

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet meeting held in the Council Chamber at County Hall at 10.15am on Tuesday 19 December 2023**Present:**

Councillor	Cabinet Member Responsibility
Cllr Louise McKinlay	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy (in the Chair)
Cllr Tony Ball	Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Highways Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport
Cllr Mark Durham	The Arts, Heritage and Culture
Cllr Beverley Egan	Children's Services and Early Years
Cllr Peter Schwier	Climate Czar, Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling
Cllr Lee Scott	Planning a Growing Economy
Cllr John Spence	Adult Social Care, Health and ICS Integration (items 1-4 only)
Cllr Chris Whitbread	The Chancellor of Essex

Cllrs Carlo Guglielmi, Derrick Louis, Mark Platt and Holly Whitbread were also present. Cllrs Alan Goggin, Ivan Henderson, Mike Mackrory, Chris Pond and Wendy Stamp attended remotely via Zoom.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and the following were noted:

1. Membership of the Cabinet was as set out in the report.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of the Council and Cllr David King, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.
3. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes: 14 November 2023

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 November 2023, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Questions from the Public

None.

Variation in the Order of Business

Upon the Motion of the Chairman, duly carried, the Cabinet agreed to consider Agenda Item 5 (Developing a Health Determinants Research Collaboration for Greater Essex) as the next item of business.

4. Developing a Health Determinants Research Collaboration for Greater Essex (FP/287/11/23)

Cabinet's approval was sought to accept funding awarded following a successful bid to the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) for the development of a Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) in Greater Essex. Agreement was also sought to delegate authority to officers to implement the partnership.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and ICS Integration responded as follows to questions by Cllrs Ivan Henderson, Mike Mackrory and Chris Pond:

- Although the Collaboration's work on the wider determinants of health would undoubtedly take account of the impact of past decisions and circumstances on vulnerable groups today, undertaking a dedicated assessment of these factors did not fall within its remit.
- The importance for communities on the Essex borders of services delivered by neighbouring authorities and health services was acknowledged.
- The Cabinet Member undertook to arrange a Members' Briefing on life expectancy discrepancies across the County, to take place in the New Year.

Resolved:

1. Agreed that the Council should accept £4,999,764 funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research for a Health Determinants Research Collaboration.
2. Agreed that the Director, Policy in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer may enter into agreements to accept the funding and implement the partnership.

5. Whole Council Transformation (FP/278/10/23)

Cabinet's approval was sought to mobilise the Whole Essex Transformation (WCT) programme as outlined in the 'WCT Strategy' and 'Deploying the WCT Strategy' documents, attached as Appendices A and B respectively to report FP/278/10/23.

The Chancellor of Essex, supported by the Special Lead Member for Transformation (Cllr Derrick Louis) provided the following responses to questions by Cllrs Chris Pond, Mike Mackrory and Ivan Henderson.

- Financial and demand challenges in the local government sector were only one reason for proposing the transformation programme. It was important for all organisations to review their operations and assess whether they could be more effective, and a similar process was undertaken by the Council each year as part of the budget process.
- Clarification was provided concerning the commitment to regular engagement with scrutiny, the timescale for the creation of the Special Lead Member for Transformation role and the importance of partnership working, especially in terms of achieving better value for money.

Resolved:

Agreed:

1. To adopt the 'Whole Council Transformation Strategy' (WCT) and 'Deploying the WCT Strategy' documents, as set out respectively in Appendices A and B to report FP/278/10/23).
2. To draw down £1.6m from the Transformation Reserve across financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26 to mobilise the Strategy and delivery of the first phase of the WCT Programme (up to 2025), which will include:
 - a. the next major milestone of April 2025 (Transition State 2)
 - b. Dedicated work to address £100m (by 2028) transformation savings target.
 - c. Initiation of work to embed the Conditions for Success.
 - d. Design of an effective operating model to support transformation (including transformation governance, measurement of outcomes), in conjunction with the Support Services Programme.
 - e. Specialist capacity and capability for portfolio mobilisation.
3. That procurement of one or more transformation partners will be needed to bring capacity, capability and specialist skills to support with the phase two of WCT, at an estimated cost of £1m to £2m.
4. To bring a further report to the Chancellor for Essex and Cabinet with responsibility for Finance with respect to how the transformation partner(s) will be procured.

6. Proposed Harlow Gilston Garden Town Joint Committee (FP/198/08/23)

Cabinet's approval was sought to enter the new Harlow Gilston Garden Town Joint Committee (HGGT Joint Committee), as an equal partner alongside four other partner local authorities. The role of the Joint Committee would be to take decisions and commission initiatives that impact the Harlow sub-region.

In presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy advised that the ECC nominated/appointed member of the Joint Committee was likely to be Cllr Lesley Wagland.

The Cabinet Member undertook to provide a written response to questions by Cllr Mike Mackrory on matters related to the operation of the Joint Committee including:

- The criteria for designating decisions as subject to call-in by any of the partner overview and scrutiny committees.
- The definition of an 'HGGT person' in the context of a request to attend the scrutiny committee of a partner authority.
- Clarification of the term 'regular' as it relates to the provision of reports and updates to the partner authorities.

Resolved:

1. Agreed to enter into the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Joint Committee, to be executed as a Deed and that the Cabinet agrees to participate in the Joint Committee as set out in that agreement.
2. Agreed to that the form of the Inter Authority Agreement will be that set in Appendix 2 to report FP/198/08/23 as amended in accordance with Appendix 1 to the same report, but that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to:
 - a. Waive any of the amendments in Appendix 1 if he considers that it is in the best interests of the Council to do so.
 - b. Make any further minor amendments to the deed which may be requested by partner authorities after consulting with the Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy.
3. Noted that once the IAA is executed the Monitoring Officer will make the necessary changes to accommodate HGGT Joint Committee arrangements in the ECC Constitution and this will be reported to Council for information.
4. Agreed that the Leader in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy shall appoint or nominate an elected

representative to the Committee as the ECC-nominated Member of the HGGT Joint Committee.

7. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members (FP/282/11/23)

The report was noted.

8. Date of next meeting

Noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place at 10.15am on Tuesday 16 January 2024 in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH.

9. Urgent business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.52am.

Chairman
16 January 2024