

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON 7 DECEMBER 2012

Present:

Councillors	Cabinet Member responsibility
P J Martin	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
D M Finch	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme (Vice Chairman)
J Aldridge	Adults Social Care
K Bentley	Economic Growth, Waste and Recycling
S C Castle	Education and the 2012 Games
R Gooding	Children's Services
J Jowers	Communities and Planning
D J Louis	Highways and Transportation
J R Lucas	Customer Services, Environment and Culture
A Naylor	Health and Wellbeing

Councillors M Mackrory and Mrs T Higgins were present as Opposition Observers.

Councillors A Brown, S Candy, W J C Dick, M C M Lager, G W McEwen, K Twitchen and R G Walters also attended.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Transformation Update

The Cabinet considered report FP/953/11/12 by the Leader of the Council which sought approval for the detailed design work required to develop a Transformation Mark II programme that will be capable of saving the County Council £200m per annum by 2017. Members were also asked to note the Chief Executive's draft proposed structure for the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) to drive forward the detailed design and development of the Transformation Mark II programme (although this could be subject to change).

In response to questions from Councillor Mackrory, the Leader agreed that Members would be seeking professional advice on the risks involved in merging the statutory roles Director for Children's Service and Director for Adults Social Services; Scrutiny will be heavily involved in Transformation Mark II; and a separate work stream is being started on Governance arrangements. The

Deputy Leader explained the arrangements for managing the work of the consultants.

Resolved:

- 1) That the progress made since 2009 through the Council's *EssexWorks: Putting Customers First* Transformation Programme be noted.
- 2) That the future financial pressures facing Essex County Council up to 2016/17 be noted.
- 3) That the savings target of £200m per annum by 2016/17 be noted and the strategy for achieving the target through a Transformation Mark II programme be agreed.
- 4) That the development and detailed design of a Transformation Mark II programme for Essex County Council, as set out in report FP/953/11/12, be agreed.
- 5) That the sum of £1,390,000 be allocated to the further development and design work on a Transformation Mark II programme (funding to May 2013), to be funded from the Transformation Reserve. (NB: an additional £650,000 has already been approved through a Key Decision by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme for the provision of consultancy support from Price Waterhouse Coopers and Proteus to help develop and design a Transformation Mark II programme.)
- 6) That the proposal to separate the commissioning of services from their delivery within the Council (requiring some change to the organisation's structure and to the roles and accountabilities of the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)) be agreed.
- 7) That the draft proposed structure for the corporate leadership team set out in Appendix A to report FP/953/11/12 (which could be subject to change) be noted as the basis for the Chief Executive to realign the roles and accountabilities of CLT.
- 8) That, as decisions relating to senior management appointments or assimilation and terms and conditions are a non-executive function, they will be determined by the Head of Paid Service or the Committee to determine the Terms and Conditions of employment of Chief and Deputy Chief Officers where the decision falls within its terms of reference. The Committee will also be asked to approve the process by which CLT members may be aligned to new management posts.
- 9) That the interim risk assessment for merging the statutory roles of the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) be noted, with a full risk assessment to be carried out and independently validated for consideration by the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care.

4. Local Council Tax Support Scheme Update

The Cabinet considered report FP/942/10/12 by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme which provided an update on the progress of Local Council Tax Support Schemes (LCTSS) and their alignment to the pan-Essex principles agreed by Cabinet in June. It also sought approval for those scheme principles in order to complete the formal consultation with Billing Authorities (District Councils, Borough Councils and the City Council). In addition, the report presented the case for investment into additional council tax collection activity and the provision of a hardship fund in support of the pan-Essex principles and LCTS schemes.

Resolved:

- 1) That the alignment of the LCTS schemes proposed by each billing authority to the agreed pan-Essex principles be noted.
- 2) That funding of up to £700k be provided to support pilot initiatives for additional council tax collection activities, as set out in report FP/942/10/12.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme to allocate that funding to billing authorities, and to support any other changes to council tax discounts and exemptions which may mitigate further against the potential residual losses identified in report FP/942/10/12, subject to presentation of the final proposals to Essex Strategic Leaders.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme to agree the hardship fund levels based on the principles set out in the report.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme to agree with billing authorities the detailed performance monitoring requirements to be put in place as a condition of the above funding.

5. Financial Strategy 2013/14 and Beyond

The Cabinet considered report FP/949/11/12 by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme which provided an update on the financial strategy for the Council and sought endorsement for the financial strategy for 2013/14 and the following financial years.

Resolved:

- 1) That the following be noted:
 - changes in the local government financial landscape and the implications for the Council's planning process;
 - the revised estimates for Revenue funding availability;
 - the risk assessment included in the report;
 - the next steps leading to budget approval in February 2013; and

- the updated Capital estimates and approach to financial planning.

6. Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement for Minerals and Waste Planning

The Cabinet considered report FP/866/06/12 by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning which presented the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) First Review document for Minerals and Waste Planning, set out the results of the public consultation on the document and sought agreement to the next steps.

Resolved:

- 1) That the comments received as a result of public consultation on the SCI First Review be noted and the next steps proposed in Appendix 2 and Section 3.2 of report FP/866/06/12 be endorsed.
- 2) That the subsequent amendments to the SCI set out in Appendix 3 to report FP/866/06/12 be agreed.
- 3) That the Council be recommended to adopt the amended SCI at its meeting on 11 December 2012.
- 4) That the equalities issues identified in Appendices 2 and 4 to report FP/866/06/12 regarding those potentially disadvantaged by the implementation of the Council's print policy be referred to the Corporate Communications Team, based on targeted evidence provided by the service area.

7. Essex Minerals Local Plan – Proposed Submission Publication

The Cabinet received report FP/862/06/12 by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning which presented the Minerals Local Plan for consideration and recommendation to the Council for approval at its next meeting on 11 December 2012.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning responded to concerns raised by Councillors Walters, Aldridge and McEwen on behalf of local residents potentially affected by proposals contained in the Statement.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Council be recommended to approve the Essex Minerals Local Plan Proposed Submission Document so as to enable:
 - Representations to be sought during the consultation period January through to March 2013; and

- Subsequently, the formal submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State after consideration of the representations, in readiness for the formal Examination in Public in late Summer 2013.
- 2) That the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning to make any appropriate minor amendments during the process of the Plan to deal with responses to the next consultation and any further legislative or procedural changes that do not materially affect the content of the Plan.
 - 3) That, subject to the decision of the Council in respect of 2 above, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, Environment and Economic Growth to agree modifications to the Plan for consideration by the Independent Inspector at the Examination in Public which do not materially affect the content of the Plan.

8. Transfer of the Field Archaeology Unit to University College London

The Cabinet received report FP/941/10/12 by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Environment and Culture which presented the case for awarding the contract for the sale of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology to University College London.

In response to a question by Councillor Mackrory the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Environment and Culture explained the process for commissioning work in the future.

Resolved:

- 1) That the contract for the transfer of the Field Archaeology Unit be awarded to University College London subject to finalising the terms.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Property and Facilities, in consultation with the relevant Members and Officers, to negotiate and agree the final terms of the contract.

9. Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Cabinet considered report FP/928/10/12 by the Leader of the Council seeking agreement to submit the Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to the Council for approval at its meeting on 11 December 2012.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires the establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Board as a Committee of the Council in April 2013 (proposals concerning this will be submitted to the Council in February 2013). The Act requires each Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Essex Health and Wellbeing Board has developed and approved this strategy for Essex and is now seeking the formal support of partner organisations that belong to the Shadow Board.

Resolved:

That the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be recommended to Council for approval at its meeting on 11 December 2012.

10. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members

The Cabinet received report FP/927/10/12 by the Secretary to the Cabinet listing the decisions taken since the last meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.28 am.

Councillor Peter Martin
Chairman
22 January 2013