

The Executive – 7 February 2018

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **7 February 2018** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr G J Ioannou
Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr S P Smith

Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr I H Ward
Cllr M J Webb

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllr Mrs L Shaw

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton - Managing Director
A Hutchings - Strategic Director
N Lucas - Section 151 Officer
J Bostock - Assistant Director, Democratic Services

34 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35 REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD ON NEW APPROACH TO OVERSIGHT, REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

The Executive considered the report of the Investment Board on a new approach to projects.

It was recognised that there had been detailed discussion on this subject by the Board and that the new approach represented the right way ahead.

Resolved

That the information that will now be provided in relation to projects aligned with the Executive's oversight be noted. (SD)

36 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS MADE BY FULL COUNCIL / THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive received the progress on decisions schedule. With regard to the Community Safety Hub (minute 246/14) it was noted that the police had indicated that slippage in implementation related to IT difficulties they were experiencing as an organisation. Police Headquarters would be giving a precise steer on timeframe. The Chairman observed that there would, hopefully, be clear timeframe indications by the time of the next schedule.

37 QUARTER 3 2017/18 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

In presenting this item the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr S P Smith, observed that, whilst the report represented a positive position, it could be recognised that this was a result of efficiencies, innovative and new ways of working and the hard work and resilience of staff.

The Section 151 Officer confirmed that the favourable variance on planning fee income and salary underspend should be treated as one-off factors relating to Quarter 3. Council tax sharing income had been factored in. Reserves would only be used for specific purposes, such as homelessness, and spend to date on capital was on profile/trend.

During discussion it was noted that apparent anomalies in relation to car parking income for Websters Way and Old Ship Lane could be associated with a combination of the impact of some poor weather conditions and the fact that the Easter holidays for 2017 fell in a different financial quarter. Such factors demonstrated that year end figures can be a better overall indicator. It was also noted that on-going discussions with Sita Suez in relation to the Council's recycling contract pointed to further improved efficiencies and operational arrangements.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that the overall position was heartening and would, hopefully, be sustained in the last quarter. It continued to be recognised that this was about the careful management of public monies. Recognition should also be given to the Council having remained at number two across the Country for its recycling rates, key to which was the enthusiasm of residents.

Resolved

- (1) That the Quarter 3 2017/18 revenue budget and capital position set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 and detailed in appendices 1 and 2 of the report, be noted.
- (2) That the current performance on key revenue financial indicators, as shown in appendices 3 and 4, be noted. (S151O)

38 SOUTH ESSEX 2050 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Executive considered the report of the Managing Director on progress and preparation in relation to South Essex 2050 (SE2050) and the related Memorandum of Understanding.

During discussion reference was made to the potential value of new approaches to inter-authority working in being able to lever in the type of investments currently seen in other areas of the Country and to improvements to infrastructure, such as the A127.

It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding was a statement of intent and not legally binding. It was also noted that ambition in relation to co-operative working was coming from the Government, which is likely to be looking for statements of common good with National Planning Policy Framework considerations.

A SE2050 vision would provide confidence and reassurance for residents and potential investors and recognise that residents and businesses accessed services across Council areas. The Rochford District could be seen as a key party in the context of features such as Southend Airport and its environs, business park activity and green areas.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made by Leaders and Chief Executives on strategic place shaping in the preparation of a South Essex 2050 Vision be noted and endorsed.
- (2) That a programme of further collaboration on key strategic place shaping and cross boundary planning policy matters be noted and endorsed.
- (3) That a sum of £10,800 be allocated to progress the preparation of the SE2050 vision and preparatory work for a joint strategic plan.
- (4) That the intention to establish an Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) and the principles for joint working set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 10 January 2018 be noted and endorsed. (MD)

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm

Chairman

Date

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