**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET,
HELD ON FRIDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10.30 AM
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, AT THE TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA, CO15 1SE**

PRESENT:	**PORTFOLIO:**
Councillor M E Stephenson	Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance (Chairman)
Councillor I J Henderson	Deputy Leader; Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism
Councillor A P H Baker	Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning
Councillor M Barry	Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm
Councillor P Kotz	Portfolio Holder for Assets & Community Safety
Councillor G R Placey	Portfolio Holder for Partnerships
Councillor G G I Scott	Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Group Leaders Present by Standing Invitation: Councillors J D Bray (Leader of the Reform UK Group), J B Chapman BEM (Leader of the Independent Group) and P B Honeywood (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Also Present: Councillor G D Sudra

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Place and Well-being) & Deputy Chief Executive (Lee Heley), Corporate Director (Law and Governance) & Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings), Corporate Director (Finance and IT) & Section 151 Officer (Richard Barrett), Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery) (Damian Williams), Corporate Director (Planning and Community) (Gary Guiver), Assistant Director (People) (Katie Wilkins), Assistant Director (Housing and Environment) (Tim R Clarke), Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support), Democratic Services Manager (Ian Ford), Waste and Recycling Manager (Jon Hamlet), Democratic Services Officer (Bethany Jones) and PDU Communications Lead (Chad Nugent)

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Smith (the Portfolio Holder for the Environment & ICT) who had been unable to attend the meeting as he was convalescing following an operation.

68. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Henderson and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet, held on Friday 26 September 2025, be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members at this time.

70. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

71. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

Essex Housing Awards 2025

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning was proud to announce that Tendring District Council had won an award under the Small Housing Schemes category for its development at Honeycroft, Lawford. This reflected well on the hard work of Officers in conjunction with the Council's partners. This Award had been won in the face of stiff competition from other excellent housing schemes across the County.

The Portfolio Holder also gave due credit to the previous Administration who had started the Honeycroft scheme.

Arts Council England Funding Award

The Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture and Heritage was pleased to inform Cabinet that the District had been awarded the sum of £750,000 through the Arts Council England Creative People and Places Programme. This funding would support Creative Tendring a community led cultural initiative hosted by the Arts Trust in partnership with this Council, CVST and the Harwich Festival. Over the next three years this programme would deliver cultural projects aimed at tackling isolation, supporting wellbeing and building self-confidence through creativity and celebrating what made Tendring special. The development phase for such creative projects would commence from April 2026.

72. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL

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

73. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY A COMMITTEE

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

74. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & ICT PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.1 - APPROVING AWARD OF THE WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION AND STREET CLEANING CONTRACT FOLLOWING EVALUATION OF TENDERS

Cabinet considered a report of the Environment & ICT Portfolio Holder (A.1) which provided an update to Cabinet following receipt of final detailed submissions from bidders at the Invitation to Submit Final Tenders ("ISFT") stage of the procurement process, and set out details of the tender proposed for award of contract and subject to funding requirements sought Cabinet's approval to appoint the successful bidder to deliver a waste & recycling collection and street cleaning contract for three years with effect from 1st April 2026 with an option to extend for up to two years.

The report highlighted the financial implications of entering into the contract to ensure the Council could deliver its statutory duties and comply with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

Subject to Cabinet's approval an implementation and communications plan would be necessary to ensure the residents of the District were aware of the changes coming into effect on 1st April 2026.

Cabinet was informed that the proposals set out in this report provided for a new waste and recycling collection and street cleaning contract that:

a. would provide residents with an enhanced recycling collection service alongside the continuation of fortnightly or weekly residual waste collection and weekly food waste collection;
b. gave residents and visitors to the District a level of street cleaning that was at least equivalent to that provided currently;
c. was fully funded for a period of three years without adversely impacting on other important services provided by the Council.

Cabinet recalled that, at its meeting held on 26 July 2024, Cabinet had agreed to the commencement of a procurement process to appoint a contractor to deliver the Council's waste and recycling collection and street cleaning service from 2026 onwards, based upon a set of principles, which had translated into a specification for detailed solutions to be submitted against.

Members were assured that the Council's project team had been supported throughout the procurement process by four external organisations, chosen for their experience in supporting similar procurements elsewhere.

Members were reminded that the price for the initial detailed solutions provided by bidders at the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) stage had not been affordable by the Council, being potentially over £7m per annum above the current associated budgets.

In response to the affordability position and Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals for Greater Essex, at its meeting held on 23 May 2025 Cabinet had agreed a revised set of Core Specification Principles aimed at reducing the price at final tender stage (those changes were):

- a shorter contract term – from eight to an initial three-year contract term with an optional extension period of up to two years;
- a reduction in specification, mainly in relation to street cleaning, aimed at reducing the level of risk and uncertainty whilst increasing affordability but not offering a lower level of service than currently;
- that the Council did not take any risk on the value of the dry mixed recycling (DMR) collected at the kerbside; and,
- that the Council did not fund the up-front purchase of any vehicle fleet.

Cabinet noted that the Council remained committed to the fortnightly residual waste collection from wheeled bins (weekly for those on a black sack service). The complete set of Core Principles were included within Table 6 in the Background section of this report (A.1).

It was reported that a revised draft specification had been sent to bidders following that May 2025 Cabinet meeting and Officers had entered competitive dialogue discussions with each individual bidder during June and July 2025, after which the Council's

requirements had been finalised via a decision by the Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery) on 14 August 2025, and final detailed solutions (tenders) had been invited with a tender closing date of 17 September 2025.

Cabinet was advised that the terms and conditions of the expected contract requirements formed part of the procurement process, and some clarification questions had been received related to the service specification but none that had fundamentally altered the specification or contract terms. Therefore, subject to the recommendations being approved, no further decisions were required for the contract documentation to be completed.

Cabinet was made aware that the Council had received one tender submission, from Veolia ES (UK) Ltd, which had been fully evaluated to ensure that it fully met the requirements of the service specification, which it did. The tender was also within a price range that was affordable to the Council over the initial contract duration of three years, subject to budget adjustments.

Members were informed that, over the three-year term of the contract, the Council would require an additional budget of £7.796m to pay for the service. This was reduced to £7.359m when considering one off grant funding received by the Council.

Members were cognisant that, in anticipation of increased contract costs, £2.417m had already been set aside as part of finalising the outturn position for 2024/25. A further £4.942m needed to be identified and this could be met by refocussing budgets associated with uncommitted New Homes Bonus funding for 2025/26, the Corporate Investment Fund and other smaller favourable variances emerging across the Council's wider budgeted position.

It was reiterated that, prior to Cabinet approving the award of the contract, the financial implications to this Council needed to be considered and balanced against compliance with the statutory duties regarding waste and recycling collection.

Refocussing of existing budgets in order to continue providing the statutorily required waste service might impact the speed and scale of investment elsewhere within the Council's overall budget.

Alongside LGR, the financial impact of the waste tender acted as a timely opportunity to review the Council's approach to its wider forecast / budget setting process and against this context it was planned to develop a two-year financial 'work programme' / budget as reported elsewhere on the agenda.

It was reported that, to ensure an effective delivery of the new contract and a smooth transition to the new recycling collection services, Officers would be developing an implementation and communications plan. This would be jointly developed with Veolia who, as part of their tender submission, had been required to submit a comprehensive mobilisation plan.

The Leader of the Council read out a statement on behalf of the Environment & ICT Portfolio Holder who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Cabinet was advised that the reasoning behind the Portfolio Holder's recommendations was as follows:-

(a) The Council's current contracts with Veolia ES (UK) Ltd for household waste and recycling collection and street sweeping both expired on 1st April 2026. As such, a contractor needed to be found to deliver those services on expiry of the current arrangements.

(b) The Council had now undertaken a full and thorough procurement exercise to find a suitable contractor to deliver the service based upon the Core Specification Principles previously approved by Cabinet for April 2026 and beyond.

(c) The recommendations ensured that the Council continued to progress the future of this important statutory service, meeting its affordability envelope whilst complying with the Environment Act 2021 requirements that would commence on 1 April 2026.

(d) Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Council was designated as a Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and as such had a statutory duty to collect household waste and recycling from homes in the District. From 1 April 2026, the Council would be required under provisions in the Environment Act 2021 to collect a wider range of recyclable material and as such any new service commencing in 2026 must be compliant with or at least working towards compliance with this requirement. A failure to comply with those Environment Act requirements could result in the Council being subjected to a Judicial Review and funding provided by DEFRA being withdrawn. This funding included that provided towards the revenue costs of delivering an enhanced food waste collection service and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding towards the cost of the increased collection of recyclable materials at the kerbside.

It was moved by Councillor Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Henderson and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

1. notes the further extensive work undertaken on the procurement process, both by officers and external consultants following the revisions to the Core Specification Principles adopted in May 2025 and the subsequent decision, to approve the detail of the service specification and other related documentation associated with the Invitation to Submit Final Tenders stage of the waste contract procurement;

2. thanks the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and notes their recommendations following the meeting on 4 November 2025, as set out in this report, which will be considered as part of the work associated with the implementation of the contract and revised service going forward;

3. acknowledges that the tender received from Veolia ES (UK) Ltd (company registration number 02481991) has been fully evaluated and meets the requirements of the final service specification that in turn is based on the revised Core Specification Principles;

4. agrees to award the contract to Veolia ES (UK) Ltd commencing on 1 April 2026:

   (i) for an initial term of three years (with the option to extend for up to two years);
   (ii) at a total gross cost over the initial three-year term of £7.796m over and above existing budgetary provision as set out in Table 1 of this report;

(iii) that associated Government grant funding of £0.437m as set out within the finance section of this report be allocated towards the cost highlighted in (4)(ii) above;
(iv) that the necessary further budget adjustments set out within Table 3 of this report be agreed to meet the net overall additional three-year contract costs;
(v) that any unspent money from the previously agreed sum of £0.400m that was set aside to support the overall procurement process be applied as a further contingency sum to support the implementation of the new contract;
(vi) that, subject to (4)(i) to (4)(v) above, agrees a delegation to the Corporate Director (Finance & ICT), in consultation with the Corporate Director (Operations & Delivery), the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance and the Portfolio Holder for Environment & ICT to make the necessary changes to the budget to reflect the implementation of the new contract; and
(vii) notes the next steps and key procurement target dates set out within this report and acknowledges that the Portfolio Holder for Environment & ICT and the Corporate Director (Operations & Delivery) will prepare an implementation and communications plan as part of the smooth transition and roll out of the new service, ensuring that residents are aware of the new requirements.

75. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE CORPORATE FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.2 - FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025/26 - GENERAL UPDATE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2025

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder (A.2) which provided it with a general update and overview of the Council's financial position against the 2025/26 budget as at the end of September 2025 and looked ahead to 2026/27 and beyond.

SECTION 1 - In-year financial position at the end of September 2025:

The report highlighted that several adjustments had been made to the 2025/26 budget as part of developing the detailed estimates that had been agreed by Full Council in February 2025. This had been complemented by further 2025/26 budget amendments as part of the Outturn Position for 2024/25 that had been reported to Cabinet in July 2025.

Members were advised that, with the above approach in mind, the in-year position at the end of September 2025 was broadly performing to the underlying budgetary position with no new major issues emerging relating to 2025/26.

However, it was considered timely to address a limited number of items that had been identified to date, which it was proposed to fund on an initial one-off basis in 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1H to the Portfolio Holder's report (A.2). Any longer-term impact would be considered as part of developing the forecast as detailed in Section 2 of the report (A.2).

Cabinet was informed that the position to the end of September 2025, as set out in more detail within the appendices, showed that overall, the General Fund Revenue Account was underspent against the profiled budget by £3.661m. However, it was important to highlight that this position continued to primarily reflect the timing of expenditure across

several budgets along with the timing of when the Government reimbursed the Council for the cost of meeting housing benefit claims.

It was acknowledged that other expenditure or income trends might still emerge / develop over the remainder of the year, which would be included in future financial performance reports as necessary.

In respect of other areas of the budget such as the Housing Revenue Account, capital programme, collection performance and treasury activity, apart from additional details set out within the report, there were no other major issues that had been identified to date.

SECTION 2 Updated long-term financial forecast:

Cabinet was aware that, as set out earlier in the meeting, the waste contract had highlighted a significant financial challenge for the Council and, when taken into account with the potential impact of Local Government Reorganisation, which had emerged / evolved since the last forecast had been considered, it had presented an important financial 'cross roads' that set the financial context over the next two years.

It was recognised that the next two years could be the Council's last two budget 'cycles' ahead of a successor Unitary Council being established and in place from 1 April 2028. With that in mind, there was clearly now an underlying and critical need to revisit / revise the Council's financial plans over the next two years.

Given the timing and expected financial scale / impact of the outcome of the waste and street cleansing tender process, an updated forecast had not presented within this report, as would normally be the case at this time of the year. However, several activities were underway to reflect on the above to inform the presentation of a detailed budget position to Cabinet on 19 December 2025, that would aim to set out a funded two-year financial forecast, reflecting savings and cost pressures alongside the outcome of the Government's current fair funding review and proposed business rates reset where possible.

Members were reminded that the challenges faced by the Housing Revenue Account also remained significant and included increased expectations and requirements that continued to emerge from the Social Housing Regulation Act and associated enhanced powers of the Housing Regulator. The HRA 30 Year business plan would be developed over the coming weeks, with the aim of continuing to respond to such challenges set against the wider context of the underlying and essential requirement to provide a financially sustainable position in the long term that would in turn provide a 'sound' position against which the potential new Unitary Council could consider its own plans and aspirations from potentially as early as 2028/29.

In order to set out the latest financial position for the Council and to respond to emerging issues in 2025/26 and to develop the budget and long-term forecast from 2026/27:-

It was moved by Councillor Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Kotz and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

(a) notes the Council's in-year financial position at the end September 2025;

(b) approves the proposed adjustments to the 2025/26 budget, as set out in Appendix 1H and requests Officers to review the potential on-going impact in 2026/27 and beyond, where necessary, as part of developing the forecast and detailed estimates for further consideration by Cabinet later in the year;

(c) agrees that the Council continues to be a member of the Essex Business Rates Pool and Council Tax Sharing Agreement with Essex County Council and the other Major Preceptors in 2026/27, if it remains financially advantageous to do so;

(d) notes the updated context to the financial forecast from 2026/27, as set out in this report (A.2) and requests Officers, in consultation with Portfolio Holders, to further develop the financial forecast alongside the development of the Council's priorities; and

(e) formally invites the views of the Resources and Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the information set out in this report along with the Council's wider financial position, as part of its work programme for the year.

76. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ITEMS - A.3 - (1) HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTIONS 2025/26 - MONITORING REPORT AT THE HALF YEAR POINT AND PROPOSED PRIORITIES TO 31 MARCH 2028 AND (2) PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered a report of the Leader of the Council (A.3) which provided the Cabinet with the positive progress over the first six months with the Highlight Priority Actions adopted for 2025/26 towards the Council's Corporate Plan Themes 2024/28. In view of the need to refocus the Council's priorities for the remaining 28 months, until a new unitary council took on delivery of functions and services currently delivered by Essex County Council and this Council, this report also invited the Cabinet to establish those new priorities.

It was reported that one of the proposed priorities concerned the Clacton Town Board's emerging 10-Year Vision and 4-Year Investment Plan.

Cabinet recognised that the progress made against those priorities in this first six months, including the transfer of Careline Services to the Colchester Helpline Service, the publication of a draft new Housing Strategy, approval of the Community Safety Strategy for the Council, had led to a point of reflection on the priorities going forward. This, in turn had provided an opportunity to consider the focus of the Council in a number of areas across a range of functions and services for the period to 31 March 2028 and to leave Tendring in the best possible position upon unitarisation in Greater Essex.

As considered earlier in the meeting, this work fitted with the intended development of a fully funded financial 'work programme' for the Council for the period until 31 March 2028 when the delivery of local government functions and services in the area were expected to be transferred to a new Unitary Council across Tendring District and other existing District Council areas in north Essex.

Members recognised that, one of the proposed priorities related to the UK Government's Pride in Place Programme for which the Clacton Town Board would submit its 10-year

Vision and 4-year Investment Plan to Government to secure the release of the £2M funding per year under that Programme for the Clacton-on-Sea designated area. The Board was on track to submit those Plans by the 28 November 2025 deadline set by the UK Government. The Board's emerging Vision and Investment Plan include measures that complemented and built on the other UK Government Community Regeneration Programmes which the Council had committed to delivering. The Clacton Town Board was not a body corporate with the infrastructure to directly deliver its Vision and Plan. As such, MHCLG through their guidance on Plan for Neighbourhoods, required the local authority as the accountable body to provide assurances on delivery. There were several of the measures in the emerging Plans that were likely to be referred to the Council to enable them to be delivered. Following submission of the Vision and Plan by the Board, the UK Government would consider and, hopefully, confirm that it was satisfied with them to release the funding from 1 April 2026. All matters to be delivered by Council would be separately subject to individual governance processes of the Council. However, it was helpful to the process for a high level 'in principle' decision to be taken by the Council once the Board's Vision and Investment Plans had been finalised, to set out its position in respect of the projects that might be directed to the Council for delivery. Should MHCLG approve the Plans further governance would be required capturing delivery requirements and more generally as referenced in the MHCLG guidance for the Pride in Place Programme.

In considering this report, Cabinet was also reminded that this first half year of 2025/26 had seen the following significant matters:

(1) Consultation launched for women's safety charter;
(2) Hosting groundbreaking Sports and Activity Conference;
(3) Seven beaches awarded Blue Flags and/or Seaside Awards for summer 2025;
(4) Four of Tendring's green spaces once again given 'Green Flags';
(5) Eleven car parks across Tendring granted National Safety Award;
(6) New joined-up Housing and Corporate complaints policy adopted;
(7) Tendring District Council achieved double RSPCA PawPrints win;
(8) Older Persons Crucial Crew - free safety event in Clacton to help older residents to stay safe and well.

In order to (i) review the highlight priorities and provide a focus for the Council over the 2 ¼ years envisaged for this Council ahead of new Unitaries in the area; (ii) enable funds to be allocated to those projects/activities as part of the stated two year financial 'work programme' to secure front line services and key actions across the Council within its available resources; and (iii) ensure that there was a clear collaborative understanding between the Council and the Clacton Town Board on the principle of the Council delivering a number of the projects to be set out in the Board's 10-Year Vision and 4-Year Investment Plan for the Town:-

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

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

(a) notes the six-month progress report on the current adopted highlight priorities, as set out at Appendix A to the Leader of the Council's report (A.3);
(b) approves a re-alignment of the highlight priorities for the Council for the period until new Unitaries take on local government services in Greater Essex as set out in Appendix B to the report (A.3);

(c) directs Officers to undertake the necessary work to develop those items set out in (b) above for consideration as part of the proposed two year 'work programme'; and
(d) endorses that the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Council's statutory officers, will determine the Council's 'in principle' support for those measures to be included in the Clacton Town Board's 10-year Vision and 4-year Investment Plan with the UK Government's Pride in Place Programme that may, in turn, be submitted to this Council as specific projects for delivery (subject to the Council's own governance arrangements at the time they are submitted and subsequently).

77. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGENERATION & TOURISM PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.4 - COMMUNITY REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (CRP2) - PROGRAMME UPDATE AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDING

Cabinet considered a report of the Regeneration, Economic Growth & Tourism Portfolio Holder (A.4) which updated Cabinet on progress on the Community Regeneration Partnership (CRP2) programme and which recommended Cabinet agree the reallocation of funding within the programme including:-

1) removal of Ten_13 Town Centre Building from the programme scope;
2) rescoping of Ten_05 Tudor Fields – Jaywick walking route and reduction of funding;
3) increasing the budget to the following projects:

Ten_04 Sunspot Solar Panels;
Ten_07 Clacton Town Centre and Seafront Public Realm;
Ten_08 Jaywick and Clacton Shopfront Improvements;
Ten_09 Jaywick Sands Public Open Space;
Ten_10 Seafront Arts/Community Micro Venue;
Ten_11 Repurposing Martello Tower E;
Ten_12 Active Wellbeing Centre Phase 1 and inclusive cycling facility;

4) approval of an alternative approach to Ten_06 Expanding the Housing Work of the Healthy Homes Initiative.

Cabinet acknowledged that the reasoning behind the Portfolio Holder's recommendations was as follows:-

(i) MHCLG required evidence that a substantial start and commitment by the Council could be demonstrated to deliver the Community Regeneration Partnerships (CRP2) Programme by March 2026. Clarification from MHCLG received in August 2025 did not require contracts to be entered into by March 2026, however commitment from the Section 151 Officer that the projects would be delivered would be sought.
(ii) in effect this commitment was a collective responsibility with assurance being given via the Council's usual decision-making processes. It was therefore reasonable to assume from the guidance, advice and clarification received from MHCLG to date that the necessary commitments could be made via formal resolutions from decisions of either Cabinet, individual Portfolio Holders or Officers as necessary across the various procurement and decision-making milestones that were required to successfully deliver the projects. Where projects were being delivered by external partners, the same level of governance would be expected, to enable the Council acting as the accountable body to successfully meet the

requirements of the funding arrangements with MHCLG across all relevant schemes and projects. This approach should also encompass the 'accounting for outcomes' element of the projects alongside the 'accounting for the funding' requirement as the accountable body.

(iii) the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) empowered the Council to reallocate funding within the programme; if additional projects were proposed, they required Ministerial approval which had a time implication of a minimum of two months.

(iv) Further to the feasibility and project initiation work undertaken, two of the Capital Projects within the programme had been found to be subject to prohibitive deliverability risks within the constraints of the funding, as originally set out within the MOU (Ten_05 Tudor Fields and Ten_13 Town Centre Building) and one of the Capital Projects (Ten_06 Jaywick Healthy Homes Initiative) had been found to be deliverable but could not be funded from Capital as the result would be Revenue expenditure through enforcement action.

It was moved by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet -

(a) approves the reallocation of funding within the programme as set out below, for the purposes of contingency; the opportunity to add quality and value to the schemes; deliver within tight programme deadlines; and manage organisational capacity:

i. to no longer pursue the Ten_13 Town Centre Building project, reallocating the £5m capital funding set out within the MOU elsewhere within the programme;
ii. reallocate £1.5m of the capital funding allocated to the Ten_05 Tudor Fields project within the programme, and for this Council to progress the delivery of a
iii. walking and cycling route only with the remaining £1m allocation, and for a Project Initiation Document to be presented to the Portfolio Holders for
iv. Leisure & Public Realm and Housing & Planning for their approval;
v. reallocate £100,000 the capital funding allocated to the Ten_06 Jaywick Healthy Buildings project within the programme, and to rescope the project to include works to the Enterprise Centre to support the team's operations, with a Project Initiation Document to be presented to the Portfolio Holders for Assets & Community Safety and Housing & Planning for their approval;
vi. allocate an additional £50,000 Capital to the Ten_04 Sunspot Solar Panels project, raising the total project budget to £200,000;
vii. allocate an additional £2.5m Capital to the Ten_07 Clacton Town Centre Public Realm project, raising the total project budget to £3.8m;
viii. allocate an additional £200,000 Capital to the Ten_08 Jaywick and Clacton Shopfront Improvements project, raising the total project budget to
ix. £700,000, with a sum of £150,000 ringfenced for grants in Jaywick Sands;
x. allocate an additional £1.2m Capital to the Ten_09 Jaywick Sands Open Spaces project, raising the total project budget to £3.2m;
xi. allocate an additional £400,000 Capital to the Ten_10 Seafront Micro Venue project, raising the total project budget to £900,000;
xii. allocate an additional £1.5m Capital to the Ten_11 Martello Tower E project, raising the total project budget to £3.5m; and
xiii. allocate an additional £750,000 Capital to the Ten_12 Active Wellbeing Centre Phase 1 project, raising the total project budget to £3.75m.

(b) allocates £200,000 of revenue funding to the Ten_06 Jaywick Healthy Buildings project to progress an approach to achieve the intended outputs & outcomes through enforcement;

(c) requires the £200,000 funding to be delivered via the capitalising of project management time of the Project Delivery Unit across the various CRP2 projects through existing delegations and / or financial performance reports as necessary;

(d) authorises the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism, in consultation with the supporting Portfolio Holder for each project, to approve Change Control Notices setting out the detailed implications and implementation of the above; and

(e) notes the requirement from MHCLG that a substantial start and commitment to projects within the Community Regeneration Partnership (CRP2) programme can be demonstrated by March 2026.

78. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE CORPORATE FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.5 - THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME, DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTIONS / DISCOUNTS / PREMIUMS FOR 2026/27 AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT 2026/27

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Governance & Finance Portfolio Holder (A.5) which enabled Cabinet to consider and agree for recommending to Full Council the following:

- Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27;
- Exceptional Hardship Policy;
- Discretionary Council Tax Exemptions, Discounts and Premiums for 2026/27; and
- Annual MRP Policy Statement for 2026/27.

Cabinet was informed that in terms of the LCTS scheme, it was proposed to continue with the principle of providing financial stability wherever possible to Tendring residents. It was therefore proposed to keep the 2026/27 LCTS scheme the same as this year, which provided for a maximum discount of 80% for working age claimants. The associated exceptional hardship policy had also been subject to annual review, and it was not proposed to make any changes from the scheme operating this year and so it would remain available to support eligible claimants in 2026/27.

In respect of existing discretionary council tax discounts, exemptions and premiums (including discounts for young people leaving care), it was not proposed to make any changes for 2026/27, with the same levels applying as in 2025/26.

In respect of existing council tax premiums on long term empty properties, it was not proposed to make any changes for 2026/27, with the same levels applying as in 2025/26.

In respect of the existing council tax premium of 100% on properties used as a second home, it was not proposed to make any changes for 2026/27, with the same levels applying as in 2025/26.

It was reported that, as part of the extension to council tax premiums on long term empty properties and the introduction of council tax premiums on second homes last year, the Government had stated that their intention was not to penalise property owners where they were making genuine efforts to make use of their properties. The Government therefore had introduced mandatory exceptions where the council tax premium on long term empty properties and/or second homes was not chargeable and those remained in place for 2026/27.

The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement had also been reviewed for 2026/27, and no changes were proposed to the existing approach adopted from 2025/26.

Members were advised that if it was agreed that no changes were necessary to the proposed LCTS scheme, there would be no need for public consultation. However, if any amendments were proposed and approved at Full Council on 25 November 2025, then public consultation would be required before the final scheme could be agreed and adopted. Consequently, if consultation was required, this Council would have to notify the precepting authorities that the final council tax base would be delayed and not available until later on in the budget cycle.

Given the Portfolio Holder's recommendation to continue with the existing LCTS scheme, it was also not proposed to formally refer it to the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as it would be considered by Full Council on 25 November 2025.

In order to enable the implementation of an LCTS Scheme in 2026/27 along with the required council tax discounts, exemptions and premiums and an MRP Policy Statement:-

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

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees that -

(a) the LCTS scheme for 2026/27 remains the same as the current year (2025/26);

(b) the Council Tax Exceptional Hardship Policy be as set out in Appendix B to the report; and

(c) the discretionary Council Tax exemptions, discounts and premiums for 2026/27 be as set out in the appendices to the Portfolio Holder's report.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that –

(i) the LCTS, as set out as Appendix A to the report, be approved with the maximum LCTS award being 80% for working age claimants;

(ii) the Corporate Director (Finance and IT), in consultation with the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, be authorised to undertake the necessary steps to implement the LCTS scheme from 1 April 2026;

(iii) the locally determined council tax discounts, as set out in Appendix C, be approved;

(iv) the council tax discount policy for young people leaving care, as set out in Appendix D, be approved;

(v) the discretionary council tax premiums, as set out in Appendix E, be approved;

(vi) the Corporate Director (Finance and IT), in consultation with the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, be authorised to undertake the necessary steps to implement the council tax exemptions, discounts and premiums from 1 April 2026; and

(vii) the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2026/27, as set out in Appendix F, be approved.

79. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & ICT PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.6 - ADOPTION OF THE ESSEX WIDE AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

It was reported that, following the Portfolio Holder for Environment & ICT's agreement to be part of the draft consultation process to adopt the Essex Wide Air Quality Strategy in November 2024, the proposed strategy had been presented to the Essex Chief Executives' Forum (ECEF) where plans for finalising the strategy had been set out. The ECEF had supported the proposed strategy unanimously, and agreement to publish the final strategy on the EssexAir website at the end of October 2025 had been given the green light to proceed.

Essex County Council (ECC) had taken the final strategy to its Cabinet on Tuesday 9th September 2025 when it had been approved and adopted on behalf of ECC. The final version of the strategy had been published at the end of October which now afforded all other Essex Local Authorities to go through their governance process and seek a decision to formally adopt it.

This report (A.6) therefore sought the agreement of Cabinet to endorse the adoption of the Essex Wide Air Quality Strategy for Essex 2025-2029 on behalf of Tendring District Council.

The Leader of the Council read out a statement on behalf of the Environment & ICT Portfolio Holder who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Cabinet endorsed the reasoning behind the Portfolio Holder's recommendations as follows:-

(1) by formally adopting the Essex Wide Air Quality Strategy it would ensure that Tendring was part of a robust and focussed approach to tackling poor Air Quality across the County, whilst implementing changes where appropriate to protect the health and safety of current and future generations who resided in this District. It would allow Tendring to be part of discussions on a county level via working groups and ensure that it was ahead of the curve regarding any proposed or new legislative changes.

(2) in the light of impending Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) it would afford the opportunity to work collaboratively with neighbouring Councils and provide a joined-up approach to protect public health and wellbeing.

(3) although Tendring did not have an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within the District, it needed to assess air quality in the District for the specified pollutants and submit Annual Status Reports to the Department for Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). By adopting the Essex Wide Air Quality Strategy, it would remove the need for Tendring to draft its own strategy, whilst ensuring that it adhered to the principles set out in the strategy and continued to follow best practice in accordance with other Local Authorities throughout the County. By being part of the strategy and the Essex wide working groups, it would ensure that any new legislation, regulations and guidance were discussed and that this Council's work in monitoring and improving Air Quality in Tendring was appropriate and focussed accordingly.

It was moved by Councillor Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Scott and:-

RESOLVED that –

(a) the Essex Wide Air Quality Strategy 2025-2029 in the form appended to this report (i.e. Appendix 1) be formally adopted; and

(b) it is noted that other councils across Essex will be taking individual decisions regarding adopting the Essex Wide Air Quality Strategy 2024-2029.

80. MANAGEMENT TEAM ITEMS

There were no Management Team items for Cabinet to consider on this occasion.

The Meeting was declared closed at 11.45 am

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank