

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD AT 10.00AM ON 27 MAY 2014**

### **Present**

M Mackrory (Chairman)	J Huntman (Vice-Chairman)
W Archibald	J Lodge
S Barker	J Pike
G Butland	C Seagers
J Chandler	
J Deakin	

Cllr Channer and Cllr Chandler were present for the meeting  
Cllr Twitchen was present for item 7, Transformation Quarterly Update

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Cllr Barker left the meeting at 10.25am and returned at 11.05am  
Cllr Huntman left the meeting at 10.45am  
Cllr Archibald left the meeting at 12.05pm  
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The following officers were also present in support of the meeting:

Robert Fox	Scrutiny Officer
Ian Myers	Committee Officer
Keir Lynch	Executive Director for Strategy, Transformation & Commissioning Support (for item 7)
Connie Kerbst	Senior Programme Manager Next Generation Access (for item 8)

### **1. Constitution Terms of Reference and Membership**

The Chairman reminded Members that the membership and terms of reference of this committee had been submitted to the last Full Council on 13 May 2014. Members noted the report.

### **2. Apologies and Substitution Notices**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Julie Young, Malcolm Buckley, John Aldridge (substituted by Cllr Jenny Chandler), Malcolm Maddocks (substituted by Cllr P Channer) and John Knapman

### **3. Vice Chairmen**

The Chairman informed Members that Cllr Buckley had already been nominated by the administration to serve as one of the two Vice Chairmen of the committee. The Chairman then also nominated Cllr Huntman as Vice Chairman.

Members agreed the nominations.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Barker declared an interest in item 8, BDUK Programme Update.

### **5(i) Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

## 6. Questions from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

Councillor Barker asked if questions from members of the public should, in future, be held as the first item of business. Cllr Twitchen advised that the public speaking arrangements had been agreed by an all-party group but she would look into the agreements and advise accordingly.

## 7. Transformation – Quarterly Update

The committee considered report CSC/14/14 providing an update on the progress of the Transformation Phase 2 programme. Cllr Twitchen, deputising for Cllr Hirst, was joined by Keir Lynch, Executive Director for Strategy, Transformation & Commissioning Support for this item.

Members were informed of the following:

### Progress towards becoming a commissioning organisation

Phase 2 is a move away from large directorates to the commissioning of a more flexible and collaborative functional model.

Restructuring is largely complete with 162 post filled through a combination of internal and external appointments.

Good progress towards finalising the Strategy, transformation & Commissioning Support function was reported.

Work is underway to develop the Commissioning Strategies that support the seven agreed outcomes. These will be presented to Full Council in September 2014.

### Update on Commissioning Strategies

A commissioning portal has been designed and launched providing information to commissioners and support staff.

The development of detailed mapping and analysis of the impact of the Care Bill is underway. The Government is to provide more detailed information over the next few months.

Better Care Fund – two year integrated plans for working with CCGs have been submitted to NHS England with work underway on five year plans for submission in September.

Members raised a number of questions concerning:

- The ongoing scrutiny of developing strategies
- Portal awareness raising and training for Members and others
- The involvement of key partners in the development of care strategies and provision of services

Councillor Twitchen agreed to into the involvement of District/Borough Councils with the consultation process and report back to a future meeting.

### Our Employees

Since April 2013 the headcount has been reduced by 413. A range of policies are in place to support employees affected by restructures and consultation.

Employees have been engaged in events to ensure new behaviours and skills are understood including:

- Outcomes based accountability training
- Leadership and engagement events
- Leader and Chief Executive roadshows
- Your Voice Employee Engagement Survey

Following discussion it was agreed that Keir Lynch would provide Members with full details of the 'Your Voice' survey results at a future meeting.

#### Delivering Key Projects

Corelogic has been named preferred bidder for the new single social care case management system.

As part of the Transforming Corporate Systems Programme and following an intensive procurement process, Fujitsu has been awarded a five year contract to help replace ageing IT systems.

A new Information Services Delivery programme is underway which is designed to future proof the organisation.

Cllr Archibald expressed concern that a number of IT systems that had been put in place in previous years had failed.

#### Commercial

Fourteen category plans have been developed and approved by the Commercial Savings Project Board.

Internal accountability meetings have been held, the mechanism for Commissioners to hold internal providers to account for the delivery of outcomes, for:

- People Commissioning/Family Operations
- People Commissioning/Adult Operations
- Place Commissioning/Customer Operations

#### Costs and Benefits

The savings achieved as at April 2014 were outlined together with the £107m savings required during 2014/15 which was agreed by Full Council in February 2014. The focus is now on 2015/16 and plans to deliver further financial savings are being developed.

Members raised questions concerning:

- The role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in the review of the transformation programme.
- The future scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- The structure of Transformation 3
- Details of savings made to date and future savings plans.

Councillor Twitchen assured Members she would make Councillor Hirst aware of all the comments raised at this meeting.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Twitchen and Keir Lynch for their attendance and input to the meeting.

## **8. Broadband Delivery UK Project**

The committee considered report CSC/15/14 providing an update on the progress of the BDUK Project (operating under the programme brand Superfast Essex). Cllr Channer, deputising for Cllr Bentley, was joined by Connie Kerbst, Senior Programme Manager Next Generation Access, for this item.

Members were informed that:

- Superfast Essex is part of the Superfast Britain programme.
- In Essex, the programme will deliver broadband infrastructure to ensure that over 87% of premises can connect to superfast broadband services by the summer of 2016.
- ECC has awarded a contract for delivery to British Telecom (BT)
- The programme will invest £24.6m, made up by a BDUK grant, ECC funding and match funding from private investors.
- The plan is to identify as many people to be included in the project as possible.
- Resources cover the close scrutiny of BT delivery
- Working closely with BT particularly at a local level where relationships are strong with good reporting procedures in place.
- Communication activity is underway and primarily focused on the programme website [www.superfastessex.org](http://www.superfastessex.org)
- Although still in an early delivery stage, strong working relationships have been established with BT and infrastructure delivery is progressing ahead of schedule.

Following questions raised Members were informed that:

- A frequently asked question (FAQ's) document is being compiled at present.
- A points scoring mechanism to allocate funding is in place.
- All meetings and events are promoted on the website
- The next steps include a business case to the Capital Programmes Board, a more significant grant allocation and the securing of match funding and consultation with all Councils and Parishes.
- Checks will be made to ensure the programme aim of reaching connection speeds of 24meg, or above, are achieved. It was noted that BT expect to achieve speeds of above this.
- Alternative technologies are being considered and BT is looking into the expansion of the fibre network.
- The right balance between residential and business demands is important and specific needs raised by Business Leaders from the county are being considered.

It was agreed that an update report would be required at a future meeting.

Councillor Channer and Connie Kerbst were thanked for their attendance and input to the meeting.

## **9. Work Programme and Tracker**

The Chairman thanked Robert Fox for his work compiling the work programme scoping documents.

Members noted and agreed the work programme commenting in particular on Fixed Assets and Budget Setting and Planning. The Chairman reported that Cllr Pike had agreed to lead on the External and Internal Communications review.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 11.00am, and not on the rise of Cabinet, in Committee Room 2, County Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.21pm.

Chairman  
24 June 2014