

CABINET5 SEPTEMBER 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 A Goggin (Finance and Transformation)!Councillor G V Guglielmi (Planning and Corporate Services)!Councillor P B Honeywood (Housing and Benefits and Revenues)!Councillor L A McWilliams (Well-Being and Partnerships)!Councillor M E Platt (Culture, Tourism, Leisure and Events)

Also Present:- Councillors G Mitchell and F Nicholls.

Group Leaders Present by Invitation:

Councillors J Broderick (Holland Residents' Association), I Henderson (Labour Group), I Johnson (Deputy Leader Tendring First Group) and M Talbot (Independent Group).

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) (Paul Price), Corporate Director (Public Experience) (June Clare); Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath); Data Protection and IT Services Manager (Judy Barker); Research and Projects Officer (Elisabeth Ridout) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)

(10.30 a.m. - 12.05 p.m.)  
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60. LINCOLN ANDERSON - FACILITY MANAGER (BRIGHTLINGSEA SPORTS CENTRE)

The Chief Executive was sad to announce the passing of a colleague, Lincoln Anderson, Facility Manager at Brightlingsea Sports Centre.

Cabinet stood silent in his memory.

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor H Shearing (Liberal Democrat Group Leader).

62. WELCOME BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Page, Leader of the Council, welcomed to the meeting, Councillor Iris Johnson, newly-appointed Deputy Leader of Tendring First.

63. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 1 AUGUST 2014

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on 1 August 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

65. COUNTY COUNCIL BY-ELECTION - ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive announced that, following the resignation by County Councillor Roger Lord, former Essex County Councillor for Brightlingsea Division, the deadline for nominations to fill the vacancy was Friday 12 September 2014 and the date of poll (election) was Thursday 9 October 2014.

66. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(1) UK Parliamentary By-election for Clacton

The Leader of the Council said that he recognised the huge amount of additional work and disruption the calling on the UK Parliamentary By-election for Clacton had caused to staff and despite this, paid tribute to those members of staff who had given up weekends and cancelled holidays to ensure that the Council continued to function despite the additional workload placed upon it at this time. He said that the calling of the by-election was a cost to the local tax-payer, was totally wrong at this time and was a disservice to the district and to Tendring District Council.

(2) Swimming Pool Provision at Dovercourt and Frinton and Walton

The Leader of the Council said that an application for planning permission had been submitted to the Council in respect of refurbishment works to the swimming pools at Dovercourt and Frinton and Walton. He said that the £600,000 set aside for the refurbishment of Frinton and Walton Swimming Pool (to include the provision of a multi-use fitness suite) and £900,000 in respect of improvements to the Dovercourt Pool showed a commitment to the Administration's priorities.

(3) Regeneration of Jaywick

The Leader of the Council said that today had been an historic day in that Tendring District Council was to become the catalyst in identifying a pipeline of potential development sites within Jaywick. He said that this was very good news and was a positive way forward for the Council and the residents of Jaywick to look forward to new affordable homes and related employment.

67. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor Turner, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coast Protection, made statements in respect of the following areas of service delivery within the remit of his portfolio:

(1) Clacton to Holland Coast Protection Project

Councillor Turner advised Cabinet that excavation and transformation works had commenced and work on the second kilometre of groyne removal had started.

(2) Open Spaces and Bereavement

Councillor Turner advised Cabinet that the Council had opened another two gardens this year – the Poppy Garden in Dovercourt (led by Harwich Town Council) and the garden in Clacton to commemorate the first bombing of the Second World War. Councillor Turner said that the Council had won another Green Flag and had retained the two it had in relation to its crematorium.

Councillor Turner said that, with regard to the replacement of the Council's two cremators, this would commence in late autumn and would include ancillary works; an additional 50 spaces car park in the fields to the rear of the Crematorium; an expansion to the existing

offices there and a tidying-up of the flower court. In addition, the Council would have to provide for the installation of mercury abatement equipment by 2020. Councillor Turner was delighted to advise Cabinet that whilst the estimate for all of these works was upwards of £2m, the Council had awarded the contract (to include all of the above and the mercury abatement equipment) and that this had come in under the budget set of £1.4m.

(3) Street Scene

Councillor Turner advised Cabinet that, in respect of the Council's Green Waste Collection Scheme, the Council had broken-even inside of three months of starting the scheme. He said that Essex County Council (ECC) had been very helpful in that Tendring District Council had only to collect and deliver the green waste for composting and that ECC would pay gate fees and any other on-costs. Councillor Turner was also delighted to announce that he had been invited to speak on the success of the Scheme at the Resource and Waste Management Exhibition to be held later in the month in Birmingham.

(4) Seafronts and Parking Service

Councillor Turner advised Cabinet that ECC had funded the provision of two seafront changing places for use by those who were severely handicapped. These, he said, were large and had specialist equipment including hoists, wet rooms, toilets, screens and non-slip floors with easy access and the availability of special wheelchairs, which could be used on the beach. The changing facilities were close to a double beach hut with ramp access to the beaches. Councillor Turner said that the Council had accepted the offer of a third changing place, which would be sited in Dovercourt before the start of next year's summer season.

(5) Environmental Services

Councillor Turner advised Cabinet that the new approach to liquor, food and gambling licensing had thrown up new challenges for Environmental Services but that this was bedding-in as ongoing collaborative working with the Police etc. had improved working relationships and responses.

Councillor J Broderick left the meeting during the foregoing item of business.

68. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL

There were no matters referred to the Cabinet by the Council.

69. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY A COMMITTEE

There were no matters referred to the Cabinet by a Committee.

70. ACQUISITION OF SEVERAL SITES IN THE JAYWICK AREA

A.1 Acquisition of Several Sites in the Jaywick Area

There was submitted a report by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Inward Investment and Asset Management, which sought Cabinet's approval to the acquisition of several sites in the Jaywick area with a view to facilitating development or directly developing the sites for housing and regeneration stimulation.

Following the decision (No.2435) by the Portfolio Holder in May 2014 to initiate the acquisition process, officers began the task of identifying landholders and landlords. In this connection, the Council had been in exploratory discussions with several landholders and landlords in the Jaywick area for a number of months and had now reached provisional

agreements, subject to the necessary approvals and contracts. There was also a potential choice of development sites available.

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

(a) The acquisition of the land identified in Part B of the report, for the purposes of development and providing housing by the Council (All subject to Cabinet's further decision on terms in Part B of the agenda) be approved, in principle; and

(b) Subject to (a) above, the Corporate Directors (Corporate Services) and (Life Opportunities), in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Council's Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, be authorised to complete the acquisition of the various parcels of land within the site, on terms set out in the report and on such other terms and conditions that the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) considered appropriate.

71. FINANCIAL STRATEGY - INITIAL FINANCIAL BASELINE 2015/16

A.2 Financial Strategy - Initial Financial Baseline 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which presented to Cabinet an initial financial baseline for 2015/16 against which, the detailed estimates would be built upon over the course of the year.

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

(a) The initial financial baseline for 2015/16 be agreed and officers be requested to continue their work, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to identify the necessary savings to deliver a balanced budget for presenting to Cabinet in December 2014;

(b) The Corporate Management Committee be consulted on the initial financial baseline for 2015/16;

(c) The Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant to Town and Parish Council's be reduced by a maximum of 10% in 2015/16;

(d) The principle of joining a pool for non-domestic rates, on the basis that no authority would be worse off in the pool than they would have been outside it, be agreed and that the decision to join an Essex wide NDR pool be delegated to the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Corporate Director (Corporate Services); and

(e) The decision to enter into a Compliance Business Case and Sharing Agreement with the Major Preceptors be delegated to the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Transformation and Housing, Benefits and Revenues, in consultation with the Corporate Directors (Corporate Services and Life Opportunities) based on the principle of mitigating as far as possible any financial risks to the Council.

In accordance with Paragraph 1.5(ii) to Section 7.08 (Cabinet Procedure Rules) of Part 2 (Articles), Councillor M Talbot strongly objected to the decision by the Cabinet that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant to Town and Parish Councils be reduced by a maximum of 10% in 2015/2016.

72. CORPORATE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2014/2015

**A.3 Corporate Budget Monitoring Report for the First Quarter of 2014/2015**

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which provided an overview of the Council's actual financial position against the budget, as at the end of June 2014.

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

- (a) The financial position, as at the end of June 2014, be noted;
- (b) The 2014/15 budget be amended to reflect favourable variances emerging so far to date as follows:
  - £0.050m reduction in salary budgets
  - £0.078m increase to the planning fee income budgets
  - £0.178m relating to Government grants received for Community Right to Bid, Community Right to Challenge, New Burdens, Welfare Reforms and New Homes Bonus Adjustment grant.
  - £0.306m – Contribution to Reserves (being the total of the above transferred to the Austerity Reserve); and
- (c) The 2014/15 budget be amended to reflect the following adjustments:
  - £0.142m increase in the budget for insurance premiums funded from the Contingency Budget.
  - £0.400m added to the Frinton and Walton Pool Redevelopment Capital Scheme funded from the Use of the Asset Refurbishment / Replacement Reserve.
  - £0.017m to support the cost of the Funding Officer within the Public Experience Department met from the Council's provision for vacancies.
  - £0.044m added to the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments Budget met from the £0.044m set aside as part of the 2014/15 budget for 'hardship relief'.
  - £0.083m to fund 3 posts within the Planning Department met from increases in the Planning Fee income budget.

**73. B.1 ACQUISITION OF SEVERAL SITES IN THE JAYWICK AREA**

RESOLVED, that:

- (a) Following its approval of the principle of acquisition of land at Jaywick, as set out in the Part A report on this agenda, Cabinet progress with the acquisition on the terms set out in this report and;
- (b) Subject to (a) above, and in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Council's Section 151 and Monitoring Officers the Corporate Directors (Corporate Services) and (Life Opportunities) be authorised to complete the acquisition of the various parcels of land within the site, on terms set out in the report, and on such other terms and conditions that the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) considered appropriate.

**74. B.2 FUTURE DELIVERY OF IT SUPPORT AND RELATED SERVICES**

RESOLVED, that:

- (a) The Hybrid predominantly 'In-House Service Delivery' (Option 1) be agreed, in principle, for the delivery of IT services from 01 April 2016;
- (b) Works to progress this option commence immediately under the direction of the

Corporate Director (Corporate Services) in line with the projected financial modelling and in accordance with future Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) issues (TUPE) negotiations and job evaluation; and

(c) The further decisions necessary to implement the proposed approach be brought before members in due course or made under officer delegated powers, where appropriate.

75. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Items 13 and 14 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

Chairman