

Minutes

Cabinet

8th June 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	Yes
Councillor R G S Mitchell	Environment & Sustainability	Apologies
Councillor Mrs C Sandbrook	Efficiency & Resources	Yes
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 M G Gage, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Leader of Halstead Residents' Association

Councillor D Mann, representing the Labour Group.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R J Bolton, Chairman of Halstead Local Committee, Councillor Dr R L Evans, Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor T J W Foster, Chairman of Witham Local Committee, and Councillor S M Walsh, Chairman of Braintree Local Committee.

16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Butland, Lager and Walters all declared a personal interest as Essex County Councillors in Agenda Item 7a, Waste Inter-Authority Agreement.

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.

17 **QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

18 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th May 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader, subject to Councillor Lager's personal interest under Minute 1 Declarations of Interest being amended to read 'as he is a member of the Essex & Southend Member Project Board for Waste' and not 'Essex & Suffolk'.

19 **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Councillor Lager, Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources, presented the Fourth Quarter Performance Management Report for 1st January to 31st March 2009.

In response to a query with regard to the cost of recycling and targets, it was clarified that specific costs could not be quantified at this stage.

DECISION: That the Quarterly Performance Report be noted.

20 **FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORTS FOR 2008/09 AND 2009/10 UPDATE**

Cabinet received reports on Financial Outturn 2008/09 and an Update Profile 2009/10 to 2012/13. Appendix A of the report - The Notes on Projected Full Year Variances (£10k or over) stated that the Rural Development Fund (RDF) had £52,800 held over, as grant applications are now made to Local Committees.

Councillor McCrea, as the former Chairman of the RDF, stated that the amount could be allocated to Local Committee funding. In response, Councillor Lager advised that the funding to Local Committees for rural issues and rural development was considered adequate and Local Committees could request additional resources if the situation changes.

Other Members referred to the Local Priorities currently being costed for each Local Committee, and supported the view that the under spend from the RDF could be diverted to the Local Committees budget. However, Members were encouraged to look further ahead to three years to ascertain where future funding will be found. The Leader of the Council, proposed that the contents of the RDF will be retained and following the Strategic Plan on priorities for each Local Committee being submitted, the notional figures for each Committee will be considered by himself and the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources. It will be for Members to decide whether projects are for green or urban issues.

Support was expressed for the Apprenticeship Scheme as being beneficial both to the young person involved and the Council. It was considered appropriate for officers to provide to Cabinet the costing of Apprenticeship Schemes across the Council. Responding to this proposal, the Leader requested the Chief Executive to provide to the Cabinet meeting on 6th July 2009 a report on extending the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme across the authority, including both manual and professional scenarios for young people of all capabilities.

DECISION:

1. That the budgets to be carried forward to 2009/10 and the new bids for 2009/10, as detailed in Appendix B be approved, the latter to be subject in each case to submission of a business case and authorisation by the Leader of the Council.
 2. That the financial outturn for 2008/09 including the movements on the Earmarked Reserves as detailed in Appendix D be accepted.
 3. That the capital outturn for 2008/09 as detailed in Appendix C be accepted.
 4. That an increase to the amount of savings to be identified by the Performance, Innovation and Efficiency Programme Board from the original target of £500,000 to £800,000 be agreed.
 5. That the process for the efficiencies to be identified as outlined in section 2.6 of the report be agreed.
 6. That £52,800 in relation to the Rural Development Fund in Appendix A be retained for future availability to the Local Committees
 7. That a report on extending the Apprenticeship Scheme across the Council is made to the next Cabinet meeting on 6th July 2009
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8. That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: -**
 - a) That the budget bid for temporary accommodation costs at £80,000, as detailed in Appendix B be approved. The release of funds to be subject to submission of a business case and authorisation by the Leader of the Council.
 - b) That the allocation of £110,111 for improving non-decent properties in the private sector occupied by vulnerable people from GO-EAST be added to Housing Grants budget in 2009/10; and
 - c) That a budget provision of £75,000 for repairs to the boundary wall of St Marys Closed Churchyard be agreed, subject to the requirement to incur expenditure being agreed by the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources.

21 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Cabinet received the Braintree District Sustainable Community Strategy (to 2025) for recommendation to Council. Councillor Bebb, Deputy Cabinet Member for Customers and Communication, requested that the Council works with neighbouring authorities and be mindful of their Strategies and to any impact, i.e. on infrastructure and jobs, in the delivery of the Braintree Strategy.

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

That the Braintree District Sustainable Community Strategy, including the above amendment, be agreed.

****22 WASTE INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT**

Minutes Published: 18 th June 2009 Call-in Expires: 26 th June 2009
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Councillor Harley, Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Culture, presented the report on the Essex Waste Partnership – Inter-Authority Agreement.

Cabinet welcomed the Agreement, including the proposal of a weekly food waste collection service in urban areas in 2011/12, and the reduction in recycling costs whilst improving the service.

DECISION:

1. That the Council signs up to the Waste Inter-Authority Agreement.
2. That responsibility is delegated to the Head of Law & Governance to finalise the Agreement, in consultation with the Chief Executive.
3. That the Service Delivery Plan at Appendix 2 which has been submitted by Braintree District Council in accordance with the Inter-Authority Agreement be approved.

23 CORE STRATEGY – GROWTH LOCATIONS – Reference from the Local Development Framework Panel 20th May 2009.

Councillor McCrea, Chairman of the Local Development Framework Panel, presented the minute extract on Proposed Growth Locations from the Panel's meeting on 20th May 2009. It was noted that the Core Strategy report would be available to all Members for the Council meeting on 22nd June 2009.

A Member raised an issue on the impact of traffic flow on a development adjacent to the partially built Malting's Lane development at Witham, and was reminded that the Council meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss this type of issue.

DECISION:

1. That the minute extract of the Local Development Framework Panel of 20th May 2009 be noted.
2. It was agreed that the recommendations from the Local Development Framework Panel should be presented to Council to enable all Members to debate the proposed Growth Locations.

24 **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – Reference from the Performance, Innovation & Efficiency Programme Board 27th May 2009**

Councillor Lager, Cabinet Member for the above Programme Board, presented the amendment of CHLP10 (the average number of days taken to respond to complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman) from 28 days to a local target of 23 days, contained in the draft performance targets for the Annual Plan 2009/10.

DECISION: That the Performance Targets for 2009/10 including the amendment to CHLP10 (as indicated above) be approved.

25 **DELEGATED DECISION**

That the following delegated decision be noted

- Councillor Schmitt agreed to sign up to the Essex Compact – to extend the Council's commitment on good practice when working with the voluntary sector countywide.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

DECISION: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 & 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Act.

Whilst the following items of business were discussed in private session, the minutes do not contain any confidential information and are therefore admissible in the public domain.

26 **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF THE RIVERSIDE SITE, BRAINTREE**

Cabinet received details and considered the offers for the former Riverside Swimming Pool site, at St John's Avenue, Braintree, including the affordable housing provision. A comment from a Cabinet Member regarding the current position of the housing market was noted.

DECISION:

1. That consultation between the Council and the developer quoted in the report takes place to acquire certain details and to ascertain the mix of accommodation, and to define certain users on the site.
2. That the Terms and Conditions be negotiated by the Head of Asset Management, and delegation to the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Well-Being to agree the final offer, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

3. That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** - That £1m be made available from the Capital Programme towards affordable housing, associated with the scheme.

27 **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO MEET TOMORROW'S NEEDS**

The Chief Executive presented proposals on the future management structure of the Council.

DECISION: That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 9.25pm

G BUTLAND
(Leader)

