

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, AT 10.00AM ON 16 FEBRUARY 2016

Published with effect from Tuesday 16 February 2016. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Friday 19 February 2016 it can then be implemented.

Please note that this is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting only. A full account of proceedings will appear in the minutes of the meeting which will be published on the Council's website by Thursday 3 March 2016.

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Present:

| Councillors | Cabinet Member responsibility |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| D M Finch | Leader of the Council (Chairman) |
| R Bass | Infrastructure |
| A Brown | Corporate, Communities and Customers |
| G Butland | Health |
| R Gooding | Education and Lifelong Learning |
| E Johnson | Highways and Transport Delivery |
| D Madden | Adults and Children |
| J Spence | Finance |

Councillors J Young, M Mackrory, S Walsh, M Buckley, M Page, R Hirst, M Danvers, K Bobbin, J Knapman, M Maddocks, R Howard, J Aldridge and A Naylor also attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Bentley

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Graham Butland to Cabinet following his appointment as Cabinet Member for Health.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Graham Butland, Anne Brown, Julie Young and Simon Walsh declared a personal interest in item 7, Decision as to whether ECC should participate in a new entity to deliver Garden Settlements in North Essex (minute 7 below refers).

Councillor Butland informed Members that as Leader of Braintree District Council he would also leave the room during the presentation of that item.

4. Public Questions

No members of the public had registered an interest in asking a question or making a statement on any of the items to be considered at the meeting.

5. Education Transport Contract Extensions and Awards 2016

The Cabinet received report FP/331/12/15 by the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning which outlined the proposals in relation to the extension and procurement of education transport contracts totalling £15.8m which are due to expire in July 2016. These contracts represent 66% of the total value of home to school transport contracts currently in place. Authority was also sought to carry out the necessary contractual and procurement processes to ensure that suitable transport arrangements are in place for September 2016 onwards, to fulfil the Council's statutory and policy based obligations to provide transport to school for children.

Resolved:

1. Agree that the Director for Commissioning: Education and Lifelong Learning is authorised to extend any home to school transport contracts which expire in July 2016 and where extension is permitted.
2. Agree that the Director for Commissioning: Education and Lifelong Learning is authorised to enter into new contracts to replace any home to school transport contracts which expire in July 2016 and where extension is not permitted or considered to be in the Council's best interests. Any such new contract is to be for one year and give the Council the right to extend.

6. Long term options for Meals on Wheels Service

The Cabinet received report FP/264/10/15 by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children which sought agreement from Cabinet on the future of the Meals on Wheels service in Essex. The current contract for the Meals on Wheels service expires on 30 September 2016 and cannot be extended beyond this date.

Resolved:

1. Agree that with effect from 1 October 2016 the council will support residents who require a hot meal by operating an accredited list of providers in Essex in place of a commissioned Meals on Wheels service.

2. Assess all service users of the current Meals on Wheels service and ensure that they are provided with an equivalent service via community alternatives or domiciliary care.
3. Agree that the Director for Integrated Commissioning and Vulnerable People is authorised to create and operate the accredited list of providers.

10.22am – Cllr Graham Butland left the room

7. Decision as to whether ECC should participate in a new entity to deliver Garden Settlements in North Essex

Councillors Butland, Brown, Walsh and Young declared a personal interest in this item (minute 3 above refers).

The Cabinet received report FP/376/01/16 by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and the Environment which explained the proposals for 'garden settlements' in North Essex and sought Cabinet's on-going support, working together with the district councils of Braintree, Colchester and Tendring, to progress the idea.

The award of £640,000 of grant assistance from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the establishment of a Joint Shadow Delivery Board to oversee delivery of the project were noted.

Agreement in principle was sought for the Council to participate in a legal entity created for the purpose of delivering garden settlements ('a special purpose vehicle'). Cabinet was asked to agree that the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and the Environment may approve the final form of such an entity.

Members noted that this proposal does not yet have financial implications for the Council and that, by approving the recommendations in the report, they were not committing the Council to any financial obligations.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet notes the successful outcome of the recent bid for grant funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government which will enable the Garden Settlements concept to be progressed and which will provide on-going support for partnership working between Colchester Borough Council, Braintree District Council, Tendring District Council and Essex County Council to deliver the project.
2. Agree that the Cabinet Member for Planning Transport and the Environment or their deputy will represent the Council, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, on the Joint Delivery Board in accordance with the Governance Structure, set out in Appendix A to report FP/376/01/16.
3. To note that the grant funding is being held by Colchester Borough Council on behalf of the North Essex Garden Settlements Project.

4. Agree that the Cabinet Member for Planning Transport and the Environment be authorised to agree to establish and participate in a special purpose vehicle for delivery of the project.
5. Agree that the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and The Environment will determine officer and member representation on the special purpose vehicle.
6. Note that, should there be any material changes or substantial financial investment by the Council is required, further requests will be made in accordance with the Constitution.

8. Cabinet Decisions Report

The Cabinet received report FP/373/01/16 by the Secretary to the Cabinet setting out the decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Tuesday 22 March 2016 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10.31am.