

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY, 20TH MAY, 2025 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE PRINCES THEATRE, AT THE TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-
ON-SEA, CO15 1SE**

Present:	Councillors Davidson (Chairman), Oxley (Vice-Chairman), Amos, Baker, Barrett, Barry, Bensilum, Bray, Bush, Calver, Casey, Chapman BEM, Codling, A Cossens, M Cossens, Everett, Fairley, Ferguson, Fowler, Goldman, Griffiths, Harris, I Henderson, J Henderson, P Honeywood, S Honeywood, Keteca, Land, Newton, Placey, Platt, Scott, Skeels Jnr., Smith, Steady, G Stephenson, M Stephenson, Sudra, Talbot, White and Wiggins
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Lisa Hastings (Corporate Director (Law & Governance) & Monitoring Officer), Gary Guiver (Corporate Director (Planning & Community)), Keith Simmons (Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Ian Ford (Democratic Services Manager), Bethany Jones (Democratic Services Officer) and Katie Koppenaar (Democratic Services Officer)
Also, in Attendance	Richard Barrett (Corporate Director (Finance and IT) & Section 151 Officer), Amy Lester (Garden Community Planning Manager), Fiona Hunter (Senior Planning Officer (TCB Garden Community)) and James Dwan (Communications Officer)

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Alexander, Doyle, Guglielmi, Kotz, Morrison and Thompson.

19. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of:-

(a) the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2025; and

(b) the annual meeting of the Council held on 29 April 2025

be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members on this occasion.

21. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman's Charities

The Chairman was pleased to announce that his chosen charities for his year in office would be:-

- (1) Candles – North Essex Down Syndrome Support Group;
- (2) CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young; and
- (3) Home-Start.

Activities

The Chairman had been proud and privileged to represent the Council at several recent events. Particular highlights had included:-

- (i) attending HM The King's Garden Party on 7th May 2025;
- (ii) attending the VE Day 80th Anniversary commemoration; and
- (iii) visiting the Kenley Way Community Garden.

Congratulations

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Pam Morrison and Councillor Mark Cossens on their elections as Mayor of Harwich Town Council and Mayor of Frinton & Walton Town Council respectively.

22. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements made by the Chief Executive on this occasion.

23. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were no statements made by the Leader of the Council on this occasion.

24. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Sports and Activity Conference

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm (Councillor Barry) informed Members that on 19 May 2025 the Council had hosted the District's first-ever Sports and Activity Conference involving sports clubs, coaches, and wellbeing champions.

The conference had marked the beginning of a new, community-focused approach to getting people active, featured lively discussions, practical workshops, and valuable networking opportunities, including with national governing bodies. Attendees had taken part in interactive sessions covering everything from boosting participation in sport and physical activity, to strengthening clubs and organisations, and unlocking funding opportunities.

The event saw the unveiling of several exciting new initiatives, including plans for new playzones across Tendring, a new cycle facility at Clacton Leisure Centre, new grant schemes, and targeted activities for residents with disabilities and life-limiting illnesses - ensuring more people could get involved, more often.

The event had also featured keynote speeches from Jason Fergus of Active Essex, who had highlighted the power of collaboration in increasing activity levels, and Rory Doyle,

strategic director of the North East Essex Health Alliance, who had spoken about the transformative impact of physical activity on community wellbeing.

25. PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

On this occasion it was reported that no 'live' petitions had been submitted in accordance with the Scheme approved by the Council.

26. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.1

Subject to the required notice being given, members of the public could ask questions of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

It was reported that, on this occasion, no such questions on notice had been submitted.

27. 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/or Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and/or Rule 6(b) of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, Council received a report of the Leader of the Council (A.1) which notified Members of 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.

Clacton Leisure Centre Heating System

It was reported that on 22 April 2025, the Assistant Director (Sport, Culture and Health), on behalf of the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism and in view of the urgency of the issue concerned, and in accordance with Rule 18(i) of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, had sought and subsequently obtained the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consent, that the joint executive decision relating to the Clacton Leisure Centre Heating System, be exempted from the call-in procedure.

That joint decision had been as follows:-

"That following the failure of one of two boilers serving the Clacton Leisure Centre swimming pool and accompanying changing rooms, the following decisions will agree a process to protect continuity of service, install a new boiler and accompanying plant through securing external funding and improve energy/carbon efficiency of a significant Council asset:-

- (a) the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm agrees the strategy set out in this report for addressing the boiler failure at Clacton Leisure Centre, following an action set out for delivery in the Council's Sport and Activity Strategy;*
- (b) on behalf of the Cabinet and using the special urgency powers, in accordance with Parts 3.31 and 5.8, the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm agree for the Council to accept Salix Funding to the value of £1,204,481 and enter into the Funding Agreement, as set out in Appendix A, for the purpose of*

- purchasing and installing a new Boiler and associated plant for Clacton Leisure Centre; and*
- (c) subject to (a) and (b), the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Tourism and Regeneration together with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm agree to allocate £164,248 from the Community Regeneration Partnership Funding, as the Council's contribution to the purchase of a new boiler at Clacton Leisure Centre;*
 - (d) subject to (a) & (b) above, that the installation of a new boiler system for Clacton Leisure Centre is added to the Capital Programme in 2025/26 with a total budget of £1,368,730;*
 - (e) that the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance agrees to carry forward £45,000 from the former Joint Use Sports Centre budget from the 2024/25 financial year into 2025/26, and allocates this towards a budget which can fund a temporary oil-fired boiler system for Clacton Leisure Centre at short notice, as an interim measure, in the event of a failure of the remaining boiler prior to the project being completed;*
 - (f) subject to (d) above, that the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance agrees an exemption to procurement is agreed to allow the Council to appoint its term contractor, Lindsey Group, to provide the temporary boiler, associated plant and labour;*
 - (g) following (f) it is noted that the Assistant Director Sport, Leisure and Health will develop the procurement strategy for the commissioning of the contractors required to deliver the installation of a new boiler system within the milestones, as required by the Funding Agreement.*
 - (h) It is understood that the decisions above are made in the context that the Council is bound by the Salix Funding agreement from the grant start date until 3 years after the project is completed."*

It was felt that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would have seriously prejudiced the Council's and the public's interest for the following reason:-

"Due to the requirement under the funding agreement to sign the funding agreement within 10 days, this request to you as the Chairman of the Resources and Services Committee, will agree to the 'special urgency' procedure being enacted, as listed in Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

The response to this application was due in May 2025, so although this item has been listed on the Forward Plan, 28 days will not be passed in time.

Any delay in signing the agreement may result in the Council losing the external funding secured, which totals £1,204,481."

The Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also kindly agreed that the Special Urgency Procedure, as set out in Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 (Part 5.8), could be used, insofar as it only applied to the Leader of the Council's decision as set out in paragraph (f) above.

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

28. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

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

- (a) Audit of Thursday 27 March 2025;
- (b) Standards of Wednesday 9 April 2025;
- (c) Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny of Monday 14 April 2025;
- (d) Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny of Tuesday 15 April 2025; and
- (e) Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint of Thursday 1 May 2025.

In relation to Minute 74 (Apologies for Absence and Substitutions) of the meeting of the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 14 April 2025, Councillor Harris questioned whether the reason for the Leader of the Council's non-attendance at that meeting had in fact been given at that meeting.

In response, the Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) informed Councillor Harris that any questions relating to the accuracy of those minutes would have to be raised at the next meeting of that Committee when the minutes in question would be approved as a correct record.

29. REFERENCE FROM THE TENDRING / COLCHESTER BORDERS GARDEN COMMUNITY JOINT COMMITTEE - A.2 - TENDRING / COLCHESTER BORDERS GARDEN COMMUNITY - FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

Members were informed that, at its meeting held on 1 May 2025, the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee ("the Joint Committee") had considered a detailed report that had sought the Joint Committee's recommendation that the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) Development Plan Document (DPD), with specific modifications, be formally adopted by Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council ("the Councils"). This had followed on from the receipt of the Planning Inspector's final examination report.

It had been reported to the Joint Committee that, following examination hearings in May 2024, and consultation on the recommended Modifications in September/October 2024, the Planning Inspector had issued his Final Report on the soundness and legal compliance of the DPD. With the incorporation of the Inspector's final set of Main Modifications, the DPD had been found to be sound and legally compliant. This conclusion to the examination now gave the Councils the ability and authority to proceed to formally adopt the Plan.

It was believed by the Joint Committee that the adoption of the DPD would provide an up to date, robust and sustainable basis for guiding future growth and development within the Garden Community – with future planning applications being considered and determined, by the Joint Committee, against the policies and proposals within the DPD in decision-making.

The Joint Committee had been advised that the modifications required by the Inspector had not departed substantially from those that had been reported to the Joint Committee on 5th September 2024 and subsequently published for consultation. The Inspector had however highlighted four Main Modifications as being of particular significance within the summary of his report, those being:-

- Amending GC Policy 1 to clarify that should the provision of the Park and Choose facility be located south of the A133 it should not prejudice the full and comprehensive expansion needs of the University of Essex (UoE) (MM11);
- Amending GC Policy 2 to ensure that the minimum requirement of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) was met across the masterplan area as required by current legislation (MM90);
- Amending GC Policy 7 to ensure that the DPD carried forward the requirements of the North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan 2021 (NEASSS1P) to secure funding and delivery of the Rapid Transit System (MM60); and
- Removing reference to a potential future Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL') charging schedule, which would be subject to a separate independent examination (MM91).

In addition, it had been reported that four proposed Modifications (namely MM14 to MM17 which related to amendments to the DPD Policies Map) that had been the subject of consultation, had been removed by the Inspector from his final Main Modifications. Those had been removed as the Policies Map was not defined in statute as a Development Plan Document and therefore the Inspector had not the power to recommend Main Modifications to it. Notwithstanding this, those changes were required to correct typographical errors and ensure that the relevant policies were effective, and the Inspector had noted the need to implement those changes. The Policies Map would therefore still be updated accordingly to reflect the changes that had been published for consultation.

Members of the Joint Committee had been informed that except for the above noted removal of MM14 - MM17 from the recommended Modifications relating to the Policies Map, all other Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector had remained consistent with those published for consultation. The Main Modifications had ensured that the plan had been positively prepared, justified, effective and was consistent with national policy. The DPD had therefore been modified to reflect the Inspector's Main Modifications, and the Joint Committee had been asked to recommend to Full Council at both Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council its formal adoption.

It had been RESOLVED by the Joint Committee:-

"That the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee –

- a) notes the outcome of the examination of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document (DPD), as set out within the Inspector's final report (attached as Appendix 1), and the final schedule of Main Modifications (attached as Appendix 2) and notes to the conclusion that the DPD, with the Main Modifications, is legally compliant, meets the Government's tests of soundness and can proceed to formal adoption; and*
- b) formally recommends to both Tendring District Council's and Colchester City Council's respective Full Councils that the modified version of the Development Plan*

Document (DPD) and the accompanying Policies Map, as attached at Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 to this report (A.1), be formally adopted.”

Resolution (b) above was pertinent to this meeting.

A copy of the published report (and its appendices) to the Joint Committee meeting held on 1 May 2025 was attached to the reference report (A.2).

Having duly considered the reference report from the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee (A.2):-

It was moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor M E Stephenson and unanimously:-

RESOLVED that the modified version of the Garden Community Development Plan Document and the accompanying Policies Map, as attached as Appendices A and B respectively to the reference report (A.2) be formally adopted.

30. REFERENCE FROM THE TENDRING / COLCHESTER BORDERS GARDEN COMMUNITY JOINT COMMITTEE - A.3 - TENDRING / COLCHESTER BORDERS GARDEN COMMUNITY - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members were informed that, at its meeting held on 1 May 2025, the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee (“the Joint Committee”) had considered a report (A.2) that had sought the Joint Committee’s approval of the Pathway to Stewardship and Placemaking document as forming part of the planning guidance for determining planning applications at Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community in respect of stewardship matters.

Members of the Joint Committee had been reminded that, as part of the partner Councils’ commitment to comprehensively plan for the delivery of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC), specialist consultants (Community Stewardship Solutions (CSS)) had been commissioned, following a competitive tendering exercise, to prepare guidance on future stewardship requirements at the Garden Community.

The Joint Committee had recalled that the aim of that commission had been to enable the partner Councils to be better informed and more prepared for the consideration of stewardship proposals as they came forward through the planning process. Stewardship was an integral part of the planning requirements for the TCBGC, as set out in the adopted Section 1 Local Plan and the Development Plan Document.

It had been reported that throughout 2024, CSS had undertaken a series of meetings and interviews with local stakeholders and interested parties to gather views on potential community governance solutions at TCBGC. CSS had also been able to draw upon its considerable experience of planning stewardship arrangements at strategic developments and apply it to the TCBGC.

Members of the Joint Committee had been advised that the commission had culminated in the Pathway to Stewardship and Placemaking document. That document included commentary and bespoke recommendations related to a number of areas that CSS had

considered to be intrinsic to progressive and effective stewardship arrangements, including accountable governance, financial sustainability and community enablement.

The Joint Committee had been made aware that the Pathway to Stewardship and Placemaking document, if approved by the Joint Committee, would form part of the partner authorities' planning guidance that would be applied in the determination of relevant planning applications at TCBGC, particularly in relation to the future Stewardship Strategy to be submitted with the planning application.

In respect of the reference to the characteristics of TCBGC in that the development sat across both the Parishes of Ardleigh and Elmstead, as well as an area of unparished land (in the City of Colchester), it had been noted that the Pathway document had been finalised prior to Essex being included within the Government's Priority Programme for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Therefore, any decision to commence a Community Governance Review to explore a change to the existing boundaries of the two Parishes within the Tendring District, would be undertaken at the appropriate time.

It had been RESOLVED by the Joint Committee that it:-

- (a) *approves the Pathway to Stewardship report as planning guidance for future decision making in relation to stewardship and related matters at Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community; and*
- (b) *recommends to Tendring District Council that a Community Governance Review be undertaken, at the appropriate time, to look at the current parish boundaries within the area for the Garden Community and to consider whether there is potential to create a new parish for the Garden Community or un-parish the existing area in readiness for the development of the Garden Community and Local Government Reorganisation.*

Resolution (b) above was pertinent to this meeting. Although the resolution was framed in the way that it was, the community governance review process would look at all such matters within the review area and no predetermined outcome could be presumed from commencing such a review. Further, the Council's use of its powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in respect of community governance reviews would need to be for the purposes set out in that Act.

A copy of the published report (and its appendix) to the Joint Committee meeting held on 1 May 2025 was attached to the reference report (A.3). Pertinent advice of the Monitoring Officer had been included with the aforementioned reference report (A.3).

Having considered the reference report (A.3) from the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee and the written advice of the Monitoring Officer contained therein:-

It was moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor M A Cossens and unanimously:-

RESOLVED that Council –

- (a) approves, in principle, that a Community Governance Review be undertaken, at the appropriate time, that would (amongst other things) look at the current parish boundaries within the area for the Garden Community (in so far as this is within the District) and that such review would consider whether there is potential to create a new parish for the Garden Community or un-parish the existing area (in readiness for the development of the Garden Community and Local Government Reorganisation); and
- (b) refers the resolution in (a) above to the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable an officer report to be submitted to it in respect of the options for the proposed community governance review, its timing and its resourcing and to enable that Committee to then provide an informed recommendation on these matters to the Council at a future meeting.

31. MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

It was reported that, on this occasion, no motions on notice had been submitted in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12.

32. REFERENCE FROM THE CABINET - A.4 - ADOPTION OF A CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY 2025 - 2028

Members were aware that, at its meeting held on 11 April 2025 (Minute 159 referred), the Cabinet had considered a report of the report of the Assets and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (A.1) which had presented to Cabinet the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 - 2028 for its approval and for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption, as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

At that meeting Cabinet had RESOLVED *“that Cabinet –*

- (a) notes the success of the Community Safety Partnership to date and the outcome of consultation and engagement with the Partnership and its constituent members in respect of the proposed Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025-28;*
- (b) notes the individual recommendations from the Community Leaderships Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28th January 2025, and endorses the Portfolio Holder's responses to those five recommendations;*
- (c) notes the findings of the assessment to inform the Crime and Safety Partnership's four priorities for the District of Tendring and agrees that these priorities, as set out below, should form the Council's strategic priorities;*
 - 1. Tackling ASB and the root causes of ASB*
 - 2. High Harm Violence (with a focus on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse)*
 - 3. Drug and knife enabled Serious Violence (Gangs and County Lines)*
 - 4. Emerging threats and Trends (i.e. Shoplifting, Vehicle Crime, Arson & Criminal Damage)*
- (d) approves the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2028, as set out in Appendix A, in accordance with Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for*

recommendation onto Full Council for adoption as part of the Council's Policy Framework."

Resolution (d) above was pertinent to this meeting.

A copy of the published Assets and Community Safety Portfolio Holder's report (and its appendices) to the Cabinet meeting held on 11 April 2025 was attached to the reference report (A.4).

Councillors M E Stephenson, Harris, P B Honeywood and I J Henderson addressed the Council during the debate on this item.

Having duly considered the reference report (A.4) from Cabinet:-

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for 2025 - 2028), as set out in Appendix A to the reference report (A.4), be approved in accordance with Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

33. REFERENCE FROM THE CABINET - A.5 - ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL CAPITAL AND TREASURY STRATEGY FOR 2025/26 (INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS)

Members recalled that, at its meeting held on 11 April 2025 (Minute 161 referred), the Cabinet had considered a report of the report of the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder (A.3) which had sought Cabinet's agreement of the Annual Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2025/26 (including Prudential and Treasury Indicators) for submission to this meeting of Full Council.

At that meeting Cabinet had *"RESOLVED that the Annual Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2025/26 (including Prudential and Treasury Indicators) be recommended to Full Council for its approval, acknowledging that consultation with the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be undertaken during 2025/26, subject to inclusion within that Committee's Work Programme."*

A copy of the published Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder's report (and its appendix) to the Cabinet meeting held on 11 April 2025 was attached to the reference report (A.5).

Councillors M E Stephenson and P B Honeywood addressed the Council during the debate on this item.

Having considered the reference report (A.5) from Cabinet:-

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the annual Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2025/26 (including Prudential and Treasury Indicators), as set out in Appendix A to the reference report (A.5), be approved and adopted.

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

It was reported that, on this occasion, no reports had been submitted to Council by an overview and scrutiny committee.

35. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.6 - MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive formally reported that, following the decision taken at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 29 April 2025 (Minute 10 referred) and in accordance with the wishes of the Group Leaders and the authority delegated to him, Members had been appointed to serve on committees et cetera as follows:-

Audit Committee

Councillors Fairley, Keteca, Morrison, Placey, Platt, Steady and Sudra.

Community Leadership and Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Barrett, Codling, Davidson, Doyle, Ferguson, Griffiths, Oxley and Steady.

Human Resources and Council Tax Committee

Councillors Amos, Baker, Calver, Chapman BEM, Guglielmi, Keteca and G Stephenson.

Licensing and Registration Committee

Councillors Amos, Casey, A Cossens, J Henderson, Skeels, Smith, Thompson, White and Wiggins.

Planning Committee

Councillors Alexander, Everett, Fowler, Goldman, Smith, White and Wiggins.

Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee

Councillors Bush, M Cossens, Chapman BEM, Fowler, Guglielmi, Newton, Scott and M Stephenson.

Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Bensilum, M Cossens, Goldman, Harris, J Henderson, P Honeywood, Newton, Steady.

Standards Committee

Councillors Alexander, Casey, Codling, Doyle, J Henderson, Land and Talbot.

Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee

Councillors A Cossens, J Henderson, Smith, Thompson and White.

Members were aware that a further review of the allocation of committee et cetera seats to the political groups on the Council would be carried out following the by-election in the Frinton Ward on 5 June 2025. The outcome of the review would be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 15 July 2025.

Councillors Harris and Calver addressed the Council in relation to this item.

Following Councillor Harris' speech, the Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) reminded Members that this was not an item for debate, but it was solely an item for information that reported a decision that had been taken.

Following Councillor Calver's speech, the Council's Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings) reiterated that this was an item for information, and she advised Members to, before the next Full Council meeting, refresh their memory on the Council Procedure Rules as to when they could and could not speak, and generally the rules of debate and asking questions.

Council noted the foregoing.

36. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.2

Subject to the required notice being given, Members of the Council could ask questions of the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

It was reported that, on this occasion, no such Questions on Notice had been submitted.

37. SEATING PLAN FOR MEETINGS OF THE FULL COUNCIL IN THE 2025/2026 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Council had before it the seating plan for its meetings to be held during the 2025/2026 Municipal Year. The seating plan had been amended to reflect the election of the new Chairman of the Council, the appointment of the new Vice-Chairman of the Council and recent changes in the membership of political groups.

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor P B Honeywood and:-

RESOLVED that consideration of the seating plan for meetings of the Full Council to be held during the 2025/2026 Municipal Year be deferred on the grounds that it will need to be revisited at the next meeting of the Full Council because of the by-election in the Frinton Ward on 5 June 2025.

38. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

It was reported that no urgent matters had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 3(xv), 11.3(b) and/or 13(p) for this meeting.

39. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor P B Honeywood 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 23 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

40. EXEMPT MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2025

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor P B Honeywood and:-

RESOLVED that the exempt minute of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on Thursday 27 March 2025, as circulated, be received and noted.

The Meeting was declared closed at 8.12 pm

Chairman