

Minutes

Cabinet

18th October 2021



These minutes principally record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. A recording of the meeting is available at <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

Present:

Portfolio	Cabinet Member	Present
Overall Strategy	Councillor G Butland (Leader of the Council)	Yes
Innovative Environment		
Finance and Corporate Transformation	Councillor J McKee	Yes
The Environment	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Apologies
Connecting People, Places and Prosperity		
Economic Growth	Councillor T Cunningham (Deputy Leader)	Yes
Housing, Assets and Skills	Councillor K Bowers	Yes
Planning and Infrastructure	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Supporting Our Communities		
Health and Wellbeing	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
Communities	Councillor F Ricci	Yes

Present as Cabinet Support Members: Councillor Mrs I Parker (Supporting Our Communities) and Councillor I Pritchard (Innovative Environment). Apologies received from Councillor J Wrench (Connecting People, Places and Prosperity).

Present as Invitees of the Leader: None. Apologies for absences were given by Councillor J Abbott (Leader of the Green and Independent Group), Councillor D Mann (Leader of the Labour Group) and Councillor Mrs J Pell (Leader of Halstead Residents Association).

SIR DAVID AMESS MP

Councillor Butland expressed the Council's deep sadness at the events which took place in Southend on 15th October 2021 that led to the death of Sir David Amess MP. In recognition of his tireless campaign, the Queen had given consent to Southend becoming a city in tribute to Sir David Amess. In order to acknowledge the tremendous public service which he had given, those present at the meeting observed a moment's silence in memory of Sir David Amess.

26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:-

Councillor G Butland declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as an Elected Member at Essex County Council (ECC), as ECC is likely to be a key partner in the advances of the Bouncing Back Together Plan.

Councillor T Cunningham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as an Elected Member at ECC, as ECC is likely to be a key partner in the advances of the Bouncing Back Together Plan.

27 **MINUTES**

DECISION: The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th September 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked, or statements made.

29 **BOUNCING BACK TOGETHER – OUR PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT OCTOBER 2021 TO MARCH 2023**

INFORMATION: Councillor Butland explained that the intension was to expand on the various aspects in the Plan and for Cabinet Members to discuss those areas that fell within their portfolio. However, given the circumstances it was not appropriate to do that this evening. The Plan is available on the Council's website should anyone wish to view it.

Consideration was given to Braintree District Council's (the Council) Annual Plan for the District titled "Bouncing Back Together". This covered the period October 2021 up to March 2023.

It was recognised that due to the pandemic, the Council's approach to the Annual Plan had changed. Following a number of challenging circumstances, the Council had demonstrated agility and adaptability in responding to the needs of residents, communities and businesses.

In order for the Council's business planning process to be able to adapt accordingly as a result of the challenges faced during the pandemic over the past 18 months, the previous Annual Plan had been extended to the end of September 2021. This had allowed services adequate time to assess and consider the actions they were able to deliver over the upcoming months and years so that the priorities of the Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 could be delivered. A further 18 month Plan was required to take the Council through the recovery process from October 2021 to the end of the current administration.

The projects in the Plan had been or would be considered as part of the annual budget setting process. Budgets had been approved in February 2021 and would be approved again in February 2022. It was noted that additional budgets would need to be agreed during the 18 month timeframe of the new Plan, as well as new legislation introduced and reviews of services and service plans taking place. As part of the

project management process, each project's budget would be regularly monitored and reviewed.

Cabinet appreciated that the Plan would need to be reviewed regularly to take into account any required changes and would remain flexible enough to include additional actions throughout the duration of the Plan. Corporate Management Team meetings would be held quarterly to review and introduce new actions.

At the time of the meeting, targets had not been set for all performance indicators due to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic. It was understood that performance targets and actions would be reviewed on a quarterly basis, ensuring that they remain challenging and achievable as recovery from the pandemic begins. The actions and performance measures were aligned to the corporate objectives: Connecting People and Places, Enhancing our Environment, Supporting our Communities, Promoting Prosperity, Delivering and Innovating.

The Council is accountable for its performance against the priorities of the Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 and the Plan enabled the public to see how the Council intended to deliver services.

Councillor Butland expressed his thanks to colleagues in the production of the Plan.

DECISION: That Cabinet:

- a) Approved the Council's Plan for the District titled "Bouncing Back Together" over the next 18 months from October 2021 up to March 2023.
- b) Agreed the proposed Council's key actions and performance measures up to March 2023.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Annual Plan covers the period October 2021 up to March 2023 and proposes the Council's actions and performance measures to support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy 2020 – 2024. The Plan also provided the performance framework for managing the delivery of the actions and priorities by regularly reviewing the activity and achievements against it and reporting on the progress on a quarterly basis to Cabinet.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 7.22pm.

COUNCILLOR G BUTLAND
(Leader of the Council)