



**DRAFT MINUTES – FOR APPROVAL AT 2017 AGM**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND SENIOR MANAGERS (ALACE)**

Held at The Trouville Hotel, Bournemouth at 12.30pm on Wednesday 6 July 2016

Present:

Julie Beilby, Tonbridge & Malling BC	Jan Britton, Sandwell
David Cook, Kettering BC	Scott Cridgington, Stevenage BC
Manjeet Gill, West Lindsey BC	Mark Hall, Oadby & Wigston BC
David Hughes, Gravesham BC	Jerry Hutchinson, North Warwickshire BC
Jeremy Jaroszek, Erewash BC	David Kennedy, Northampton BC
Tracey Lee, Plymouth City Council	Fiona Marshall, Maldon DC
Merran McRae, Calderdale Council	Ian Miller, Wyre Forest DC
John O'Brien, London Councils	Nigel Pearson, East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Pav Ramewal, Sevenoaks DC	Martin Reeves, Coventry City Council
Michel Saminaden, Welwyn Hatfield	Karen Satterford, Wycombe DC
John Sellgren, Newcastle BC	Philip Simpkins, Bedford
Alistair Stewart, Shepway DC	Rob Tinlin, Southend
Nick Walkley, LB of Haringey	Kim Webber, West Lancashire BC
Mark Williams, East Devon DC	
<u>Consultants</u>	
Cheryl Miller	Pete Morris
Roger Morris	Richard Penn
John Schultz	

1 The Chairman, Rob Tinlin, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Amar Dave (Honorary Secretary), Charlie Parker, a number of other members and Peter Bounds (consultant).

2 The Chairman said that challenges within local government continued. Few chief executives leave because of competency. Members continued to benefit from the valued support of consultants in dealing with difficulties, although this perhaps involved more directors than chief executives. Cheryl Miller had been very busy with advice and support on pensions, and it would be necessary to look at how much support could be provided for each member for "free" in future. There had been a great deal of work on legislation and consultations, such as on the £95k exit payment cap, although the Government was consistent in ignoring representations. A new edition of the handbook of terms and conditions had been prepared, including the replacement of a designated independent person by an independent investigator, and this work had been accepted by the Local Government Employers.

3 The Chairman thanked the consultants for their work, and welcomed Pete Morris who would be joining them to assist with pensions work. He thanked Michel Saminaden and Amar Dave for their work, and Amar was stepping down after two years in the role of Honorary Secretary. Finally he reminded the AGM that, a year ago, he had announced his intention to stand down and was hoping that a successor would soon come forward.

4 The AGM elected the following Officers and Council members for 2016/17:

Chairman	Rob Tinlin (Southend-on-Sea)
Vice-Chairman	Tracey Lee (Plymouth)
Hon Treasurer	Michel Saminaden (Welwyn Hatfield)
Hon Secretary	Ian Miller (Wyre Forest)
Counties	2 vacancies
Districts	David Cook (Kettering) David Hughes (Gravesham) John Campbell (Wellingborough) ** Mark Williams (East Devon) Alistair Stewart (Shepway) Jerry Hutchinson (North Warwickshire) 1 vacancy
London	Nick Walkley (Haringey) Charlie Parker (Westminster)
Mets & Unitaries	Merran McRae (Calderdale) 1 vacancy
Scotland	Sally Loudon (Argyll & Bute) – subject to confirmation that she would still serve now that she had moved to COSLA **
Wales	Alison Ward (Torfaen)
Northern Ireland	1 vacancy
Chief Officers	1 vacancy to be nominated from the Association of Directors of Children's Services

*\*\* post meeting note: John Campbell and Sally Loudon subsequently stood down from the Council, leaving vacancies to be addressed by the Hon Secretary in consultation with Council.*

5 The Honorary Treasurer introduced his report. ALACE had just over 300 members but the decline in subscription income and increase in costs meant that an increase in subscriptions was needed in order to avoid drawing further on reserves. Since October new members have been required to pay two years' subscription on joining. The following proposals were agreed: to approve the annual accounts for 2015; to set the subscription at £360 a year with effect from 1 January 2017; and to establish a small working group to look at the potential for charging for some advice e.g. on pensions. In response to a question about whether the subscription could be collected by direct debit monthly rather than annually, Michel explained that this was technically possible but would require much more work. He would look at the possibility of collecting the subscription in two payments a year.

6 John Schultz introduced the consultants' annual report. There had been an increase in cases, with nearly half of ALACE members seeking support. In response to a question about the £95k exit payment cap, it was not yet known when it would be introduced or what the detail would be. Members urged that ALACE should continue to fight the proposals, in particular the inclusion of pension strain within the cap. There had been good joint work with other unions on this issue already and that was expected to continue when draft regulations were issued. Pressure would be kept up on the Treasury about the requirement for a lengthy consultation period, no response having yet been received to a letter on that topic sent two months earlier.

7 Cheryl Miller introduced her report about the work and advice on pensions. Pete Morris had joined the team of consultants to support work in this area, having recently retired as director of the Greater Manchester pension fund. ALACE offered very good value advice compared to what members would have to pay if they went direct to pension firms or financial advisors. The contracts with Hymans and Close were being refreshed. This would look at the range of services being offered, and the possibility of regional briefings. As a result of tax changes, anyone still in the pension scheme will have lost fixed protection. Members present stressed the importance of acting to review their personal position, and the value of ALACE's support on this: it was a key part of the ALACE offer. Cheryl was thanked for her work.

8 Roger Morris introduced the report on the new rules on statutory protection. Peter Bounds was thanked for his work on the revised handbook, which it was planned to finalise and issue shortly. Chief executives need to have good awareness of the procedure, in particular appendix 6, and appendix 8 in respect of grievances. An agreed list of independent investigators is to be drawn up with the Local Government Employers – any suggestions for names should be sent to Richard Penn. Concerns were raised about these issues in Mayoral settings. ALACE will work "off line" with metropolitan chief executives, and would also share advice in respect of Bedford about how a directly elected Mayor has no involvement in senior appointments.

9 The minutes of the AGM held on 1 July 2015 were agreed. Rob Tinlin was thanked for his work as Chairman. The meeting closed at 1.30pm.

Ian Miller  
Honorary Secretary, ALACE  
August 2016