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Council

19 May 2026

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY, 19TH MAY, 2026 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE PRINCES THEATRE, AT THE TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-
ON-SEA, CO15 1SE**

Present:	Councillors Oxley (Chairman), Guglielmi (Vice-Chairman), Alexander, Amos, Baker, Barrett, Barry, Bensilum, Calver, Casey, Chapman BEM, Codling, A Cossens, M Cossens, Davidson (in the Chair for items 1 - 4 (part)), Doyle, Fairley, Ferguson, Goldman, Griffiths, Harris, I Henderson, J Henderson, P Honeywood, S Honeywood, Keteca, Land, Morrison, Newton, Placey, Scott, Skeels, Smith, Steady, G Stephenson, M Stephenson, Sudra, Talbot, White and Wiggins
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Lisa Hastings (Corporate Director (Law & Governance) & Monitoring Officer), Keith Simmons (Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Ian Ford (Democratic Services Manager), William Lodge (Corporate Communications Manager) and Bethany Jones (Democratic Services Officer)
Also in Attendance:	Maddie Adger (Leadership Support Manager), Kai Aberdeen (Theatre General Manager (Technical)), Katie Koppenaal (Democratic Services Officer), Simon Kedge (Casual Technician (Princes Theatre)) and Abbie Nicholas (Apprentice (Member Support & Elections))

1. CHAIR

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair was occupied by the retiring Chairman, Councillor Bill Davidson, until his successor became entitled to act as Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bray, Bush, Davis, Fowler, Kotz, Platt and Thompson.

3. RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that details of his recent engagements had been circulated to them prior to the commencement of this meeting.

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and seconded by Councillor I J Henderson that Councillor Oxley be elected Chairman of the Council.

On being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Oxley be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

Members gave a round of applause to Councillor Oxley on her election.

Councillor Oxley was thereupon invested with the badge and Chain of Office and made a Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman then made a short speech along the following lines:-

- *thanked Members for their support;*
- *had done some amazing things in her life but this was a real honour;*
- *would announce her chosen charities at the next full Council meeting;*
- *Reverend David Lower would continue as her Vicar for the time being;*
- *gave a massive well done to Councillor Davidson and his wife, Tracy, an amazing double act;*
- *Councillor Davidson had been an amazing ambassador for the District with wonderful feedback from the public;*
- *would be a big act to follow;*
- *will miss pre-meets with Councillor Davidson and his repertoire of amazing stories.*

Members gave Councillor Oxley further rounds of applause.

Councillor Oxley then invested Councillor Davidson with the Past Chairman's Badge.

Councillor Davidson then responded with a statement along the following lines:-

- *truly been an honour and a privilege to represent this Council and the residents of Tendring District;*
- *grateful to those Councillors who placed their trust in him;*
- *sincere thanks and appreciation given to Ian Davidson, Lisa Hastings and Keith Simmons for their invaluable advice, guidance and continual support;*
- *heartfelt thanks to Reverend David Lower for his prayers at full Council meetings and for presiding at civic events such as the Remembrance Day Service;*
- *sincere thanks to Maddie and the entire Leadership Support Team for their professionalism, dedication and exceptional support;*
- *recognised Councillor Mark Stephenson and Councillor Ivan Henderson for their faith in him and for proposing him for the role of Chairman last year;*
- *gave proud respect to Councillor Casey for his dedication and commitment to Armed Forces Veterans and to the Clacton Royal British Legion;*
- *to all Councillors thanks for their support, encouragement and willingness to welcome him into their communities and afford him the privilege of seeing many previously unknown to him parts of the District and the dedicated volunteers and community groups;*
- *thanked Councillors and local businesses who had generously sponsored the Pride of Tendring Awards and who had supported his three chosen charities at the Pride of Tendring Awards which would make a real difference;*
- *must ensure that the District's voice is heard and its identity protected throughout the LGR transition;*
- *wished Councillor Oxley every success and a truly fantastic year but cautioned that it would go by very quickly.*

Members gave another round of applause.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor M E Stephenson) and Councillors Harris, Casey, I J Henderson, Ferguson, Guglielmi and Scott all congratulated Councillor Oxley on her election and paid tribute to Councillor Davidson and his year in office.

Members gave further rounds of applause.

Councillor Davidson responded with gratitude to the tributes made and Members gave a further round of applause.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and seconded by Councillor Chapman BEM that Councillor Guglielmi be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council.

It was then moved by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Bensilum that Councillor Wiggins be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The vote on the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Council resulted as follows:-

<u>Councillors Voting for Councillor Guglielmi</u>	<u>Councillors Voting for Councillor Wiggins</u>	<u>Councillors Abstaining</u>	<u>Councillors Absent</u>
Alexander	Barrett	None	Bray
Amos	Bensilum		Bush
Baker	Goldman		Davis
Barry	Scott		Everett
Calver	Wiggins		Fowler
Casey			Kotz
Chapman BEM			Platt
Codling			Thompson
A I Cossens			
M A Cossens			
Davidson			
Doyle			
Fairley			
Ferguson			
Griffiths			
Guglielmi			
Harris			
I J Henderson			
J Henderson			
P B Honeywood			
S A Honeywood			
Keteca			
Land			
Morrison			
Newton			
Oxley			
Placey			
Skeels			

Smith
Steady
G L Stephenson
M E Stephenson
Sudra
Talbot
White

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that, pursuant to Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Guglielmi be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

Members gave a round of applause to Councillor Guglielmi on his appointment.

Councillor Guglielmi was thereupon invested with the Vice-Chairman's Badge of Office and made a Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Guglielmi thanked Members for this great honour. He felt that Members across the Council always conducted themselves impeccably and he gave thanks to Lisa Hastings who had installed that ethos of mutual respect. He had had a flavour of this role previously when his wife Val, had been Chairman of the Council. He agreed that you do get to go to places that you would never go otherwise. It's an honour to attend such community gatherings and acknowledged that the whole county relied on voluntary service to deliver the services residents depended upon. He undertook to discharge his duties to the best of his abilities for the best possible outcome.

Members then gave a further round of applause.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

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

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

8. ANNUAL STATE OF THE TENDRING DISTRICT STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council made the annual State of the Tendring District Statement as follows:-

"Good evening, Chairman, and fellow Councillors.

I want to start tonight with a simple question.

What does it actually feel like to live in Tendring right now?

Not the statistics. Not the strategies. Just the honest, everyday experience of being a resident in this District.

That is what this Council exists for. Not the paperwork, not the processes, not the politics. The people. And everything I want to say tonight comes back to that.

I should say at the outset that there is so much happening across this District that no ten minute speech could ever do it full justice. Tonight is a snapshot, not the whole picture. It is my tradition to keep this address focused and relatively brief, and I intend to do that again this evening.

First, let me say. This Council's financial position remains sound. I set that out in detail in February's budget speech, and I am pleased to confirm to this chamber tonight that that remains the case. That is why you will not hear much more about finances this evening. The position is secure, and that gives us the platform to get on with the job.

A job that, like every council across the country, we are doing under real pressure. Rising demand, shrinking resources, genuine uncertainty about the future. We are not immune to any of that. What I can tell you is that we have refused to hide behind it. We have kept going. We have kept delivering. And Tendring is in a stronger place because of it.

Let me tell you what that looks like in practice.

It looks like families who nearly lost their homes, but did not, because we reached them in time. Our new Housing Strategy is built on one belief: that getting to people early, before a difficult situation becomes a crisis, is both the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. It saves lives from unravelling. It saves money. It keeps communities stable.

It looks like every household in this District getting a better waste service, not a worse one. We were expected by many to cut collections to three weekly. We did not. We listened to residents, kept the two weekly cycle, and added kerbside glass collections on top. That is what listening looks like.

It looks like town centres with working CCTV, streets that feel safer, and crime levels that are coming down. We completed our CCTV upgrade in Clacton this year and the results are already being felt.

It looks like people getting out more. Moving more. Living better. Activity levels across Tendring have risen by more than seven per cent to a record high, while inactivity has fallen to its lowest level ever. We are now in line with the national average, having lagged behind for years. The conditions we have created, the facilities we have invested in, the opportunities we have opened up, they are part of that story.

It looks like backing Career Track, our own apprenticeship scheme, nearly 40 years old, and rated good by Ofsted. Because we believe in our young people, and in growing the talent this District needs from within.

It looks like a theatre that turned 95 this year and is more alive than ever. Record audiences. National recognition. Young people on the stage performing Chitty Chitty Bang Bang to a standing ovation. The Princes Theatre is not just a building. It is a beating heart in this community. Looking at culture more widely, the Arts Council England has invested £750,000 into our Creative People and Places partnership. They believe in what Tendring has to offer. And so do I.

It looks like town centres being transformed. In Clacton, in Jaywick Sands, in Harwich. Shopfronts being restored, libraries reopening, derelict sites being brought back to life. These are not grand gestures. They are steady, determined work. The kind that does

not always make headlines but changes how a place feels to walk through.

It looks like a visitor economy which, by my estimation, is worth close to half a billion pounds a year, supporting one in every five jobs in this District. The Clacton Airshow, the largest free event in Essex, brings hundreds of thousands of people through our doors every year. Tourism is not “a nice to have”. It is a cornerstone of this District’s economy, and we treat it as such.

It looks like a coastline we are proud of and determined to protect. Four Blue Flags. Seven Seaside Awards. Improvements to Brightlingsea promenade and investment around the Naze in Walton. Water quality improving along our coast. And on the National Grid pylon scheme, let me be plain. We oppose it. We have always opposed it. We will not stop opposing it.

It looks like a new Urgent Treatment Centre nearing completion at Clacton Hospital, backed by two million pounds of this Council’s money, because we believe residents deserve better healthcare access and we put our money where our mouth is.

It looks like the Careline service, a lifeline for so many of the most vulnerable residents, successfully moved to Colchester Helpline this year, with minimal disruption, and secured for the future.

And it looks like the groundwork being laid for Tendring’s future. The Garden Community. The largest planning application ever submitted in the history of Essex. Not just homes, communities built properly, with the infrastructure and services that people actually need. The Local Plan. The A120. Freeport. These are not abstract ambitions. They are the foundations of what Tendring becomes over the next twenty years.

And now onto Local Government Reorganisation.

I am not going to pretend this is simple. It is not a decision we made. The direction has been set by government and it is our job to respond to it well, to protect our residents throughout the process, and to make sure Tendring’s voice is heard clearly at every stage and as our mantra has always been, put Tendring in the best possible place.

What I will not allow is for uncertainty about the future to become an excuse for standing still in the present. Residents will need us tomorrow just as much as they need us today. For their homes, their streets, their leisure, their safety, their support. That responsibility does not pause. Neither do we.

Chairman, before I close, I want to say something to our Officers and staff.

This has been a demanding year. The work that happens behind every decision in this chamber, the quiet, unglamorous, essential work of running a council, is carried out by people who care deeply about this District. I am grateful for every one of them and thank them for their tireless efforts.

I also want to put on record my thanks to my portfolio holders. These are people who do not just manage their briefs, they too, care deeply about them; they fight for them. That passion makes a real difference, and this administration is stronger for it.

We have done good work this year. There is more to do. And I for one cannot wait to get on with it.

Thank you Chairman."

Councillors P B Honeywood, M A Cossens, Harris, Fairley, Baker and Calver spoke in the debate on the Leader's statement.

Council noted the foregoing.

9. SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES ETC.

Council formally noted the size of membership of the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees as follows:-

<u>Committee/Sub-Committee</u>	<u>No. of Members</u>
Audit Committee	(7)
Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee	(9)
Human Resources & Council Tax Committee	(7)
Licensing and Registration Committee	(10)
Planning Committee	(9)
Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee	(9)
Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee	(9)
Standards Committee	(7)
Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee	(5)
TCB Garden Community Joint Committee	(3)
Town & Parish Councils Standards Sub-Committee	(3)

Council was aware that the membership of the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee included one Executive member who was appointed by the Leader of the Council.

10. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.1 - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES TO THE POLITICAL GROUPS FORMED ON TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES ETC. FOR THE 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Council considered a comprehensive report prepared by Officers, which detailed the legislative requirements, principles and necessary procedural steps, regarding the allocation to the political groups formed on Tendring District Council of seats on those bodies that were subject to the Rules of Political Proportionality (i.e. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

Council also considered a Schedule of Members that it was proposed by political Group Leaders should serve on each of the Council's bodies, which were subject to the Rules of Political Proportionality (Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

Members were aware that there were unallocated seats on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee and the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which Full Council would need to consider.

Having duly considered the information contained in the report and the appendix thereto:-

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

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the review of the allocation of places on relevant Committees, as set out in Table 2 above in so far as it sets out the total number of seats on all those Committees to be allocated to political groups represented on the Council, (principle (c) of the “Principles”), be approved;
- (b) subject to resolution (c) below, the number of seats on each relevant Committee to be allocated to political groups such that, for each group, their proportion of seats on individual Committees is proportionate to their overall membership on the Council (principles (c) and (d) of the “Principles”) be as set out in Table 9 below:

Table 9

Committee /Sub-Committee	Total Seats on Body	Conservative	Independents	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Tendring Independents	Reform UK
Audit Committee	7	2	1	1	0	2	1
Community Leadership O & S Committee	9	2*	1	1	2*	2	1
Human Resources & Council Tax Committee	7	2	1	1	0	2	1
Licensing & Registration Committee	10	3	1*	2*	1	2	1
Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee	5	1	1*	1*	0	1	1
Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee	9	2	1*	1*	1	2	1
Planning Committee	9	2	1	1	1	2	2
Resources and Services O & S Committee	9	2	1	1	1	2	1
Standards Committee	7	2*	1	1	0*	2	1
Town & Parish Councils Standards Sub-Committee	3	1	0	0	0	1	1

TCB Garden Community Joint Committee	2 (non-executive members)	2	0	0	0	0	0
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(c) the following changes to the allocations set out in Table 9 above be approved (the relevant allocations are shown ‘*’ in Table 9 above):

- (1) the Labour Group having no seats on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee (instead of one), three seats on the Licensing & Registration Committee (instead of two) and two seats on the Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee (instead of one);
- (2) the Independent Group having two seats on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee (instead of one), no seats on the Licensing & Registration Committee (instead of one) and no seats on the Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee (instead of one);
- (3) the Liberal Democrats Group having one seat on the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee (instead of two) and one seat on the Standards Committee (instead of none); and
- (4) the Conservative Group having three seats on the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee (instead of two) and one seat on the Standards Committee (instead of two).

[Resolution (c) received a nemine contradicente vote.]

(d) in so far as it reflects the earlier decisions on this matter, the appointment of Members to serve on the relevant Committees et cetera, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report (A.1) be endorsed and approved.

It was then moved by Councillor Calver and seconded by Councillor Baker that Councillor Everett be appointed to fill the unallocated seat on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee.

It was then moved by Councillor P B Honeywood and seconded by Councillor Amos that Councillor Land be appointed to fill the unallocated seat on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee.

The vote on the appointment to the unallocated seat on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee resulted as follows:-

<u>Councillors Voting for Councillor Land</u>	<u>Councillors Voting for Councillor Everett</u>	<u>Councillors Abstaining</u>	<u>Councillors Absent</u>
Alexander Amos Barrett Bensilum Codling A I Cossens	Baker Barry Calver Casey Chapman BEM Davidson	None	Bray Bush Davis Everett Fowler Kotz

M A Cossens	Doyle	Platt
Fairley	Goldman	Thompson
Ferguson	I J Henderson	
Griffiths	J Henderson	
Guglielmi	Morrison	
Harris	Newton	
P B Honeywood	Oxley	
S A Honeywood	Placey	
Keteca	Scott	
Land	Smith	
Skeels	Steady	
	G L Stephenson	
	M E Stephenson	
	Sudra	
	Talbot	
	White	
	Wiggins	

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Everett be appointed to serve on the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

It was then moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Doyle and:-

RESOLVED that Councillor Casey be appointed to serve on the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

11. ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES ETC. FOR THE 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

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

RESOLVED that the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the following Committees and Sub-Committee be and are elected respectively for the 2026/2027 municipal year as follows:

<u>Committee/Sub-Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>
Audit	Sudra	Steady
Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny	Steady	Barrett
Human Resources & Council Tax	Chapman	Calver
Licensing and Registration	J Henderson	Wiggins
Planning	Fowler	White
Planning Policy & Local Plan	Guglielmi	M Cossens
Standards	Wiggins	Talbot
Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee	J Henderson	Casey

It was then moved by Councillor Amos, seconded by Councillor Fairley and:-

RESOLVED that Councillor P B Honeywood be elected Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

It was then moved by Councillor P B Honeywood and seconded by Councillor Fairley and:-

RESOLVED that Councillor Amos be elected Vice-Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

12. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - A.2 - THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Annual Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer (A.2) which requested Members to –

- (1) formally approve the proposed changes to Council Procedure Rule 34.5 (Substitute Members of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee); and
- (2) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (xi), formally reaffirm the Council's current Constitution (as duly amended).

It was reported that, at its formal meeting held on 20 March 2026 (minute 124 referred), Cabinet had considered the recommendation made to it by the Licensing and Registration Committee in relation to the cessation of the requirement for a fourth (or Standby) Member at meetings of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee in the light of recent operational experiences.

Cabinet had resolved: *“that it is recommended to Full Council that Council Procedure Rule 34.5 be amended to remove the requirement for a fourth (or Standby) Member to be present at every meeting of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee.”*

In addition, Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (xi) required the annual meeting of the Council to reaffirm the Council's Constitution.

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

RESOLVED that –

- (a) Part 4 (Council Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the proposed changes to Council Procedure Rule 34.5, as set out in the Appendix attached hereto this report (A.2); and
- (b) the Council's Constitution, as duly amended, be reaffirmed.

13. REFERENCE FROM CABINET - A.3 - TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS: 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Annual Council considered a proposed timetable of meetings of the Council and its Committees for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

The timetable of meetings also included dates for All Members' Briefings and Councillor Development sessions, to assist Members in keeping their diaries up to date.

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

RESOLVED that -

- (a) the timetable of meetings of the Council and its Committees, as set out in the Appendix to item A.3 of the Reference from Cabinet, be approved; and
- (b) the proposed dates for Cabinet meetings, All Members' Briefings and Councillor Development sessions et cetera be noted.

14. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON/AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (xiii) the Council was requested to appoint up to four Members, with each Member being a Member Authority Representative to serve on/at the General Assembly of the Local Government Association. Council was aware that two of the Members appointed must be the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council.

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

RESOLVED that, in addition to the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Guglielmi be appointed to represent Tendring District Council as Member Authority Representatives at the General Assembly of the Local Government Association.

The Meeting was declared closed at 9.26 pm

Chairman