**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 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, Bray (except items 52 - 58 (part)), Bush, Calver, Casey, Chapman BEM, Codling, A Cossens, M Cossens, Davidson, Davis, Everett, Fairley, Ferguson, Goldman, Griffiths, Harris (except items 52 - 58 (part)), I Henderson, J Henderson, P Honeywood, S Honeywood, Keteca, Kotz, Land, Morrison, Newton, Placey, Scott, Skeels Jnr., Smith, Steady, G Stephenson, M Stephenson, Talbot, Thompson, White and Wiggins
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Lisa Hastings (Corporate Director (Law & Governance) & Monitoring Officer), Richard Barrett (Corporate Director (Finance and IT) & Section 151 Officer), Keith Simmons (Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Maddie Adger (Leadership Support Manager), Katie Moss (Democratic Services Officer) and Rebecca Catchpole (Leadership Support Officer)
Also in Attendance:	James Dwan (Communications Officer)

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Doyle, Fowler, Platt and Sudra.

Councillor Bush noted that Councillors Bray and Harris would be in attendance but had been running late to the meeting.

53. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 1 September 2026 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members on this occasion.

55. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman (Councillor Oxley) informed Members that she had not circulated a written list of the civic engagements she had attended, as she wished to provide an update verbally. She reported that, since August, she had attended the Little Traders Market, an event at the Brotherhood Hall involving young entrepreneurs, and the Tendring Growth Business Awards. In relation to the latter, the Chairman commended the Council for its work throughout the year in supporting external organisations.

The Chairman also advised Members that she had recently attended the opening of the new Police Station in Dovercourt and had held a Charity Golf Day, which had raised £4,000 for her chosen charities.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Remembrance Day Service would be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, 8 November at 10.30 a.m., followed by a procession to the Memorial Gardens.

56. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

57. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

58. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Councillor Scott informed Members that he had recently accompanied the Chief Executive of Arts Council England, Darren Henley, on a visit to a number of iconic locations in Harwich, including its newly refurbished library. He expressed his thanks to Mr Henley and his staff for their continued support of Tendring District Council and the wider District in relation to the arts and expressed the hope that Mr Henley would visit the area again in the future.

During this point, Councillors Bray and Harris joined the meeting.

Councillor Scott further informed Members that he had recently visited Biberach, Germany, one of the District's official twin towns, as part of its three-week celebration of Britain. He advised that the following year would mark 60 years of town twinning and that he, together with other Councillors, would be invited to participate in the associated celebrations.

Councillor Scott added that, during his visit to Biberach, he had conveyed the best wishes and thanks of the Chairman of the Council to the Mayor.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M. E. Stephenson, informed Members that, following Councillor Scott's visit to Harwich, a letter had been received from Darren Henley in which he commended Councillor Scott's leadership in promoting the arts within the District. Mr Henley had also conveyed his thanks to Councillor Scott and the Council's Officers for their work and support.

Tendring4Growth Business Fortnight

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism (Councillor I J Henderson) made the following statement:-

"Chairman,

I would like to take a few moments to update Council on the success of this year's Tendring4Growth Business Fortnight.

During the fortnight, businesses, entrepreneurs, jobseekers, training providers and partner organisations have come together through a programme of events focused on supporting economic growth across out district.

The fortnight included workshops on procurement, business start-ups, funding opportunities, human resources, content creation and event planning. It has provided practical advice and support to established businesses and those looking to take their first steps as entrepreneurs. Though these events, local businesses have had the opportunity to learn, share experiences, build new connections and access expert support.

I particularly enjoyed the Championing Startups event run by Colbea at the Walton and Frinton Yacht Club. The event bought together 20 small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to hear some inspiring local success stories. We heard from young entrepreneur Dan Loveless, who at just 21 years old runs Forge Fitness in Little Bentley, alongside Abbie Harley, founder of the marketing and branding agency JA Social Suite, and Jamie Spears of Rebel Money, who has recently expanded by taking on two high street units in Dovercourt. The event wrapped up with a panel discussion and Q&A, where speakers shared their experiences and discussed why Tendring is such a great place to start and grow a business. It was encouraging to hear first-hand how local entrepreneurs are finding opportunities here and investing in our communities.

I would also like to highlight the Tendring Jobs and Skills Fair, which once again bought together employers, training providers and residents looking for new opportunities. There was a real buzz of energy in the Princes Theatre with just under 1,000 residents attending and 53 businesses on hand to talk about jobs, skills and career pathways available. On the day there were 135 live vacancies, opportunities with the RAF, Army, Royal Navy, around 70 training opportunities including teacher training, apprenticeships, voluntary roles and a wide range of skills development programmes.

It was great to speak with both employers and job seekers throughout the day. I also had chance to try some of the activities on offer, including a reaction test involving catching falling sticks. I'm happy to say I passed with flying colours, albeit at the second attempt. Clearly, all that multitasking as Councillors has its benefits!

The fortnight concluded with the Tendring4Growth Business Awards, where the Council celebrated the innovation, commitment and enthusiasm that exists across our district from businesses. I was very sorry to miss the evening as I was unwell – but I heard great things from the Members who attended about the breadth of businesses celebrated across Tendring. I was delighted to hear about so many people getting involved. We had 3,897 nominations for our People's Choice Award, which was a new category for 2026 and was won by Precision Optics Eyewear. I would also like to thank Councillor Mark Stephenson for stepping in at short notice close to the event.

I would like to thank the Economic Growth Team. The fortnight would not have been such a success without their energy, enthusiasm and pride. I would also like to thank our partners, sponsors, speakers and exhibitors and all those businesses and residents who took part. Their contribution has helped make this year's Business Fortnight another great success.

Tendring has ambitious businesses, talented people and strong partnerships. Tendring4Growth continues to bring those strengths together, helping to support and to celebrate our thriving businesses. It was a great success.

Thank you."

59. PETITIONS TO COUNCIL - REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CORPORATE POLICY & SUPPORT) - A.1 - E-PETITION: "WHEELIE BINS FOR RECYCLING"

Council was informed that, in accordance with the Council's approved scheme for dealing with petitions, an e-petition had been submitted by Sharon Tyler on 16 September 2026. The wording of that e-petition was as follows:

"We want TDC to provide wheelie bins for recycling rather than boxes."

That e-petition had been validated and was 'live' on the Council's website. The e-petition would run until 31 January 2027, following which further reports would be submitted to Members, as appropriate and necessary, in accordance with the provisions of the Council's approved scheme for dealing with petitions.

Council noted the foregoing.

60. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.1

Subject to the required notice being given, members of the public could ask questions of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

It was reported that, on this occasion, no such questions on notice had been submitted.

61. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - A.2 - EXECUTIVE DECISION(S) TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

Council considered a report of the Leader of the Council (A.2) that, in accordance with the requirements of Rule 16.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and/or Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and/or Rule 6(b) of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, notified Members of recent Executive Decision(s) taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and/or Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Corporate Insurance Arrangements: Transitional Modification

It was reported that, on 30 September 2026, in view of the urgency of the issue concerned, and in accordance with Rule 18(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-in and Urgency), the Corporate Director (Finance & IT), acting on the Leader of the Council's behalf, sought and subsequently obtained the Chairman of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consent, that the Leader's urgent decision, on behalf of the Cabinet relating to the Council's corporate insurance arrangements would be exempted from the call-in procedure.

The Leader's decision was as follows:-

"On behalf of the Cabinet and using special urgency powers, in accordance with Parts 3 and 5.8, of the Council's Constitution, the Leader of the Council hereby formally:

a) acknowledges the applicability and criteria set out within of Section 72(1)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 to the decision being proposed;

b) notes and acknowledges that the information set out within the Officer's report and Appendix thereto successfully demonstrates its applicability to the proposal to modify the Council's existing insurance arrangements;

c) agrees the proposed modification to extend for a period of one year (from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027), the Council's existing corporate insurance arrangements;

d) authorises the Corporate Director (Finance and IT) to make the necessary arrangements to implement the proposals set out within the Officer report and its Appendix including the requirement to undertake a full competitive procurement exercise as soon as reasonably practicable once the future requirement and timetable are sufficiently clear; and

e) authorises publication of any contract modification notice that may be required by the Public Contract / Procurement Regulations."

It had been felt that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would have seriously prejudiced the Council's and the public's interest for the following reasons:-

"The Council would not have had in place secure uninterrupted corporate insurance cover from 1 October 2026, and the Council must maintain appropriate insurance protection for its assets, liabilities, employees and for operational reasons."

It was moved by Councillor M Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

62. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Committees, as circulated, be received and noted:-

(a) Planning Policy & Local Plan of Tuesday 25 August 2026; and

(b) Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny of Tuesday 15 September 2026.

63. MOTION TO COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 - ESTABLISHING THE FINANCIAL COST TO THIS COUNCIL IN RESPONDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PROGRAMME TO DATE PLUS, INTER ALIA, A CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REIMBURSE THIS COUNCIL FOR ALL COSTS INCURRED AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PROCESS

Council had before it the following motion, notice of which had been given by Councillor P B Honeywood pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12:-

"Council notes that:

- *in the face of potentially unlawful decision making, and allegations of "gerrymandering" the Government has announced a review of Local Government Reorganisation, with decisions in some areas withdrawn and implementation work elsewhere paused;*
- *Tendring District Council (TDC), like other Councils across the country have already spent significant amounts of money and officer time preparing for Local Government Reorganisation at the Government's request;*
- *much of this work has been undertaken because councils were working to deadlines and requirements set by Government.*

Council believes that:

- *Tendring taxpayers should not be left to pick up the bill for a complex bureaucratic process which the Government has now chosen to pause;*
- *at a time when this Council's finances are already under enormous pressure, every pound unnecessarily spent on Local Government Reorganisation is a pound which cannot be spent on the services our residents rely on communities across our District;*
- *it should be democratically elected local councils, in consultation with local residents, to decide on whether to put forward (locally led) proposals for restructuring and that they should not be imposed by Whitehall as a requirement for local government funding or devolution deals.*

Council therefore resolves to:

- *request that Cabinet receives information from the Leader, in his capacity as the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, within his next financial budget performance report, supported by the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer, that establishes the total direct and indirect costs to TDC in responding to the Government's Local Government Reorganisation programme to date, as this will enable the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to perform its role in relation to scrutinising the effective use of the Council's resources, on behalf of the Council;*
- *request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to –*

  - *make it clear that local taxpayers should not be expected to pay for the Government's LGR "U-turn";*
  - *call on the Government to reimburse this Council for all costs incurred as a direct result of the Local Government Reorganisation process;*
  - *call on the Government to provide clear answers about the future of Local Government Reorganisation before councils are expected to spend any more taxpayers' money on the process; and*
  - *make clear this Council's view that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must be involved in reviewing any local government boundary, ward and council size proposals submitted to the Secretary of State, as part of any LGR related process, by councils in due course."*

At the time that the agenda had been published it had been confirmed that the statutory officers did not need to provide any professional advice in relation to this motion and that therefore an Advisory Note pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.5 had not needed to be produced.

Councillor P B Honeywood formally moved the motion, and Councillor Fairley formally seconded the motion.

In accordance with provisions of Council Procedure 12.6 Councillor P B Honeywood then explained the purpose of the Motion.

Councillor M E Stephenson then moved, and Councillor I J Henderson seconded that Councillor Honeywood's motion be amended to read as follows:-

"Council notes that:

- *in the face of potentially unlawful decision making, the Government has announced a review of Local Government Reorganisation, with decisions in some areas withdrawn, which includes Greater Essex, and implementation work elsewhere paused;*
- *Tendring District Council (TDC), like other Councils across the country have already committed resources (money and officer time) preparing for Local Government Reorganisation at the Government's request (following Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend Unitary Council's decision to request inclusion on the Devolution Priority Programme, which included LGR);*
- *much of this work has been undertaken because councils were working to deadlines and requirements set by Government.*

Council believes that:

- *Tendring taxpayers should not be left to pick up the bill for a complex bureaucratic process which the Government has now chosen to pause;*
- *at a time when this Council's resources are already under enormous pressure, every pound unnecessarily spent on Local Government Reorganisation is a pound which cannot be spent on the services our residents rely on communities across our District;*
- *partnership working across North East Essex with Braintree District Council, Colchester City Council and Essex County Council, acted in good faith upon the Government's LGR policy, working towards preparing for the government's timetable to ensure continuity of services and best value for our communities.*
- *it should be democratically elected local councils, in consultation with local residents, to decide on proposals for the future of Tendring District Council.*

Council therefore resolves to:

- *note the Leader's agreement that Cabinet receives information from the Leader, in his capacity as the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, within his next financial budget performance report, supported by the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer, that establishes the financial and resource implications total to TDC in responding to the Government's Local Government Reorganisation programme to date.*

- *note all financial budget performance reports are available to the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to perform its role in relation to scrutinising the effective use of the Council's resources, on behalf of the Council;*
- *note that the above-mentioned report to Cabinet will cover the following points, before the Leader of the Council will determine the content of any written communication to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to –*

  - *that local taxpayers should not be expected to pay for the changes made to the LGR programme and timetable by the Government.*
  - *the Government reimburse this Councils for all costs incurred as a direct result of the Local Government Reorganisation process depending upon the outcome of its 'rapid review;*
  - *the Government to provide clear answers about the future of Local Government Reorganisation before councils are expected to spend any more taxpayers' money and/or resources on the process; an*
  - *this Council's view that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must be involved in reviewing any local government boundary, ward and council size proposals submitted to the Secretary of State, as part of any LGR related process, by councils in due course."*

The mover of the motion (Councillor P B Honeywood) and the seconder of the motion (Councillor Fairley) duly gave their consent to the alteration, as required by Council Procedure Rule 16.6(a) (Alteration of Motion).

In accordance with provisions of Council Procedure 12.6 Councillor M E Stephenson then explained the purpose of the alteration and Council proceeded to debate.

Councillors Harris, Fairley, I J Henderson and P B Honeywood spoke during the debate on this matter.

Councillor Honeywood's motion, as duly altered, on being put to the vote was declared **CARRIED**.

64. JOINT REPORT OF THE CABINET AND THE MONITORING OFFICER - A.3 - AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION - PLANNING COMMITTEES AND THE NATIONAL SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF PLANNING AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

It was reported that Cabinet, at its meeting held on 25 September 2026 (minute 37 referred), had considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance (A.1) that had requested Cabinet to approve the recommended changes to the Constitution for referral onto Full Council following a fundamental review undertaken by Officers of the delegated powers relating to planning matters following the introduction of the Government's new National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions and associated legislation. The main proposals had covered miscellaneous amendments to the Scheme of Delegated Powers (Part 3) and the Codes and Protocols (Part 6) to ensure that the Council's Constitution remained effective, efficient and consistent at an operational level and complied with the new legislation.

Cabinet had been informed at that meeting that the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 ("the 2026 Regulations"), which would come into force on 31st October 2026, related to the

national scheme of delegation of planning functions and the size of planning committees. Those Regulations required relevant local planning authorities ("LPAs") in England (as defined by section 319ZZF(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act ("TCPA 1990")) to make arrangements for specified planning functions to be discharged by committees (including sub-committees) or by officers.

In making and operating arrangements under those Regulations, section 319ZZE(4) and (5) of the TCPA 1990 required LPAs to have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Such (draft) guidance had been issued by the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government on 1st June 2026, and along with the 2026 Regulations, had been taken into account in producing the proposals.

It had been reported to Cabinet that the Government's aim behind the national scheme of delegation was *"to ensure that there is greater clarity and consistency about the role of planning committees in planning decision making. Committees should focus on the key proposals that matter to an area, enabling other, often more minor and technical, decisions to be made by planning officers".*

The 2026 Regulations set out types of applications where decisions:

- must be delegated to officers in all cases as set out in Schedule 1; and
- were presumed to be delegated to officers unless:
  - they met at least one of the criteria in regulation 5(2); or
  - the application was made by, or on behalf of, a local authority, a member or officer of that local authority or an entity owned or controlled by the authority or any of its members or officers (regulation 6); and
  - the nominated officer and nominated member of the planning committee agreed that the application should be referred to a planning committee for its determination.

Cabinet had been made aware that where a planning function was not listed in either Schedule 1 or 2, it was for the LPA to decide whether it should be delegated to an officer or referred to a committee for a decision, and for this reason a local protocol complying with the legal framework should be adopted.

Cabinet had recalled at their meeting that Part 3 of the Council's Constitution provided the Responsibility of Functions - Scheme of Delegated Powers, with the determination of planning applications being contained within Schedule 2 – non-executive functions. Currently, all planning (including all prior approval applications), enforcement, building control and conservation matters were delegated to the Corporate Director (Planning & Community) **except** in relation to the determination of certain planning applications as detailed within Part 3.15-3.18, for determination by the Committee. The changes required to comply with the legislation had been set out in Appendix A to the Portfolio Holder's report to Cabinet.

Cabinet had been advised that, under the national scheme of delegation, current practices set out in local authority constitutions must be reviewed to ensure compliance with the legislation and the most fundamental change for this Council would be the removal of the power for Ward councillors to require cases to be referred to for committee consideration, as this would no longer be possible. Local authorities would need to amend their constitutions to align with the national scheme of delegation and

further information had been contained within the Protocol, as had been set out in Appendix B to the Portfolio Holder's report.

Having considered the fundamental review undertaken by Officers of the delegated powers relating to planning matters to comply with the new legislation implementing the new national scheme of delegation, and the recommended changes to the Constitution arising therefrom, and to enable those recommendations to be submitted to the Full Council for formal approval and adoption, Cabinet had resolved:-

"that Cabinet –

(a) notes the contents of the report and the impact of the Government's National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions and the requirements to amend the Council's Constitution to ensure compliance with the new legislation coming into force with effect from 31st October 2026; and

*(b) formally **RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL** that:*

(i) Part 3 (Scheme of Delegated Powers – Planning Committee) of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the proposed changes, as set out in Appendix A attached hereto this report;

(ii) Part 6 (Codes and Protocols) of the Council's Constitution be amended to incorporate the new "Protocol for the Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions", as set out in Appendix B attached hereto this report, together with the consequential deletion of the Members' Referral Scheme for Planning Applications;

(iii) these changes come into effect on 31st October 2026; and

(iv) authority to amend the Protocol, as set out in Appendix B, be delegated to the Corporate Director (Planning and Community), in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Monitoring Officer, to reflect any minor alterations considered necessary through the implementation of the new national scheme and best practice."

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson that:-

(a) Part 3 (Scheme of Delegated Powers – Planning Committee) of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the proposed changes, as set out in Appendix A attached hereto this report (A.3);

(b) Part 6 (Codes and Protocols) of the Council's Constitution be amended to incorporate the new "Protocol for the Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions", as set out in Appendix B attached hereto this report (A.3), together with the consequential deletion of the Members' Referral Scheme for Planning Applications;

(c) these changes come into effect on 31st October 2026; and

(d) authority to amend the Protocol, as set out in Appendix B, be delegated to the Corporate Director (Planning and Community), in consultation with the Chairman of

the Planning Committee and the Monitoring Officer, to reflect any minor alterations considered necessary through the implementation of the new national scheme and best practice.

Councillor Alexander then moved, and Councillor Griffiths seconded, that Councillor Stephenson's motion be amended to read as follows:-

"That Council, before deciding upon the recommendations from Cabinet, formally notes that:

(i) The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 has introduced, as a bill by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with measures to reform planning committees and designed to liberalise planning rules.

(ii) Before the Bill received Royal Assent and became new legislation, the Local Government Association wrote to ministers to express reservations about these proposals.

Council believes that:

(iii) The changes being imposed by a national scheme will lead to the vast majority of planning decisions being made with no input from Councillors.

(iv) It is the democratic role of councillors to be involved in the decision-making process of planning applications.

(v) Removing the ability for councillors to discuss, debate or vote on key developments in their localities could erode public trust in the planning system and local government itself.

Council resolves:

(vi) That the Leader of the Council, on behalf of Tendring District Council, writes to Angela Rayner the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, outlining its opposition to this legislation and the removal of councillor input into matters which impacts it local community.

(vii) That following 3 months of the new national scheme of delegation being operational, the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee undertakes a review into the outcome of Councillors, requesting to express views on planning applications related to their ward and how many of those have been referred to the Planning Committee.

(viii) All District Councillors should have the opportunity for training to equip them with the knowledge and understanding on how to raise matters impacting their wards and local communities and the criteria for referrals to planning committees; and

(ix) Despite its opposition and noting the legislative requirement to amend the District Council's Constitution to meet the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions.

Council also formally approves that: -

(x) Part 3 (Scheme of Delegated Powers – Planning Committee) of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the proposed changes, as set out in Appendix A attached hereto this report;

(xi) Part 6 (Codes and Protocols) of the Council's Constitution be amended to incorporate the new "Protocol for the Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions", as set out in Appendix B attached hereto this report, together with the consequential deletion of the Members' Referral Scheme for Planning Applications;

(xii) these changes come into effect on 31st October 2026; and

(xiii) authority to amend the Protocol, as set out in Appendix B, be delegated to the Corporate Director (Planning and Community), in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Monitoring Officer, to reflect any minor alterations considered necessary through the implementation of the new national scheme and best practice."

Councillor Alexander then explained the purpose of the amendment.

The mover of the motion (Councillor M E Stephenson) duly gave his consent to the alteration, as required by Council Procedure Rule 16.6(b).

Councillors Bray, Talbot, P B Honeywood, Scott, Baker and M E Stephenson spoke during the debate on Councillor Stephenson's motion, as duly altered.

During the debate, Councillor M E Stephenson clarified, for the record, that Members' comments were not intended to cast any aspersions on the Council's hard-working, fair-minded and professional Planning Officers.

The motion, as duly altered, on being put to the vote, was declared **CARRIED**.

65. REFERENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - A.4 - PARISH COUNCILS FOR CLACTON-ON-SEA, HOLLAND-ON-SEA, AND WEST CLACTON & JAYWICK SANDS - COMMENCEMENT DATE & INITIAL TERMS OF OFFICE

Council considered a reference report (and its addendum) that set out the recommendations made to it by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to:-

(1) the commencement date for the Parish Councils for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands; and

(2) the initial term of office of Parish Councillors elected to the Parish Councils for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands.

It was reported that the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee ("the Committee"), at its meeting held on 6 October 2026, had considered a report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) (A.1) which had invited the Committee

to recommend a change in the implementation date of new Parish Councils for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands; and a subsequent change to the initial term of Councillors elected to them.

The reasoning for this item being submitted to the Committee had been that the UK Government had announced on 7 September 2026 that it was withdrawing its decision of 25 March 2026 to implement Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex, pending a review; and that the existing electoral cycle would be restored, with elections to District and existing Parish Councils on 6 May 2027.

The UK Government's decision not to proceed with its plans for changes to principal Councils (Districts, County and Unitaries) in Essex from 1 April 2028 (with elections to Shadow Authorities in May 2027) had provided an opportunity to spend more time on developing the plans for the initial year of those Parish Councils and to engage more with residents on those plans. Whilst delivery of the new Parishes on 1 April 2027 was still achievable and Council Officers, with the Essex Association of Local Councils, had been working to that date, it had been clear that a longer lead in time for the new Parishes and their Parish Councils would be beneficial. It had been on this basis that the recommended revised commencement date of 1 April 2028 had been submitted for consideration by the Committee (to recommend on to Full Council)

Members recalled that, as part of its overall Community Governance Review decisions for the three Parishes (and their Parish Councils), Full Council had approved a five (5) year initial term of office for the new Parish Councillors. This had been on the basis at the time that all Parish Councillors elected in the District in 2027 would serve for a five (5) year term. This change had been intended through a UK Government Structural Change Order as part of Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex, which was now under review. With that process paused, and a one year later commencement date for the three Parishes (and their Parish Councils), that initial term of office should be three (3) years. This would then align the second and subsequent elections to the new Parish Councils with the scheduled elections for all other parish Councils in the District.

Having duly considered the Assistant Director's report the Committee had formally resolved unanimously:-

(1) That, based on the information set out in this report, the Committee recommends to Full Council on 13 October 2026 that the decisions of Full Council on 2 June 2026 following the Community Governance Review for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands be amended as follows:

a) the new Parishes commence on 1 April 2028 and not 1 April 2027 (with elections to the Parish Councils consequentially moved to May 2028 rather than in May 2027); and
b) the initial term of office for Parish Councillors elected to those Parish Councils be three (3) years and not five (5) years;

(2) That the Chief Executive be requested to await the decision of Full Council on 13 October 2026 in respect of the recommendation above before the required Community Governance Reorganisation Order (arising from the relevant decision of Council on 2 June 2026) is formally made and sealed and that the outcome of that

meeting in respect of the above recommendation be incorporated as necessary into that Order; and

(3) To note that, on the basis recommendation (1) above is approved by Full Council, communication with residents and interested parties in the area of the new Parishes will be undertaken to update them that the implementation date for those Parishes and their Parish Councils will be 1 April 2028 and the commissioning of Essex Association of Local Councils to support the introduction of the new Parishes will be updated to reflect that timeline.

Councillor P B Honeywood addressed Council during the debate on this matter.

Having duly considered the recommendations of the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee in this matter:-

It was moved by Councillor Steady and:-

RESOLVED that Council formally approves –

(a) that the decisions of Full Council made on 2 June 2026 following the Community Governance Review for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands be amended as follows:

(1) that the new Parishes commence on 1 April 2028 and not 1 April 2027 (with elections to the Parish Councils consequentially moved to May 2028 rather than in May 2027); and
(2) the initial term of office for Parish Councillors elected to those Parish Councils be three (3) years and not five (5) years;

(b) that the Chief Executive be requested to now formally make and seal the required Community Governance Reorganisation Order (arising from the relevant decision of Council on 2 June 2026) and that the amendments referred to in recommendation (a) above be incorporated as necessary into that Order; and

(c) that communication with residents and interested parties in the area of the new Parishes be undertaken to update them that the implementation date for those Parishes and their Parish Councils will be 1 April 2028 and that the commissioning of the Essex Association of Local Councils to support the introduction of the new Parishes be updated to reflect that timeline.

66. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.5 - APPOINTMENT OF A TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE, WHEN REQUIRED, ON THE TENDRING / COLCHESTER BORDERS GARDEN COMMUNITY JOINT COMMITTEE

Council recalled that, under the jointly agreed (by Essex County Council, Colchester City Council and Tendring District Council) terms of reference for the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee (TCBGCJC), three Members of the TCBGCJC must be appointed by Tendring District Council (TDC).

At the meeting of the Full Council held on 30 November 2021 (minute 93 referred), this Council had decided that those three Members would comprise:-

(i) the Chairman of the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee;
(ii) a member of the Cabinet who will be duly appointed by the Leader of the Council; and
(iii) a Member from a political group that is not represented on the Cabinet; plus
(iv) a Member who shall act as a Substitute Member of the TCBGCJC when required.

The current TDC membership of the TCBGCJC was as follows:-

Councillor Andy Baker (Cabinet member appointed by the Leader of the Council)*;
Councillor Mark Cossens (Member from a political group not represented on the Cabinet);
Councillor Maria Fowler (designated Substitute Member); and
Councillor Carlo Guglielmi (Chairman of the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee).

*Members were informed that on 11 September 2026 the Leader of the Council had appointed himself as the one Cabinet member to be a member of the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee for the purposes of the Joint Committee's meeting to be held on 18 November 2026. This was because Councillor Baker would not be able to attend that meeting of the Joint Committee and, as such, the appointee would be the Leader of the Council for that meeting. Councillor Baker would continue in his role following that 18 November 2026 meeting.

Council was made aware that Councillor Fowler had recently indicated that she wished to be replaced as the designated substitute member of the TCBGCJC.

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

RESOLVED that -

(a) it be noted that Councillor Fowler wishes to no longer be the designated Substitute on the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee;

(b) Councillor Davidson be now appointed to serve on the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee as Tendring District Council's designated Substitute in the stead of Councillor Fowler; and

(c) Councillor Fowler be thanked for her service to the Council on the Tendring / Colchester Borders Garden Community Joint Committee.

67. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.6 - CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS

The Chief Executive formally reported that, pursuant to Regulation 10(b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor Daniel Land, on 15 September 2026, had served formal notice on the Council that he no longer wished to be treated as a member of the Conservative political group.

The Chief Executive further formally reported that, pursuant to Regulation 10(b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor Bradley Thompson, on 23 September 2026, had served formal notice on the Council that he no longer wished to be treated as a member of the Reform UK political group.

Council noted the foregoing.

68. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - A.7 - MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive formally reported that, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Leader of the Reform UK Group, and the authority delegated to the Chief Executive, the following appointments / committee membership changes had been duly made since the last meeting of the Council, namely:-

Audit Committee

Councillor Jeff Bray had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor Aimee Keteca.

Planning Committee

Councillor Aimee Keteca had been appointed to serve in place of Councillor Jeff Bray.

Council noted the foregoing.

69. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.2

Subject to the required notice being given, Members of the Council could ask questions of the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

One question on notice had been submitted by a Member on this occasion as set out below:-

Question

Councillor Zoe Fairley asked Councillor Ivan Henderson, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism:-

"Could the Portfolio Holder please clarify how the carbon footprint of the Clacton air show is measured and balanced against its reported £12 million economic benefit, and state whether a comprehensive and transparent carbon audit has been carried out to ensure this flagship event meets the regional environmental standards advocated by this Council at its previous meeting in approving a motion on climate change?"

Councillor Henderson, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism replied as follows:-

"The Council recognises the importance of balancing the significant economic, social and tourism benefits of the Clacton Airshow with the need to minimise environmental impacts.

The Airshow generates an estimated economic benefit of approximately £12 million for the local economy through visitor spending, support for local businesses, tourism promotion and overnight stays.

At present, the Council has not commissioned a standalone, comprehensive carbon audit of the Clacton Airshow. However, environmental considerations form part of the event's planning and review processes

We recognise that the environmental impact of an airshow extends beyond aircraft activity alone and includes visitor travel, trader activity, waste generation, energy use and event infrastructure. Industry guidance from the British Air Display Association (BADA) notes that visitor travel is often the largest contributor to an airshow's overall carbon footprint and that emissions from display aircraft can account for less than 20% of an event's total footprint.

The Council actively encourages more sustainable travel choices through information provided on the Clacton Airshow website, including promotion of rail travel, public transport, walking and cycling options where practical.

Sustainability guidance is provided to traders attending the event, including recommendations to:

- *Reduce waste and increase recycling.*
- *Minimise single-use plastics.*
- *Use sustainable and biodegradable materials.*
- *Source food and supplies locally where possible.*
- *Reduce transport-related emissions through local supply chains, public transport and car sharing.*
- *Reduce energy consumption, including the use of LED lighting.*

Visitors are encouraged to recycle where possible, reduce waste and make use of water refill facilities during the event.

The organisers work closely with display teams and industry partners who are themselves pursuing ambitious sustainability targets. For example, the Royal Air Force has committed to becoming climate-change resilient and achieving net zero by 2040, with work underway on sustainable aviation fuel and other carbon reduction initiatives.

The Council is also supportive of the development of lower-carbon aviation technologies locally. We have worked with - and provided a letter of support to - Firefly, a Harwich-based company developing technology to convert sewage sludge into sustainable aviation fuel. While this may sound improbable, the company has secured agreements with aviation partners such as Wizz Air and plans to bring the technology into operation.

Further, the Council has undertaken significant tree planting activity across the district, with approximately 1,667 tree saplings planted through externally funded government grant programmes, contributing to carbon capture and wider biodiversity objectives.

The Council remains committed to reducing environmental impacts wherever reasonably practicable while recognising the considerable economic, social, educational and community benefits delivered by the Clacton Airshow."

Councillor Fairley then asked a question of clarification to which Councillor Henderson responded.

70. SEATING PLAN FOR MEETINGS OF THE FULL COUNCIL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Council's approval was sought of the seating plan for its meetings to be held during the remainder of the 2026/2027 Municipal Year. The seating plan had been amended to account for the recent decisions by Councillors Land and Thompson to resign from their respective political groups.

It was **RESOLVED** that the seating plan for full Council meetings to be held in the Princes Theatre during the remainder of the 2026/27 Municipal Year be approved.

71. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

No urgent matters had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 3(xv), 11.3(b) and/or 13(p) for this meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.56 pm

Chairman