

CABINET28 FEBRUARY 2014

Present:- Councillor M J Page (Leader of the Council/Regeneration, Inward Investment and Asset Management) (Leader of the Council)!Councillor N W Turner (Deputy Leader of the Council/Environment and Coast Protection) (Deputy Leader of Council)!Councillor P B Honeywood (Assistant Deputy Leader of the Council/Housing and Benefits and Revenues) (Assistant Deputy Leader of the Council)!Councillor A Goggin (Finance and Transformation)!Councillor G V Guglielmi (Planning and Corporate Services)!Councillor L A McWilliams (Well-being and Partnerships)!Councillor M E Platt (Tourism, Events and Leisure Services)

Also Present:- Councillors P G De-Vaux Balbirnie, G L Mitchell and R Callender

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Corporate Services) (Martyn Knappett), Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) (Paul Price); Corporate Director (Public Experience) (June Clare); Monitoring Officer, (Lisa Hastings), Communications Manager (Nigel Brown); Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Management and Members Support Manager (Karen Neath), Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice) and Research and Projects Officer (Elizabeth Ridout)

Also in Attendance:- Group Leaders Present by Invitation: Councillors I J Henderson (Labour Group), H A Shearing (Liberal Democrat Group) and M J Talbot (Independent Group)

10.30 a.m. - 11.48 a.m.

132.. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed the Group Leaders to the meeting.

133. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

134. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2014

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Minute No.119 - Announcements by Cabinet Members

That, at line four to paragraph (iv) (Tourism Meeting), the reference to "2014" be amended to "2013" to read:

(iv) Tourism Meeting

Councillor A Goggin, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, announced that a tourism-related meeting was to be held in the Town Hall, Clacton-on-Sea on Friday 14 March 2014. He said that the meeting, which was open to all aspects of the tourism industry, had been set up to look back on the successes of 2013 and to look forward to the opportunities which 2014 offered.

135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor H Shearing (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item No.9 (Cabinet Members' Items) (A.6 – Disposal of the Public Conveniences at Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea), by virtue of the fact his association owned buildings opposite the site in question.

136. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Certificate of Support

The Chairman was delighted to announce that the Council had received a certificate of support, awarded to Tendring District Council in national recognition of its commitment to be a supportive employer of the Armed Forces Reserves.

137. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

Community Builder Scheme

Councillor Lynda McWilliams, Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships said that the Council had been awarded £53,000 by Essex County Council, to support its Community Builder Scheme. She said that, in October 2013, the Council had appointed a Community Leader and that the scheme had, until now, assisted a great many adults and children within the district. Councillor McWilliams went on to say that a "pop-up" shop had been opened in Harwich and that this was proving to be very successful, useful and popular with people there.

In conclusion, Councillor McWilliams reminded Members that an event was being staged at Sainsbury's in Clacton later in the day to support a collection for the provisions of food banks. She said that this would be a very worthwhile event, supported by other partners, including the local Citizens' Advice Bureau, and encouraged Members to attend and lend their support.

138. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BY THE COUNCIL

There were none.

139. ANNUAL TREASURY STRATEGY FOR 2014/15 (INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS)

A.1 Corporate Management Scrutiny Committee – Annual Treasury Strategy for 2014/15 (Including Prudential and Treasury Indicators)

There was submitted a report, from the Corporate Management Scrutiny Committee, seeking the Cabinet's agreement to the Annual Treasury Strategy for 2014/15 (including the Prudential and Treasury Indicators) for submission to Council for approval.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Goggin and RESOLVED that the comment of the Corporate Management Committee be noted and the Annual Treasury Strategy for 2014/15 (including Prudential and Treasury Indicators), attached as Appendix A to the report, be submitted to COUNCIL for approval.

140. RETAIL RELIEF SCHEME FOR 2014/15 AND 2015/16

A.2 Retail Relief Scheme for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016

There was submitted a report by the Leader of the Council, which sought its agreement to

the proposed scheme and to recommend to Council that a local Business Rates Retail Relief Scheme be adopted under the Council's discretionary powers, established by the Localism Act (under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended).

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that CABINET RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that:

(a) The retail rate relief scheme be introduced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance document, issued in January 2014; and

(b) In respect of the Government's Flood Support Scheme, delegation be given to the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Benefits and Revenues to develop and implement the scheme.

141. CORPORATE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2013-14

A.3 Corporate Budget Monitoring Report 3rd Quarter 2013-14

There was submitted a report by the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder, which provided the Cabinet with an overview of the Council's actual financial position against the Budget as at the end of December 2013.

The Chairman made the following statement at this time:

"Cabinet, and indeed all those who attended the last Council meeting, will be aware of my commitment and passion to deliver high quality services, which are truly fit for the residents of Tendring.

To this end, I gave a commitment at the last Council meeting to look to improve the facilities at Frinton and Walton Swimming Pool, which, in turn, follows the promise made by the former leader to improve the facilities at Dovercourt Swimming Pool.

To ensure that the facilities at Dovercourt are of the high standard which the residents of Tendring deserve, I have added a recommendation to this report to provide for £200,000 of additional funding, over and above the £699,000 already set aside, so that officers can today place orders for the works to the Dovercourt Swimming Pool. These works will include a complete refurbishment of the changing facilities and the building of a fitness suite, which will ensure that the site can fully meet the needs of all residents and expand the programme of activities the Council can offer.

As part of a feasibility study, I have asked officers to investigate not only a refurbishment and upgrading of the changing facilities at the Frinton and Walton Pool but to also investigate the business case for extending the site to include a fitness suite and to report back to Cabinet on options as soon as possible. I am making £200,000 available to support this project, which is also reflected in the recommendations."

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Goggin, seconded by Councillor Page and RESOLVED that:

(a) The financial position as at the end of December 2013, be noted;

(b) The following budget adjustments for 2013/14 be approved:

(i) That salary budgets be adjusted by £0.106m to reflect the current position, with a corresponding transfer to the Fit for Purpose Budget;

- (ii) That £0.178m be allocated to support the cost of agency staff within the Revenues and Benefits Service, funded from Government grant income; and
- (iii) That £0.010m be reallocated from the existing Folding and Inserting Machine capital budget within the Capital Programme to meet the cost of the necessary scanning equipment to support the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration.
- (c) The following budget adjustments for 2014/15 be approved and funded from the Fit for Purpose budget:
 - (i) That £0.128m be allocated for additional Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) provision in the District; and
 - (ii) That £0.044m be allocated to 'Hardship Support'.
- (d) In consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coast Protection, authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Public Experience) to agree the necessary charges relating to street naming and numbering for 2014/15;
- (e) In consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Benefits and Revenues, authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) to agree the necessary charges relating to the Council's Housing Sheltered Units for 2014/15; and
- (f) The Capital Programme for 2013/14 be amended to reflect an additional contribution of £200,000 to the Dovercourt Swimming Pool Redevelopment Project, along with a new £200,000 scheme relating to Frinton and Walton Swimming Pool redevelopment, funded from contributions of £160,000 from the Leisure Capital Projects Reserve and £240,000 from the Asset Refurbishment and Replacement Reserve.

142. FACILITIES FOR A CREDIT UNION IN THE TENDRING DISTRICT

A.4 Provision of a Credit Union for Residents in the Tendring District

There was submitted a report by the Housing and Benefits and Revenues Portfolio Holder which sought to establish the provision of a Credit Union in the Tendring District to provide a safe and comparatively low cost option for local people to access finance.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Honeywood, seconded by Councillor Guglielmi and RESOLVED that:

- (a) Colchester Credit Union be supported to operate in the Tendring District;
- (b) The Council would pay the £3 joining fee, per person, for new savers in the Tendring District;
- (c) The Council offer up to £5,000 from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to be ring-fenced for loans to TDC housing tenants; and
- (d) The Corporate Director (Corporate Services) be authorised to give effect to the proposed actions outlined in this report, as appropriate.

143. ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATION AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A.5 Establishing an Education and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

There was submitted a report by the Planning and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder,

which clarified the arrangements for establishing an Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Education and Skills and proposed the role this Committee would have in supporting the Council's community leadership responsibilities in raising educational attainment and aspirations of young people in Tendring, whilst ensuring that skills were aligned to career opportunities.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Guglielmi, seconded by Councillor Turner and RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that:

- (a) A dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Education and Skills, be established;
- (b) The Terms of Reference for this new Committee be agreed as set out in the report;
- (c) The membership of the Committee be determined, including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the option to include two non-voting Co-opted Members of the Committee, to be drawn from the Education community;
- (d) Amendment to the Constitution be approved to allow a dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Education and Skills to be established;
- (e) The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Education and Skills be paid the same Special Responsibility Allowance as the Chairs of the Council's other Overview and Scrutiny Committees; and
- (f) Members of the Committee have appropriate CRB checks and safeguarding training.

144. DISPOSAL OF THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, OLD ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA

A.6 Disposal of the Public Conveniences at Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea

There was submitted a report by the Regeneration, Inward Investment and Asset Management Portfolio Holder, which asked the Cabinet to consider whether to initiate the disposal process with regard to the public conveniences in Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea and, if so, to agree terms for the disposal of the site at auction.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that:

- (a) The disposal process, whereby Officers considered the potential transaction, including valuation, examinations and negotiations, in accordance with the Council's Property Dealing Policy, as set out in the Constitution, be initiated; and
- (b) The Corporate Director (Corporate Services) be authorised to dispose of the property at the highest bid following the auction process.

145. PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE LAND, HARPERS WAY, OFF JAYWICK LANE, CLACTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX

A.7 Proposed Acquisition of Open Space Land, Harpers Way, off Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea

There was submitted a report by the Regeneration, Inward Investment and Asset Management Portfolio Holder, which sought the Cabinet's approval to the acquisition of open space land at Harpers Way, Clacton-on-Sea, following the decision (Reference 1846 referred) dated 13 January 2010, which initiated the Property Dealing Policy for the

potential acquisition of the land. Officers had since been in negotiation with the current land owner to agree transfer terms for the land.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that, having considered the detail of the proposal, the acquisition of the land be progressed, as set out in the report.

146. ESSEXFAMILY TENDRING - A REVIEW OF THE PILOT

A.8 EssexFamily Tendring – A Review of the Pilot

There was submitted a report by the Well-being and Partnerships Portfolio Holder, which provided Cabinet with the detailed outcomes of the EssexFamily Tendring pilot.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor McWilliams, seconded by Councillor Honeywood and RESOLVED that:

- (a) The progress made by the EssexFamily Tendring pilot, be noted;
- (b) The continued partnership working with the Tendring Family Solutions Team, be supported; and
- (c) The extension of the Tendring Family Support Worker post for a further year from October 2014, using the grant funding previously allocated by Essex County Council and the former North East Essex Primary Care Trust, be approved.

147. MANAGEMENT TEAM ITEMS

There were none on this occasion.

148. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

As there was to be no discussion and consequently no need to exclude the press and public, the Cabinet resolved to confirm as a correct record, the exempt minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2014 and to agree the recommendations as contained within the exempt reports in relation to Agenda Items B.1 and B.2 below.

149. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS

B.1 Proposed Acquisition of Open Space Land, Harpers Way, off Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea

RESOLVED, that the acquisition of the land at Harpers Way, Clacton-on-Sea, in accordance with the terms set out in the report, be approved.

B.2 Compulsory Purchase of 42 The Parade, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex CO14 8AS

RESOLVED, that the acquisition of 42 The Parade, Walton-on-the-Naze be secured through the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order, in accordance with the terms set out in the report.

150. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet is to be held on Friday 21 March 2014 at 10.30 a.m. in the Essex Hall, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea.

Chairman