
Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 22 November 2018

Present:

Councillor I Grundy (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendal
Councillor T Ball	Councillor J Moran
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor C Pond
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor A Wood
Councillor S Hillier	Councillor C Weston
Councillor P Honeywood	Councillor J Young

Councillors B Aspinell (part of the meeting only) J Deakin, M Steptoe, C Sargeant and A Turrell were also present.

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Peter Randall - Senior Democratic Services Officer

Lisa Siggins - Democratic Services Officer

- 1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that

 1. The membership of the Committee was unchanged since the last meeting;
 2. Councillors Ron Pratt and Wendy Schmitt had sent their apologies. Councillor B Massey had sent his apologies, Councillor J Moran attended as his substitute. Councillor Apsinell attended part of the meeting as an observer, Councillor Andy Wood attended the whole meeting as his substitute.
 3. A Code interest was declared by Councillor C Pond with regard to Agenda Item 4 (Essex Future Library Services), in that he is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).
- 2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 18 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public

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Essex Future Library Services

The Committee received report **PSEG/14/18** from Suzanna Shaw Director for Customer Services. Councillor Susan Barker Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate and Liz Sutton, Senior Communication and Engagement Specialist were also present for this item.

Members were informed that there would be a 12-week public consultation commencing at 9am on 29 November 2018, ending at midnight on 28 February 2019. There will be a number of briefing sessions open to all ECC, city, district and borough councillors.

A PowerPoint presentation was given on the Essex Future Libraries Services Strategy 2019-2014 which included:

- Why a new strategy is needed
- What is being proposed
- How needs have been assessed
- The 4 different tiers
- Who may be affected
- Methods of consultation
- How can people respond
- How people are being informed
- When things happen will happen

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and the key areas raised included:

- When the consultation document would be available to the Committee to view – it was agreed that the document would be circulated as soon as it was available.
- Community libraries and how they would be affected – It was confirmed that this would depend on the different tenures involved and that Councillor McKinlay would be providing a report on the property aspect concerning libraries
- How the responses to the consultation would be analysed and the cost involved- it was confirmed that this would be conducted externally but at present the procurement process had not been finalised
- Opening hours of libraries – it was explained that this would be dependent upon the outcome of the consultation
- Clarification of the 4 tiers involved- it was confirmed that those falling within tier 4 would be run purely by volunteers. Concerns were raised about the state of some of the premises. It was stated that the above-mentioned report due from Councillor McKinlay would look at this issue and that further information would be available later in the consultation process.
- Concerns over the timing of the consultation falling over the Christmas holiday period

- The use and siting's of mobile libraries – This has yet to be finalised and data will be provided shortly

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked all those involved in the presentation and stated that it would be useful for an update be provided to the Committee shortly after the consultation ends.

5 Future meeting dates

The following future meeting dates were agreed:

- Thursday 23 May 2019
- Thursday 20 June 2019
- Thursday 18 July 2019
- Thursday 26 September 2019
- Thursday 17 October 2019
- Thursday 28 November 2019
- Wednesday 18 December 2019
- Thursday 23 January 2020
- Thursday 20 February 2020
- Thursday 19 March 2020
- Thursday 23 April 2020

6 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next activity day will be on Wednesday, 12 December 2018.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 1.50 pm.

Chairman