

## **The Executive – 21 July 2010**

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Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **21 July 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher  
Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr K H Hudson  
Cllr C G Seagers  
Cllr M J Steptoe

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren - Chief Executive  
A Bugeja - Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services  
Y Woodward - Head of Finance  
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

### **191 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **192 PERFORMANCE REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO JUNE 2010**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on progress against the key projects for 2010/11 up to 30 June 2010.

It was noted that recent changes to building regulations were being factored into the project work on the Rochford reception area. There will be further discussion with Members on this project.

#### **Resolved**

That the progress against key projects for the first quarter of 2010/11 be noted. (HF)

### **193 STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2010/11 – QUARTERLY UPDATE**

The Executive considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive on progress being made on the implementation of the Council's Strategic Improvement Plan.

It was noted that significant levels of work could be associated with developing the Strategy and Action Plan for the ageing population.

#### **Resolved**

That the progress being made on the implementation of the Council's Strategic Improvement Plan 2010/11 be noted. (DCE)

### 194 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK 2009/10

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Information and Customer Services on customer feedback statistics for 2009/10.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that the graphic representations were very helpful and that it was pleasing to see residents had gone to the trouble of submitting compliments. It was confirmed that the order of service areas could be similar for each bar chart in future documents and that compliments were useful in helping inform service provision. It was also confirmed that like for like comparisons with other Authorities were difficult.

#### **Resolved**

That the Customer Feedback statistics for 2009/10 be noted, the order of service areas to be similar for each bar chart in future documents. (HICS)

### 195 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2010/11 – UPDATE

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on the current position with regard to the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2010/11.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for arrangements to be made for an evening session in the Council Chamber in the Autumn of this year at which Members of the Council will be able to discuss possible options in terms of those service areas which should be safeguarded and those where savings might be made, if the budget situation worsened. It was also agreed that it would be of value to include Area Committees and the possibilities around utilising the County Council's consultation portal in the proposed public consultation exercise.

The Executive discussed possibilities with regard to some initial investigatory work that could be undertaken on the subject of shared service arrangements. It was recognised that the implications for the Council's own business continuity would need to be included in any considerations. It was also recognised that the scaling up of some services might produce benefits to the Council in terms of capacity and performance and enable the Authority to develop areas where it is already considered to be in a strong position.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the current position on the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted.
- (2) That arrangements be made for an evening session in the Council Chamber in the early Autumn of this year at which Members of the Council will be able to discuss possible options in terms of those service areas which should be safeguarded and those where savings

could be made, in advance of next year's budget setting process. The expectation being that all Members will be able to attend.

- (3) That, subject to the inclusion of Area Committees and possibilities around utilising the County Council's consultation portal, a public consultation exercise be undertaken over the summer on the priorities and non-priorities for the Council using all the channels identified in paragraph 6.2 of the report.
- (4) That at this stage, in terms of potential shared service arrangements, some initial non-committal investigatory work be undertaken on possibilities, particularly within the areas of Procurement, Information and Communication Technology, and Assets. For other areas much would depend on the costs, quality and type of services provided, together with the potential Partner structures and governance arrangements coming forward. The implications for the Council's own business continuity would need to be considered. It can be recognised, however, that the scaling up of some services might produce some benefits to the Council in terms of capacity and performance and enable the Authority to develop areas where it is already considered to be in a strong position. The work around Housing Benefits/Council Tax with Castle Point Borough Council is an example of this. (HF)

### **196 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS**

The Executive considered the report of the Chief Executive on a Government proposal relating to the formation of a South Essex Local Enterprise Partnership.

In endorsing the recommendations set out in the report reference was made to the importance of any arrangement focussing on the delivery of objectives and being able to access funding streams from as broad a range of sources as possible.

#### **Resolved**

That this Council supports the proposal, for submission to Central Government, to form a South Essex Local Enterprise Partnership covering the entire authority areas of Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. (CE)

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

#### **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 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

**197 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S APPRAISAL**

The Executive received the exempt note of the Chief Executive's appraisal.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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