

## **Council – 18 December 2012**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **18 December 2012** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J A Mockford  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

Cllr C I Black	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr J D Griffin	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs A V Hale	Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr B T Hazlewood	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs P Aves, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, T E Goodwin, Mrs D Hoy, M Hoy, K H Hudson, Mrs J R Lumley, R A Oatham, Mrs C E Roe, P F A Webster and Mrs C A Weston.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
A Bugeja	- Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
J Bourne	- Head of Community Services
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning and Transportation
Y Woodward	- Head of Finance
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

At the commencement of the meeting, Members paid tribute and stood in silence in memory of former District Councillor T Livings, former District Councillor and County Councillor R A Pearson and the daughter of former District Councillor M J Handford, who had all recently passed away.

### **271 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 27 November 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **272 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The presentation of Quality Parish Status Accreditation Awards to Ashingdon and Canewdon Parish Councils was deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

The Chairman had attended a variety of events on behalf of the Council since the last meeting. Highlights had included Colchester's Oyster Feast, the Rochford Arts Trail, the Prize Draw at Rayleigh Windmill for a 100% discounted wedding, Remembrance Day services in Rochford, Rayleigh and Hockley, the Military in Society service in Chelmsford and several Carol services. She extended her thanks to all those Councillors who had supported and attended Civic functions.

### **273 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Council received the Minutes of Executive and Committee meetings held between the period 13 October to 7 December 2012.

### **274 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES TO COUNCIL**

#### **(1) Consultation on Draft Statement of Licensing Policy – Gambling Act 2005**

Council considered the report of the Licensing Committee of 27 November 2012 on the consultation on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy – Gambling Act 2005.

Particular reference was made to the contributions made by Essex Police and Trading Standards at that meeting.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That a 'no casino' resolution be passed and that this be inserted into the Statement of Licensing Policy – Gambling Act 2005.
- (2) That the amended Statement of Licensing Policy – Gambling Act 2005 be approved and adopted to be applied in exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005 for the three-year period commencing on 3 January 2013. (HES)

#### **(2) London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan – Pre-Submission Plan**

Council considered the report of the Executive of 5 December 2012 on the London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan – Pre-Submission Plan.

The Leader of the Council emphasised that the Action Plan was the culmination of five years' joint working between this Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council that was a blue print for the future of the airport and surrounding areas. He thanked Members and officers who had been closely involved in the process.

### Resolved

- (1) That the London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) be published for public consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and that, following consultation, the plan be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, prior to Examination in Public, under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- (2) That the inclusion of any minor amendments, which may result from *inter allia* analysis of the representations from public consultation and any additional evidence considered, be delegated to the Head of Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation. (HPT)

### 275 REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

**(Note:** Cllr T G Cutmore declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of chairing the Castle Point and Rochford Health and Wellbeing Partnership and membership of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board.)

Council received the following report from the Leader on the work of the Executive:-

“This is the last full Council meeting before Christmas and therefore I will begin by wishing all Members and officers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking back over the past 12 months, I believe we’ve had another productive year.

We remain on course to meet the 2012/13 budget parameters we set ourselves. We’ve continued to make progress on the planning front. We’ve started to see the airport fulfil its potential. Our services continue to deliver, with compliments still exceeding complaints, despite the issues that emerged in connection with verge maintenance following the collapse of Fountains, our grounds maintenance contractor, at the start of the year. We remain the top recycling authority in the eastern region and are now third overall nationally. We’ve been successful in our bid to Government for funding to move to a weekly refuse collection for flats. That bid is worth £600,000 over 3 years, with the first instalment from Government due next month. Along with Braintree, Castle Point and Colchester, we’ve also recently heard we have been shortlisted for a national award for our joint ICT partnership contract.

Whilst we haven’t yet received the formal report following our Peer Review in November, from the initial feedback I received from the team - I am pleased to report that they found a number of very good things about the Council; that said, I have no doubt there are things we can and should improve on and I look forward to receiving their finalised report in that context.

2013/14 looks like it will be another challenging year in budgetary terms. The Government's announcement of next year's grant is scheduled for this Thursday, following on from the Chancellor's Autumn statement earlier this month. Indications are that we will continue to see a reduction in our total grant as local government moves to a new funding regime based on business rate support. I think we had an extremely useful session at our first budget away day meeting last month when the Head of Finance took us through a range of scenarios. I would like to thank all those Members who attended that session and contributed to the day. I believe we made good progress in terms of understanding those issues we need to take into account and I hope that Members can attend the next budget away day on 12 January when - hopefully, we can finish our deliberations and determine the final shape and content of the report which will be considered at the Extraordinary Council meeting at the end of January, when the budget will need to be formally agreed.

Since my last Leader's report into the Council in October, the Executive has met on two occasions. In November, we considered reports relating to customer feedback and Freedom of Information requests, the Community Right to Challenge, a Code of Practice relating to Charity Street Collections in Rayleigh and an update relating to progress on a new Grounds Maintenance contract. At the Executive earlier this month, amongst other things - we looked at the latest Review of Parliamentary Constituencies, the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the Community Right to Bid and the London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan, which is on tonight's agenda for decision. We also received a report on Council assets.

Since the last Council meeting, my colleagues on the Executive have considered such matters as Dog Boarding Establishments and the Rayleigh Windmill Museum development.

As always, I will be happy to take any questions from Members in respect of the work of the Executive and I am sure my Executive colleagues will be happy to contribute, where appropriate."

Responding to a question on the proposed move of GP blood testing facilities from Basildon and Southend to Bedford the Leader advised that this proposal did not apply to urgent blood testing, which would continue at Basildon and Southend. This was a matter on which the emerging clinical commissioning groups could, potentially, reverse any decision, as they would be responsible for signing off any relevant contracts. The Portfolio Holder for Young Persons, Adult Services, Community Care and Well-Being, Health and Community Safety further reiterated that the situation would need to be closely monitored to ensure that residents within the District receive the right level of service.

In response to another question relating to when traffic cones might be removed from one lane of the A1245 on the approach to the A130 roundabout, the Leader commented that he had not experienced delays on

this particular stretch of road, but had found that the road works that had taken place so far had improved traffic flow; he looked forward to completion of the works.

### **276 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

Council considered the report of the Head of Community Services providing details of the proposed Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme that will replace the current Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme and seeking approval to the proposed scheme for implementation by April 2013.

Officers confirmed, in response to a Member question relating to child maintenance payments, that in future the amount of child maintenance received by a family will be included as income for that family as part of the means-testing process.

Responding to a further Member enquiry relating to families who might be facing financial difficulties, officers advised that a promotional campaign was planned to make residents aware of the changes and encouraging them to contact either the Council or the Citizens Advice Bureau for advice. The campaign will emphasise that those residents of pensionable age will not be affected by these benefit changes and that their level of benefits will not be reduced.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Local Council Tax Support scheme be approved to come into effect from 1 April 2013, as detailed in the Section 13A Policy.
- (2) That the Exceptional Hardship Policy set out in appendix A be agreed.
- (3) That the provision of £100,000 in the 2013/14 Budget be agreed to cover the financial risks associated with the LCTS. (HCS)

### **277 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013/14**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance on determining the Tax Base for each individual Parish or own Council area within the District.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the method of calculation of the Tax Base for 2013/14 be noted.
- (2) That, pursuant to this report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Rochford District Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2013/14 shall be as set out in the appendix to the report.

- (3) That determination of the Council Tax Base figure be delegated to the Head of Finance and the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly. (HF)

### **278 REVISED BUDGETARY ESTIMATES FOR 2012/13**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance on the revised budgetary estimates for the current financial year 2012/13 and the 2013/14 budget for Grants to Voluntary Organisations.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the revised estimates for 2012/13, as set out in the appendix to the report, be agreed.
- (2) That the 2013/14 budget for grants to voluntary organisations be set at £90,000 revenue, £15,000 capital and £3,500 carry forward from this year. (HF)

### **279 DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 36 AT LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT**

Council considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services providing details of an application by Southend Airport Co. Ltd under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981), for the diversion of part of public footpath 36, which runs through the operational boundary of London Southend Airport.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to London Southend Airport Limited agreeing to undertake and bear the cost of all necessary accommodation works, together with the Council's costs in making the order:-

- (1) An Order be made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, diverting footpath no. 36 in the Parish of Rochford, as shown on plan no. PROW-12-013, attached to the report, on the grounds that it is expedient to do so in the interests of the owner and occupiers of the land concerned.
- (2) That in the event of there being no objections outstanding upon the expiry of the notice period or such longer period that may be afforded to resolve any objections received, the Order be confirmed by the Council; or
- (3) In the event that there are objections to the Order outstanding at the expiry of the notice period or such longer period that may be afforded to resolve any objections received, the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services be authorised to determine whether to submit the Order to the Secretary of State for confirmation. (HLEMS)

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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