

**MINUTES OF THE RESUMED MEETING OF THE CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2016
AT 9.15 A.M. IN THE CONNAUGHT ROOM, TOWN HALL, CLACTON-ON-SEA**

Present: Councillors Steady (Chairman), Platt (Vice-Chairman), Baker, Cawthron, Chittock, Scott and Stephenson.

Portfolio Holders Present: Councillors G V Guglielmi (Asset Management and Corporate Services), Honeywood (Housing Portfolio), Hughes (Revenues and Benefits), McWilliams (Well-being and Partnerships) Skeels Snr. (Leisure), Talbot (Environment) and Turner (Coastal Protection).

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) (Paul Price), Head of Planning Services (Cath Bicknell), Finance and Procurement Manager & Section 151 Officer (Richard Barrett), Assets Manager (Andy White), Commercial Manager (Mark Westall), Environmental Services Officer (John Fox), Human Resources and Business Manager (Anastasia Simpson), Open Space and Bereavement Space Manager (David Hall), Operations Manager (Michael Carran), Parking and Seafronts Manager (Ian Taylor), Revenues and Benefits Manager (Harry Bates) and Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford).

39. UPDATED FINANCIAL BASELINE 2016/17 AND DETAILED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED BUDGET 2015/16 AND ORIGINAL BUDGET FOR 2016/17

Following the adjournment of the meeting on 4 January 2016 the Committee resumed and considered the following matters:

The Housing Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) and the Commercial Manager, attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on:-

- (1) The proposed Careline Lifting Charge; and
- (2) The possibility of using Honeycroft as homeless accommodation;

The Well-being and Partnerships Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on the emergency planning cost pressure such as the potential for sponsorship or match funding by Essex County Council.

The Leisure Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) and the Operations Manager, then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on:-

- (1) Value for money considerations around the Clacton Air Show evening flight cost pressure; and
- (2) Leisure Fees and Charges.

The Revenues and Benefits Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities) and the Revenues and Benefits Manager, then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on:-

- (1) The background to the Council Tax compliance work and the Council Tax Sharing Agreement; and
- (2) Recovery of Housing Benefit expenditure through the subsidy system if the Department of Work and Pensions identify fraud.

The Environment Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), the Open Space and Bereavement Space Manager and the Environmental Services Manager, then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on:-

- (1) The changes and thinking behind the Crematorium fees and charges;
- (2) The agreement with Essex County Council on Recycling Credit Income;
- (3) Food Waste and the proposed reduction in funding from Essex County Council;
- (4) Tipping Away payments and the proposed reduction in income from Essex County Council; and
- (5) Mobile Home Licences – scale of fees and charges.

The Coastal Protection Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Parking and Seafronts Manager, then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on:-

- (1) The options for the Residents' Parking Permit Scheme for 2016/2017;
- (2) The changes and thinking behind the Car Parks fees and charges;
- (3) The changes and thinking behind the Beach Huts fees and charges;
- (4) Usage of Council owned Beach Huts that can be rented; and
- (5) The usage and potential usage of the new beach raking vehicle.

The Asset Management and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, accompanied by the Assets Manager, then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on what Council owned non-housing properties were empty and for how long.

The Human Resources and Business Manager then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on the cost pressure for the IIP Gold standard.

The Head of Planning Services then attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on the adequacy of the staffing levels within Planning in the light of the current workloads on that section.

The Chief Executive then attended the meeting and Members went over everything that the Committee had discussed over the course of the meeting. The Chief Executive thanked the Committee for their serious hard work, support and constructive suggestions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following **COMMENTS** be submitted to the Cabinet:

- (1) The Committee looks forward to working with the Housing Portfolio Holder and Officers on the proposed changes to the services provided by Careline (such as the lifting after a fall service) and appoints Councillors Baker, Scott and Stephenson to liaise directly with the Portfolio Holder and the Council's Commercial Manager (Mark Westall);
- (2) The Committee recommends that the Service Development and Delivery Committee reviews the Council's Homeless Accommodation Policy and the continuing viability of the Council's low occupancy residential care homes (i.e. Honeycroft, Spendells and Kate Daniels) on a half-yearly basis;
- (3) That a 'grid' be produced and distributed to Members with details of all the advertising that will be produced to promote the District over the next 12 months and beyond;

- (4) That, following the introduction of the new fees and charges in April 2016, attendance figures at the District's Sports Facilities be monitored and regularly reported to Members;
- (5) The Committee looks forward to receiving information setting out the potential options for innovative changes to the Residents' Parking Permit Scheme, following which comments will be made, as appropriate, but a focus on encouraging non-residents of Tendring to visit the District should be a key consideration;
- (6) The Committee notes the significant activity currently being undertaken in respect of the management and/or disposal of assets but long-term vacant/unused sites within the Council's ownership should be disposed of as soon as possible especially where on-going revenue costs are being incurred; and
- (7) That the Committee: recognises, and commends, all the hard work currently being undertaken by the Planning Staff in dealing with the current high volume of planning applications and the production of the new Local Plan; recognises the pressure and potential for stress this places on those officers; and that the Council needs to remain alert to the on-going pressure that the Service faces and provides the necessary support to continue to provide an effective and efficient Planning service.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.04 p.m.

Chairman