

Minutes

Cabinet

9th May 2012



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:

Cabinet Members	Portfolio	Present
Councillor G Butland	Leader of the Council	Yes
Councillor C Siddall	Deputy Leader, Performance	Yes
Councillor J C Beavis	People	Yes
Councillor Lady P Newton	Prosperity	Apologies
Councillor W Schmitt	Place	Yes

Deputy Cabinet Members	Portfolio	Present
Councillor D Bebb	Leader's Portfolio	Yes
Councillor J McKee	Prosperity	Apologies
Councillor R Mitchell	Place	Yes
Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Performance	Apologies
Councillor P Tattersley	People	Yes

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

The following Councillors were also in attendance: Councillors Horner and Lynch.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:

- Councillor Abbott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7a, Integrated County Strategy (ICS) – Approval of ICS Strategy Fund and Inclusion of District Projects as working for Southview School as discussion relating to the School emerged during debate. Councillor Abbott left the meeting for the remainder of this item

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 questions asked or statements made.

3. **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th March 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

4. **LEADER'S UPDATE**

The Leader provided the following updates:

Witham Puppet Festival

Following a discussion the Leader had had with Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Prosperity, she has agreed £4,000 from the Town Centre Regeneration Fund to help support the Witham Puppet Festival for 2012. The Leader hoped that the private sector would provide greater input in future years and that the funds this year gave time for that to happen.

Braintree District Business Group

The Leader has discussed with the Braintree District Business Group enhancing their role as the voice of business into the planning processes of the authority. He had asked the Group to consider ways in which they might achieve this and he awaited their response.

Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)

The Council is revising its Service Level Agreement with the RCCE and should be in a position to make known the details of the Agreement soon.

Flooding

The Leader thought Members would have sympathy with those residents who had suffered during the recent severe weather. In the light of floods, he thought it timely to record the role of the District Council in these circumstances.

Braintree District Council has no statutory responsibility to minimise the impact of flooding but does work closely with Parish and Town Councils to help them develop their emergency plans to do so. Parishes that suffer regular flooding have been encouraged by the Council to hold supplies of sandbags/FloodSax to be used as a last resort if residents do not have their own defence arrangements in place. The main responsibility to prevent flooding of a property is the property owner.

Responsible authorities for flooding are:

- Highways – Essex County Council
- Main Rivers – Environment Agency
- Ordinary Water Courses and Lakes – Land Owners
- Sewers and Storm Waters – Anglia Water

- Screens & Blockages under Bridges/Culverts – Essex County Council Braintree District Council comes into action to activate generic Emergency Plans to deal with the effects of flooding where it promotes and facilitates recovery and takes the lead in providing emergency shelter and clean up.

The District Council contacts Parish and Town Councils annually to request an update on their plans.

The District Council agreed to cease holding and issuing sandbags in a public decision at the end of 2009 agreed unanimously by the Council.

During the recent floods the Council carried out a significant amount of work in cleaning up parts of the district.

Witham Public Hall Trust

The Leader asked Councillor Beavis, Cabinet Member, People, to update members on discussions with the Trust. Council officers had recently held a positive and engaging meeting with members of the Trust. The Trust had demonstrated a small surplus and bookings in the hall have increased. A revised Business Plan has recently been submitted which officers are considering. The Council is committed to continuing to meet the Trust. Councillor Beavis reminded members that the Council had agreed to spend £100,000 capital on Witham Public Hall on refurbishments agreed between the Council and the Trust.

5. **LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL**

DECISION: That as far as Cabinet is concerned:

1. That the expected membership of the Braintree District Highways Panel would comprise 4 County Council Members, 4 District Council Members and 4 Parish and Town Councillors nominated by the Braintree Association of Local Committees.
2. That Panel meetings would be expected to be held in public subject to normal confidentiality rules and that Panel minutes and agendas be published on the Council's website.
3. That Cabinet very much hopes that local improvement schemes agreed by the predecessor Panel are able to continue without delay.
4. That Cabinet gives further consideration as to how Parish and Town Councils and local district ward members not involved in the Panel may feed in to its work.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure there is effective local engagement with Essex County Council on highways matters within the district.

6. **INVESTMENT POLICY 2012-13**

DECISION: That it be **recommended to Council** that the revised Investment Policy for 2012-13 as detailed in the report be approved

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council's Investment Policy enables advice

received from its Treasury Management Advisors to be responded to and implemented.

7. **PAY AWARD 2012-13**

DECISION: That a 1% local pay award be made as a consolidated payment and backdated from 1 April 2012.

REASON FOR DECISION: To make a pay award outside of national collective bargaining arrangements for 2012-13.

8. **INTEGRATED COUNTY STRATEGY (ICS) – APPROVAL OF ICS STRATEGY FUND AND INCLUSION OF DISTRICT PROJECTS**

DECISION:

Minutes Published: 17 th May 2012 Call-in Expires: 25 th May 2012
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1. That the following seven projects relating directly to Braintree District for inclusion within the ICS Investment Plan be approved:

- A120 corridor improvement (Galleys Corner, Braintree);
- A120 corridor improvements (dualling of key sections);
- A12 journey reliability improvements;
- Great Eastern main line improvements (includes Crossing Rail Loop);
- Development of high speed broadband services across Essex;
- Braintree town centre regeneration and public realm improvements;
- Braintree - developing enterprise units and business support.

2. That the District ICS project proposals being developed to attract investment from an Essex-wide ICS rolling investment fund be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve the Council's list of projects included in the ICS which aim to deliver wider benefits and significant economic growth for the district.

9. **ASSET MANAGEMENT –ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012-13**

DECISION: That the Asset Management Plan 2012-13 be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve the Asset Management Plan 2012-13.

10. **AWARD OF THE NEW LEISURE CONTRACT FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012**

Minutes Published: 17 th May 2012 Call-in Expires: 25 th May 2012
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DECISION:

1. That the awarding of the Leisure Contract to Fusion on the basis of its mandatory variant bid; contract to commence from 1st September 2012 be approved.
2. That a proposal to open discussions with the successful bidder in respect of the Council making a capital investment in the region of £1million to increase fitness

capacity in Braintree be supported.

REASON FOR DECISION: To award the leisure contract to ensure continuity of service in order that the new contract starts in September 2012 when the current one ends.

11. **EXPANSION OF WEEKLY FOOD WASTE SERVICE AND INTRODUCTION OF FOUR DAY WORKING WEEK**

Minutes Published: 17 th May 2012 Call-in Expires: 25 th May 2012
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DECISION:

1. That food waste service be extended to approximately 16,500 households from September 2012.
2. That proposals for the introduction of a Four Day Working Week (FDWW) commencing June 2013, cease collecting excess (side) waste be supported and taken forward through formal consultation on the FDWW with Trades Union and staff in accordance with the Council's Management of Change procedures.

REASON FOR DECISION: To improve access to recycling services for another 16,500 households. To further reduce waste to landfill and meet internal/external recycling targets. And to maximise operational efficiency and cost effectiveness of the waste collection service.

12. **REFERENCES FROM COUNCIL/COMMITTEES/GROUPS- OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE- SCRUTINY OF TRANSPORT AND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE DISTRICT**

Council, 16th April 2012, Minute 76 - Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny of Transport and Access to Health Services Across the District

INFORMATION: The Leader had asked Councillor Bebb whose responsibilities include Health under the Deputy Leader's Portfolio to endeavour to bring a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to Cabinet's meeting in July 2012.

13. **REFERENCES FROM COUNCIL/COMMITTEES/GROUPS- MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2012-13**

Member Development Working Group 2nd May 2012, Minute 3 –Member Development Working Group, 2nd May 2012, Minute 3 - Member Development Programme 2012-13

DECISION: That the proposed Member Development Programme 2012-13 set out in the report be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve the Member Development Programme 2012-13.

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

DECISION: That the following appointments be made for the 2012/13 Civic Year:

Name of Organisation/Partnership Board	Nominee(s) for Year 2012/13
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
BEAU/BDS NEWCO	Cllr Siddall Cllr McKee
Community Housing Investment Partnership Board (CHIP)	Cllr Butland, Cllr Lady Newton Cllr Mrs Schmitt
Community Safety Partnership	Cllr Schmitt
Great Notley Country Park - Joint Governance with ECC	Cllr Schmitt
Inter-authority Working Group (Waste)	Cllr Schmitt
Joint Committee - Parking Service (with Colchester & Uttlesford)	Cllr Schmitt Cllr Mitchell
Leisure Partnership Consultative Board	Cllr Beavis Cllr Tattersley
Local Government Information Unit	Cllr Beavis
Police and Crime Panel (Shadow)	Cllr Butland
South Anglia Group	Cllrs Lady Newton
Stansted Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr Swift

Essex County Council Partnerships – Appointments

Name of Organisation/Partnership Board	Name of Nominee(s) for year 2012/13
Essex County Council Partnership – Locality Board	All Cabinet Members
Braintree District Highway Panel	Cllr Banthorpe Cllr Schmitt Cllr R Walters Vacancy (awaiting BALC nominations)
Youth Strategy Group	Cllr Canning

Local Government Association – Appointments

Name of Organisation/Partnership Board	Name of Nominee(s) for year 2012/13
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

15. **CABINET MEMBERS' UPDATES**

INFORMATION: There were no updates from Cabinet Members.

16. **REPORTS/DELEGATED DECISIONS/ MINUTES TO BE NOTED**

DECISION: That the minutes of the Member Development Working Group held on 2nd May 2012 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.34pm.

G BUTLAND
(Leader)