

**COUNCIL**  
21st March, 2007

**PRESENT** – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Baldwin, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Foster, Francis, Harker, Haszeldine, Holmes, Hughes, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lawton, Lewis, Long, D.A. Lyonette, J.M. Lyonette, Maybrey, Newall, Nutt, Dr. Reynolds, Richmond, Roberts, F.S. Robson, S. Robson, Ruck, A.J. Scott, Mrs. Scott, Stenson, Swainston, Mrs. Swift, Thistlethwaite, Vasey-Smith, J.C. Vasey, L. Vasey, G.B. Walker, Wallis, Williams and Wilson. (41)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Bristow, Mrs. Brown, Galletley, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Heaney, Hutchinson, Johnson, S. Jones, Lee, Maddison and McEwan. (12)

**96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**97. MAYORAL PETITION** – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) on the result of the validation of the mayoral petition and requested consideration as to whether a voluntary referendum should be held.

The submitted report provided Members with the total number of signatures submitted, the signatures excluded, the reasons for the exclusions and the number of validated entries. The report stated that there were insufficient signatures to validate the petition and therefore a referendum would not automatically be triggered. The report outlined legislation whereby a Local Authority may hold a referendum on a voluntary basis, recommended a date for such a voluntary referendum and provided reasons for the recommended date.

Discussion ensued on the content of the report.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That this Council hold a referendum for an Elected Mayor on a voluntary basis.

(b) That the referendum be held on 27th September 2007.

**REASONS** – (a) The number of signatures on the petition fell just short of the required number.

(b) A date outside the school holidays and away from the start of the school term will maximise turnout and minimise disruption to parents and children.