
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET,
HELD ON FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018 AT 10.30 AM, IN THE
PRINCES THEATRE, TOWN HALL, CLACTON-ON-SEA, CO15 1SE**

PRESENT:

Councillor N R Stock OBE
Councillor Z J Fairley
Councillor P B Honeywood
Councillor L A McWilliams
Councillor F H Nicholls
Councillor M J D Skeels
Councillor M J Talbot

PORTFOLIO:

Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder for Investment and Growth
Portfolio Holder for Housing
Portfolio Holder for Health and Education
Portfolio Holder for Corporate Enforcement
Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Portfolio Holder for Environment

Group Leaders Present by Standing Invitation: Councillors R J Bucke (Deputy Leader of the Tendring First / Liberal Democrats Group), I J Henderson (Leader of the Labour Group) and E F Whitmore (Deputy Leader of the UKIP Group)

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Corporate Director (Operational Services) (Paul Price), Corporate Director (Planning and Regeneration) (Ewan Green), Head of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings), Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits & Section 151 Officer (Richard Barrett), Head of Leadership Support and Community (Karen Neath), Head of Housing and Environmental Health (Tim R Clarke), Street Scene Officer (Jonathan Hamlet), Communications and Public Relations Manager (Will Lodge) and Committee Services Officer (Katie Sullivan)

158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G V Guglielmi (Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader), J A Broderick (Leader of the Holland Residents' Group), A Pemberton (Deputy Leader of the Non-Aligned Group), G G I Scott (Leader of the Tendring First / Liberal Democrats Group) and M E Stephenson (Leader of the UKIP Group).

159. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet, held on Friday 16 February 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

160. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bucke indicated that he would declare an interest in item A.2 – Cabinet Members' Items – Report of the Housing Portfolio Holder – The Closure of Two Sheltered Housing Scheme insofar as he was a member of Frinton and Walton Town Council and that Council had an interest in the consultation on Spendells Sheltered Housing Scheme.

161. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were none.

162. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Enforcement (Councillor Nicholls) responded to recent media reports that some Local Authorities had increased parking fees by up to 45%. He confirmed that there would be no increase in off-street car parking charges in Tendring for 2018/19 and reasserted Tendring's commitment to its residents and businesses through the issuing of the annual car parking permit.

163. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL

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

164. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY A COMMITTEE

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

165. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ITEMS

There were no items submitted by the Leader of the Council on this occasion.

166. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER - ADDENDUM REPORT - KERBSIDE WASTE AND RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT - APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS

There was submitted an addendum report by the Portfolio Holder for Environment (Councillor Talbot) which provided Cabinet with the outcome of the public consultation on the options for the future delivery of the waste and recycling and street cleansing contracts.

Cabinet was aware that a public consultation had been carried out to obtain the views of the residents of the District on the proposed variations. The addendum report had shown that a majority of respondents were in favour of the proposed changes.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment read out the following statement:-

"I wish to report the outcome of the public consultations to extend our contract with Veolia for the discharge of our Waste, Recycling and Street Sweeping responsibility, on what I think are very favourable terms, for a further seven years.

The current contract, the details of which are in the public domain, costs the District Council around four and a quarter million pounds a year – or nearly £30 million over the last seven years.

I will not talk in public about the projected cost of the service until the extension and variation is agreed as this is commercially sensitive, but once agreed I will make financial information available, providing it does not breach commercial confidentiality.

It's great to think that after the passage of another seven years from 2012, we do not find ourselves facing a substantially increased cost for the service our contractor provides. There is an increase but at a manageable level, with the possibility of another development which could save money, taking place in the near future.

Our requirement from the contractor has been changed to suit best practice and to provide a service we can afford, and it must be said that our negotiators have done a fine job for us to keep our overall cost manageable.

There are a number of changes but the most significant is the distribution of a Wheelie Bin for landfill waste to 60,000 properties and the emptying of the Bin every two weeks. If anyone thinks that is unique, then note that of the 12 Authorities in Essex that are 'Waste Collection Authorities', only 3 (one of which is Tendring) still collect weekly. Perhaps in a year's time that number will be down to 2.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 16th February I announced a one month consultation, inviting residents to comment on the plans, using the TDC web site or direct letters from the public. When the consultation closed we had received 483 responses, with a straight forward 255 (52.8%) of those unquestionably in favour of the proposals and many of those we count as being opposed are in fact only opposed to one aspect of the proposed service, such as the 27 people who wanted a wider range of recycling or the 28 who wanted arrangements for the elderly or disabled, a service we currently provide and intend to continue to provide to those people. Then there were 65 people we count as opposed just think the Bins are unsightly and are opposed for that reason.

Our local newspaper "Gazette on Line" ran a poll of its readers. At the close after over 1200 readers had replied, the result was 50% in favour and 50% opposed. I think we know that consultation polls in general, tend to be completed by those opposed, as those who are content do not bother to put themselves out by replying. With this in mind a 50/50 split is a good result. I offer my personal thanks to the Gazette for running their own poll and for the articles they published."

It was moved by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and:

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) having considered the positive outcome arising from the public consultation, agrees to exercise the option to extend the term of both existing contracts for waste, recycling and street cleansing for a further seven years;
- b) acknowledges that, to minimise the adverse impact on the long term financial forecast, variations to the current specification would be necessary;
- c) considers the proposed variations reflect best practice in the waste industry;
- d) delegates authority to the Corporate Director (Operational Services) and the Head of Governance and Legal Services to agree the final terms of the variations to the existing contracts; and
- e) agrees that the News Homes Bonus for 2018/19 of £1.333 million be set aside to support the implementation of the revised approach, which include the purchase of 60,000 wheeled bins.

167. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.1 - PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2018/2019 MUNICIPAL YEAR

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources (A.1), which sought Cabinet's agreement, as required by the Constitution, to submit for formal approval to the Annual Meeting of the Council a programme of meetings for the 2018/2019 municipal year.

Having considered the proposed Programme of Meetings:

It was proposed by Councillor Stock OBE, seconded by Councillor Fairley and:

RESOLVED that -

- a) the programme of meetings for the Council and Committees, as set out in the Appendix to item A.1 of the Report of the Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder, be approved and be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council for formal approval; and
- b) the proposed dates for Members' training on planning etc. matters be noted.

168. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS - REPORT OF THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER - A.2 - THE CLOSURE OF TWO SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES

Councillor Bucke had earlier declared an interest in this item insofar as he was a member of Frinton and Walton Town Council and that Council had an interest in the consultation.

There was submitted a detailed report and appendices by the Portfolio Holder for Housing (A.2), which informed Cabinet of the outcome of formal consultations in relation to the proposed closure of the Spendells and Honeycroft sheltered housing schemes and sought its agreement to close those schemes.

Further to Minute 108 (10.11.17), a statutory formal consultation with residents and with the respective Ward Members and the relevant Parish and Town Councils had been undertaken in respect of the proposed closure of two Sheltered Housing Schemes; Spendells House and Honeycroft.

It was reported that the consultation responses had indicated that there was an acceptance that both schemes were no longer viable or fit for purpose and that there was support from residents for closing them. Further detailed viability work had been undertaken considering the level of occupancy at both schemes and costs associated with running them, the outcome of which supported the proposals to close them.

Therefore, it was being proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Housing that the Spendells House and Honeycroft (not including the 8 bungalows) schemes should be closed which would provide estimated annual savings to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) of £0.139 million. Options in respect of the future for each site would be brought back to Cabinet once fully evaluated.

Cabinet was advised that securing those savings would be subject to the options around the longer term future of the sites which were planned to be presented to Members in the not too distant future. In this interim period there would be costs to maintain the properties albeit in a fully vacated state, but the cost would be lower by £0.003 million per month in this interim period compared to recent average occupancy.

Having considered the report and related appendices, it was moved by Councillor P B Honeywood, seconded by Councillor McWilliams, and **RESOLVED**:

(a) that Cabinet notes:

- (1) that the statutory formal consultation on closure of the schemes has been undertaken and that there have not been any objections to closure from residents; and
- (2) that the Spendells and Honeycroft Sheltered Housing schemes have proven to be unpopular for several years due to their shared facilities and dated design and that it is economically unviable for the Housing Revenue Account to continually subsidise the on-going and increasing revenue loss of rental income at the schemes.

(b) that Cabinet agrees that:

- (1) the Corporate Director (Operational Services) be authorised to close the schemes and to make the necessary arrangements to secure alternative accommodation for affected residents;
- (2) the Corporate Director (Operational Services) be also authorised to make the necessary site security arrangements and “mothball” both buildings until a decision on their future is made; and
- (3) further work be undertaken by Officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to explore the future use of both sites after detailed financial modelling within the Housing Revenue Account. Further that any consultation on proposed future options will include Frinton and Walton Town Council and Lawford Parish Council.

169. MANAGEMENT TEAM ITEMS

There were none on this occasion.

170. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Stock OBE, seconded by Councillor P B Honeywood and:

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Items 13 and 14 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

171. EXEMPT MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2018

The exempt minute of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on Friday 16 February 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Meeting was declared closed at 11.00 am

Chairman