



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.

46. **QUESTION TIME**

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

47. **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48. **LEADER'S UPDATE**

The Leader of the Council reported on the following matters:-

- Along with Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Planning and Property, Nicola Beach, Chief Executive, and Jon Hayden, Corporate Director, he had recently met the Managing Director of Stansted Airport. He would report on this meeting at the meeting of Council on 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- The next meeting of Essex Leaders is taking place later in the week. He would also report on this meeting at the meeting of Council on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

49. **PEER CHALLENGE**

**INFORMATION:** It was agreed that the Chief Executive would circulate the Peer Challenge report to all Members.

**DECISION:** That the Peer Challenge Report (set out in Appendix A of the report) be agreed and that the development of an action plan based on the areas for consideration set out in Appendix B of the report be supported.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To agree the Peer Challenge Report and support the development of an action plan to drive forward improvements where required.

50. **PRESENTATION – FUSION**

**INFORMATION:** Members received a presentation from Tim Mills, Business Development Director, and Stephen Brown, Business Development Manager, Fusion.

Members were pleased with the report from Fusion and thought the results of the first year of the Leisure Contract had been encouraging.

Details on the presentation and responses to questions can be viewed at:  
<http://www.braintree.public-i.tv/core/>

51. **PRESENTATION – IGNITE**

**INFORMATION:** Members received a presentation from Nigel Harley, Chairman, and Liz Storey, Managing Director, Ignite Business Enterprise.

Members were pleased with the report from Ignite and its successful progress.

Details on the presentation and responses to questions can be viewed at:

<http://www.braintree.public-i.tv/core/>

The Leader commented that both Fusion and Ignite were success stories where the Council had played a new role for local authorities. In the case of Fusion, the Council had commissioned the new leisure contract and in the case of Ignite, the Council had acted as a facilitator. The Leader thought it was important to recognise the role of the Council and what can be achieved without the Council necessarily having to deliver the service itself. He thanked Members and officers for their support in this new role.

52. **\*\*INVESTMENT IN SOLAR PANELS AT HALSTEAD LEISURE CENTRE AND BRAINTREE SWIMMING CENTRE**

Minutes Published: 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 Call-in Expires: 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
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**DECISION:**

1. That it be **Recommended to Council:**

that capital funding of £430,000 for the installation of solar panels at Halstead Leisure Centre and Braintree Swimming Centre be approved.

2. That authority to sign off the type of maintenance contract of solar panels as part of the tender process be delegated to the Corporate Director.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

1. To produce green energy and reduce carbon emissions;
2. To invest capital for a revenue return for a period of 20 years.

53. **\*\*DESIGNATION OF HOPPIT MEAD AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

Minutes Published: 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 Call-in Expires: 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
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**DECISION:** That the designation of Hoppit Mead as a Local Nature Reserve be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To designate the areas of open space identified collectively as Hoppit Mead as a Local Nature Reserve as enabled by the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949 and with guidance and support from Natural England, for the protection of the natural heritage and the benefit and wellbeing of the local community.

54. **MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013/14 TO 2017/18**

**DECISION:**

1. That it be **Recommended to Council:**
  - a. That the Braintree District Council's Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2014/15 as detailed on the Council's website:  
[http://www.braintree.gov.uk/pcts\\_reductionschemepolicy](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/pcts_reductionschemepolicy) be agreed and
  - b. That the transfer of £250,000 from the unallocated balance to the earmarked reserve for redundancy and early retirement costs be agreed.

That Cabinet agrees that:

2. The budget for 2014/15, as presented in the updated Financial Profile, contained in Appendix J to the report, and the supporting detail contained in Appendices B to G, constitutes the initial budget proposals.
3. The annual Pension Deficit payment to Essex Pension Fund be made in April each year, 2014 to 2016.

That Cabinet notes:

4. The consultation to be undertaken on the proposed savings is contained in Appendix F to the report.
5. The savings approved by Management Board, contained in Appendix G to the report.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

1. Good governance arrangements through the proactive management of the Council's finances over the short and medium term.
2. To Recommend to Council to agree the Local Council Tax Support scheme for the Braintree district from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

55. **SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2013/14**

**DECISION:** That the Second Quarter Performance Management Report 2013/14 be noted and endorsed.

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

56. **CABINET RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF BRAINTREE HALSTEAD AND WITHAM CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB) AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT VOLUNTARY SUPPORT AGENCY (BDVSA)**

**DECISION:** That the responses outlined in the summary attached to the report be approved and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director to take forward the actions.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To consider and respond to the proposed recommendations made by the CAB and BDVSA Task and Finish Group.

57. **CABINET RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

**INFORMATION:** Councillor Barlow, Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, referred to an additional recommendation that Cabinet considers meeting Saffron Building Society in order to gauge interest from that local building society in partnering the Council in offering different and more flexible mortgages.

Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Planning and Property, agreed to consider the recommendation and to ensure that it was not lost.

**DECISION:** That the response outlined in the summary of the report be approved and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director to take forward the actions.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To consider and respond to the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group.

58. **\*\*PROPOSED PURCHASE OF ECKARD HOUSE SITE, EASTON ROAD, WITHAM**

**DECISION:**

Minutes Published: 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 Call-in Expires: 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
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1. That the acquisition of the Eckard House site in Witham on the terms as set out in the report in Private Session be approved and authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Property and the Corporate Director (Sustainable Development) to agree detailed terms and conditions and
2. That it be **Recommended to Council:**  
  
that capital funding on the terms set out in the report in Private Session be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable the Council to facilitate additional commuter car parking in Witham.

59. **CABINET MEMBERS' UPDATES**

**INFORMATION:** There were no updates.

60. **MINUTES FROM CABINET SUB GROUPS**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meetings of the Developing Democracy Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 be noted.

61. **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.

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**DECISION:** That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

The following is a public summary of the exempt information under S.100C (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

62. **\*\*PURCHASE OF ECKARD HOUSE SITE, EASTON ROAD, WITHAM**

**DECISION:**

Minutes Published: 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 Call-in Expires: 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
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1. That the recommendations set out in the report in respect of the detailed terms for the Purchase of Eckard House Site, Easton Road, Witham, be agreed.
2. That it be **Recommended to Council:**

That the detailed recommendation as set out in the report in respect of the approval of Capital funding by Council be agreed.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable the Council to facilitate additional commuter car parking in Witham.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 9.23pm.

G BUTLAND  
(Leader)