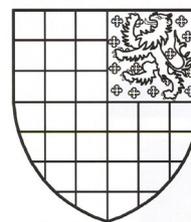


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to consider the matter of **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** held on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019** in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **3:00pm**

**PRESENT** Cllrs J Baah; R Murray and S Murray

**In attendance:** S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*).

**UNWP2018/01 ELECTION of CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Susan Murray was elected to Chair the Working Party for the 2018/19 year

**UNWP2018/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ashby and Makepeace, who both had family commitments.

**UNWP2018/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

**UNWP2018/04 QUESTIONS:** There were none.

**UNWP2018/05 REMIT of the WORKING PARTY:**

Members considered the remit of the Working Party as set by Council:

*Minute FC2018/75 refers:*

**FC2018/75.1** A Working Party be established with three main purposes:-

- A To assess the current activities of the Town Council against the 17 overarching United Nations Sustainability Goals, as well as their sub-categories, to establish what we are doing to help bring about the goals.
- B To look at what further activities the Town Council might promote that would enable Lewes to make its contribution towards achieving the goals.
- C To create a snapshot report against which all future activities can be measured.

**UNWP2018/06 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 Members welcomed Professor Sir Richard Jolly, Honorary Professor and Research Associate of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and Mr Oli Henman, Global Coordinator for the charity Action for Sustainable Development; both of whom were attending due to their personal commitment and passion for, and experience with, the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("the goals"). Prof Jolly is a past Asst General Secretary of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. Mr Henman has worked on a range of international projects with key aid agencies.

2 Mr Henman gave a brief presentation on the context of the Goals, with contributions from Prof Jolly. The 17 goals were described as co-relating, with some 'overlaps', in the broad areas of:

- > Human situation
- > Broad economic approach
- > Environmental context
- > Building inclusive societies

Members were grateful for the elaboration and declared that they now better-understood the application to work of the council.

3 The Working Party conducted an initial broad assessment of the present activities of the Council, and identified key factors of relevance to the 17 goals as:

*1: No poverty* "End poverty in all its forms everywhere."

Key factors: support for foodbanks; grants to organizations *eg* Citizens' Advice

facilities offered at affordable rates; events for disadvantaged groups eg Mayor's Christmas party.

2: *Zero hunger* "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture"

Key factors: support for foodbanks; provision of allotments.

3: *Good health and well-being for people* "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Key factors: provision of leisure/community/recreation/cultural facilities; Neighbourhood Plan; grants; support for National Blood Service; support for dementia-friendly town initiative; Re-Fill scheme; Lewes athletics track; defibrillators

4: *Quality education* "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

Key factors: grants; support for U3A; exhibitions; 'Our Pictures' education pack and 'gallery days' programme; Lewes Priory; heritage plaques scheme with FoL.

5: *Gender equality* "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

Key factors: promoted 100yrs of women's suffrage; event for 100 girls; draft policy on equality & diversity; equal opps employer – unified job evaluation.

6: *Clean water and sanitation* "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."

Key factors: ReFill scheme member; primary planning considerations of ecosystem services in Neighbourhood Plan.

7: *Affordable and clean energy* "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."

Key factors: Dedicated financial reserve; MCC refurbishment to include ground-source heat pump and PV panels; proposed solar panel array at Pells.

8: *Decent work and economic growth* "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all."

Key factors: Living Wage employer; grants; Citizens' Advice; support for High Street Traders Association and Chamber of Commerce (CoC).

9: *Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure* "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation".

Key factors: Planning consultations; Neighbourhood Plan; support for High Street Traders Association and CoC.

10: *Reducing inequalities* "Reduce income inequality within and among countries."

Key factors: LW employer and LW FriendlyFunder

11: *Sustainable cities and communities* "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable."

Key factors: Neighbourhood Plan; Cycle paths support; local bus service grants; planning consultation.

12: *Responsible consumption and production* "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Key factors: Plastic-free Lewes support; all LTC facilities/services efficient as practicable; Town Ranger issued with bicycle.

13: *Climate action* "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy."

Key factors: all LTC facilities/services efficient as practicable; Neighbourhood Plan principles.

14: *Life below water* "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development."

Key factors: Plastic-free Lewes support; ReFill scheme member; Neighbourhood Plan principles

15: *Life on land* "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss."

Key factors: Neighbourhood Plan principles; Landport Bottom management; management of LTC land/trees *etc*; 'Swift-box' policy; highway verge policy

16: *Peace, justice and strong institutions* "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

Key factors: International Peace Day recognition; Holocaust Memorial events; "Magic Circle" peace garden project; Town Meeting; Councillor Surgeries; Website; Town Twinning support.

17: *Partnerships for the goals* "Strengthen the means of implementation & revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development."

Key factors: non-specific – work with partners at all levels.

4 Prof Jolly stated that he had been surprised and very impressed, as the discussion had progressed, with the range of activities and relationships involved in the Council's operation. He suggested that once a report was written for Council, a copy was sent to schools and personally introduced *eg* by the Mayor or a Member presenting to a school class or assembly. He prompted good press coverage and perhaps a feature article for the website. Unsure how practical it might be for the Town Council, he was also keen on the concept of a Sustainable Development Goals Ambassador, perhaps working with Lewes District Council as they have direct involvement with such aspects as housing.

5 It was noted that 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 has been designated as an International Day of Action for the goals, and it was suggested that this should be embraced, perhaps with a schools project.

**UNWP2018/07 CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Members felt that a 'baseline' had been established, against which further assessments could be compared. The Council appeared surprisingly well-engaged with the goals, albeit unconsciously, and this foundation could be built-upon in a number of areas. It was recognized that elections were imminent and it would be proposed to Council that it recommends the successor administration in May 2019 to re-constitute the Working Party to allow it to conclude its mandate.

**UNWP2018/08** There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked everyone for their contribution. *The meeting closed at 5:35pm*

Signed ..... date .....