

## The Executive – 12 December 2023

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Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **12 December 2023** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr J E Cripps

Cllr Mrs J R Gooding

Cllr M Hoy

Cllr J E Newport

Cllr L J Newport

Cllr A L Williams

Cllr Mrs V A Wilson

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A H Eves and Cllr C M Stanley

### **NON MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

E Yule

- Strategic Director

S Summers

- Strategic Director

M Hotten

- Director of Environment

S Worthington

- Acting Service Manager, Democratic Services, RDC & BBC

D Goodman

- Team Leader, Strategic Planning

V Meanwell

- Democratic Services Officer

### **254 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **255 MATTERS REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE AND REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

#### **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Highway Rangers**

The Executive considered the report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee relating to Highway Rangers.

In response to a Member question the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised that she did not consider the savings in the report to constitute permanent savings.

In response to a further Member question the Director of Environment explained that Essex County Council was confident that it was discharging its duties and would need the service to fail before there could be a legal challenge.

The Leader confirmed that he had written to Essex County Council, as requested by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and it had been confirmed that the decision not to fund Highway Rangers in the District was as it stood.

Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs V A Wilson, that the Council investigates longer term sustainable funding for the Highway Rangers service as part of the 2024/25 budget process and this was agreed unanimously on a show of hands.

Cllr J E Newport moved a further Motion, seconded by Cllr M Hoy, that Rochford District Council establishes whether Essex County Council are fulfilling their statutory duty to carry out highway maintenance, which was unanimously agreed.

### **Resolved**

- (1) To investigate long term sustainable funding for the Highway Rangers service as part of the 2024/25 budget process.
- (2) That Rochford District Council establishes whether Essex County Council are fulfilling their statutory duty to carry out appropriate highway maintenance. (DE)

### **256 GBIS AND ECO4 SCHEMES**

The Executive considered the report of the Executive Lead Member for Resources, Climate Change and Economy on how the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation (GBIS) schemes could support the Rochford District Council fuel poverty and environmental strategy and contribute towards reaching District wide net zero carbon targets.

In response to a Member question the Director of Environment explained that prior to the ECO4 scheme Rochford District Council, along with another consortium council, had signed up to deliver ECO3 and this contractually bound the Council into a 12 month contract of the scheme. Aran should be able to deliver this ECO4 scheme sufficiently. There was an administrative referral for this scheme but it was the responsibility of the Energy Efficiency Officer to deal with these referrals.

In response to an additional Member question the Director of Environment advised that he could not give exact numbers of how many households this scheme would help as it was a national scheme and it would depend on the cost of each scheme; however, he could provide monthly updates to Members with this information. The scheme was on a first come first served basis and the sooner an application was submitted the better.

In response to a further Member question the Director of Environment stated that there were no further cost implications and that he would provide details on completions within the monthly report.

Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs J R Gooding, the recommendation on page 7.1 of the report be approved and this was unanimously agreed.

### **Resolved**

To publish a Statement of Intent, as set out in Appendix 1, and administer the ECO4 and GBIS schemes. (DE)

### **257 SECTION 106 REPORT – QUARTERLY POSITION STATEMENT – OCTOBER 2023**

The Executive considered the report of the Executive Lead Member for Resources, Climate Change and Economy providing a position statement on financial contributions received by the authority under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

In answer to a Member question the Team Leader, Strategic Planning stated that the flood mitigation contribution was subject to a drawdown protocol and there needed to be an advancement subject to a project idea. Countryside was keen for Rochford District Council to drawdown this funding.

The Team Leader, Strategic Planning confirmed that the Section 106 for Fairway Garden Centre had been signed. The permission had never expired; the expiry of permission comes 3 years after the date of planning permission and planning permission was issued after the S106 agreement was signed.

In response to a further Member question relating to Pond Chase Nursery, and time constraints of the utilisation of funds. The Lead Member for Resources, Climate Change and Economy advised that the refundable date was 2028 and Rochford District Council would work with Essex County Council to follow up on whether funds could be made available to GP surgeries.

A Member stated that he had put forward a proposal of bi-annual dredging of Rawreth Brook in order for the spread of money to be effective over a period of time, as this could potentially overrun the deadline. The Director of Environment advised that he would follow up on this proposal and feedback to the Member.

### **258 WITHDRAWAL FROM OPPORTUNITY SOUTH ESSEX (OSE)**

The Executive considered the report of the Executive Lead Member for Resources, Climate Change and Economy recommending that the Council withdraws support and funding for the federated business board Opportunity South Essex (OSE) from 31 March 2024.

In response to a Member question the Team Leader, Strategic Planning explained that Opportunity South Essex would cease to exist and would be dissolved and eventually replaced.

Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr J E Newport, that the recommendation on page 9.1 of the report be approved and this was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Council withdraws its support to Opportunity South Essex (OSE) from 31 March 2024, under the terms of the relevant agreement. (DP)
- (2) That the Council withdraws its £12,500 annual commitment to OSE 31 March 2024. (DP)

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

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