

---

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016 AT 9.35 A.M. IN THE  
CONNAUGHT ROOM, TOWN HALL, CLACTON-ON-SEA**

**Present:** Councillors Steady (Chairman), Platt (Vice-Chairman)(except item 49 (part)), Baker, Chittock, Scott, Stephenson and Whitmore (except item 49 (part))

**In Attendance:** Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) (item 49 (part) only), Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits Services (Richard Barrett), Head of People, Performance and Projects (Anastasia Simpson)(except item 49 (part) and Committee Services Manager (Ian Ford)

**47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no apologies for absence received and there were no substitutions.

**48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none at this time though Councillor Steady, later on in the meeting, declared a non-pecuniary interest as reported under Minute 49 below.

**49. UPDATED FINANCIAL BASELINE 2017/18 AND DETAILED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED BUDGET 2016/17 AND ORIGINAL BUDGET FOR 2017/18**

The Committee's comments were sought on the updated Financial Baseline 2017/18 and proposals for a revised budget for 2016/17 and original budget for 2017/18, which had been approved at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 December 2016 (minute 121 referred).

Councillor Steady declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the decommissioning/transfer of the Brightlingsea Pool insofar as he was also a member of Brightlingsea Town Council.

The Chief Executive attended the meeting and spoke about the Budget from his perspective and highlighted the following issues:

- (1) the increasing difficulty in finding savings with the decisions getting harder to take and starting to more directly affect the public e.g. the withdrawal of bin bags and the proposed closure of some public conveniences;
- (2) the Member Working Parties had been useful but had not found the level of savings required; and
- (3) the further savings proposals that Management Team now needed to find and put before Members.

In response to questions raised by Members, the Chief Executive gave an update on the positive investment in, and prospects for, Jaywick Sands and on other issues such as the use of the New Homes Bonus, private sponsorship of leisure events, office transformation, encouraging inward investment and the Clacton Air show.

The Committee scrutinised the Cabinet's budget proposals and discussed and agreed the questions and issues that it would put to the relevant Portfolio Holders and senior Officers on 5 January 2017 as follows:

- (1) Empty Homes – what is the Council doing to reduce the number of these?;
- (2) Enabling Fund – what is the budget?
- (3) Recycling – what more can the Council do to increase the recycling rate?;
- (4) Clacton Air Show & Sea and Beach Festival – what is the plan to make them self-financing?;
- (5) Building Control Service – should the Council cease the discretionary part of this service?
- (6) Mast at Holland Haven – what are the Council's options with regard to the lease arrangements now that Harwich Haven Authority have pulled out?
- (7) Careline Lifting Service – what has been the take-up and how is the budget being spent?;
- (8) Off-Street Parking – what was the uptake of Non-Residents' Parking Permits? What was the income from PCN's issued in July and August? How many Court Summonses for non-payment has the Council issued?
- (9) Community Rail Partnership – what does the Council get for its contribution?
- (10) What are the Council's plans with regard to the SME Growth Fund, the Development Growth Fund and Business Investment and Growth?
- (11) Dog Warden Service – what does the Council get in return for its expenditure?;
- (12) Public Health and Complaints – what does the Council get in return for its expenditure?
- (13) Public Conveniences – what are the Council's future plans and what will be the impact on the budget?;
- (14) Memorial Seats – is the expenditure covered by the income?;
- (15) Street Sweeping Contract – what are the arrangements for monitoring the contractors?;
- (16) Sports Centres – what are the reasons for the decline in income? What are the plans to make them self-financing? What are the plans to increase usage? What are the plans to bid for grants e.g. from Sport England?;
- (17) Princes Theatre – what is the long-term plan?;
- (18) Swimming Pools – what is the long-term plan to increase income from the pools at Dovercourt, Walton and Brightlingsea?;
- (19) Homelessness – how many homeless cases has the Council assisted? How long did they spend in Bed and Breakfast accommodation before being rehomed or they left the District? And
- (20) Essex Hall – why have the hire charges been reduced given that the Essex Hall has just been redecorated and refurbished?

**RESOLVED** that the Committee submits the following comments/recommendations for the Cabinet's consideration:

- (a) the Committee supports, in principle, a £5 increase in the Council's Council Tax precept for 2017/2018;
- (b) to enable Parish and Town Councils to plan their budgets accordingly this Council should inform them that the Parish and Town Councils grant from this Council will be phased out in line with the reduction in this Council's RSG;
- (c) large, local commercial businesses such as ASDA and J D Wetherspoons, should be approached with a view to sponsoring the Sea and Beach Festival and the 'Night Flights' at the Clacton Air Show;
- (d) the Committee reiterates the corporate view that all work should be placed through the Print Unit and not externally;
- (e) the Committee supports and endorses the Cabinet's prudent decision to use £2.646m from Reserves to meet the cost of paying the three year pension deficit amount in one payment;
- (f) the Rural Infrastructure Improvement Fund should be 'spent up' or the monies allocated somewhere else;

- (g) the Council should look to help the Tendring CAB become more financially self-supporting and ensure that this Council's contribution is spent at 100% efficiency; and
- (h) what will happen to the SME Growth Fund in 2018 given that so little of the Fund has been spent?

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 5 January 2017.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 4.38 p.m.

Chairman