



Avon Local Councils' Association
Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting Wednesday 29th
July 2020

1. Present. Kathy Thomas (Chairman), Gail Boyle, Dick Whittington, Geoff Coombs, Mike Drew, Joanna Von Tonder, Rhiannon Prys-Owen, Noel Walter, Josie Pownall, Dawn Drury, Gareth Thomas, Dave Johnson(deputising for Jeremy Blatchford), Jayne Stansfield
In attendance Deborah White (Chief Officer).
Apologies. Cheryl Kirby, Jeremy Blatchford
Welcome to new members – Gareth Thomas and Josie Pownall
2. The minutes of the meeting on 21st May 2020 were confirmed as correct.
3. ALCA Finance Reports (amended due to CV19)
Explanations of the need to replace the Hon Treasurer role with a paid position, the reason for the reserves and training being used to cover core costs. The current finance reports were received and noted
4. A reserves policy was AGREED as:
“ALCA shall maintain a level of Reserves, excluding that earmarked for particular use, of 50% of the Budgeted expenditure for the year. If Reserves are out of balance then the Regional Committee shall produce Budgets that will achieve the Target within two years.”
5. There was a wide ranging discussion on a proposed budget setting and subscription increase proposal for 2021/22 which included:
 - That 50% of budgeted expenditure may be too low
 - The need to raise income to cover the staff resource that has been provided by a volunteer for 12 years
 - Training income currently having to subsidise core costs substantially
 - Increase in subs to cover core cost so as to allow provision of councillor training free of charge to improve overall council standards
 - Succession planning
 - Whether to have incremental increases over several years or to go for a one hit rise
 - How the CV19 deficit across all organisations may make it a difficult time to introduce
 - A break down of the additional funding requirement would be useful – what does ALCA need the money for?
 - Ideas on how the tolerance of significant increase might be sold to the membership

It was AGREED that the Resources Committee would note the above comments and work up a proposal for consideration by the Regional Committee prior to the AGM On 10th October 2020

6. Sector Issues

- Remote / physical meetings – opening Halls and Community Centres
The efforts of ACRE were recognised and the use of the ALCA network to also target clerks has worked well.
- Parish Meetings NALC have seen sight of draft changes to the legislation to allow Parish Meetings to be held remotely from 1st August 2020

7. Internal organisational Issues

- Resources Committee Report
Recent meetings set up to support the CO. Equipping the CO to deliver training remotely, banking arrangements, succession planning and budgeting for the future have featured in discussions.
- CALC development and future planning
A questionnaire has been circulated to get this work started. It links to exercises across the SW to improve standards.
- AGM planning
Will be kept to a minimum duration this year. One speaker (NALC?) and the formal business only.
Formal notification to the membership will be by 15th August 2020
Annual Report and Agenda to the membership by 12th September 2020 – will need RC member input – reports etc.,

8. NALC Report

Outlined in Chief Executives bulletins, financial impact from cancelled conferences, remote meetings, subs raised to 7.42p per elector cap at £1,900.

SWCLCA / COF Report

All remote – quarterly format retained with extra briefings e.g. sometimes just NALC Reps. or Chairmen.

SW County Officers supported each other with extraordinary amount of information that needed to go out to members. Meeting will move from weekly to fortnightly

9. Area Groups AGM's and forward plans

- North Somerset - Health and Wellbeing meeting 29th July, aims to build on the networks set up during covid 19 to support communities.
- Bath & NE Somerset – Membership consulted on 10% increase in subs in next 3 years, appointments to external bodies. No Area Secretary at present
- South Gloucestershire – successful AGM and 4 reps. appointed. Discussion and poll on retaining remote meeting option (MHCLG seem veering towards returning to physical meetings only post May 2021)

10. Any Other Business

11. To agree the date and location of the next meeting
CO to set up a Doodle Poll for end of August date.