

## **Council – 23 February 2010**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **23 February 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr A J Humphries  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D G Stansby

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr C I Black	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr T Livings	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, Mrs J Dillnutt, Mrs H L A Glynn, T E Goodwin, J M Pullen, Mrs C A Weston.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren - Chief Executive  
R J Honey - Corporate Director (Internal Services)  
J Bostock - Committee Services Manager

### **44 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2009 and the Extraordinary meetings held on 26 January and 16 February 2010 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

### **45 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had attended many engagements since the last meeting, including school, church, guide/brownie and charity events. Particular thanks were extended to Cllr Mrs J A Mockford for arranging a Burns Night to raise funds for the Chairman's Charity.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman was pleased to receive a Gideon Bible presented by David Fryatt of Gideons International, South Essex Branch.

### 46 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council noted the Minutes of Executive and Committee meetings held between 4 December 2009 and 12 February 2010.

### 47 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES TO COUNCIL

#### (1) Report of the Development Management Sub-Committee – 8 December 2009

Council considered the report of the Development Management Sub-Committee containing recommendations relating to the adoption of a revised Code of Conduct for planning matters and a change to the system of referral of any controversial delegated planning applications to the Development Control Committee.

Council endorsed a suggestion of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Cllr K H Hudson, on the revision of some wording under Paragraph F of the proposed Code. Council also endorsed the observation of the Leader, Cllr T G Cutmore, that it would be of value for Members to receive training on following the revised Code. A motion, moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, relating to changing the name of the Development Control Committee was agreed and it was:-

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Development Control Committee be renamed the Development Committee.
- (2) That the 'Code of Good Practice for Planning Matters', as set out at Appendix B of the Sub-Committee's report, be adopted, subject to it reflecting the term 'Development Committee' and to the words 'follow the matter up' in the final line of the fourth bullet point under Paragraph K (Lobbying of Councillors) being replaced with 'investigate'.
- (3) That, in future, referral of any controversial delegated planning applications to the Development Committee be determined by the majority decision of the Chairman of the Development Committee, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation and the Chairman of the Council.
- (4) That Members receive training on following the revised Code. (HPT/HLEMS)

### **(2) Report of the Executive – 17 February 2010**

Council considered the report of the Executive containing a recommendation relating to the appointment of a Member to the Essex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Resolved**

That Cllr M Maddocks be appointed to the Essex Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year. (HLEMS)

### **48 REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE**

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

“At last week’s Council Tax setting meeting, the Council effectively concluded its work in relation to the 2010/2011 budget. As with last year, we find ourselves in an extremely challenging financial position and it is a credit to both members and officers that, compared to other authorities, our budget process appears to be both extremely effective and inclusive; we get through the process in a very seamless and pragmatic way with no major surprises or last minute issues.

As I outlined in last week’s budget speech, I am pleased with the progress we’ve made as a Council in 2009/2010 and look forward to the challenges of 2010/2011. Aside from the outcome of the general election, much of 2010/2011 is likely to be dominated by the planning process, with the inquiry into the Local Development Framework Core Strategy now scheduled to commence in May. A number of other planning related initiatives around the airport, the town centres, detailed site allocations etc should also make progress over the next 12 months, all of which will undoubtedly attract both public and media interest.

Since I reported back in December the Executive has met formally on three occasions; twice in January and again last week. At the January meetings we agreed the way forward in respect of organisational changes for the foreseeable future. We also considered a number of reports around our performance against key projects, services, our budget programme and our capital programme for this year. We looked at the Air Quality Management issue in West Rayleigh and agreed to progress the principle of a proposed Air Quality Management Area covering Rawreth Industrial Estate, with public consultation around determining the exact extent of its boundaries. The discussion around air quality also resulted in us taking the decision to make further strong representations to the County Council on the need for the County to consider how best it can help to address concerns relating to the results of air quality monitoring being undertaken in High Street, Rayleigh. At our Executive meeting last week, we discussed a suggested response to the Government consultation on the draft guidance relating to responding to petitions and we also considered our representation in connection with

Essex's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Since the December Council meeting, my colleagues on the Executive have considered such matters within their own portfolio areas as the Local Development Scheme, the provision of hanging baskets in Websters Way Car Park and the website.

As always, I will be happy to take any questions from members in respect of the work of the Executive. I am sure my Executive Colleagues will be happy to contribute where appropriate”.

Responding to questions, the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation confirmed that adoption of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy as soon as practicable would protect the District from proposals from developers for locations other than those identified within Policy H2. It was observed that, with recent weather conditions, flooding was going to continue to be a concern. The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Tourism, Heritage, the Arts, Culture and Business, Cllr K J Gordon, advised that consideration would be given as to whether demand for the Rochford Sports Festival pointed to the merits of a further event. It may be that scheduled events at alternative locations would be of interest to some residents.

### **49 KEY POLICIES AND ACTIONS FOR 2010/11**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on key policies and actions for 2010/11.

Members endorsed the observation of the Leader that it could be hoped that there is an early decision on the planning application relating to London Southend Airport given the potential of the proposals within the London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan to attract jobs and growth.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) that the work programme for 2010/11, as set out in Appendices A, B and C, and the public notification of its content, as outlined in the report, be agreed.
- (2) that those areas of work suggested for consideration by the Review Committee, as outlined in Appendix D of the report, be agreed.
- (3) that the programme for the monitoring of the 2010/11 budget and the development of the 2011/12 Budget, as outlined in Appendix E of the report, be noted.
- (4) that the main events timetable, as outlined in Appendix F of the report, be noted. (CE)

**50 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the appointment of representatives to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties held in June/July 2010.

**Resolved**

That Cllrs T E Goodwin and A J Humphries be nominated to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties to be held in June/July, accompanied by one guest each, using the Civic Car and driver. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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