

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, AT 4.00PM ON 20 MARCH 2012**

### **Membership/Attendance**

* P J Martin (Chairman)	* D M Finch
* K Bentley	* J G Jowers
* S Candy	D J Louis
S C Castle	J R Lucas
* Mrs T M Chapman	* A Naylor

\* present

Councillors G Butland, Mrs P Channer, R C Howard, N J Hume, G W McEwen, C Riley and R Walters were also present.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S C Castle, D Louis, and J A Lucas and also from Councillors M Mackrory and T C Smith-Hughes (Cabinet Observers).

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Award of Residual Waste Treatment Contract**

The Cabinet considered report **FP/691/11/11** by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Waste and Recycling which presented information to enable the Cabinet to consider the Final Business Case (FBC) for the Residual Waste Treatment Contract (PFI). The contract would deliver a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) based, residual waste treatment facility at the Essex County Council (ECC) site in Courtauld Road, Basildon. Services would commence in June 2015, following periods of planning, construction, testing and commissioning, and would last for 25 years. The report included detail regarding the legal and financial implications of the contract, together with a letter of support from ECC's retained technical advisor.

In introducing the report, the Leader of the Council commented that an important point in a long process had now been reached and he thanked officers, members and partners for their respective contributions.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Waste and Recycling outlined the aims of the project and advised that the FBC had already been approved by the Cabinet and full Council of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. He endorsed the Leader of the Council's thanks to all involved in reaching this stage in the process, also praising the efforts being made by District and Borough Councils to increase recycling rates and recognising the contribution of Essex residents in achieving this.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation spoke of her previous involvement in the project and echoed the thanks expressed previously.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the Final Business Case be agreed and its submission to WIDP (DEFRA) approved as part of securing the £100.9m Waste Infrastructure Credit (formerly PFI) grant.
- (2) That the award of the contract '1410: Residual Waste Treatment Contract' and the sub-lease of 8.5 hectares of the site to the consortium of Urbaser and Balfour Beatty be agreed on the basis that the expected total nominal cost at Financial Close is no greater than £919m.
- (3) That the revised Joint Working Agreement between Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council be progressed to a satisfactory conclusion before Contract Award.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Project Director - Waste to finalise the contract, the sub-lease and Joint Working Agreement in consultation with Finance and Legal Services.

**5. Update on progress towards delivery of the Corporate Business Plan / background and vision for future performance arrangements**

The Cabinet considered report **FP/750/01/12** by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme which outlined the Council's current performance against the outcomes articulated within the EssexWorks Corporate Plan 2012-17 (based on the latest information) and presented targets and aspirations against these outcomes for Members' approval. The report also made specific proposals as to how reporting against outcomes would be effected in future to enable the Cabinet to take decisions and Scrutiny to review progress against delivery of the EssexWorks Corporate Plan.

In presenting the report, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme highlighted areas of particularly effective performance.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the baseline position in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan outcomes (as set out in Appendix A to the report) be noted, together

with current performance for 2011/12 as set out in this baseline position.

- (2) That the targets / aspirations proposed in the baseline position in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan outcomes be agreed.
- (3) That the proposed format for the formal quarterly report for Cabinet and Executive Scrutiny Committee as set out at Appendix B to the report be endorsed.

## **6. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members**

The Cabinet received report **FP/781/03/12** by the Secretary to the Cabinet listing the decisions taken since the last meeting.

## **7. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

### **Resolved:**

That, having reached the view that, in each case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **8. Award of Residual Waste Treatment Contract**

(exempt under paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The Cabinet considered report **FP/691/11/11/ptII** by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Waste and Recycling which contained exempt information referred to in the report on the same issue considered and decisions taken earlier in the meeting (minute 4 above refers).

The meeting closed at 4.18pm.

Chairman  
24 April 2012