
CABINET28 SEPTEMBER 2011

Present:- Councillor N R Stock (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)!Councillor S Candy (Regeneration)!Councillor G V Guglielmi (Planning)!Councillor P Halliday (Finance and Asset Management)!Councillor P B Honeywood (Housing)!Councillor S S Mayzes (Tourism and Community Life)!Councillor L A McWilliams (Customer and Central Services)!Councillor P I Sambridge (Technical Services)!Councillor G F Watling (Benefits and Revenues)

Also Present:- Councillors Bucke (except items 55 (part) - 57), G L Mitchell.

In Attendance:- Strategic Director, Acting Strategic Director, Head of Resource Management, Legal Services Manager, Communications and Public Relations Manager, Principal Planning Officer (DW), Senior Democratic Services Officer, Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Council and Members' Support Manager.

Also in Attendance:- Group Leaders present by Invitation:- Councillors P J Oxley, Shearing, Talbot.

(Noon - 12.44 p.m.)

50.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Double (who, as a Group Leader, had been invited to attend the meeting) and Turner and Ian Davidson, the Chief Executive.

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 September 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader referred to the recent Memorandum of Understanding with Essex County Council and gave details of the shared commitment to introduce closer working arrangements.

53. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CABINET MEMBERS

(1) Restructuring of the Council

The Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder (Councillor Halliday) referred to the new senior management structure which had come into effect on 1 September 2011. A total of £628,000 had been spent on redundancy payments to date leaving a total of £3,428,000 in the Fit for Purpose budget. It was envisaged that by the end of the process that £1,300,000 would be spent on redundancy payments with an ongoing saving of £1,000,000 in salary payments. There had only been four compulsory redundancies to date.

The Fundamental Service Review of Planning Services had commenced with the other departments to be reviewed in due course.

(2) External Grants

The Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder informed the Cabinet that the Council had accrued an extra £421,000 in external grants for various projects since January 2011.

(3) Local Development Framework

The Planning Portfolio Holder (Councillor G V Guglielmi) informed the Cabinet that leaflets were being distributed to households in the District inviting the public to attend one of the four public exhibitions on the proposals for the Local Development Framework and inviting the public to comment via a simple questionnaire style form which was available on-line, at the exhibitions, at Council Offices and in the local libraries. Parish and Town Councils were also being invited to respond.

(4) The National Planning Policy Framework

The Planning Portfolio Holder also informed the Cabinet that copies of the consultation documents on the emerging National Planning Policy Framework had been sent to Members and he urged Members to respond as soon as possible either individually or via their respective Group Leaders.

54. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder which provided it with an update to the Council's overarching approach to the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan (CSAMP) along with a recommended revised approach from 2012/13 onwards.

It was reported that, as part of the annual review, it was proposed to split the CSAMP into its constituent parts which, by having standalone documents, would support the strategic focus on the Council's use of its assets. The standalone Asset Strategy was currently being reviewed and would be presented to Cabinet in due course. An updated standalone Capital Strategy was set out at Appendix 'A' to item A.1 of the Report of the Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder and it was proposed that the new standalone document would be on a rolling basis unless significant changes were required in which case it would be brought back to Cabinet for approval.

Given the relative stability of these high level documents, it was suggested to Cabinet that both the Capital Strategy and Asset Strategy be removed from the Council's Policy Framework.

In order to allow this matter to be progressed along the lines being proposed:-

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

RESOLVED – (a) That the updated Capital Strategy element of the existing Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan be approved as the new standalone Capital Strategy with delegation to the Head of Resource Management, in consultation with the Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder, to refresh and keep the document up-to-date as appropriate.

(b) That a separate Asset Strategy be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet in due course.

(c) That the Corporate Management Committee receive a briefing on the Capital Strategy (when completed) and the Asset Strategy (when written).

RECOMMENDED – (d) That both the Capital Strategy and Asset Strategy be deleted from the Council's Policy Framework.

55. ECC MINERALS DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT: SITE ALLOCATIONS - ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

Councillor Stock reminded everyone present for the record that he was the Ward Member for Ardleigh. Councillors Candy and S S Mayzes declared personal interests in this matter insofar as they were also County Councillors.

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Planning Portfolio Holder which provided it with a summary overview of, and proposed response to, the Essex County Council (ECC) Minerals Development Document (MDD): Site Allocations – Issues and Options Consultation Paper August 2011. The report also sought Cabinet's approval to strongly object to the new Suggested Site for Mineral Extraction and associated/stand alone Suggested Mineral Transshipment Site at Ardleigh.

The Cabinet was aware that in December 2010 ECC had published its MDD Preferred Approach including a Schedule of Preferred Sites which had identified three sites for minerals development within the Tendring District including an existing site at Ardleigh (Park Farm) where a relatively small extension had been proposed to the existing minerals workings. In addition to those three sites, a second site at Ardleigh (Slough Farm) whilst not selected had scored highly in terms of the "not selected" lower scoring sites. As it was possible for sites which were "not selected" at that stage to be selected at a later stage the Officers had considered it prudent to also consider the possible inclusion of the site as a Preferred Site.

In respect of the afore-mentioned Ardleigh sites the Council at that time had not objected to the proposed small extension of the existing site at Ardleigh and had raised concerns over the possible inclusion of extensions to the second existing site at Ardleigh regarding the concentration of minerals workings in the north-eastern part of the County within the western part of the Tendring District.

The Cabinet was made aware that following the publication of ECC's Preferred Approach, local landowners and the minerals industry had put forward a number of new suggested sites including two within the Tendring District at Ardleigh. This was a significant change to what had previously been commented on by the Council in that the new consultation paper identified a large area (89 ha in total) for sand and gravel extraction at Ardleigh along with an additional 13.5 ha of land forming an associated Mineral Transshipment Site (including a processing/stockpiling area) which would later function as a 'standalone' facility. It was felt that the suggested new minerals extraction site and use of land for transshipment processing and stockpiling would raise significant issues of concern in terms of the possible adverse impact upon the village of Ardleigh including residential, local, recreational and rural amenities.

In the light of the raised concerns:-

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

RESOLVED – (a) That having regard to the scale of new mineral extraction proposed and the site's proximity to Ardleigh village, the Council strongly objects to the inclusion of Site A 45 (including rail siding and processing stock piling area) due to the impact of the proposal upon landscape, public footpaths and the local and residential amenity.

(b) That having regard to the location of the suggested railway siding and processing/stockpiling area and their proximity to Ardleigh village, the Council strongly objects to the

inclusion of Site D 6 (rail siding and processing/stockpiling area including new accesses and internal road) as a 'standalone' facility.

(c) That Essex County Council be requested to ensure, if either new site being considered at Ardleigh is selected subsequently as a "Preferred Site", that there will be full publicity and consultation on all "Preferred Sites" across Essex.

(d) That having regard to the submission date for any comments to be made to Essex County Council (20 October 2011) the Planning Portfolio Holder be authorised to make any additional comments which might be considered necessary subsequent to this meeting.

(e) That Essex County Council be requested, when carrying out any such public consultations in future, to specifically inform any local Ward Members in the affected and neighbouring areas.

Chairman