

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.34 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Steady (Chairman), Wood (Vice-Chairman), Caines, R Callender, Challinor, Coley, Johnson and Nicholls.

Also Present: Councillor Page (Leader of the Council).

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Human Resources and Business Manager (Anastasia Simpson), Business Support Manager (Katie Wilkins) and Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford).

19. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

In light of the casual vacancy in the office of Vice-Chairman of the Committee, it was moved by Councillor R Callender, seconded by Councillor Nicholls and **RESOLVED**, that Councillor Wood be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bucke (with Councillor Johnson substituting).

21. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 16 June 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

23. PERFORMANCE REPORT: QUARTER 1 OF 2014/2015 (APRIL TO JUNE 2014)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), which informed the Committee of the performance of the Council during the period April to June 2014.

The Council's Human Resources and Business Manager (Anastasia Simpson) informed the Committee that of the 29 indicators and projects reported, 22 (76%) were on or above their respective target, whilst seven (24%), were not currently in line with expected performance. She then gave an explanation and update on each of the seven under-performing indicators and targets.

In respect of the under-performance in the recycling rate, it was suggested that this could be down to a combination of the recession (whereby people were only buying what they needed by way of food and other goods and that therefore there was less to put out for recycling) and public confusion over what plastics could be recycled.

The Council's Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) highlighted areas of positive performance such as financial self-sufficiency (Leisure Services), missed bins collections and the decline in staff sickness rates.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

24. OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND NEW WAY OF PLANNING BUDGETS – CORPORATE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014/15 FIRST QUARTER AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY: INITIAL FINANCIAL BASELINE 2015/16

The Committee had before it items A.2 and A.3, being the reports of the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), which provided the Committee with an overview of the Council's actual financial position against the budget, as at the end of June 2014 and which informed the Committee of the Cabinet's decisions in respect of the Initial Financial Baseline for 2015/16.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council was already working on identifying savings to meet the target of £2million in 2015/16 and that the Council was embarking on a different way of planning its budgets by directly linking the current year financial position with the forecast for the following year. The Chief Executive stated that the outcomes of the first quarter's budget monitoring were being linked in to the budget-planning process to early identify savings and cost pressures, ongoing revenue incomes and to help produce build in capacity and safeguards to cope with any 'nasty shocks' that might arise from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement. In addition, he stated that mapping in those outcomes, with the help of cross-party input through the Corporate Management Committee, would help the Council produce a financial strategy that would help Members make the difficult decisions that would be needed in agreeing the Council's budget.

In response to a Member's question in relation to the Council being run more like a business than a traditional local authority, the Chief Executive stated that he would like the Council to reach a position where it was much less reliant on Government grants and could rely much more on its own generated income, including treasury management returns and targeted use of one-off funding such as the New Homes Bonus.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the contents of items A.2 and A.3 of the report of the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) be noted; and
- (b) the next formal meeting of the Corporate Management Committee, due to be held on 20 October 2014, be cancelled and that instead, the Committee holds an informal, facilitated workshop on this day to which all non-executive Members of the Council would be invited to attend in order to generate efficiency savings and income generated ideas and to relook at the budget in a different, pragmatic way to ensure an early Member input into the budget setting process for 2015/16.

25. RURAL PROJECTS PANEL – VERBAL UPDATE

Councillor Nicholls, the Chairman of the Rural Projects Panel, informed the Committee that the Panel, at its meeting held on 16 July 2014, and in light of a press statement issued by the Leader of the Council, had discussed the subject of 'Chinese Sky Lanterns' and their impact on rural communities, especially farmers' crops and had decided to make recommendations to Cabinet, the text of which is set out below:

That:

- (i) As a matter of urgency, the Council takes all necessary steps, including the making of by-laws, to ban the use or release of lighted Chinese sky lanterns (or similar) on all land owned by Tendring District Council and promotes the responsible use of such lanterns in general across the District;*
- (ii) Parish and Town Councils in the District be requested to follow the example of Great Bentley Parish Council and prohibit the use or release of lighted Chinese sky lanterns on land in their respective ownerships; and*
- (iii) The Licensing Committee be requested to consider the prohibition of the use or release of lighted Chinese sky lanterns at events licensed under the Licensing Act 2003, in pursuance of the Licensing Objectives for the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Promotion of Public Safety.*

Councillor Nicholls reported that, at the further request of the Panel, the Chairman of the this Committee (Councillor Steady) had been consulted and requested, as a matter of urgency and on behalf of this Committee, to endorse the Panel's recommendations to Cabinet. Councillor Steady confirmed that he had had given that endorsement.

Members were informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 1 August 2014, had considered the Panel's recommendation and had decided that:

- (1) the Cabinet as a whole recognises the potential threats to crops and property posed by falling debris from Chinese Sky Lanterns; and*
- (2) the Cabinet was committed to reducing those risks wherever it reasonably could and therefore determined that:*
 - (a) the use or release of Chinese Sky Lanterns from Council land be prohibited with immediate effect;*
 - (b) a condition be included in all future leases, licences and consents regarding events on Council land which prohibits the use or release of Chinese Sky Lanterns;*
 - (c) all Town and Parish Councils be encouraged to take similar steps on their land to prohibit the use or release of Chinese Sky Lanterns to reduce the risk of damage to crops and property;*
 - (d) the Licensing Committee be requested to identify and take any opportunities to use the licensing legislation in pursuance of the Licensing Objectives for the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Promotion of Public Safety to extend the prohibition of the use or release of Chinese Sky Lanterns.*
 - (e) Officers investigate the potential for implementing an appropriate by-law (or by-laws) to embed the Council's approach; and*
 - (f) The Council publicises its approach and promotes the responsible use of such lanterns across all parts of the Tendring District.*

Councillor Nicholls also informed the Committee that the Rural Projects Panel, for its next meeting to be held on 23 September 2014 had invited Sharon Alexander (CEO of CVS Tendring) and Christopher Wetton (CEO of Essex Carers Support) to attend to outline the services CVS Tendring provided for the elderly and carers in the Tendring District and to explore ways to promote these services more widely, particularly in rural areas. In addition, the Panel had invited Connie Kerbst (Senior Programme Manager, Essex County Council) and Michelle Gordon (this Council's Enterprise and Innovation Officer) to attend to discuss the projected timeline for the roll out of rural superfast broadband.

Finally, Councillor Nicholls stated his intention to invite Acting Chief Inspector Russell Cole to attend a meeting of the Panel to discuss Rural Policing.

In response to a Member's question, Councillor Nicholls confirmed that 'rural isolation' fell within the remit of the Panel and could be considered at a future meeting.

26. SHARED SERVICES AND WORKING WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

The Chairman informed the Committee that how the Council could work better with its Town and Parish Councils in delivering shared services would be considered at the informal workshop to be held on 20 October 2014.

27. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the new items relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee contained in Forward Plan No.155.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.57 p.m.

Chairman