
CABINET10 NOVEMBER 2010

Present:- Councillor N R Stock (Executive Leader) (Leader)!Councillor P Halliday (Finance) (Deputy Leader)!Councillor G V Guglielmi (Planning)!Councillor J M Hughes (Benefits and Revenues)!Councillor S S Mayzes (Leisure)!Councillor L A McWilliams (Environment)!Councillor N W Turner (Technical Services)

Also Present:- Councillor J A Brown, Councillor R J Bucke, Councillor A Goggin, Councillor M J Talbot.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive, Acting Management Board Member (DA), Acting Management Board Member (MBK), Head of Financial Services, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, Assistant Head of Legal Services (Democratic Services), Communications and Public Relations Manager.

Also in Attendance:- Mr Ian Davidson.

(Noon - 1.28 p.m.)

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Candy, Henderson and Watling.

80. MINUTES

The minutes of the public meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 October 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

81. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT - ARMISTICE DAY SERVICES

The Executive Leader (Councillor Stock) informed the Cabinet of Armistice Day services being held in Clacton Town Centre and at the Town Hall on Thursday 11 November and at Clacton War Memorial on Sunday 14 November 2010.

82. CABINET MEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENT - TENDRING CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Finance Portfolio Holder (Councillor Halliday updated Members in respect of the present position with Tendring Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB funding). He stressed the Council's commitment to the CAB.

83. INITIAL FINANCIAL FORECAST AND INITIAL FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12 - CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Cabinet had before them a report which provided them with feedback on the views of the Corporate Management Committee on the Initial Financial Forecast and Initial Financial Strategy for 2011/12 and beyond.

The Chairman of the Corporate Management Committee (Councillor Goggin) attended the meeting and presented the comments of his Committee.

Having regard to the comments of the Corporate Management Committee:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor N W Turner and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That Cabinet thanks the Corporate Management Committee for its approach to reviewing the Initial Financial Strategy and recognises the work of the Committee through the addition of the following actions to the Tendring Spending Review Delivery Plan to be considered later in the agenda:-

- The Corporate Management Committee be asked to actively consider opportunities both for services within the Council and service providers within the District to work together more effectively.
- The comments on options for service delivery should be taken into account as service reviews are undertaken so that the most effective and efficient method of delivery can be determined.
- Once the asset stocktake and Asset Strategy are complete the Corporate Management Committee be asked to consider these and come up with proposals to address the comments made both with regard to management of individual assets and the overall asset management arrangements in place.
- Following a review of office accommodation consideration be given to a 'pop-up' office concept whereby spare office capacity could be leased to start up or fledging businesses for a limited period to provide a base from where they could operate prior to committing to longer term office premises.
- Discussion takes place through the TDALC forum on areas of joint service provision between the District and parish councils to consider how this could be done more effectively e.g. grass cutting.
- Ensure that staff have appropriate customer training and make customer focus a key component of service delivery review.
- All three Overview and Scrutiny Committees to hold discussions at future meetings to challenge existing ways of working and to come up with proposals on innovative opportunities to work smarter.

(b) That Cabinet confirms its Initial Financial Forecast and Initial Financial Strategy as agreed at its meeting on 4 August 2010.

(c) That the Officers take the issues into account in the next stage of the 2011/12 Financial Strategy/budget process.

84. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Cabinet were aware that at their meeting held on 29 September 2010 (minute 71) they had agreed their proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution.

The Cabinet had presented to them a report to enable them to give consideration to the comments made by the Corporate Management Committee on the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Having considered the views of the Corporate Management Committee:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor Stock and:-

RESOLVED - That the schedule of proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix A to these minutes, be approved and be submitted to the meeting of the Council

to be held on 7 December 2010.

85. TENDRING SPENDING REVIEW - DELIVERY PLAN

Further to minute 24 (16.6.10) the Tendring Spending Review Delivery Plan was submitted to the Cabinet for their approval.

Having considered the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor S S Mayzes and:-

RESOLVED - (a) That the Tendring Spending Review Delivery Plan, as set out in Appendix 'A' to item A.3 of the Report of the Head of Financial Services and incorporating the actions agreed at minute 83, be agreed.

(b) That further reports be prepared, as appropriate, to enable specific actions to be implemented to deliver savings to the Authority.

86. CORPORATE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

The Cabinet considered a report which provided an overview of the Council's budgetary position as at the end of September 2010 and sought their approval to a series of virements to incorporate budget reductions and additional income identified in 2010/11.

Having had regard to the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That the budget for 2010/11 be amended to take account of budget reductions and additional income in 2010/11 totalling £1,141,870 (as set out in Appendix 'H' to item A.4 of the Report of the Head of Financial Services) by a virement to the Service Improvement Budget within the Finance Portfolio.

(b) That the financial position as at the end of September 2010 be noted.

87. ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a report which sought their approval of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2011/12 for recommendation to Council on 7 December 2010.

To enable the Policy Statement to be approved:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor Hughes and:-

RECOMMENDED – That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2011/12, as set out in Appendix 'A' to item A.5 of the Report of the Head of Financial Services, be approved.

88. REQUESTS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES

It was reported that at the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 23 September 2010,

following that Committee's consideration of the Update of the Strategic Risk Management Strategy, the Committee had decided that Cabinet be requested to ensure that there is a Member placement on the Committee of Sure Start and also to undertake a review of the membership of all Outside Bodies and put in place a system for reporting back by Members.

Having regard to the decisions of the Audit Committee:-

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor Halliday and:-

RESOLVED - (a) That it be noted that Councillor Chapman has now been appointed as the Council's representative on the Tendring Sure Start Children's Centres Board.

(b) That, under the Local Democracy strand of the Tendring Spending Review Delivery Plan, Officers undertake a review of Councillor representation on outside bodies to ensure that representation on those bodies provides value for money and supports delivery of the Council's priorities. Further, to devise a process whereby Councillors can feed back from attending meetings of those bodies. That work to be completed for implementation from May 2011.

89. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011/12

Members had before them for their approval the initial proposals for the 2011/12 Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan for consideration by the Corporate Management Committee.

To progress the production of the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor N W Turner and:-

RESOLVED – That the initial proposals for the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2011/12 be approved for consideration by the Corporate Management Committee.

90. MEMBER ACCESS TO COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Further to minute 34 (8.7.09) and minute 57 of the meeting of the Council held on 17 September 2009, at the request of the Executive Leader, Members had before them a report to enable them to review Member access to Council offices.

Having had regard to the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED – That option 1, as set out in item A.8 of the Report of the Head of Human Resources and Customer Services, be approved and implemented.

91. ESSEX AND SOUTH SUFFOLK SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN - APPROVAL AND ADOPTION BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Cabinet considered a report which sought their approval of the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan.

Having regard to the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor N W Turner, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED – That the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan be approved.

92. QUARTER 2 - PERFORMANCE REPORT AND KEY PROJECTS 2010/11

The Cabinet had before them a report which introduced the Quarterly Performance Report and the Key Projects Report for the period July – September 2010 (Quarter 2).

Having considered the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor N W Turner and:-

RESOLVED - That the Council's performance for the quarter July – September 2010 be noted and that the Corporate Management Committee be invited to comment on the report.

93. WHITE PAPER: EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE: LIBERATING THE NHS (JULY 2010)

Members considered a report which updated them on the contents of the Government's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and how it may affect the Council with reference to the issues raised in the comments in the response of the Local Government Group.

Having considered the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor McWilliams, duly seconded and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That the contents of the report be noted.

(b) That the Acting Head of Environmental Services submits a further report to Cabinet within the next three months as developments which have an effect on the Council occur.

94. PROGRESS REPORT ON PLANNING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

The Cabinet considered a report which provided them with an update on the progress that had been made with the previous service improvements within the Planning Service. The report sought Cabinet approval to:-

(i) Agree that further service improvements should focus on achieving the maximum return, as set out in the action plan attached to item A.12 of the Report of the Interim Head of Planning Services, for the next 6-12 months.

(ii) Re-consider recommending to Council a reduction in the number of Members serving on the planning committee with a new planning committee format to include a formal site visit and the use of designated substitutes.

The report also introduced the concept of development management (on which Officers were currently being trained) which would influence the way the Planning Service handled planning applications and major development projects in the future.

To further progress work on improving the Planning Service:-

It was moved by Councillor G V Guglielmi, seconded by Councillor Halliday and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That the service improvement activities are focused on customer satisfaction, enhancing the reputation of the Council, improved consistency of advice and decision making, pro-active development management including pre-application Member involvement, moving towards pro-active enforcement and implementation of the Local Development Framework.

(b) That the list of service improvement actions for implementation in the next 6-12 months, as set out in the Action Plan in Appendix 2 to item A.12 of the Report of the Interim Head of Planning Services, including the delivery of the Local Development Core Strategy and commencement of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document be agreed.

(c) That the process of continuing moving towards a development management approach in Planning Services be agreed.

(d) That the improvement actions listed within the finance section of the afore-mentioned report be funded from the £136,500 (Housing and Planning Delivery Grant) available.

(e) That the planned site visits on the day of the planning committee for all Members of the Committee be part of the formal planning committee process with meetings starting earlier in the day.

(f) That the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee be requested to consider the desirability of a reduction in the number of members of the planning committee to not less than 9 and not more than 11.

95. EQUALITY ACT

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the recent and forthcoming changes in equality legislation and the steps that were being taken to ensure that the Council was compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

There was a requirement to produce a single Equality Scheme by 1 April 2011 which would replace the current suite of Equality Policies that the Council had in place and:-

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED - (a) That the changes in equality legislation and their impact on the Council be noted.

(b) That the production of a single Equality Scheme be supported.

96. COUNCIL TAX - DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNTS FOR DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

Members had before them information to enable them to recommend to Council the Council Tax discounts for 2011/12 in respect of second homes, long term empty properties and locally defined discounts.

Having considered the information submitted:-

It was moved by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Halliday and:-

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that the 2011/12 current discounts continue to apply, namely:-

- A 10% discount on second homes;
- No discount on empty properties;
- No locally defined discretions be introduced.

Chairman