

## The Executive – 16 July 2014

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Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **16 July 2014** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore  
Vice Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr Mrs C E Roe	

### **VISITING**

Cllr M Hoy

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

A Bugeja - Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services  
R Evans - Head of Environmental Services  
S Scrutton - Head of Planning and Transportation  
C McClellan - People and Policy Manager  
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

### **143 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **144 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2014-2017**

The Leader of the Council, Cllr T G Cutmore, presented the revised Corporate Plan for 2014-2017.

**Recommended** to Council

That the revised draft Corporate Plan 2014-2017 be approved. (CE)

### **145 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014-15 UPDATE**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr S P Smith, presented the report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-15.

Members agreed that a minor amendment to public consultation arrangements would be appropriate. It was noted that the growth in housing calculation associated with the New Homes Bonus was such that the figure identified for 2014-15 related to the previous September.

### Resolved

- (1) That the current position of the Strategy be noted.
- (2) That, subject to public consultation being identified as commencing on 16 October with the end date also being adjusted if appropriate, the outline timetable for the 2015/16 budget process be agreed.
- (3) That the arrangements for a public consultation in preparation for the budget process be noted.
- (4) That the funding of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme remain unchanged, in order for the annual review and consultation of the Scheme to go ahead. (HF)

### 146 DRAFT AGEING POPULATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2014-17

The Portfolio Holder for Community, Cllr Mrs J E McPherson, presented the report on the Draft Strategy and Action Plan.

Members agreed a number of amendments and it was:-

### Resolved

That the Draft Ageing Population Strategy and Action Plan 2014-17, as appended to the report, be approved subject to:-

- The removal of acronyms or a key in relation to acronyms.
- The replacement of the first sentence in the fifth bullet point up on page 8.13 with 'Promoting partner agencies who provide advice on financial matters such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Family Mosaic.'
- Adding 'recognised' before the word 'agencies' in the eighth bullet point up on page 8.14.
- Deletion of the second bullet point up on page 8.14.
- The replacement of the first sentence in the fifth bullet point up on page 8.15 with 'Promoting a range of sporting and physical activities through organisations such as Active Rochford'. (CE)

### 147 IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The Portfolio Holder for Community, Cllr Mrs J E McPherson, presented the report on the making of an application to Essex Police to be an accredited employer for the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.

Concern was expressed at the possibility that some District Council services could suffer if officers were undertaking activity on behalf of Essex Police. Concern was also expressed about difficulties officers may encounter when

looking to enforce some of the activities associated with the scheme. The cost of training would be £600.

On a motion, moved by Cllr K J Gordon and seconded by Cllr K H Hudson, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That no further action be taken on making an application to Essex Police to be an accredited employer for the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme. (HCS)

## **148 PILOT AMENITY VEHICLE SCHEME**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr I H Ward, presented the report on introduction of a pilot vehicle amenity scheme.

Responding to questions, the Head of Environmental Services advised that:-

- The County Council could be asked if the pilot scheme could be extended to cover 9.00am to 1.00pm.
- The County Council accepted that there is public anxiety about travel distances to amenity sites.
- Whilst items collected in caged vehicles would attract some recycling credits for the Authority, proposals were more about looking to address a historical situation.
- Information on the impact of proposals on the Council's revenues could be made available prior to the six monthly review of the pilot scheme.
- The pilot scheme would include identification checks aimed at ensuring availability to Rochford District residents only.

During discussion, Members observed that the pilot scheme would hopefully be a start to the addressing of the need for increased amenity facilities for the District. It was difficult to understand why Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Essex County Council, two large Authorities, could not facilitate effective amenity arrangements for Rochford residents. Any pilot scheme identification checks would need to be robust.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That a pilot amenity vehicle scheme be implemented in Great Wakering on a weekly basis each Saturday for a period of six months, the County Council to be asked if this can be extended to be from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm rather than from 9.00 am to noon.

- (2) That a further report be submitted to the Executive before the pilot scheme has concluded in order that a decision can be made about future arrangements. (HES)

### **149 AIR QUALITY IN RAYLEIGH TOWN CENTRE**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr I H Ward, presented the report on the creation of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Rayleigh Town Centre.

Responding to questions the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that, whilst an AQMA would be appropriate, readings were not at a level that should be considered dangerous. Although there had been consultation with Castle Point Borough Council, that Authority was not progressing the matter in the same way.

Members concurred with the observation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr S P Smith, that there should be more specific detail in the resource implications section of reports when there is impact on existing budgets.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the creation of an Air Quality Management Area in Rayleigh Town Centre in line with the Council's statutory Local Air Quality Management duties be approved in principle.
- (2) That the Head of Environmental Services be authorised to undertake a public consultation exercise on the extent of the proposed Air Quality Management Area.
- (3) That determination of the final boundary of the Air Quality Management Area following the consideration of consultation responses be delegated to the Portfolio holder for the Environment. (HES)

### **150 COUNTY HIGHWAY RANGER FUNCTIONS**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr I H Ward, presented the report on the employment of Highway Rangers within the District.

During debate Members agreed that it would be appropriate for there to be further consultation with the County Council on the specifics of how a service would be delivered prior to a final decision. This could usefully include the possibility that the District should be able to decide where/how to apply County funding.

Responding to questions, the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that he would be approaching the County Council on the District being able to interrogate County Highway reporting software and that detail on the amount of monies already committed by the District Council for highway verges could be provided to Members.

### Resolved

- (1) That the proposals in relation to County Highway Ranger functions being dealt with by the District Council be agreed in principle subject to detailed discussions with the County Council on how the service could be delivered.
- (2) That the option of releasing additional resources to match fund the County Council's offer of £50,000 for flood alleviation and other measures be given further detailed consideration.
- (3) That the Portfolio Holder for the Environment sign off finalised arrangements where possible. (HES)

### 151 SUPPORT FOR ORGANISATIONAL REDESIGN

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr S P Smith, presented the report on appointing the East of England Local Government Association to support organisation redesign.

### Resolved

- (1) That the East of England Local Government Association be appointed to support the organisational redesign under the application of paragraph 2.3.1 of the Contract Procedure Rules, exceptions from competitive tendering.
- (2) That the above decision is urgent and not subject to call-in/referral to ensure that the process gets underway as soon as possible and to facilitate good planning and minimise any risk to the Council. (CE)

### 152 USE OF IPADS FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Portfolio Holder for People and Technology, Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill, presented the report on moving to the use of iPads for business documentation.

### Recommended to Council

- (1) That, apart from the issuing of hard copy summons and the making of separate arrangements where necessary to accord with equalities/disability discrimination legislation, all Members of the Council receive business documentation via email links. Specifically that:-
  - Agenda pages only (not associated reports) be posted out first class via the Royal Mail or made available at the Council offices to appointees only in accordance with legislative requirement. Separately, all Members (including appointees) to receive an email link to all agendas and reports as they are published.

- Email links to the various business documents identified in paragraph 3.6 of the officer report be issued to all Members of the Council.
  - Any ad hoc Member correspondence received at the Council offices be posted out first class via Royal Mail as appropriate.
- (2) That it be noted that a Government Order providing that, where a Member consents, a summons can be sent to an electronic address in electronic form, is imminent.
- (3) That the Portfolio Holder for People and Technology, in consultation with officers, monitors the new arrangements and addresses any issues that arise. (HLEMS)

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **Resolved**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

### **153 REPLACEMENT OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES AT THE COUNCIL DEPOT, ROCHFORD**

The Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, Cllr M J Steptoe, presented the exempt report on the provision of replacement office accommodation and facilities at the Council Depot, Rochford.

Following discussion, it was:-

#### **Resolved**

That an Enterprise Portfolio Holder Advisory Group be convened to give detailed consideration to this and other areas of land within the industrial estate. Any recommendations to be submitted to Council as soon as possible in view of contractual issues and other risks. (HLEMS)

### **154 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS AT THE CEMETERIES**

On a motion, moved by Cllr K J Gordon and seconded by Cllr J E McPherson, it was:-

#### **Resolved**

That a joint Community and Environment Portfolio Holder Advisory Group be convened to go through the revenue costs for the grounds maintenance operations at the cemeteries. (HES)

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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