

## **Council Minutes**

Date: 13 April 2015

Time: 6.30 - 8.35 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs L M Clarke OBE (In the Chair)

Councillors Mrs J A Adey, K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, M Angell, M C Appleyard, D H G Barnes, I Bates, W J Bendyshe-Brown, D J Carroll, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, R B Colomb, C A Ditta, R Gaffney, J Gibbs, A R Green, G C Hall, M Hanif, C B Harriss, A E Hill, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, D A Johncock, Mrs G A Jones, M E Knight, Mrs J D Langley, Ms P L Lee, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, I L McEnnis, R Metcalfe, Mrs D V E Morgan, Mrs M L Neudecker, B E Pearce, B R Pollock JP, J A Savage, R J Scott, C Shafique MBE, D A C Shakespeare OBE, A Slater, T Snaith, Mrs J E Teesdale, P R Turner, Ms J D Wassell, D M Watson, R Wilson and Ms K S Wood.

Also Present: Honorary Aldermen J Blanksby, P Cartwright, R Jennings, Mrs P Priestley and R Pushman..

#### 89 40 YEARS SERVICE

## (a) Charles Meakings – 40 Years of Service

The Chairman announced that she was very pleased to present an award to Mr Meakings (Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services) as an acknowledgement of his 40 years of service to Local Government. A brief background of his career was provided, which had begun in July 1972, at High Wycombe Borough Council as a Junior Clerk. In 1974 he was appointed to the post of Clerical Assistant at the newly formed Wycombe District Council, and to Assistant Land Charges Officer in 1977. Following a period of study, his career progressed further when in 1987 Mr Meakings was appointed as Head of Admin Services. The year of 1998 brought him into the role of Head of Strategic Development, and Corporate Manager in 2006, and into his current role in 2009.

Mr Meakings was then invited by the Chairman to accept the award.

Mr Meakings thanked the Chairman for her kind introduction and stated that he was very proud to have worked within the Council, and that the close collaboration between Members and Officers had enabled the Council to achieve a great deal.

## (b) "Purdah"

The Chairman reminded Members that in the current pre-election period, the meeting should not be used as an opportunity to canvass campaigns or to promote any particular political group.

## (c) District Elections – 7 May 2015

The Chairman paid tribute to the 11 Members who would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming elections. She took the opportunity to thank the Members on behalf of the whole Council for their service to Wycombe District Council. The Members included Councillors M Angell, D A Anson MBE, W J Bendyshe-Brown, R B Colomb, M A Foster, J M Gibbs, J A Malliff, R Metcalfe, Mrs D V E Morgan, Ms S Manir and Ms M L Neudecker.

#### 90 CHAIRMAN ANNOUCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on her activities since the last meeting of the Council.

## (d) Wycombe Homeless Connection

The Chairman announced that Wycombe Homeless Connection had recently received the Queen's Award for voluntary services. This was an acknowledgment of the exceptional hard work of all involved.

## (e) Minor Injuries and Illness Unit

The Chairman had opened the newly refurbished Minor Injuries and Illness Unit.

## (f) Chairman's Reception

This had taken place on 26 March 2015, at the Abbey School. The Chairman thanked all those who had attended.

## (g) World War Commemorations

The Chairman advised Members regarding acts of commemoration scheduled to take place in April and May for both World Wars:-

- Saturday 25 April Centenary to the day of battle of Gallipoli
- Friday 8 May 2 minutes silence at 3.00pm to acknowledge those fallen in World War 2

The Chairman thanked members for their hard work and support during the year, on this her last update as Chairman of the Council.

#### 91 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Honorary Aldermen: D A E Cox, E H Collins, M B Oram and Mrs K M Peatey. Councillors: D A Anson MBE, A D Collingwood, R M H Farmer, M A Foster, G C Hall, A Hussain JP, Ms R Knight, S P Lacey, Mrs W J Mallen, S F Parker, J L Richards OBE and A Turner.

#### 92 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**: That the minute of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2015 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 94 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

## (a) Question from Andrea Baughan to the Cabinet Member for Community

"Over the last few months I've spent a lot of time speaking with Micklefield residents, many of whom are Red Kite tenants, and they seem to be getting rather a raw deal - work left half finished, tradespeople not turning up or disappearing from their houses in the middle of a job. Bathrooms and kitchens and preparatory or finishing off works are not being carried out very efficiently plus there is a lot of confusion and telephone chasing for the tenants which is frustrating and inconvenient. Can WDC find a way of ensuring Red Kite carry out the works in a professional and timely manner."

## Response from Councillor Mrs J A Adey (Cabinet Member for Community)

"Whilst I am pleased to try to help all residents with any issues regarding Red Kite, I am surprised that this matter has been raised direct with me rather than through the Local members, Cllrs Lee or Knight, the current Councillors for Micklefield. And I do rather wonder if this has been raised now as you are one of the candidates standing in this Ward in the forthcoming District Council elections.

That said, I am pleased to offer the following advice. Wycombe District Council meets regularly with Red Kite Community Housing and receives information on progress against the 'Promises' as part of the partnership working between the organisations, which is for the benefit of tenants, leaseholders and residents of the District, the Council has limited influence on how Red Kite Community Housing runs its business.

Since the transfer, Red Kite's tenants have been involved in procuring and monitoring their contracts, including developing the approach to delivering the repairs service and in managing the performance of the contractor. Red Kite follows up feedback from tenants and has an established process for monitoring not only the key performance information for each contract, but also satisfaction and perception measures via customers audits. This process led to the termination of the contract with the original repairs contractor, and has been a key consideration in the tender of the new repairs contract.

If tenants of Red Kite have specific complaints regarding the service, it is suggested that they contact Red Kite who will investigate the complaint under their complaints process. If tenants are not satisfied with the response provided, Red Kite have a second stage (a further review) and they also have a Feedback Co-ordinator whose role it is to look at the causes of complaints to try to avoid a repetition."

### **Supplementary Question**

"Would you agree that there is now less accountability for tenants since Red Kite took over control of the housing stock and repairs?"

### **Supplementary Response**

"Red Kite is working as hard as it possibly can, and as it is managing over 6,000 properties, there are bound to be some people who are not fully satisfied."

#### 95 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

# (a) Question from Councillor B Pollock to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability

"I would like to thank the Cabinet member for agreeing to set up a sub-committee of the Slate Meadow Liaison Committee to explore recent decisions made by the Secretary of State that emphasise the importance of Green Gaps between settlements and their protection even though an authority is not meeting its assessed housing need. Does he agree with me that this decision should be taken into account when assessing the need to develop Slate Meadow, particularly as it acts as a "green gap" between Bourne End and Wooburn?"

## Response from Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)

"The Slate Meadow sub-group met in late March to assess the implications of the decision referred to by Cllr Pollock. This was a proposed housing scheme in Cheshire which was refused permission by the Secretary of State on the grounds of prematurity, in advance of the plan-making process being completed, and the well advanced Green Belt review in particular, which outweighed the lack of a 5-year housing supply.

How similar is this case to Slate Meadow? Answering that question helps to assess the weight to be accorded in taking it into account.

The Cheshire decision relates to a site which had already been designated as a Green Gap in an existing policy, and the local planning authority was considering putting into the Green Belt as part of the local plan review.

The local community identify Slate Meadow as fulfilling a 'green gap' function, separating out the settlements of Bourne End and Wooburn. However, whilst part of the site is a Village Green, the rest does not have the status of 'green gap' or anything similar in the local plan. Instead is identified as a reserve site for future development. This is therefore a fundamentally different starting point from the Cheshire case.

The last time the status of Slate Meadow was considered was through the Core Strategy Examination. The inspector said "I recognise that local residents value the present open nature of this land but ... I find no exceptional circumstances to justify including the site in the Green Belt and thus fundamentally altering the role assigned to it for all but 17 of the past 54 years."

Thus, in taking the Cheshire decision into account in relation to Slate Meadow, it would carry little weight."

## **Supplementary Question**

"Any view on the Green Belt is premature. Would the Cabinet Member agree that it is in interests of the site to have a Green Belt review, so that we can arrive at a better decision on the reserved sites?"

## **Supplementary Response**

"Slate Meadow is in the Core Strategy as a reserved site. It is different from the Cheshire case. It is not appropriate for a green belt review."

## (b) Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability

"Buckinghamshire County Council have committed £6.2 million for infrastructure improvements in Wycombe in response to the release of the reserved sites for development. In addition to the CIL and Section 106 funding which will become available from developers how much is Wycombe District Council planning to contribute from their reserves to support improvements to the already over-stretched infrastructure of East Wycombe?"

## Response from Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)

"Work has been commissioned jointly with BCC to look at the transport infrastructure issues of High Wycombe in the light of the release of the reserve sites. This work is expected to report in the summer, and at that stage there will be a better understanding of the costs of different potential measures.

As you say, the County have allocated £6.2million, and there will be contributions forthcoming from the reserve site developments. Further contributions could also be made from CIL related to improvements to transport infrastructure.

As a district council we do not have responsibility of funding for some of the 'big ticket' infrastructure costs that an upper tier authority does. District level responsibility is more in terms of community facilities, affordable housing, open space, which would be expected to be forthcoming from the development sites themselves.

WDC does not receive any financial support from government directly for capital investment or through the revenue support grant system and must therefore generate investment resources locally. The use of reserves has to also take into consideration the need to invest to balance the books otherwise we will not be able to run front line services.

Having said that, WDC has a track record of funding and delivering ambitious projects such as the Sports and Leisure Centre, and Eden. However, these were investments on which the Council is expecting over time to attract a return. WDC has also invested £1.2m to deliver the alternative route as an integral part of the High Wycombe Town Centre Master Plan – for which there

is no immediate return, but a longer term benefit in terms of a more vibrant and attractive town centre."

## **Supplementary Question**

"WDC is likely to make financial gains from the development of the reserved sites, example in Gomm Valley, through the potential sale of Ashwells. Do you agree that the potential income should be invested back into the infrastructure improvements in East Wycombe?"

## **Supplementary Response**

"The next administration will look at the issue of contribution towards infrastructure improvements in the affected areas."

## (c) Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Environment

"Does the cabinet member agree with me that there is a problem with the blue recycling bins? Because these are full size bins but most households only fill up to about 1/3 or even 1/2 capacity the items in the said bin are rather light. Therefore with a half empty bin of light materials when there are strong winds which we have experienced recently and a delay in the waste collection these large bins with light materials inside get blown about consequently rubbish is deposited all across the highway and pavement. Does the cabinet member agree with me that bins half the size with some kind of weight in the construction would be a much better idea and solve this problem?"

## Response from Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale (Cabinet Member for Environment)

"The blue recycling bins are supplied by an internationally recognised bin manufacturer. The standard bin is 240 litres, and this specification of bin can be found in use in millions of properties across the UK. It is made in the UK and we believe it to be a robust design.

Many residents in the district do completely fill their bins each fortnight, but for those who do not we have an option of a smaller 140 litre bin. If a resident's bin is only 1/3 full then they do not need to put it out for each fortnight. They can always wait until the next collection if they think they have room in the bin.

At times our district does experience strong winds, especially those higher areas. In the past this has caused issues with waste collection, whether from sack collections, paper boxes or sometimes bins. Where possible on collection day, at times of strong winds, it is advisable to keep bins close to a wall or similar, but still on the boundary of the highway. This will reduce the chance of items being blown around.

If littering has occurred on the highway due to the winds, then residents can contact the waste team to ask for a litter pick to be made.

I cannot agree that the bins should be half the size, as the smallest 140 litre bin which we offer is the smallest bin which is normally manufactured today.

Anything smaller would not be able to be lifted by the mechanisms on the bin lorry as it would be too low to fit on to the bin lift equipment. More importantly, it would reduce the amount of recycling that our residents can do. Currently manufacturers do not have products which would add additional weight to a bin. This is probably because it would increase the manual handling risk for residents and bin men. We continue to review new products which come on to the market, and will keep in mind the issues of strong winds when doing so in the future."

## **Supplementary Question**

There was no supplementary question

## (d) Question from Councillor R Metcalfe to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

"Could the Cabinet Member please outline future plans for use of the entirety of Wycombe Air Park?"

## Response from Councillor A Green (Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration)

"Wycombe Airpark comprises approx. 150 acres of land designated as a Major Developed Site within the Green Belt. It is the subject of review under the Local Plan process. This recognises the shortage of flat land for employment purposes and proposes two options for the Airpark – (1) expansion of the existing 'built footprint' (to include the Council depot), allowing new buildings for employment uses not related to the Airpark and/or (2) expansion of the employment area onto the southern part of the airfield, whilst retaining the operational Airpark. Both would give rise to traffic generation and would be constrained by the existing road network. The outcome of the Local Plan Review is still a couple of years away, so at this stage it is difficult to say for certain what future plans for the Airpark will be.

The Council has recently received a specialist airport consultant's report which indicates that expansion of the employment area onto the southern part of the airfield is feasible. This could require modifying the existing runway layout. The Council wishes to discuss this report with the Airpark's current operator (Airways Aero Association – 'AAA'). However, head lease renewal negotiations which are currently on-going with AAA are proving to be challenging are being conducted in tandem with lease renewal litigation proceedings, issues by AAA. These negotiations are affecting future operational discussions and the formulation of a 'shared vision' for the Airpark.

The current negotiations / litigation with AAA have, unfortunately, had an unwanted side effect of creating uncertainty for existing sub-tenants at the Airpark."

## **Supplementary Question**

"I appreciate that there is much work to be due over the next two years and longer. But would you agree with me over the importance of doing two things: (1) to maintain and build relations with AAA and (2) to continue to recognise

the importance of ensuring responsible flying from the Airpark. This is of wider benefit to residents.

Would you agree that any development should recognise the value of aviation activity at the Airpark, and could you give your assurance that planning would take this information into account to provide certainly for businesses at WAP?"

## **Supplementary Response**

"Of course we will work with the AAA, and we are keen to negotiate with them even though they have initiated litigation. Yes, I agree that sustainable safe flying from the Airpark is what people want."

## (e) Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Environment

"Does the cabinet member agree with me that the new parking meter machines in WDC car parks, although I believe offer good value for money and are a great success, many people have stated to me that the 10 minutes grace time for some people is not enough, particularly with mothers with a pushchair or pram, and a considerable amount of shopping. I know from experience it would take more than 10 minutes to load the car with shopping, to dismantle a pushchair and place a baby in the correct car seat with all the apparatus and paraphernalia this involves. And then to negotiate exit from a car park, particularly the Swan car park, if one happened to be parked on the top floor. Also, regarding the Swan, when people are leaving the theatre sometimes the entrance and exits tend to get gridlocked and this would take more than 10 minutes to exit the building."

## Response from Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale (Cabinet Member for Environment)

"The grace period for leaving a car park has to be stated and it is felt that the figure of 10 minutes is achievable for an extremely high percentage of customers. Some other local authority areas quote shorter periods but we believe for our district, the 10 minute is realistic. Unfortunately, whatever time we state as the grace period, there are always going to be occasions when people will say that it is not long enough.

However, each specific case is looked at individually and responses to particular situations or events would be carefully considered. We are aware that after performances at The Swan, exit times may be longer and therefore when manual checks are made on potential overstays, the time of day or special events are taken into account before any further action is authorised.

We constantly review our processes and if in the future we find our timings become challenging, like any operational issue, we will review our processes."

#### **Supplementary Question**

"I am encouraged that you will look at the swan in particular on an individual case by case basis."

### **Supplementary Response**

"We will always try and do the best we can."

### (f) Question from Councillor T Snaith to the Leader of the Council

"Does the Leader agree to hear such comments as these from your Cabinet members as unacceptable?

Cllr Julia Adey said "Estates would also need additional resources, just as Community, if it were to be able to support ward Member projects."

Cllr Neil Marshall said "WDC planning is currently overloaded and cannot support backbench demands."

In Ryemead we are faced with serious parking problems on the Wye Dene estate which are impacting across the whole ward. We also have several projects that need investigating to improve Ryemead, however Cabinet Members are blocking the necessary resources we need. Perhaps you can advise why residents and Councillors are finding it increasingly difficult to reach out to this council for assistance and support?"

## Response from the Leader of the Council

"On the contrary, the Council continues to reach out and work with residents and ward councillors on a whole range of Council approved schemes, for example the very well-received liaison groups that are operating in respect of the reserve sites and our work with the M40 Chiltern Environmental Group, (M40 CEG) in supporting the installation of noise reduction barriers on the M40, to name but two current initiatives.

What you are referring to is for officers' to deal with your ward issues, which is a different point entirely. It is not always possible, or desirable, to react to every idea that comes forward and you seem to be under the misapprehension that ward members are entitled to decide on ideas and projects for officers to pursue. We do have finite resources, including staff, and have to prioritise our work and, this is the key point, to implement Council agreed schemes and priorities. On the car parking issue for Wye Dene you have been advised to approach the Bucks County Council, as the responsible Authority for these matters.

What you have received is officer advice about how to take projects forward, which is to work with interested community groups and others to develop workable proposals that the Council can then consider. For the ward of Ryemead, as with all the town wards, there is the opportunity to bring forward projects for consideration to the High Wycombe Town Committee and, if agreed by the Committee and Cabinet, then resources will be allocated to take matters forward. This does require some preparatory work to develop the proposal and it is not acceptable for you to try and circumvent this process by seeking officer time to work on local projects which do not have Council endorsement. What I do know is that officers will always try and make time to respond to proposals that come forward, but it has to be balanced with their requirement to deliver the Council's schemes and priorities."

## **Supplementary Question**

"Do you agree that the residents of this District deserve better than this Marlow Centric Cabinet and Council, and that it is now time for a change."

## **Supplementary Response**

"It is foolish to refer to us as a Marlow Centric Council. The majority of the work undertaken has been to do with the redevelopment and regeneration around the Town Centre of High Wycombe."

## (g) Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Leader of the Council

"It is common practice now, in their efforts to reduce expense for neighbouring Councils, to share senior management positions. Following the decision by Mr Westgate to retire in the Autumn was any effort made to explore this possibility, prior to the announcement to replace him with a full-time Wycombe District Corporate Director?"

## Response from Councillor R Scott (Leader of the Council)

"It is important to point out that staffing issues are a matter for the executive management, although senior appointments, such as the one to which you refer are referred to the cross party JNC staffing Matters Committee for consideration. This particular vacancy was referred to the Committee, which carefully considered whether the post was still required. The Committee then endorsed the Chief Executive's recommendation to replace.

The Council is one of the largest District Council's in the country, though has a relatively small senior management team. It has an ambitious and challenging growth and regeneration agenda that we will be pursuing over the next few years. The recruitment of a Corporate Director focused on growth and development will bring further strategic level focus to the agenda as it develops and is delivered, and will continue to support our services to perform and transform to meet service demands within the context of continued financial challenge.

Since 2006, the Council staffing structure and in particular our senior management structure has reduced dramatically. Through the managed change programme in 2005/6, we reduced from Chief Executive, four Directors and twenty Heads of Service to currently Chief Executive, one Corporate Director and six Heads of Service.

Our Senior Management team has implemented the transformation of Wycombe District Council over the last six years with a 40% reduction in cost, alongside improvements to services with some of our best performance ever and a major regeneration programme.

Wycombe is the fifth largest district Council in the country by population. Allowing for the fact that some of the Authorities will have different priorities and may retain different services in house, comparison with the top 15 District Council's (by population) shows Wycombe to have the fewest senior managers.

Sharing the role with other District Councils would deplete the already small senior management resource available to the Council and could impact on the Council's ability to meet its strategic and service objectives."

## **Supplementary Question**

There was no supplementary question.

Questions 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were not put as the 30 minutes time period had expired. In accordance with Standing Orders, a written reply would be sent to the questioner by the appropriate Member within 10 working days, and would also be appended to the Minutes of the next meeting.

#### 96 PETITIONS

No petitions were received by the deadline of Tuesday 7 April 2015.

#### 97 CABINET

## Minute 93 - Local Plan: Revised Do Up Scheme

A Member referred to the area action plans in relation to Saunderton. He stated that the residents had established an Action Group to fight development and urged the officers of the Council to work closely with this group.

Councillor Angell on his last meeting took the opportunity to thank Members for their help, support, guidance and encouragement during his time as Councillor.

The Leader stated that he was aware of the issues on the site, and that he took all comments seriously. Infrastructure was a major issue which needed to be dealt with.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 March 2015, be received and the recommendations as set out at minute numbers 94, 97 and 98 be approved and adopted.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as they contain exempt information as defined in Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012.

#### 98 CABINET

## Minute 103 – Red Kite Community Housing

A Member expressed concern that the Council and residents and tenants did not get the best deal with Red Kite. He felt that there should have been some method of enforcement in terms of improvements being made.

The relevant Member was informed that the Council had no involvement in the day to day operation. Concerns could be taken to the Council's Red Kite Board Members, Councillors McEnnis and Teesdale.

**RESOLVED**: That subject to the amendment of Councillor K Ahmed to Z Ahmed, in the attendance list, the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 April 2015, be received and the recommendations as set out in minute number 103 be approved and adopted.

The meeting then returned to the open session.

### 99 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor D Carroll rose to present the minutes.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 10 March 2015 be received.

#### 100 IMPROVEMENT & REVIEW COMMISSION

The Chairman of the Committee drew attention to minute 43, which listed the major achievements of the Commission during the municipal year. He then paid tribute to all members for their active participation in the Commission and its various Task and Finish Groups. He also took the opportunity to personally thank Mr Charles Meakings for all his advice and hard work.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Review Commission held on 11 March 2015 be received.

#### 101 AUDIT COMMITTEE

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 5 March 2015 be received, and the recommendation as set out in minute 52 be approved and adopted.

### 102 HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee rose to present the minutes and took to opportunity to thank Members for the enjoyable meetings throughout the municipal year. He also paid tribute to Councillor Colomb, who had served on the Committee for a total of 21 years, and who would not be standing for re-election. The Chairman stated that his expertise and wit would be very much missed.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the High Wycombe Town Committee held on 3 March 2015 be received.

#### 103 PERSONNEL & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee thanked members and officers for their valuable contribution throughout the year.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Personnel and Development Committee held on 9 March 2015 be received, and the recommendations as set out at minute number 37 be approved and adopted.

### 104 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Committee for their hard work.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 January and 18 March 2015 be received.

### 105 NOTICES OF MOTION

None were received

## 106 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.2

There were none.

#### 107 URGENT ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

The individual decisions published since the last meeting of the Council were noted.

### 108 THE LEADER

The Leader rose to convey his personal thanks to his Cabinet, which had worked extremely hard over the last two years during his time in leadership, and which had taken some very important and difficult decisions.

### 109 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the whole of the Council for all of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by Members over the municipal year. She wished all those standing for re-election all the very best of luck.

### The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Ian Hunt - Democratic Services Manager
Iram Malik - Democratic Services Officer

Karen Satterford - Chief Executive
Ian Westgate - Corporate Director