
Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet meeting that was held remotely on Tuesday 20 October 2020

Present:

Councillor	Cabinet Member Responsibility
Councillor D Finch	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor T Ball	Economic Development
Councillor S Barker	Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate
Councillor K Bentley	Deputy Leader and Infrastructure
Councillor R Gooding	Education and Skills
Councillor D Madden	Performance, Business Planning and Partnerships
Councillor L McKinley	Children and Families
Councillor J Spence	Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor S Walsh	Environment and Climate Change Action
Councillor C Whitbread	Finance

Councillors Mackrory, Henderson, Turrell, Mitchell and Steptoe were also present.

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

The report of Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received and the following were noted:

1. There were no changes to membership since the last meeting of Cabinet.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Pond.
3. There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Minutes: 15 September 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

3. **Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

4. **2020/21 Financial Overview as at the Half Year Stage (FP/694/05/20)**

The Cabinet received a report setting out the forecast financial position of Essex County Council's (ECC) revenue and capital budgets as at the half year stage of the 2020/21 financial year.

Councillor Whitbread responded to questions from Councillors Henderson, Turrell and Mackrory in relation to the possible criteria when spending monies

that may be received by ECC following the move to Tier 2 Coronavirus restrictions, the level of shortfall expected against Council Tax receipts and related mitigation measures, the possible uses of the 'emergency' category within the reserves, the return of funding to the Clinical Commissioning Group (on which additional detail would also be provided to Councillor Henderson in writing), the removal of the Essex Employment Space project, and the possibility of staff reductions.

Written responses would be provided to Councillor Henderson by Councillor Whitbread in relation to shortfalls in the funding provided by central Government to compensate for the Council's emergency spending due to Covid-19, and the costs and impacts related to residential and domiciliary care. Councillor Spence suggested that an all member briefing could be provided at a later date on this latter subject.

A written response would also be provided to Councillor Mackrory by Councillor Walsh in relation to flood prevention measures on Canvey Island.

Resolved:

1. To approve the draw down of funds from reserves as follows:
 - i. **£4.2m** from the General Balance to the Health and Adult Social Care portfolio to mitigate loss of income due to impact of COVID-19 (section 5.9.vi)
 - ii. **£2.1m** from the Adults Digital Programme Reserve to the Health and Adult Social Care portfolio to fund projects in 2020/21 (section 5.9.vi).
 - iii. **£600,000** from the Service Improvement Reserve to the Leader RSSS portfolio to support the Just About Managing (JAM) programme of work (section 5.15.ii)
 - iv. **£342,000** from the Reserve for Future Capital Funding to the Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate RSSS portfolio relating to the transfer of RFID (Self Service in Libraries) budget from capital to revenue (section 5.13.iii)
 - v. **£254,000** from the Service Improvement Reserve to the Health and Adult Social Care portfolio relating to Mental Health funding (section 5.9.vi)
 - vi. **£160,000** from the Transformation Reserve to the Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate RSSS portfolio relating to the Future Resourcing Services to Deliver ECC's Workforce Strategy project. This was previously approved (FP/160/05/18) but has time lapsed. (section 5.13.iii)
 - vii. **£96,000** from the Recovery Reserve to Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate RSSS portfolio (**£72,000**) and to the Leader

RSSS portfolio (**£23,000**) in relation to COVID-19 additional costs for staffing and communications campaigns (sections 5.13.iii & 5.15ii)

viii. **£4,000** from the Transformation Reserve to Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate RSSS portfolio relating to the pilot for technological solutions for Children and Families front line teams (section 5.13.iii)

ix. **£109,000** from the General Balance to Other Operating Costs to reduce the planned appropriation from trading activities due to impact of the change to the terms and conditions of the Music Hub Grant (sections 5.11.ii & 6.3)

2. To approve the appropriation of funds to reserves as follows:

i. **£7.5m** to the General Balance from Health and Adult Social Care portfolio due to lower demand levels than originally anticipated for COVID-19 funding approved in relation to hospital discharge beds and funding recovered from Health (section 5.9.vi)

ii. **£1.3m** to the General Balance from the Deputy Leader and Infrastructure portfolio relating to COVID-19 losses, predominantly from enforcement income being lower than originally anticipated (section 5.3.iii)

iii. **£761,000** to the Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Equalisation Reserves from the Deputy Leader and Infrastructure portfolio in relation to the A130 PFI and due to lower in year predicted traffic volumes (section 5.3.iii)

iv. **£400,000** to the Carry Forward Reserve from the Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate RSSS portfolio (**£260,000**) and the Finance RSSS portfolio (**£140,000**) to support future years savings targets. (sections 5.13.iii & 5.14.ii)

v. **£282,000** to the Carbon Reduction Reserve from the Deputy Leader and Infrastructure portfolio due to lower than budgeted energy prices within Street Lighting (section 5.3.iii)

vi. **£76,000** to the Carbon Reduction Reserve from the Environment and Climate Change Action portfolio for tree planting in 2021/22. (section 5.7.ii)

vii. **£58,000** to the Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Equalisation Reserves from Education and Skills portfolio in relation to Clacton Secondary schools and Building schools for the future. (section 5.6.ii)

3. To approve the following adjustments:

i. Vire **£175,000** from the Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate portfolio to the Environment and Climate Change Action portfolio as a

result of the staffing restructure (sections 5.2.iv & 5.7.ii)

ii. Vire **£75,000** from the Deputy Leader and Infrastructure portfolio to the Economic Development portfolio following the Place and Public Health management restructure (sections 5.4.ii & 5.3.iii)

iii. To amend the capital budget as shown in Appendices C (i) and C (ii) which allows for capital slippage of **£8.8m**, capital budget additions of **£5.9m**, capital budget reductions of **£8m** and advanced works of **£5.2m** (see section 7.2).

iv. To amend the capital budget in outer years to allow for additions of **£5m** within M11 Junction 8 scheme, owing to a shortfall in the original budget identified via mid-range tender returns. Note that this change does not impact 2020/21 capital budget and is predominantly an addition to 2022/23 spend.

v. Transfer **£4.5m** of the third tranche of COVID emergency funding from the Grant Equalisation reserve to the Recovery reserve in order to support the Council's ongoing response to and recovery from the COVID-19 impact.

5. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members (FP/802/09/20)

The report of decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet was noted.

6. Dates of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 10.00am. The meeting was expected to be held online.

7. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

8. Urgent Exempt Business

There was no urgent exempt business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.28am.