

# Minutes

## Cabinet

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

### Present:

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Present</b>
Councillor G Butland	Leader of the Council	Yes
Councillor C Siddall	Deputy Leader, Efficiency and Resources	Yes
Councillor J C Beavis	Communities	Yes
Councillor Lady P Newton	Enterprise, Housing and Development	Apologies
Councillor W Schmitt	Environment	Apologies

<b>Deputy Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Present</b>
Councillor D Bebb	Leader's Portfolio	Yes
Councillor J McKee	Enterprise, Housing and Development	Yes
Councillor R Mitchell	Environment	Yes
Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Efficiency and Resources	Yes
Councillor P Tattersley	Communities	Yes

Councillor Abbott, Leader of the Green Group was also present as an invitee of the Leader.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Barlow, Leader of the Labour Group, and Councillor Dr Evans, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

The meeting commenced with a short period of all those present standing in silence in memory of Lord Newton on Braintree.

### 82. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**INFORMATION:** There were no declarations of interest.

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.

83. **QUESTION TIME**

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

84. **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

85. **LEADER'S UPDATE**

The Leader provided the following updates:

**Assistant Chief Executive**

This would be the last Cabinet meeting attended by Sharon Lowe, Assistant Chief Executive, although she would be attending Full Council on 16 April. On behalf of Cabinet members, the Leader thanked Mrs Lowe for her work for the Council over many years. The Leader also welcomed Brian Keane as the interim Head of Governance.

**Health Issues**

Since the last meeting of Cabinet, the Leader had attended two meetings related to health issues. A meeting had taken place with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the GP Commissioning Group for Mid Essex. The meeting had been very constructive and the Group is keen to foster good relationships with the Council.

A very constructive meeting had also been held with NHS Mid Essex PCT.

Whatever emerges from the new Health Act, the Council is keen to play a full role with health professional and representatives of patients' organisations and other groups to ensure that health care in the district remains at a high level.

**Highway Panels**

The Leader has received a letter from the Leader of Essex County Council (ECC) regarding changes to the structure and responsibilities of Highway Panels and that funding is to be allocated to each District. The details will be discussed at a meeting of the Joint Locality Board on 30<sup>th</sup> March. District Council representation on the Panel will be dealt with the Council's AGM in April.

**Joint Locality Board**

The meeting of the Joint Locality Board on 30<sup>th</sup> March also includes an item on Observer Status at Board meetings. Other items on the agenda include the Investment Strategy (including Broadband and rail connections), Community Budgets, and the New Homes Bonus. The Leader will provide an update on that meeting at the April meeting of Full Council.

The Leader has also received a letter from the Leader of ECC regarding the whole Essex Community Budget Programme. The following 4 thematic areas have been

established:

- Health and Wellbeing;
- Economic Opportunity;
- Community Safety;
- Families with Complex Needs.

To bring members up to speed with these developments, the Leader has asked the Cabinet Member for Communities to organise a Members' Evening as soon as practical.

### **Police and Crime Panel**

It is proposed that a shadow Police and Crime Panel be established ahead of the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November. District Council nominations to the Panel will be dealt with at the Council's AGM. In the meantime, the Leader has committed £2,000 (the same as other District Councils) to support the work of the shadow Panel until legislation is in place.

#### 86. **2016 ANNUAL PLAN 2012-13**

**DECISION:** That the Annual Plan 2012-13 be agreed.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To agree the Council's key priorities for 2012-13.

#### 87. **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2012/13**

**DECISION:** That it be **recommended to Council** that the Pay Policy as detailed in Appendix A of the report be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To recommend approval of the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2012/13.

#### 88. **THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2011/12**

**DECISION:** That the Third Quarter Performance Management Report 2011/12 be Noted and endorsed.

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

#### 89. **NEW HOMES BONUS STRATEGY**

**DECISION:** That it be **recommended to Council** that the remaining £5,731,810 New Homes Bonus funding be spent in the following two specific funding areas:

1. Investment into major infrastructure projects across the district to support current and future growth £4,981,810.
2. Enable further new affordable housing in the District with an investment of £750,000 to deliver 20 affordable homes.

The allocation of funding to major infrastructure projects will be reported back to a future Cabinet/Council meeting.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure the New Homes Bonus is designated to two key funding streams which will deliver wider benefits for the District and significant economic growth.

90. **PARKING CONCESSIONS - BACKING OUR TOWNS**

**DECISION:**

Minutes Published: 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2012 Call-in Expires: 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
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1. That the continuation of the parking initiative in Braintree and Witham town centres (10p after 3pm to close Monday to Saturday & 10p all day Sunday - excluding permit areas) until 31st March 2013 be approved as follows:

Saturday and Sunday only

- Causeway House, Braintree;
- Mayland Drive, Witham;

Monday to Sunday

- George Yard Multi Storey Car Park, Braintree;
- Manor Street, Braintree;
- Victoria Street, Braintree;
- Station Approach, Braintree;
- Mill Lane, Witham;
- Newland Street, Witham.

2. That it be **recommended to Council** that balances be used to meet the financial impact of £95,700 to extend the parking concession.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To continue the parking concession initiative which aims to support retailers and to encourage more people back in to Witham and Braintree to shop and increase footfall.

91. **CABINET MEMBERS' UPDATES**

**INFORMATION:** There were no updates from Cabinet Members.

92. **REFERENCES FROM COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/GROUPS**

**Local Government Reform Cabinet Sub-Group, 20th March 2012, Minute 12, Revised Constitution – The Articles**

**DECISION:**

1. That the approach and revisions to the Constitution to date be noted.
2. That the Monitoring Officer is commissioned to finalise the Articles and produce the remaining two chapters by the end of March.

3. That the final version of the Constitution is presented to Council on 16th April for approval and adoption.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To produce a Constitution that is fit for purpose.

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

**DECISION:**

1. That the following minute be notes:
  - Local Government Sub-group held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012;
  - Local Government reform Sub-group held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
2. That the delegated decisions contained in the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 7.55pm.

G BUTLAND  
(Leader)