

CABINET12 JUNE 2015

Present:- Councillor G V Guglielmi (Deputy Leader of the Council/Planning and Corporate Services)!Councillor P B Honeywood (Housing)!Councillor T A Howard (Finance and Transformation)!Councillor M J Hughes (Revenues and Benefits)!Councillor L A McWilliams (Well-being and Partnerships)!Councillor M J D Skeels (Leisure)!Councillor N R Stock (Leader of the Council/Asset Management)!Councillor M J Talbot (Environment)!Councillor N W Turner (Coastal Protection)!Councillor G F Watling (Regeneration)

Also Present:- Councillors Bucke, Cawthorn, Porter and Raby

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Corporate Services) (Martyn Knappett), Corporate Director (Public Experience) (June Clare), Legal Services Manager (Lisa Hastings), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Regeneration Manager (Tom Gardiner), Operations Manager (Michael Carran), Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath), Executive Projects Manager (Keri Lawrence), Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford), Research Projects Officer (Elizabeth Ridout) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)

Also in Attendance:- Councillors J A Broderick (Leader of Holland Residents' Group), I J Henderson (Leader of the Labour Group) and M E Stephenson (Leader of the UKIP Group)

(10.35 a.m. - 11.09 a.m.)  
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1.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none on this occasion.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2015

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on 24 April 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to in Minute 154(ii) Staff Recognition and Achievements, the Corporate Director (Public Experience) (June Clare) and her Officers being included in the list of Officers that Councillor Turner had expressed his gratitude to.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Broderick declared an interest in item A.1 of the Report of the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder – Financial Outturn 2014/15 insofar as it included references to the Clacton to Holland Coastal Defence Scheme – and by virtue of the fact she resided in a property close to the works carried out under the scheme.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock) informed Cabinet that he would be reconstituting the Rural Projects Panel, which had done good work under the chairmanship of Councillor Nicholls, as a Portfolio Holder Working Party, under the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder (Councillor Howard).

The Working Party would continue the Panel's work on issues such as Broadband, mains sewerage, mains drinking water and flooding and would have cross-party membership

chosen by the respective Group Leaders.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

### Women's Cycle Tour

The Leisure Portfolio Holder (Councillor M J D Skeels) reminded Cabinet that the world class International Aviva Women's Cycle Tour would be coming to the District on Thursday 18 June 2015. That day's Leg of the Tour would start in Braintree and would finish in Clacton-on-Sea via places such as Frinton-on-Sea, Great Bentley and Thorrington.

Councillor Skeels encouraged all Members to come along and watch the race and to then catch up with the highlights on ITV4 that evening.

Councillors Skeels was also delighted to announce that on Monday 15 June the entire Pearl Izumi professional women's team, plus several other high calibre riders, would join the 2014 Tendring Sports Awards winners at Clacton Leisure Centre to share their experiences.

### 2015 Clacton Air Show

Councillor Skeels reminded Cabinet that the 2015 Clacton Air Show would be held on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 August 2015 and looked like being the best ever with the Red Arrows (on both days), a Flying Fortress and a Chinook helicopter already confirmed.

He stated that Members would be contacted shortly to apply for VIP tickets, which he expected would sell out extremely quickly.

### All-Member Briefing on the Draft Local Plan

The Planning and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor G V Guglielmi) informed Cabinet that an excellent all-Member Briefing on the emerging Local Plan, led by the Council's Development Plan Manager (Gary Guiver), had taken place on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

Councillor Guglielmi stated that the Local Plan Committee would be meeting on Tuesday 14 July 2015 and that a briefing for Members of that Committee would be held on Wednesday 8 July. Other Members would also be welcome to attend.

## 6. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2014/15

### A.1 FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2014/15

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which provided Cabinet with an overview of the financial outturn for the year 2014/2015 and sought its approval for:

- Revenue and capital commitments to be carried forward to 2015/16;
- Funding of the 2014/15 General Fund and HRA Capital Programmes;
- The reserves position at the end of 2014/15;
- The updated General Fund Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19 and associated funding;
- The allocation of the overall General Fund variance for the year; and
- Amendments to the 2015/16 General Fund revenue budget to reflect the latest position

Having discussed the outturn, it was proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by

Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that:

(a) the financial outturn position for 2014/15, as set out in the report and appendices, be noted;

(b) the General Fund Revenue Commitments of £9.075m to be carried forward from 2014/15 to 2015/16, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved;

(c) against the background of taking opportunities to reinvest increased savings and the increasingly difficult financial environment faced by the Council, along with balancing the deliverability of key priorities and actions, the following 2015/16 budget adjustments, funded from the General Fund variance for 2014/15 of £0.286m and £0.010m from the Contingency Budget, be approved:

- £0.096m be allocated to the Frinton and Walton Swimming Pool Redevelopment Project; and
- £0.200m be allocated to enable the required repairs to the Venetian Bridge at Pier Gap, Clacton to be undertaken and that the Corporate Director (Public Experience) be authorised to undertake the necessary design and procurement activities required to deliver this project at the earliest opportunity;

(d) the financing of General Fund capital expenditure for 2014/15, as detailed in Appendix D of the report, be approved;

(e) the General Fund capital budgets of £4.496m to be carried forward from 2014/15 to 2015/16 and the associated carry forward of the revenue contribution to capital of £0.287m be approved;

(f) the updated General Fund capital programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19 and associated financing, as set out in Appendix K to the report, be approved;

(g) the movement in uncommitted and earmarked General Fund reserves for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix E to the report and any amendments arising from resolution (c) above, be approved;

(h) in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the movement on HRA balances for 2014/15, including the commitments set out within Appendices I and J to the report, along with recharges to the HRA from the General Fund of £2.156m for the year and the financing of the HRA capital expenditure set out in Appendix J to the report, be approved;

(i) in respect of the 2015/16 General Fund revenue budget, the necessary adjustments that reflect the latest position for the Council Tax sharing agreement with the major preceptors, as set out in the report, be approved;

(j) in respect of the next phase of the Council Tax Sharing agreement with the major preceptors that is currently being developed by Essex Authorities, the Benefits and Revenues Portfolio Holder and the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder be authorised to sign up to the agreement, if beneficial to this Council; and

(k) the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder, be authorised to adjust the outturn position for 2014/15 along with any corresponding adjustment to earmarked reserves as a direct result of any recommendations made by the Council's External Auditor during the course of their audit activities relating to the Council's 2014/15 accounts.

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of the Cabinet Procedure Rules, as set out in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution, the Leaders of the Labour Group (Councillor I J

Henderson) and the Holland Residents' Group (Councillor Broderick) requested that their respective Group's objections to the increased expenditure on Special Responsibility Allowances, arising from the increase in the size of the Cabinet, be recorded in the Minutes.

## 7. SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (SME) GROWTH FUND

### A.2 SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (SME) GROWTH FUND

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, which sought Cabinet's approval to establish and implement an SME Growth Fund Scheme of £500,000, thereby enabling the Council to target grant funding on new and existing businesses operating in the District of Tendring's designated Assisted Area and working within the manufacturing; engineering (electrical and mechanical); energy; low carbon; and maritime sectors; and/or in the research and development / supply chain industries serving those sectors.

It was reported that the Scheme would be managed on a day-to-day basis by the Council's Regeneration, Inward Investment and Growth Team. A Grants Panel, comprising representatives of the Council and external partners, would make investment decisions on the grant applications received based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, led by the Council's Regeneration Manager.

The proposed Grants Panel would comprise the following members:

- Portfolio Holder for Regeneration – Chairman
- Corporate Director - Public Experience
- Finance and Procurement Manager
- Executive Director Haven Gateway Partnership
- SME Representative
- Regeneration Manager (advisory and non-voting member)

The aims and objectives of the Scheme would be to:

- Create a Growth Fund targeted on the manufacturing; engineering (electrical and mechanical); energy; low carbon; maritime sectors; and/or the research and development and supply chain industries serving those sectors, to incentivise investment by businesses in those sectors;
- Concentrate assistance on those sectors to support the growth and diversification of the economy within the District's designated Assisted Area; and
- Contribute to a sustained increase in value, job creating potential, and to the sustainability of those sectors.

The primary targets for the proposed Scheme would be to:

- Support investment in 15 to 25 new and existing businesses to achieve growth;
- Create or safeguard at least 70 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs; and
- Lever £1,750,000 of private investment additional to the Scheme Fund of £500,000.

The proposed governance, management and administrative protocols for the Scheme were attached at Appendix A to the report.

Having considered the proposed Scheme, it was moved by Councillor Watling, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that:

(a) the proposed SME Growth Fund Scheme and Project Appraisal Manual, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved and adopted;

(b) the relevant powers be delegated to the Regeneration Portfolio Holder, the Corporate Director (Public Experience), the Regeneration, Inward Investment and Growth Team and the Grants Panel, as detailed in the Scheme and Manual, to implement and undertake the governance, management and administrative requirements as detailed in Appendix A aforesaid;

(c) the decision-making powers necessary to determine the applications, as set out in the Scheme and Manual in Appendix A, be granted to the Grants Panel; and

(d) the Information and Guidance brochure, as attached at Appendix B to the report, be approved and adopted.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and RESOLVED that, as there was to be no discussion and consequently no need to exclude the press and public, the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 April 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman