

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, AT 10.00AM ON 22 MARCH 2016

Present:

Councillors	Cabinet Member responsibility
D M Finch	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
K Bentley	Deputy Leader and Economic Growth, Waste and Recycling
R Bass	Infrastructure
A Brown	Corporate, Communities and Customers
R Gooding	Education and Lifelong Learning
E Johnson	Highways and Transport Delivery
D Madden	Adults and Children
J Spence	Finance

Councillors Mackrory, Young, Twitchen, Page, Walsh, Henderson, Danvers, Barker, Hirst, Aldridge, Howard, Maddocks, Kendall, Higgins and Buckley also attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Butland, Cllr Tony Hedley and Gavin Jones

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Questions

No members of the public had registered an interest in asking a question or making a statement on any of the items to be considered at the meeting.

5. Lower Thames Crossing: 2016 Consultation Response

The Cabinet received report FP/411/02/16 by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure which outlined the proposed Essex County Council (ECC) response to the public consultation by Highways England on the Lower Thames Crossing: Route Options.

Councillor Bass outlined the importance of the crossing to both Essex County Council and Kent County Council. The existing crossing lacks resilience and does not serve the interests of the community.

The following information was provided in response to questions raised from Councillors Mackrory, Young and Kendall.

- The Council is concerned to understand the details of modelling that will be undertaken by Highways England.
- The vast majority of other Councils in Essex, with the exception of Thurrock, are in support of our position.
- Tolling of the crossing is a Government decision.
- Compensation to local communities is a matter for Highways England
- A meeting with Thurrock Council had been sought to discuss the options but was declined.

Councillor Bentley commented that the new crossing was essential for businesses and residents and that the economy would be greatly benefitted.

Resolved:

1. Agree to send a response based on the principles outlined in paragraphs 3.21 – 3.36 to Highways England regarding the consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing: Route Options.
2. Agree that the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure be authorised to approve the final terms of the submission.

6. Installation of LED Lanterns in ECC Streetlights

The Cabinet received report FP/355/12/15 by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure which sought agreement to a proposal to invest £9.222m which would be spent on the replacement of approximately 19,000 sodium street lanterns with more efficient LED lanterns. These lanterns are those which are lit all night under the Council's part night lighting scheme. The proposal will save the council an estimated £24m in energy, maintenance and carbon taxes over a 20 year period. Part of this investment, £4.350m would be forward funded by an interest free Salix loan under a government scheme.

The following information was provided in response to questions raised from Councillors Mackrory, Young, Danvers, Henderson and Kendall.

- 84% of the existing lighting stock is unaffected by this proposal which only applies to existing stock that remains on all night.
- This proposal is complementary to part night lighting
- LED technology pilot schemes were introduced in a careful and structured way.
- A review of the pilot scheme did indicate that LED was proven technology and that its economies were substantially changing.
- Photovoltaic lights are being tested in some areas of London but are, as yet, not proven technology,
- The Council does not have the capacity to deal with this project in house.

Resolved:

1. Agree that up to £9.222m can be spent on the installation of LED lighting units on the basis of the savings projections contained in this report.
2. Agree to commission the work directly from Ringway Jacobs subject to a requirement that they will undertake a competitive tender for materials and labour is undertaken when sub-contracting the work.
3. Agree to delegate to the Director for Commissioning: Transport & Infrastructure authority to:
 - (a) determine the technical specification; and
 - (b) issue an order to Ringway Jacobs.

7. Cabinet Decisions Report

The Cabinet received report FP/397/02/16 by the Secretary to the Cabinet setting out the decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10:40am.