

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Council held in the District Council Chamber, South Lakeland House, Kendal, on Thursday, 28 March 2019, at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors

Eric Morrell (Chairman)

Stephen Coleman (Vice-Chairman)

Giles Archibald	Anne Hall	Kevin Lancaster
Robin Ashcroft	Tom Harvey	Pete McSweeney
Rupert Audland	Eamonn Hennessy	Ian Mitchell
Pat Bell	Hazel Hodgson	Jon Owen
Ben Berry	Chris Hogg	Doug Rathbone
Roger Bingham	John Holmes	Vivienne Rees
Jonathan Brook	Kevin Holmes	Matt Severn
Andrew Butcher	Vicky Hughes	Peter Thornton
Sheila Capstick	Anne Hutton	Graham Vincent
Brian Cooper	Andrew Jarvis	David Webster
Michael Cornah	Janette Jenkinson	David Williams
Tracy Coward	Dyan Jones	Mark Wilson
Alvin Finch	Dave Khan	Shirley-Anne Wilson
Gill Gardner	Helen Ladhams	

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Airey, James Airey, Matt Brereton, Helen Chaffey, Philip Dixon, Rachael Hogg, Helen Irving and Amanda Rigg.

Also in attendance at the meeting was David Porter, Senior Planning Officer from Lancaster City Council.

Officers

Courage Aiguobasimwim	Trainee Solicitor
Una Bell	Assistant Committee Services Officer
Inge Booth	Senior Committee Services Officer
Lawrence Conway	Chief Executive
Dan Hudson	Strategy Lead Specialist
Damian Law	Principal Development Plans Officer
Richard Machin	Senior Communications Officer
Simon Rowley	Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Helen Smith	Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer)
Debbie Storr	Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer)
David Sykes	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources

C/85

MINUTES

Attention was drawn to the fact that, although incorrectly referred to as the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018 on the agenda front sheet, the correct set of minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2019 had been attached for consideration by Members.

Councillor Kevin Lancaster raised a query with reference to Note (6) on the Appendix to the Minutes and the correction of an administrative error identified following the meeting updating the total Council Tax charges for a number of parishes. The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) explained that the figures relating to those parishes presented to Council on 26 February 2018 had been those relating to 2018/19. The calculation of Council Tax due was not, however, affected, as these particular parishes did not set precepts.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2019.

C/86 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions have been received from members of the public in respect of this meeting.

C/87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – That it be noted that Councillor Roger Bingham declared an interest in Minute No.C/91.

C/88 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLVED – That it be noted that there are no excluded items on the Agenda.

C/89 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of engagements which the Chairman had attended since the last meeting had been circulated at the commencement of the meeting.

The Chairman took the opportunity, this being the last Council meeting in the Municipal Year and having regard to the District Elections in May, to thank Members on all sides of the Chamber for their commitment to the wellbeing of the community of South Lakeland, for their hard work and for the civilised way in which the Council's business was generally conducted.

To those who would not return to South Lakeland District Council in its next Municipal Year, on behalf of all colleagues, he offered good wishes.

In closing, the Chairman welcomed Councillor Brian Cooper back to the Chamber following his recent bereavement.

C/90 CUMBRIA PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY

In the absence of Councillor Philip Dixon, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, Councillor Dyan Jones, Environment Portfolio Holder, presented the draft Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy which was to supersede the existing South Lakeland District Council Public Health Strategy 2014-2019 as a Budget and Policy Framework document.

Councillor Jones reported that the draft Strategy had been presented to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet by Councillor Dixon who had thanked all involved in its production. Councillor Jones commended the Strategy as a fine example of collaborative working and stressed the potential for the Strategy to impact on more than just public health, highlighting its links with the issues of climate change and poverty.

The report indicated how officers with multi-disciplinary backgrounds and expertise from South Lakeland District Council (SLDC), the other district councils, Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority had contributed to the writing and the shaping of specific thematic areas.

The Public Health Strategy sat under the Cumbria Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2029. This strategy was currently in production, and would be presented to the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing board in April. This was a document which set out how the Health and Wellbeing Board would work together over the next ten years. All Clinical Commissioning Groups, local authorities and NHS England plans would need to take the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy into account.

The vision of the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy was to, “enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and to tackle health inequalities.” This corresponded with the existing SLDC Public Health Strategy, and the proposed Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy took a different approach to previous public health strategies as, instead of focusing on individuals, it acknowledged the conditions in which a person was born, lived, worked and how ages impacted on their access and ability to live a healthier life. These were known as the wider determinants of health, and included housing, education, employment, working conditions, the natural environment, food production and water. These were incorporated into Figure 1 of the report – the wider determinants of health and how SLDC interacts with these different layers. Estimates varied, however, it was broadly accepted that health care was accountable for approximately 10% of the contribution to health. This meant that, whilst access to good quality health care was very important, health was primarily determined by socio-economic factors.

The framework of the Strategy was based on the “Five Capitals Model,” which included the following:-

- Natural Capital (Planet): A high quality natural environment that provides opportunities for engagement with the natural world.
- Human Capital (People): People with the skills, knowledge, and experience that give them the capacity to take part in society and have meaningful and fulfilling lives.
- Social Capital (Participation): A good social infrastructure, with networks and institutions that allow people to connect to each other.
- Physical Capital (Place): A good physical infrastructure including housing, transport, and a commercial environment that promotes healthy behaviours.
- Financial Capital (Prosperity): Adequate financial resources that are fairly distributed.

This Strategy provided a strong framework which demonstrated the cross cutting nature of the work undertaken by SLDC. Adopting this strategic approach would improve the Council’s contribution to promoting, enabling and providing services which improved the health of its communities.

The Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy correlated strongly with the developing SLDC Council Plan. The major themes were: health and environment; housing and communities; and economy and culture. These had all been incorporated within the Strategy. It also included sub themes of reducing inequality and sustainability, which were strongly embedded within the Strategy document.

The report detailed the key topics and aims within the Strategy and how SLDC contributed to them.

The current SLDC Public Health Strategy was for the time period 2014-19, and therefore expired this year. The new Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy had been co-written by SLDC, the other Cumbrian local authorities and other partners. This Strategy provided a well-developed framework for actions on the wider determinants of health. It included many aims which correlated with SLDC's own Council Plan. Due to its wider determinants focus, it was felt to be an appropriate strategy for a district council to adopt.

Implementation of the Strategy would require a collaborative cross-organisational approach, bringing together different sectors and specialisms. Following adoption, SLDC together with other local authorities would work with partners on developing an approach to implement the Strategy. If this was to be through the Health and Wellbeing Forums, then a review of this group would need to take place. A South Lakeland-based group setup around this Strategy framework would need to mirror the different aspects of health which were included in the Strategy.

Councillor Jones, expressing thanks to all involved, moved that the draft Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy be adopted as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. She was seconded by Councillor Vicky Hughes.

Councillor Janette Jenkinson expressed the Opposition Group's support for the Strategy, also thanking those involved in its production, including Colin Cox, Director of Public Health, who had led on the creation and development of the document, for his excellent presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She felt that what was key was prevention of poor health and the need to engage with and encourage people to lead longer, healthier lives. She drew attention in particular to address the issue of social isolation. Councillor Jenkinson stressed the importance of taking action in order to achieve the aspirations of the Strategy.

Councillor Vivienne Rees, who had been a Member of the Council since 2006 and would not be standing for election in May and so was attending her last Council meeting, spoke passionately on the issue of health provision in rural areas which she felt to be neglected. She pointed out that there were fewer outreach clinics, meaning that patients were forced to travel to Kendal, and was of the opinion that this was due to the fact that the providers did not understand the transport problems faced by those living in rural areas. In addition, she highlighted the detrimental impact of poor public transport provision in rural areas on education, with over 16 year olds having to pay for their fares. Councillor Rees also referred to the unavailability of broadband in parts of the Langdales, as well as the lack of a playground in that area, although acknowledging the fact that South Lakeland District Council was building play areas. She was proud, however, to commend one of the two Locally Important Projects currently being funded by the Council in Grasmere, offering a trim trail and activities for the young and elderly alike. Councillor Rees emphasised the fact that there were areas within South Lakeland where people were at a disadvantage due to their age. In closing, she stressed the need for communities to continue to strive for services within their areas.

Councillor Peter Thornton highlighted the importance of the District Council's part in delivering on parts of the Strategy. He drew attention to the links within the Strategy to climate change and to the things being done by the Council to address this issue. He pointed out the need to encourage people to live healthier lives and to the need to ensure that all had equality of opportunity. Councillor Thornton also stressed the importance of provision for safe cycling routes.

Councillor Roger Bingham highlighted the crucial support offered by voluntary organisations with regard to public health and, in particular, that offered by churches and faith groups. He also drew attention to the need for those groups to have an understanding of what services were offered by the District Council.

Councillor Giles Archibald, Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder, commended the Strategy and was pleased that there appeared to be cross-party support, stressing the need to work collegially moving forward in its implementation. He drew attention to an error on page 39 of the agenda and pointed out that the County was not committed to carbon neutrality by 2030, the international target date for this being 2050. Councillor Archibald further stressed the need for consciousness with regard to biodiversity. He thanked those who had spoken and added that Councillor Rees' passionate contribution to discussions would be missed.

Councillor David Williams queried the meaning of "blue space infrastructure". He was disappointed to note the percentage of population with no qualifications, at 15.3% higher than the national average, with areas of the coastal belt as high as 17.6%.

Councillor Anne Hall endorsed Councillor Jenkinson's comments and stressed the need for the Strategy to be implemented. She also spoke about the problems associated with social isolation and, for example, the need for those awarding public transport contracts to understand the impact on communities and to work collaboratively to ensure that this was dealt with in an appropriate manner. She informed Members that she would be inviting Councillor Philip Dixon, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, to Coniston, to discuss such issues. Councillor Hall was pleased to announce that the Ruskin Museum had gained full accreditation again.

Councillor Graham Vincent, Economy and Assets Portfolio Holder, felt that the Cumbria Public Health Strategy was similar to South Lakeland's current Strategy, although somewhat fuller. He acknowledged that it included a lot of key aims, however, there were no key commitments. Councillor Vincent highlighted the major benefits to be gained from the voluntary sector which absorbed a large amount of statutory health services. He expressed disappointment in the news that South Lakeland MIND was to close and stressed the need to offer support to third sector organisations in order for them to maintain their services which alleviated the burden on statutory authorities. Councillor Vincent hoped that the Strategy would be driven and implemented. He further reminded Members of the importance of culture which, he felt, should be treated as a necessity, highlighting the fact that South Lakeland was blessed with a strong cultural offer.

The Development Strategy and Housing Manager provided clarification with regard to Councillor Williams' query, explaining that "Blue Space Infrastructure" referred to water features such as lakes and rivers.

Following discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That the draft Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy be adopted as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

C/91

SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD) AND ARNSIDE AND SILVERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY DPD INSPECTOR'S REPORT AND ADOPTION

Note – Councillor Roger Bingham declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business by virtue of the fact that he was he was a member of the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape Trust. He remained in the Chamber and took part in the discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder, presented a report seeking a Council resolution to complete the current Local Plan for the District (outside national parks) by adopting the final two elements, the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DM DPD) and the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document (AONB DPD). These would join the Core Strategy, Land Allocations, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule and adopted Neighbourhood Plans as the main elements of the District's Local Plan. Adoption would result in the replacement of the remaining saved policies in the old South Lakeland Local Plan (1997/2006), providing a suite of up-to-date policies, drive high quality development and provide a solid basis for the development of a future replacement plan. Each DPD had been subject to consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. Adoption was recommended following the receipt of the Inspector's Reports into the examination of each DPD, confirming their soundness, subject to a number of modifications, full details of which were contained within the report.

For the district as a whole (outside the National Parks), the new DPDs would help ensure the delivery of sustainable forms of new development that supported the needs of South Lakeland's communities and contribute to the protection and enhancement of the district's environmental qualities. For the AONB, the DPD would ensure that new development, including new housing, would be delivered in a way that more closely reflected both local needs and the special qualities of the nationally designated landscape.

The decision before Council was whether to adopt the DPDs subject to the modifications which had been recommended by the Inspector, as detailed within the report. The Council could not adopt the DPDs in part or make substantive modifications. If the Council decided to adopt the DPDs, they would become Council policy and have development plan weight in determining planning applications, as well as ensuring that the Council had a robust and up-to-date local plan.

The AONB DPD had been adopted as part of the Local Plan for Lancaster District 2011-2013 by Lancaster City Council on 13 March 2019.

Subject to adoption of the DPDs by Council, there would be a six week period from the date of adoption during which a legal challenge to the decision to adopt the plans may be made. Following a resolution to adopt the DPDs, the Council would have to publicise the decision to adopt the documents in accordance with the relevant regulations 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012).

Details with regard to the extensive consultation that had taken place in respect to the preparation of both DPDs were included within the report.

In moving the recommendations contained within the report, Councillor Brook publically recognised the huge amount of work carried out by officers in this complex piece of work and acknowledged the contribution made by local councillors, communities and partner organisations. He felt that the Council had been criticised by some for its rigorous approach, however, pointed out that this was a uniquely beautiful natural environment and that it was imperative that the Council's Development Management policies reflected the importance that the Council placed on its stewardship of this precious and limited resource across the whole area of South Lakeland. Councillor Brook was pleased to announce that the Local Plan was now complete, adding that work would now start in earnest on the next one.

Councillor Pete McSweeney, seconding the motion, expressed thanks to officers for their work and, in particular, the Director People and Places, praising this fine example of localism at work. He also thanked David Porter, a Senior Planning Officer at Lancaster City Council, for his part in the development of the AONB DPD.

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome David Porter and also commended the work carried out by the Principal Development Plans Officer.

Councillor Roger Bingham expressed disappointment, suggesting that the AONB boundaries were not wide enough. He referred to the beauty, wildlife and salt marshes bordering the AONB which had been left open to the potential for insensitive development and appealed for regard to ensure that this area was not spoilt.

Councillors Mark Wilson, Matt Severn and Chris Hogg all spoke in support of the documents, Councillor Chris Hogg also highlighting the important role of the Conservation Officer and that of his counterpart at Lancaster City Council in their production.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That

(1) the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document, as attached at Appendix 3 to the report, be adopted as part of the District's Development Plan (outside the National Parks);

(2) the Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Development Plan Document, as attached at Appendix 4 to the report, be adopted as part of the District's Development Plan (outside the National Parks); and

(3) it be noted that the necessary measures will be undertaken to publicise adoption of the Development Plan Documents at (1) and (2) above in accordance with national legislation.

C/92

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented a report informing Members that, following changes to the leadership structure which were being implemented from 1 April 2019 and with the existing Returning Officer leaving the Council on 31 May 2019, it was proposed that Simon McVey, who would be taking on the role of Operational Lead Support Services from 1 April 2019, be appointed Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 1 June 2019.

The report further recommended that Tom Benson be confirmed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) drew attention to the fact that, although both the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer and Deputy were officers of the Council, the roles of the positions formed a personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as employees of the Council.

In moving the recommendations contained within the report, Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder, explained that there were three items on the agenda that arose as a result of the ongoing roll out of the Customer Connect Programme. He stressed the significance to the Council of the Programme, which was entering a crucial stage, and that this was reflected in the changes to staffing, structure and the Constitution, as set out within the papers.

Councillor Brook took the opportunity to pay tribute to the current Returning Officer and Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) who would shortly be leaving the employment of the Authority and whose imminent departure gave rise to this particular agenda item. Debbie Storr had played a key role at South Lakeland District Council for the last 20 years. She had steered a successful course through hundreds of meetings and many elections during her time at the Authority. Councillor Brook was personally grateful for Debbie's support and input during his time as Council Chairman and Cabinet Member and highlighted the fact that other chairmen, leaders, Cabinet Members and councillors had been similarly well supported over the years. Debbie had been a great servant and ambassador for the Council. Councillor Brook thanked Debbie for her work, and pointed out that she left a strong legacy. He wished her well for the future.

As the Council moved into a new era, on behalf of Members, Councillor Brook congratulated Simon McVey and Tom Benson on their appointments.

Councillor Giles Archibald, Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder, seconded the motion.

The Chairman and Councillors Matt Severn, Janette Jenkinson and Brian Cooper all echoed Councillor Brook's words of appreciation for Debbie Storr's support and commitment.

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) confirmed that the roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer were distinct from that of the Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer).

It was unanimously

RESOLVED – That

- (1) Simon McVey be appointed, with effect from 1 June 2019, as the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for South Lakeland District Council; and
- (2) Tom Benson be confirmed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

C/93**SENIOR MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

The Chief Executive presented the report which indicated that, as part of the new Senior Management Structure which was being implemented from 1 April 2019, and as approved by Council on 10 October 2018, it had been agreed that the role of Monitoring Officer would move to sit with the Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist. Transitional arrangements saw the Council's current Monitoring Officer leave the Council on 31 May 2019. Recruitment to the new role was ongoing and, in order to ensure that the Council had appropriate governance arrangements in place from 1 June 2019, it was requested that Members approve the appointment of an Interim Monitoring Officer pending the outcome of the recruitment process.

The Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources would be taking up his new position from 1 April 2019 and it was proposed that David Sykes be appointed Interim Monitoring Officer, from 1 June 2019, unless or until the post of Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) was recruited to in the meantime. It was further proposed that external support be sought on a temporary basis to assist with the requirements of this role and the Monitoring Officer functions, and to provide any necessary support to Council, Cabinet or committees, as required. Subject to this appointment, the Interim would appoint a Deputy Monitoring Officer to act in his absence.

The report also drew attention to the fact that the senior management roles of Operational and Specialist Leads had progressed and that the successful candidates had been confirmed, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

In presenting the report, the Chief Executive was pleased to inform Members that the Programme was running in accordance with the timetable and within the agreed budget parameters.

He reminded Members that the Customer Connect Programme had been designed to improve the Council's systems, providing more self-service options for its residents and to reduce processes to free up staff to assist the Council's most vulnerable communities.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to congratulate all the successful internal appointees to the Leadership Team; this had been an excellent demonstration of the existing talent within the Council.

The Chief Executive provided further details with regard to the recruitment for the role of Legal, Governance and Democracy (Monitoring Officer), explaining that the position had been advertised externally, having closed in the previous week. Shortlisting was taking place and interviews would be held mid-April. Interim measures had also been agreed to support the Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources between the existing officers leaving and the new lead commencing. Interviews for an experienced interim Lead Officer, to include the expertise of the Monitoring Officer function, would be taking place on 3 April 2019. Candidates had already confirmed their availability to commence work, ensuring continuous cover.

The Chief Executive reported that, this week, the interview process for the next two tiers in the operating model, namely Specialist and Case Management, had been finalised. The new Leads were currently finalising who will be successful in the various posts and would be in a position to confirm appointments within the coming weeks. He thanked all those who had been involved in the first phase of recruitment.

The Chief Executive explained that the Voluntary Redundancy process had been completed, with 20 successful applications, and the costs all contained within the agreed budget. The leaving dates of those staff have been agreed on an individual basis to ensure a successful transition and continuation of business. There was, thus far, have one possible compulsory redundancy. The Customer Connect Business Case had estimated a reduction in employee numbers of 43. Vacancies continued to be managed, with natural turnover and use of fixed term contracts mitigating against the need for compulsory redundancies. It was expected, through vacancy management and the management of temporary posts, in addition to the approved voluntary redundancies, that a significant contribution would be made in meeting the forecast reduction.

The planning and implementation of Phase 2 of the Programme was now underway. In April, there would be several staff roadshows which were designed to provide employees with details of top level information to prepare them for Phase 2 consultation, which was due to commence on 7 May 2019. There were also further workshops planned for Members after the elections in May.

The Customer Connect Programme had been focusing on the future organisation, job role design, employee change, resilience and recruitment which would continue throughout Phase 2. Focus was now being placed on planning transition and moving the organisation and activities to the new operating model. This work would identify and deliver the organisational development requirements, ensuring the Council had the necessary skills and knowledge required for the transition and operation in the new model and would fully involve the support and engagement of the Leadership Team as they now embarked on their future journey in the new operating model. The Chief Executive wished to place on record his thanks to all those staff, and councillors, who had led and contributed to a well-managed programme.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to say a few words about those staff members who had taken the personal decision to leave the organisation and to move to pastures new, wishing them all a happy and healthy future. In particular, he paid personal thanks to the Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer), Debbie Storr, and the Assistant Director Resources (Section 151 Officer), Shelagh McGregor. They had been a key part of the organisation's success over the past years and their dedication, professionalism and knowledge had been put to good use during that time. Indeed, they were both ensuring that they left the Council in good hands through an orderly exit. He felt sure that all of their colleagues would join him in showing their gratitude for their public service and wishing them well in their future endeavours.

Councillor Giles Archibald, Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder, was impressed with the thorough process that had been followed and at the depth of talent revealed. He added his thanks to Debbie Storr for her work; Debbie was the first officer that newly-elected Members met and all were impressed with the way in which she managed elections. Councillor Archibald also commended Shelagh McGregor's outstanding work and advice on finance. Both Debbie and Shelagh were outstanding professionals, dedicated, reliable and enthusiastic and Councillor Archibald thanked them for their service.

Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder, moved the recommendations contained within the report, also paying tribute to those Members and officers involved for their significant contribution to Programme. He added thanks to the Solicitor to the Council for her work. On behalf of Members, Councillor Brook thanked those who had taken the opportunity to apply for new roles. He referred to the changes being implemented through the Customer Connect Programme, a process which had not been engaged in lightly, and pointed out that there were still major changes to come. He looked forward to the end of the process and, in the meantime, thanked all staff for their engagement.

Councillor Ben Berry seconded the motion and it was, unanimously

RESOLVED – That

(1) the appointments to the senior management roles of Operational and Lead Specialists, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and

(2) David Sykes be appointed as Interim Monitoring Officer, with effect from 1 June 2019, pending recruitment to the position of Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer).

C/94

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) presented a report on the Annual Review of the Constitution. She informed Members that one of her duties as Monitoring Officer was to monitor and review, on an annual basis, the operation of the Constitution to ensure that its aims and principles were given full effect.

Appendix 1 to the report set out proposed changes that had come through the review which Council was asked to approve.

With regards to Customer Connect and the new operating model and structure of the Council, new arrangements were to be implemented from 1 April 2019, as shown at Appendix 4 to the report. This required a review of the Council's Delegation Scheme and Proper Officer appointments. As had been reported to Council in February, some transitional arrangements had been made to ensure that the Council had the appropriate governance arrangements in place throughout the change.

Following the changes to the management structure approved by Council on 10 October 2018, the Monitoring Officer role would sit with the Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist, who would take on the function of Monitoring Officer following the departure of the Director Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer), with effect from 1 June. That post was currently being recruited to and a report elsewhere on the agenda dealt with interim arrangements for Monitoring Officer.

The Finance Lead specialist, Helen Smith, would take on the function of Section 151 Officer and it was intended that this function would transfer from 1 April 2019 with support from the Assistant Director (Resources) continuing until 31 May 2019 for the close down of the 2018/19 accounts.

Appendices 2 and 3 to the report updated the required changes to the designations within the Delegation Scheme arising from the new leadership structure and operating model. The changes to Cabinet delegations had been reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 March 2019. Changes to the Planning Committee delegations had been approved and recommended by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 4 March 2019, shown within Appendix 1 to the report, together with the proposed revision to add clarity to the Public Participation at Planning Committee, shown at Appendix 5 to the report.

With regards to the Proper Officer appointments at Appendix 3 to the report, the Monitoring Officer functions would transfer to the Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist on 1 June 2019, subject to any interim arrangements which may be necessary. The designation of the Data Protection Officer had also now been included within these appointments which would sit with the Senior Specialist, Performance, Innovation and Commissioning. A separate report on the agenda dealt with the appointment of the Returning Officer with effect from 1 June 2019.

The Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer) informed Members that the delegations would be kept under review as the Council moved through the implementation stages.

Members, officers, parish councils and the public had been consulted as part of the annual review of the constitution. The Audit Committee, at its meeting on 5 December 2018, had made some recommendations with regard to the contract and financial procedural rules which had been approved by Council on 18 December 2018.

One representation had been received from a member of the public with regard to the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). This fell outside of the review of the Constitution. The IRP membership had last been considered by Council in December 2017, with the current criteria taking effect from 1 January 2018. The representations received would be referred through to the IRP for consideration as part of any further review of the IRP membership.

Councillor Tom Harvey welcomed the clarity provided with regard to speaking times for Public Participation at Planning Committee.

Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder, moved the recommendations contained within the report, was seconded by Councillor Mark Wilson and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the amendments to the Constitution, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the updated Cabinet delegations be noted and approval be given to the changes to the Council's Scheme of Delegation, and delegation to officers, as set out within Appendix 2 to the report, following the implementation of the new leadership structure, with effect from 1 April 2019, subject to the transitional arrangements set out at (3) below;
- (3) the Proper Officer appointments as set out within Appendix 3 to the report be confirmed, subject to the agreed transitional arrangements which see the functions of Monitoring Officer transfer from 1 June 2019, and any interim Monitoring Officer arrangements, as detailed above and in paragraph 3.4 and 3.5 of the report; and
- (4) it be noted that the Monitoring Officer will make any necessary additional consequential changes to the Constitution to take account of these changes and that any further update will be notified to Members.

C/95**NOTICE OF MOTION**

In accordance with Paragraph 11.1 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, the following notice of motion had been put to Council by Councillor Roger Bingham:-

“(1) The Council notes reported concerns that the K Shoes heritage artefacts may be taken away from Kendal; and

(2) The Council should consider ways to preserve this important Local History collection in Kendal or the immediate district.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Bingham explained the importance of the world-famous K Shoes brand to the economy of Kendal. He expressed strong concerns about the future of the collection of artefacts which were currently housed and on display at the K Village site and referred to rumours regarding plans for the collection to be dispersed to other parts of the country. He raised the need to ensure that this aspect of Kendal's heritage was cared for and asked Council's support for this aspect of social history to be preserved.

Councillor Robin Ashcroft, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder seconded the motion, highlighting in addition the national importance of the collection. He explained that the artefacts formed a private collection and that any future home was likely to be in a destination independent from the Council, whose role was as an influencer and facilitator. Likewise, the former K Shoes site was a private and commercial operation needing to maximise return on the floor space. There were currently three collections which were being centralised by the Alfred Gillet Trust in Somerset. However, a few larger items remained in Kendal. The Trust was currently conducting conditioning work and archiving and was content to store the collection until a suitable home could be found in the Kendal area. Critically, Clarks had confirmed that they were happy for the collection to return to and reside in Kendal. There was, however, insufficient space to display the collection in Clark's new shop in the Westmorland Shopping Centre. Discussions were ongoing regarding a future home for the collection. Councillor Ashcroft suggested that South Lakeland District Council's role was to work in partnership with other stakeholders who would be better placed to take the lead role, for example Kendal Town Council.

Councillor Brian Cooper referred to a recent meeting of the Planning Committee at which, he said, Members had been assured that the artefacts currently situated at the K Shoes Village site would be moved to another location in Kendal.

Councillors Peter Thornton, Chris Hogg, Matt Severn and Sheila Capstick all spoke in support of the motion, referring to past memories and stressing the importance of the brand to the economy and tourism.

RESOLVED – That the motion be carried as submitted.

C/96**LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CABINET QUESTION TIME, INCLUDING THE COMPOSITE REPORT OF THE CABINET (1 HOUR MAXIMUM)**

Councillor Giles Archibald, Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder, introduced the Cabinet Members' respective End of Year 2018/19 Executive Reports.

In presenting the reports, Councillor Archibald expressed his gratitude to officers, to Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader, and to all Members for their work and dedication throughout the year. Councillor Archibald also took the opportunity to pay tribute to Councillor Vivienne Rees and to acknowledge her outstanding service and dedication to the Authority and to the community. He further recognised the contribution which had been made to the Cabinet by Councillor Graham Vincent, Economy and Assets Portfolio Holder, commending his expertise and integrity. He also thanked Councillor David Williams, who had brought a good level of debate to the Chamber, for his service and dignified conduct.

Councillor Archibald highlighted a number of the year's achievements, including the provision of affordable housing, an excellent refuse collection service, the Handyman Scheme, the LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) Scheme, the Climate Change Action Plan and improvements to play areas, more of which were due to be delivered in the coming year. He made particular reference to the continuing work in relation to settling refugees within South Lakeland. Councillor Archibald drew attention to the work carried out for the benefit of communities as a result of Members' locality budgets; almost all of this money had been spent and he thanked those involved. He referred to the safe path which had been delivered for children walking or cycling to school at Master's Grange in Kirkby Lonsdale and encouraged all Members to give consideration to ways in which to provide similar safe paths to school for children in their wards. Councillor Archibald stressed the Council's commitment to try to help those in poverty and made reference to funding for additional homelessness shelters.

Councillor Archibald pointed out that 2019/20 would see the roll out of the Customer Connect Programme which would result both in savings and improvements to services to the residents of South Lakeland. He also highlighted the proposals for large investment in Ulverston Leisure Centre and for improvements to Grange Promenade and Lido, as well as the additional grant of £1m for further enhancement work on the Promenade at Grange.

Councillor Archibald, in closing, praised the dedication to public services of all councillors, without whom this work could not be achieved, adding that he looked forward to working with Members in the coming year.

Councillor David Williams referred to the section in the report from the Finance Portfolio Holder, Councillor Andrew Jarvis - Budgets and Medium Term Financial Strategy - where it was stated that it was now expected that there would be a minimal deficit in the Council's 2019/20 Budget. He sought clarification with regard to the figure for the minimal deficit. Councillor Jarvis explained that monitoring to the end of Period 10 actually showed a small surplus. He pointed out, however, that at that time there had still been two months left in the financial year and that work had yet to be carried out with regard to carry-forwards. He commended the swift action which had been carried out by the Management Team in pulling back from what had originally appeared to be a serious deficit.

Councillor Tom Harvey, also referring to Councillor Vincent's report, and the section on Business Support and Sector Development, enquired what the alternative business support mechanism was likely to be. Councillor Vincent explained that the current three year partnership arrangement with the Chamber of Commerce was coming to an end. Discussions were currently taking place with Morecambe Bay partners with regard to another potential method of support integrated with Lancaster University's business support programmes.

In accordance with paragraph 10.2 and 10.3 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, the following written questions had been submitted to the meeting:-

From Councillor David Williams to Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder – *(Building Development at South Lakeland House/Kendal Town Hall)* *When the re-development on the above is completed, what proportion of the lettable amount of Council offices will be let on a rack rental and what proportion on a 'mint works' ie non-commercial basis?*

Councillor Brook responded, taking the opportunity to restate that the refurbishment project was about saving money for the Council and making more efficient and cost-effective use of the space, as well as benefitting local people. He referred to the success of the MintWorks and its value to the local community and economy, providing encouragement to local businesses and start-ups. Councillor Brook advised that the total area in South Lakeland House available for commercial lettings was 870 square metres. The total area proposed to be let on a rack rental basis was 680 square metres. These areas would be let on lease terms that were of a longer-term basis. The total area proposed to be let on more flexible terms was 190 square metres, representing 21.8% of the overall area. The estimated rent generated from the flexible areas had been assumed at 75% if this same space had been fully occupied and let on long term leases with rack rental terms. Councillor Brook said that, whilst the flexible areas could be described as being at a discount, the discount was the avoidance of having to take a long term lease. The charge was still on commercial occupation terms, and was often at a higher cost per square metre than the charges made to those occupying for longer periods. However, the nature of the businesses targeted was such that full rack rented, fixed term leases would not be appropriate. The flexible areas were expected to have very easy entry/exit terms, with durations that ranged from bookings on an hourly basis, through to daily, weekly and monthly. Councillor Brook undertook to provide Councillor Williams with a full written response.

From Councillor Graham Vincent to Councillor Dyan Jones, Environment Portfolio Holder - *Would Councillor Dyan Jones tell Council where the Miller Ground project has got to and when it will be completed?*

Councillor Jones explained that the work was being carried out in two phases. She informed Members about Phase 1. The paths from the car park to the top of the bank were near completion. The resin layer would be applied on completion of the play area to avoid any damage. The path edges would be seeded in the next couple of weeks. The new drainage appears to be working and the site was draining very quickly, however, there had been a recent flood issue arising from water entering the site from the road opposite to Rayrigg Meadow. Cumbria County Council was working to identify and address this problem. Work had commenced on the ground work for the play area and the equipment was shortly due to arrive, with installation scheduled to take seven weeks. Phase 2 of the project took the path from the top bank down to the jetty on the beach. Permission had been granted by the Environment Agency to carry out this work. This project would benefit from the National Lottery Community grant as well as GLL's offer. Councillor Jones stressed the need to cater for those who were not fully able-bodied and hoped that a Changing Places toilet would be located on the site. Subject to a feasibility study, this would become a playground and park accessible to all, both young and old alike.

From Councillor Doug Rathbone to Councillor Graham Vincent, Economy and Assets Portfolio Holder - *I believe that a survey of local business owners has just been completed by Investment in South Lakeland. Could you inform us what the results of this are, particularly on economic growth and the need for local business premises and how you feel that this will impact on future economic development initiatives?*

Councillor Vincent explained that this referred to the annual business premises survey which was used by the Council to inform and strengthen the economy. The same questions were used in most years and, working in partnership with the NFU in the previous year, a section around farming issues had been added, increasing the Council's intelligence gathering. The survey had been carried out from October to December in 2018, with 4,619 questionnaires having been sent out. 1,000 meaningful responses (22%) had been received, mostly from small and medium business, most of which were positive with regard to the next 12 months. 75% were confident about the future; 17% expected to employ more staff; 18% (179) expected their needs to change, of that 179, 30% expected to need larger premises. 1,656 businesses expected to increase staffing levels, with 12 expecting a reduction in numbers. Councillor Vincent felt that the statistics demonstrated that the South Lakeland economy was buoyant, its GVA (gross added value) having increased by £21m to £2.413b. He referred, however, to challenges regarding broadband in rural areas and the need to understand the rural economy. Councillor Vincent talked about future economic initiatives and pointed out the need for more work to be carried out around skills, apprenticeships and additional training. The results of the survey, however, generally supported the Economic Development direction. More modern offices were required and improved infrastructure, however, no real negatives had been identified.

From Councillor Jon Owen to Councillor Giles Archibald, Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder - *Can the leader of the council expand on his comments to the Planning Committee about the safe route to school, to the north of Mintsfeet, by the side of Sainsbury's in Kendal?*

Councillor Archibald referred to the Environment Agency's planning application with regard to the proposals for the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme. He advised that provisional agreement had been reached with the Environment Agency for them to provide a surfaced pedestrian and cycle path from the far side of Sainsbury's to Dockray and beyond, creating a safe route to Burneside Road and Hallgarth. This would be collaborative work between the Environment Agency and the County Council, with support from all tiers, resulting in a route into the centre of Town, to the benefit of residents, visitors and school children. Councillor Archibald thanked all involved, including District Councillors, County Councillors, the Chairman of the Local Committee, Town Councillors and John Cornthwaite. Councillor Archibald drew Members' attention to the existence of a map created by Cumbria County Council indicating all of the cycle paths in the Kendal area.

From Councillor David Khan to Councillor Robin Ashcroft, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder - *Would Cllr Ashcroft be able to comment on recent reports about the decision of the Coastal Communities Fund to support the work of SLDC and The Morecambe Bay Partnership?*

Councillor Ashcroft reported that £2.35m was being granted to South Lakeland District Council and the Morecambe Bay Partnership from the Coastal Communities Fund. £1m would be used for Grange-over-Sands, to improve the Promenade and connectivity with the Lido, including improved Promenade lighting; a new children's play area; resurfacing and public realm improvements. He pointed out that this was

part of a wider investment by South Lakeland District Council with matched funding, with £1.2m for Promenade structural repairs and £2m committed to the Lido. Councillor Ashcroft felt that this was a fine example of how working with partners could benefit South Lakeland.

From Councillor Andrew Jarvis to Councillor Robin Ashcroft, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder - *Last week we had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Windermere Jetty. Would Cllr Ashcroft agree with me that this is both a wonderful new museum presenting our lake heritage, and also a good example of how SLDC can work with other bodies to make South Lakeland a better place to live and visit?*

Councillor Ashcroft agreed that this was indeed another good example. The Windermere Jetty was an exciting museum within an inspiring building, entirely of its place, with stunning, modern architecture. He felt that Lakeland Arts Trust was to be congratulated and he strongly recommended that Members visit the Museum, which helped to make South Lakeland a better place in which to live and work. Councillor Ashcroft believed that the Museum would become a major attraction and an economic driver for South Lakeland and that it was an inspiration to all residents, demonstrating that South Lakeland had always been a place of innovation. The Museum, along with other major and internationally recognised institutions, placed South Lakeland at the cutting edge of art and culture in rural locations, a fact that was fully recognised by the Arts Council for England. Councillor Ashcroft drew attention to a recent meeting attended by himself and officers with Sir Nicholas Serota, Chairman of the Arts Council for England. The key focus of Arts Council was on art and culture as being both of social benefit, and also as a key component as an economic driver, beyond tourism, developing in sustainable communities through modern creative industries. South Lakeland was seen as a key exemplar. Councillor Ashcroft illustrated the strategy applied by the Council to culture and leisure and the importance of making modest but significant investment at a very early stage. The jetty budget had been £20m, with the Council's £200,000 having been key in unlocking larger funding. In addition, a £40,000 investment by the Council had played a major role in unlocking funding which would exceed £5m for Reimagining Wordsworth. This demonstrated powerful use of limited funds delivering an excellent return of investment.

From Councillor Vicky Hughes to Councillor Giles Archibald, Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder - *Having received the response off the minister (letter from Justin Tomlinson, to our chairman dated 25th February) are you satisfied with the response?*

Councillor Archibald drew attention to the levels of poverty in the country and to the increase in children living in absolute poverty. He referred to the Notice of Motion which had been passed at the Council meeting on 18 December 2018 resulting in the Chairman writing to the Local Government Minister expressing the Council's dismay at these trends and seeking his support in requesting that additional funds be provided to Local Authorities by Central Government to help those who were most disadvantaged. The response received from Justin Tomlinson, Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, dated 19 March 2019, had been sent to all Members. Councillor Archibald expressed gratitude for the response from the Minister and for his engagement, this being an important matter which should be of concern to Central Government. He was heartened by the Secretary of State for his work and the changes being made with regard to the roll out of Universal Credit, which Councillor Archibald believed had been a contributing factor to the problem. He expressed disappointment, however, in the fact that the Minister did not appear to accept the reported increase in poverty levels, referring to the recent increase in rough sleepers and the increases locally in homelessness, foodbanks and child poverty.

Councillor Archibald, whilst pleased that the Minister had responded to a number of issues within the letter and indicated the Government's intention to action, informed Members that it was his intention to pursue the matter with him, as well as to continue to work with other tiers to see what could be done.

Councillor Vicky Hughes stressed the fact that two thirds of people living in poverty were from working families.

From Councillor Eamonn Hennessy to Councillor Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder - *I understand Cllr Brook has recently visited the city of Brussels to discuss the potential benefits of digital integration for local authorities and their associated systems. I wonder if he would like to tell us some more about this?*

Councillor Brook reported that the opportunity to speak at the European Parliament had come via Lancaster University which was presenting a paper entitled "The Future of Europe is Co-created – Digital Public Services for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities." This was partly as a result of Councillor Eamonn Hennessy's work with the Mobile Age App which had been developed with Lancaster University with European funding. This App had been adopted by Kendal Town Council and was being integrated into the Customer Connect digital platform, "My Account." The App was based on the concept of co-creation, with users deciding what services they wished to access, and was now part of what was known as "Open Government". The App allowed residents to access local services and events and practical information and allowed for the extension of independent living. It was as a result of this work that Councillor Brook had been able to attend the meeting as a Local Government representative and to make a presentation on the Council's progress in connecting older adults to technological public services. He explained that he had been able to put South Lakeland District Council on the map at the heart of Europe and to demonstrate, once again, the innovative work being carried out by the Council in relation to its Customer Connect Project. Councillor Brook also referred to the Council having subsequently hosted a meeting of North West Employers where the Council had been able to present a further update on Customer Connect and its digital programme to local authorities from across the North West. Councillor Brook highlighted that, although a small authority, the Council was engaged in a significant project. The Council awaited the completion of this innovative and cutting edge project and to see the benefits delivered, both internally and externally, for citizens across the District.

Councillor Hennessy expressed pride in his involvement in the development of the Mobile Age App and offered Members an opportunity to engage and discuss it with him prior to roll out.

C/97 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no comments or questions have been received in respect of the minutes of committee meetings held between 21 January and 1 March 2019.

C/98 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR CHAIRMAN OF ANY COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no questions have been received under Rule 10.6 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.