
Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 23 January 2020

Present:

Councillor I Grundy (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor B Massey
Councillor I Erskine	Councillor R Moore
Councillor I Henderson	Councillor R Pratt
Councillor S Hillier	Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor P Honeywood	

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that

1. The membership of the Committee was unchanged since the last meeting;
2. Councillors C Pond and B Aspinell had sent their apologies.
3. A Code interest was declared by Councillor P Honeywood, as the Cabinet Member for Housing at Tendring District Council.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Questions from the public

There were none.

4 Essex Housing Strategy

Members received report (**PSEG/01/20**) and a presentation from Councillor Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Lee Heley, Head of Housing Growth, Steve Evison, Director, Strategic Commissioning & Policy, and Daniel Baker, Housing Growth Lead.

The Chairman introduced this item and highlighted that a number of members in the room were 'twin hatters, meaning they served as both county and district/borough councillors. While not a traditional interest, it was agreed that this was important for context.

The presentation can be found [here](#).

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and the areas raised included:

- Engagement with the public and key partners -It was confirmed that partnership working was essential and there will be joint endeavours with District Councils and Housing Associations via the relevant forums.
- Provision of the necessary infrastructure – Members felt that this was imperative. An example was given regarding the provision of health services, with it being confirmed that there is engagement with NHS estate teams. Members were advised that the Housing Delivery Test was a significant change to the planning process.
- Influence of Essex County Council over housing needs- the provision of bungalows was given as an example. It was confirmed that housing should be adaptable for changing needs, with walk in showers etc.
- Empty homes and housing for key workers – it was confirmed that these issues would be considered.

Members were advised that the public consultation is likely commence in the Summer and that the Committee would have further a further opportunity to scrutinise prior to a final decision being made.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ball and the officers for their attendance at the meeting.

5 Date of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next Committee activity day will be on Thursday, 20th February 2020.

6 Future meeting dates.

The following future meeting dates were agreed:

- Thursday 21 May 2020
- Thursday 25 June 2020
- Thursday 16 July 2020
- Thursday 24 September 2020
- Thursday 29 October 2020
- Thursday 26 November 2020
- Thursday 17 December 2020
- Thursday 21 January 2021
- Thursday 25 February 2021
- Thursday 25 March 2021
- Thursday 22 April 2021

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.55 pm

Chairman