

Minutes

Cabinet

1st September 2009



Present:

Cabinet Members	Portfolio	Present
Councillor G Butland	Leader	Yes
Councillor N R H O Harley	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Culture	Yes
Councillor Mrs J C Beavis	Customers & Communication	Yes
Councillor M C M Lager	Efficiency & Resources	Yes
Councillor Lady Newton	Housing & Well-Being	Yes
Councillor Mrs J W Schmitt	Communities	Yes
Councillor R G Walters	Environment and Sustainability	Yes

Deputy Cabinet Members	Portfolio	Present
Councillor D L Bebb	Customers & Communication	Yes
Councillor Mrs E Edey	Communities	Yes
Councillor N McCrea	Enterprise & Culture	Yes
Councillor J McKee	Efficiency & Resources	Apologies
Councillor R G S Mitchell	Environment & Sustainability	Apologies
Councillor Mrs C Sandbrook	Efficiency & Resources	Apologies
Councillor C Siddall	Leader's Portfolio	Yes
Councillor Mrs G Spray	Housing & Well-Being	Yes
Councillor T Wilkinson	Enterprise & Culture	Yes

The following Councillors were also present as invitees of the Leader

Councillor R Bolton, Chairman of Halstead Local Committee, Dr R L Evans, Leader of the Labour Group, and Councillor M G Gage, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Leader of Halstead Residents' Association.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S M Walsh, Chairman of Braintree Local Committee.

Councillors E R Lynch, D Mann and A F Shelton were also in attendance

51 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lager declared a personal interest as a member of Witham Town Council in Agenda Item 7a, CCTV in Halstead, as their CCTV facility was referred to during the discussion and in the agenda papers.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct all Members remained in the meeting for all

the items, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the debate and decision thereon.

52 **QUESTION TIME**

There was no questions asked or statements made.

53 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

54 **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 1 – 2009/10**

Councillor Lager, Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources, presented the Quarterly Performance Management report for the period 1st April to 30th June 2009. Reference was made to the risk on an adverse variance of £0.2m on the projected outturn for the 2009/10 year end in the General Fund, and it was noted that variances will be monitored.

DECISION: That the Quarterly Performance Management report for Quarter 1 - 2009/10 be endorsed.

55 **BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS 2010/11**

Cabinet received the proposed process and timetable for undertaking consultation with Councillors, the public and stakeholders in preparation for setting the priorities in the budget for 2010/11. The Budgetary Consultation Process for 2010/11 includes Cabinet Members being 'on the streets' to gather public opinion, and the reports also include details of a Simalto modelling grid exercise.

Members welcomed the customer focused consultation process, and the use of the People's Panel. However, some concern was expressed to the cost of part of the Simalto methods. It was agreed that the consultation process with the 'hard to reach' groups was an area to be addressed so to provide consistency with the equalities policies of the Council. A consultation event involving each Local Committee in Braintree, Halstead and Witham during September 2009 will involve Parish Councils, local business representatives, and the local community.

DECISION: That a simplified process and timetable as presented in the Appendix to the report be worked on and tested prior to any major consultation exercise.

56 **TOWN CENTRES MANAGEMENT**

Councillor Harley, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Culture, presented proposals for the appointment of a Town Centres Development Manager for the district. The post will be funded from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) fund, and be a temporary position for 12 months (then subject to review). The proposed initiative will focus on promotion of each town centre by regeneration and development, and to promote the local markets. It will involve Business Development Services (BDS) and the effectiveness of new measures will be monitored, e.g. through footfall counts. The management responsibility for the Market Service is to be transferred from Operations to the Economic Development Unit as part of the proposals.

Cabinet was reassured that the post of Town Centres Development Manager would require specialist experience to provide a fair division between the three towns of the district, and comparison to other successful similar posts would be taken into account when making the appointment.

Furthermore, it was requested that Local Committees be consulted on proposals for town centres as some issues are not controlled by the District Council, e.g. car parking or the local market in Halstead. Results should be achieved through using 'SMART' targets and be judged at the end of the 12 months through performance and by addressing local people's needs.

It was recognised that distinct differences exist between the three towns of the district, and the local press should be used where possible to assist new incentives. As part of the feedback process the opinion of local shop owners and users should be sought.

DECISION:

- (1) That the appointment of a suitably qualified Town Centres Development Manager be agreed. The post is a pilot project for a period up to 12 months and will be based in the Council's Economic Development Unit.
- (2) That funding from the LABGI fund is used to finance the post.
- (3) That the management responsibility for the Market Service be transferred from Operations to the Economic Development Unit.

57 SUB NATIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION

The Leader of the Council referred to proposals for a Leaders' Board as the successor body to the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) from 1st April 2010. A copy of the resolution from the EERA meeting held on 17th July 2009 was included as an appendix to the report, alongside a letter from the Chief Executive of EERA explaining the process. Councillor Siddall will represent the Council at the Council Leaders' meeting on 18th September 2009, and reports will be made on a regular basis as the East of England Leaders' Board is developed.

DECISION: That the proposals for a Leaders' Board as part of the revised regional governance resulting from the Sub National Review be supported.

58 CCTV IN HALSTEAD

Councillor Bolton, Chairman of Halstead Local Committee, referred to the letters between the Leader of the Council and the Mayor of Halstead Town Council, and presented the recommendations from the meeting of Halstead Local Committee held on 8th July 2009.

Councillor Lager advised that the results of the Place Survey indicate a fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Halstead, and that the presence of CCTV on the High Street may reduce these anxieties and the perception of crime. The proposed system, the tender from Siemens, and the cost of monitoring the cameras were referred to. Councillor Lager stated that Halstead requires a simpler CCTV system with no monitoring service, and involve a local recording facility to provide evidence when required. In his opinion, the specification of the system proposed and the tendering exercise should both be revisited by Council officers.

Councillor Mrs Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Communities, reminded members of the initial decision for Braintree District Council to provide four CCTV cameras for Halstead, and to include the monitoring costs. Halstead Town Council had requested a further three cameras and, it was considered, they would be responsible for the running costs. Reference was made to latest statistics for Halstead during the April to June period compared to last year and a reduction over all crimes of 26.5% had been realised, and 13.7% on anti-social behaviour incidents. Another report indicated that, in London, and in line with government reports, CCTV was only considered effective in car parking areas.

Councillor Mrs Schmitt continued to advise that the actual costs of the three additional cameras requested by Halstead Town Council amounts to £41,000, and not £16,500 as previously reported, as the BT telecom links had not been taken into account.

Councillor M Gage in response stated that Halstead Town Council had not agreed to being involved with CCTV provision, and that it was Halstead Local Committee that had requested a further three cameras. With regard to specification of the CCTV system it was also noted that Halstead Town Council, Halstead Local Committee, or the Halstead Town Centre Strategy Panel had not been approached. The Halstead Town Council do not have funds, or the ability to monitor the CCTV system, and limited staff resources.

The Leader of the Council considered that people in Halstead live in a safe area, and that the initial undertaking for four CCTV cameras in Halstead should be confirmed. The four cameras should be sited in appropriate positions following consultation with the Police and, as the cost of monitoring cameras on a 24/7 basis is high, the monitoring of those cameras will be the same for Halstead as it is in Braintree. Any further cameras should be left for local people to determine and fund. The result of installation of CCTV cameras in the town centre vicinity of Halstead could be a future issue for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to determine if value for money had been achieved.

The Chairman of Halstead Local Committee concurred with the proposal.

DECISION:

- (1) That four CCTV cameras are provided for Halstead town and be strategically placed following consultation with the local Police.
- (2) That the monitoring and management of the cameras in Halstead be on the same basis as the CCTV provision supplied in Braintree town.

59 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARDS

INFORMATION: Cabinet noted that there were no recommendations from the Programme Boards.

60 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

INFORMATION: There was no report from the Chief Executive.

61 BRAINTREE DISTRICT STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & CRIME AND DISORDER ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Cabinet was reminded of the statutory requirement of the Crime and Disorder

Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to provide a Strategic Assessment and to review the annual Partnership Plan. It was noted that the Partnership Plan had previously been produced by consultants, and will now be undertaken by an analyst funded by the CDRP. Reference was made to the six priorities resulting from the Braintree District Strategic Assessment, and the Sub Committees that support each priority and many events are held during the year, including road shows and working in schools. The Braintree CDRP has recently become the best in their Family Group of similar CDRP's (from Home Office statistics).

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

- for 'Hate Crime' not being considered a 'priority' for the Braintree District. Members were advised that this priority was compulsory
- that other higher priorities were appropriate for the Braintree area, e.g. crime on industrial estates, thefts from building sites, that impacts on business and resources. Members noted this issue will be considered at the next Responsible Authority Group (CDRP) meeting, and representatives from Witham Industrial Watch could be invited
- that crime in the rural community also impacts on business
- the importance of partnership working, and opportunities in other areas, e.g. Neighbourhood Action Panels
- the consequence of people's actions and the problems in our societies, e.g. on anti social behaviour, and offenders being aware they will not be prosecuted
- corrections to the report at (i) Item 5, Hate Crime priority and 'disabilities'; (ii) Item 6, third sentence '...that the partnership has not been addressing.....'

DECISION: That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:-**

That the decision made by the Responsible Authority Group (CDRP) agreeing the Annual Partnership Plan 2009 be supported with the amendment (suggested to the CDRP) for business crime in both urban and rural areas to be included as a priority.

62 **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

DECISION: That the following delegated decisions be noted

- Councillor Harley approved the Middleton Village Design Statement as a material planning consideration
- Councillor Lager and Councillor Lady Newton agreed to the transfer of College House, Braintree to the Family Mosaic Housing Association.

63 **OTHER ISSUES TO BE NOTED**

The Leader of the Council advised on the following issues

- The Greenfields Community Housing Annual General Meeting will take place on 17th September 2009, and the Cabinet Member for Housing & Well-Being (or her deputy) will attend to use the 'golden vote' on behalf of the Council (if needed).
- That the Cabinet meeting on 12th October 2009 has a significant agenda and will comprise of a number of decisions that have impact on the district over future years. All Cabinet attendees were requested to attend, with the meeting commencing at **6.00pm**. The appropriate notification of the change of time will be publicised.

- The result of the Planning Delivery Grant is imminent; Members will be advised when the information is received.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.26pm

G BUTLAND
(Leader)

