

# Minutes

## Council Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> March 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](http://www.braintree.gov.uk).

Present:

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Present</b>
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	Apologies
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	Yes	Councillor R Ramage	Yes
Councillor J Coleridge	Yes	Councillor F Ricci	Yes
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	Apologies
Councillor Mrs D Garrod	Yes	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Councillor J Goodman	Apologies	Councillor P Tattersley	Apologies
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](http://www.braintree.gov.uk).

## 82 **CHAIRMAN'S AND/OR LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements to be made.

## 83 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**INFORMATION:** The following interests were declared:-

Councillor J Abbott declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11, "Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Scrutiny of the Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District," as he was an Elected Member at Essex County Council.

Councillor Mrs J Allen declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 8, "Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowance Scheme," as she had a family connection with one of the Panel members.

Councillor L Bowers-Flint declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12a, "Reports from the Leaders and Cabinet Members," as a non-voting member of the North Essex Garden Communities.

Councillor G Butland declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11, "Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Scrutiny of the Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District," as he was an Elected Member at Essex County Council.

Councillor J Cunningham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11, "Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Scrutiny of the Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District," as he was a Director of a company that worked for Essex Highways.

Councillor Mrs M Cunningham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11, "Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Scrutiny of the Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District," as she was a Director of a company that worked for Essex Highways.

Councillor T Cunningham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11, "Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Scrutiny of the Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District," as he was a remunerated member of a company that worked for Essex Highways.

Councillor Mrs J Pell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 7, "Presentation by Local Council Awards to Halstead Town Council," as she was a member of Halstead Town Council, and in Agenda Item 8, "Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Members' Allowance Scheme," as she was familiar with two members of the Panel.

Councillor F Ricci declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 6, "Presentation of Chairman's Charities for 2018/19," as a trustee of the Active Braintree Foundation.

Councillor Mrs W Schmitt declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11, "Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Scrutiny of the Role of the Highway Authority in the Braintree District," as she was an Elected Member at Essex County Council.

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.

84 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85 **QUESTION TIME**

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

86 **PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S CHARITIES FOR 2018/19**

The Chairman informed Members that during her year as Chairman of the Council, £2808.10 had been raised and divided equally between her two nominated charities at £1404.05 each, the charities of which were 'Braintree and Bocking Gardens' and the 'Active Braintree Foundation.' The Chairman also expressed her thanks to all those who had participated in the events held throughout the year in aid of the charities, such as the Charity Golf Day and casual dress days.

Mr. George Canvin (Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens) and Mr. John Wood (Active Braintree Foundation) were then invited to receive their cheques and to say a few words. Mr. Wood expressed his thanks to the Chairman for her support and participation in a number of the Active Braintree Foundation's events and advised Members that although the money received was as of yet unallocated, Braintree District Council would be kept abreast of the ultimate decision. Mr. Canvin echoed Mr. Wood's gratitude towards the Chairman and all those who had supported the Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens throughout the year. It was added that the Public Gardens cost approximately £30,000 each year to maintain, the amount of which was funded solely by the events and activities promoted within the gardens as no public funding was otherwise received. The work of the charity and those involved in supporting the Public Gardens had been instrumental in helping the target to be met.

87 **PRESENTATION BY LOCAL COUNCIL AWARDS TO HALSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL**

The Chairman was pleased to report that Halstead Town Council had been awarded the Local Council Award Scheme at foundation level. Councillor John Gili-Ross, Vice-Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils Executive Committee was invited by the Chairman to present the award to Halstead Town

Council which was represented by Councillors Andy Munday (Chairman), Mick Radley (Deputy Chairman), Shirley Diver, Dave Gronland, Jackie Pell, Julia Allen and Eileen Penn and their Clerk, Sarah Greatorex.

Councillor Gili-Ross commended the work of Halstead Town Council in the achievement of the award and thanked Braintree District Council for the opportunity to present the award at the meeting.

## 88 **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

**INFORMATION:** Members considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on the Members' Allowance Scheme. The Chairman reminded Members that an amendment to the report had been circulated on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 on behalf of the Leader, Councillor G Butland. Mrs Frances Coulson, Chairman of the Panel, was then invited to introduce the report.

Members were informed that the IRP consisted of panel members who were all residents of the Braintree District selected for the purpose of providing independent advice to Members on remuneration. Gratitude was expressed towards the Members who had provided the Panel with the necessary information to conduct the review, as well to officers, particularly the Head of the Governance for his advice, and the Governance Business Officer for her organisation of the meetings. In considering their recommendations, it was necessary for the Panel to weigh the role of a Councillor as a public servant against the need to ensure that the expense of undertaking Council functions did not present a barrier to people from all personal circumstances seeking such a role. The need for diversity to be taken into account in all areas of the review was also a key priority for Panel Members. It was added that the recommendations proposed could apply for a sustained period of time and as such, the circumstances of Members could change, as well as the Members themselves in the new Administration. The levels of remuneration and expenses allowed by other Councils nationally was also examined by the Panel to help ensure that the recommendations were fair. Furthermore, the Panel recognised the need for the Council's budgeting process to be meticulous, especially with the reduction of central government funding contribution being faced by the Authority.

As part of the outcome of the review, the Panel recommended that Members continued to receive the same percentage increases in their allowances as officers of the Council each year. It was also recommended that the negative deductions of the Member Development Allowance be removed in order to make it a year-end payment of up to £400, dependent on attendance at training; as such, no Members would experience deductions in their basic allowance and should be incentivised to attend by the year-end payment. During the review, representations were received in relation to conflicting attendance by Members due to clashes with other meetings in the District which made it difficult for Members to attend their scheduled meetings and training sessions at the Council. However, the Panel believed that due to its importance, core training for Members should take precedence where possible and so did not consider it appropriate to include widening the scope for attendance exceptions any further.

In respect of Communication Allowance, communication was considered a vital tool to the role of a Councillor but it was noted that where Members used their own

devices that were not necessarily up to date with the latest hardware, it was recommended that the allowance be made more flexible in accordance with individual needs (total of £40 per month). This new flexibility would also encompass Cabinet Members as well where they did not have equipment or additional services provided. Other recommendations revolved around the provision of the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA), as it was recognised that with the advent of new technologies (i.e. new electronic devices for communication), Members were facing increased pressures in their roles, which was a particular issue being faced by members of the Planning Committee. The suggestion was therefore to increase the SRA payments in respect of the Planning Committee, and to a lesser extent the Licensing Committee. It was recommended for both Committees that the Vice-Chairmen received an additional payment, as well as the Chairman as there was a notable amount of dual work involved for those roles. Lastly, it was noted that the rate of SRA payments for the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny and Governance Committees was to be maintained, as the importance of these roles in monitoring of the Executive was recognised.

Further to the report, Councillor Butland thanked Mrs Coulson for her presentation and advised Members of the details of his proposed amendment to the recommended proposals of the IRP, a copy of which had been circulated to Members previously. The overall impact of the changes was the reduction of the maximum cost of the proposals by £5,538 from the amount recommended by the IRP, which would more accurately reflect the workload of the various offices, such as the Planning Committee. Furthermore, Members were informed that the Council remained in the lower half of the remuneration table across the County and he did not want this, combined with the workloads of Members on such Committees, to deter Members from serving in future. The proposed amendment was therefore as follows:-

**“Amended Substantive Proposition:**

That the proposed resolution 1 be amended to state:

The Council thanks the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for its work and for its Report. It accepts the recommendations of the IRP in respect of the level of the Basic allowance, The Member Development allowance and the Communication Allowance, together with the other recommendations in the report excluding those relating to the Special Responsibility Allowances.

The Council accepts the recommended changes to the Special Responsibility Allowance which are proposed to be implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

The Council however amends the recommendations of the IRP in respect of the Special Responsibilities Allowances coming into effect on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as set out in the attached schedule with the amendments highlighted in Blue and adopts the amended proposals.\*

In doing so Council notes that the total maximum cost of its proposal as indicated in the covering report will be £5,538 lower than that proposed by the IRP Committee and believes that the amendments will more accurately reflect the workload of the various offices.

That Resolution 2 remains as written:

2. To authorise the Head of Governance to incorporate relevant changes to the scheme within the Constitution and make such typographic amendments as are necessary to do this.”

\* **NOTE:** Appendix A with the amendments to the Special Responsibilities Allowances (highlighted in blue) is included at the end of these Minutes.

**DECISION:**

1. The Council thanks the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for its work and for its Report. It accepts the recommendations of the IRP in respect of the level of the Basic Allowance, the Member Development Allowance and the Communication Allowance, together with the other recommendations in the report excluding those relating to the Special Responsibility Allowances.

The Council accepts the recommended changes to the Special Responsibility Allowance which are proposed to be implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

The Council however amends the recommendations of the IRP in respect of the Special Responsibilities Allowances coming into effect on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as set out in the attached schedule with the amendments highlighted in Blue and adopts the amended proposals.

In doing so Council notes that the total maximum cost of its proposal as indicated in the covering report would be £5,538 lower than that proposed by the IRP Committee and believes that the amendments would more accurately reflect the workload of the various offices.

2. The Head of Governance was authorised to incorporate relevant changes to the scheme within the Constitution and make such typographic amendments as are necessary to do this.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Council’s Members’ Allowance Scheme and make appropriate adjustments to the scheme for Member remuneration.

89 **RECOMMENDATION FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 – TASK AND FINISH GROUP SCRUTINY REVIEW SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS**

**INFORMATION:** Members were asked to consider the report of the Task and Finish Group. Councillor P Barlow, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to introduce the report. Some of the keys findings that had emerged from the Scrutiny Review included the need to recognise that issues surrounding social isolation and loneliness were not specific to any particular age or social group, as well as the need for Braintree District Council to involve as many different organisations as possible with regard to addressing these issues.

**DECISION:** That Council agreed:

1. To approve the Scrutiny Report and the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group into Social Isolation and Loneliness in the Braintree District.
2. To refer the Task and Finish Group Scrutiny Review to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

To enable the Committee's report to be referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules for Scrutiny.

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**RECOMMENDATION FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 – TASK AND FINISH GROUP SCRUTINY REVIEW RECYCLING, RE-USE AND REDUCE**

**INFORMATION:** Members were asked to consider the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group. Councillor P Barlow, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to present the report.

Firstly, Members were made aware of an error that had been identified on Page 36 of the Agenda, whereby the Vice-Chairman of the Task and Finish Group into Recycling, Re-Use and Reduce was incorrectly given as Councillor Barlow; this should have stated Councillor Rose.

Members were advised that, historically, the focus of Braintree District Council (BDC) was to direct waste away from landfill sites and to encourage residents to undertake recycling practices which were a key income generator for the organisation. The current focus of BDC had now shifted towards waste reduction as opposed to recycling and the encouragement of re-use. As part of its Scrutiny Review, the Task and Finish Group carried out a number of research initiatives which included writing to local schools in the District to gain a flavour of what recycling practices they currently implemented, and to enquire as to what help BDC could provide to help educate students as to the importance of waste prevention tactics.

Further to the report, there followed a general discussion by Members as to the recommendations contained within the report, during which the Leader highlighted the recent indications that had emerged from Central Government about the implementation of changes to collection services of Local Authorities across the country, whereby each Authority operated a universal collection service. The Leader expressed his disdain for such a movement, as the local service currently regulated within the Braintree District was generally favoured by residents. It was added that if such changes from Central Government were to be implemented at later date, funding should be provided from Central Government and any repercussions dealt with centrally as well.

**DECISION:** That Council agreed to approve the recommendations within the report for referral to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable the Committee's report to be referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules for Scrutiny.

## **RECOMMENDATION FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 – SCRUTINY OF THE ROLE OF THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT**

**INFORMATION:** Members were asked to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor P Barlow, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to present the report.

Gratitude was expressed to the Members and officers alike who were involved with facilitating the Scrutiny Review, with particular thanks expressed towards Samir Pandya, Strategy and Policy Manager, for his advice and expertise throughout both the Scrutiny Review into the Role of the Highway Authority. It was noted that there were a number of constraints experienced by the Committee that inhibited the comprehensiveness with which the Review could be facilitated. Issues primarily emerged from the refusal of Essex County Council (ECC) to allow Highway Officers to attend meetings of the Committee in order to assist with its evidence gathering apart from one session where two Highways Planning Officers attended. As a result, the end Scrutiny Report produced was critical of many aspects of the highways function, although it acknowledged that some improvements had been seen in the administration of its services (e.g. such as some of the website interaction and the assignment of an Assistant Highways Liaison Officer).

Issues which arose from the Scrutiny Review included the poor interaction between the Planning function at Braintree District Council and the Essex Highways Planning Officers. Doubt was expressed about the robustness of ECC's conclusions in respect of the capacity of roads in the Braintree District. In conjunction with this, Members were reminded that the District Council was not a recognised Highway Authority and as such, was required to seek advice from officers at ECC and to not raise objections or refusals to planning applications on those grounds. The issue of Section 106 opportunities was also raised in that it was expressed by Committee Members that earlier sight of such community gain agreements be received as Members could provide the District Council and ECC Officers with a more local perspective as to how those funds could be appropriately utilised.

Another issue raised during the Scrutiny Review that Members sought substantial evidence on was the robustness of the audit and value for money exercise process enacted by ECC, particularly in regard to its contract with Ringway Jacobs (RJ). Gratitude was expressed towards elected ECC Members which included Councillor J Abbott, Councillor R Mitchell and Councillor Mrs W Schmitt, who assisted with this aspect of the Scrutiny Review through attendance at evidence gathering sessions. It was reported by Councillor Mrs Schmitt that ECC would be considering its own financial scrutiny in respect of its contract with RJ. The ultimate view of the Committee, however, remained sceptical that ECC could demonstrate that its use of public money provided appropriate economic value.

Final comment was made that it did not appear that ECC exerted a consistent positive attitude towards its partner Authorities. Attention was also drawn to the final paragraph under Section 6, Page 62 of the Agenda, which reflected the unanimous view of the Committee that the culture of ECC in terms of its willingness to engage with its partners needed to change, as their refusal to assist with the Scrutiny Review meant that their opportunity to demonstrate a positive perspective to Members in response to the issues raised was missed.



**DECISION:** That Council agreed:

1. The approval of the recommendations within the report for referral to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
2. To note that as the recommendations related to Essex County Council as the Highway Authority, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to serve notice on Essex County Council as the relevant partner Authority under Section 9FF of the Local Government Act 2000 to consider the recommendations and respond to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Officers were asked to undertake this work on behalf of the Committee.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

1. To enable the Committee's report to be referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Procedure Rules for Scrutiny as set out in the Constitution.
2. To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to serve notice on Essex County Council as the relevant partner Authority under Section 9FF of the Local Government Act 2000 to consider the recommendations and respond to the Committee.

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## **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, made reference to two issues that had emerged further to the Essex Leader's Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The first issue revolved around the possibility of a No Deal Exit and the impact that this could have on the port areas of Harwich and Tilbury. Tilbury was an area of particular concern as there was a need to ensure that the fuel received remained available to external parties; this was a key priority for the planning that was taking place. Overall, the Leaders were reassured by the report from the Chief Constable of Essex, B. J. Harington, in his capacity as Chairman of the Essex Resilience Forum. The second issue raised was in relation to the potential placement of individuals and families from the London Boroughs into areas across Essex. It was reported that currently, Harlow, Basildon and Epping were the areas most affected by the issue, but there was some indication that this could spread further across the County in future. In response to the concerns, the Essex Leaders each signed a letter to both the Mayor of London and the Leaders of the London Boroughs to express their unease. A subsequent way forward had been agreed and would be followed up in due course. It was emphasised that the issue was not of high concern within the Braintree District currently, although there was increasing potential for the District to become affected in the future.

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

Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, had nothing further to add to her report but mentioned that the Council had recently submitted a joint bid (along with Chelmsford City Council, Epping Forest District Council, Essex County Council and Maldon District Council) for rough sleeper initiative funding from the Government. A total of £180,000 was to be allocated across the Authorities, including: £25,000 towards a rough sleeper coordinator, £15,000 for two ring-fenced beds at a night shelter, £20,000 for Private Renting Sector access (PRS) and £120,000 for three Outreach workers. It was stated that the Braintree District was fortunate in that it did not have a large number of rough sleepers within the area; however, the initiative under the joint work scheme would allow the Council to assist those who were in need.

Councillor T Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, informed Members that the Council had now submitted its interest for the Future High Street Fund centred on the Braintree Town Centre. It was stated that Braintree was now in a position to indicate its potential and actual capacity for economic delivery which was likely to resonate with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. With future funding rounds there was an opportunity for future bids for other town centres in the District.

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

Councillor Mrs W Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Environment and Place, offered her congratulations to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) for their recent wins at the National Parking Awards. Councillor Mrs Schmitt also made mention of her attendance at a meeting of the respective Braintree District Community Safety Partnership on the subject of County Lines and child sexploitation. With regard to the issues raised, the Community Safety Team at the Council were reportedly ahead of other Authorities with their successful 'Spot It Stop It' campaign.

Councillor F Ricci, Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Communities, was invited to present the report in Councillor P Tattersley's absence. Councillor Ricci advised Members that the annual Community Services Volunteer Awards would be taking place at the Braintree Art Theatre on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The categories for the awards had also been expanded to recognise the achievements of younger people who had undertaken voluntary roles, particularly as carers. Members were also informed that maintenance work on the Bocking Windmill was underway. Final mention was made of the Men's Health Charity Day, which was due to take place on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Archer Community Centre in Braintree, and would offer health checks conditions such as Diabetes, as well as screenings for skin cancer and blood pressure readings.

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

The main topics were as follows:

- Councillor Abbott questioned whether the Leader felt confident that his Local Plan Strategy would ultimately be successful in the face of the changing nature

of the Local Plan after it was found to be unsound by the Planning Inspector in 2017.

- Councillor Mrs Pell raised concerns about the capacity of the A131 as it was anticipated that the levels of traffic on the road would increase substantially due to the level of planning applications being received near the area. There was also concern that the funding allocated by Tesco for improvements to the A131 at the Marks Farm Roundabout, Braintree, would be lost due to the time it has taken for any such improvements to be implemented.
- Councillor Barlow raised a concern in relation to Member access to information in respect of Section 106 funds. A further concern was also raised regarding Section 21 Evictions and the potential for discriminatory actions in this area.
- A question was asked by Councillor Abbott in regard to the realignment work proposed along the A12 and whether a consultation had taken place with residents about this.
- Councillor Everard expressed his concerns over the Manor Street regeneration project in Braintree, with a particular focus around the loss of car park spaces around the bus terminal and the availability of public toilets.
- In respect of the Church Lane Surgery in Braintree, Councillor Everard commented on the inadequacy of the pedestrian and vehicle access to the premises and the need for the car park to be enlarged and asked what action could be taken to address the issue. A query was also raised as to whether the Council could seek to provide a Community Transport link for residents between the bus park and the surgery.
- Councillor Barlow suggested that the police task special constables with the examination of areas where kerb parking remained an issue in order to highlight where there were safety hazards.
- Councillor Abbott expressed his gratitude to the Cabinet Member and officers involved for their work towards minimising the impacts of street lighting on the resident bat populations around the Mill Lane river area in Witham. Appreciation was also given to the officers involved for the clearance of two fly tips in Rivenhall.
- Councillor Abbott enquired as to whether there was a litter pick intended for the roadside along the A12.

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

- Councillor Mrs Bowers-Flint agreed to circulate figures in relation to Section 21 evictions in the District to Members.
- On the subject of car parking shortages at the Church Lane Surgery, Councillor McKee agreed to investigate the issue further and would provide a written response to Councillor Everard. A written reply would also be provided in relation to the potential for a Community Transport link between the bus park and the surgery.

- Councillor Mrs Schmitt advised that she would update Councillor Barlow once a response was received from the Department of Transport as to when the issue of kerb parking would be decriminalised.
- Councillor Mrs Schmitt agreed to provide a written response in respect of Councillor Abbott's query about a possible litter pick along the A12.

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

**INFORMATION:** There were no matters raised.

**DECISION:** That Members noted the Minutes published.

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm and closed at 9:12pm.

Councillor Miss V Santomauro  
(Chairman)

## Summary of Paid Allowances:

	From 1st April 2019		From 6th May 2019		Amendment	
Basic Allowance		£4,926.00		£4,926.00		£4,926.00
Member Development Allowance <sup>1</sup>		-		£400.00		£400.00
Communications Allowance		£240.00		£480.00		£480.00
Special Responsibility Allowances:						
Special Responsibility	Multiplier		Multiplier		Multiplier	
Chairman of the Council	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00
Leader of the Council	3	£14,778.00	3	£14,778.00	3	£14,778.00
Deputy Leader of the Council	2.5	£12,315.00	2.5	£12,315.00	2.5	£12,315.00
Member of the Cabinet	2	£9,852.00	2	£9,852.00	2	£9,852.00
Deputy Cabinet Members	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1.5	£7,389.00
Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	-	-	-	-	0.75	£3,696.00
Chairman of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00
Chairman of the Governance Committee	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00
Chairman of the Planning Committee	1	£4,926.00	2	£9,852.00	1.75	£8,622.00
Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee	-	-	1.5	£7,389.00	0.875	£4,314.00
Minor SRA to Members of the Planning Committee <b>excluding the Chairman and</b>	0.185	£912.00	0.25	£1,233.00	0.25	£1,233.00

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to attendance qualification.

Vice Chairman <sup>2</sup>						
Chairman of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00
Chairman of the Licensing Committee	1	£4,926.00	1.5	£7,389.00	1	£4,926.00
Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee	-	-	1	£4,926.00	0.5	£2,463.00
Chairman of the Grants Panel	1	£4,926.00	-	-	-	-
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00	1	£4,926.00
Leader of Other Opposition Groups of more than 5 members	0.25	£1,233.00	0.25	£1,233.00	0.25	£1,233.00
Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel <sup>3</sup>	0.125	£618.00	0.125	£618.00	0.125	£618.00

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<sup>2</sup> Subject to attendance qualification.

<sup>3</sup> In those years the Panel meets and reports.