

NOTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2023** AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors A Hall - Presiding (Chairperson)
S Walker (Vice Chairperson)

P Bullivant	M Joyce
L Cooke	C Parker
D Corney-Walker (Mayor)	M Ryan
C Davieson	

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Samantha Scott – Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Linda McGuirk – Principal Administrator
Nigel Canham – Communications Advisor

SP01. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM 2023/24

The Mayor, Councillor David Corney-Walker opened the meeting and invited nominations for the election of the Chairperson of Strategic Planning Committee.

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Forum for the year 2023/2024.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Alex Hall be elected Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Forum for the year 2023/2024.

SP02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor L Wood.

SP03. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM 2023/24

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Forum for the year 2023/2024.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Simon Walker be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Forum for the year 2023/2024.

SP04. INTERESTS

None declared.

SP05. MINUTES

The notes of the Strategic Planning Forum held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 were received and signed as a correct record.

Cllr P Bullivant abstained from voting.

SP06. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Planning Forum, circulated prior to the meeting.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Planning Forum be hereby, approved and adopted.

SP07. REVIEW OF THE 2022/23 BUDGET

The Chairperson introduced the out-turn Budget Report, circulated prior to the meeting, for the year ending 31st March 2023. Members noted the out-turn budget report for 2022/23.

SP08. SALARY UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that the proposed pay award, with effect from the 1st April 2023, is an increase of £1,925 (pro-rata for part time employees) to be paid as a consolidated, permanent addition on all NJC pay points 2 to 43 inclusive. With an increase of 3.88% on all pay points above 43.

The National Employers have rejected the pay offer and unions are conducting a ballot to decide on strike action. The UNISON ballot closed on the 4th July with the result exceeding 50% in favour of strike action. UNISON has agreed to wait for the conclusion of the UNITE ballot on the 28th July before taking any action.

Members noted the pending pay award will need to be considered as part of budget discussions.

SP09. BUDGET AND STRATEGY FOR THE PERIOD 2023/24 AND THE FOLLOWING YEARS

- a) Budget report for the first 3 months of the financial year.

The RFO advised there had been some queries received in advance of the meeting that had been answered satisfactorily.

Clarification was sought on the projected overspend on salaries. The RFO advised she will investigate and report back to Members.

- b) To consider the budget message for the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees on the performance of the 2023/24 budget and any issues with the 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 budgets.

It was agreed to defer formulating the budget message for the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees until the Council has further considered its priorities.

SP10. STRATEGIC MATTERS

A lengthy debate took place amongst Members, it was agreed that the overarching priority of the Council, as identified in the Community Plan and the Councils Ambitions, Priorities and Objectives 2022-23 Policy, is to ensure that Newton Abbot remains the premiere market town in Teignbridge. This will be achieved by

maintaining a clean attractive town and environment, where residents and businesses feel supported.

Members advised they will attend the next meeting prepared to make a commitment to confirm the Council's priorities and agree on the actions required to steer the Council to achieve its aims, ambitions and priorities.

The Communications Advisor suggested that he will produce a report based on the discussions held at the meeting to aid Councillors in agreeing their priorities.

SP11. ITEMS ARISING AND FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Any relevant issues, which Members wish to raise, not already included on the agenda.

None

- b) To identify items for the next meetings of the Strategic Planning Forum.

None

SP12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13th September 2023

The Meeting closed at 20:00

Chairperson.....Date.....

