

Minutes

Cabinet

11th March 2019



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	Yes
Deputy Leader of the Council	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Apologies
Environment and Place	Councillor R van Dulken	Yes
Planning and Housing	Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint	Yes
	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Economic Development	Councillor T Cunningham	Yes
	Councillor K Bowers	Yes
Health and Communities	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
	Councillor F Ricci	From 7.24pm
Finance and Performance	Councillor D Bebb	Apologies
Corporate Services and Asset Management	Councillor J McKee	Yes

Also present as invitees of the Leader:

Councillor Barlow, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Mrs Pell, Leader of Halstead Residents Association
Councillor Mann, Leader of the Labour Group

Councillor Schwier was also in attendance.

57 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

58 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

59 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked or statements made.

60 **LEADER'S UPDATE**

The Leader had no updates to make.

61 ****ANNUAL PLAN 2019-20**

Minutes Published: 18th March 2019

Call-in Expires: 26th March 2019

INFORMATION: The Annual Plan set out the Council's actions and performance targets for 2019/20. These actions and targets would support the last year of the Corporate Strategy 2016 – 2020, which was agreed in February 2016.

Members were advised that the Annual Plan reported that the Council had secured detailed planning permission for the Manor Street development, however Members were reminded that the Plan was in draft form and the Manor Street development was due to be considered by the Planning Committee on 12th March 2019, where the Committee would consider the merit of the application against the relevant planning legislation and policy rather than any corporate consideration. The Leader confirmed that the details contained in the draft plan was by no means pre-empting any decision that would be taken by the Planning Committee.

A final version of the Annual Plan for 2019/20 would be produced in April 2019 to include any achievements or outturn figures. The main areas for consideration and agreement by the Cabinet were the actions being carried out in 2019/20 to support the Corporate Strategy which would be entering its final year.

DECISION: That the Draft Annual Plan 2019/20 was approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To agree the Council's key priorities and actions for 2019/20.

62 **THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2018-19**

INFORMATION: In the absence of Councillor Bebb, Councillor McKee Cabinet member for Corporate Services and Asset Management introduced the report.

Members were advised that as at the end of the third quarter, the Council was continuing to perform well in the achievement of its priorities with 18 projects completed and a further 40 projects were on track and progressing well. Seven projects were experiencing delays which would push back the end dates of the projects due to a number of issues that had impacted on the timescales for delivery of the projects. These projects would be amended through the change control process once the issues were better understood and revised timescales could be agreed.

In terms of performance indicators, ten performance indicators had achieved or exceeded target, three had missed target by less than 5% and two had missed target by more than 5%. The performance indicators that had missed target by less than 5% related to the percentage of household waste recycled, collection rates for Council Tax and the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days. All of these indicators had missed

target by less than half a percent and it was expected that the majority of the amber performance indicators would meet target at the end of the year.

The performance indicators that had missed target by more than 5% were in relation to the tonnage of residual household waste not recycled, and the average waiting time for applicants on the disabled facilities grant.

Members were updated on the financial performance of the Council. An overall positive variance for the year of £703,000 was projected against the budget. Across all services staffing budgets were forecast to be underspent by £475,000 and after allowing for the corporate efficiency target of £200,000, this would result in a projected variance of -£275,000. Other expenditure was projected to be overspent by £284,000. Income was projected to be overachieved by £712,000.

The projected variance for the year had improved by an overall £576,000 from the position reported at Q2, which forecasted an overall positive variance of £127,000. This overall change comprised: an increase in the projected staffing underspend by £181,000; a reduction in the projected overspend on other expenditure of £98,000; and £297,000 increase in forecast income. For some service areas the changes in the levels of income and expenditure were expected to be ongoing and therefore budget adjustments had been included in the Council's proposed budget for 2019/20.

DECISION: That the Council's performance as at the end of the third quarter of 2018/19 was noted and endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISION: The plan forms part of the Council's evidence base for securing planning obligations from developers to enhance existing open spaces, or provide new ones. Adopting the Open Spaces Action Plan 2019 supplants the 2018 edition, updating the currently adopted information.

63 **OPEN SPACES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN**

INFORMATION: Members were introduced to the Open Spaces Action Plan, which set out a list of proposals for the provision and enhancement of open spaces in the Braintree District. Its purpose was to demonstrate the need for these proposals and justify the open space contributions being sought from developers under the Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document.

The Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document was adopted in September 2009. It gave guidance to developers on the Council's approach to seeking planning obligations to mitigate open space provision and enhancement needs arising from new development. The document explained to developers what open space was required in terms of area of land and financial contribution for different types of space.

The proposals comprise schemes that have been identified for Council-owned open spaces and schemes identified by Ward, Town and Parish Council Members. Members were advised that the Council had engaged with all Parish Councils, however not all Parish Council chose to respond and therefore were not represented in the report.

Members were advised that on the 30th January 2018, representation was received from Castle Hedingham Parish Council, who wished to register their objection to the removal of land at Sudbury Hill, Bailey Street from the OSAP listing for 2018. The entry was removed to align with a decision made by the Local Plan Sub Committee on the 9th March 2017 to not allocate the land a specific use, as the land in question was not in Public control and any allocation would not be deliverable nor capable of meeting the test of soundness as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. Other entries in the OSAP 2018 for Castle Hedingham were there to provide informal recreation for the parish; should suitable development occur.

DECISION: To receive and adopt the Open Spaces Action Plan 2019.

REASON FOR DECISION: The plan forms part of the Council's evidence base for securing planning obligations from developers to enhance existing open spaces, or provide new ones. Adopting the Open Spaces Action Plan 2019 supplants the 2018 edition, updating the currently adopted information.

64 ****BRADWELL WITH PATTISWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Minutes Published: 18 th March 2019 Call-in Expires: 26 th March 2019
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INFORMATION: Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council had been working to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan, once agreed, could be used in the determination of planning applications within the Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish area. The Plan had been subject to two rounds of public consultation and an independent examination. The examiner's report had been received by Braintree District Council, which outlined a number of changes to the Plan, in order for it to meet what was known as the "Basic Conditions". It was now necessary for the Council to decide to accept the examiners recommendations and agree to the Plan going to a local referendum.

Members were advised that the referendum had been delayed as a result of the upcoming District and Parish Elections, but it was anticipated that the referendum would be held in June 2019 before being brought to Full Council in July 2019.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed:

1. The modifications made to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 in response to the Examiner's recommendations/modifications.
2. That a referendum on the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan take place.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Bradwell with Pattiswick neighbourhood plan to progress to a local referendum.

65 **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

DECISION: That the delegated decision set out in the report be noted

PURPOSE OF DECISION: The reasons for the decision can be found in the individual delegated decision.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 7:52pm.

COUNCILLOR G BUTLAND
(Leader of the Council)