

## **Council – 25 July 2006**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **25 July 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr R A Amner	Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr T E Goodwin	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L A Butcher, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, Mrs H L A Glynn, C A Hungate, Mrs L Hungate, J R F Mason, P K Savill and C G Seagers

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)
Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management
J Pritchard	-	Housing Manager
H Collins	-	Civic & Public Relations Officer
P Gowers	-	Overview & Scrutiny Officer
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

K Jenkins - Special Legal Adviser, Bircham Dyson Bell

### **ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

The Reverend Andrew Leach of the Rochford Congregational Church was in attendance to officiate for prayers and to provide some detail on the Congregational Church and its activity. The Church was very historic, having been built in 1741 and opening the first free school in Rochford in 1750. Activity in the last five years had included hosting the Fair Havens Light of Life Christmas Appeal and "Peaceful Place". The Church provided facilities for the blood transfusion service. The

congregation included a high number of children and young people, for whom specific facilities are provided.

### **256 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors K J Gordon, Mrs J R Lumley and Mrs C A Weston each declared personal interests in the item on the Housing Stock Transfer Application to the Department for Communities and Local Government by virtue of being on the Rochford Housing Association Shadow Board. Councillor Mrs J R Lumley also declared a personal interest in the item on the Rayleigh and Rochford Association of Voluntary Services by virtue of being company secretary and a director of the Association.

### **257 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Chairman made specific reference to the high quality of art recently exhibited at The Mill and The Windmill, Rayleigh. Reference was also made to attendance at the re-opening ceremony for the post office in The Chase, Rayleigh, which had been followed by a visit to a fun day at the King George's Playing Field organised by local churches. Arrangements had been made for war veterans to attend a tea party being hosted by the Chairman on Sunday 30 July 2006.

The Chief Executive referred to a meeting of the Leisure, Tourism & Heritage Committee on 27 July 2006 at which the South Essex Projects Manager for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds would be giving a presentation on the tourism potential for bird watching within the District. All interested Members were welcome to attend.

### **258 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Council received the Minutes and considered the reports of Committees/ referrals as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
(1) Development Control	25 May 2006	174-175
(2) Community Services	1 June 2006	176-179
(3) Environmental Services	6 June 2006	180-181

#### **(a) Referral of Resolution (4) of Minute 181**

Members considered Resolution (4) of Minute 181 which, pursuant to Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15, had been referred to Full Council by Councillors T G Cutmore, J E Grey and J P Cottis.

It was noted that there was currently no charge for second wheel bins. On a motion, moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor J E Grey, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That no changes be made with respect to collections of second wheeled bins. (CD(ES)).

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
(4) Audit	7 June 2006	182-183
(5) Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance	8 June 2006	184-193
(6) Review	13 June 2006	194-196
(7) Leisure, Tourism & Heritage	20 June 2006	197-200
(8) Development Control	22 June 2006	201-202
(9) Licensing	26 June 2006	203
(10) Audit	4 July 2006	204-215
(11) Standards	6 July 2006	216-221
(12) Planning Policy & Transportation	11 July 2006	222-228
(13) Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance	13 July 2006	229-244

### **(a) Rayleigh and Rochford Association of Voluntary Services (RRAVS) – Position Update**

Council considered the report of the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee on the nomination of a Member to become a trustee of RRAVS.

On the basis that, at this stage, there were no nominations for the position of trustee it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the nomination of a Council Member to become a trustee of RRAVS be referred to the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee for consideration. (CE)

### **(b) Appointments to Outside Bodies – Adult Community Learning South Essex Area Governing Body**

Council considered the report of the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee on the appointment of a Member to the Adult Community Learning South Essex Area Governing Body.

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor C A Hungate be appointed to the Adult Community Learning South Essex Area Governing Board. (HAMS)

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
(14) Review	18 July 2006	245-249

### **(a) Evaluation of CCTV Provision**

Council considered the report of the Review Committee on the calling in of the resolutions of the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee relating to the evaluation of CCTV provision.

#### **Resolved**

That the first two decisions made on CCTV Evaluation at the meeting held on 13 July 2006 be reconsidered by the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee on the basis that alternative consideration should be given to the purchase of covert cameras (suitable for use as evidence in any criminal proceedings) and the merits of improved lighting rather than replacing the analogue provision and upgrading the older digital systems. Considerations to include:-

- Identification of the preferred Police option and clarification of the management/operating arrangements around such an option. If mobile covert cameras were the preferred choice, there would need to be agreement around publicity and usage specifically within the District.
- Examination of best practice in other authorities in terms of equipment used and management of those systems. (CE)

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
(15) Planning Policy & Transportation	19 July 2006	250-252
(16) Development Control	20 July 2006	253-255

**259 HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on the submission of the housing stock transfer application to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

During discussion, the Leader of the Council referred to the importance of the housing transfer programme application. The aspirations of tenants were key to the whole process.

It was noted that the application document needed to be in a prescribed format. It was also noted that:-

- Whilst aspects will need to be edited by the Housing Corporation and the Department for Communities and Local Government, the wording of an offer document would be couched in terms that would be intelligible and clear to tenants. Communications consultants would be appointed to work on the document.
- The Dutch Cottage, Rayleigh is held in trust and managed by the Council so is shown as part of Council stock for the purposes of the application document. Notwithstanding that the property is tenanted, the cottage is subject to trust arrangements. It falls outside right-to-buy legislation. The Council's legal advisers on transfer were aware of the need to protect the cottage as part of the heritage of the District.

Council agreed that it would be important to ensure Dutch Cottage heritage is protected.

On a motion, moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor S P Smith, it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Draft Housing Transfer Application be approved for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to make any minor adjustments required prior to dispatch and to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the leader of the Council, for any other adjustments.  
(CD(ES))

**260 INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR HEADS OF SERVICE POSTS**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive that proposed an interview process in connection with appointments to the Head of Environmental Services and Head of Community Services posts.

### **Resolved**

That the process and composition of the Member Interview Panels in respect of the Head of Environmental Services and Head of Community Services posts, as detailed in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.4 of the report, be agreed. (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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

## **261 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Council considered the exempt reports of the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee relating to spending of the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant and Waste Management Reserve Fund and overseeing the procurement process for refuse collection and recycling.

Responding to questions, the Corporate Director (External Services) advised that:-

- Vehicle round six involved the more remote/difficult to access areas.
- Caravan parks and most remote outlying properties should be included in recycling rounds.
- Blocks of flats can require bespoke recycling solutions. As new blocks are built the objective will be to bring them on stream.

### **Resolved**

(1) That this year's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant and Waste Management Reserve Fund be allocated to the following items:-

- Serviceteam cost for running narrow access vehicle for round six - £28,000.
- Box purchases for flats expansion and current kerbside provision - £855.
- Communal wheeled bins for flats expansion and delivery by Ashingdon Removals – £10,700.
- Lids for boxes for flats – £100.
- Fitting of bin lifts to kerbside vehicles – £15,000.

- Printing and distribution of leaflets and bin stickers for flats expansion – £1,020.
  - Development of current recycling leaflets and production/distribution of “Resource” recycling newsletter – £5,840.
  - A programme of participation monitoring of the Council’s kerbside recycling scheme as described in paragraph 3.1 of the officer’s report to the 18 July Sub-Committee meeting, subject to only one leaflet being distributed to all those households that had not recycled during the period of monitoring – £9,500.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee to oversee the progress and development of the contract procurement process for refuse collection and recycling and to approve the wording of the leaflet associated with the programme of participation monitoring at its September meeting. (CD(ES))

The meeting closed at 8.21pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....