

Minutes

Cabinet

8th April 2013



These minutes principally record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. A webcast of the meeting is available at www.braintree.gov.uk.

Present:

Portfolio	Cabinet Member	Present
Leader of the Council	Councillor G Butland (Chairman)	Yes
People and Participation	Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Yes
	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
Performance and Efficiency	Councillor D L Bebb	Yes
	Councillor J T McKee	Yes
Place	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Yes
	Councillor R G S Mitchell	Yes
Planning and Property	Councillor Lady Newton	Yes
	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Yes
Prosperity and Growth	Councillor C Siddall (Deputy Leader of the Council)	Yes

Councillor Barlow, Leader of the Labour Group, and Councillor Dr Evans, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, were also present as invitees of the Leader.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Abbott, Leader of the Green Group, also an invitee of the Leader.

The following Councillors were also in attendance: Councillors Canning, Horner, Ramage, Shelton and Shepherd.

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:

Councillor Beavis declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 5c – Payments to Town and Parish Councils, as a member of Sible Hedingham Parish Council and Clerk to Gosfield and Greenstead Green Parish Councils.

Councillor Butland declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 5c – Payments to Town and Parish Councils, as a member of Great Notley Parish Council.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, all Members remained in the meeting for all items, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the debate and decision thereon.

104. **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no statements made or questions asked.

105. **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th February 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

106. **LEADER'S UPDATE**

The Leader of the Council reported on the following matters:-

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has started its 6 week consultation on the number of Councillors representing the Authority. He hoped as many people as possible would take part in the consultation.
- The Essex Partnership Board had been established to oversee implementation of the whole Essex Community Budgets programme. Councillor Butland has been selected to represent Tendring District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Braintree District Council on the Board.

107. **ANNUAL PLAN 2013-14**

INFORMATION: It was agreed that the target on prosecutions against rogue traders would be removed although the Council would still wish to see the efficient and effective prosecution of rogue traders as appropriate.

DECISION: That the Annual Plan 2013-14 be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To agree the Council's key priorities for 2013-14.

108. **PAYMENTS TO TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS**

DECISION:

1. That the Parish Support Grant be abolished and replaced with the Localism Fund.
2. That the Localism Fund for 2013/14 of £397,190, as outlined in Appendix C of the report, be approved.
3. That, in future years, the amount paid will increase, or reduce in line with the funding received by this Council from the annual Central Government grant settlement.
4. That the Agency arrangements continue as now on the basis of Service Level Agreements.

REASON FOR DECISION: To provide Parish and Town Councils with funding to:

- Ensure they are no worse off as a result of Council Tax support changes
- Partly address the issues of double taxation
- Ensure simplicity, clarity and affordability
- Allow them to spend on local priorities

109. **ASSET MANAGEMENT - 2013 TO 2016 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

DECISION: That the 2013 to 2016 Asset Management Plan be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve the 2013 to 2016 Asset Management Plan.

110. **CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY OF THE COUNCIL'S LAND AND PROPERTY INVESTMENT POLICIES**

DECISION: That the response to the Scrutiny of the Council's Land and Property Investment Policies be agreed and actions already taken be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To consider and respond to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

111. **REPORT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PROSPERITY PROJECT BOARD AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

DECISION: That the terms of reference and governance structure for the Prosperity Project Board, as outlined in the report and Appendix 1, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve the governance structure and terms of reference of the Project Board and Officer Project Team.

112. **LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME**

DECISION: That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the development of a Local Authority Mortgage Scheme for the Braintree District area, in conjunction with Essex County Council, be agreed.
2. That the following local criteria for the scheme be approved:
 - All post codes wholly within the Braintree District
 - The deposit and indemnity will be a maximum of £2million (including a maximum of £1million contribution from Essex County Council), with the Council's share funded in the capital programme, financed by cash available due to excess legacy borrowing above the Council's Capital Financing Requirement.
 - The maximum loan to value is set at £250,000, resulting in the maximum indemnity per mortgage of £50,000.

3. That an acceptable legal opinion letter is obtained by the Monitoring Officer and that the Council indemnify the Monitoring Officer in respect of any personal liability in respect of this matter, as required by the lender.
4. That the current Treasury Management Policy be revised to permit a deposit of up to seven years with an approved LAMS lender, and the Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to state that any capital expenditure incurred under a LAMS will not require MRP to be made as resources will be repaid by the lender at the end of the scheme.
5. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance) and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Performance and Efficiency to finalise documentation and ancillary matters and the details of the scheme after all necessary due diligence is completed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To provide a scheme for first-time buyers, who can afford a mortgage but not a deposit of 25% of the property value, to buy a property in the District. The scheme supports the Council's housing strategy by improving choice over "affordable" housing solutions, as well as bringing wider economic benefits.

113. **THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2012/13**

INFORMATION: It was agreed that a few lines would be added to the report setting out the Council's Health and Safety responsibilities and objectives.

DECISION: That the Third Quarter Performance Management Report 2012/13 be noted and endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform the Cabinet of the performance of the Council.

114. **CABINET MEMBERS' UPDATES**

INFORMATION: There were no updates.

115. **REFERENCE FROM THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUB-COMMITTEE – 26TH MARCH 2013 – OPEN SPACES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN**

INFORMATION: It was agreed that Members forward any detailed comments on the Open Spaces Action Plan to Stephen Wenlock, Landscape Architect.

DECISION: That the 2013 Update to the Open Spaces Action Plan, as amended, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve the Open Spaces Action Plan.

116. **MINUTES FROM CABINET SUB GROUPS**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 13th February and 26th March 2013 be noted.

117. **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

DECISION: That the delegated decisions set out in the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: The reasons for each decision can be found in the individual Delegated Decisions.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.38pm.

G BUTLAND
(Leader)