

CABINET22 JANUARY 2016

Present:- Councillor P B Honeywood (Housing)!Councillor T A Howard (Finance and Transformation)!Councillor M J Hughes (Revenues and Benefits)!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)

Also Present:- Councillors Baker, Bennison, J Brown, Massey, Steady and White

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Communications Manager (Nigel Brown), Corporate Director (Corporate Services) (Martyn Knappett), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice), Democratic Services Officer (Katie Sullivan), Finance and Procurement Manager and Section 151 Officer (Richard Barrett), Head of Planning (Cath Bicknell), Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings) and Management and Members' Support Manager (Karen Neath)

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

(10.30 a.m. - 11.28 a.m.)

123.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors G V Guglielmi (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Corporate Services), L A McWilliams (Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships) and G F Watling (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration).

124. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on Friday 11 December 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

126. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

(i) Investors in People (IIP) Gold Standard

The Leader of the Council was sure that Members would have been aware of the announcement made just before Christmas 2015 that Tendring District Council had been awarded the 'Gold' Standard by IIP.

Councillor Stock said that the Council had now received the formal Assessment Report and one of the two Assessors, Mr D Abdul, would be attending a meeting of the Council's Human Resources Committee, to be held on Tuesday 26 January 2016, to talk the Committee through the assessment and to present the Council with an action plan to work on to ensure that the Council built further on the success achieved to date.

Councillor Stock went on to say that a key part of IIP was how an organisation managed the people who were part of it and so, it was absolutely right and appropriate that the presentation by Mr Abdul should come before the Human Resources Committee but, it was also a recognition of the wider management and leadership of the organisation to achieve its priorities.

Councillor Stock said that the introduction to the Assessment read as follows:

“Great leadership, fundamental service reviews, restructuring, major projects, reducing outsourcing, balancing the budget, increased partnership working, developing community hubs, member and staff development, have contributed to rapid improvements and a capacity to improve even further. This is now a dynamic and motivated workforce dealing with change and transformation with resilience and tenacity.”

Councillor Stock said that this was no time for the Council to rest on its laurels as it had some very difficult decisions to make in the coming months, especially on the Local Plan and on balancing the budget for next year and beyond. He added that he was proud to be the Leader of such a rapidly improving organisation and hoped that all Members would recognise the achievement of this award as a fantastic tribute to the whole Council and, above all, to the dynamic and motivated workforce, which was so vital to the well-being of all the Council's communities and the District.

(ii) Part Night Street Lighting

Councillor Stock advised Cabinet that, further to the decision of Council on 24 November 2015, he had written to the Leader of Essex County Council (ECC) to seek agreement to this Council's proposals for the street lights to be on all night in some wards and left off in others and, if so, what the annual cost of that would be to this Council. In this connection, Councillor Stock confirmed that he had received a response from ECC and, following a subsequent exchange of letters to clarify the information to enable a decision by this Council to be made, the position was now as follows:

ECC had concluded (which Councillor Stock quoted):

“...that districts, who wish to see the lights reinstated, will need to commit to the total cost of lighting. To define which streets are on or off, area and street by street, will be administratively costly and unworkable....”

In conclusion, Councillor Stock advised Cabinet that a report setting out the latest position would be made to Council at its meeting to be held on 9 February 2016 and, in the meantime, he would write to all Members enclosing copies of the correspondence he had had with the Leader of ECC.

127. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

There were no announcements by Cabinet Members on this occasion.

128. CEASE DELIVERY OF BLACK SACKS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Management Committee, which asked Cabinet to consider, within the period prescribed by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the decision of the Corporate Management Committee in respect of Executive Decision No.2633, which had been called-in, and to resolve a final decision in this regard.

It was noted that, at its meeting held on 11 December 2015, the Cabinet had considered

the future provision and delivery of black sacks by the Council, to residents, and decided that:

(a) The future provision and delivery of black sacks by the Council, to residents, be ceased with effect from 2016; and

(b) A promotion and press campaign be delivered to provide information about the ceasing of the service and informing residents how waste should be presented, running alongside the Council's promotion of increased recycling.

It was further noted that the above decision had been called-in for scrutiny by Councillors J Brown, I Henderson and Stephenson and that the Corporate Management Committee had considered the call-in at its meeting held on Monday 4 January 2016.

Following consideration of the call-in, the Corporate Management Committee decided that the decision be referred back to the decision-maker (Cabinet) in light of the fact that a mediation process had not been able to take place and requested that the Cabinet reconsiders its decision within the required 15 working days following the meeting of the Corporate Management Committee of 4 January 2016 and preferably following mediation.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that, having considered the comments of the Corporate Management Committee, the original decision taken in relation to Executive Decision No.2633 be reaffirmed and that:

(a) the delivery of black sacks by the Council to residents be ceased with effect from 2016; and

(b) a promotion and press campaign be delivered, to provide information about the ceasing of the service and informing residents how waste should be presented, running alongside the Council's promotion of increased recycling.

Councillor I Henderson wished it to be recorded in the minutes that the Labour Group's views, as detailed within the notice of call-in, be reaffirmed.

129. NORTH ESSEX GARDEN SETTLEMENTS - UPDATE ON JOINT BID FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, which asked Cabinet:

(i) To note the award of £640,000 of grant assistance received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG); and

(ii) To provide ongoing support, working together with Colchester Borough Council, Braintree District Council and Essex County Council, to progress the concept of "garden settlements" using the funding recently awarded by the DCLG.

In seeking Cabinet's agreement to the two points above, it was noted that it may become necessary for garden settlement types of developments to be included in the authorities' respective Local Plans to achieve future housing growth requirements and, as such, a Joint Shadow Delivery Board had been set up to oversee delivery of the project.

It was reported that this report sought to provide the necessary authority and delegations to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, the Chief Executive and Officers to represent Tendring District Council, in accordance with the proposed governance structure.

The Chief Executive drew to the attention of Members an amendment to Appendix A (Governance Structure for Garden Communities), in that the wording at bullet-point two on Page 21 therein, be amended to read “....Local Authority Chief Executives or their representatives....”

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

1. The successful outcome of the recent bid for grant funding from the DCLG, which would enable the Garden Settlements concept to be progressed and which would provide ongoing support for partnership working between Colchester Borough Council, Braintree District Council, Tendring District Council and Essex County Council to deliver the project, be noted;
2. The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Chief Executive represent and be authorised to make executive decisions on behalf of the Council, in accordance with the Council’s Constitution, on the Joint Delivery Board, and in accordance with the Governance Structure, as set out in Appendix A to the report;
3. The Cabinet acknowledged that the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning would not commit any decisions falling within the remit of the Local Plan Committee;
4. Authority be delegated to those Officers appointed by the Chief Executive to represent TDC on the Joint Steering Group and relevant delivery and project teams to make decisions in accordance with the relevant terms of reference, as set out in Appendix A to the report;
5. The grant funding be held by Colchester Borough Council on behalf of the North Essex Garden Settlements Project and be authorised to commit expenditure in accordance with the context as set out in this report;
6. The desire of the Joint Shadow Delivery Board to deliver the development through a special purpose vehicle and supports advice being commissioned, be noted;
7. The Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, be authorised to make a decision, following consideration of a detailed report, to establish a special purpose delivery vehicle; and
8. Should there be any material changes or substantial financial investment by the Council be required, a further report be presented back to Cabinet for further decisions.

130. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION - ANNUAL REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Corporate Services, which asked Cabinet to recommend to Council proposed changes, which had been suggested by the Monitoring and Section 151 Officers, as part of an annual review of the Constitution.

It was reported that the main changes included proposed revised Access to Information Procedure Rules, but that small changes were also suggested in respect of both the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules and its Property Dealing Procedure. It was further reported that, in addition to these, a number of minor miscellaneous amendments were necessary and had been included for openness and transparency.

The Monitoring Officer asked Cabinet to also give due consideration to an additional

change, which had not been included within the report, to the effect that Council Procedure Rule 11.1 (Motions on Notice) be amended to allow for motions on notice to be received by the Democratic Services Manager no later than midday, eight working days before the day of the meeting. This change would bring the deadline for receipt of motions on notice, in line with that of questions received on notice.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor Talbot and RESOLVED that Cabinet RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that:

1. The proposed changes to the Access to Information Rules, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be approved and adopted;
2. The Council's Constitution be amended accordingly to reflect the proposed changes to the Financial Procedure Rules, Property Dealing Procedure and miscellaneous amendments, as set out in the report and Paragraph 3 above; and
3. In consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) be authorised to amend the Procurement Procedure Rules to reflect the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and any future legislative amendments.

131. 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.

132. 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.

133. 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.

134. 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.

135. 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.

136. 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.

137. ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY

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

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.

138. 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