

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 25 February 2016
at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor Welsh (Chairman); Councillors Airey, Asman, Atkinson, Bain, Bicknell, Boulton, A Broadhurst, Mrs Broadhurst, Clarke, Craig, Grajewski, Hall, Hamel, Holden-Brown, Holes, House, M Hughes, Irish, Kyrle, Mignot, Norman, Olson, Parkinson-MacLachlan, Pretty, Roling, R Smith, Tennent, Thomas, Van Niekerk and Winstanley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allingham, Bloom, Cossey, Lear, Mann, Rich, Scott, Mrs Sollitt, Sollitt and Trenchard

504. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

With great sadness the Mayor informed Council that Corporate Director, Caroline Thomas had passed away.

Caroline started at the Council in April 2005, when she joined as Enforcement Team Leader. She was promoted to Head of Development Management in 2010, and became Corporate Director at the start of 2014.

Caroline was a dedicated and highly regarded member of the Council's management team and she would be much missed by friends and colleagues.

The Mayor also advised of the sad news of the death of Betty Brown. Betty was the popular wife of Norman Brown, President of the Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford Branch of the Royal British Legion, a regular at Remembrance and a relentless fundraiser for the Poppy Appeal.

A minutes silence was held in memory of both Caroline Thomas and Betty Brown.

The Mayor congratulated three of the Borough's secondary schools who took part in Rock Challenge. Wildern gained five merit certificates, Hamble School gained fourth place and Wyvern School gained third place in the competition.

Finally the Mayor invited everyone to attend the Mayor's Ball on 23 April which was being held in the Ballroom, Hilton at Ageas. Tickets were still available for purchase from the Council Offices.

505. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

506. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Anne Winstanley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 6, OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING CALL-INS) REQUIRING DECISION, because she was a Board Member of the Eastleigh Citizens Advice Bureau.

507. LEADER'S REPORT

508. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING CALL-INS) REQUIRING DECISION

Consideration was given to the following Minutes:

(a) Cabinet – 14 January 2016

Community Investment Programme - 4 Year Strategy - Approval of Schemes (Minute 448)

(b) Cabinet – 11 February 2016

Grant to Sponsored Bodies and Borough Wide Organisations (Minute 501)

RESOLVED –

That the recommendations contained in Minutes 448 and 501 be agreed.

(NOTE: Councillor Winstanley declared a disposable pecuniary interest in Cabinet Minute 501, stayed in the room and did not vote thereon.)

509. BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING CALL-INS) REQUIRING DECISION

Consideration was given to the recommendations contained in Minute 499 of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2016, taking into account the Minutes of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel held on 4 February 2016, concerning the 2016/17 Budget.

RESOLVED –

(1) That approval of the revised Budget for 2015/16 (para 6) be given;

(2) That the net revenue Budget requirement for 2016/17 at £9,286,020 be set and note the impact on the Council's General

Fund Balance (para 6);

- (3) **That the Local Government Finance settlement for 2016/17 (para 11) be noted;**
- (4) **That budget growth of £25,000 in 2015/16 (para 21) be approved;**
- (5) **That the Council Tax for Eastleigh Borough Council be increased by 0% for 2016/17 (para 4 (i));**
- (6) **That the Special Expenses for Parished and Non-Parished areas (paras 19-20) be approved; and**
- (7) **That the continuation of the current Community Investment Programme Strategy which will be revised and reported to Cabinet in April 2016 (paras 34-36) be approved.**

(NOTE: Due to legislation from Government that came into effect in February 2014 it was required that Members votes be recorded, in respect of Minute 499, the result of which was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Airey, Asman, Bain, Bicknell, Boulton, Broadhurst, Mrs Broadhurst, Clarke, Holden-Brown, Holes, House, Irish, Kyrle, Mignot, Norman, Parkinson-Maclachlan, Pretty, Roling, Smith, Tennent, Thomas, Van Niekerk, Welsh, Winstanley

AGAINST: Councillor Grajewski

ABSTAIN: Councillor Hamel

DID NOT VOTE: Councillors Atkinson, Hall, Hughes and Olson

FOR: 24; AGAINST: 1; ABSTAIN: 1; DID NOT VOTE: 4)

- (a) **TREASURY MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEARS - 2016/17 to 2018/19**

RESOLVED –

- (1) **That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 to 2018/19 (Appendix A) be approved;**
- (2) **That the Prudential Indicators for 2016/17 to 2018/19 (Appendix C) be approved; and**
- (3) **That the Minimum Revenue Provision statement for 2016/17 (Appendix E) be approved.**

(b) GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET

In light of the Revenue Budget resolution, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Financial Officer giving details of precepts received from Local Councils and from the major precepting bodies, namely Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire County Council.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the revenue estimates for 2016/17 were considered at Cabinet on Thursday 11 February 2016 and the minutes will be made available at Council;**
- (2) Any expenses incurred by the Council in performing in part of its area a function performed elsewhere in its area by a Parish Council/Town Council shall not be treated as special expenses for the purpose of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, except in the case of the following special items relating to the non-parished area the aggregate amount of which is £537,059 and which is shown as part of the total of special items at paragraph (5) (e) below:-**
 - (a) Playing Fields**
 - (b) Allotments**
 - (c) Cemeteries**
 - (d) Town Centre Christmas Lighting**
 - (e) Children’s Play Areas**
 - (f) Public Toilets**
 - (g) Bus Shelters**
 - (h) Bowls Facilities**
 - (i) Eastleigh Town Centre Christmas Event**
 - (j) Police Community Support Officers**
 - (k) Countryside sites**
 - (l) Open Spaces, Parks and Recreation Areas**
 - (m) Tree Management and Maintenance**

and the following special items relating to individual Parishes the aggregate amount of which is £562,377 and which is also shown as part of special items at paragraph (5) (e) below:

- (n) Cemeteries
 - (o) Children's Play Areas
 - (p) Public Toilets
 - (q) Bus Shelters
 - (r) Playing Fields
 - (s) Countryside sites
 - (t) Open Spaces, Parks and Recreation Areas
 - (u) Tree Management and Maintenance
- (3) That it be noted that at its meeting on 10 December 2015 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2016/17 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]:-
- (a) 43,336.07 being the amount of Band D equivalent properties calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its council Tax Base for the year;
 - (b) The individual Tax Base elements of the Council's Area – dwellings in Parishes and the Non-Parished area

	Tax base
Allbrook & North Boyatt	641.73
Bishopstoke	3,245.87
Botley	1,843.82
Bursledon	2,092.93
Chandler's Ford	9,015.41
Fair Oak & Horton Heath	3,569.05
Hamble-Le-Rice	1,863.13
Hedge End	7,350.37
Hound	2,387.34
West End	4,295.39
Non-Parished Area	7,031.03
	<u>43,336.07</u>

- (4) The budgeted Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,636,720 (rounded to the nearest £10)

- (5) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 and sections 34 to 36 of the Act:

(a)	£64,821,273	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
(b)	£56,437,627	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£8,382,646	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).
(d)	£193.43	Being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (3(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
(e)	£3,845,359	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Special expenses and Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34 of the Act
(f)	£104.70	Being the amount at 5(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 5(e) above divided by Item T (3(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in all areas (Special expenses and/or Parish precept apply in all areas in excess of this basic Council Tax amount)

Detail of how the amounts are calculated in the above table at Section 5 is provided at Appendix A to the report

(g) Parts of the Council's Area – Band D Council Taxes

Parish	Basic Tax Col 1	Special Expenses Tax Col 2	Eastleigh BC total Council Tax Col 3	Parish Council Council Tax Col 4	Total Eastleigh BC & Parish Council Tax Col 5
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Allbrook & North Boyatt	104.70	19.45	124.15	48.80	172.95
Bishopstoke	104.70	20.50	125.20	43.60	168.80
Botley	104.70	10.48	115.18	104.64	219.82
Bursledon	104.70	19.17	123.87	58.28	182.15
Chandler's Ford	104.70	15.74	120.44	50.27	170.71
Fair Oak and Horton Heath	104.70	13.26	117.96	85.99	203.95
Hamble-Le-Rice	104.70	14.01	118.71	114.03	232.74
Hedge End	104.70	9.38	114.08	88.54	202.62
Hound	104.70	29.81	134.51	112.51	247.02
West End	104.70	17.87	122.57	85.26	207.83
All other parts of the Council's Area	104.70	77.51	182.21		182.21

being the amounts at Column 3 of the above table given by adding to the amount at 5(f) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. Column 4 shows the Parish/Town Council Tax, and Column 5 shows the total Council Taxes for both Eastleigh Borough Council together with each individual Parish/Town Council.

(h) Parts of the Council's Area – Council Tax Bands A - H

Part of the Council's Area	<i>Valuation Bands</i>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Allbrook & North Boyatt	115.30	134.52	153.74	172.95	211.38	249.82	288.25	345.90
Bishopstoke	112.54	131.29	150.05	168.80	206.31	243.82	281.34	337.60

Botley	146.55	170.97	195.39	219.82	268.67	317.52	366.37	439.64
Bursledon	121.43	141.67	161.91	182.15	222.63	263.10	303.58	364.30
Chandler's Ford	113.80	132.78	151.74	170.71	208.64	246.58	284.51	341.42
Fair Oak and Horton Heath	135.97	158.63	181.29	203.95	249.27	294.60	339.92	407.90
Hamble-Le-Rice	155.16	181.02	206.88	232.74	284.46	336.18	387.90	465.48
Hedge End	135.08	157.59	180.10	202.62	247.65	292.67	337.70	405.24
Hound	164.68	192.13	219.57	247.02	301.91	356.80	411.70	494.04
West End	138.55	161.64	184.74	207.83	254.02	300.20	346.38	415.66
All other parts of the Council's area	121.47	141.72	161.96	182.21	222.70	263.19	303.68	364.42

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 5(g) (Column 5) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (6) That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 Hampshire County Council (including Adult Social Care), Hampshire Fire and Rescue and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire have stated the precepts to be issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, and these precepts are provided in detail at Appendix B to this report and produce a Council Tax charge for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority	<i>Valuation Bands</i>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Hampshire County Council	705.69	823.30	940.92	1058.53	1293.76	1528.99	1764.22	2117.06
Hampshire Adult Social Care	13.83	16.14	18.44	20.75	25.36	29.97	34.58	41.50
Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire	106.97	124.80	142.63	160.46	196.12	231.78	267.43	320.92
Hampshire Fire and Rescue	41.73	48.69	55.64	62.60	76.51	90.42	104.33	125.20

- (7) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 5(h) and 6 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/2017 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's Area	<i>Valuation Bands</i>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Allbrook & North Boyatt	983.52	1147.45	1311.37	1475.29	1803.13	2130.98	2458.81	2950.58
Bishopstoke	980.76	1144.22	1307.68	1471.14	1798.06	2124.98	2451.90	2942.28
Botley	1014.77	1183.90	1353.02	1522.16	1860.42	2198.68	2536.93	3044.32
Bursledon	989.65	1154.60	1319.54	1484.49	1814.38	2144.26	2474.14	2968.98
Chandler's Ford	982.02	1145.71	1309.37	1473.05	1800.39	2127.74	2455.07	2946.10
Fair Oak and Horton Heath	1004.19	1171.56	1338.92	1506.29	1841.02	2175.76	2510.48	3012.58
Hamble-Le-Rice	1023.38	1193.95	1364.51	1535.08	1876.21	2217.34	2558.46	3070.16
Hedge End	1003.30	1170.52	1337.73	1504.96	1839.40	2173.83	2508.26	3009.92
Hound	1032.90	1205.06	1377.20	1549.36	1893.66	2237.96	2582.26	3098.72
West End	1006.77	1174.57	1342.37	1510.17	1845.77	2181.36	2516.94	3020.34
All other parts of the Council's area	989.69	1154.65	1319.59	1484.55	1814.45	2144.35	2474.24	2969.10

(8) The amount of Band D Council Tax levied in respect of special expenses and Parish Councils in each Parish is as follows:

Parish	Parish Precept	Special Expenses	Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p
Allbrook & North Boyatt	48.80	19.45	68.25
Bishopstoke	43.60	20.50	64.10
Botley	104.64	10.48	115.12
Bursledon	58.28	19.17	77.45
Chandler's Ford	50.27	15.74	66.01
Fair Oak and Horton Heath	85.99	13.26	99.25
Hamble-Le-Rice	114.03	14.01	128.04
Hedge End	88.54	9.38	97.92
Hound	112.51	29.81	142.32
West End	85.26	17.87	103.13
All other parts of the Borough	-	77.51	77.51

510. LOCALISM ACT - 2011 - SECTION 38: LOCAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the HR Manager that was drawn up in compliance with the Government's desire to have open and transparent pay / terms and conditions arrangements for its most senior staff Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 legally required English and Welsh local authorities to produce a pay policy statement and to formally

review and agree it at Full Council each year. This responsibility could not be devolved to any other person or Committee. The statement was drawn up in compliance with the Act and covered the financial year 2016/17.

Under the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 new and additional information on senior managers and unions was required to be published from 2015 e.g. key duties of role / staffing and budget responsibilities / contact details etc. This was not covered by this policy but all required information under the Data Transparency Code was published on the Council's website for open public access at any time.

RESOLVED –

That Council formally re-confirms its acceptance of the Pay Policy Statement which was in compliance with the Council's obligation under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement would then be updated on the Council's website for easy public access at any time.

511. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal Services that recommended changes to the Councils' Constitution which ensured that it was kept up-to-date.

RESOLVED –

That the Contract Standing Orders be amended as per Appendix 2 of the report.

512. MOTION - DEVOLUTION

Members considered the following motion moved by Councillor House:

"This Council welcomes devolution of central government functions to local government delivered through Councils working together as Combined Authorities, embraces the approach being taken by councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to work to this end, and encourages Hampshire County Council to achieve "double devolution" by devolving funding and services to District and Local Councils in the way that Eastleigh Borough Council has to its Town and Parish Councils."

RESOLVED –

That the motion be adopted.

513. CABINET STATEMENTS

Councillor Airey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Streetscene, reported that in partnership with Co-Wheels the Borough Council had been able to provide a pair of Renault Zoe electric vehicles. The project was part funded through a successful bid to OLEV and in part from other Council funding sources. The new all electric cars would replace a pair of diesel vehicles and therefore help with reducing air pollution in the town centre Air Quality Management Area. It was thought that they were the first electric vehicles for public use via a car club within Hampshire and indeed one of only a handful of locations across the whole south of England. The nearest places at present, excluding London, where car clubs have electric cars were Tunbridge Wells and Frome. Eastleigh was definitely pioneering this project and had received press coverage to celebrate this project.

There had been a lot of public interest too, which it was hoped would translate into continued strong growth in public usage of the cars. Between 30% and 50% of the total use of the Car Club overall was now by members of the public, with a fairly strong regular base that had already built up. This meant that although the car club was initially about enabling green staff travel it was now as much about being a service for local residents. There had been a steep learning curve regarding the construction and installation of the EV charge point and one of the charge points continued to have an intermittent problem which was being worked on with Siemens (the manufacturer) to resolve.

The Council had submitted its response to the Department for Transport with copies going to Solent Transport, Hampshire County Council and the MP's. A response was also prepared by Officers on behalf of the Southampton Airport Consultative Committee. What had been a key feature of all the responses from stakeholders across the sub-region had been the commonality of the main themes around faster trains to London, 3 + 2 seating on long distance trains, increased capacity, major improvements to the East –West link including connectivity from Southampton Airport Parkway to the Fareham/Portsmouth area, a local “metro” style of service to make rail a far more attractive choice for travel and Oyster card style of ticketing. The Council held discussions with potential bidders but as was now well known there were now only two companies bidding – Stagecoach the present operator and Firstgroup, who also ran the Great Western and Trans Pennine Express franchises plus Hull Trains, an open access operator. Stagecoach was also the largest and First the second largest bus operators in the UK; both having a very strong presence in the south Hampshire sub-region. Further meetings were to be set up with both First and Stagecoach. This was a once in 10 year opportunity to make significant changes to improve rail services which is why this process was so important.

He advised that Xelabus were making a number of service changes. The X4 from Eastleigh to Hedge End reduces to every 2 hours from 27

February 2016. This was a commercial decision. No changes had been made to the Monday to Friday or Sunday services. Xelabus were to make a number of changes to their local Eastleigh services from 5 April 2016 which would see the X1 to Stoke Common reduced from 5 to 2 days per week (Tuesday & Thursday). Similar reductions would be introduced for the X2 & X3. These changes resulted from reduced support from both ASDA & Tesco.

Grounds Maintenance for Fleming Park and Parkland would commence from 1st April. Staff from the present contractor would be transferring onto Eastleigh Borough Council terms & conditions and would bring valuable skills which would allow those important sites to be developed and enhanced for the benefit of the local community.

Subject to weather and ground conditions grass cutting was expected to start towards the end of March. In some cases this may have to wait until the beginning of April. Training of 4 members of staff would commence in March for use of the quad bike which would be used for weed spraying which was likely to start early April with a 6 week timeframe. The team had also been using “weed rippers” over the winter months which it was hoped would reduce the seed heads and clear some of the detritus that the seeds thrive in.

Councillor Broadhurst, Cabinet Member for Leisure, advised that The Point and The Berry Theatres had experienced a successful Christmas period. The Berry Theatre presented a home-grown production of Little Red Riding Hood while The Point Youth Theatre presented Doctor Dolittle and Beauty and the Beast. Alongside these productions, the two venues hosted pantomimes by community companies. A total of 7,957 people enjoyed Christmas entertainment at both venues. These productions earned a total income of £62,659. On the back of the success of Little Red Riding Hood, the production was to transfer to London in May 2016 – the first time that the venue had toured its work to the Capital.

2016 marked the 20th Birthday of The Point. This was a major milestone and as such there would be a focus on press and PR so positive messages around The Point would reach the widest possible audience. The Point’s birthday would be celebrated with a tea party on Eastleigh Recreation Ground on Sunday 12th June. This was a free celebration for all to enjoy, with live music, performance and cake. The Point had also commissioned a new exhibition by renowned photographer Chris Nash, in the gallery representing the venue’s 20 year history in 20 photographs, including a newly commissioned image of Hampshire Youth Dance Company (who also celebrates 20 years this year).

The Point had been awarded £13,000 by Hampshire County Council to continue to support work with disabled children and young people. This was subject to final approval by the County on 18 March.

Owen Calvert-Lyons had announced that he would be stepping down from his post as Artistic Director of The Point and The Berry Theatres in April 2016. After three successful years leading the two venues, during which time he led The Point into the Arts Council England National Portfolio for the first time, he was leaving to pursue his freelance directing career. Members joined Councillor Broadhurst in thanking him for his work in Eastleigh and wishing him well for the future.

The local community had selected the design to be installed at Allbrook Hill play area. Work was due to start in 8 – 12 weeks. A new play area was also proposed at Cornwall Road in Velmore. A new area of open space had been created with the intention of installing a toddlers play area. He advised that the new circular one mile path on the old golf course at Fleming Park had been open for a number of weeks and had been well received. Following the successful 2 year volunteer project a “Friends of Fleming Park” group had been formed. This group met once a month to carry out small tasks around the park. Their next workday in March would see them planting around 100 whips the trees were a native woodland mix and would help the aims of the Council and the local community in trying to make the park look less of a golf course and more of a park. One of the next projects on the park would be to remove many of the ‘ball stop’ (safety screen) conifers mostly leylandii put in when the golf course was first designed. These trees would be felled towards the end of the summer. Their removal would also help open up views around the park as well as removing secluded areas where antisocial behaviour had taken place.

As part of the SportWorks initiative, Eastleigh Borough Council offered a series of subsidised 6-10 week courses over the New Year period. The overall aim of the programme was to appeal to those who had set a New Year’s resolution to become more fit and active. Various activities were offered and the ultimate outcome was to signpost participants to regular activity and offered a platform for continued participation. A total of 320 participants booked onto the programme with 15 of the 19 courses on offer being fully booked. Capacity was increased and new classes were set up across six different courses to accommodate demand, demonstrating the programme's popularity. The subsequent spaces were also fully booked. 48% of participants were classified as ‘inactive’ i.e. previously exercising less than once a week prior to the programme commencing. Additionally 95% of participants reported that their experience on the New Year New You Programme had made them more likely to continue participating regularly in the sport/physical activity.

He reported that the 6th annual Eastleigh Sports Awards were held on 9 February at the Hilton at Ageas. With nearly 200 guests in attendance the event was a great success, with good reports in The Daily Echo and on BBC Radio Solent. The event was fully sponsored and this year saw 13 categories ranging from Rio hopeful Kelly Simm winning senior sports person of the year to a range of local coaches and volunteers at grass roots level being recognised. Franny Benali (ex Saints FC Captain)

opened the event and announced his new role as the Eastleigh Sport and Physical Activity Alliance official Ambassador.

And in conclusion he advised that Poseidon Boxing Club continued to flourish with an additional 160+ members since Christmas, thanks to the opening of the new extension. The club continued to put themselves on the map nationally and were now a disability centre of excellence and also were due to launch the new academy soon working with young people out of mainstream education and some at risk of offending.

Councillor Craig, Cabinet Member for Health and Community Safety, would forward her statement to all Members after the Meeting.

Councillor Hamel, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Education, reported that following an in-depth review of Wessex House a report was going to Cabinet in March 2016 highlighting a new way of working focusing on business support and development to use Wessex House as the hub for business growth in the Borough. The paper also sought an investment of £60,000 to make internal improvements to ensure the building remained competitive and attractive, to be funded by increased rental income. After a difficult start to the year as a result of the external building works, levels of occupancy had picked up with high demand for the remaining space in the business centre.

She advised that the Learning Centre had been up and running since April 2015. Bookings were going well which was generating income for the Council, as well as helping to meet the wider skills for employment need locally.

Eastleigh Skills Zone was set up in October 2015. The aim of the Skills Zone was to support people into work, and assist people in making progression from low paid work through retraining opportunities. The Skills Zone was the culmination of mapping work with partners to understand what training and development was being delivered and by whom across the Borough. As a result of the mapping work there was now a skills partnership in place that aimed to reduce duplication, fill gaps in provision and sign post people to the best support package for them.

The Eastleigh Committee of the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce had now had three meetings and the business membership was really beginning to grow with lots of local employers represented. The Eastleigh Committee gave businesses based in the Borough an opportunity to have local influence.

The Prosperity Board had been set up to develop an Economic Strategy for Eastleigh in partnership with other key organisations and businesses. The Board had met twice and had highlighted the issues affecting the economy. The next meeting was in April and in the meantime work was being done to gather evidence of the issues the Board reported and to go through the offers of help partners had pledged.

The Town Centre Project Board was put on hold for a year while research into the town centre was undertaken. The work undertaken by the Bee Group, considered the economy of Eastleigh Town centre, the appeal to visitors and the appeal to retailers and then made recommendations for the economic regeneration of Eastleigh Town Centre. This report was being presented to the newly reformed Town Centre Project Board on Friday 4 March. A Town Centre Officers Group was also now in existence and this group co-ordinated the work of all town centre projects.

She advised that the work to support Eastleigh Market had begun to see a positive impact on the market, with the income the Council took gradually increasing to over £36,500. In addition the Council was in the process of becoming Real Deal accredited (a Trading Standards Accreditation) and as part of this work was reviewing the market's rules and regulations. Digital Solutions had been asked to work on an online booking form, which was in progress and the market team were working with the BID and the Point to link markets with Town Centre events

The Fieldfare LEADER programme that secured £1.6M of EU funding to support new jobs & economic growth in rural areas, had its first AGM in January and the Local Action Group had invited 7 projects located within Eastleigh Borough rural areas, out of 36 within the wider Fieldfare area covering 4 Local Authorities, to submit Outline Applications (OA) for funding. One draft application had already been received and the applicant has been given feedback.

The business group in the Hedge End West End and Botley area had met twice and continued to gather momentum. Discussions had started with businesses on the Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate about setting up a Chandlers Ford business group and a number of businesses had come forward. The potential for some joint work with Test Valley Borough Council was also being considered as both Councils had an interest in the site.

The Job Centre run a work placement scheme to give unemployed adults an opportunity to get some work experience. The scheme was aimed at people who had not worked for a significant period of time. The Economic Development Team had set up the placement scheme at the Council and had been running an initial pilot scheme with three different teams. So far Wessex House, the Learning Centre and the Customer Services Team had all agreed to take a placement and the scheme was going very well.

As this was to be Councillor Hamel's last Cabinet Statement to the Council she took the opportunity to praise all the staff she had worked with within her portfolio, as they had all embraced the recent efficiency drive and come up with innovative solutions and strategies for future ways of working and increasing economic growth in the Borough.

Councillor Kyrle, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, updated Members on the Green Deal Community Fund, which at the outset of the project, was hoped that over 200 properties in the Borough would benefit with energy efficiency measures as part of the Government funded Green Deal Community Fund. He advised that to date over 260 properties had been supported through this initiative, and the Council's aim of 40 Park Homes had been exceeded with nearly 50 Park Homes, which either had or were set to receive insulation to their properties, which was almost 15% of the Park homes in the Borough. He thanked Jason Light and his team, who had worked tirelessly on the project and made it a success.

The Council had an excellent reputation in the community, including excellent engagement with schools in the Borough on Environmental Issues. Currently a third of the schools from Primary up to sixth Form were actively engaged with the Council, which was higher than at any point before. Through a partnership arrangement with organisations such as Southern Water and Sustrans, our EcoSchools initiative was helping improve the sustainability of schools, ensuring that the next generation of residents were passionate about the environment. He urged all Members to speak to the schools in their areas, to encourage them to take up the scheme, and not to miss out on the support that was on offer.

Alongside the educational aspects of this water efficiency, the Council had supported four schools in the Borough to pilot an innovative water auditing project with Southern Water. The initiative that included a free water audit had already led to free water efficiency measures such as dual flush toilets installed in the schools, reducing their environmental impact and overheads. Also, from next month, Eastleigh would be one of just two pilot areas who would be working with Southern Water as part of a scheme to help residents in need, access free support and measures that would help them reduce their water bills.

He advised Members that 'Fair Trade Fortnight' would run from 29 February through to 13 March. There were a few events taking place across Eastleigh this year, with exhibitions being planned at Eastleigh House, Eastleigh Library and Chandler's Ford Library. All three had provided some space and the libraries would be manned in the morning of Saturday 5 March by volunteers who would be giving away some Fair Trade freebies and promoting the initiative. There was a Fair Trade family Fun Day being planned for Saturday 27 February from 11am-3pm at the Dart Centre in Hedge End where there would be a number of rice based activities.

Wildern School were planning their Fair Trade conference with more than six local schools also taking part. They would be raising awareness of food security within school assemblies and with posters in tutor rooms. The Fair Trade focus for schools this year was a fair trade breakfast which the school canteen would be offering. He thanked Alison Neasom at Wildern for all her hard work and thanked all the volunteers who gave up their time

to put on these events and to help raise awareness of why Fair Trade was so important.

He reported that the Waste and Recycling teams had completed the Christmas catch-up arrangements on Saturday 9 January, with collections returning to normal on Monday 11 January. For the second consecutive year, collections were brought forward during the week leading up to Christmas, ensuring that collections were never more than 1 working day later than the scheduled collection day over the festive period. In order to guide and inform future service planning, the impact of catch-up arrangements on customers had been studied through the capture and evaluation of data. The key indicator was the number of residents contacting the Customer Service Centre with queries/complaints relating to the Waste and Recycling Service.

The council had seen a significant reduction in the amount of calls received to the Council relating to waste services and in part it was believed that this had been due to the collections having been brought forward over the Christmas period. He thanked Waste Services and Street Scene personnel, who had worked so hard throughout the year and particularly over the festive season.

He advised that Direct Services had just signed its largest Commercial Waste contract to date, with the Ageas Bowl, having previously been awarded the contract for the Hilton Hotel site. The contract was for a period of 3 years and was won against fierce competition with the private sector, having previously been delivered by a major national supplier since the facility was opened. In addition, Direct Services were currently in discussions with these 2 prestige customers with a view to developing relationships and providing a range of other services from its portfolio.

He concluded by reporting that Eastleigh would finally be getting a new Household Waste Recycling facility and thanked all the officers involved in making this a reality as it had been a difficult and protracted process. The new purpose built facility would be very well received by the residents of Eastleigh. He felt that this was good news for Eastleigh residents, good news for the Borough and good for the Environment.

Councillor Winstanley, Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services, advised of an update following Councillor Chris Thomas' motion to Council on 10 December 2015, on the County Council's proposals for John Darling Mall, Shakespeare Road and the future of the 5 permanent residents there. Following the County Council decision, after the end of the consultation, to close John Darling Mall from beginning of April this year, the 5 residents were registered on Hampshire HomeChoice and Eastleigh housing officers had been working hard to find suitable accommodation for them to move into. This had not been easy with the low level of accommodation available and also the very specific housing needs of the residents. Councillor Winstanley announced that suitable places had now been found in the local area for all five residents.

514. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Due to Councillor Elizabeth Lear giving her apologies, as stated in paragraph 10.5 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the question she asked of Councillor Winstanley would be answered in writing after the meeting.

Councillor Margaret Atkinson asked the following question of Councillor Keith House:

"As we are fortunate to have within the Borough of Eastleigh North Stoneham Park which was landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, what celebrations does the Borough have planned to mark the 300th anniversary of his birth this year?"

The Leader replied that Lancelot Capability Brown was born near Morpeth and he was unsure what they had planned, as these events usually took place in the birth place of the individual. There were 150 gardens across the country of which 30 were open to the public today. Compton Verny in Warwickshire was the hub of Capability Brown celebrations and they had received lottery funding of £2.5 million to celebrate the tercentenary.

Councillor Margaret Atkinson asked the following question of Councillor Anne Winstanley:

"How many homeless are there currently in the Borough of Eastleigh?"

Councillor Winstanley replied in respect of rough sleepers there were currently three Single people who had been evicted from Elderfield (Supported accommodation property for ex-offenders; which would close on 31 March 2016). They had been seen around Fryern Arcade, Chandlers Ford. All three had been visited by the Single Homeless Outreach Worker. They had no local connection to Eastleigh and were excluded from homelessness services due to drug use and had been offered a travel warrant to return to their own area which had been refused.

A Couple who had chosen to set up a temporary shelter on the Woodside Avenue site had been offered alternative options but wanted social housing.

Another couple had been seen hanging around the car park. The single Homeless Outreach Worker had visited them. The young girl was not homeless and could return home to her family at any time. Her male partner had no local connection and had been offered a travel warrant so that he could go back to his Local Authority for assistance.

With regard to people who would have been helped by Housing Services when they were decided to be at risk of becoming homeless. There were 11 Homeless Households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation and 19

Households in temporary accommodation. For those in Bed and Breakfast there were lengthy waiting times to access social housing or they were households excluded from social housing for previous breaches of tenancies.

Although the Council could now discharge its homelessness 'duty' into the Private Rented Sector; it was very difficult to access it, for the following reasons:

- Only 12% of all properties in the Borough were for private rent – Demand far outstripped supply;
- High rental costs, affordability issues for homeless households;
- Landlords reluctant to accept households on benefits;
- Technology could now easily identify those applicants who had poor credit history;
- Landlord imposing additional requirements to minimise their risks – Guarantors.

The majority of private rented accommodation sourced to house Eastleigh Borough Council applicants was outside the Borough, and for those in temporary accommodation for the reasons stated, there were limited move-on options available, and so they remained in temporary accommodation for many years.

Councillor Atkinson thanked Councillor Winstanley for her informed response.

Councillor Judith Grajewski asked the following question of Councillor Keith House:

“What plans does Eastleigh Borough Council have to mark the occasion of the Queen’s 90th birthday?”

The Leader replied that there were two planned events in the Borough. One for local Primary School Children which involved a free picnic lunch and goody bag with a visit from the Queen (not the real one) and some stilt walking Beefeaters. There would be two sittings and booking was essential.

The Mayor was also hosting an afternoon tea party on Sunday 8 May in Hedge End tickets were on sale for £10 each. He advised that the two events were being put on with no cost to the Borough Council.

Councillor Grajewski asked a whether the Leader would agree that it gave local residents would benefit from the feel good factor when it was an event that everyone could be involved in.

The Leader replied that the Borough had a good record of involving local residents in community events such as the Christmas Lights switch on that created a large amount of charity fundraising and brought footfall to local businesses.

515. RESOLVED ITEMS - FOR NOTING AND QUESTIONS ONLY

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the following meetings be received:

- (a) Thursday, 14 January 2016 of Cabinet**
- (b) Thursday, 11 February 2016 of Cabinet**
- (c) Wednesday, 9 December 2015 of Audit and Resources Committee**
- (d) Monday, 4 January 2016 of Administration Committee**
- (e) Tuesday, 19 January 2016 of Administration Committee**
- (f) Thursday, 4 February 2016 of Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel**
- (g) Wednesday, 20 January 2016 of Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Committee**
- (h) Monday, 11 January 2016 of Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee**
- (i) Tuesday, 12 January 2016 of Eastleigh Local Area Committee**
- (j) Thursday, 28 January 2016 of Bursledon, Hamble-le-Rice and Hound Local Area Committee**
- (k) Wednesday, 27 January 2016 of Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee**

The meeting finished at 9:56 pm
M5510