

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2021 AT 7.30 PM
MEETING WAS HELD PURSUANT TO STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 2020/392.**

Present:	Councillors Land (Chairman), Bray (Vice-Chairman), Alexander, Allen, Amos, Barry, Bush (except items 55 - 61 (part)), Calver, Casey, Chapman, Chittock, Clifton, Codling, Coley, Davidson, Davis (except items 55 - 61 (part)), Fowler, Griffiths, C Guglielmi, V Guglielmi, Harris, I Henderson, J Henderson, P Honeywood, S Honeywood, King, Knowles, McWilliams, Miles, Morrison, Newton, Placey, Porter, Scott, Skeels, Steady, G Stephenson, M Stephenson, Stock OBE, Talbot, Turner, White, Wiggins and Winfield
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Paul Price (Deputy Chief Executive & Corporate Director (Place and Economy)), Damian Williams (Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery)), Lisa Hastings (Assistant Director (Governance) & Monitoring Officer), Richard Barrett (Assistant Director (Finance and IT) & Section 151 Officer), Gary Guiver (Assistant Director (Strategic Planning and Place)), Anastasia Simpson (Assistant Director (Partnerships))(items 55 - 61 (part) only), Keith Simmons (Head of Democratic Services and Elections), Ian Ford (Committee Services Manager), William Lodge (Communications Manager), Elizabeth Ridout (Leadership Support Manager), Keith Durran (Democratic Services Officer), Will Fuller (Planning Officer), Debbie Bunce (Legal and Governance Administration Officer), Emma Haward (Leadership Support Assistant) and Matt Cattermole (Communications Assistant)

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cawthron and Fairley. Apologies for absence were also submitted on behalf of Councillor Bush who later on was able to join the meeting during the consideration of the matters referred to in Minute 61 below.

56. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE, seconded by Councillor Turner and:-

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none on this occasion.

58. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor Land) urged all Members who needed support in their respective communities during the on-going pandemic to contact Russ Cole, the Council's Community Engagement Manager on 01255 686700.

59. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were none on this occasion.

60. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**Investors in People Award**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock OBE) made the following Statement:-

“Mr Chairman, I am pleased to announce that Tendring District Council has retained a prestigious award recognising our quality as an employer.

Investors in People, or liP, assess employers on a range of factors, and we were last reviewed in 2019 – when we kept our existing Gold award.

Now, following a two-year review, liP has once again conferred the Gold title onto this authority; meaning we have held a Gold award for five years now.

In his report the assessor said our “strategies and people plans/achievements have moved forward significantly since our last assessment”.

The fact we have achieved Gold for five years, even when the assessment criteria was made tougher last year, shows how we continue to build upon our success year-on-year.

This is a testimony to the work and dedication of all of our staff, right across the council, and especially considering the extraordinary challenges we have faced in 2020, and still face today.

We remain one of the largest employers in the District, with more than 600 full and part-time staff, so by leading by example we demonstrate the importance of this for other organisations and businesses in Tendring.

I am sure I speak for us all, but especially for the Human Resources and Council Tax Committee and for our Chief Executive as the Head of Paid Service, in thanking our staff and HR department for their hard work in serving our community.”

Virtual Meetings of the Council

Councillor Stock OBE reminded Members that they were able to meet virtually during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic due to emergency Regulations that had been passed by Parliament. That secondary legislation was due to expire in early May 2021 and the Government had indicated that it did not intend to renew those Regulations as it would require primary legislation to be passed by Parliament. However, legal advice obtained by Essex County Council had indicated that there were ways to proceed which would not require such primary legislation to be enacted and that therefore he had written, in his capacity as chairman of the Greater Essex Leaders and Chief Executives Group to the Secretary of State for Housing and Communities to urge him to re-consider this matter.

61. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Community Safety Projects Update

The Partnerships Portfolio Holder (Councillor McWilliams) made the following statement:-

“Thank you Chairman I would like to make a statement on the activities and projects delivered by our Community Safety during the last year in the midst of the pandemic.

The Impact Youth Project – UTURN4SUPPORT

The CSP funded £ 4,033.44 into “The Impact Youth Project”, a joint enterprise between UTurn4support and Essex Police, it is designed to provide young people in secondary schools across Tendring with early support, advice and information on county lines and knife related violence. The project was a direct response to an increase in the number of students being involved in county lines and knife related crime in Tendring.

Unite Our Communities – Colchester United Football Club

The CSP also funded £5,000 “Unite Our Communities” which is a programme with Colchester United of a school’s workshop delivered across Tendring schools specifically targeting early intervention in primary schools, which will also cover Extremism. The method will be helped by Peer-to-Peer feedback using role models in order to raise aspirations.

We started the programme in June last year and carried on over the summer, then stopped with Lockdown 2, but do hope to start again when schools are back.

Another CSP funded scheme of £ 2,500 will also deliver “Unite Our Communities” to the older children in transitioning stage between junior and secondary school, in Years 7 and 8.

Crucial Crew

This year’s Young Persons Crucial Crew is being delivered virtually, again by around £10,000 of CSP’s funding in school classrooms with the help of Loudmouth Productions The programme ‘Helping Hands’ has been designed and produced by Loudmouth Education and Training through Theatre.

An online pre-recorded lesson has been created to help children to stay safe, using NSPCC’s guidelines.

Some of the themes the virtual lessons focus on are, teaching the children about their own safety, and what to be wary of during lockdown.

Topics include what are ‘unsafe secrets’, appropriate body contact, recognising feelings that may occur when feeling unsafe or troubled by an incident, and exposure to harms whilst online.

The programme explores, in a safe and gentle way difficult topics such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, knife crime and various areas of vulnerability, supervised by Safer Communities Team members.

Community Safety and Health and Well-being Project – The SOS Bus Project

Several charities and organisations, known as SHELLS, are working together in Tendring to help support homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, with their health and wellbeing.

The Open Road SOS bus enables SHELLS to provide an outreach service on Fridays to all Tendring residents on Clacton Town Square.

Joint Problem Solving Partnership Meetings was an amalgamation of individual groups with six separate meetings taking place across the partnership.

The structure of these was discussed and reviewed to change from the former structure of a Multi-Agency Panel to a new Arrangement made up of 3 parts, which now comprises: of

Part 1-- General ASB and Other Community Safety Issues – Chaired by the Police

Part 2--Criminal Justice – Top 10 – Chaired by the Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, and

Part 3 – Prolific Offender Team (POT) – Prolific Offenders – again Chaired by the Police.

Feedback from meetings so far has been very positive with an action log in place managed by our CSP manager, Leanne Thornton, and each agency is held to account for their actions.

Part of the work undertaken by the relatively new Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit, has identified Tendring as one of the areas where a need is to take a multi-agency / partnership approach to tackling violence and vulnerabilities within communities.

An agreed focus was placed on 11 wards within five areas of Essex two of which are in Tendring, (being Pier Ward and Golf Green Ward) and UTURN4SUPPORT has been approached to devise a project, to tackle this, in line with the objectives of the Violence & Vulnerability Unit and the local CSP priorities.

The XY Impact Youth Project is a community-based mentoring and educational project to implement early intervention, prevent long-term anti-social behaviour, social exclusion, and criminal offending.

The Project will be delivered by UTurn Youth workers to provide social, emotion and practical support, advice and information on county lines, knife related violence, help young people to redirect and reorder their own lives away from offending towards a more positive engagement with the community.

The project also has many other aims to help young people.

Violence and Vulnerability paid £ 30,000 direct to UTURN for this work.

And finally, The Violence & Vulnerability Unit have commissioned two projects “Dot Com Programme” and “Watch Over Me”, which have been offered to Tendring in order to help our young people.

Dot Com is a cartoon friend to primary school children who empowers them to speak up about issues which frighten or worry them but will also help prevent them becoming victims of crime.

The Watch Over Me soap opera has been created for or teenagers, following a research with children from tough realities and also the parents of murdered children, such as Damilola Taylor's father, Richard.

This scheme took its origins from the murdered Surrey teenager Milly Dowler, which includes 25 different themes of subjects which are only too common in many teenagers, such as:-

• Attempted abduction • Carrying knives • Unwanted sexual advances • Arson • Text bullying • Being home alone • Domestic violence • Racism • Bereavement • Alcohol, drugs, • Sex and teenage pregnancy • Gangs, Guns, Weapons • Peer pressure • Road safety • Relationships • Radicalisation • Community tension • Poverty • Organised crime • Underage drinking • The role of Crimestoppers • Forced Marriage

To support children and young people to achieve the following outcomes:-

- Make positive choices that keep them safe.*
- Raise self-esteem and confidence.*
- Build resilience.*
- Improve emotional and physical health and mental wellbeing.*

All these initiatives have been funded by the Police Fire Crime Commissioner & Violence & Vulnerability Unit for a total of £15.613, with separate funding of £4.250 to Holland Shore Boxing Club, and £4.000 to Inclusion Ventures. Thank you Chairman."

Councillor McWilliams then responded to a question asked of her by Councillor Steady.

Business Adaptation Grants

The Business & Economic Growth Portfolio Holder (Councillor Newton) made the following statement:-

"I am pleased to announce that our local hospitality businesses are now able to apply for grants to support them in making adaptations to their businesses during this most challenging of times. We are pleased to be working with Essex County Council on this scheme, which is in addition to the other Government schemes currently being processed by the Council.

This scheme is aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises to purchase equipment and make changes in order to continue to operate in a COVID-secure manner and generate income when they are able to re-open when the current restrictions are removed.

Businesses can apply for up to £1,500 and the funding can be used towards a range of Covid related improvements such as New Signs, Staff Training and Outdoor furniture or heating.

I would encourage as many as our local hospitality businesses as possible to apply and the applications are now open on the Council's website."

Action on Climate Change

The Environment & Public Space Portfolio Holder (Councillor Talbot) made the following statement:-

"On 13th January I was informed that the Council Leader Cllr Neil Stock had decided that the Climate Change Action Plan approved by this Council late last year and the work so far undertaken by the Climate Change Working Party, should be included under the umbrella of my Portfolio as part of the District Council's Priority Actions for 2021/22 and Monitoring the Delivery of those Actions.

This field is quite new to me and on Friday last, I met with Cllr Alan Coley and lead officer Tim R. Clarke to seek from them information on exactly where we were with the key policy aim for TDC to become a Net Zero Carbon Council by the end of this decade. It must be said that these two colleagues gave me a tutorial on actions taken, along with their consultations with others including consultants APSE Energy who were employed to help analyse the Council's greenhouse gas emissions (often referred to as carbon footprint) and make recommendations as to the way forward.

We as Council Members have received several reports and made decisions including our Leader's motion Declaring a 'Climate Emergency' on 6th August 2019, which was agreed by Council, but as far as I can see, this most important item, affecting every Member and every Department of the Council, has disappeared from public view. I do appreciate that lots of work is going on in the background, but I think an issue such as Climate Change has such a significance to everyday life in the future, that the subject and the Council's agreed aim to be 'Net Zero Carbon' by 2030 in respect of those emissions from our business operations that we have control of, should be on everybody's lips and part of the Council's consideration of all future reports written and received by all departments of the Council. I shall be raising this with Cabinet colleagues, but I have jumped the gun a bit, as this Council Meeting is today and not the next one in February.

I further think that we as members of the Council, particularly those Members who are also Parish or Town Councillors or those attending groups in their unparished area, should get the issue raised at their meetings, to see what contribution the body they are attending can make towards the District Council's agreed Action Plan, especially the aspiration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Tendring as a whole (remembering that our Council's emissions comprise only around 1% of the District wide total). The Plan predicts a cost to us of £7.5 Million in respect of reducing our own emissions to net zero, but also estimates that ongoing savings could be worth £1 million each year going forward.

Our TDC Website has a wealth of information about the various papers that have been produced and a reminder to most of us, of what we have agreed. We must not let the work done so far gather dust on anybody's shelf, but each of us has a role to play, not for our own benefit but for that of our Children and our Children's Children.

Our aim is Net Zero Carbon, let us all play a part in achieving this objective. No idea is 'Beyond the Pale', if Members have ideas then let me know them please, to pass to Cllr. Alan Coley or to Tim R. Clarke to examine. Thank You!"

Councillor Talbot then responded to questions asked of him by Councillors Steady, Allen and Scott.

Tendring Colchester Border Garden Community

The Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder (Councillor G V Guglielmi) made the following statement:-

"Mr Chairman, I recently distributed to all Members some information on the TCBs Project; as we will hear later this evening, Council will be asked to consider the adoption of Section 1 of our local Plan which will mark a monumental milestone in the recent history of Tendring District Council.

Back in 2014 we embarked on a very ambitious track to delivery one of the biggest housing projects in the whole country, by setting up a very innovative partnership with three other local authorities, Colchester, Braintree and ECC in order to fulfil central government policies of building new homes.

A huge amount of resources, funding, man hours, travelling, and intense discussions were invested in setting up the NEGC Ltd. Government fully backed our ambitions pound per pound, with each one of the LAs having contributed half million, and government having invested £2m.

Our Council agreed that Cllr Neil Stock and I would be the representatives on the new company, because of our respective roles of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; all other partners had similar arrangements, and equally high profile Officers involvement, with all CEOs, MOs, top Directors, and respective Heads of Planning. The decision was taken to work on a combined Section 1 of our Local Plans, which would seek to deliver around 45.000 new homes by 3 major new Garden Communities, in west Braintree, west Colchester, and our own TCBs.

Sadly one single individual, namely Planning Inspector Roger Clews, decided that our combined aims and aspirations of delivering 3 brand new Communities were too ambitious, but he found that one of the three would be a very sound project, and one that would add value to our existing communities.

Mr Chairman, our hard work was rewarded by Government, with the tune of £99m to build a Link Road between the A120 and the A133, and a Rapid Transport System to connect the project site with key locations around Colchester. Not a bad return for a £4m investment!!!!

Looking back maybe we should have engaged more fully with our existing communities, and maybe one of our partner authorities, unlike Tendring, could have invested more time in engaging with its Members and avoid the raw friction of being kept in the dark, but that is now in the past, and what we all do is to learn and not make the same mistakes again.

Work on the TCBs, greatly benefitted from Mr Clews' blessing, has progressed on, and I would like to thank Cllr Neil Stock, firstly for the huge amount of work he put into the NEGCS thus far, and secondly for entrusting me to be the Council's lead member of the steering group; I have also been blessed by having the support of the Local Plan and Planning Policy Committee Chairman Cllr Nick Turner, whose knowledge and expertise will be invaluable going forward, and rest assured that between the two of us, we will secure the best possible outcomes for Tendring.

It is worth noting that the Colchester membership on the group also includes the Leader of the Opposition Cllr Paul Dundas, to ensure that vital inclusion and that the level of information is equal to all the Colchester Members.

Likewise, most of the steering group's activities so far have been mainly on setting up the TOR, to ensure that all partners are on the same mind set with regards to the GC's principles, and most importantly how we will engage with our existing communities, stakeholders and our respective Members.

Although we in Tendring have money allocated in our main Budget, as so do Colchester and ECC, there is no mechanism yet in place for the group to spend any money for the work needed to progress the project. The next steps will be to produce a DPD for the whole area, which is work that both Colchester and Tendring would have to do in order to progress the Local Plan in any case, and as I have already mentioned we have money in the Local Plan budget to do this, but I have asked Officers to produce a process whereby funds can be allocated to these vitally important expenditures, which is clear, transparent, agreed by all of us, and that has proper scrutiny in place.

I will continue to disseminate information to you all, as and when there is some to share, and while I am on the subject, whatever I send to you I will also share with those Parish Councils most affected and closest to the site, namely Ardleigh, Alresford, Brightlingsea, Elmstead, Frating, as well as a residents' group under the name of Crockleford Heath and Elmstead Action Group, who having been dead against the NEGC initially, are now well in tune and very much want to engage with what we are proposing, especially in light of Mr Clews' findings on Section 1 of our Local Plan. Thank you Mr Chairman."

Councillor Guglielmi then responded to a question asked of him by Councillor Scott.

Clacton-on-Sea – 150th Anniversary of Founding Commemorations

The Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder (Councillor Porter) was pleased to inform Council that the Council had been awarded a grant of £250,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help fund the commemorations during 2021 of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Clacton-on-Sea. The funding would be used for, inter alia,:-

- new town centre coastal heritage trail;
- schemes to attract more visitors;
- schemes to encourage residents to be more active;
- promotional events to promote the District's coastline;
- a launch event; and
- the employment of two members of staff on two year contracts to work on these projects.

Mayflower 400

Councillor Porter informed Members that the Council was continuing to work with global travel partners to commemorate the role of Harwich in the iconic story of The Mayflower Pilgrims who had all expressed their desire to resume these heritage tours as soon as they were able. He stated that four new USA tour operators had undertaken a familiarisation tour of Harwich at the end of 2020 with a view to releasing new tour packages in 2021.

Councillor Porter also reported that the former home of Christopher Jones and the visitor centre at Esplanade Hall would be opened as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. The Mayflower heritage trail was already in place and the Council was excited at the prospect of welcoming guests to these attractions and employing technology to tell The Mayflower story to all age groups.

Councillor Porter then responded to questions asked of him by Councillors Calver, Scott and Steady.

62. PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

No Petitions had been submitted in accordance with the Scheme approved by the Council on this occasion.

63. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.1

No Questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10.1 from members of the public had been submitted in accordance with the rules approved by the Council on this occasion.

64. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - A.1 - URGENT CABINET OR PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS

In accordance with the requirements of Rule 16.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Council received a report from the Leader of the Council which notified Members of any recent Executive Decision(s) taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and/or Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and/or Rule 6(b) of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

(1) Acceptance of the Transfer of Plot 4, 8 Brunswick Gardens, Mistley, Manningtree

It was reported that, on 26 November 2020, the Assistant Director (Governance) & Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings), on behalf of the Housing Portfolio Holder (Councillor P B Honeywood), and in view of the urgency of the issue concerned, had in accordance with Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, sought and subsequently obtained the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (Councillor M E Stephenson) consent that the Housing Portfolio Holder's decision relating to the acceptance of the transfer of Plot 4, 8 Brunswick Gardens, Mistley, Manningtree would be exempt from the Council's call-in procedure.

The Housing Portfolio Holder's decision was as follows:

“To approve the acceptance of the transfer of Plot 4, 8 Brunswick Gardens, Mistle, Manningtree CO11 1FN; and acquiring a shareholding in Harwich Road Management Limited (Company Registration Number 11627235).”

It had been felt at that time that any delay likely to be caused by the usual key decision and call-in processes would have seriously prejudiced the Council's and the public's interest for the following reasons:-

“The decision is required urgently because, the Council had been put on notice that the delay to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the public interests. The developer is unable to dispose of another other bungalow on the development site, which was due to be purchased by an elderly couple, who have nowhere else to live and will need to be put up in temporary accommodation– given the COVID risks currently this is unacceptable and would be putting them at great risk.

The developer is restricted by the terms of the Section 106 Agreement in that they cannot dispose of properties until the gifted unit is transferred to the Council, completion was due for next Friday 4th December and they would like to complete on 27th November 2020.”

Council noted the foregoing.

65. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Committees, as circulated, be received and noted:

- (a) Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny of Monday 16 November 2020;
- (b) Human Resources & Council Tax of Thursday 26 November 2020;
- (c) Audit of Monday 30 November 2020;
- (d) Resources & Services Overview & Scrutiny of Thursday 3 December 2020; and
- (e) Planning Policy & Local Plan of Monday 11 January 2021.

NOTE: The Council did not receive Minute 41 of the meeting of the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee held on 11 January 2021 at this time as it contained a recommendation to Council which was duly considered by Members later on in the meeting under Minute 69 below.

66. MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

No Motions to Council had been submitted by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12 on this occasion.

67. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET

There were no recommendations submitted from the Cabinet for the Council to consider on this occasion.

68. REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BY AN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

No reports had been submitted by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Council's consideration on this occasion.

69. REFERENCE FROM THE PLANNING POLICY & LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE - FORMAL ADOPTION OF SECTION 1 OF THE LOCAL PLAN FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT OF THE PLANNING INSPECTOR'S FINAL REPORT

Council was aware that the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee, at its meeting held on 11 January 2021 had considered, inter alia, a comprehensive report (and appendices) of the Corporate Director (Place & Economy) (A.1) which had:-

- a) reported the Local Plan Inspector's final conclusions on the legal compliance and 'soundness' of the Section 1 Local Plan for North Essex following consultation on his recommended 'Main Modifications' and the subsequent receipt of his final report on 10th December 2020;
- b) reported that, by incorporating the Inspector's recommended Main Modifications, the Section 1 Local Plan met the tests for legal compliance and soundness - as required for a plan to proceed to formal adoption; and
- c) sought the Committee's agreement that the modified Section 1 Local Plan be recommended to Full Council for formal adoption.

Having duly considered and discussed the contents of the report and its appendices the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee had:-

"RESOLVED that the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee -

- (a) notes the findings of the Planning Inspector's 'Report on the Examination of the North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan received on 10th December 2020 (attached as Appendix 1 to item A.1 of the Report of the Corporate Director (Place & Economy) and his final 'Schedule of Recommended Main Modifications' (attached as Appendix 2 to the aforementioned report); and*
- (b) authorises the Assistant Director (Strategic Planning & Place) to correct any minor administrative/typographical errors remaining within the 'clean version' of Appendix 3 prior to its submission to Full Council."*

In addition, the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee had decided that it be:-

"RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the 'Modified North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan' (attached as Appendix 3 to item A.1 of the Report of the Corporate Director (Place & Economy) as a 'tracked change' version but to be followed by a 'clean version' that will be submitted to Full Council) that is the new Section 1 Local Plan incorporating the Inspector's recommended main modifications be formally

adopted by Tendring District Council in accordance with Section 23(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.”

Council also had before it, which had been circulated to Members and published several days before the meeting, an update sheet prepared by Officers which set out that a small number of minor corrections ought to be made to the Section 1 Local Plan document if the Council was minded to agree the adoption of the Plan, as recommended by the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee.

In addition, Members had had circulated to them shortly before the commencement of the meeting suggested wording of an alternative resolution for Council to consider which had been drafted by the Assistant Director (Governance) & Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings) to reflect the implications of the aforementioned update sheet.

The Chairman of the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee (Councillor Turner) read out the following statement:-

“Good Evening Fellow Members, Officers and the Public.

It gives me and my Committee great pleasure to present and recommend to the Council for final approval and adoption of Part 1 of our Local Plan.

By agreeing the PPLPC resolution as set out on page 62 of our Agenda we set in stone our housing target of 11,000 dwellings being built between 2013 and 2033, the length of this plan. This also sets our present 5 year land supply at 6.5 years. We have already completed 3638 and have 7362 to build. 2,500 of those will be built in the proposed Garden Community on the Tendring Colchester Borders.

More good news. Part 2 is to go under Public Examination in exactly 4 weeks’ time. We received the Inspectors letter informing us that Part 1 was found sound, meaning legally compliant and fixing our housing numbers at 550 dpa and that the Garden Community on the Tendring Colchester Border can proceed. That letter was received on the 11th of December. 5 weeks later it passes unanimously the Committee stage, if we agree the proposal to-night, it will have taken but 5 working weeks to be adopted. 11 weeks to the examination of Part 2. Please remember that Part 1 was submitted in conjunction with CBC, BDC and ECC (Highways) known as the North Essex Authorities-NEA- on the 9th of October 2017. That was 172 weeks or 39 months or 3.25 years ago.

I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to my fellow Committee Members in particular my Vice Chairman Cllr. Zoe Fairley, who was always at the end of phone when I needed a sounding board, reassurance and the rural voice. The Officers, in particular the Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Place Mr Gary Guiver, who has guided through this part of the process. In 17 months we have had 7 meets reading 2250 pages of Agendas. The Committee, the largest at 11 Members of our Council represents all 8 political groupings and Parties. We have been unanimous in agreeing the recommendations, but only after good debate and questioning.”

Councillors Land, I J Henderson, Stock OBE, Bush and Miles addressed the Council during the consideration of this item.

Having duly considered the recommendation submitted by the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee, together with the contents of the ‘Modified North Essex Authorities’

Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan', as both contained within the Council Book that had been circulated to Members with the agenda and together too with the contents of the Officer update and the alternative resolution which had been circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting:-

It was moved by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Stock OBE and:-

RESOLVED unanimously that –

- (a) Section 1 of the Local Plan, incorporating the Inspector's recommended main modifications, as included within the Council agenda on pages 77-284, and as amended by the corrections circulated to Members in the published Update sheet, be formally adopted by Tendring District Council in accordance with Section 23(3) of Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
- (b) the Assistant Director (Strategic Planning and Place) be authorised to correct any administrative or typographical errors remaining within the adopted Section 1 Local Plan document prior to publication as the final version.

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Turner then read out the following further statement:-

"Thank you Chairman for allowing me to speak again. We have done it. This means no more speculative building. All future housing development will only be allowed, on sites and within boundaries as shown in the emerging Part 2 of our Plan.

It is moments like these that makes being a Cllr. a wonderful and humbling experience. After a gestation period that would make several elephants wince, we have brought, unanimously, our part of Part 1 to a successful completion. We have been part of the largest Local Plan Examination in England, so I am told. We have come out of this part of the process smelling of roses. We have been found sound. This can only have been achieved by our Officer Corps from all parts of the Council being behind, guiding and informing the PPLPC., not only that but having Officers fully committed and capable of sitting at the highest tables. In particular I must mention Gary Guiver for his unflagging enthusiasm and ability. A year ago at the Public Examination there was one session when I counted 3 Queens' Counsels in action. Gary held 2 at bay - the 3rd was ours. He has been unflappable and explained very complex matters in simple terms. Mark of a Master. His team backed him up at every step of the way. Next to thank is our CEO Ian Davidson for prioritising the Plan and overseeing it with a light touch, followed by his Deputy Paul Price, who has given me and the Committee invaluable support and knowledge as has our Legal dept. under the direct leadership of Mrs Lisa Hastings and the scribes led by Ian Ford. Being Chairman with that team is a joy.

Finally I would like to thank all Cllrs. not least the Leader for giving me the room, time and trust to deliver, but all of you for your patience, passive and active help. I must not forget Members of the Public, who have questioned us, listened to us and made contributions. In particular, Mr B Marshall of Ardleigh and Miss C Bannister of Weeley, who have scrutinised us, offered insightful comments and demanded answers. Truly this is a joint effort and shows other Councils how to achieve.

Chairman it is not often that a Full Council can take a few minutes to bask and enjoy a fruit of its success. This is one of them.

By the way that was lap 1 – now onto the final lap. Pro Bono Omnium. Thank you All.”

70. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.2 - CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF A POLITICAL GROUP

The Chief Executive formally advised Council that, on 26 November 2020, Councillors K T King and Colin Winfield had served notice on the Council that, with effect from 23 November 2020 and pursuant to Regulation 8(5) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor Winfield was henceforth to be treated as the Group Leader of the Holland-on-Sea political group and further that Councillor King was henceforth to be treated as the Deputy Group Leader of the Holland-on-Sea political group.

Council noted the foregoing.

71. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.3 - MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive formally reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the Holland-on-Sea Group, the Leader of the Tendring First Group and the authority delegated to him, the following appointments had been duly made since the last ordinary meeting of the Council -

Human Resources & Council Tax Committee

Councillor King had been appointed to serve in place of the late Councillor Broderick.

Councillor Knowles had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor Clifton.

Licensing & Registration Committee

Councillor Clifton had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor Knowles.

Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee

Councillor Winfield had been appointed to serve in place of the late Councillor Broderick.

Council noted the foregoing.

72. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.2

No Member Questions pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.2 had been submitted for this meeting by the deadline of Noon on Thursday 14 January 2021.

73. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

There were no urgent matters for debate on this occasion.

74. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE, 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 Item 21 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

75. EXEMPT MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED that the exempt minute of the meeting of the Human Resources and Council Tax Committee held on Thursday 26 November 2020, be noted.

The Meeting was declared closed at 8.42 pm

Chairman