

Minutes

Council Meeting

25th February 2019



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

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
Councillor J Abbott	Yes	Councillor G Maclure	Yes
Councillor Mrs J Allen	Yes	Councillor D Mann	Yes
Councillor M Banthorpe	Yes	Councillor J McKee	Yes
Councillor P Barlow	Yes	Councillor R Mitchell	Apologies
Councillor J Baugh	Yes	Councillor Mrs J Money	Yes
Councillor D Bebb	Yes	Councillor Lady Newton	Apologies
Councillor K Bowers	Yes	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Apologies
Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint	Yes	Councillor Mrs I Parker	Yes
Councillor G Butland	Yes	Councillor Mrs J Pell	Yes
Councillor S Canning	Apologies	Councillor R Ramage	Yes
Councillor J Coleridge	Yes	Councillor F Ricci	Apologies
Councillor J Cunningham	Yes	Councillor B Rose	Yes
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	Yes	Councillor Miss V Santomauro (Chairman)	Yes
Councillor T Cunningham	Yes	Councillor Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
Councillor M Dunn	Yes	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Yes
Councillor J Elliott	Yes	Councillor P Schwier	Yes
Councillor T Everard	Yes	Councillor C Siddall	Yes
Councillor Mrs D Garrod	Yes	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Councillor J Goodman	Yes	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
Councillor A Hensman	Yes	Councillor Miss M Thorogood	Apologies
Councillor P Horner	Yes	Councillor R van Dulken	Yes
Councillor D Hume	Yes	Councillor Mrs L Walters	Yes
Councillor H Johnson	Yes	Councillor Mrs S Wilson	Yes
Councillor Mrs A Kilmartin (Vice-Chairman)	Yes	Vacancy	
Councillor S Kirby	Yes		

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. The meeting may be viewed in full via the webcast of the meeting on the Council's website at www.braintree.gov.uk.

72 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10th December 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:-

Councillor Mrs Bowers-Flint declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 (1) – 'Council Budget and Council Tax 2019-20 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23,' as a non-remunerated member of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd.

Councillor Butland declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 (1) – 'Council Budget and Council Tax 2019-20 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23,' as he was a non-remunerated Director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd.

Councillor Mrs Scattergood declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 (1) – 'Council Budget and Council Tax 2019-20 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23,' as members of her family had objected to the proposals made under the North Essex Garden Communities Ltd. As funding for the Local Plan and garden communities was included within the Budget but not related specifically to the garden communities, Councillor Mrs Scattergood elected to remain in the meeting.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members remained in the meeting and took part in the debate and decision when the Items were considered, unless stated otherwise.

74 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There was one statement made which related primarily to the Council's commitment to the garden communities, as well as its decision to pursue Option 2 of the Planning Inspector in July 2018 and the subsequent impacts of this on the adoption of the Local Plan.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

75 **CHAIRMAN'S AND LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman's announcements covered the following:

Mrs Ruth Mayes

The Chairman was saddened to report that a former Councillor, Mrs Ruth Mayes, had passed away on 21st February 2019. Mrs Mayes was elected in 1974 and served her constituents continuously until 2003, representing the Halstead Trinity Ward for 29 years. During her time as a Councillor, Mrs Mayes served as Chairman of the Council in the Civic Year 1998/99 and Vice-Chairman of the Council in 1997/98. On behalf of Members and Officers of the Council, the Chairman expressed her sympathies to Councillor Mrs Mayes' family and friends.

New Year's Honours

The Chairman was pleased to announce that a resident of the District, Lynsi Hayward-Smith, from Great Bardfield, was awarded a CBE for her support as Trustee at the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) and for services to Further Education.

The Chairman then invited the Leader to make his announcements. The Leader stated that he would accept any questions from Members further to his announcements.

Reference was made to two particular issues; the first issue concerned the vacating of the MOD from the Wethersfield Airfield site, which was originally announced in 2016. Members were informed that in the last week, a partnership had been declared between the MOD's estate arm, the DIO, and Homes England, which would take 10 individual sites across the UK forward for redevelopment, and this included the Wethersfield Airfield site.

Members were advised that Officers at Braintree District Council (BDC) had had initial meetings with the two organisations in order to explore future options for the airfield, of which was largely a brownfield site. The site was also heavily constrained due to its rural and isolated location; as such, any major proposals made in respect of the site would need to be submitted for consideration under a future review of the Local Plan. A recent publication in a local newspaper made reference to a study implemented by Homes England a number of years previously, which quoted approximately 4,000 homes intended for the site. Members were subsequently assured that no speculative planning applications for such developments had been submitted to BDC, and the Leader agreed to circulate a briefing note to Members in regard to these developments.

The second issue was in relation to the A131 at Mark's Farm, Braintree, and the withdrawal of the proposed funding of £3.6 million from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) intended for the development of the area that was announced in the Braintree and Witham Times. The Leader expressed his concern that BDC had not been communicated with about the removal of the funding by Essex County Council (ECC), as the article included in the local paper marked the first notice of this. The Leader added that in response to this, he requested to attend the SELEP accountability board meeting that was due to take place on the following day on the basis that BDC had not been notified of the development by ECC. Following urgent discussions with ECC, the report was withdrawn from the SELEP meeting. Discussions were ongoing with ECC to understand the position and to explore ways in which the project could be delivered. The Leader also emphasised the need for ECC to consider this project in the context of the Council's growth ambitions and other infrastructure projects in the District.

The Leader also responded to comments made by the registered speaker during Public Question Time.

Members asked several questions arising from the Leader's announcements.

76 **COUNCIL BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2019-20 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-20 TO 2022-23**

INFORMATION: The Chairman informed Members that this Item was divided into two parts, which would be dealt with together and followed by a single recorded vote. The first matter was the Recommendations from Cabinet on the Council Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23, and the second matter was the Council Tax Resolution for 2019/20.

(1) Recommendations from Cabinet meeting held on 11th February 2019 - Council Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23

(2) Council Tax Resolution for 2019/20

INFORMATION: Councillor Butland, Leader of the Council introduced the reports to Members for their consideration. Councillor Butland moved the recommendations in the report which were seconded by Councillor Bebb.

There followed a general debate on the Budget. A minor error was identified by a Member on Page 6 of the Agenda, whereby a '£' sign had been mistakenly included in front of the Council's tax base figure.

Once the debate had concluded a recorded vote was taken on the recommendations, the result of which was as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors: Mrs Allen, Banthorpe, Baugh, Bebb, Bowers, Mrs Bowers-Flint, Butland, Coleridge, J Cunningham, Mrs M Cunningham, T Cunningham, Dunn, Elliott, Mrs Garrod, Goodman, Hensman, Horner, Hume, Johnson, Mrs Kilmartin, Kirby, Maclure, McKee, Mrs Money, Mrs Parker, Ramage, Rose, Miss Santomauro, Mrs Scattergood, Mrs Schmitt, Schwier, Siddall, Mrs Spray, Tattersley, van Dulken, Mrs Walters and Mrs Wilson (37).

Against the Motion

Councillor: Abbott (1).

Abstained

Councillor: Barlow, Everard and Mann (3).

Absent

Councillor: Canning, Mrs Pell, Mitchell, Lady Newton, Miss Thorogood, O'Reilly-Cicconi and Ricci (7).

The motion was declared **CARRIED.**

DECISION:-

(1): Recommendations from Cabinet meeting held on 11th February 2019 - Council Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23

That the following be approved;

1. The budget variations to the current base budget as detailed in Section 4 of the main report;
2. The additional income and cost reductions as detailed in Section 6 of the main report;
3. The unavoidable revenue budget demands and new investments added to the Base Budget of £847,370 as detailed in Section 5.2 of the main report;
4. The unavoidable revenue budget demands and new investments required to meet one-off or time-limited expenditure of £1,266,540 as detailed in Section 5.3 of the main report and to be funded as detailed in section 5.4 of the main report;
5. The Braintree District Council's Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2019/20 as detailed on the Council's website: Proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20;
6. The package of support to claimants experiencing difficulties as a result of the Local Council Tax Support scheme as detailed in Section 11.9 of the main report;
7. The Council's discretionary fees and charges for 2019/20 as detailed in the schedule on the Council's website: Proposed Fees and Charges 2019/20
8. Delegated authority is given to the appropriate Cabinet Member to determine the level of charges for Trade Waste collection, Environmental permits and core leisure charges for 2019/20;
9. The Council's housing rents are reduced by 1% for 2019/20, as detailed in the schedule on the Council's website: Proposed Fees and Charges 2019/20;
10. That delegated authority is given to the appropriate Cabinet Member to agree variations to Trade Waste, Town Hall Centre, Building Control and Car Parking fees and charges for commercial purposes;
11. The surplus of £57,034 on the Business Rates Collection Fund be transferred to the Business Rates Retention Reserve;
12. To continue the Council's Discretionary Business Rate Relief schemes, as detailed in section 9 to the main report, for 2019/20;
13. To extend the Council's policy for Discretionary Business Rate Relief (undersection 47 of the Local Government Act 1988) to introduce a Retail Relief Scheme for 2019/20 and 2020/21 as recommended and funded by the Government (scheme criteria as detailed at Appendix B to the main report);

14. Discretionary council tax discounts and exemptions for 2019/20 are:
 - a) Discount applicable to empty dwellings undergoing major repairs is set at 0% for the twelve month period;
 - b) Discount applicable to vacant dwellings is set at 0% for the six month period;
 - c) Discount applicable to second homes is set at 0%;
15. Discretionary Council Tax Empty Homes Premium charged on dwellings vacant for over two-years be increased to 100% with effect from 1st April 2019, with further changes to the premia in future years as detailed in section 13.6 of the main report. In addition a refund arrangement, as detailed in section 13.9 of the main report;
16. The Council's Pay Policy for 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix C to the main report;
17. A transfer of £127,947 to the General Fund unallocated balance in 2019/20;

Capital

18. The General Fund Capital bids for 2019/20 listed in Appendix I to the main report;

Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies

19. The Capital Strategy including the authorised borrowing limit, operational borrowing boundary limit and prudential indicators as detailed in Appendix J to the main report;
20. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement including the schedule of investment counterparties and limits and prudential indicators as detailed in Appendix K to the main report;
21. Investment Strategy, for 2019/20 as detailed in Appendices L to the main report;
22. The Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision as recommended in Appendix M to the main report;

Council Tax

23. The proposed estimates (producing a budget requirement for council tax purposes of £14,539,761) as detailed in Appendix D and the Council Tax for 2019/20 of £179.73 for a Band D property, having taking into consideration:
 - The consultation feedback, if any, received and reported verbally at the meeting;
 - The assessment of risks in the budget assumptions;
 - The Equalities Impact Assessments and
 - The Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of balances (Appendix H to the main report).

REASON FOR DECISION: To determine the Budget and Council Tax level proposals for 2018/19, in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution.

(2): Council Tax Resolution for 2019/20

That the Council Tax Requirement and level of Council Tax for 2019/20, be approved in accordance with the following resolution:-

1. Council Tax Base

- 1.1** Under delegated powers the Corporate Director has determined the amount of Council Tax Base for the whole Council area for 2019/20 as **52,521** Band D equivalents; and also that the amount set out in Column 2 of Schedule A should be the Council Tax Base for dwellings in those parts of the district listed in Column 1 of Schedule A to this resolution.

2. Calculation of the Council Tax Requirement

- 2.1** The following amounts are calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-

£92,581,563, being the expenditure the Council estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and which will be charged to its General Fund revenue account in accordance with proper practice. This amount includes allowances for contingencies, additions to earmarked financial reserves and general balances, and local precepts issued to the Council.

£80,929,553¹, being the income estimated by the Council which will be credited to the General Fund revenue account in accordance with proper practice. This amount includes specific and general government grants, the estimated use of earmarked financial reserves, and the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2019 in respect of council tax and business rates.

£11,652,010, being the Council Tax Requirement for the year calculated as the difference between expenditure and income as set out above.

- 2.2** In making the above calculations the following amounts have been taken into account:

£4,907,378, being the estimated amount of the local share of business rates to be retained by the Council for the year after allowing for the following items: a tariff of £13,027,512; an estimated levy of £1,134,012 due to the Essex Business Rate Pool; and a net amount of £1,856,979 estimated to be receivable from central government to fund previous year caps on the RPI increase in the business rate multiplier and the extension of various discretionary reliefs being funded by government.

¹ The figure of £80,929,915 was reported to Council, this was a typographical error arising from updated figures within the report, the Expenditure and Council Tax Requirements were correct, therefore this small error has been corrected in the minutes.

£113,625, being the amount that has been calculated as the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2019 in respect of council tax, which will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund revenue account in 2019/20.

£57,034, being the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2019 in respect of business rates to be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund revenue account in 2019/20.

£22,125, being the amount of rural services grant funding to be provided by government as announced in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2019/20.

£2,212,411, being the total of all local precepts received from town and parish councils and shown in Column 3 of Schedule A.

3. Calculation of the Basic Amount of Council Tax

3.1 The following amounts have been calculated:

£221.85, being the basic amount of Council Tax for the year including local precepts, calculated by dividing the Council Tax Requirement by the Council Tax Base for the whole district.

£179.73, being the basic amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of the District where there are no local precepts for town or parish councils. This represents the District Council's share of the total Council Tax rate and is charged across property bands as follows:

Property Band	Band as proportion of Band D	Council Tax Rate
A	6/9	£119.82
B	7/9	£139.79
C	8/9	£159.76
D	9/9	£179.73
E	11/9	£219.67
F	13/9	£259.61
G	15/9	£299.55
H	18/9	£359.46

The District Council's basic amount of Council Tax equates to a Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes (excluding town and parish precepts) of **£9,439,599**.

Under the principles set by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the 2019/20 financial year, the basic amount of Council Tax calculated by the Council is not deemed excessive and therefore does not require a referendum to be held.

The amounts shown in Column 5 of Schedule A, calculated by adding to the basic amount of Council Tax in those parts of the District where there are no local precepts, the local precept amount relating to each parish or town council area, divided by the tax base for that area. This represents the basic amount of Council Tax for each parish or town council area. The charge for each property band is also shown in Schedule A.

4. Special Expenses

4.1 The Council resolves that any expenses incurred by it in performing, in part of its area, a function that is performed elsewhere in its area by a parish or town council, or a Chairman of a parish meeting, shall not be treated as Special Expenses for the purposes of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

5. Council Tax Setting

5.1 The Council note that it has been advised of the following precepts²:

- Essex County Council £66,724,779
- Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner – Essex Police £10,134,452
- Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner – Essex Fire Service £3,805,146

Expressed as a Council Tax rate for dwellings in the following property bands:

Property Band	Essex County Council	Essex Police	Essex Fire Service
A	£846.96	£128.64	£48.30
B	£988.12	£150.08	£56.35
C	£1,129.28	£171.52	£64.40
D	£1,270.44	£192.96	£72.45
E	£1,552.76	£235.84	£88.55
F	£1,835.08	£278.72	£104.65
G	£2,117.40	£321.60	£120.75
H	£2,540.88	£385.92	£144.90

5.2 The Council, having calculated the aggregate of the amounts stated above for each area within the District, hereby sets the amounts shown in Schedule B as the total amount of Council Tax for each of the property Bands (see schedules A and B attached with these Minutes).

REASON FOR DECISION: To formally set the Council Tax Requirement and Council Tax rates for 2019/20.

² The reported Precepts within the report were taken from a rounded calculation, this led to slight variations to the formal requests. The formal requests are presented in the minutes, and the variation did not impact on any of the Property Band Council Tax Rates. The reported values were:

- Essex County Council £66,724,754
- Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner – Essex Police £10,134,448
- Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner – Essex Fire Service £3,805,145

RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET – 11TH FEBRUARY 2019 – HORIZON 120 BUSINESS PARK – INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

INFORMATION: Members were reminded that this Item was linked to Item 10 in the Private Session of the Agenda, and that if any Member wished to refer to the private information contained within the report for that Item, it would be necessary for the meeting to be moved into Private Session.

DECISION: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting if it is necessary to discuss Item 9a of the Agenda and the Private Report, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

Both Agenda Items were taken together to enable consideration of all issues. It was not necessary for the debate to be moved into Private Session.

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report that sought the agreement of Members to develop part of the employment land adjacent to Great Notley, Braintree, known as Horizon 120. Members were advised that the aforementioned land was needed to provide much needed space for local businesses, as well as to maximise the North Essex opportunity to attract inward investment and subsequently generate the necessary revenue returns for the funding of essential services for residents going forward. Whilst there was enthusiasm and opportunism surrounding the proposed development, it was also acknowledged that such an investment would bear significant responsibility for the organisation. As such, agreement was being sought to develop the first 20 acres of the land only, which would allow for the first vital stages of infrastructure to materialise.

DECISION: That Council approved:

1. A budget to deliver services and infrastructure, in two or more phases, to facilitate the release of up to 20 acres (8.1 hectares), of serviced land, for sale and/or development.
2. That Council notes that funding of the project costs (including those cost previously approved for land acquisition) is to be from prudential borrowing, repayable from the capital receipts generated from serviced land sales and/ or the income from commercial lease arrangements. The level of prudential borrowing required will be subject to the Corporate Director (Finance) reviewing the overall financing of the Council's medium-term capital programme taking into account all the Council's capital resources over the period of the proposed development.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to:

- Design and construct the infrastructure required to make an initial 20 acres (8.1 hectares) available for sale and/or development;
- Agree sales or leases, of serviced land, on agreed terms, within commercial timescales;

- Generate a return on its initial investment, in acquiring the site.

80 **REPORTS OF LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS**

INFORMATION: The Chairman invited the Leader and the Cabinet Members to introduce their reports. Following this, the Chairman invited Members to ask questions. Questions were not limited to the content of the reports and could be about matters relating to a portfolio, the powers and duties of the Council, or the District.

Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council, had nothing to add to his report.

Councillor D Bebb, Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, had nothing to add to his report.

Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, added to her report by making reference to the submission of the Bradwell and Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan to the examiner at the end of December 2018. Comment was made in respect of the Council's housing land supply, the position of which had since changed since the publication of the Council Agenda, further to two announcements made by the Government that affected the calculation of the housing supply of each Local Authority. The first announcement related to the Government's response to the consultation held on changes to the standard methodology for calculating housing needs; immediate changes were implemented to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in order for this to be enacted, and the need to use the 2014 projections as the base calculation was confirmed. The implications of this was a rise in the number of homes required for delivery each year. Secondly, Members were informed that the Government had released the data on the housing delivery test which indicated that Braintree District Council (BDC) had delivered 93% of the required housing levels, or 1311 out of 1416, and as such only needed to add a 5% buffer to the supply of new homes over the five-year period. An update was provided by Officers at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 19th February 2019 about the Government's response to the technical consultation on updates to the National Planning Policy and guidance, but this did not encompass the subsequent publication of the housing delivery test. In taking both of these factors into account, it was confirmed that BDC's current housing land supply was now 5.42 years.

Remark was also made upon the outcome of the Bures Public Enquiry that had taken place between 12th and 20th February 2019 and included examination of the Council's housing land supply as part of the appeal, the supply of which would continue to be tested strongly during upcoming planning enquiries. It was stressed that although the assumptions and positions made in the assessment were believed to be robust, the findings of the independent planning inspectors for the appeal could take a different view in relation to BDC's housing trajectory which could subsequently alter the number of homes included within the supply over the five-year period. Under the current methodology, the calculation of housing need required updating on a regular basis as new data, such as the affordability ratio, was published. Furthermore, the Council was also reliant on the construction industry's provision of the required housing levels and as such, the housing land supply figure was subject to change. In addition, as the Council had fallen below the

target of 95% in respect of required housing delivery numbers, BDC would now be required over the upcoming six months to produce a detailed action plan that established how the organisation intended to achieve full compliance with the District's housing needs.

Finally, Members were urged to increase the awareness of their local communities and Parish Council's as to the closure of the Statement of Community Involvement on 11th March 2019 and to consider the measures outlined within it.

Councillor T Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, provided an update for Members further to the exchange of contracts between BDC and a major national hotel chain that took place on 4th January 2019 in respect of the leasehold disposal of the proposed new hotel at Manor Street, Braintree. The hotel chain was confirmed as 'Travelodge.'

Councillor J McKee, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Asset Management, had nothing to add to his report.

Councillor Mrs W Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Environment and Place had nothing to add but noted an error within her report in the Agenda whereby the date of the meeting of Full Council was given as 25th March 2019 and should have stated 25th February 2019.

Councillor P Tattersley, Cabinet Member for Health and Communities, informed Members that he would bring forward in his next report the various initiatives by organisations throughout the District toward addressing the issues surrounding social isolation and loneliness and dementia.

Members asked several questions arising from the reports. A webcast of the questions to and responses of Cabinet Members is available on the Council's website at www.braintree.gov.uk.

The main topics were as follows:

- Councillor Abbott raised a query about BDC's position in respect of ECC's inclination towards the potential closure of a large number of village libraries in the District, and whether a response had been submitted by the District Council as a result that was accessible to Members.
- Councillor Barlow commented on a warning statement issued by the National Audit Office to the Government's Housing and Planning System in respect of its inability to effectively meet housing demands. Furthermore, Councillor Barlow asked whether the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing agreed, following the recent publication of the LGA report, that the report provided a basis for BDC to address the issue of affordable housing supply with the Government.
- Councillor Abbott commented on the need for further housing to be supplied in villages without detrimental impacts caused by developers on local habitats and wildlife. A concern was also raised in respect the hedgerow at the Western Road site in Silver End, Witham, which had had been largely replaced by a wicker fence as part of the building development of the area.

- Councillor Elliott mentioned the ongoing traffic issues being experienced by residents in Kelvedon and Feering and the need for BDC to continue to raise awareness of the issue with ECC. Councillor Elliott was also in agreement with Councillor Abbott in relation to the unnecessary removal of the hedgerow in Silver End and argued that more action could have been taken to prevent the extent of the damage.
- Councillor Mann welcomed the news in respect of the latest housing land supply figures and commented on the fact that a number of other Planning Authorities faced similar dilemmas to BDC without an up to date Local Plan.
- Further to a statement identified on the “North Essex Opportunity” website in respect of a sentence that referred to “Five distinct and highly desirable new garden communities,” Councillor Abbott questioned the predetermination of the statement.
- Councillor Ramage inquired as to whether a meeting date with the Witham Ward Members and Members of Witham Town Council with the Cabinet Member had been confirmed in order to consider the options available for supporting the Witham Town Centre economy.
- Councillor Mrs Allen expressed her congratulations to the current Head Teacher of Ramsey Academy in Halstead, Mr R James, on both his achievement of the Head Teacher of the Year accolade at the 2019 Local Essex Teaching Awards and the success of his overall work towards improving the school.
- Councillor Abbott welcomed the work on verges and expressed his gratitude toward the Street Scene Enforcement Team for their work towards clearing recent cases of fly tipping in Rivenhall. A query was also raised as to whether there was need for the expansion of staff resources within the Street Scene Team.
- Councillor Rose expressed his gratitude towards the Landscapes Team for the recent renovation work carried out at the Spa Road Shopping Centre in Witham.
- Councillor Barlow raised the issue of kerb parking and asked whether the legislation regarding obstructions within this field was changing, which would enable enforcement Officers to issue warning tickets or to take more direct enforcement action towards inappropriate parking on kerbs.
- Councillor Abbott agreed that addressing social isolation and loneliness was a priority but queried why BDC did not approach ECC on the subject of stopping the library closures, as such facilities were considered a key asset in combating related issues.

The following actions were agreed in response to questions raised by Members:

- Councillor G Butland agreed to circulate a briefing note to Members in respect of the recent developments surrounding the Wethersfield Airfield site, further to the partnership between the DIO and Homes England (see Minute 75).

- Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint agreed to provide an update to all Members on the latest changes to the Housing Land Supply position.
- Councillor Mrs W Schmitt confirmed she would provide a written response to Councillor Barlow in respect of his question regarding the decriminalisation of parking on kerbs and the obstruction of footways.

81 **LIST OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

INFORMATION: Two errors in respect of Committee meeting dates were identified within the report. The first error related to the last meeting date of the Planning Committee, which should have been listed as 19th February 2019 but was duplicated from the meeting that took place on 12th February 2019. The second error regarded the inclusion of the meeting of the Licensing Committee which was scheduled to take place on 16th January 2019, but was subsequently cancelled due to a lack of business items.

DECISION: That Members noted the Minutes published.

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm and closed at 9:35pm.

Councillor Miss V Santomauro
(Chairman)

SCHEDULE A

Col . 1	Col . 2	Col . 3	Col . 4	Col . 5	COUNCIL TAX FOR THE DISTRICT COUNCIL INCLUDING PARISH TAX £							
PARISH/AREA	TAX BASE (BAND D EQUIV)	PARISH PRECEPT £	PARISH TAX (BAND D) £	BASIC AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX £6(2)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ALPHAMSTONE & LAMAR	206.51	4,179	20.24	199.97	133.31	155.53	177.75	199.97	244.41	288.85	333.28	399.94
ASHEN	149.49	4,584	30.66	210.39	140.26	163.64	187.01	210.39	257.14	303.90	350.65	420.78
BELCHAMP OTTEN	78.21	1,000	12.79	192.52	128.35	149.74	171.13	192.52	235.30	278.08	320.87	385.04
BELCHAMP ST PAUL	165.63	3,000	18.11	197.84	131.89	153.88	175.86	197.84	241.80	285.77	329.73	395.68
BELCHAMP WALTER	104.32	5,315	50.95	230.68	153.79	179.42	205.05	230.68	281.94	333.20	384.47	461.36
BIRDBROOK	151.17	13,685	90.53	270.26	180.17	210.20	240.23	270.26	330.32	390.38	450.43	540.52
BLACK NOTLEY	933.17	48,000	51.44	231.17	154.11	179.80	205.48	231.17	282.54	333.91	385.28	462.34
BORLEY	53.96	1,289	23.89	203.62	135.75	158.37	181.00	203.62	248.87	294.12	339.37	407.24
BRADWELL	221.46	7,965	35.97	215.70	143.80	167.77	191.73	215.70	263.63	311.57	359.50	431.40
BRAINTREE	14367.94	-	0.00	179.73	119.82	139.79	159.76	179.73	219.67	259.61	299.55	359.46
BULMER	276.11	9,782	35.43	215.16	143.44	167.35	191.25	215.16	262.97	310.79	358.60	430.32
BURES HAMLET	325.71	28,817	88.47	268.20	178.80	208.60	238.40	268.20	327.80	387.40	447.00	536.40
CASTLE HEDINGHAM	489.19	26,684	54.55	234.28	156.19	182.22	208.25	234.28	286.34	338.40	390.47	468.56
COGGESHALL	1792.12	161,923	90.35	270.08	180.05	210.06	240.07	270.08	330.10	390.12	450.13	540.16
COLNE ENGAINE	410.55	24,364	59.34	239.07	159.38	185.94	212.51	239.07	292.20	345.32	398.45	478.14
CRESSING	641.05	38,136	59.49	239.22	159.48	186.06	212.64	239.22	292.38	345.54	398.70	478.44
EARLS COLNE	1266.56	87,287	68.92	248.65	165.77	193.39	221.02	248.65	303.91	359.16	414.42	497.30
FEERING	817.74	54,206	66.29	246.02	164.01	191.35	218.68	246.02	300.69	355.36	410.03	492.04
FINCHINGFIELD	678.60	42,133	62.09	241.82	161.21	188.08	214.95	241.82	295.56	349.30	403.03	483.64
FOXEARH & LISTON	154.84	6,791	43.86	223.59	149.06	173.90	198.75	223.59	273.28	322.96	372.65	447.18
GESTINGTHORPE	179.26	7,500	41.84	221.57	147.71	172.33	196.95	221.57	270.81	320.05	369.28	443.14
GOSFIELD	577.76	34,019	58.88	238.61	159.07	185.59	212.10	238.61	291.63	344.66	397.68	477.22
GREAT BARDFIELD	526.19	37,499	71.27	251.00	167.33	195.22	223.11	251.00	306.78	362.56	418.33	502.00
GREAT MAPLESTEAD	168.35	5,804	34.48	214.21	142.81	166.61	190.41	214.21	261.81	309.41	357.02	428.42
GREAT NOTLEY	2596.37	87,269	33.61	213.34	142.23	165.93	189.64	213.34	260.75	308.16	355.57	426.68
GREAT YELDHAM	583.97	44,631	76.43	256.16	170.77	199.24	227.70	256.16	313.08	370.01	426.93	512.32
GREENSTEAD GREEN	275.99	9,046	32.78	212.51	141.67	165.29	188.90	212.51	259.73	306.96	354.18	425.02
HALSTEAD	3881.49	179,014	46.12	225.85	150.57	175.66	200.76	225.85	276.04	326.23	376.42	451.70
HATFIELD PEVEREL	1764.97	61,849	35.04	214.77	143.18	167.04	190.91	214.77	262.50	310.22	357.95	429.54
HELIONS BUMPSTEAD	180.94	14,580	80.58	260.31	173.54	202.46	231.39	260.31	318.16	376.00	433.85	520.62
HENNYS,MIDDLETON & T	232.38	4,991	21.48	201.21	134.14	156.50	178.85	201.21	245.92	290.64	335.35	402.42
KELVEDON	1320.66	108,072	81.83	261.56	174.37	203.44	232.50	261.56	319.68	377.81	435.93	523.12
LITTLE MAPLESTEAD	116.62	3,778	32.40	212.13	141.42	164.99	188.56	212.13	259.27	306.41	353.55	424.26
LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE, & OVINGTON	240.27	5,700	23.72	203.45	135.63	158.24	180.84	203.45	248.66	293.87	339.08	406.90

SCHEDULE B

PARISH/AREA	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX £							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ALPHAMSTONE & LAMARSH	1157.21	1350.08	1542.95	1735.82	2121.56	2507.30	2893.03	3471.64
ASHEN	1164.16	1358.19	1552.21	1746.24	2134.29	2522.35	2910.40	3492.48
BELCHAMP OTTEN	1152.25	1344.29	1536.33	1728.37	2112.45	2496.53	2880.62	3456.74
BELCHAMP ST PAUL	1155.79	1348.43	1541.06	1733.69	2118.95	2504.22	2889.48	3467.38
BELCHAMP WALTER	1177.69	1373.97	1570.25	1766.53	2159.09	2551.65	2944.22	3533.06
BIRDBROOK	1204.07	1404.75	1605.43	1806.11	2207.47	2608.83	3010.18	3612.22
BLACK NOTLEY	1178.01	1374.35	1570.68	1767.02	2159.69	2552.36	2945.03	3534.04
BORLEY	1159.65	1352.92	1546.20	1739.47	2126.02	2512.57	2899.12	3478.94
BRADWELL	1167.70	1362.32	1556.93	1751.55	2140.78	2530.02	2919.25	3503.10
BRAINTREE	1143.72	1334.34	1524.96	1715.58	2096.82	2478.06	2859.30	3431.16
BULMER	1167.34	1361.90	1556.45	1751.01	2140.12	2529.24	2918.35	3502.02
BURES HAMLET	1202.70	1403.15	1603.60	1804.05	2204.95	2605.85	3006.75	3608.10
CASTLE HEDINGHAM	1180.09	1376.77	1573.45	1770.13	2163.49	2556.85	2950.22	3540.26
COGGESHALL	1203.95	1404.61	1605.27	1805.93	2207.25	2608.57	3009.88	3611.86
COLNE ENGAINE	1183.28	1380.49	1577.71	1774.92	2169.35	2563.77	2958.20	3549.84
CRESSING	1183.38	1380.61	1577.84	1775.07	2169.53	2563.99	2958.45	3550.14
EARLS COLNE	1189.67	1387.94	1586.22	1784.50	2181.06	2577.61	2974.17	3569.00
FEERING	1187.91	1385.90	1583.88	1781.87	2177.84	2573.81	2969.78	3563.74
FINCHINGFIELD	1185.11	1382.63	1580.15	1777.67	2172.71	2567.75	2962.78	3555.34
FOXEARH & LISTON	1172.96	1368.45	1563.95	1759.44	2150.43	2541.41	2932.40	3518.88
GESTINGTHORPE	1171.61	1366.88	1562.15	1757.42	2147.96	2538.50	2929.03	3514.84
GOSFIELD	1182.97	1380.14	1577.30	1774.46	2168.78	2563.11	2957.43	3548.92
GREAT BARDFIELD	1191.23	1389.77	1588.31	1786.85	2183.93	2581.01	2978.08	3573.70
GREAT MAPLESTEAD	1166.71	1361.16	1555.61	1750.06	2138.96	2527.86	2916.77	3500.12
GREAT NOTLEY	1166.13	1360.48	1554.84	1749.19	2137.90	2526.61	2915.32	3498.38
GREAT YELDHAM	1194.67	1393.79	1592.90	1792.01	2190.23	2588.46	2986.68	3584.02
GREENSTEAD GREEN	1165.57	1359.84	1554.10	1748.36	2136.88	2525.41	2913.93	3496.72
HALSTEAD	1174.47	1370.21	1565.96	1761.70	2153.19	2544.68	2936.17	3523.40
HATFIELD PEVEREL	1167.08	1361.59	1556.11	1750.62	2139.65	2528.67	2917.70	3501.24

HELIONS BUMPSTEAD	1197.44	1397.01	1596.59	1796.16	2195.31	2594.45	2993.60	3592.32
HENNYS,MIDDLETON & TWINSTEAD	1158.04	1351.05	1544.05	1737.06	2123.07	2509.09	2895.10	3474.12
KELVEDON	1198.27	1397.99	1597.70	1797.41	2196.83	2596.26	2995.68	3594.82
LITTLE MAPLESTEAD	1165.32	1359.54	1553.76	1747.98	2136.42	2524.86	2913.30	3495.96
LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE, & OVINGTON	1159.53	1352.79	1546.04	1739.30	2125.81	2512.32	2898.83	3478.60
PANFIELD	1176.05	1372.05	1568.06	1764.07	2156.09	2548.10	2940.12	3528.14
PEBMARSH	1168.07	1362.75	1557.43	1752.11	2141.47	2530.83	2920.18	3504.22
PENTLOW	1174.69	1370.48	1566.26	1762.04	2153.60	2545.17	2936.73	3524.08
RAYNE	1176.65	1372.75	1568.86	1764.97	2157.19	2549.40	2941.62	3529.94
RIDGEWELL	1199.69	1399.63	1599.58	1799.53	2199.43	2599.32	2999.22	3599.06
RIVENHALL	1172.83	1368.31	1563.78	1759.25	2150.19	2541.14	2932.08	3518.50
SHALFORD	1181.42	1378.32	1575.23	1772.13	2165.94	2559.74	2953.55	3544.26
SIBLE HEDINGHAM	1186.41	1384.14	1581.88	1779.61	2175.08	2570.55	2966.02	3559.22
SILVER END	1188.27	1386.31	1584.36	1782.40	2178.49	2574.58	2970.67	3564.80
STAMBOURNE	1176.02	1372.02	1568.03	1764.03	2156.04	2548.04	2940.05	3528.06
STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD	1188.91	1387.07	1585.22	1783.37	2179.67	2575.98	2972.28	3566.74
STISTED	1173.21	1368.75	1564.28	1759.82	2150.89	2541.96	2933.03	3519.64
STURMER	1169.81	1364.77	1559.74	1754.71	2144.65	2534.58	2924.52	3509.42
TERLING & FAIRSTEAD	1176.98	1373.14	1569.31	1765.47	2157.80	2550.12	2942.45	3530.94
THE SALINGS	1171.53	1366.78	1562.04	1757.29	2147.80	2538.31	2928.82	3514.58
TOPPESFIELD	1193.63	1392.57	1591.51	1790.45	2188.33	2586.21	2984.08	3580.90
WETHERSFIELD	1180.03	1376.71	1573.38	1770.05	2163.39	2556.74	2950.08	3540.10
WHITE COLNE	1180.48	1377.23	1573.97	1770.72	2164.21	2557.71	2951.20	3541.44
WHITE NOTLEY & FAULKBOURNE	1180.43	1377.17	1573.91	1770.65	2164.13	2557.61	2951.08	3541.30
WICKHAM ST PAUL	1200.27	1400.31	1600.36	1800.40	2200.49	2600.58	3000.67	3600.80
WITHAM	1188.85	1387.00	1585.14	1783.28	2179.56	2575.85	2972.13	3566.56