

CABINET19 FEBRUARY 2016

Present:- Councillor G V Guglielmi (Asset Management and Corporate Services/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 N R Stock (Leader of the Council/Planning)!Councillor M J Talbot (Environment)!Councillor N W Turner (Coastal Protection)!Councillor G F Watling (Regeneration)

Also Present:- Councillor Baker

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Finance and Procurement Manager & Section 151 Officer (Richard Barrett), Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath), Commercial Manager (Mark Westall), Communications Manager (Nigel Brown), Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford), Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice) and Democratic Services Officer (Katie Sullivan)

Also in Attendance:- Councillor M E Stephenson (Leader of the UKIP Group)

(10.30 a.m. - 11.26 a.m.)

138.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors M J Hughes (Portfolio Holder for Revenues and Benefits), J A Broderick (Leader of Holland Residents' Group) and I J Henderson (Leader of the Labour Group).

Councillor M J D Skeels informed Cabinet that Councillor Hughes was still in hospital undergoing tests but that it was hoped that he would be allowed home at the weekend. Councillor Stock asked Councillor Skeels to pass on Cabinet's best wishes to Councillor Hughes.

139. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 22 JANUARY 2016

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on Friday 22 January 2016, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

140. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

141. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Superfast Broadband

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stock, referred to an informal meeting that the Cabinet had held with Superfast Essex and stated that he was still concerned with the progress of the roll-out of superfast broadband especially in the rural areas of the District. He further stated that he wanted to see superfast broadband in every property in the District as soon as possible and that the Council could act to facilitate this. He called on the District's Essex County Councillors to push this issue at County Hall.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor G V Guglielmi, felt that it was becoming clear

that BT would only invest in areas of high commercial return but that there were two subsidiary companies which were looking to “fill the gap”.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, Councillor Howard, stated that it was important that the Council pushed to maximise the use of the BDUK money available and that the Council may need to invest in order to help ‘lever in’ other contributions.

142. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

Public Consultation on proposed boutique Café at Star Point, Holland-on-Sea

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Councillor Watling, informed the Cabinet of the public consultation event held, on site, on Saturday 13 February 2016 in respect of the proposed boutique Café at Star Point, Holland-on-Sea. He commended the Officers for their efforts in what had been very poor weather. The consultation had been well attended by the public and Officers were now analysing the returns which had been both strongly in favour and in opposition.

143. PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER THREE (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015)

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Corporate Services, which presented the performance report for Quarter Three (October – December 2015). Appendix A to that report contained details of 18 key project areas, as well as 12 performance indicators, detailing business critical areas of the Council's work. The report also contained details of levels of staff sickness, complaints handling and the number of approved surveillances.

Cabinet was made aware that, of the 30 indicators and projects reported, 26 (87%) were on, or above, their expected target. There were four (13%) that were currently not in line with the expected performance. Explanations of the performance and the supporting data were included under each topic.

Cabinet was also aware that this report had been presented to the Corporate Management Committee on 15 February 2016. The comments made by that Committee would be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet as a separate reference report.

The Leader of the UKIP Group, Councillor Stephenson, referred to the comments made by the Corporate Management Committee, at its aforementioned meeting, and particularly with regard to Affordable Excellence Indicator of Performance No.8 (New Homes Completions - Planning) which should either make clear that the Council had no direct control over new homes being built; be amended to focus on the Council's performance in approving or refusing planning applications; or be entirely deleted.

After discussion of the report it was moved by Councillor G V Guglielmi, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that:

(a) the contents of the report be noted; and

(b) the Corporate Management Committee be requested to consider the definition and relevance of performance targets and to propose any changes back to Cabinet.

144. CORPORATE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which provided Cabinet with an overview of the Council's actual financial position against the budget as at the end of December 2015 and which set out a number of budget

adjustments required in 2015/2016 including those associated with the Leader of the Council's budget speech on 9 February 2016.

It was reported that the position to the end of December 2015, showed that, overall, the actual General Fund Revenue position was behind the profiled budget by £6.318m. After allowing for significant one-off budgets such as the Fit for Purpose Budget where commitments or decisions were still to be made, the position was revised to £1.436m behind the profiled budget (compared to being behind profile by £1.430m at the end of the previous quarter). A considerable element of that variance was due to the timing of expenditure and income although some emerging, or continuing, issues had been identified. It was also highlighted that the favourable income position being experienced in areas such as planning and car parks was making a significant contribution to the overall variance.

It was further reported that, In respect of other areas of the budget such as Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme, debt recovery, treasury activity and LCTSS / Business Rates retention, there were no significant issues that had been identified to date.

Cabinet was aware that the budget monitoring process continued to form a fundamental element of supporting the forecast for following years through the identification of savings that could be 'banked' as the year progressed rather than just as part of the annual budget setting cycle. That would enable the medium term forecast to be updated on an on-going basis with the savings identified being available to support the budget in future years. Therefore, although the budget for 2016/17 had now been agreed by Council, that approach would continue with favourable variances being transferred to the Austerity Reserve. This would provide a proactive approach in supporting the delivery of the necessary savings in 2017/18 and beyond.

Members were informed that, as in previous years, it was recognised that a number of smaller variances within services emerged over the course of the year that would not necessarily be specifically highlighted or discussed within the Corporate Budget Monitoring reports. Although a significant number of budgets had been reduced as part of the financial strategy process over recent years it was still possible that a range of smaller variances might remain at the end of the year and contribute to the overall position. Also a number of budgets that related to schemes / initiatives or earmarked for specific purposes might not be fully spent by the end of the year and might be subject to end of year processes such as carry forward requests and therefore remain committed. However, at this stage and after taking into account the current position and information available along with the proposed contribution to the Austerity Reserve, it was still anticipated that any adverse issues would be offset by favourable variances elsewhere within the budget at the end of the year. A number of emerging issues had also arisen that had required a budget adjustment to be made or specific recommendations required.

Cabinet was informed that an update had also been provided in respect of the Government's commitment to reduce social housing rents by 1% from 2016/17. As part of the processes associated with enacting the relevant legislation, it was expected that the Government would make some amendments which they had already informally confirmed. This would have an impact on the Housing Revenue Account budgets which were reflected in the Portfolio Holder's recommendations that sought the necessary delegation of authority in order to enable the Council to react to those changes before the start of the 2016/17 financial year.

Having considered the report, it was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and RESOLVED that:

(a) the financial position, as at the end of December 2015, be noted;

(b) the 2015/16 budget be amended to reflect favourable variances emerging in the third quarter as follows:

- £0.150m reduction in salary budgets;
- £0.100m increase to the planning fee income budgets; and
- £0.250m – Contribution to Reserves (being the total of the above transferred to the Austerity Reserve).

(c) following the Leader of the Council's budget speech on 9 February 2016, the Big Society Budget be increased by £0.160m in 2015/16 funded by a transfer from the Fit for Purpose Budget; and

(d) delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to determine the level of rents for any HRA properties that may be exempt from the 1% rent reduction starting from 1 April 2016, or from any other changes that may be required, following the enactment of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015/16.

145. ENHANCING CARELINE SERVICES - THE CREATION OF A LIFTING SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Housing which sought Cabinet's agreement to the provision of an enhanced service to Careline customers and outlined the minor restructuring of the Control Centre in order to create a "lifting" service for Careline Service Users.

Members were reminded that Tendring Careline had circa 3,000 Service Users (2,500 self-funding residents living in their own homes, 300 TDC sheltered housing residents, 200 privately owned sheltered housing residents). Currently, the service included assessment of Service User needs and installation of required equipment, monitoring of said equipment, and response in case of emergency.

Cabinet was advised that if a Service User had a fall, the Careline operator would ascertain if the person was injured and then call 999 to request an ambulance and crew to attend. If the Service User was injured the ambulance service would treat it as an emergency and would attend immediately. However, if the Service User was not injured the incident was considered low priority and it could often be three or four hours before a paramedic arrived. Often in those cases Careline would also call a local next of kin or neighbour to sit with the Service User but they were rarely able to help the Service User up and also did not possess the required amount of First Aid training to assess the person for injuries. In the 6 months from May 2015 to October 2015 Careline had called 310 ambulances to a Service User who had fallen but who did not get taken to hospital. Each call out would have cost the NHS a minimum of £300.

It was further reported that there was also the hidden cost to the NHS that any vulnerable person who fell and lay on the floor for three or four hours could start to exhibit complications at a later stage that resulted in a visit and a stay in hospital. It was proposed therefore that, for an increase in the Careline charge of less than 8 pence per day, Careline would employ a team that was able to "lift" any Service User that had fallen but was uninjured, reducing stress to the person and also taking away unnecessary ambulance call-outs. The proposed Officer restructure would also increase the resilience within the Control Centre itself with the addition of the extra staffing.

Members were made aware that in 2008 the British Medical Journal had published an article that stated that lying on the floor for a long time is one of the most serious consequences of a fall by an elderly person as it could lead to complications such as pressure sores (often exacerbated by unavoidable incontinence), carpet burns,

dehydration, hypothermia, pneumonia, and even death. Subsequently, a “lifting” pilot scheme had been carried out, funded by the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group. The pilot had clearly demonstrated the need for such a service and the savings that could be made by the Ambulance Service but unfortunately the 3000 Service Users that would possibly benefit from this service represented too small a part of the North East Essex population and the finer points of how the responsibility of a 999 call could be passed to Tendring Careline had not been overcome. The pilot had shown provide positive benefits for all parties.

It was reported that, during Autumn 2015 a survey had been sent to current Careline customers to ask them about the service they currently received and if they would like to see a “lifting” service introduced. 38% replies had been received of which 59% said they would like to see a “lifting” service introduced and 96p per week was the average that those people were willing to pay..

Cabinet was informed that Colchester Borough Council (CBC) offered a Careline service to its residents that included “lifting”. It was similar in size to Tendring Careline having circa 3000 Service Users. CBC offered two options for customers – monitoring only at £16.47* per month or monitoring and response (that included “lifting”) at £25.85* per month. Officers had been advised that 80% of users in Colchester had opted in to the full service, which included lifting.

The Cabinet was advised that there four options available to it, namely:

1. No change to the existing structure and the lifting service was not created;
2. The new structure was adopted and no further charges were passed to Service Users. Cost to Council £69,656.
3. The new structure was adopted and the full cost was passed on to Service Users. Monthly fees would rise from the current £19.24* to £21.75*. This rise would also include an annual 1% increase (£0.19p) to cover increased service costs; and
4. The new structure was adopted but Service Users were given the option to opt-in or out of the additional lifting service. From the survey results Officers believed that possibly 40% would opt-out so monthly fees would need to rise from the current £19.24* to £23.30*. This rise would also include an annual 1% increase (£0.19p) to cover increased service costs.

Note: *Almost all Service Users are zero rated for VAT on Careline services.

The Housing Portfolio Holder, Councillor Honeywood, reminded Cabinet of Council’s decision on 9 February 2016 to allocate funding for the extended service.

Having considered the report, the options available and the funding awarded by Council it was moved by Councillor Honeywood, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and RESOLVED that:

(a) Cabinet approves the provision of an enhanced Careline service to all current and future Careline customers which includes a lifting service;

(b) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to identify how the £221,000 allocated by the Council, at its meeting on 9 February, can be utilised to support the Careline service to include lifting between its implementation and 2018/19, taking into account the possible increase in take up of the service as the service grows; and

(c) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to identify a mechanism to ensure that the funding allocated by Council is not used to fund service users who may live outside the District (at the present time or in the future), nor those for whom funding is already, or may be

identified as being provided, or are private companies, such as private care establishments.

146. FINAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which sought the Cabinet's approval of the final budget proposals for 2016/17 (including Council Tax proposals) for recommendation to Council on 9 February 2016.

It was reported that, at its meeting held on 11 December 2015, Cabinet had considered the Revised Financial Baseline 2016/2017 and associated detailed budget proposals for 2016/2017, which presented a budget "gap" of £0.903m.

It was noted that Cabinet's budget proposals were subject to consultation with the Council's Corporate Management Committee, which had met on 4 and 6 January 2016 to consider these and the Committee's comments were provided within the report, along with the response from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation.

It was further reported that, since the Cabinet's meeting on 11 December 2015, additional changes had been required, primarily as a result of new or revised information becoming available, which included the Government's Financial Settlement announcements. These had been included in the final budget proposals, as set out in this report, which together reduced the budget 'gap' to £0.294m. It was noted that this figure may change as further adjustments could be required as part of finalising the budget for presenting to Council on 9 February 2016, with a delegation included in the recommendations to reflect this.

It was further noted that the remaining budget 'gap' of £0.294m had been met by taking both the 2015/2016 position and 2016/2017 together as a whole and therefore across a two-year budget cycle. The favourable variance in 2015/2016 totalled £0.519m, which therefore more than offset the £0.294m required in 2016/2017, with the balance of £0.225m being a net contribution to the Austerity Reserve across both years.

It was reported that the above reflected the increased challenge of identifying the necessary savings whilst balancing, wherever possible, the aim of protecting cuts to services. This also emphasised the point that it was financially difficult to justify not taking the saving from items such as black sacks in favour of identifying other savings elsewhere in the budget, as there was a clear need to identify all potential savings to balance the budget going forward into 2017/2018.

Taking all of the changes into account, the Council Tax requirement had been revised to £6.762m, which was based on a 1.99% increase for this Council's services in 2016/2017 with a Band D Council tax of £150.58.

The Council's annual budget and the district and parish elements of the Council Tax would be considered by Full Council on 9 February 2016 with approval of the 'full' Council Tax levy for the year to be considered by the Council Tax Committee on 24 February 2016.

The report also proposed an extension to the free Residents' Parking Scheme based on a number of key principles that sought to make it financially possible to provide this scheme for a further three years, funded from the Parking Reserve.

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

1. If the financial position changed prior to Council considering the budget on 9 February 2016, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, be authorised to adjust the use of the net favourable position from taking 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 together as a two-year budget cycle;

2. In consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) report directly to Council in respect of the formal draft resolutions necessary to implement the Cabinet's budget proposals, along with any late information or notifications received from the Department for Communities and Local Government etc. as may necessarily affect the budget;
3. The Corporate Management Committee be thanked for the work it had undertaken and continued to take in supporting the development of the budget and that the comments of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation in response to those of the Committee, as set out in the report, be agreed;
4. The Free Residents' Parking Scheme be extended for three years, based on the key principles set out in this report, subject to the approval of the 2016/2017 budget at Full Council on 9 February 2016 and the future availability of funding within the Parking Reserve, which would be reviewed as part of the Council's annual Financial Strategy and budget-setting processes in 2017/2018 and 2018/2019;
5. Subject to (4) above, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Coastal Protection, be authorised to take the necessary steps to implement the Revised Free Residents' Parking Scheme from 1 April 2016; and
6. The Corporate Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, be authorised to undertake the necessary activities to enable the Council to accept the Government's four-year minimum funding offer to Local Authorities if there was a benefit to TDC of doing so.

That, subject to the above, Cabinet RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that:

(a) Following the consideration of the comments from the Corporate Management Committee and the responses from the budget consultation activities undertaken, the following final budget proposals be made (based on a 1.99% increase in a Band D Council Tax for district services):

i) That the detailed budgets, as per Appendix A to the report, be approved, which provided for a Council Tax Requirement for 2016/2017 of £6.762m (£6.539m for 2015/2016) (excluding parish precepts);

ii) That the Council agrees and formally approves:

a) The specific recommendations, calculations and other matters in respect of the Council's requirements – Appendix C; and

b) The Council Tax for this Council's services – Appendix F.

Councillors Broderick and Stephenson left the meeting following consideration of the above matter.

147. ANNUAL TREASURY STRATEGY FOR 2016/17 (INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS)

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation, which sought the Cabinet's agreement to the Annual Treasury Strategy for 2016/2017 (including the Prudential and Treasury Indicators) for consultation with the Council's Corporate Management Committee.

It was reported that the Local Government Act 2003, and supporting regulations, required

the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy (as required by Investment Guidance subsequent to the Act), which sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments, "having regard" to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

It was noted that the Treasury Strategy had been prepared in light of advice received from the Council's Treasury advisers and reflected the latest codes and guidance.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that the Annual Treasury Strategy for 2016/2017 (including Prudential and Treasury Indicators) be submitted to the Corporate Management Committee for review before recommendation to Council, be approved.

148. CHANNEL SHIFT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report, which sought the adoption by Cabinet of the Tendring District Council (TDC) Channel Shift Strategy for TDC.

It was noted that, in 2013, the Society of Information Technology Managers (SOCITM) conducted a survey, the results of which showed that average channel costs for face-to-face customer interaction were £8.62, each telephone interaction was £2.83 and each online interaction cost just £0.15. In addition, it was noted that, across local authorities, two-thirds of customer contacts were now through digital channels.

It was reported that the Council's Customer Service Working Group had carried out a "snapshot in time" review of its residents' contact channels during June 2014 and, although digital channels currently made up only a small part of the customer interaction, it was fair to say that web visits had increased dramatically since the last audit of channels in 2012 and other forms of contact were on the decline. It was further reported that the 2014 Tenants' Satisfaction Survey showed that amongst this group, those that had access to the internet at home had risen by 8% since 2012.

It was recognised that not only did it make good business sense to manage and promote digital channels, but that they were fast becoming the channel of choice and residents would demand access to services in this way. Further, there was no suggestion that TDC should close its various reception desks to force residents onto a different channel, but more that the Council should provide digital access points across the District to make it easier for the Council's residents to deal with TDC so that by enabling and encouraging customers to change their choice of contact channel, TDC could ensure resources were directed towards those services that would still require face-to-face and telephone contact.

In terms of potential savings, it was noted that the Public Sector Channel Shift Strategies Survey Report 2015, conducted by GOSS Interactive, revealed that moving to online channels, such as web and social media, was expected to save Councils around £1.55m each in the next year, an increase of 345% compared with 2014. Therefore, based on the SOCITM survey and the Council's own snapshot in time review, if the Council was able to manage just 10% of its customer contact from face-to-face and telephone towards an online solution, the Council could save an estimated £112,000 per year.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that the adoption of the Tendring District Council Channel Shift Strategy, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

149. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET PROPOSALS - REVISED BUDGET 2015/16 AND ORIGINAL BUDGET 2016/17

There was submitted a report, which set out, and sought the Cabinet's approval to:

- (i) A Revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2015/2016 and Original HRA Budget for 2016/2017, including the movement of HRA balances;
- (ii) The level of rents and fees and charges for 2016/2017; and
- (iii) The five-year HRA Capital Programme

In addition to the above, the report briefly set out the various housing-related issues and challenges faced by the Council following announcements by the Government, which were primarily set out in the Housing and Planning Bill, and which were currently processing through Parliament.

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

1. The 2016/2017 Scale of Charges, as detailed at Appendix B to the report, be approved;
2. The 1% reduction in actual rents and formula rents in 2016/2017, in line with the Government's imposed restrictions on rent-setting policy, be noted;
3. Subject to 1 and 2 above, the Housing Revenue Account revised estimates for 2015/2016 and original estimates for 2016/2017, as set out at Appendix A to the report, along with the HRA Capital Programme and the movement in HRA balances and Reserves, as set out at Appendices C and D to the report respectively, be approved; and
4. In respect of 2015/2016, the corporate financial system be amended accordingly to reflect these changes, along with any amendments arising from revised financial reporting requirements.

150. NEW PREVENT DUTY ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships, which provided information on the new PREVENT duty and invited the Cabinet to agree a local authority PREVENT policy for Tendring District Council.

It was reported that the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 required local authorities in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and that guidance had been published, which set out details of actions needed to fulfil responsibilities under this duty.

It was noted that local authorities were vital to PREVENT work and would be required to undertake a range of responsibilities under the following categories:

- Partnership
- Risk Assessment
- Action Plan
- Staff Training
- Use of Resources

An Impact Assessment had been published, in which, it had been estimated that associated costs for local authorities could range from between £4,000 and £40,000 and that this was aligned to the variable risk in different areas. It was reported that it was not

possible to predict how much support the remaining areas would require until they had carried out their own risk assessments and, therefore, the Home Office had proposed to allocate all non-priority local authorities a £10,000 one-off payment to cover activity required to commence the duty. It was noted that, thereafter, most activity was likely to be mainstreamed into existing community safety and child safeguarding work.

Members were advised that Tendring District Council had entered into a grant agreement with the PREVENT Local Delivery Department at the Home Office to receive this funding.

Members were reminded that the proposed policy had been considered by the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee at its meeting held on Monday 7 December 2015, at which, the Committee noted the duty and recommended to Cabinet that an all Member Briefing be arranged on the Council's responsibilities under PREVENT and, so far as possible, ensure that attendance by all Members was compulsory.

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

1. The new duty upon local authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism, be noted;
2. The proposed Tendring District Council PREVENT Policy, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved; and
3. The Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships supports the recommendation by the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee, that an all Member Briefing be arranged on the Council's responsibilities under PREVENT.

151. REVIEW OF THE TENDRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY 2011 TO 2016

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships, which invited the Cabinet to approve the updated Children and Young People Strategy 2011 to 2016.

It was reported that, in March 2015, Cabinet resolved that the Tendring Children and Young People Strategy 2011 to 2016 (the Strategy) be reviewed and updated.

Members were advised that, in Essex, the overall responsibility and accountability for meeting the needs of children and young people rested with Essex County Council (ECC) as lead authority but that Tendring District Council (TDC), as community leader, played a crucial role in facilitating and supporting a partnership approach to meeting the needs of children and young people in the District.

It was further reported that the findings from the review indicated that whilst the vision for the TDC should remain unchanged, the revised Children and Young People Strategy should include:

- (i) Reference to the Council's Community Leadership role;
- (ii) A Partnership Delivery Plan with clear and measurable targets;
- (iii) Accountability for implementation of the Delivery Plan through established governance structures; and
- (iv) Four priority areas of Safeguarding, Education, NEETs (young people who were not in education, employment or training) and Child Poverty

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

1. The findings of the Tendring Children and Young People Strategy 2011 to 2016 review, be noted;
2. The Draft Revised TDC Children and Young People Strategy, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, be approved;
3. The Draft TDC Children and Young People Partnership Delivery Plan 2015/2015, as detailed at Appendix B to the report, be approved;
4. The implementation of the annual Children and Young People Partnership Delivery Plan be overseen by the Tendring Health and Well-being Board; and
5. In respect of comments and recommendations made by the Community Leadership and Partnerships and Education and Skills Committees, these be included within the reviewed Strategy and be reviewed periodically by the Tendring Health and Well-being Board.

152. ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY

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[HREF="KAB163.PL?PHDNAME=PHD663&ARC=8&PHASE=TWO&CMTE=CAB&MEET=68&RETURN_PROG=KAB8.PL&OPERATION=DETAILS">DECISION 2624](#)

There was submitted a detailed report by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, which informed Cabinet about the current position in relation to empty homes in the District and which sought agreement for an updated Empty Homes Strategy.

Cabinet was reminded that the Council had first adopted an Empty Homes Strategy in 2009, with the three year strategy running until 2012. The Strategy had not been updated in 2012 but it was now felt that the strategic importance of privately owned empty homes in meeting housing need should be highlighted and strengthened by implementing a revised and updated strategy.

Having considered the report, it was moved by Councillor Honeywood, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and RESOLVED that the revised Empty Homes Strategy 2016 – 2018, as appended to item A.9 of the Report of the Housing Portfolio Holder, be approved.

153. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi 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 Items 12 and 13 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

Chairman