

Minutes

Cabinet

20th July 2015



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 (Chairman)	Yes
Deputy Leader of the Council	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Yes
Environment and Place	Councillor R Mitchell	Yes
Planning and Housing	Councillor Lady Newton	Yes
	Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint	Yes
Economic Development	Councillor T Cunningham	Yes
Health and Communities	Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Yes
	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
Finance and Performance	Councillor D Bebb	Apologies
Corporate Services and Asset Management	Councillor J McKee	Yes

Also present as invitees of the Leader:

Councillor Abbott, Green Party

Councillor Mann, Leader of the Labour Group

Councillor Mrs Pell, Leader of Halstead Residents Association

Councillor Siddall, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, from 7.45pm

Councillors Ramage and Schwier were also in attendance.

12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:

Councillor Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6a – ‘Cabinet’s response to the recommendations arising from the Task & Finish Group’s Review of the North Essex Parking Partnership’ as a Member of Essex County Council.

Councillor Mrs Bowers-Flint declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6a – ‘Cabinet’s response to the recommendations arising from the Task & Finish Group’s Review of the North Essex Parking Partnership’ as the former Chairman of the Task and Finish Group.

Councillor T Cunningham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9a – ‘Fourth Quarter and Annual Performance Management Report 2014-15’ as a director of Ignite Business Enterprise.

Councillor Mann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5b – ‘Community Housing Investment Partnership (CHIP) Growth Fund’ as a director of Greenfields Community Housing.

Councillor McKee declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9a – ‘Fourth Quarter and Annual Performance Management Report 2014-15’ as a director of Ignite Business Enterprise.

Councillor Mrs Pell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12b – ‘Cabinet Member Decisions made under Delegated Powers’ as a Member of Halstead Town Council.

Councillor Siddall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9a – ‘Fourth Quarter and Annual Performance Management Report 2014-15’ as a board member of Ignite Business Enterprise.

13 **QUESTION TIME**

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

14 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 **LEADER’S UPDATE**

On 13th July 2015 the Leader had attended a meeting of the Greater Essex Business Board where proposals for a separate Greater Essex Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had been discussed. It had been agreed that the proposal would be put to Government.

The Leader along with Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, had proposed a motion at Essex County Council’s Full Council meeting supporting the case for a single Greater Essex LEP, which had received unanimous support.

The Leader had attended the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Annual General Meeting where the future plans of SELEP had been discussed.

Essex Leaders had met on 20th July 2015 to carry on further work on Greater Essex devolution proposals. It had been agreed that a bid should be submitted to Government in the early autumn following consideration by each Council.

16 **COMMUNITY HOUSING INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (CHIP) GROWTH FUND**

INFORMATION: The Community Housing Investment Partnership (CHIP) Fund had been set up at the time of the housing stock transfer in 2007. The Fund was managed by a board comprising three members appointed by Greenfields Community Housing and three members appointed by the Council.

In late 2012, it had been agreed that the CHIP Fund should be split between the themes of 'People', 'Place' and 'Growth' to reflect both organisations' priorities. £7.35m had been set aside for the 'Growth' theme. Funding identified for 'Growth' had been allocated to new affordable housing schemes and this had been an important element in the delivery of Greenfields' and the District's programme of new homes.

It had been proposed to divide the remaining balance of the 'Growth' fund equally between the Council and Greenfields. At 1st April 2015, the Growth Fund stood at £5.4 million.

DECISION: To approve that the remaining CHIP 'Growth' fund is divided equally between Greenfields Community Housing and the Council.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that best use is made of the resources available to Braintree District Council and Greenfields.

17 **CABINET'S RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE TASK & FINISH GROUP'S REVIEW OF THE NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP**

INFORMATION: The report on the Task & Finish Group's Review of the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th March 2015 and by Full Council on 13th April 2015.

The report had also been considered by the NEPP Joint Committee on 18th June 2015. The Committee had welcomed the report which they found to be very comprehensive and had asked officers to consider all the recommendations to help develop and improve service provision to the NEPP's customers and its partner Authorities.

The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group were set out in the report, together with the recommended responses from Cabinet.

It was agreed by Members that under recommendation 4 "*That the NEPP encourages County Council Members to attend partnership meetings to reinforce the concept of partnership working*" that this referred only to Essex County Council Cabinet Members who were appointed as part of the Partnership and that this should be clarified.

DECISION: That Cabinet's response to the recommendations made by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) Task & Finish Group, as set out within the report, be agreed and the Corporate Director/Head of Operations be authorised to pursue the proposed actions with the North Essex Parking Partnership.

REASON FOR DECISION: To agree the actions arising from the recommendations made by the Task & Finish Group.

18 **CABINET RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S REVIEW INTO POVERTY IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT**

INFORMATION: At the meeting of Full Council on 13th April 2015, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had presented the report, along with recommendations, relating to poverty in the Braintree District.

The report set out the Cabinet's proposed responses to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

DECISION: That the responses outlined in the report be approved and the Corporate Director authorised to take forward the actions proposed.

REASON FOR DECISION: Cabinet is required to receive and respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report into poverty in the Braintree District.

19 **BRAINTREE TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENT**

INFORMATION: Members were provided with details of the latest scheme proposals which were a variation to the original outline scheme.

In 2011, an agreement had been made between the Council and Henry Boot Developments Limited for a large retail based development. However, due to changes in circumstances over the past four years a proposal had been put forward for a reduced scheme that addressed primarily a pertinent need for new medical facilities. The scheme had changed from a retail led scheme to a Doctors' Surgery/restaurant led scheme.

Members were also made aware that the date by which Henry Boot Developments Limited would prepare and submit the specification and the scheme drawings in accordance with the terms of the development agreement was to be extended to the 31st December 2015. The submission extension had been approved by Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, under delegated authority to enable the proposed scheme to progress without any further delay.

DECISION: That the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: The report provided Members with an update on the progress of the Braintree Town Centre Regeneration Project.

20 **FOURTH QUARTER AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014-15**

INFORMATION: In the final quarter of the year the Council had completed a total of 39 projects, six projects were on track to meet their completion dates and one project had an amber status due to delays.

For the year, 12 performance indicators had met their targets, three performance indicators had missed by less than 5% and one indicator had missed target by more than 5%.

Some of the key projects that had been part of the Council's good performance for the year included:

- The Love Essex litter campaign which had achieved a 65% reduction in litter in the Braintree District and a 41% reduction in fast food litter across Essex.
- The new household and commercial refuse collection had been successfully introduced.
- Installation of solar panels on the roofs of Braintree Swim and Halstead Leisure Centres.
- Refurbished play areas.
- Supporting 79 business start-ups throughout the year creating a total of 109 new jobs.
- Business Apprenticeship programme.

The only red performance indicator related to the percentage of household waste that had been sent for re-use, recycling and composting. Overall for the year, this indicator had achieved 54.22% against an aspirational target of target of 60%. It was noted that the amount of recyclable waste had fallen by 1000 tonnes and waste to landfill had increased.

The financial position statement for 2014/15 showed an overall positive variance of £547,100, against the original budget of £15.2million. The main reason for the variance was an over achievement of income of £686,800 on investment income generated from cash invested in pooled funds and rental income from the purchase of 870 The Crescent, Colchester Business Park. Additional income had also been generated from Council services.

It was proposed that £135,060 of unspent budgets should be carried over and used in 2015/16. This had been approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 15th June 2015, and had reduced the outturn variance transferred to General Fund balances to £412,040.

DECISION: That the report be noted and endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform the Cabinet of the performance of the Council.

21 **CABINET MEMBER UPDATES**

INFORMATION: There were no updates.

22 **REFERENCES FROM COUNCIL/COMMITTEES/GROUPS**

INFORMATION: There were none.

23 **MINUTES - LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE – 11TH JUNE 2015**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 11th June 2015 be noted.

24 **MINUTES - DEVELOPING DEMOCRACY GROUP – 15TH JUNE 2015**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Developing Democracy Group held on 15th June 2015 be noted.

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

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

REASON FOR DECISION: The reasons for the decision can be found in the delegated decision.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.24pm.

G BUTLAND
(Leader)