

# Minutes

## Cabinet

20<sup>th</sup> May 2013



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](http://www.braintree.gov.uk).

### Present:

Portfolio	Cabinet Member	Present
Leader of the Council	Councillor G Butland (Chairman)	Yes
People and Participation	Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Yes
	Councillor P Tattersley	Apologies
Performance and Efficiency	Councillor D L Bebb	Yes
	Councillor J T McKee	Apologies
Place	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Apologies
	Councillor R G S Mitchell	Yes
Planning and Property	Councillor Lady Newton	Yes
	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Apologies
Prosperity and Growth	Councillor C Siddall (Deputy Leader of the Council)	Yes

Councillor Barlow, Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Abbott, Leader of the Green Group, and Councillor Dr Evans, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, were also present as invitees of the Leader.

Councillor Canning was also in attendance.

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**INFORMATION:** There were no interests declared.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, all Members remained in the meeting for all items, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the debate and decision thereon.

### 2. QUESTION TIME

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

### 3. MINUTES

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. **LEADER'S UPDATE**

The Leader of the Council reported that he had attended a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on behalf of the Council which had been a confirmation hearing for the new Deputy Police Crime Commissioner for Essex. The role of the Panel had been to ensure that the appointment process had been carried out correctly and an opportunity for Panel members to ask the Deputy Commissioner questions on issues. The Panel was unanimous in confirming the appointment of Lindsay Whitehouse who is currently Deputy Governor, Chelmsford Prison. Mr Whitehouse is due to take up the appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

#### 5. **PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2012/13**

##### **DECISION:**

Minutes Published: 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 Call-in Expires: 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
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1. That the requests to carry forward budgets to 2013/14, and virements as necessary, with a total value of £218,060 as detailed in Appendix B to the report be approved.
2. That the requests to carry forward prior year budgets to 2013/14 with a total value of £78,880 as detailed in Appendix C to the report be approved.
3. That the transfer of the balances on seven budgets carried forward to 2012/13, totalling £200,240 and identified in Appendix C, to General Fund Balances as the budgets are no longer required be agreed.
4. That the creation of the new earmarked reserves and the re-designation of an earmarked reserve as detailed in Appendix D to the report be agreed.
5. That it be recommended to Council:
  - i. That the provision of £400,000 Growth Area Funding underspends toward access improvements at Twin Oaks be approved.
  - ii. That delegated authority to be given to the portfolio holder and Corporate Director to negotiate final details of the scheme.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To gain approval of requests to carry forward budgets from 2012/13 to 2013/14 and for the creation of new earmarked reserves in order that these can be incorporated in the Council's 2012/13 Accounts prior to submission to the external auditors. To recommend to Council additional funding provision for access improvement works at Twin Oaks.

#### 6. **STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT**

**DECISION:** That the Strategic Risk Register and the Action Plans for managing the high rated risks, as detailed in Appendix B to the report be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To demonstrate that the Council regularly identifies the strategic risks which may affect the achievement of its objectives and actively manages them as appropriate

## 7. **CABINET MEMBERS' UPDATES**

**INFORMATION:** Councillor Bebb, Cabinet Member, Performance and Efficiency, reported that the Cooperative Bank, with whom the Council has a contract for banking services until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, has been downgraded by Moody's. The Council's Investment Policy provides for a limit of £5million to be invested overnight or in a call account with the Bank. On 10<sup>th</sup> May, on news of the downgrade, the Council reduced its monies with the Bank from £4.45million to £1million. The Council has also contacted its Financial Advisors, Arlingclose, and agreed that only an amount required for operational liquidity purposes should be held with the Bank. This amount is around £1million. The Council hopes to meet with its Financial Advisors shortly to discuss the Council's total investment strategy.

Councillor Bebb added that the Cooperative Bank had written to its customers pointing out that only one ratings agency had downgraded the Bank to below investment grade. Fitch had not downgraded the Bank and last week, had noted the Bank's strong funding profile and good liquidity. The Bank has said that the challenges ahead relate to capital levels and profitability and has no issues in relation to its liquidity. The Bank also points out that it is primarily funded by customer deposits with a loan to deposit ratio of 92% meaning that it has more in customer deposits than it lends. The Bank also points out that it is part of the Cooperative group with an annual turnover of more than £13billion.

Councillor Bebb said the Council is monitoring the situation closely with its Financial Advisors.

In response to a question, the Head of Finance advised that the money taken from the account with the Cooperative Bank has been placed with the Debt Management Office.

Members noted the action taken.

## 8. **EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON PARTNERSHIPS, PANELS AND BOARDS**

**DECISION:** That the following appointments be made for the 2013/14 Civic Year:

<b>Name of Organisation/ Partnership Board</b>	<b>Appointed Councillor(s)</b>
Braintree District CAB Management Board	Cllr Sutton
Braintree District Museum Study Centre Trust Ltd – Corporate Trustee	Cllr Siddall
Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency	Cllr Howell
Braintree Town Team	Cllr Siddall

Ignite	Cllr Siddall Cllr McKee
Community Housing Investment Partnership Board (CHIP)	Cllr Butland, Cllr Lady Newton Cllr Schmitt
Great Notley Country Park – Joint Governance with ECC	Cllr Butland Cllr Schmitt
Halstead Town Team	Cllr Siddall
Essex Inter-Authority Working Group (Waste and Recycling)	Cllr Schmitt
North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee	Cllr Schmitt Cllr Mitchell
Leisure Partnership Board	Cllr Beavis Cllr Tattersley
Local Government Information Unit	Cllr Beavis
Police and Crime Panel	Cllr Butland Deputy: Cllr Schmitt
South Anglia Group	Cllr Lady Newton
Stansted Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr Swift
Witham Town Team	Cllr Siddall

### Essex County Council Partnerships – Appointments

<b>Name of Organisation/ Partnership Board</b>	<b>Appointed Councillor(s)</b>
Essex County Council Partnership – Joint Locality Board	All Cabinet Members
Braintree District Local Highways Panel	Cllr Abbott Cllr Banthorpe Cllr Mitchell Cllr Lager
Youth Strategy Group	Cllr Canning

## Local Government Association – Appointments

Name of Organisation/Partnership Board	Appointed Councillor(s)
Local Government Association General Assembly	Cllr Butland
East of England Local Government Association (EELGA)	Cllr Butland
District Council Network	Cllr Bebb
Local Government Association Rural Commission	Cllr Beavis
Local Government Association Urban Commission	Cllr Bebb

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To develop and promote the public services agenda through effective partnership working with other public sector organisations.

### 9. **MINUTES FROM CABINET SUB GROUPS**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 be noted.

### 10. **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

**DECISION:** That the delegated decisions set out in the report be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The reasons for each decision can be found in the individual Delegated Decisions.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 7.50pm.

G BUTLAND  
(Leader)