

Public Document Pack

Subject to approval at the next Full Council meeting

397

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD ON 17 MARCH 2021 AT 6.00 PM

Present: Councillors Mrs Worne (Chairman), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Bennett, Bicknell, Blanchard-Cooper, Bower, Mrs Caffyn, Mrs Catterson, Chapman, Charles, Clayden, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Coster, Mrs Daniells, Dendle, Dixon, Edwards, Elkins, English, Goodheart, Mrs Gregory, Gunner, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Haywood, Hughes, Huntley, Jones, Kelly, Mrs Madeley, Miss Needs, Northeast, Oppler, Mrs Pendleton, Purchase, Miss Rhodes, Roberts, Miss Seex, Smith, Mrs Stainton, Mrs Staniforth, Stanley, Tillbrook, Ms Thurston, Dr Walsh, Mrss Warr and Mrs Yeates.

Honorary Alderman Mrs Stinchcombe and Dingemans were also in attendance for all or part of the meeting.

[Note: The following Councillors were absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters detailed in the Minutes indicated – Councillor Purchase – Minute 469 to Minute 485 (Part)].

469. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, representatives of the public, press and officers to the Meeting. She extended a special welcome to Honorary Aldermen Mrs Stinchcombe and Mr Dingemans.

470. FORMER MEMBER OF STAFF - CHRISTINE DENYER

The Chairman announced the sad news that former member of staff Christine Denyer had sadly passed away at the beginning of March 2021.

Christine had been a long serving staff member joining the Council in 1986 and leaving in December 2014. Christine had worked as a Customer Liaison Officer at the Bognor Regis Town Hall.

The Chairman asked Members and those present to join her in sending Christine's family and friends the Council's condolences and she asked if they could join her taking part in a minute's silence.

471. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Batley, Mrs Erskine and Oliver-Redgate and from Honorary Aldermen, Mrs Goad, MBE and Mrs Morrish.

Full Council - 17.03.21

472. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Declaration of Interest Sheet set out below confirms those Members who had made a declaration of their personal interest as a Member of a Town or Parish Councillor or a West Sussex County Councillor, as confirmed in their Register of Interest as these declarations could apply to any of the issues to be discussed at the meeting.

Name	Town or Parish Council or West Sussex County Council [WSCC]
Councillor Tracy Baker	Littlehampton
Councillor Kenton Batley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Jamie Bennett	Rustington
Councillor Paul Bicknell	Angmering
Councillor Billy Blanchard-Cooper	Littlehampton
Councillor Jim Brooks	Bognor Regis
Councillor Ian Buckland	Littlehampton and WSCC
Councillor Mike Clayden	Rustington
Councillor Andy Cooper	Rustington
Councillor Alison Cooper	Rustington
Councillor Sandra Daniells	Bognor Regis
Councillor David Edwards	WSCC
Councillor Roger Elkins	Ferring and WSCC
Councillor Paul English	Felpham
Councillor Steve Goodheart	Bognor Regis
Councillor Pauline Gregory	Rustington
Councillor June Hamilton	Pagham
Councillor Shirley Haywood	Middleton-on-Sea
Councillor David Huntley	Pagham
Councillor Henry Jones	Bognor Regis
Councillor Martin Lury	Bersted
Councillor Claire Needs	Bognor Regis
Councillor Mike Northeast	Littlehampton
Councillor Francis Oppler	WSCC
Councillor Jacky Pendleton	Middleton-on-Sea and WSCC
Councillor Vicky Rhodes	Littlehampton
Councillor Emily Seex	Littlehampton
Councillor Martin Smith	Aldwick
Councillor Samantha Staniforth	Bognor Regis
Councillor Matt Stanley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Isabel Thurston	Barnham & Eastergate
Councillor James Walsh	Littlehampton and WSCC
Councillor Jeanette Warr	Bognor Regis
Councillor Amanda Worne	Yapton
Councillor Gillian Yeates	Bersted

Councillor Coster declared the following declaration in relation to Agenda Items 14 [Feedback on Presentations Relating to Bognor Regis Regeneration] and 8 [Urgent Matters – HM Treasury Levelling Up Fund]. Councillor Coster stated that he wished to make this meeting aware that prior to his role as a District Councillor he may have been involved in engaging with the community on regeneration for the area through the Bognor Regis Civic Society and that that engagement, and the understanding that had been gained from the experience with the Society, caused him to make comments in the past in connection with this item. However, he had an open mind regarding this item and would listen and consider all the relevant issues presented and so would reach his decision on merit. Councillor Coster requested that his role in the Bognor Regis Civic Society be recorded in the minutes as Personal Interest.

Councillor Goodheart declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 14 [Feedback on Presentations Relating to Bognor Regis Regeneration] as he knew the Managing Director of one of the organisations that had provided a presentation to Councillors and had been the co-founder for 4BR. Councillor Goodheart confirmed that he was no longer involved in any professional way with this organisation and had no pecuniary interest.

Councillor Mrs Daniells also declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 14 as she had a family member that had made one of the submissions being the Plaza Cinema Ltd. Councillor Mrs Daniells confirmed that she planned to stay in the meeting for the discussion but that she would not take part in the vote.

Councillor Northeast declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 12 [Pay Policy Statement 2021/22] as his wife was an employee of the Council. Councillor Northeast confirmed that he would not take part in the debate or the voting on this item.

Councillor Dixon declared the following declaration in relation to Agenda Items 14 [Feedback on Presentations Relating to Bognor Regis Regeneration] and he stated that he wished to make this meeting aware that prior to his role as a District Councillor he may have been involved in engaging with the community on regeneration for the area through the Bognor Regis Civic Society and that that engagement, and the understanding that had been gained from the experience with the Society, caused him to make comments in the past in connection with this item. However, he had an open mind regarding this item and would listen and consider all the relevant issues presented and so would reach his decision on merit. Councillor Coster requested that his role in the Bognor Regis Civic Society be recorded in the minutes as Personal Interest.

473. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public who had submitted their questions in advance of the meeting in accordance with the rules of the Council's Constitution and the Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules amended by the Council on 15 July 2020.

Full Council - 17.03.21

The Chairman confirmed that fifteen questions had been submitted – these have been very briefly summarised below:

1. From Mr Collins to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding land north of Summer Lane, Pagham
2. From Mr Cosgrove to the Leader of the Council regarding the Place St Maur regeneration project in Bognor Regis
3. From Ms Lownsborough to the Cabinet Member for Planning, regarding planning approval for the Sir Richard Hotham Project and pre-development conditions
4. From Mrs Collins to the Cabinet for Planning regarding the Summer Land development site
5. From Mr Meadmore to the Leader of the Council regarding the presentation to be made by Southern Water Services to the Environment & Leisure Working Group
6. From Ms Jarvis to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding The Arun Local Plan 2018 and strategic allocations at Angmering
7. From Mr Collins to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding
8. From Mr Cosgrove to the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Business Development regarding the London Road Lorry Coach Park, Bognor Regis
9. From Mrs Collins to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding strategic site allocations
10. From Mr Meadmore to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding highways infrastructure improvement imperatives
11. From Mr Collins to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding Arun Local Plan strategic allocations SD1 Pagham South and SD2 Pagham North
12. From Mr Cosgrove to the Leader of the Council regarding Bognor Regis regeneration
13. From Mrs Collins to the Leader of the Council regarding the Council's new Governance structure
14. From Mr Meadmore to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding the Health Authority in relation to identified infrastructure improvements necessary to support the strategic development sites
15. From Mr Collins to the Cabinet Member for Planning regarding strategic allocations SD1/SD2 – Pagham North and Pagham South and related matters

Having considerably extended the time allowed for Public Question Time to all of the questions to be asked and responded to at the meeting, the Chairman confirmed that if any questioner wished to ask a supplementary question for them to do so in writing outside of this meeting. It was confirmed that any such questions submitted would be responded to by the appropriate Cabinet Member in writing.

(A schedule of the full questions asked and the responses provided can be found on the Pubic Question Web page at: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/public-question-time>)

The Chairman then drew Public Question Time to a close.

474. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITH PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

There were no questions asked.

475. PETITIONS

There were no petitions presented to this meeting.

476. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2021 were approved by the Council as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman when normal office functions started again.

Councillor Huntley confirmed that petitions had been received by the Council but that they were still being validated and so were not ready to be presented to this Council meeting.

477. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman confirmed a change to the order of the agenda which was to bring forward Item 32 [Representation on Outside Bodies] to ensure that changes in representation to some Outside Bodies were approved in view of meetings taking place next week.

478. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman confirmed the arrangements in place for her Day of Reflection which was being held virtually on 23 March 2021 at 2.00 pm to mark the first anniversary of the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. This service was aimed to recognise the extreme impact the pandemic had had on people's lives in the District. Members of the public had been invited to speak and an invite had been sent to several Councillors to take part. The Chairman extended an invitation for all Councillors to attend and to share this unique experience.

479. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, confirmed the following changes in representation to Outside Bodies:

- (1) Councillor Stanley would replace Councillor Oppler on the Bognor Regis Regeneration Board;
- (2) As the term of office for the Littlehampton Harbour Board representatives had expired, the Council's representations would be:

Full Council - 17.03.21

- Councillor Dr Walsh
- Councillor Mrs Haywood
- Roger Spencer [Engineering Services Manager]
- Leaving one vacancy to be filled

(3) The following Councillors being confirmed for the A27 Elected Members' Forum:

- Councillor Dr Walsh
- Councillor Mrs Catterson
- Councillor Dendle
- Councillor Roberts

These changes to representations on Outside Bodies were then formally proposed by Councillor Dr Walsh and seconded by Councillor Gunner.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the changes in representation to Outside Bodies as set out above be approved.

480. URGENT MATTERS - HM TREASURY LEVELLING UP FUND

The Chairman announced that there was one urgent matter that needed to be considered by the Council this evening on the HM Treasury Levelling Up Fund. She confirmed that this report had been emailed to all Councillors earlier that afternoon and had been uploaded to the Council's Full Council web page as a supplement.

The Chief Executive was invited to introduce this report. He firstly apologised for its lateness and explained that the full details had only been received last week setting out how the Council could take this matter forward. It was explained that if the Council decided to bid for this fund, then it needed to move very quickly, hence the urgent nature of the report, as bids needed to be submitted by 18 June 2021. There was no clarity provided at the moment in terms of future bidding round dates only that there would be future rounds but it could be confirmed that Arun District Council fitted within Category 2 of the bidding level and that bids could be successful "if they were of exceptional quality".

The Leader of the Council then provided further detail to the report and formally proposed its recommendations. Councillor Dr Walsh highlighted that this was a very exciting announcement from the Government made only a few days ago announcing a total fund value of £4.8 billion pounds was to be spent by 2024. The Council was able to bid up to a maximum level of £20m for projects in the Arun District. The Government had made it clear that they wished to target these funds on Council's that had coastal communities and deprived areas so this could include Bognor Regis and Littlehampton.

The timetable in place to undertake this work was extremely tight in that the Council had to submit its bids by 18 June 2021, with the Government announcing the outcome of those bids in the Autumn of this year. The Government had also specified that the bids for projects needed to be well worked up so that they were not new projects or concepts. The expectation was that a mini business case would need to be submitted for each of the projects with the Council being able to bid for up to three different projects.

Councillor Dr Walsh outlined that in order to progress this urgent work, he proposed to set up a Levelling Up Fund Working Party, which would have the necessary political balance, and that the Working Party's remit would be to advise Officers, very quickly, on the project preferences for bidding, including confirming a priority order. It was hoped that approval would be given to establish this Working Party tonight to allow it to meet very soon with Group Leaders confirming membership. Councillor Dr Walsh therefore urged Councillors to support this proposal as it was very unusual for Councils to be given the opportunity to bid for funding of this size.

Councillor Oppler then seconded the recommendations.

The Chairman then invited debate. This commenced with various concerns being raised, mostly in relation to another item on the agenda being Item 14 [Feedback on Presentations Relating to Bognor Regis Regeneration]. It was one Councillors understanding that Group Leaders had met and had agreed that there would be a private briefing for all Councillors to debate the Bognor Regis regeneration proposals with the intention of presenting a way forward. It was now concerning to learn that consideration of Item 14 would be deferred with priority now being given to the Levelling Up Fund work. Concerns were also raised in terms of the membership size of the Working Party which had been set at 7 Members. This meant that the Arun Independent Group; the Green Group and the Labour Party would automatically be excluded. There was also concern that the Working Party would not consider new ideas when it was new ideas that were needed. Views were outlined that the work that would need to be undertaken on the Levelling Up Fund should not be at the detriment of considering the Bognor Regis Regeneration proposals as it could be that those new ideas could form part of the Council's bid. Points were made over the urgency of this item and the 18 June deadline for submitting a bid. It was felt that this was inaccurate as at Section 6.5 of the prospectus provided, it clearly set out that the 18 June deadline was for the first tranche of bidding. Section 6.15 of the prospectus provided further guidance on bidding which allowed Councils to submit bids as part of later rounds allowing Councils more time to consider and develop proposals which some Councillors felt that the Council should also consider. There were Councillors who did not want recycled and refreshed old ideas to form the bids put forward by the Council.

Further debate took place with regard to Agenda Item 14 with very strong views being made that consideration of the Bognor Regis regeneration proposals should not be delayed as this could have implications for those who had submitted bids and questions were asked as to why both projects could not be run together.

Full Council - 17.03.21

Others spoke in full support of the recommendations explaining that the Levelling Up Fund presented a unique opportunity for the Council which could not be missed. This was why a Working Party was being proposed, so that work could commence quickly with a way forward being reported back to either the next meeting of Cabinet or Full Council in May 2021. Consideration of the regeneration proposals could be deferred until after 18 June 2021 when the work had been completed on the Council's bid. The issue of Officer capacity could not be ignored, and the proposals presented a way to work around this to achieve the submission of a bid and to then consider the regeneration proposals.

There were Councillors who spoke in support of undertaking the required work on the Levelling Up Fund but expressed concern over the type of bid(s) that might be submitted. It was hoped that new, fresh and radical ideas that would support the recovery and regeneration of the District's Town Centres, especially Littlehampton, would be considered. To submit plans that were 10-15 years old would not work as such schemes were not relevant to the District's needs as they stood now, especially following a pandemic and an urgent need to provide attractions that would increase footfall and attract visitors.

Debate returned to the proposed membership of the Working Party and the need to ensure that its membership would consider both sides of the District equally, not favouring one over the other. In view of this, reassurance was requested that membership would consist of Members from Littlehampton and Bognor Regis.

In view of the continued discussion focusing on Agenda Item 14, Councillors asked if it could be confirmed now if this item was going to be deferred or whether they would have the opportunity to take part in debating it.

Councillor Oppler, as seconder to the recommendations, reminded Councillors that the opportunity to bid for £20m for both principal Towns could not be ignored, especially when this funding was specifically targeted towards Councils that had deprived wards in seaside communities. Having read the report, so much of the criteria fitted in with what the Council was doing for communities in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton.

Councillor Dr Walsh, as proposer to the recommendations, provided some further information in response to the concerns that had been raised. He explained that having received the news about the Fund and how Councils could bid, in view of the urgent nature and timescales set, the decision to create a Working Party could have been made as an Executive function of Cabinet. However, he had taken the decision to bring this matter of urgency to Full Council for all Councillors to consider in view of the fact that this opportunity had such major importance for the entire District and needed support from across the Council. It made sense to submit a bid for the first round of funding so that if this did not succeed, then other bids could be made. In the event that the bid was successful, it would then give the Council more time to complete projects within stipulated deadlines. The engagement of outside consultants would almost certainly be necessary to assist Officer capacity and Councillor Dr Walsh confirmed that

the Government was setting up a small sub-fund allowing Councils to bid for support to bid for the grant. Councillor Dr Walsh confirmed that the Working Party would have to have representation from both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton and that there was no reason why a Members' Seminar on the Bognor Regis presentations could still not take place, as agreed.

Points of Order were then raised whereby Councillors insisted they receive a response confirming whether Agenda Item 14 would be deferred or whether there would be opportunity for Member debate.

Councillor Dr Walsh in response confirmed that the deferral of Agenda Item 14 would be the subject of debate at that agenda item.

Following further debate and Points of Orders raised, further clarification was sought on what the recommendations in the report meant. Councillor Dr Walsh confirmed that the recommendations proposed the establishment of a Working Party that would consider proposals that the Council would put into a bid for the £20m Levelling Up Fund.

Further Points of Order were raised on the recommendations and where the recommendations from the Working Party would be reported to, would this be Cabinet or Full Council? The Chief Executive explained that it would be one or the other depending upon timescales. Requests were made for this to be added as a third recommendation. The Chief Executive highlighted that this point was clearly set out in the report.

The Director of Place then explained various sections from the prospectus in response to earlier questions raised on bidding timelines.

A request had been received that the voting on the two recommendations be recorded. Those voting for were Councillors Mrs Baker, Bennett, Bicknell, Blanchard-Cooper, Bower, Brooks, Ms Caffyn, Mrs Catterson, Charles, Clayden, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Coster, Mrs Daniells, Dendle, Dixon, Edwards, Elkins, Goodheart, Mrs Gregory, Gunner, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Haywood, Hughes, Huntley, Jones, Kelly, Lury, Mrs Madeley, Miss Needs, Oppler, Mrs Pendleton, Miss Rhodes, Roberts, Miss Seex, Smith, Mrs Staniforth, Mrs Stainton, Stanley, Tilbrook, Ms Thurston, Dr Walsh, Mrs Warr and Mrs Yeates (45). No Councillors voted against. Councillors Chapman, English and Mrs Worne abstained from voting (3).

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) Agreement be given to setting up a Levelling Up Fund Working Party with the necessary political balance; and
- (2) The Working Party's remit will be to advise Officers on their project preferences for bidding, including the priority order.

Full Council - 17.03.21

The Chairman then called a short adjournment.

481. MOTIONS

The Chairman confirmed that no Motions had been submitted for this meeting.

482. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

In accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, the Council was requested to appoint a Vice-Chairman and Chairman Elect for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

One candidate, Councillor Samantha Staniforth, had been nominated for the role. Following a statement made from the Leader of the Council in support of his respective candidate, a secret ballot was undertaken and the results declared by the Committee Services Manager, who announced that Councillor Samantha Staniforth had been selected for the appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2021/22 and Chairman Elect of the Council for 2022/23.

Congratulations were then extended to Councillor Mrs Staniforth in being appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2021/22 and Chairman Elect for 2022/23.

483. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

(Prior to the vote taking place on this item – Northeast redeclared his Personal Interest made at the start of the meeting).

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, presented this report which detailed the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22. Councillor Dr Walsh formally proposed that the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 be approved for publication onto the Council's web site by 1 April 2021. This was then seconded by Councillor Oppler.

Following some discussion on the gender pay gap,

The Council

RESOLVED – That

(1) The Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 be approved for publication on the Arun website by 1 April 2021;

(2) Delegated authority be given to the Group Head of Corporate Support to make changes to the Pay Policy Statement which might arise from new legislation concerning employee severance payments should this be introduced later this year.

484. TO 'MAKE' THE FELPHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - 2019-2031

(Prior to the discussion on this item, Councillor English declared a Personal Interest as a Member of Felpham Parish Council).

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Lury, firstly congratulated Felpham Parish Council for its work undertaken on this project. He then provided some background confirming that the Felpham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2031 passed Examination in December 2020. The Examiner of this modified Plan concluded that the Plan passed the Examination and that the material modifications did not change the nature of the Plan and so it did not require a Referendum so should proceed to be 'made'.

The 'making' of this Plan would give it legal force and it would form part of the statutory Development Plan for that area. Consequently, decisions on planning applications in the neighbourhood area would need to be made in accordance with the Neighbourhood Development Plan or Order, unless material considerations indicated otherwise.

Councillor Lury formally proposed the 'making' of this Plan which was seconded by Councillor Dr Walsh.

In considering this matter, many congratulations were extended to Felpham Parish Council as this was one of the first Neighbourhood Development Plans that had been updated without the need for a referendum. The work of Arun's Planning Officer and her team were also praised.

The Council

RESOLVED

That it 'makes' the Felpham Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031 and it becomes part of the Development Plan for Arun District Council.

485. FEEDBACK ON PRESENTATIONS RELATING TO BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION

(Prior to the discussion on this item, Councillors Coster and Goodheart redeclared their interests made at the start of the meeting).

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, outlined that the Council had received the presentations which had been summarised in the documentation included as part of the report. What was now needed was to set a clear way forward. He confirmed that Group Leaders had decided that a Members' Seminar be organised where all the presentations and Member impressions from these would be considered in much greater detail than what could be achieved tonight. Councillor Dr Walsh therefore proposed that a Members' Seminar be organised in the very near future

Full Council - 17.03.21

allowing all Members of the Council to have the opportunity, virtually, to take part in that debate which would allow for Officers to sit in and provide advice as necessary and from that to prepare a report for Full Council distilling Members views into a series of options or an option for the Council to consider. This was his proposal which was an alternative to having a very long debate on the presentations now which might not lead to an easy conclusion. Councillor Dr Walsh concluded by thanking those who had attended and given presentations to the Council and had provided summaries setting out the detail of their presentation.

Councillor Oppler then seconded this proposal.

The Chairman then invited debate on this proposal. Councillor Goodheart confirmed that he had a proposal to put forward. This was “that the Council commissions an independent consultant, working alongside officers, to devise a shortlisting selection criterion and to mark the presentations against the criteria and report to the next Full Council with a recommendation on which scheme to take forward and project initiation plans. Councillor Goodheart confirmed that he had a list of fundamental areas that should be covered by the consultant and officers.

A Point of Order was then raised, and clarification sought as it was felt that Councillor Goodheart’s proposal could not be classed as an amendment, as it was a completely new proposal. Advice from the Interim Monitoring Officer was sought.

The Interim Monitoring Officer referred to the Director of Place’s report which had no set recommendation, it was asking Full Council to provide a steer on what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis following debate. Councillor Dr Walsh had proposed a separate motion and Councillor Goodheart’s proposal was an amendment to Councillor Dr Walsh’s motion.

Councillor Dendle then seconded Councillor Goodheart’s proposal.

In view of the length and detail of Councillor Goodheart’s amendment, a request was made to share this to the meeting. Councillor Goodheart’s amendment was then shared to the screen.

The wording of Councillor Goodheart’s amendment was confirmed as follows:

“Commissioning an independent Consultant working alongside Officers to devise a shortlisting and selection criteria to mark the presentation against that criteria and to present a report to the next Council Meeting with a recommendation on which scheme to take forward and a project initiation plan.

The wording below sets out the content for proposing the motion:

(1) Based on this, the Officers are asked to prepare reports for the next Full Council dealing with:

- Timetable and implementation
- Planning consent
- Due diligence
- Funding by/to the Council (including Leases)
- Willingness/ability to accommodate other proposals
- The position regarding Whitbread Plc and Arun Arts
- Economic and environmental impact statements

(2) Options to be discussed on development such as Sole Developer, Joint Venture or Partnership

(3) Logic would suggest that Councillors might well now consider which of the presentations they would wish to take forward. This means creating some form of short-list based on:

- Perceived appropriateness and viability
- Financial sustainability
- Each proposal can satisfy an independent consultant on each aspect of the projects including financial aspects and delivery of final projects.

The Interim Monitoring Officer was invited to provide advice. He outlined that the original recommendation set out in the report had a form of words which when Councillor Dr Walsh had made his presentation appeared to be different from the recommendation as set out in the report. Councillor Goodheart then made an amendment to what Councillor Dr Walsh had proposed.

Councillor Dr Walsh should be invited to move and second his proposal again with Councillor Goodheart then being invited to confirm if he would wish to amend further that clarified motion.

The Chairman then called a short adjournment to allow Officers time to write up the amendments so that these could be shared to the meeting.

Having seen the detail of Councillor Goodheart's amendment shared to the meeting, the Interim Monitoring Officer confirmed that this amendment could only include the first three sentences, not the remaining content.

This was:

“Commissioning an independent Consultant working alongside Officers to devise a shortlisting and selection criteria to mark the presentation against that criteria and to present a report to the next Council Meeting with a recommendation on which scheme to take forward and a project initiation plan”.

Full Council - 17.03.21

For clarity purposes, Councillor Dr Walsh's proposal was shared to the meeting.

Councillor Dr Walsh reconfirmed his proposal which read as follows:

"Officers are asked to prepare a Members' Seminar to discuss the presentations and provide guidance for Officers to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Full Council regarding what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis, and any relevant procurement requirements and associated funding issues".

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Gunner however he questioned the establishment of a Working Party as part of this proposal.

In response, Councillor Dr Walsh added the following words to his proposal to read as follows – the additional wording has been highlighted in **bold**.

"Officers are asked to prepare a Members' Seminar to discuss the presentations and provide guidance for Officers **and engage with the Levelling Up Working Party** to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Full Council regarding what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis, and any relevant procurement requirements and associated funding issues".

Councillor Edwards and Councillor Dendle asked Councillor Dr Walsh if some minor changes could be made. These were to confirm that the Members' Seminar would be held in private session and to confirm the date for the Seminar so that a report could be brought back to the next meeting of Full Council. Councillor Dr Walsh agreed to these requests and so his proposal was amended further to read [additions shown in **bold**].

"Officers are asked to prepare a **private** Members' Seminar **at the earliest opportunity** for Members to discuss the presentations and provide guidance for Officers **and engage with the Levelling Up Working Party** to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Full Council regarding what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis, and any relevant procurement requirements and associated funding issues".

Further clarification was sought on the above wording from Councillor Dixon. He stated that Group Leaders had talked about a seminar followed by a briefing on the procurement rules [which would have changed following Brexit] and that a Working Party be set up to bring proposals back to Full Council. It seemed from this proposal, that this Working Party had been abandoned and so he asked for confirmation as to whether this was the intention.

Councillor Dr Walsh stated that he did not think that this Working Party was abandoned, it would be up to the Members' Seminar to confirm how this would be taken forward and if it was felt that the establishment of a Working Party was needed, then this is what would happen.

Councillor Gunner was asked to confirm, as seconder, if he could accept the further changes made. He confirmed that he agreed with the points that had been made by Councillor Dixon and would like the proposal to be amended to reflect this.

Following further discussion, Councillor Dr Walsh's proposal was amended further to read as follows [deletions are shown using ~~strike through~~ and additions are shown using **bold**:

"Officers are asked to prepare a **private** Members' Seminar **at the earliest opportunity** for Members to discuss the presentations and provide guidance for Officers ~~and engage with the Levelling Up Working Party and set up a Working Party~~ to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Full Council regarding what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis, and any relevant procurement requirements and associated funding issues".

Having been formally amended by Councillor Dr Walsh, this further amendment was seconded by Councillor Gunner.

The Chairman then asked Councillors Goodheart and Dendle, as the proposer and seconder of the amendment to Councillor Dr Walsh's proposal if they could accept this proposal. Councillor Goodheart confirmed that he could accept this revised proposal but would have liked to have had included the appointment of an external consultant to assist with this work. He also had concerns over the timing element in undertaking this work.

The Chief Executive provided some clarification confirming that if Council might choose to pursue the appointment of a consultant, details of the level of funding required would need to be known. He confirmed that having agreed the establishment of the Levelling Up Fund Working Party earlier, that this work would need to commence first before the arrangement of a Seminar on Bognor Regis regeneration presentation proposals.

The Chairman confirmed that she was now inviting debate on this new motion.

In discussing the amendment, a question was asked as to why the Gardens by the Sea proposal had not been included in the list of presentations forming the report. A request was made that this be included in the Seminar to be organised.

Other points raised were over the timings involved in organising the Members' Seminar having heard that the work of the Levelling Up Fund Working Party would take priority. Strong views were expressed that both projects should have equal priority and that a strict time limit should be confirmed for when the Seminar would be held.

Councillor Roberts confirmed that he therefore wished to make an amendment to include the points raised above; to address Officer capacity and the membership of the Working Party.

Full Council - 17.03.21

Councillor Dendle seconded this further amendment.

Advice was sought from the Monitoring Officer as the amendment put forward by Councillor Roberts formed three separate amendments. Councillor Roberts was asked to confirm out of these three amendments he had proposed which was his first amendment.

Councillor Roberts confirmed his first amendment to be as set out below [additions have been set out in **bold**].

“Officers are asked to prepare a private seminar, **with the same priority, resource and time allocation as that to be invested in the levelling up fund project at the earliest opportunity** for Members to discuss the presentations and provide guidance for officers and set up a Working Party to prepare a report for a future meeting of Full Council regarding what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis, and any relevant procurement requirements and associated funding issues”.

Councillor Dendle, as seconder, confirmed that he agreed with this wording.

The Chairman then invited debate on Councillor Robert's amendment. Many Councillors spoke confirming that they could not support this amendment and felt it to be unnecessary.

Following further debate, Councillor Roberts confirmed that he wished to withdraw this amendment and that he would not be proposing his second or third amendment.

The Chairman then returned to the substantive amendment and invited debate. This debate asked for confirmation that the Gardens by the Sea project would be included as part of the Members' Seminar.

Councillor Gunner, as seconder to the proposal, confirmed that he and Councillor Dr Walsh had liaised with the Chief Executive about presenting the Gardens by the Sea project to Members and he confirmed that this would take place. In response to queries raised on the timing of this work, Councillor Gunner believed that stipulating that this would be at the earliest opportunity would achieve a confirmation date soon. In terms of the establishment of a Working Party and political make-up, this would be discussed by Group Leaders who would decide how this would be apportioned.

Councillor Dr Walsh, as proposer of the proposal, confirmed what Councillor Gunner had said and he stated his viewpoint that the membership of this Working Party would need to be larger as it would be focusing on larger scale issues.

The Council

RESOLVED

That Officers are asked to prepare a private seminar, at the earliest opportunity, for Members to discuss the presentations and provide guidance for Officers and set up a Working Party to prepare a report for a future meeting of Full Council regarding what type of regeneration activity the Council might want to pursue in Bognor Regis, and any relevant procurement requirements and associated funding issues.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting to 24 March 2021 at 6.00 pm confirming that Agenda Items 15 to 31 would be considered at that meeting.

(The meeting concluded at 10.40 pm)

This page is intentionally left blank