
CABINET13 JUNE 2012

Present:- Councillor N R Stock (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)!Councillor S Candy (Regeneration) (except items 6 part and 7)!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 N W Turner (Environment)

Also Present:- Councillors G L Mitchell and F H Nicholls.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Head of Public Experience, Head of Resource Management, Communications and Public Relations Manager, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services Officer (ER), Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Council.

Also in Attendance:- Group Leaders present by invitation:- Councillors H A Shearing and M J Talbot.

(12.05 p.m. - 1.35 p.m.)

1.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Watling.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 April 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock) reminded Cabinet that on 6 July 2012 the Olympic Torch, having travelled by car from Ipswich, would commence that day's procession at 7.28 a.m. at Plains Farm Close, Ardleigh and then proceed into Ipswich Road and the Borough of Colchester. The Torch would therefore effectively spend only three minutes in the District of Tendring. Despite that disappointment he urged as many people to attend as possible to cheer the Torch on its way.

The Leader of the Council also announced that Cabinet had now drafted its high level corporate goals and new performance management indicators and that these would be submitted for scrutiny by the Corporate Management Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2012. Any comments/suggestions etc. arising from that meeting would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 11 July 2012 at which time the Cabinet would agree its final proposals for submission for approval to the meeting of the Council to be held on 11 September 2012. Once approved the performance management indicators, along with individual departmental service plans, would be scrutinised by the Corporate Management Committee on a quarterly basis.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

The Environment Portfolio Holder (Councillor Turner) praised the large number of vessels from the District that had taken part in the Diamond Jubilee Thames River Pageant and

paid tribute to the endurance and stamina of their crews especially in view of the very inclement weather.

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Halliday) announced that the publicity arrangements for Freedom of Information Act requests and responses on the Council's website were being reviewed in the interests of transparency and with a view to avoiding 'repeat' requests thereby lessening some of the burden and cost on the Council.

5. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Leader of the Council introduced the issue of rural infrastructure and invited the Chairmen of Parish Councils, Group Leaders and other Members present in the public gallery to join in the discussion of this matter with himself and Cabinet colleagues.

Issues and matters raised included:-

- (i) Lack of mains sewerage systems and mains drainage;
- (ii) Lack of mains drinking water;
- (iii) Lack of mains gas supply;
- (iv) Frequent flooding – exacerbated by blocked or filled-in ditches and new housing developments;
- (v) Lack of proper maps of ditches, culverts, watercourses, underground pipes, etc;
- (vi) Difficulties in finding out who's responsible for what – too many bodies and agencies involved e.g. Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Veolia East, Highways Agency, District and County Council;
- (vii) Lack of mobile telephone coverage;
- (viii) Inadequate public transport links;
- (ix) What impact all of the above has on rural communities and the more vulnerable sections of the community?

The meeting considered what could be done to alleviate some of the above and it was suggested that a joint District Council and Town/Parish Council working group could be formed in order to pool local knowledge and investigate issues such as the criteria for getting a mains sewerage scheme in place and whether there were still any Government rural infrastructure funds available.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Parish Council Chairmen for their attendance especially as the invitation had been extended at short notice and he pledged the Council to work with Parish/Town Councils in order to try and resolve some of these issues.

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

RESOLVED – That the Leader of the Council establish a cross-party working group to work with all of the Town and Parish Councils in the District to investigate the issue of the rural infrastructure of the District.

6. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a report which provided it with an overview of the financial outturn

for the year 2011/12 and sought approval for:-

- (i) Revenue and capital commitments to be carried forward to 2012/13;
- (ii) Funding of the 2011/12 capital programme;
- (iii) The reserves position at the end of 2011/12;
- (iv) The allocation of the overall general fund variance for the year; and
- (v) The updated 5-Year Capital Programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17 and associated funding.

Having considered the outturn information submitted:-

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

RESOLVED - (a) That the financial outturn position for 2011/12, as set out in item A.1 of the Report of the Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder and the appendices thereto, be noted.

(b) That the £0.693m General Fund net variance for 2011/12 be allocated as follows:-

(i) £300,000 to be allocated for business rate discretionary relief. Officers are asked to review existing policies to ensure that this funding can be used to support local businesses and linked to Cabinet's regeneration aspirations. Revised policies will be agreed by the Head of Resource Management in consultation with the Regeneration Portfolio Holder.

(ii) £143,000 to be allocated to the Big Society Fund. Officers are also asked to review the criteria and approval process for the Big Society Fund Applications and bring forward proposals for refocusing the fund to Cabinet.

(iii) £150,000 together with a £100,000 Parking Initiatives carry forward (mentioned on page 6 of the report) to be utilised to issue a free parking permit to all Council Tax paying households to be used between 10.00 a.m. and midnight in all TDC car parks across the District with the exception of the Naze and Holland Haven car parks to expire on 31 March 2013 and to be issued no later than 31 July 2012. That Officers be delegated authority, in consultation with the Technical Services Portfolio Holder, to make all necessary arrangements and incur expenditure to implement the scheme. Cabinet also requests Officers to bring forward a bi-monthly financial report on the impact to the Council's car park income budget which will, if necessary, be supported by the contingency reserve if costs are not met from this aforementioned £250,000.

(iv) £100,000 to be set aside to create a rural infrastructure improvement fund.

(c) That the revenue commitments of £7.970m to be carried forward from 2011/12 to 2012/13, as set out in Appendix 'A' to the aforementioned report, be approved.

(d) That the financing of capital expenditure for 2011/12, as detailed in Appendix 'E' to the aforementioned report, be approved.

(e) That the capital budgets of £2.875m to be carried forward from 2011/12 to 2012/13 and the associated carry forward of the revenue contribution to capital of £0.974m be approved.

(f) That the updated five year Capital Programme and associated financing, as set out in Appendix 'G' to the aforementioned report, be approved.

(g) That the movement in uncommitted and earmarked reserves for 2011/12, as set out in Appendix 'F' to the aforementioned report, and any amendments arising from (b) above, be approved.

(h) That the movement on Housing Revenue Account balances for 2011/12 including the Housing Repairs Commitment, as set out in Appendix 'D' to the aforementioned report, be approved.

(i) That, subject to the finalisation of pension adjustments required for the year, any further charges be delegated to the Head of Resource Management in consultation with the Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder.

7. CARELINE IN GROUP SCHEMES

The Cabinet considered the provision of Careline support in the "Group Schemes" in the light of the fact that the existing equipment needed replacement and there had been connectivity problems at two sites.

It was reported that the Council owned 351 properties/ flats based in 28 different locations in the District, known collectively as "Group Schemes". All 351 units benefited from the basic Careline response service provided by a hard wired pull cord alarm system, linked to the Careline Control Centre, designed to enable each occupant to summon assistance if necessary.

In 2008 a survey of the alarm equipment in use in our Group Schemes had been carried out by Tunstall (the company which the Council currently used in support of its Careline activities). The report stated that the majority of the equipment was over 20 years old and outside its intended design lifespan. The cost for a full upgrade at that time had been estimated at £342,000. Recently there had been connectivity problems in two of the Group Schemes, one in Percy King Estate, Clacton-on-Sea and the other in Mary Warner Estate at Ardleigh. There was therefore an urgent need to consider a replacement strategy.

The current system had very high maintenance costs and it made economic sense to replace the hardwire system with individual units. This could be undertaken and could also be achieved quickly.

In order to ensure that the Careline response service continued to provide peace of mind to the user and their families in the event of an emergency and that current equipment can be replaced in a timely and economically viable manner:-

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

RESOLVED - (a) That the Council replaces the hardwire system in those Group Scheme properties with individual equipment for those who wish to retain the Careline basic response service, and that option (a) or (b), as detailed in the report, will apply depending on the service user's choice and financial standing however, it will be strongly recommended that a landline be installed.

(b) That the cost of this work is met from the Capital Programme and Reserve budgets for Careline.

(c) That a report be prepared to identify the ongoing rolling maintenance costs in connection with monitoring Careline.

8. CLACTON SEAFRONT REGENERATION OPPORTUNITIES: "A BREATH OF FRESH AIR"

Cabinet's approval was sought of the document entitled: "Clacton Seafront: A New Future 2012-2016: A Breath of Fresh Air". The document identified a number of projects and development opportunities designed to bring Clacton's greatest asset, its seafront area,

into the 21st Century.

Cabinet recognised that this was an innovative vision for the Clacton seafront. The Officers were thanked for their work in producing such a high quality and well-received document.

Having considered the contents of the document:-

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

RESOLVED - That the document "Clacton Seafront: A New Future 2012-2016, A Breath of Fresh Air" be approved.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

RESOLVED - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Chairman