

Minutes

Cabinet

13th March 2023



These Minutes principally record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. A recording of the meeting is available at <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

Present:

Portfolio	Cabinet Member	Present
Overall Strategy	Councillor G Butland (Leader of the Council)	Yes
Innovative Environment		
Finance and Corporate Transformation	Councillor J McKee	Yes
Climate Change and the Environment	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Yes
Operations and Commercialisation	Councillor R van Dulken	Yes
Connecting People, Places and Prosperity		
Economic Growth	Councillor T Cunningham (Deputy Leader)	Yes
Housing, Assets and Skills	Councillor K Bowers	Yes
Planning and Infrastructure	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Supporting Our Communities		
Communities	Councillor F Ricci	Yes
Health and Wellbeing	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes

Present as Invitees of the Leader:

Councillor J Abbott (Leader of the Green and Independent Group), Councillor D Mann (Leader of the Labour Group), Councillor Mrs D Garrod, Chairman of the Community Development Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Mrs M Cunningham, Chairman of the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor M Radley, Chairman of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee.

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68. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:-

Councillor G Butland declared a non-pecuniary interest as an Elected Member of Essex County Council (ECC) as ECC was referred to in various items throughout the Agenda.

Councillor T Cunningham declared a non-pecuniary interest as an Elected Member of Essex County Council (ECC) as ECC was referred to in various items throughout the Agenda.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors remained in the meeting, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the discussion when the Items were considered.

69. **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 6th February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

70. **QUESTION TIME**

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

71. **ANNUAL PLAN 2023-24**

INFORMATION: The Leader of the Council introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

Members were advised that the Annual Plan set out the actions and performance targets of the Council for 2023/24. These actions and targets supported the delivery of the Councils Corporate Strategy 2020 - 2024. It was added that the action and performance measures were aligned to each of our corporate strategy themes, these were; Connecting People and Places, Enhancing our Environment, Supporting our Communities, Promoting Prosperity and Delivering and Innovating.

Members were reminded that the Plan also provided the performance framework for managing the delivery of the actions and priorities by regularly reviewing the activity and achievements against it and reporting on the progress on a quarterly basis to Cabinet.

DECISION: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the Annual Plan 2023/24.
2. Agreed the proposed Councils key actions and performance measures for

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2023/24.

72. **THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022-23**

INFORMATION: Councillor McKee, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

Members were advised that this report set out the progress towards the Council's Corporate Priorities as at the end of the third quarter. It was reported that as at the end of December 2022, 21 projects had been completed, 42 were on track and progressing well and 2 projects had an amber status. They were; to facilitate the delivery of a purpose-built medical centre in Sible Hedingham, and to develop the Witham Enterprise Centre providing small industrial units for start-up companies and SMEs. It was reported that one project had been cancelled in the third quarter due to the project no longer being financially viable bringing the number of projects cancelled through the life of the 'Bouncing Back Together' plan to two.

With regards to performance indicators, Members were advised that nine performance indicators had achieved or exceeded target, two performance indicators had missed target by less than 5% and two performance indicators had missed their target by more than 5%.

The Cabinet Member then highlighted some of the key achievements in the third quarter, these included;

- The Braintree Community Christmas market was a success with over 80 market stalls selling a variety of crafts, foods and drinks. The all-day event had live festive entertainment, circus performers and a number of activities for all to enjoy.
- Recycle week took place from 17th to the 23rd October, which was promoted on social media channels to challenge perceptions and myths around recycling and target contamination to improve recycling behaviours.
- The artificial grass pitch at Braintree Sports and Health club had been replaced.
- During the October half term, six clubs provided organised activities with 215 children attending.
- The Council in partnership with Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner was successful in a bid to the Home Office for Safer Streets Round 4 funding which had a focus on anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and violence against women and girls in a designated area of Witham.
- A new Digital Strategy setting out how future challenges will be met and how technology will be used to deliver better outcomes was agreed by Cabinet in December.
- 75 affordable homes were delivered in the third quarter of the year bringing the total for the year to 235. The housing service also prevented 60 cases of homelessness in the third quarter through various interventions.
- 297 businesses had contacted Braintree District Council for business support. This was quite a significant increase from the second quarter and was due to a

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business needs survey that was sent highlighting the work of the Council and incidentally 91.9% of businesses surveyed said that they felt proud to trade in Braintree District.

It was added that there was an additional section included in the report under the Enhancing our Environment section which provided an update on the progress of numerous actions within the Climate change strategy.

The Cabinet Member then reported on the financial performance of the Council and advised Members that the finance section of the report provided an updated review of the financial position for the quarter examining the latest forecast for spending on day-to-day service provision compared to the budget. This also included a summary of treasury management activities; projected movements on the General Fund balance; and a summary of spending to date on capital projects.

The financial position for the end of the third quarter was as follows:

- The forecast outturn for the year at Q3 was a positive variance of £65k.
- The projected change in General Fund unallocated balance was currently a net addition of £428k giving an estimated balance at 31 March 2023 of £6.5m.
- Actual spend on the capital programme was £6.9m, of which £3.5m was on the Plaza, with £1.3m on the Manor Street regeneration project.

DECISION: That Cabinet noted the performance of the Council for the third quarter (October 2022 to December 2022).

73. **TO AWARD A HYBRID MAIL CONTRACT**

INFORMATION: Councillor McKee, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member advised Members that the contract was for the implementation and provision of hybrid mail services to undertake printing, fulfilment and mailing services for the Revenues, Benefits, and Electoral Registration services. Details of the services included were set out in the report, some of these involved;

- Daily print and mail of personalised Council Tax, Business Rates and Bids Bills and correspondence, personalised Local Council Tax Support notifications.
- Annual bill printing processes, Daily print and mail of personalised electoral forms, letters, and canvas communications
- Bulk print and mail of personalised electoral registration forms

Members were advised that printing was currently delivered in house and the Finance Team accounted for most items posted, around 181,000 items at a cost of £90,000 (franked post only) and for the Electoral Registration services estimated around £55,000 for 60,000 items per year.

In addition to the Annual Billing, it was expected that initially 288,600 of ad hoc/daily items per annum would be routed through this contract, and this would predominantly impact on the Revenues and Benefits, and Governance sections.

It was reported that the procurement undertaken by competitive tender was through a Crown Commercial Services Framework and three bids were received, of which two did not meet the minimum quality threshold. The two options considered were; to procure the proposed solution as recommended, however to maintain the ability to revert back to the current solution at the end of the first year if the benefits were not delivered. The second option was to do nothing but this was not recommended. The Cabinet member added that the benefits to be delivered were detailed in the report and included cost savings, increased security of data, assurance on data matching and most importantly supported remote working and off site working by staff. If approved, it was anticipated to commence the contract on 1st May 2023 with electoral registrations mid-May following elections as the first major user. The success of the one-year trial would be dependent on whether the anticipated savings had been delivered in year 1 and the delivery of the performance indicators as set out in the report.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed:

1. To award the one-year initial term for the hybrid mail, at a contract value of £257,600 to CFH Docmail Ltd.
2. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Support Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to extend the above contract up to 41 months, at the expiry of the initial 12-month contract, as allowed within the contract, subject to the successful delivery of the initial one-year term as identified in paragraph 3.10 of the report.

74. **ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY 2023-2028 AND ACTION PLAN**

INFORMATION: Members were asked to consider the Economic Growth Strategy 2023 – 2028 and the accompanying Action Plan to assist in the delivery of the strategy. Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, introduced the report at set out the recommendations to Members.

Members were reminded that the Economic Growth Strategy had been worked on over a period of time and had received significant Member involvement along with other partners. The Economic Growth Strategy went out for consultation focusing on four specific areas, these were; infrastructure and connectivity, resilient business support, inclusive people and skills and sustainable green economy. The Council now had an action plan that set the course to deliver against the strategy.

It was added that over the last 2 administrations the Economic Strategy at Braintree District Council had been largely focused and tailored towards supporting emerging

sectors and understanding sectors in the local economy that would assist in providing well paid jobs in the future.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their involvement in the preparation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed:

1. To approve the Braintree District Economic Growth Strategy 2023 – 2028,
2. To approve the Braintree District Economic Growth Strategy 2023-2028 Action Plan.

75 **NORTH ESSEX ECONOMIC BOARD BUSINESS SUPPORT SPF PROGRAMMES**

Minutes Published: 29 th March 2023 Call-in Expires: 5 th April 2023

INFORMATION: Members were asked to consider the report which sought approval for Braintree District Council to provide funding to the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) in order to provide business support to businesses and residents in North Essex. The report also set out the procurement to be undertaken to award the NEEB Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Business Support Contracts. Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, introduced the report at set out the recommendations to Members.

Members were advised that Braintree District Council, along with partners of the NEEB were looking to invest the SPF money into a pooled programme of business support, with the percentage of allocation being dependant on the extent of the initial SPF contribution with project deliverables for each of the Local Authorities dependent on the percentage allocated.

It was reported that should the report be approved, the Council would continue with the procurement process for a Contractor to provide the business support listed in the report and would award a contract if a successful bid within budget and to the required quality was received. The contract start date was currently planned for 27th April 2023 when support would be launched for businesses as soon as practical afterwards.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed:

1. That the Council's contribution to the programme was £73,000 funded from Braintree's SPF funding, and that this was provided to the NEEB partnership to provide business support to the business community in north Essex.
2. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Economic Growth, to award the two-year NEEB SPF business support contract at the conclusion of a successful

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Procurement, provided it is within the approved budget and funding has been secured from all North Essex partners.

76 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO MARKETS AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS WITHIN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT 2022/23**

INFORMATION: Councillor Mrs Garrod as Chairman of the Community Development Scrutiny Committee (CDSC) introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

Councillor Mrs Garrod reported that traditional markets were a part of the UK's heritage and had played a significant role in Towns and Cities for centuries, however their central community role was threatened by changes in retail trends, public sector cuts and the lack of transport for people living in rural areas. For the majority, the absence of a regular market would be devastating, but it was recognised that this was not always cost-effective for the Council and it was the intention of the CDSC to encourage the Council to continue to find ways to bolster these traditional events.

The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review had looked at how markets were regulated and the primary functions included monitoring and compliance, the roles of various Council teams, partners and outside bodies, impacts of regular markets and the special 2 monthly markets that the Council facilitated. The CDSC had held three evidence gathering sessions with a range of invitees which had included the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Market traders, as well a number of Council employees including the Head of Planning and Economic Growth, Economic Support Officer, Marketing and Communications Officer, Markets Superintendent, and the Operations Manager.

The Committee had found that the rejuvenation of the Town Centre had seen a positive impact and found generally that the Council had been very reactive and proactive in supporting traders both during the pandemic and following this when they reopened in July 2021. It was reported that income had declined, and unfortunately some of the historic market traders had ceased their businesses but it was noted that the markets were very well regulated and organised.

Councillor Mrs Garrod added that the market industry was a significant employer at a local level that BDC continued to market and attempted to encourage and recruit traders and advertise. Members were advised that there would be an opportunity for this at the upcoming job fair.

DECISION: Cabinet noted the recommendations from the Community Development Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 9 of the report and was asked to provide a formal response to those recommendations at the next available meeting of Cabinet.

77 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO S.106 EXPENDITURE

INFORMATION: Councillor Radley as Chairman of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee (PMSC) introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

Members were advised that during 2022 the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the topic of the performance of Braintree District Council in delivering infrastructure and expenditure coming from section 106 developer contributions.

It was reported that in recent years, an increasing amount of section 106 financial contributions were being secured to mitigate the impact of housing growth on communities, and that residents, quite understandably, had an expectation that these mitigations were delivered at, or very close to, the houses being built. However, evidence presented to the Committee demonstrated that this expectation was not being met.

For open spaces related expenditure, for which BDC had responsibility, unspent monies had been held for an average 5.2 years, with some being held up to 10 years. Using the most recent data, as at end of March 2022, there were 171 different open spaces or similar contributions still outstanding.

It was added that at the end of March 2022 the overall level of funds being held by BDC was £7.3m, an increase of 32% in just two years. With further increases in the rate of housing delivery in the coming years, it was to be expected that there would be a growing income of section 106 contributions. This would add further pressure on the rate of delivery of expenditure if action was not taken. Faced with this situation the Committee compiled a series of recommendations designed at securing support for actions and commitments to improve performance and speed up project implementation.

Councillor Radley thanked officers for their work in supporting the Committee by providing background information and evidence to assist in conducting the scrutiny review. Whilst the committee had raised significant concerns about the pace of delivery, Councillor Radley emphasised that this was not a reflection upon the quality of work or commitment given by officers who were very professional, capable and doing an exceptional job at working within the resources and constraints they had.

Councillor Radley then replied to the Cabinets responses, full details of this can be viewed on the Councils YouTube Channel at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIJK8o6MMwI>

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Councillor Radley concluded that he was disappointed by the Cabinet's response to the Committee's recommendations and that the report clearly demonstrated that the pace of delivery was far from being acceptable yet the Cabinet responses did very little in terms of commitment and actions to address the situation. He added that this was a growing problem that would not go away in the short or medium term and therefore required action and hoped that the Cabinet would reconsider and make a real commitment to deliver section 106 expenditure in line with the expectations of residents.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed:

1. To note the recommendations of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
2. To approve its response to those recommendations as set out in Appendix A of the report.

78 **PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO LITTER MANAGEMENT IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT 2022- 23**

INFORMATION: Councillor Mrs Cunningham as Chairman of the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee (PDSC) introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

Members were advised that the Committee had undertaken four main evidence gathering sessions with a further two online contributions. These sessions covered a wide range of areas in respect of litter management which included: Litter campaigns within the District, the role volunteers played in litter collection, how school pupils dealt with litter and the environment, and the work carried out by Braintree District Council's Operations team and the challenges they faced.

It was also reported that in addition to the evidence gathering sessions the Committee also sent out a survey to all Parish Councils which had seen a good response. Councillor Mrs Cunningham added that it was interesting to see the same difficulties reported by a number Parish Councils which had formed evidence for some of the recommendations. It was noted that all Parish Councils had praised the BDC Operations team for the help and support that they received from them.

Members were advised that the Committee had invited a representative from National Highways to attend an evidence gathering session, but unfortunately they were unable to attend. It was noted that National Highways had responded to questions put to them from the Committee, however it was felt that their responses were very brief. Details of the responses received were contained within the main report.

Councillor Mrs Cunningham passed on her thanks to Officers for their support throughout the Scrutiny Review and to all those who attended the evidence gathering sessions for their valuable contributions

DECISION: That Cabinet noted the recommendations from the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 11 of the report and was asked to provide a formal response to those recommendations at the next available meeting of Cabinet.

79 **TO ADOPT THE HEALTHY HOUSING STRATEGY 2023 – 2028**

Minutes Published: 29 th March 2023 Call-in Expires: 5 th April 2023

INFORMATION: This report was presented by Councillor Bowers, Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Skills, who introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member expressed his thanks to Carly Jones, Strategy & Business Support Manager at Braintree District Council, who had worked tirelessly on the strategy and was responsible for strategy being brought forward.

Members were advised that as part of preparing for this document, ahead of a public consultation process, the Council held Housing Strategy Workshops in October 2022. These consisted of a cross party Member's reference group followed by a stakeholder workshop with 30 individuals from the NHS, other Local Authorities, internal officers from key departments and representatives from the voluntary sector and housing providers. It was added that the purpose of this was to gather views on the main housing issues, across all tenures, within the District. The feedback from these meetings had influenced and developed the Strategy before the draft version was submitted for public consultation.

The workshops had highlighted that meeting the needs and supporting communities, improving home standards, access to housing and affordability, were priority areas to focus on. A key theme identified through the workshops was that residents needed both immediate short-term support reflected in the cost of living, but also the need for creative measures to be implemented to explore long term sustainable change, which would support future living costs and energy efficiency. It was important that these themes were brought into the new Strategy.

Councillor Bowers added that the aim of the newly named Healthy Housing Strategy was to promote homes that were energy efficient, sustained health and well-being, met the needs of the growing population, and built resilient communities with access to opportunities. As well as supporting the build of new homes, the Council was committed to improving the District's current housing stock and supported residents to live in suitable, stable housing.

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It was reported that a more detailed action plan would be brought forward in due course; however, the Council would achieve this by working on its 3 key priorities for the next five years which were.

1. Enable a consistent programme of good quality homes which best met the needs of the current and future residents.
2. Support communities and enable housing across the District to meet the needs of all residents, especially those who were vulnerable.
3. Improve access to and the quality of existing homes including the Private Rented Sector

Members were advised that the public consultation took place from 13th December 2022 to 7th February 2023. It was recognised that this was key to shaping the new strategy by seeking input into the Strategy and the Council's approach to the development of new homes and improvements of existing homes, helping people avoid homelessness and how the Council could strengthen the links between housing, health, the environment, and economy.

DECISION: That Cabinet considered and approved the Healthy Housing Strategy 2023 - 2028, as set out in Appendix 5 of the report.

80 **TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR PLANNED MAINTENANCE WORKS FOR THE COUNCIL'S OWNED ROADS AND CAR PARKS**

Minutes Published: 29 th March 2023 Call-in Expires: 5 th April 2023

INFORMATION: This report was presented by Councillor Bowers, Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Skills, who introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Cabinet.

It was reported that each year, the Council commissioned an assessment of the condition of the roadways, paths, and car parks within its ownership to ascertain the need for maintenance and repair. The purpose of this approach was to identify immediate and future requirements deemed necessary to maintain the safety and functionality of road and pathway surfaces. By carrying out regular maintenance, the intention was to prevent unexpected, exceptional capital costs occurring that were not budgeted for.

The Cabinet Member added that whilst some repairs became necessary as the result of severe weather conditions causing undue deterioration, in the main, this approach enabled structured, informed expenditure year on year. In November 2022, Montagu Meyer McFarlane (MMM), Consulting Engineers delivered a report detailing the condition of roads, paths, and car parks across 25 locations throughout the District. Inspections carried out by MMM had identified 10 sites that required emergency

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repairs and maintenance to be carried out. The Bill of Quantities identified the specific works recommended in each case.

Members were advised that tenderers would be invited to submit their pricing for two lots. Lot 1 would define standard costs which could then result in further allowable costs occurring once the contractor started on site and discovered unexpected additional elements to tasks. It was recognised that this would take cost control away from the Council. Lot 2 was there to give the option of the contractor stating their position for them to absorb the risk of cost differentials cropping up.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the procurement of the planned maintenance works contract for the Councils owned roads and car parks with a budget of £250,000 with an additional 10% contingency, and
2. Authorised the Corporate Director, Growth, to award the contract to the successful bidder following a tender process utilising the EPH Framework PROC21-0108 Footpath and Road Repairs and Replacement – Lot 2 Civil Engineering Contractors, provided the award is within the agreed budget.

81 **PARKING STRATEGY 2023-2027 AND NEW OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER**

Minutes Published: 29 th March 2023 Call-in Expires: 5 th April 2023

INFORMATION: Members were asked to consider the report which sought approval for a new Parking Strategy which set out the Council's approach to the provision and overall management of parking across the Braintree District for the next 4 years, 2023 to 2027, replacing the last update in 2018. Councillor van Dulken, Cabinet Member for Operations and Commercialisation, introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Members.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that one of the key issues around the changes in parking fees was due to the loss of £200,000 of income since Covid and the changes in shopping and employment patterns following this. It was added that some of the actions arising from the Strategy required an amendment to Braintree District Council's Off-Street Parking Places Order (OSPPO) before they could be introduced, and so authority was being sought to commence the statutory process to make the necessary changes.

Councillor van Dulken highlighted the key updates for Members consideration, these included:

- a review of the carparking tariff, which was last reviewed in 2018

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- a move towards a cashless only system of payment in the Pay & Display Car Parks, which would greatly reduce the large costs of vandalism and theft, plus allow users the benefit of being able to top-up their parking stay remotely
- the installation of more EV charging points
- a proposal to withdraw the 10p after 3 pm concession.

DECISION: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the Parking Strategy 2023-27 and Action Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
2. Approved the proposed revised parking tariff and structure, with a view to it coming into effect from 1 June 2023, following the conclusion of the statutory process and further decision to bring in a new OSPPO;
3. Agreed to introduce free parking for blue badge holders as set out within the report, subject to the outcome of the statutory process and further decision being taken to bring in a new OSPPO;
4. Agreed to withdraw the 10p after 3pm (Mon-Sat) and 10p all day (Sunday) parking concession.
5. Gives authority to commence the Order making process for a new OSPPO to change:-
 - a. the parking tariffs and structure;
 - b. the types of season tickets available;
 - c. the Pay & Display payment methods; and
 - d. the daily charge to Travelodge customers for using Victoria Square and other car parks in Braintree.
6. Authorised the Operations Strategy & Policy Manager, in consultation with the Head of Governance, to take all such steps as are expedient and necessary to make a new OSPPO in accordance with recommendation 4 of this report; and
7. In the event that representations are received to the making of the new OSPPO, authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Operations and Commercialisation to consider the objections received within the statutory consultation period and determine whether the Order should be confirmed (with or without modifications).

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Minutes Published: 29th March 2023
Call-in Expires: 5th April 2023

INFORMATION: Councillor van Dulken, Cabinet Member for Operations and Commercialisation, introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Members.

Members were advised that this report sought approval for Braintree District Council to award a 4 year Framework Contract for the collection, or receipt from other Essex authorities, plus processing, of street sweepings arising.

The Cabinet Member clarified that street sweepings were essentially litter and debris removed from public highways, to maintain a clean street environment and to prevent the waste washing into storm sewers, which needed to be treated differently from residual waste. It was added that this had been an excellent example of inter-authority cooperation, as aside from Uttlesford, other neighbouring authorities would be able to call off from this regional framework.

Members were advised that following a tender exercise, the tenderer for Lot 7 (the Essex regional framework), Dunmow Group, had achieved the highest score across all Lots, showing it to be the most economically advantageous tender. It was added that if approved by Cabinet, the provisional award date was 10th March, and would commence on 1st April.

The Cabinet Member set out the options for Cabinets consideration, which were, to award the Framework agreement, which was the recommended option, or alternatively, to present the waste to Essex County Council. This would be ultimately more expensive, and would result on BDC losing the recycling credit.

Councillor van Dulken added that whilst the tender cost was roughly 10% more than budgeted for, while BDC continued to offer the service to Uttlesford, the income from the handling charge mitigated the increased costs to BDC.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed:

1. To award a framework agreement with the ability to be used by regional Councils with a maximum value of £5,000,000.
2. To award a call off contract under this framework for the Council at a cost of £56.87 per tonne fixed for four years for the estimated volume of 1700 tonnes per annum at a cost of £96,679, with a total estimated value including 1+1 year extension of £580,074 to Dunmow Group.

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3. To note that the above call off contract includes circa 600 tonnes of Uttlesford District Council waste which will be recharged to Uttlesford at £34,122 + handling charge.

83 **A DOMESTIC GARDEN WASTE SERVICE**

INFORMATION: Councillor van Dulken, Cabinet Member for Operations and Commercialisation, introduced the report and set out the recommendations to Members.

Members were advised that due to the Council's priorities in recent weeks and months, in particular around the Budget setting, there was still further investigatory work to be carried out in respect of the future of the green waste collection service. It was also necessary to approach Essex County Council for an Ad-Hoc review of changes to Braintree District Council's waste service delivery plan under the Essex-led Waste Inter-Authority Agreement to which BDC were subject.

It was noted that the outcome of the review could change the financial contributions the Council received from Essex County Council, hence it was even more prudent to fully understand the total impact that introducing a subscription-based service would have on the authority. It was added that any work undertaken as part of the Ad Hoc review would be met from existing budgets and that there would be no drawdown from the £200,000 contingency fund agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget.

DECISION: That Cabinet agreed that the Council would formally approach Essex County Council to commence a review of the change to the Council's Waste Service Delivery Plan as required under the terms of the Waste Inter Authority Agreement (WIAA).

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.47pm.

COUNCILLOR G BUTLAND
(Leader of the Council)