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## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES** of the Virtual Meeting held Via Skype on Wednesday, 27 January 2021 from 7.00 - 7.22 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Mike Dendor, Alastair Gould (Chairman), Ann Hampshire, Denise Knights, Pete Neal, Julian Saunders, Paul Stephen, Ghlin Whelan (Vice-Chairman) and Tony Winckless (Substitute for Councillor Ken Rowles).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart, Kellie MacKenzie, Bob Pullen and Larissa Reed.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Mike Baldock, Cameron Beart, Steve Davey, Tim Gibson, Angela Harrison, James Hunt, Elliott Jayes, Hannah Perkin, David Simmons and Corrie Woodford.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Benjamin Martin, Ken Rowles and Sarah Stephen.

### **429 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2020 (Minute Nos. 281 – 288) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A Member stated that at the meeting on the 26 November 2020 he had asked for Area Committees to be included for discussion at this meeting. He asked why it was not included in the minutes from that meeting and why it was not on this agenda? The Policy and Performance Officer stated that his request had been included within the minutes under Minute No. 286. He explained that further to the motion considered by Full Council on 6 January 2021 about Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) representatives having seats on Area Committees, KALC had expressed concern that they had not been consulted on the motion. Therefore officers were liaising with KALC for their views on the motion in order that it could come forward for discussion at PDRC as soon as possible.

The Chairman hoped that it might be possible to consider the item at the next scheduled meeting of PDRC on 3 March 2021.

### **430 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

### **431 CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEES WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Elliott Jayes, Chairman of the Cabinet Advisory Committees Working Group, to the meeting.

Councillor Jayes introduced the report which invited the committee to consider the findings of the working group on the details and viability of introducing Cabinet

Advisory Committees, and to approve the report and recommendations for submission to the Cabinet Member for Planning.

Councillor Jayes reported that the group had met three times and had agreed that the three advisory committees should cover the following Cabinet portfolios: health and environment; finance and housing; and community and economic development. They also agreed that the committees should be politically balanced and chaired by a non-Cabinet Member, and each committee should have 15 Members. The effectiveness of the committees should be reviewed after a year.

Members were invited to consider the report and the following points were raised:

- Disappointed that on attending the working group Members were told that it was not under the remit of the group to consider whether the advisory committees should go ahead, and felt like the group were being “dictated” to on what they could discuss;
- paragraph 4.21 on page 9 of the report did not seem to correspond with recommendation e) on page 11 of the report in relation to Deputy Cabinet Members;
- would the advisory committees be open to the public ie. would formal minutes be published?; and
- would be disappointed to see PDRC dissolved.

The Chairman agreed that the wording in paragraph 4.21 needed to be amended so it corresponded with recommendation e) which stated that Deputy Cabinet Members should not be a member of a committee relating to their Cabinet Members portfolio.

The Chairman of the Working Group advised that the advisory committees would be public meetings and formal minutes would be published. They would meet on a quarterly basis, dependent on workload so there was flexibility. He considered that the group had been able to discuss all content whilst considering the advisory committees.

In response to a query, the Policy and Performance Officer stated that dissolution of PDRC was under the remit of the General Purposes Committee to advise on as a constitutional amendment.

The Cabinet Member for Planning thanked the working group for their “excellent” report, and said he would be interested to see how the committees developed.

***Resolved:***

- (1) That the report on Cabinet Advisory Committees for submission to the Cabinet Member for Planning be approved.***

**432 RECORD OF THANKS**

The Chairman gave thanks to the Policy and Performance Officer who would be leaving Swale Borough Council shortly. He thanked him for all his assistance in

administering the PDRC and their working groups. Other Members congratulated him on his work.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel