

The Executive – 12 April 2023

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

Chairman: Cllr S E Wootton
Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs C E Roe

Cllr Mrs D L Belton
Cllr D S Efde

Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr I H Ward

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllr I A Foster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A L Williams

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Stephenson	- Chief Executive
S Summers	- Strategic Director
P Barnes	- Director of Assets & Investment
A Hunkin	- Interim Director of People & Governance
T Lilley	- Director of Communities & Health
Y Dunn	- Planning Manager
S Worthington	- Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer
K Anderson	- Corporate Manager, Community, Leisure & Health, BBC

88 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89 REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2023 – REVIEW OF IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Executive considered the report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewing improvements within the Development Management team.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Assets proposed that recommendations 1 to 6 as set out in the report be approved together with an amendment to recommendation 7, seconded by Cllr D J Sperring: 'that for major development and planning applications that have generated substantial public interest, officers should seek Ward Councillor comments on conditions, before discharge, if the details vary from the planning application.'

In response to a Member question as to how Ward Members would be provided with details of planning applications within their wards, officers advised that this used to be done up until 2019. A monthly list would be produced and this would

be circulated to Members via Democratic Services.

Resolved

- (1) Arrange a follow up review of the Development Management service by PAS to assist with the #OneTeam service.
- (2) That further options are explored within the #OneTeam partnership to create additional capacity across both Councils.
- (3) Continue work on improving the customer experience through online improvements and digital technology.
- (4) Provide a full pre-application service from April 2023 as a discretionary service.
- (5) To provide Members with planning application decisions in their wards.
- (6) Implement quarterly performance and monitoring reporting to Members.
- (7) That for major development and planning applications that have generated substantial public interest officers should seek Ward Councillor comments on conditions, before discharge, if the details vary from the planning application. (DP)

(This was agreed unanimously.)

90 PROCESS FOR AWARDING VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2023/24

The Executive considered the report of the Director of Communities & Health setting out details of the process for allocating voluntary sector grants in 2023/24.

Members commended the diversity of organisations receiving the grants and the report from RRAVS on the work it undertakes with good coverage across the District.

Resolved

- (1) That the processes and procedures for allocating the Voluntary Sector Grants fund be continued for the financial year 2023/24.
- (2) That it be agreed that this process remains clear and transparent whilst aligning outcomes with those identified in the Rochford District Council (RDC) Business Plan relating to partnership working and links to the Joint Rochford & Castle Point Health & Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) 2022-25.

- (3) That it be agreed that the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Services (RRAVS) receive top sliced funding from the same pot, based on outcomes aligned with the Essex County Council performance framework and the HWBS action plan. (DCH)

(This was agreed unanimously.)

91 LEASE OF GREAT WAKERING PAVILION

(Note: Cllr D S Efde declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.)

The Executive considered the report of the Director of Assets & Investment seeking approval to lease Great Wakering Pavilion to ATF Southend.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Assets, Cllr I H Ward, commended the report and emphasised that this would result in investment to bring the pavilion to a good condition for the benefit of the community and moved a Motion to approve the recommendation set out in the report, which was seconded by Cllr D J Sperring.

Resolved

That the Council owned asset – Great Wakering Pavilion – known as sports pavilion and tennis court (coloured blue on the map at Appendix 1) be leased to ATF Southend (Achieve Thrive Flourish) for use as a community based sports and leisure centre for a period of 28 years. (DAI)

(5 Members voted in favour of the Motion and 1 abstained.)

92 LEASE OF HULLBRIDGE PAVILION

The Executive considered the report of the Director of Assets & Investment seeking agreement to publicly market a leasehold opportunity for Hullbridge Pavilion for commercial use.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Assets, Cllr I H Ward, moved a Motion to approve the recommendations set out in the report, which was seconded by Cllr D S Efde.

Resolved

- (1) That the leasehold opportunity be publicly marketed for the Council owned asset – Hullbridge Pavilion - a sports pavilion, located at Poole Lane, Hullbridge (edged red on the map at Appendix 1) for commercial use.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Assets & Investment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Assets, to review the offers from prospective tenants resulting from the marketing

exercise via local property agents and finalise the terms of the lease with the successful applicant for the Hullbridge Pavilion.

- (3) That community use of the asset be recommended, unless there are community benefits, which will confer wider value for money to residents of the district overall. (DAI)

(This was agreed unanimously.)

93 COST OF LIVING UPDATE

The Executive considered the report of the Director of Communities & Health providing an update on the cost of living response and the work of the Cost of Living Working Group. Copies of the latest iteration of the cost of living dashboard were circulated at the meeting.

It was noted that calls to the Council's Customer Services team were minimal; however, overall reach in terms of communication across all platforms is significantly high at just over 12,000, although this dropped slightly in March. The dashboard was constantly changing but would assist in picking up any emerging trends; there was no wish to put any additional pressure on partners to provide additional information for the dashboard.

Officers made reference to a recent health, wellbeing and cost of living event hosted by the Castle Point and Rochford Health and Wellbeing Board on 29 March at the Megacentre in Rayleigh. Around 250 people attended, together with around 30 of the Council's partners, and it was well received with positive feedback received. The intention was to continue to run such events in the future.

There were around 18 warm hubs around the district which were well used. The Council was waiting for confirmation as to whether it would be included in the LGA Innovation Zone for its cost of living work.

In response to a Member question as to whether there would be other events elsewhere in the District other than Rayleigh, officers advised that there were plans for a cost of living roadshow that would go out across the district and present to existing groups; this would be developed further with the Council's partners.

Responding to a further Member question as to what was planned in the future taking into account all that had been learned, officers confirmed that the cost of living action plan would be reviewed in September after a year of the action plan being in place and this would be used to re-evaluate and programme what actions should be taken over the winter months and further on.

Thanks were extended to the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Housing & Health and the officer team for all their hard work on the cost of living response.

Resolved

That the update on the cost of living response and work of the Cost of Living Working Group be noted. (DCH)

94 SAFEGUARDING POLICY & PROCEDURES 2023-2026

The Executive considered the report of the Director of Communities & Health setting out details of the joint revised safeguarding policy and procedures 2023-2026.

It was noted that this review had been brought forward in response to changes in staffing and legislative changes which were set out at appendix 10 on page 11.72 of the report and aligned practices across both councils.

The Leader, Cllr S E Wootton, moved a Motion to approve the recommendations, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs C E Roe.

Resolved

That the joint revised safeguarding policy and procedures 2023-2026 for children, young people and adults with care and support needs be agreed. (DCH)

(This was agreed unanimously.)

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

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