority to confirm the apportionment of seats on committees in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 relating to political balance, as well as the appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs. A list of the members of committees, along with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Shadow Councillors were reminded that there would have to be a separate vote in respect of recommendation v). This was because the proposal was for all groups to be represented on the Standards Committee and this would not be the case if the appointments to that committee were made in accordance with the ordinary requirements relating to political balance. Members were asked to note that, for this recommendation should take effect, the vote would require no members to vote against that particular recommendation.

Councillor Ian McCord proposed and Councillor Jonathan Nunn seconded the adoption of the recommendations set out in the report. In proposing the report, Councillor McCord made the following comments:

- The establishment of a West Northamptonshire Council would represent both a fresh start and a bright future for local government in the county;
- His visions for 2025 was for an authority that could offer outstanding provision for children's services, a care system that was integrated with the NHS and wider health economy, rising educational attainment and revitalised town centres;
- He drew attention to economic growth plans, ambitious housing and employment targets and local road and bypass schemes;
- He also underlined the protection of the countryside and natural environment
- The budget would also be balanced and reserves at healthy levels to give financial space for new investment opportunities;
- He called on shadow councillors to play their part in establishing effective and trusting partnerships with public services, parish and town councils and the voluntary and community sector, as well as businesses of all sizes; and
- He encouraged shadow councillors to work in a spirit of cooperation to resolve the issues faced by local government in the west of the county and deliver a bright future for citizens.

Shadow Councillors commented as follows:

- It was hoped that, in the spirit of collegiate working, all members would take the opportunity to attend and participate in committee meetings; and
- Some members felt that there should be a greater opportunity for opposition groups to participate in the work of the Task and Finish Groups;

In response, Councillor McCord stated that opposition groups had been free to choose their nominees to the Task and Finish Groups. He encouraged Shadow Councillors to speak positively of the Shadow Authority and contribute positively to achieving the common good.

RESOLVED that the Shadow Authority:

- a) Noted the creation of a leader and cabinet executive within the meaning of Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000(a) (arrangements with respect to local authority governance) ("the shadow executive");**
- b) Noted the members of the Shadow Executive Committee set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report;**
- c) Received the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups as set out at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of the report;**
- d) Agreed to constitute and decide on the allocation of places on committees between the political groups in accordance with the political balance**

requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as set out at paragraph 3.10; and

e) Confirmed the appointment of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and members.

As two members voted against the recommendation to allocate a seat on the Standards Committee to the Independent Group, that part of the recommendation was not adopted.

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Councillor Suresh Patel proposed and Councillor Mike Warren seconded the adoption of the recommendations set out in the report. In proposing the report, Councillor Patel thanked the members of the Working Group for their input.

Shadow Councillors commented as follows:

- Some felt disappointment that the Panel would be composed of one woman and three men. Some also and also questioned the lack of a trade union representative and representatives of ethnic minorities;
- Shadow Councillors were encouraged to understand that the consideration and adopted of a scheme of allowances was a requirement of the Structural Change Order, but it was entirely possible that allowances could be set at zero; and
- The Panel would not only review allowances for the Shadow Authority, but also for the authority that would follow.

In response, Councillor Patel stated that he would note the comments made.

RESOLVED: that the Shadow Authority:

- a) noted the requirements in relation to members' allowances;**
- b) noted the preparatory work undertaken by the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee and its Independent Remuneration Panel Task and Finish Group in relation to members' allowances and appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel;**
- c) agreed to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel consisting of four members and appoints the persons set out in Appendix A to the report;**
- d) agreed the terms of reference of the Panel as outlined in 3.1.8 (b) of the report;**
- e) delegated to the Interim Monitoring Officer for the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Governance Task and Finish Group, to determine the remuneration of the IRP members, taking account of the remuneration received by IRP members in each of the four West Northamptonshire authorities and on the basis of paragraph 3.1.8 (c) of the report.**

10. Adoption of Calendar of Meetings

Councillor Ian McCord proposed and Councillor Jonathan Nunn seconded the adoption of the recommendations set out in the report.

RESOLVED: that the Shadow Authority noted and agreed to adopt the calendar of meetings dates set out at Appendix 1.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.45pm