

CABINET24 JULY 2015

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

Also Present:- Councillors Raby and Watson

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Corporate Services) (Martyn Knappett), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford), Research and Projects Officer (Elizabeth Ridout), Assets Surveyor (Aileen Middleton) 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)

(10.30 a.m. - 11.29 a.m.)  
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16.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor N R Stock, Leader of the Council and Planning and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder and Councillor M J Hughes, Revenues and Benefits Portfolio Holder.

17. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2015

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on 12 June 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were none on this occasion.

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

Unauthorised Traveller Encampment in the District

The Housing Portfolio Holder (Councillor Honeywood) gave an update to Cabinet on the ongoing situation, with regard to an unauthorised traveller encampment in the District, which had originally begun at Holland Marshes before subsequently moving to FC Clacton's car park and thence to Brook Farm Country Park.

Councillor Honeywood outlined the legal actions being undertaken by the Essex County Traveller Unit to bring this matter to an end. He also confirmed that the Council would, once again, be seeking to take out an injunction in the High Court to cover the relevant sites to prevent unauthorised traveller incursions from disrupting the Clacton Air Show.

## Clacton Air Show

The Leisure Portfolio Holder (Councillor Skeels) was pleased to draw the Cabinet's attention to the positive coverage on the front page of the East Anglian Daily Times for the forthcoming Clacton Air Show. He also stated that the hotels in Clacton were being booked up already.

21. CLACTON AIR SHOW 2015 - COSTINGS AND BUSINESS PLAN

Cabinet considered two recommendations made by the Service Development and Delivery Committee on the Clacton Air Show 2015 at its meeting held on 15 June 2015. At that meeting that Committee had received a presentation by the Council's Operations Manager, Michael Carran, on the Clacton Air Show 2015.

Mr Carran had informed the Committee that the 2014 Air Show had been a huge success with record numbers of people attending. He said that for the past four years, his team had aimed to run the Air Show at break even and the way to achieve this was to run it as a business. He confirmed that it had cost roughly £100,000 to run last year's air show but through various sources of income, such as trade stands and programme sales, approximately £80,000 of income had been generated and that the economic impact of this to Tendring was in the region of £5,500,000.

Mr Carran had then advised the Committee that, despite the successes, there were issues to be aware of, including the provision of parking spaces, a lack of demand for sponsorship and that the infrastructure for Clacton was not strong enough to hold much more than the 100,000 people per day that had attended the 2014 Air Show.

During discussions with the Committee, Mr Carran had been asked what the Committee could do to help the Air Show in going forward and suggestions around Members helping on the day and inviting voluntary groups to provide support, were put forward. He had said that any help would be greatly appreciated and that any feedback after the Air Show would also be welcomed.

The Committee had also given consideration to the centenary year of the ending of the First World War for the 2018 Air Show and agreed it would work with the Council's Operations Manager on this.

The Committee had then agreed to make the following two recommendations to the Cabinet:

(a) That the Leisure Portfolio Holder gives consideration to inviting all Members to take part and help with the running of the Clacton Air Show 2015; and

(b) the Leisure Portfolio Holder also gives consideration to attracting help and support from local voluntary groups whilst being mindful of any relevant Council policies and potential safeguarding issues.

During discussion of this item the Chief Executive undertook to arrange for the calendar of events in the District to be circulated to Members.

Having considered the recommendations of the Service Development and Delivery Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Guglielmi and RESOLVED that Cabinet supports the idea of inviting all Members to take part and help with the running of the Clacton Air Show 2015 and that an appropriate email be sent.

22. FREEHOLD DISPOSAL OF CLAY HALL, WYNDHAM CRESCENT, CLACTON-ON-SEA

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Asset Management, which sought Cabinet's approval, in principle, for the freehold disposal of Clay Hall, Wyndham Crescent, Clacton-on-Sea.

Cabinet deferred consideration of that report until after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting when the report would be considered in conjunction with item B.1 of the Report of the Asset Management Portfolio Holder.

23. TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE 2014/2015

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which reported on the Council's treasury management activities and Prudential Indicators for 2014/15.

Cabinet was informed that:

- Borrowing and investments had been undertaken in accordance with the 2014/15 Annual Treasury Strategy that had been approved by Council on 28 February 2014;
- No external borrowing had been undertaken in 2014/15 for either the General Fund (GF) or Housing Revenue Account (HRA); and
- The amount of interest earned from investments remained low because of the continuing unprecedented low interest rates existing throughout the year. However, due to maximising investment opportunities and cash flow advantages during the year interest returns had been in line with the increased amount budgeted.

The outturn for the Prudential Indicators was before Cabinet as Appendix B to the Portfolio Holder's report and the key treasury management performance data was set out in Appendix A to that report.

Having considered the information submitted, it was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that the treasury management position and Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2014/15 be noted.

24. FINANCIAL STRATEGY - GENERAL FUND INITIAL FINANCIAL BASELINE 2016/17

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which presented an initial General Fund financial baseline for 2016/2017 against which the detailed estimates would be built upon over the course of the year.

Cabinet was informed that:

- The initial financial baseline for 2016/17 set out an initial budget 'gap' of £2.229m. For the purposes of the initial estimates, this had been based on a 0% increase in the level of Council Tax and a 28% reduction in the Revenue Support Grant from the Government in 2016/17;
- The above was also based on the continuation of the difficult financial environment and year-on-year reductions in funding from the Government, which were expected to see further reductions beyond 2016/17;
- A number of savings strands were already being progressed which would be finalised as part of presenting the revised position to Cabinet in December 2015. Work also remained in progress, in consultation with Portfolio Holders, to identify additional items to meet the

budget 'gap'. The Corporate Management Committee was also undertaking work to support the Council in this regard.

- A self-sufficiency approach remained as a core backdrop to the Council's budget with the business rates retention scheme and New Homes Bonus providing an incentive for Councils to 'grow' their own income through maximising opportunities for housing and business growth within their areas. This in itself brought with it a focus on local decision making where such decisions had a greater impact on the Council's overall financial position.
- The initial forecast did not include the final position for items such as cost pressures and potential further changes to budgets although estimates had been included, where possible, with further details likely to emerge over the course of the year. Therefore it was recognised that the budget 'gap' could increase further.
- A number of Essex Local Authorities, including this Council, had joined a Business Rates Pool in 2015/16. Subject to the financial performance of this arrangement, which would become clearer over the course of this year, a decision to continue to remain in the Pool would be required in the Autumn.
- In continuing the principle of passing on the reduction in the Council's Government funding to Town and Parish Councils via the Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant, it was proposed to reduce that grant by 5% in 2016/17.  
Councillor Turner congratulated the Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) and his team for their continuing work and efforts to keep the Council on a sound financial basis.

Having considered the information submitted, it was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and RESOLVED that:

- (a) the initial financial baseline for 2016/17 be approved and that 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 2015;
- (b) that the Corporate Management Committee be consulted on the initial financial baseline for 2016/17;
- (c) that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant to Town and Parish Councils be reduced by 5% in 2016/17 and;
- (d) the decision to remain in the Essex-wide pool for non-domestic rates in 2016/17 be delegated to the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Corporate Director (Corporate Services).

25. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Watling and 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 Item 12 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

Chairman