

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Thursday, 9 March 2023 commencing at 6:00 pm

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Councillor J W Murphy
Councillor A S Reece

and Councillors:

K Berliner, R A Bird, G F Blackwell, C L J Carter, C M Cody, K J Cromwell, M Dean, J H Evetts, P A Godwin, M A Gore, D W Gray, D J Harwood, M L Jordan, E J MacTiernan, J R Mason, P D McLain, J P Mills, H S Munro, C Reid, P E Smith, R J G Smith, V D Smith, C Softley, P D Surman, M G Szymiak, S Thomson, R J E Vines, M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.84 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 84.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.
- 84.2 The Mayor indicated that he had used his discretion to accept an urgent item of business which would be considered at Agenda Item 8a. The item related to the recruitment of the Executive Director: Place and was urgent as the process needed to begin as soon as possible to recruit to this important new post.

CL.85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 85.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G J Bocking, R D East, H C McLain, C E Mills, P W Ockelton, J K Smith and R J Stanley.

CL.86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 86.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 24 January 2023 and took effect on 1 February 2023.
- 86.2 The following declarations were made:

Councillor	Application No./Item	Nature of Interest (where disclosed)	Declared Action in respect of Disclosure
K J Cromwell	Item 10 – Tewkesbury Garden Town – New Development Corporation Competition.	Family members have an interest in land in the area.	Would not speak or vote and would leave the room for the consideration of the item.

P N Workman	Item 10 – Tewkesbury Garden Town – New Development Corporation Competition.	A family member has an interest in land in the area.	Would not speak or vote and would leave the room for the consideration of the item.
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86.3 There were no further declarations made on this occasion.

CL.87 MINUTES

87.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CL.88 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

88.1 There were no items from members of the public.

CL.89 MEMBER QUESTIONS PROPERLY SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

89.1 There were no Member questions on this occasion.

CL.90 AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION

90.1 The report of the Head of Democratic Services, circulated at Pages No. 12-14, asked Members to agree an amendment to the Constitution to enable appropriate delegation arrangements for re-designating Polling Places and Stations outside of a full Polling District Review. Members were asked to agree an amendment that authority be delegated to the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer and their deputy to keep Polling Places and Stations under review and amend any such arrangements where there was an operational need prior to the next full review of Polling Places.

90.2 The Head of Democratic Services explained that the recent Community Governance Review had resulted in a need to make minor amendments to the Polling Places and changes to Polling Stations. Normally, Polling Stations were changed as a matter of course where required as a function of the Returning Officer but the Association of Electoral Administrators had advised that it was best practice to include a delegation within the Constitution for this purpose. A full review of Polling Places was to be undertaken between October 2023 and January 2025 and that would incorporate public consultation – including with interested parties – and would take account of revised Parliamentary boundaries. The results of that review would be brought to the Council as that was not a decision which could be made under delegation.

90.3 A Member questioned whether the full Constitution would be published on the website following the addition of this delegation and was advised that the Constitution was already published and this amendment would be made, if agreed, following the meeting.

90.4 Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED That authority be delegated to the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer and their deputy to keep Polling Places and Stations under review and amend any such arrangements where there was an operational need prior to the next full review of Polling Places.

CL.91 CONTINUATION OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH JOINT COMMITTEE - TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

91.1 The report of the Chief Executive, circulated at Pages No. 15-18, asked Members to consider extending the operation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee for a further six months, with the Council's participation as a member authority, from 31 March 2023 to 30 September 2023 under the terms set out in the associated Inter Authority Agreement; to delegate authority to the Director of One Legal to agree and complete the appropriate legal documentation to allow the Inter Authority Agreement to be extended until 30 September 2023; and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for Economic Development/Promotion, to agree the Gloucestershire City Region Board Partnership Terms of Reference for approval by the Council.

91.2 The Chief Executive explained that the intention was that the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee would be stood down when the Gloucestershire City Region Board was established; however, the new City Region Board had been delayed so all Gloucestershire authorities were looking to agree an extension to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee for six months pending the establishment of the Gloucestershire City Region Board.

91.3 A Member sought assurance that, if the Tewkesbury Borough Council representative could not attend the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee meetings, a substitute would be sent in their place. She was advised that this was what currently happened and that would continue to be the case.

91.4 Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the operation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee be extended for a further six months, with the Council's participation as a member authority, from 31 March 2023 to 30 September 2023 under the terms set out in the associated Inter Authority Agreement
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of One Legal to agree and complete the appropriate legal documentation to allow the Inter Authority Agreement to be extended until 30 September 2023.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for Economic Development/Promotion, to agree the Gloucestershire City Region Board Partnership Terms of Reference for approval by the Council.

CL.92 RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PLACE

92.1 The Chief Executive apologised for the late arrival of the report which had been circulated separately as an urgent item. He explained that Officers had been able to conclude the process of the new management structure earlier than anticipated and it would be helpful to agree the way in which the important Executive Director: Place post would be recruited to. He had now gone through the process and agreed all of the roles and the Officers who would slot into them so there would be a full complement of staff in the management structure to take forward apart from this role and that of Associate Director: Planning.

92.2 The Executive Director: Place was a Member appointment and, as such, there was a need to establish a Member Committee and Working Group to take that appointment forward. It was suggested the composition of the Committee and Working Group would be seven Members nominated by Political Group Leaders on the basis of four Conservative Group, one Liberal Democrat Group, one Brockworth First Group and one Tewkesbury and Twyning Independent Group. The membership would be the same for each group and the proposed Terms of Reference for each were set out within the report. The interview process would incorporate a meet and greet opportunity for all Members to participate and provide feedback which was similar to the approach taken during the recent appointment of the new Chief Executive. The recruitment for the Associate Director: Planning would run alongside the Executive Director: Place but was not a Member appointment.

92.3 A Member expressed the view that the timing was unfortunate given the local elections were in May and the new Council would not have input to this senior management role; however, she understood the need to be expedient.

92.4 Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That a Member Appointment Committee be established for the appointment of the Executive Director: Place with the composition and Terms of Reference set out in Paragraphs 3.1-3.3 of the report.
2. That a Member Appointment Working Group be established for the appointment of the Executive Director: Place with the same composition and Terms of Reference set out in Paragraphs 3.1-3.3 of the report.

CL.93 SEPARATE BUSINESS

93.1 The Mayor proposed, and it was

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**CL.94 TEWKESBURY GARDEN TOWN - NEW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
COMPETITION**

(Exempt –Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 –Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

- 94.1 Members considered and agreed to submit an Outline Business Case for the Garden Town Development Corporation to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

CL.95 STAFF RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT PHASES 2 AND 3

(Exempt –Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to any individual)

- 95.1 Members considered and approved phases 2 and 3 of the retention and recruitment project.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm