
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET,
HELD ON FRIDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 10.30 AM
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, AT THE TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-
ON-SEA, CO15 1SE**

PRESENT:

Councillor M E Stephenson

Councillor I J Henderson

Councillor A P H Baker

Councillor M Barry

Councillor P Kotz

Councillor G R Placey

Councillor G G I Scott

Councillor A Smith

PORTFOLIO:

Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance (Chairman)

Deputy Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism

Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning

Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm

Portfolio Holder for Assets

Portfolio Holder for Partnerships

Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Group Leaders Present by Standing Invitation: Councillors P B Honeywood (Leader of the Conservative Group), P J Harris (Deputy Leader of the Reform UK Group) and G D Steady (Deputy Leader of the Independent Group)

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Economy & Place) & Deputy Chief Executive (Lee Heley), Corporate Director (Operations & Delivery (Damian Williams), Director (Governance) & Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings), Director (Finance & IT) & Section 151 Officer (Richard Barrett), Director (Planning & Communities) (Gary Guiver), Head of People (Katie Wilkins), Committee Services Manager (Ian Ford), Committee Services Officer (Katie Koppenaar) and Communications Officer (James Dwan)

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J D Bray (Leader of the Reform UK Group) and J B Chapman BEM (Leader of the Independent Group).

122. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor I J Henderson and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet, held on Friday 31 January 2025, be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to Agenda Item 15 (Report of the Partnerships Portfolio Holder – A.8 – Tendring Careline: Decision on the Future of the Service), Councillor P B Honeywood declared an Interest insofar as a close member of his family was a customer of Careline.

124. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were no such announcements on this occasion. However, the Leader of the Council facilitated the following:-

Deferral of Agenda Item 13 – Report of the Assets & Community Safety Portfolio Holder- A.6 – Adoption of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

The Monitoring Officer informed Cabinet that, with the agreement of the Leader of the Council, report A.6 would stand deferred from this meeting. This was due to the fact that this report referred to the Strategic Assessment (Appendix 2) which had been restricted to Members' access only and not therefore published in the public domain. This restriction needed to be reconsidered and therefore it was necessary to defer this item until a future meeting of the Cabinet.

LGR Initial Proposals

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the initial LGR proposals were required to be submitted to the Government by 21 March 2025 and that the fully detailed proposals would be due to be submitted to Government in September 2025. To that end, the Essex Leaders and Chief Executives would be meeting on 28 February 2025 to discuss and reach a consensus on those Initial Proposals. It was then intended to hold an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 11 March 2025 to enable this Council's Members to be informed of those proposals and to discuss them.

125. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

Older Persons Crucial Crew Event

The Partnerships Portfolio Holder (Councillor Placey) reported that this event had been a great success and had been centred around giving advice to persons aged 55+ around crime prevention and personal safety. Such had been its success that it was now intended to hold another such event in October 2025 and there were already 60 people on the waiting list for it.

Visit to Colchester Hospital

Councillor Placey informed Cabinet that she had recently visited the new Orthopaedic Unit at Colchester Hospital which was an excellent addition to the medical facilities available to residents. Though the waiting list for appointments was still long, the Unit had only been open for 12 weeks and had succeeded in reducing the waiting time by 7 weeks.

126. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL

There were no matters referred to the Cabinet by the Council on this occasion.

127. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY A COMMITTEE

There were no matters referred to the Cabinet by a Committee on this occasion.

128. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ITEMS - A.1 - HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTIONS 2024/25 TOWARDS CORPORATE PLAN THEMES - MONITORING REPORT AT THE THREE QUARTERLY POINT

Cabinet considered a detailed report of the Leader of the Council (A.1) which provided it with an update to the Quarter 3 position (October-December 2024) on the positive progress with the Highlight Priority Actions adopted for 2024/25 towards the Council's Corporate Plan Themes for 2024-2028.

In considering this report, Cabinet also reflected on the range of significant matters that the Council had delivered in the first nine months of 2024/25 which included:-

- (1) Tendring Junior Ambassadors Embrace Global Cultures with Vibrant Celebration;
- (2) Families celebrate Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles' 40th anniversary;
- (3) Top reviews for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs panto at Clacton's Princes Theatre;
- (4) Tendring District Council named IED Social Value Champion of the Year for The Sunspot;
- (5) 13 further car parks across Tendring receive top safety awards;
- (6) Tendring Awards Ceremony Honours Business Achievements; and
- (7) Polling Districts and Places Review.

Having considered, as part of the project management by Cabinet, the position in respect of the major projects which were the subject of the adopted highlight priorities of Cabinet for 2024/25:-

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor I J Henderson and:-

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted together with the approval of the highlighted realignment of particular milestones for particular highlight priority actions, as set out in the Leader of the Council's report (A.1).

129. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ASSETS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.2 - ESSEX PROCUREMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE & PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Cabinet considered a detailed report of the Assets and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (A.2) which update it on the progress of the collaboration procurement service, known as Essex Procurement Partnership and which sought its approval for the Collaboration Agreement to be entered into, replacing the arrangement directly with Essex County Council and endorsing the proposed Procurement Strategy for Essex Procurement Partnership, as the interim strategy for the Council.

Members were reminded that the collaborative partnership initially between Tendring District Council and Essex County Council for the delivery of procurement functions had begun on 1st October 2021 and continued until March 2025.

Cabinet recalled that, in March 2023, it had approved Tendring District Council forming part of a wider partnership of Councils to explore the Shared Procurement Service for parts of Essex, now known as the Essex Procurement Partnership (EPP).

Since 2023, the Council had worked in collaboration with Braintree District Council, Castle Point Borough Council, Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council (the EPP Member Authorities) with the purpose to enable effective and efficient

procurement, maximising the value for every pound spent by those local authorities across Essex for the benefit of local residents.

The collaboration would achieve this through a shared procurement team, with:

- *Pooled resource enabling a resilient procurement service.*
- *The combination of expertise enabling well informed procurement activity to maximise value from the market and better value for Essex residents.*
- *Shared procurement activity enabling savings through economies of scale and efficiencies in the use of the procurement team.*
- *Standardisation of processes and documentation to support local businesses and SMEs in bidding for Essex opportunities.*

Members were aware that this Council's Portfolio Holder for Assets and Community Safety being the Executive Member responsible for procurement represented the Council at the Member Advisory Group (MAG) with elected Members from each local authority. The MAG had been established in September 2023 and provided executive member oversight of the EPP reviewing the performance of EPP in delivering against its objectives and acting as both critical friends and champions of the partnership.

It was reported that, currently, the EPP Member Authorities were taking the Collaboration Agreement, Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy through their respective Cabinets. The concept of the collaborative procurement partnership and shared working approach had already been introduced and adopted through Cabinet. Whilst existing delegations were already in place to complete a partnership agreement, it was felt that in the light of the substantial progress made through the collaboration, it was appropriate to seek full Cabinet's approval and present the proposed Procurement Strategy for consideration.

Cabinet was advised that the core objectives of EPP, endorsed by the MAG were set out in Schedule 1 of the Collaboration Agreement provided at Appendix A to the portfolio Holder's report (A.2), and transferred to Service Plan objectives, as follows:

- *Contract Liquidity – To develop a clear contract register and forward plan to enable members to understand third party commitments and proactive procurement.*
- *RFQ Process – Provide the necessary template documentation and training to allow member authority staff to effectively undertake sourcing activity under the Party's tender threshold.*
- *Sourcing Activity – Undertake all procurement for the Members Authorities above the Party's tender threshold where placed on the pipeline 6 months ahead of requirement, with the exception of ECC where projects will be allocated by the Service Manager. This sourcing activity to be undertaken in line with the prioritisation approach set out in Schedule 3. Where projects are identified less than 6 months before needing to be procured the Lead Party will use best endeavours to undertake this procurement to support the requesting party.*
- *Category Management – Identify key categories of spend across member authorities and undertake review of this spend to identify savings opportunities, with the creation of a category strategy.*

- *Collaboration – Identify through category strategies and general procurement activity opportunities for collaborative procurement, create a plan for these projects and undertake sourcing activity to deliver benefits from this.*
- *Frameworks – Critically assess existing frameworks to understand income vs. effort and expertise to create. Focus on increasing income from existing frameworks and identifying new frameworks to increase income.*
- *Social Value – Introduce a common approach to social value/ climate agenda to sourcing activity for members.*
- *Knowledge – Provide business Parties and a supporting procurement team with the right knowledge and capabilities to deliver an effective and professional sourcing service to each member.*
- *Development – Undertake an assessment of procurement maturity and support in developing this level of maturity in line with the National Procurement Strategy.*
- *Network – enable access to wider expertise within the ECC team and wider authority network where resource is available.”*

The Collaboration Agreement set out how EPP would deliver the objectives in detail and the governance structure which oversaw its operation.

It was noted that the Collaboration Agreement was proposed to be in place for a three-year trial period, during which time performance would be reviewed for all Member Authorities to consider whether it wished to continue to participate in EPP and whether a longer-term position should be adopted. This timeline also accorded with the potential Local Government Reorganisation programme and could be reflected upon as further information became known.

It was important that the Council responded proactively to the Prioritisation Approach and ensured that it maintained robust data to ensure the projects and services could be delivered by factoring the procurement activity and all four stages of the commercial pathway into their timelines. The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Community Safety would have oversight of the Council's Procurement Project Pipeline to feed into the EPP workplan.

Members were made aware that the Collaboration Agreement, as set out in Appendix A to the Portfolio Holder's report (A.2), was still in draft form to be finalised for completion by the Member Authorities. The financial contributions could be met from existing budgets and any inflations through the normal budget setting cycles. As the level of procurement activity increased and the Procurement Act 2023 (“the Act”) came into force, with a revised National Procurement Policy Statement there was a need to review the available legal resources and its capacity to support the partnership. There was a proposal to be explored with shared resources within the partnership and potentially funding additional capacity to provide procurement and contract legal advice.

The Procurement Strategy

Cabinet was informed that the Procurement Strategy, provided as Appendix B to the Portfolio Holder's report (A.2), set out the rationale for the Collaboration, Vision, Goals,

Scope and Remit, and Strategic Priorities and Actions of EPP for the next three years and would be expected to apply to procurement within the Council. This sought to deliver the agreed objectives as set out and in particular outlined how EPP would do so over the next three years in line with the Act.

Members were cognisant that current guidance documents produced by the Government highlighted the four stages of the commercial pathway being Plan, Define, Procure and Manage and the Strategy provided more detail on those stages, but all services across the Council would note that the procurement phase, was the third one out of four. More attention to preparation resources and groundwork being provided by the commissioning service area should be placed on the first two parts to ensure the Council could make the most of the flexibilities the new Act provided by being clear of the service's intentions through the required notices.

It was set out that EPP would review and update its Procurement Strategy annually to ensure that it remained relevant and responsive to the changing needs and circumstances of the Authorities including new legislation and national policy. EPP would monitor and report on the progress and performance of this Procurement Strategy to Members and stakeholders.

It was recognised that the new Act introduced a shift in procurement objectives, moving beyond the traditional focus on equal treatment and non-discrimination. Now, contracting authorities were mandated to deliver value for money, maximise public benefit and act with integrity throughout the procurement process.

Cabinet was made aware that the Government's National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS) had been published on 13th February 2025 in readiness for the Act going live on 24th February 2025 and came into effect on the same date. The NPPS applied to all contracting authorities as defined in the Act. The Procurement Strategy supported the priorities of the NPPS.

Having recognised that a number of benefits would be achieved to EPP members, so benefiting Essex residents which included:-

- Increased resilience – through more resource, EPP was able to better flex to the peaks and troughs of each Authority and enabled effective delivery of projects in Districts improving the services residents received.
- Procurement Expertise – By operating across multiple authorities, staff were able to specialise in categories of spend, with more procurement activity in those categories. The result of this should be more informed procurements which in turn would deliver better value for money for the District's residents.
- Category Spend management and strategic oversight for consolidation opportunities – Ensuring the Council could have regard to the importance of achieving value for money, as this was always the overarching priority in public procurement. Government guidance (e.g. Managing Public Money and Best Value statutory guidance) set out how to use public money responsibly.
- Savings Opportunities & Increased Market Influence – Through a common forward plan of procurements required, and working as a team, the Member Authorities would be able to better identify collaborative procurement opportunities. This gave the opportunity to combine spend, creating economies of scale and so delivering contractual savings. Additional benefits would be achieved through efficiency in the resource model, with collaborative procurements enabling fewer tender processes to

- be undertaken. Over time, as the team developed, savings in the staff model would be enabled so reducing the overall cost of the team to member authorities.
- Reduced Duplication – Working together to have one common approach to procuring and social value would both create efficiencies for the procurement team and reduce the administrative burden to those bidding for procurements. Small to Medium Enterprises and Voluntary Sector Organisations who tended to have limited resources to bid, should be particularly advantaged by this approach.
 - Staff Retention and Improved Practice – By collaborating together, efficiencies would be created to enable the delivery of professional procurement practice. The common approach to assessing Social Value was an example of this. Other examples included work to understand the market from which the Authorities were sourcing, introducing an industry recognised category management approach to drive better value for money in Districts and Boroughs.
 - Governance – ensuring the Member Authorities had appropriate and proportionate controls, systems and standards to manage procurement risk and to comply with legal requirements.

It was also felt that the adoption of the EPP Procurement Strategy for the Council to deliver in line with and publication on the Council's web page set a clear direction of the next three years, in line with the requirements of the Act and the National Procurement Policy Statement.

RESOLVED that Cabinet -

- (a) agrees to enter into a Collaboration Agreement for the delivery of joint procurement services for a three-year period on substantially the same terms as set out in Appendix A of the Portfolio Holder's report (A.2) with:
 - Braintree District Council
 - Castle Point Borough Council
 - Epping Forest District Council
 - Essex County Council
- (b) authorises the Director for Governance, being responsible for the Council's corporate procurement function, to sign the final Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the Council;
- (c) agrees that Essex County Council should be the Accountable Body under the Collaboration Agreement acting as Lead Party, which includes responsibility for the day-to-day management of the service and its financial administration and managing seconded staff;
- (d) notes that the Collaboration Agreement provides for annual contributions from the Council, which can be met from within existing budgets, although subject to review as part of the annual budget setting cycle to respond to changes such as inflationary increases;
- (e) notes that further secondment or employment of staff to Essex County Council to support Essex Procurement Partnership, is fully and jointly funded by its Member Authorities;
- (f) supports exploration of additional resource to support the legal support to the Essex Procurement Partnership, in particular for procurement and contract legal advice;

- (g) endorses the continuous improvement approach as identified seeking views on the existing partnership and joint working through an internal questionnaire to feed into the arrangement for the next three years;
- (h) approves the Procurement Strategy for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption as required by the Council's Policy Framework; and.
- (i) instructs Officers to regularly update the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Community Safety, as being responsible for procurement on the content and quality of the Council's Contract Register and Procurement Project Pipeline ensuring it is kept up to date, enabling Council projects and business as usual can be delivered through the approved Essex Procurement Partnership Prioritisation Approach.

130. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGENERATION & TOURISM PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.3 - UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND TRANSITION YEAR 2025/26

Cabinet considered a report of the Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism Portfolio Holder (A.3) which recommended acceptance of the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which totalled £563,028, and the Council's approach to its allocation and alignment with the adopted External Grant Making Policy.

Members were reminded that the UKSPF programme, established in 2022 by Central Government, was part of a wider programme which had allocated funding nationwide to Councils for locally led delivery. Funding had been delivered via Multiply, the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), and Shared Prosperity Fund Programmes.

As the current programme would draw to a close at the end of 2024/25, a transition year had been announced by MHCLG for 2025/26, for UKSPF only. DEFRA was yet to make a formal announcement regarding any continuation of REPF and therefore this would be brought forward separately if any amount was to be allocated to Tendring. All money had to be spent and fully delivered by 31 March 2026.

It had been announced in December 2024 that Tendring had been allocated £563,028 (made up of £71,771 capital and £491,257 revenue), via an updated funding formula, to be allocated to projects across three themes in 2025/26. The themes were unchanged from the previous programme, and supported by sub-themes as follows:

- Communities and Place
 - o Healthy, Safe, and Inclusive Communities
 - o Thriving Places
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills
 - o Employability
 - o Skills

As set out in Appendix A, the External Funding High Level Framework Checklist had been considered and completed.

It was proposed that the bulk of the funding allocated for 25/26 be made available via an open call for projects under each of the main three themes, and projects assessed for their value for money and fit into the sub-themes by Officers, continuing business as

usual from the previous three-year programme, with one key difference. Rather than allocating specific amounts to each theme and sub theme, it was proposed to instead make the total amount available known and respond to need/demand as evidenced by the applications received, rather than allocating a specific amount per theme then finding that some were over or under-subscribed, or otherwise unable to deliver by the 31 March 2026.

It was reported that applications would be welcomed from external organisations via the open call, as well as Council projects, and all would be subject to the same assessment process. Projects would be reviewed by Officers, to include due diligence on the applicant organisation itself as well as the veracity of the claims made about the project applied for, and in cases where match-funding was applied for, to check other funding sources were in place to ensure delivery of the project to meet the March 2026 UKSPF deadline. Decisions on whether to reject, award, or part-award funding would be made by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism, and subject to call-in by other Members.

As part of the open call for projects, it was proposed to continue specifically two grant schemes which had been successful in the previous UKSPF scheme namely: 'Extend the Season' Events Grants, which linked to ongoing work with town centres and Long-Term Plan for Towns funding, and Widening Participation Sports Grants, linked to the Sports Strategy. Further information on those Schemes, and a select number of other recommended projects which had demonstrated strong value for money, were found at Appendix B of the Portfolio Holder's report.

Cabinet was informed that it had also been considered that the funding landscape for 2025/26 was very different to that of the initial UKSPF Investment Plan submitted in 2022. Projects recommended at this stage in Appendix B, and invited via the proposed open call, had been/would be assessed as to whether UKSPF was the 'best fit' for project to ensure parity across the District as far as possible. For example, the Community Regeneration Partnership (CRP, formerly the Levelling Up Partnership, LUP) funding was limited to Clacton and Jaywick, and High Street Accelerator (HSA) funding was limited to Dovercourt, and both places were also receiving capital funded projects via the Levelling Up Fund and Capital Regeneration Project funding. Therefore, in allocating UKSPF, those areas would not be excluded or weighted against specifically, but to ensure value for money of any particular project, UKSPF would not automatically be recommended where a strong project could be funded from another source.

Members were made aware that, as with the 2022-25 scheme, and as per the 2025/26 Technical Note, *"Each lead local authority will be able to use up to 4% of their allocation by default to undertake necessary Fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement."* With up to four percent of the 2025/26 allocation available (£22,521.12), it was proposed to consider the potential to cover either staff costs or wider external support for the process. Any recommendation on this allocation would come forward via an Executive Decision.

Cabinet was cognisant that monitoring would continue to take place in the same way as 2022-25, with six-monthly updates reported to Government via their bespoke Power App. This programme allowed for spend, outputs, and outcomes delivered per quarter to be reported to Government and approved by the Council's Section 151 Officer. Further

information on monitoring was included at Appendix B, as well as the published outputs and outcomes for 2025/26 at Appendix C. All successful grant recipients received a grant agreement letter which stipulated standard terms and conditions including the requirement to acknowledge the funding received, the requirement to provide evidence of spend in a timely manner, and financial clawback arrangements if money was found to have been misspent.

The Monitoring Officer referred to the fact that Appendix C (the UKSPF 2025/26 Outputs and Outcomes, published by the MHCLG) to the Portfolio Holder's report had been restricted to Members only and therefore had not been published in the public domain. Having reassessed the matter, the Monitoring Officer informed the Cabinet that this document could now be placed in the public domain. The Committee Services Manager thereupon circulated copies of Appendix C to the members of the public present at the meeting and undertook to update the Council's website accordingly.

Having noted that work at this stage was being prepared so that the Team could move as efficiently as possible when the payment schedule, memorandum of understanding, grant determination letter, and the funding itself was received in the new financial year and that with this in mind, it was proposed that a launch event take place in mid-March alongside promotion of the opportunity for businesses and community groups to apply to the open call for funding and being aware that, without approval at this stage, this preparation time would be lost, reducing the time available for any projects to deliver:-

It was therefore moved by Councillor I J Henderson, seconded by Councillor Scott and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- (a) following the review of the External Funding High Level Framework Grants Checklist, as attached in Appendix A to the Portfolio Holder's report (A.3), accepts £563,028 from UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- (b) approves the allocation of: £40,000 to commission business support; £26,500 to the continuation of the Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) Officer role; £19,506 to the continuation of the Council's Town Centre Manager Role; £15,000 for Extend the Season Events Grants; and £25,000 for the Widening Participation Sports Grants scheme, as set out in Appendix B to the Portfolio Holder's report (A.3);
- (c) allocates the remainder of the UKSPF funding via an open call for projects in quarter one 2025/6 under the themes set out in the Portfolio Holder's report;
- (d) authorises the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism to approve the criteria for assessment of grants under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- (e) authorises the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism to approve the award of grants to organisations under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and
- (f) authorises the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism, to sign the grant agreement and memorandum of understanding for the funding, when they are received from Government.

131. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGENERATION & TOURISM PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.4 - ORWELL PLACE CAR PARK AND EVENT SPACE, DOVERCOURT: POST PROJECT REVIEW

Cabinet considered a report of the Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism Portfolio Holder (A.4) which presented a post project review of Orwell Place Car Park and Event Space for consideration by Cabinet, and which provided an update on the regenerated site in Dovercourt Town Centre since opening in September 2023.

Cabinet was aware that Orwell Place Car Park was the first phase of the 'Dovercourt Revisited' plan, supporting the town to grow to its full potential and would support future projects in the process of being developed which included:-

- “1. *Kingsway improvements: A major investment into the appearance of Dovercourt Town Centre.*
2. *Library project: The Adult Community Learning skills centre will return to the area within a refurbished library.*
3. *Milton Road: Demolish the out-of-date multi-storey car park at Milton Road and provide an attractive and safe ground level car park to compliment Orwell Place.*
4. *Victoria Street: Demolish a dangerous structure and redevelop 8 new social homes.”*

Members recalled that further opportunities were currently being delivered through the High Street Accelerator Pilot Scheme (HSA) which had provided seed funding of £237,000 and green space funding of £500,000. Dovercourt High Street had been chosen as one of ten high streets receiving funding from the HSA Pilot Programme which had been announced in March 2023 as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan.

Schemes within the HSA included shop front grants, a pop-up shop, improved wayfinding, shop wrapping, a new website and events. The green spaces proposal currently being designed by a team of award-winning urban designers, would link the high street, beach and the Kingsway Improvements Projects enhancing the public realm offer to the community.

The 'Starlings' site redevelopment had been advocated in Dovercourt Revisited, approved by Cabinet in July 2019. Dovercourt Revisited had proposed a redevelopment with a new animated public space, public toilets, and a surface car park with the capacity to accommodate 59 car parking spaces, with six designated for disabled use.

It was reported that on 13 September 2019, Cabinet had allocated £1.599m from existing Council resources to the redevelopment of the Starlings site in Dovercourt Town Centre and the demolition of the Milton Road Car Park and 15 parking spaces in Bagshaw Road. The delivery proposed redevelopment of the Starlings site first, to create new parking and then demolish Milton Road Car Park.

Members were reminded that, following provisional completion of the project, Orwell Place Car Park had been opened in September 2023 on the site of the former derelict Starlings Site in Dovercourt High Street with a revised 53 parking spaces in total; eight with electric vehicle charging, and eight disabled bays which hosted two of the electric chargers. Essex County Highways were still to sign off the entranceway and so

completion of the final account with contractors remained outstanding, which would determine the final cost of the project. The Council had allocated a total of £2,541,050 to the project and there was currently a forecast underspend.

Cabinet was cognisant that the project had been completed during the post-pandemic surge in the cost of capital works, and significant ground contamination had been discovered, as well as the following challenges:-

- *post COVID-19 and the substantial increase in the cost and availability of materials.*
- *more site contamination than originally anticipated.*
- *discovering a petrol tank that had leaked and further contaminated the development site.*
- *discovering pits and wells on the development site.*

As a result of those challenges, the project budget had been increased by Cabinet on 28 January 2022 to £1,871,550 when the tenders had been received, and subsequently on 7 October 2022 to £2,471,550 and then in January 2023 this budget had been increased to £2,541,050.

In recognition of those cost increases, the demolition of Milton Road Car Park had been removed from the project by Cabinet in January 2022 and subsequently included in the successful Capital Regeneration Project bid (formally the Levelling Up Fund) in July 2022. Those works had recently been approved for planning permission and were scheduled to take place in 2025.

Cabinet was advised that the approved contractor was now in the final snagging period, and there was a requirement for UK Power Network (UKPN) works to be completed and final Highways approval for the entrance before the final account could be agreed. The total forecast cost of the project was expected to be £2,377,123.67 when the retention sum was paid, which would leave a potential underspend of £163,926.

Progress against the original project objectives as set out in the original report had been strong, as set out in the table below:-

Objective	Current Position	Achieved/Not Achieved
<i>Bringing back into productive use a vacant and derelict site, which currently blights the town and has a negative impact on Dovercourt High Street.</i>	<i>The space is an attractive car park with public toilets and doubles as an events space.</i>	Achieved
<i>Creating new public realm and amenity space, providing the opportunity for greater animation thereby creating a more vibrant town centre</i>	<i>Public realm including seating lines the pavement in the High Street with a pocket seating area opposite the Milton Road Car park. The landscaping has now established and provides an attractive, vibrant space that supports improving dwell time and a sense of pride in the area</i>	Achieved
<i>Providing a multi-use</i>	<i>The car park has seen 14</i>	Achieved

<i>'event space' in the town centre, through the creative use of the proposed new surface car park</i>	<i>events in 2023/4 in line with the Councils Temporary Events Notices</i>	
<i>Reducing the opportunities for crime and disorder through improved urban design</i>	<i>Recent data from the Police for Harwich shows that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have fallen from 341 in 2021 to 165 in 2023. This is part of a wider trend of reduced incidents of ASB</i>	Achieved
<i>Providing a high-quality meeting place in the town centre improving the opportunities for positive social engagement</i>	<i>There is a pocket space within the car park along with benches to the front providing sociable dwell space</i>	Achieved

Cabinet was told that the original Cabinet report had also set out wider objectives for the car park and events space, to bring in additional footfall and private sector investment to the town centre. Those had yet to be achieved, as this project was one of several 'building blocks' including the wider regeneration of Dovercourt through the CRP and HSA schemes. The significant national decline for town centres, driven by the move to out of town and on-line shopping, would also be recognised in progressing the wider outcomes set out below:

- *Supporting wider 'place shaping' objectives through the delivery of new housing*
- *Creating confidence in the market, and encouraging private sector investment*
- *Creating a more accessible public car park, and improving footfall in the town – where footfall in the town has dropped slightly since 2023*
- *Giving the towns' existing traders the confidence to invest in their businesses and in their property*

The full list of key objectives from the delivery of Orwell Place were summarised in Appendix A to the Portfolio Holder's report (A.4) along with lessons learnt.

It was important to learn from any challenges for future projects and ensure that mitigation was put in place to ensure similar issues could be addressed pro-actively. The Council now had a Project Delivery Unit staffed with architects and surveyors to provide expertise and capacity for the scale of capital works it was undertaking given the multi-million pound grants from Government for capital delivery.

Some of the key lessons learnt, which importantly should be used to inform future projects were:

Objectives	Lessons Learnt	What was the Response?
<i>Bringing back into productive use a vacant and derelict site, which currently blights the town and has a negative impact</i>	<i>Large construction projects need several services working together as there are so many areas of risk and so a pool of experts to support projects is important.</i>	<i>A project board has been established for large capital projects which consists of</i>

<p><i>on Dovercourt High Street</i></p>	<p><i>Cost should be revisited after lengthy periods between tender and construction periods, taking into account any external impacts to expenditure.</i></p> <p><i>Increasing qualified capacity within the organisation across disciplines, is required for capital delivery such as surveying, to support the completion of substantial capital projects and resourcing client-side financial oversight in addition to the cost consultants in the external professional team.</i></p>	<p><i>relevant senior officers and partners as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Addressing the limited capacity within the organisation to support substantial capital projects. Steps have already been taken to address this issue by establishing a new Project Delivery Unit for two years by Cabinet in July 2024. The Unit's primary goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of project delivery, ensuring that projects are completed on time and within budget.</i></p>
<p><i>Improving footfall in the town</i></p>	<p><i>Providing a new and improved car park will not necessarily stimulate usage with a slight drop in income compared to Milton Road the previous year. With residents permits starting at 11am roadside parking spaces are still premium. Businesses and residents who use the town earlier will take any free space available rather than using the car park</i></p>	<p><i>This car park will future proof the parking offer for residents if restrictions regarding on-street parking is ever brought in across the district.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration needs to be taken as to how this objective links with further regeneration in</i></p>

		<i>the area. This is the first stage of a number of regeneration projects that will support the improvement to footfall.</i>
<i>Creating a more accessible public car park</i>	<p><i>Ensuring all decisions are in place prior to opening, such as designation of the site as a car park. The car park opened prior to the designation of the land was granted. This meant the car park was free of charge for a period.</i></p> <p><i>Greater consideration should be given as to how the car park will operate. For example, the impact on the operational model of the EV chargers and on any funding opportunities if the space is multi-functioning.</i></p> <p><i>It is more cost-effective to outsource the provision of EV charging than provide it in house due to the risks of innovative infrastructure.</i></p>	<p><i>Long term planning is required and consultation with the community, businesses, stakeholders and internal services to understand future aspirations, opportunities and challenges.</i></p> <p><i>EV chargers are expensive to install. Outsourcing means that the installation maintenance and usage remains the responsibility of a third party who in turn provide a small % of the income to TDC</i></p>

Having been updated with regards to the success of the Orwell Place capital project which had supported economic development, enhanced community services, and ultimately contributed to the long-term regeneration of Dovercourt High Street and having been informed of the lessons learnt for the delivery of a major construction project and to ensure those were documented and considered for future projects:-

It was therefore moved by Councillor I J Henderson, seconded by Councillor Barry and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) notes this post project review of Orwell Place and endorses the learning points as set out in Appendix A of the Portfolio Holder's report (A.4), to inform future capital projects;
- b) requests the Leader of the Council to ensure that key messages from the aforementioned Appendix A, are clearly documented within the Council's Annual Governance Statement, as expected by the Best Value Duty Statutory Guidance; and
- c) invites the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider including the outcome of this review on their work programmes to provide additional scrutiny of the performance and lessons learnt.

132. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE HOUSING & PLANNING PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.5 - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT POLICY (HOUSING STOCK)

Cabinet considered a report of the Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder (A.5), which submitted the following draft policies prepared in relation to the maintenance and operation of the Council's retained housing stock:

- Housing Asset Management Plan
- Asbestos Management Policy (Housing Stock)

Members recalled that in response to the Regulator for Social Housing having its powers enhanced under the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023, new Consumer Standards and Tenant Satisfaction Measures had been introduced and which had taken effect on 1 April 2024.

It was felt that the adoption of this Management Plan and Policy would therefore assist the compliance with the legal and regulatory standards for performance.

Cabinet was informed that the Housing Asset Management Plan had been developed to provide a framework to enable the safe, efficient, and effective management of Council owned homes and related buildings and facilities.

To assist the Council to better understand its housing stock, the Development and Building Team had access to various software. Lifespan (asset management) and Oneserve were housing specific data management platforms that held all of the Council's compliance and stock data including the issuing of, and monitoring of, workflows. The use of Safety Culture (iAuditor), as an inspection tool, enabled the creation of templates to assist with the recording of the relevant information required when all types of site inspections were undertaken. This captured information also fed into responsive and planned maintenance works including the management of disrepair complaints.

This plan also strongly supported one of the six themes contained in the Council's Corporate Plan and Vision 2024-2028 namely 'Pride in our Area and Services to Residents', with a continuing commitment to providing decent Council housing that everyone deserved.

Members were made aware that the Asbestos Management Policy set out the actions taken within the housing stock to manage Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in accordance with The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR), and best practice guidance.

In order to set in place clear plans and policies to inform future maintenance and management activities and such policy framework to evidence compliance with regulatory standards:-

It was moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Smith and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) adopts the Housing Asset Management Plan and the Asbestos Management Policy for its housing stock and authorises their direct and immediate implementation, subject to call in; and
- (b) authorises the Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery) to make future updates or amendments to the Policies, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder responsible for Housing.

133. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ASSETS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.6 - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY 2025 - 2028

This item had been deferred for the reasons stated under Minute 124 above.

134. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.7 - HEALTH & WELLBEING DRAFT STRATEGY FOR TENDRING

Cabinet considered a report of the Partnerships Portfolio Holder (A.7), which presented a draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cabinet's approval to then be consulted on through a stakeholder and public consultation process.

Cabinet was presented with a new evidence-based Health and Wellbeing Draft Strategy, to support delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. This draft Strategy would set the direction for the Council's focus on supporting residents to live a healthier, independent and fulfilling life. Evidence from data showed that although there were some improving figures, when compared to other areas in Essex, Tendring District still had higher than average levels of certain preventable long-term conditions, poorer mental health, overweight/obesity and lower physical activity levels.

It was believed that adoption of this Strategy and the action plan within it, would help support partnership working to deliver improvements around the wider determinants of health in the District which would have a direct impact on health and wellbeing outcomes.

Taking into account the data and partner feedback as detailed in the draft Strategy, the following strategic objectives were considered key to improving the health and wellbeing of residents:

1. *The Wider Determinants of Health*
2. *Improving Wellbeing & Resilience*
3. *Encouraging a healthier lifestyle*
4. *Improve Long Term Condition Prevention and Management*
5. *Suicide Prevention*

Members were informed that the draft Strategy was presented with an action plan, to impact on all of the objectives set out above. Although it would not be possible for the Council to fund all the actions listed, adopting an action plan would allow the Council to proactively look for external funding opportunities.

A key focus of this work was to ensure that all residents felt represented by the draft Strategy and were supported in living a healthier, independent and fulfilling life.

It was felt that this could be achieved by working closely with health partners to deliver initiatives that helped to tackle some of this District's health needs. Understanding how the wider determinants of health could have a real impact on health outcomes was critical to improving the quality of life for many residents.

Cabinet was informed that the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy aligned with the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The feedback from the consultation had shown that the majority of participants took part in 150+ minutes of exercise a week, using cycle paths, footpaths and recreation grounds. The main barriers to exercise were shown to be access to facilities close to where the participants lived. The Council would continue to work in partnership across the organisation to connect the health and physical activity agendas.

Members were made aware that the draft strategy set out a plan for funding some projects through the public health grant which was allocated by Essex County Council (ECC). Working within the agreed priorities within the grant, projects could be funded that delivered health improvements. The Council would share significant projects with our partners at the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board to help facilitate success in delivery.

It was felt important to seek comments on the draft Strategy from partners in the Health Alliance, the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board, stakeholders and residents. This would ensure that partners could scrutinise, comment and make suggestions for the completed Strategy, prior to its adoption.

Upon approval of the draft Strategy, an eight-week consultation process would begin. The findings of the consultation would be analysed and included when the final Strategy returned to Cabinet for adoption. This Strategy had been set without an end date but would be due for review in three years' time.

Cabinet was aware that following an announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister in February 2025, six new areas had been confirmed to join the Government's Devolution Priority Programme, which included Greater Essex. As such, Mayoral elections would take place in 2026 and in addition, local government reorganisation was likely to be implemented in Greater Essex during the period of this Strategy. In terms of any reorganisation, the Strategy would allow for consistency whilst any new unitary authority considered its health and wellbeing priorities.

The Strategy aligned with partners such as ECC and the Alliance in terms of their emerging place plan approach and supported a wider determinants, prevention and early intervention model. This model recognised the Government's thinking around its 10 Year Health Plan which, as one of the strands included tackling the causes of ill health and therefore was well placed to ensure an ongoing consistent approach was maintained during any period of local government reorganisation.

In order to progress the Council towards the adoption of a strategic approach towards Health & Wellbeing, to support local people and local communities to live healthier, independent and fulfilled lives:-

It was moved by Councillor Placey, seconded by Councillor Barry and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) approves the Health and Wellbeing Draft Strategy for public consultation;
- (b) agrees that Officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, initiate a minimum eight-week consultation process and seek stakeholder comment on the Health and Wellbeing Draft Strategy; and
- (c) agrees that following that consultation the final Health and Wellbeing Strategy be presented to Cabinet for its approval and adoption.

135. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.8 - TENDRING CARELINE: DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE SERVICE

Earlier on in the meeting, as detailed under Minute 123 above, Councillor P B Honeywood had declared an Interest in this item.

Cabinet considered a detailed report of the Partnerships Portfolio Holder (A.8), which sought the Cabinet's decision on the future of the Council's Careline service having regard to:-

- an updated financial analysis for different options;
- the exploration of proposals from third parties who, through last year's consultation exercise, had expressed an interest in taking on all or part of the service;
- the likely strategic and practical implications of emerging proposals for Devolution and local government reorganisation;
- the aims and objectives of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance for an integrated 'place-based' health system approach; and
- the need to ensure best value and quality of service for residents and service-users in the context of an expanding and increasingly competitive private market for telecare, response and lifting services.

Cabinet was informed that the main recommendation within the Portfolio Holder's report was that the Council proceeded, broadly in line with the Cabinet's previously stated preferred option, to withdraw itself from the market for providing telecare, response and lifting services. However, this was proposed to be achieved in a managed way through an arrangement with Colchester City Council's 'Helpline' service (provided through its arms-length company Amphora) to transfer service users and staff on existing or similar

contractual terms and conditions to Colchester Helpline and for it to expand its team, resources and reach to serve the whole of the North East Essex area.

It was reported that this recommendation had been reached following the consideration of revised financial analysis that considered updated assumptions that reflected the significant net reduction in projected cost pressure in continuing to run the Careline service resulting mainly from the termination of the YourStride contract and other unviable third-party contracts. Whilst the updated figures showed a reduction in the projected cost pressure compared to earlier estimates, they still demonstrated the need for significant subsidy from Tendring taxpayers to continue with the Careline service in its current form with a reduced number of staff and against the backdrop of staff recruitment and retention challenges in a widening and increasingly competitive private market for similar telecare services.

Members were made aware that consideration of third-party proposals that had emerged from the consultation process showed that Helpline was best placed amongst others to offer a long-term solution, through an approach that aligned with the aims and objectives of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance, to which Tendring District Council was a partner, for an integrated 'place-based' health system approach that supported people to live independently within their homes and reduced pressure on the wider system. This approach also enabled the Council, through its partnership with the Alliance, to retain influence and scrutiny over the way the service was provided in the future, with the benefit of no ongoing financial liabilities and with Helpline being able to operate in a viable manner over a wider geography by achieving economies of scale.

It was also advised that the Council's Out-of-Hours, CCTV and Sheltered Housing monitoring service also formed part of the transfer to Colchester Helpline through an outsourcing arrangement on completion of the current review which had identified many complexities and inter-relationships between Careline, the Out-of-Hours service and other services across the Council. It was suggested that the outsourcing of those Out-of-Hours functions to Helpline, for an annual fee, should also happen within the same timescales for transferring service-users and staff from Careline.

To aid a smooth transition and ensure a maintained quality of service to residents in Tendring, it was proposed that accommodation at Barnes House in Clacton be made available for the running of the expanded Helpline service, on commercial terms, until at least March 2026 - providing a temporary base within the Tendring area to maintain effective response times whilst more permanent long-term arrangements were considered and put in place. The income sought from Helpline for this accommodation could be off-set against the fee payable for the provision of Out-of-Hours coverage and/or any contribution the Council made towards the one-off cost of upgrading and digitisation of service-users' equipment.

Cabinet was cognisant that a significant change to the context of the decision-making process since the previous report to Cabinet in November 2024, was the Government's announcements around devolution and local government reorganisation, which was expected to see the replacement of the two-tier authority structure with a series of new unitary authorities by 2028. The proposals and recommendations set out in the Portfolio Holder's report therefore not only responded positively to the feedback from last year's consultation with service users and other interested parties in ensuring continuity and stability, but they also aligned in practical terms with the direction of travel that local government reorganisation across Essex would introduce. The merging of resources

across Tendring, Colchester and potentially other existing authority areas would be a natural outcome of reorganisation as a means of achieving economies of scale and efficiencies and the recommendations within this report were therefore consistent with that approach.

Members noted that this report included an indicative transition plan outlining the key stages of the transfer process, which would be expanded upon with a detailed transition plan to be agreed and implemented in collaboration with Colchester Helpline. The programme included provision for the Council to continue to procure temporary support from other suitable private third-party telecare providers, on a call-on basis, to provide continuity of service for Careline users over the transition period whilst the transfer to Helpline took place.

Having duly considered all of the information provided within the Portfolio Holder's report including the reasons that lay behind the Portfolio Holder's recommendations to Cabinet:-

It was moved by Councillor Placey, seconded by Councillor I J Henderson and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- a) notes the content of the Portfolio Holder's report (A.8), including the updated financial information relating to alternative options for the future of Tendring Careline, updated information on numbers of service-users and staff, the latest position in relation to third-party contracts and the consideration of third-party proposals for taking on all or part of the Careline service;
- b) notes also the latest position in respect of proposals for local government reorganisation across Essex, including the likely replacement of County and District Councils with unitary authorities, and the potential practical implications for services such as Careline in the future;
- c) in light of the information noted as per resolutions a) and b), supports the proposal from Colchester City Council and its Helpline Service (provided through its arms-length company Amphora), based on the outcome of the evaluation set out within the Portfolio Holder's report (A.8);
- d) agrees to the creation of a combined and expanded telecare, response and lifting service for North East Essex that aligns with the aims and objectives of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance for an integrated health-system approach; and agrees heads of terms on the following principle conditions:
 - i) it is achieved through the automatic transfer of all remaining Tendring Careline service-users to the service provided by Colchester Helpline on their existing terms of conditions and with no ongoing financial liability to Tendring District Council following that transfer;
 - ii) that Colchester Helpline undertakes to guarantee service coverage to residents across all parts of the Tendring District so as to ensure that no part of the

- District is left without access for residents to a paid-for telecare, response and lifting service;
- iii) that Colchester Helpline's existing average response times are maintained and where possible improved upon in providing coverage to residents in all parts of Tendring – with measures put in place, as necessary, for one or more outposts in locations providing accessibility for all parts of Tendring – and at no ongoing cost or liability to Tendring District Council; and
 - iv) that Tendring Careline's existing staff will transfer to employment within the expanded Colchester Helpline, respecting existing terms and conditions and with no ongoing financial liability to Tendring District Council resulting from that transfer.
- e) agrees in principle that the Council's Out-of-Hours, CCTV services and monitoring for the Council's own sheltered housing schemes will also transfer to Colchester Helpline under an outsourcing arrangement within the same timescales for achieving the proposal under resolution d), which will be considered as part of the associated negotiation and subject to separate decision(s) as necessary;
 - f) that the transfer be facilitated, as early and as smoothly as possible within the 2025/26 financial year;
 - g) agrees that, from the date of this decision, any new prospective Careline customers are to be signposted to Colchester Helpline as the Council's preferred alternative trusted provider, in light of the proposal under d) above;
 - h) agrees an extension to the exemption of Procurement Procedure Rules to allow the use of the company Careium for the ongoing provision of casual call-handling support over the period of transition, as required, to ensure continuity of service to remaining service-users during times of staff shortage;
 - i) authorises the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, in consultation with the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance; the Director for Planning and Community; the Monitoring Officer; the Section 151 Officer; and the Head of People, to progress and deliver the following:
 - 1) the preparation of a detailed transition plan in collaboration with Colchester City Council and Colchester Helpline, including the associated legal agreement and specific tasks and timescales for the achievement of the proposals under resolutions d) and e), having regard to the broad Indicative Transition Plan outlined within this report;
 - 2) the termination of any remaining third-party customer and supplier contracts with Tendring Careline;
 - 3) the entering into contracts with one or more suitable third-party providers of telecare, response and/or lifting services to call upon additional staffing resource during the period of transition to ensure continuity of service to remaining service-users and to provide additional resources as required;

- 4) the agreement with Colchester Helpline for the use of accommodation at Barnes House, on a short-term lease and on commercial terms, for use as a temporary outpost for the provision of the expanded North East Essex service while a permanent location is sought;
 - 5) the agreement to any financial contribution towards the upgrading of all existing Tendring Careline service users to digital equipment either before or after the transfer to Colchester Helpline – utilising a proportion of the agreed implementation budget; and
 - 6) the utilisation of the remainder of the implementation budget, as appropriate, for purposes relating to the achievement of the proposals under resolutions d) and e).
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- j) confirms that all efforts will be put in place to work constructively with Helpline to support service users through a smooth and timely transfer to the expanded North East Essex service and that for any service users that wish to 'opt out' of an automatic transfer, support will be provided in signposting them to other alternative providers;
 - k) confirms that the Council will continue to support affected staff through the transition to the expanded North East Essex Helpline service; and
 - l) agrees that the costs associated with these resolutions is met from within existing budgets, including the one-off implementation budget amount of £0.746m, and that the use of these budgets is delegated to the Director (Planning and Community), in consultation with the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance and the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships.

136. MANAGEMENT TEAM ITEMS

There were no matters referred to the Cabinet by the Council's Management Team on this occasion.

The Meeting was declared closed at 11.53 am

Chairman