

## The Executive – 19 October 2011

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Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **19 October 2011** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore  
Vice Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr K J Gordon  
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill  
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

Cllr M Maddocks  
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

### 242 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 243 LOCALISING THE RETENTION OF BUSINESS RATES GROWTH – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance with regard to a Government consultation paper on proposals for localising the retention of business rates growth.

During discussion it was noted that, notwithstanding whether it would be appropriate for Essex authorities to consider the introduction of pooling arrangements, the details of how it would work will depend on the consultation responses and the timescales associated with proposals were such that no decision needed to be made at this time. Concern was expressed about the baseline being based on the 2012/13 Formula Grant. It was noted that the current Formula Grant calculation no longer reflected an assessment of an Authority's need as significant amounts were taken out to fund the floor damping mechanism.

It was agreed that proposed answers to questions in the consultation paper on baseline should be amended to reflect concern that the Authority would not want to see the amounts lost each year through floor damping in the Formula Grant becoming embedded in the new funding regime.

### Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the proposed answers to questions in the consultation paper on baseline being amended to reflect concern that the Authority would not want to see the amounts lost each year through floor damping in the Formula Grant becoming embedded in the new funding regime, the document attached to the report of the Head of Finance be submitted as this Council's response to the consultation.
- (2) That the decision in (1) above is not subject to call-in/referral due to the deadline to respond to the Government consultation paper being 24 October 2011. (HF)

### **244 THE ESSEX WORKS COMMITMENT 2012-2017 CORPORATE VISION – CONSULTATION DRAFT**

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive with regard to a consultation draft on the Essex Works Commitment 2012-2017 Corporate Vision.

The observations outlined in the report were endorsed. It was felt that it would be of value to make specific reference to the questionable overall value of the document given that the vision, as outlined, did not appear to effectively recognise and be well linked to the current reality. There was an absence of reference to District/Borough Councils as partners and their potential inclusion in any County Council decentralisation activity. It could also be observed that, unless funding sources are clear, the specific highlighting of commitments such as enhancing the transport network within a five year timeframe could be problematical.

### Resolved

That the points outlined in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the Chief Executive's report, together with the following observations, be submitted as the Council's initial response to the County Council's draft Corporate Vision document:-

- That the vision as outlined does not appear to effectively recognise and be well linked to the current reality. Thus, the overall value of the document is questionable
- That there is an absence of reference to District/Borough Councils as partners and their potential inclusion in any County Council decentralisation activity.
- That, given the economic situation, unless funding sources are clear, the specific highlighting of commitments such as enhancing the transport network within a five year time frame could be problematical. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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