



Essex County Council

Summons

To all Members of Essex County Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the County Council to be held as shown below or on the rise of the Extraordinary meeting of Council due to take place that morning, whichever is later to deal with the business set out in the Agenda.

10:05	Tuesday, 11 October 2022	Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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Gavin Jones
Chief Executive

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Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is exempted business, it will be clearly marked as an Exempt Item on the agenda and members of the public and any representatives of the media will be asked to leave the meeting room for that item.

The agenda is available on the [Essex County Council website](#) and by then following the links from [Running the Council](#) or you can go directly to the [Meetings Calendar](#) to see what is happening this month.

Attendance at meetings

Most meetings are held at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. [A map and directions to County Hall can be found on our website.](#)

Access to the meeting and reasonable adjustments

County Hall is accessible via ramped access to the building for people with physical disabilities. The Council Chamber and Committee Rooms are accessible by lift and are located on the first and second floors of County Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in most Meeting Rooms. Specialist headsets are available from Reception.

With sufficient notice, documents can be made available in alternative formats, for further information about this or about the meeting in general please contact the named officer on the agenda pack or email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

Livestreaming of meetings

In the interests of improving access to the Council's meetings, most meetings will be livestreamed on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#). Recordings of the meetings once they have finished are also available on the Channel.

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council, held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford on Tuesday, 12 July 2022

Present: Chairman: Councillor E C Johnson
Vice-Chairman: Councillor J M Reeves

B Aspinell	I Henderson	R Playle
S Barker	J Henry	C Pond
K Bentley	P Honeywood	S Robinson
D Blackwell	M Hoy	P Schwier
M Buckley	J G Jowers	L Scordis
G Butland	S Kane	L Scott
M Cory	D King	L Shaw
S Crow	D Land	A Sheldon
T Cunningham	S Lissimore	M Skeels
J Deakin	L Mackenzie	K Smith
M Durham	M Mackrory	C Souter
B Egan	B Massey	J Spence
J Fleming	P May	M Steel
M Foley	A McGurran	M Steptoe
P Gadd	J McIvor	P Thorogood
M Garnett	L McKinlay	M Vance
A Goggin	A McQuiggan	L Wagland
M Goldman	Dr R Moore	C Whitbread
C Guglielmi	J Newport	H Whitbread
A M Hedley	M Platt	A Wiles

Not present but attended the meeting online (these members did not vote on any items):

L Barber	D Louis	C Siddall
L Bowers-Flint	J Lumley	W Stamp
M Hardware		

Chairman's Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman informed those present that the meeting would be broadcast live

over the internet by way of the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

The opening remarks, together with the broadcast of the entire meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).

Prayers

The meeting was preceded by prayers led by Councillor Spence, a lay Canon in the Church of England.

Councillor Johnson formally opened the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Stephenson, Harris, Brown, Ball, Grundy and Gooding.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded by the Chairman of the need to declare any interests and to do so immediately or at the start of the consideration of any relevant item of business.

Councillor Thorogood declared a Non-Registrable Interest in agenda item 8, Motion 1 – Waste Strategy, due to having campaigned against waste incineration in the past.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of council meetings held on 10 May 2022

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Speakers

The Chairman noted that there were two members of the public registered to speak, Mr Kyle, a resident of Boreham and Mr Jeffrey.

1) Mr Kyle, having been invited to speak, said:

‘The outcome of the National Highways proposed A12 Widening Scheme is that the main roads through Boreham Village incur a significant (between 25% and 50%) increase in traffic largely due to the closure of Junction 20a. Is this a fair outcome from such a significant expenditure from the national purse on a local community and what actions are ECC taking to require National Highways to reconsider and eliminate this proposed increase which will devastate our village?’

In response Councillor Wagland said:

‘Thank you for taking the time to come today. We understand that this is an area of concern for you as well as other residents and businesses in Boreham. It is one of a number of issues on which we are engaging with National Highways who are promoting the A12 widening project.

The Council's position is that we support the widening project generally, but we have made very clear that we have concerns with various aspects of the current proposals. Indeed, in response to the statutory consultation held last year we stated that we were opposed to all of the junction arrangements, with the exception of Junction 19 on which we were neutral.

The modelling outputs National Highways have shared with us indicate that there will be an increase in traffic through Boreham, mainly in the westbound direction from traffic accessing Junction 19. Most of this traffic is expected to come from Hatfield Peverel, which would previously have accessed the A12 westbound at Junction 20A. As you will likely be aware National Highways are proposing to close Junctions 20A and J0B and consolidate these with a new all-movement Junction 21, which will have direct access to Hatfield Peverel.

The possibility of closing Junctions 20A and 20B was mooted at the first public consultation National Highways (then Highways England) undertook on the scheme in early 2017. The majority of respondents to that consultation concurred that there was no need for two junctions at Hatfield Peverel and that there were existing safety concerns with the slip roads at Junction 20B (Hatfield Peverel North).

The subsequent development of the proposals saw the relocation of Junction 21 to the west, roughly mid-way between Hatfield Peverel and Witham. Retention of Junction 20B is not feasible as a result of this location, because of the short distance to the new Junction 21. National Highways have advised that they have looked at retaining both the northbound and southbound slips that form Junction 20A, but neither are compliant with current highway standards (in the form of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, DMRB) and significant works would be required that have ruled this out.

In the case of Junction 20A northbound, to replace this with an arrangement in accordance with the DMRB would result in demolition of a number of properties to the north of the A12. In the case of Junction 20A southbound, National Highways have cited a number of issues with safety, land-take, environmental impacts and built heritage (in connection with the Grade II listed Crix House) that mean this is not feasible. It is worth bearing in mind that as the A12 is being widened a new slip road would be required which would necessitate additional land-take in the vicinity of the junction.

Whilst the Council acknowledges the challenges with retaining Junction 20A as outlined above, we are nonetheless concerned about the impacts the proposals will have on traffic on the B1137 (Main Road). Officers are in regular dialogue with National Highways about the impacts of the scheme and suitable mitigation for addressing these impacts, and National Highways are proposing a speed limit reduction on parts of the B1137 as a means of reducing traffic through Boreham. We are pushing them to go further on this and are seeking additional measures to reduce the impacts (such as the Maldon Road bypass and traffic calming).

As we understand it the design for the scheme has been fixed by National Highways ahead of their submission of a Development Consent Order application for the scheme and given the need for the scheme to accord with DMRB it is in reality, highly unlikely that National Highways will provide an additional junction (albeit in this case retention) at this stage. Please be assured however that the Council is pressing hard for improvements to the scheme and working to minimise negative impacts to communities including Boreham as far as possible. Cllr Spence has been engaged throughout and continues to represent residents and businesses affected by the proposed works both at forums with National Highways and directly to me and officers so that we benefit from his detailed local knowledge.'

2) Mr Jeffrey, having been invited to speak, said:

'Will the Cabinet Member for Highways support measures to tackle anti social behaviour by permitting the installation of cctv cameras on lampposts at hotspots in particular in Wickford and other parts of Basildon Borough?'

In response Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport stated the importance of trying to alleviate anti-social behaviour and also to ensure that everyone was safe walking on the streets. Councillor Scott confirmed that wireless CCTV cameras were allowed to be temporarily attached to street lights. This did depend on location and technical issues. Councillor Scott requested that details of the specific locations be emailed to him so that they could be considered.

5. Chairman's Announcements and Communications

Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen

The Chairman noted that at the Extraordinary meetings held in October 2021 and May 2022, ten former members were appointed as Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen, in recognition of their service, unfortunately two former members were unable to attend the last meeting. The Chairman welcomed these Members to the meeting, Mr John Aldridge and Mrs Elizabeth Webster, and presented them with certificates and badges.

Awards

World Commerce and Contracting Innovation and Excellence Award in the Collaboration and Cooperation category

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Whitbread, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs, informed Council that the Central Buying Consortium had been shortlisted for their collaborative work on contract management, receiving international recognition.

Award for the innovative programme to better join up health and care in Essex

The Chairman invited Councillor Spence, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to present the award for an innovative programme led by Essex County Council and our NHS partners across Essex to improve outcomes for older residents across the county which had won national recognition at the Municipal Journal (MJ) awards.

Platinum exemplar award for street data for Essex Highways at the Geoplace Exemplar Awards 2022

The Chairman invited Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to present the platinum exemplar award for street data for Essex Highways. Essex County Council has been recognised for reaching the highest standard of street data maintenance at the Geoplace Exemplar Awards 2022, achieving a Platinum Award for Street Data, thanks to the efforts of Essex Highways' Asset and Records team.

Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

The Chairman invited Councillor Louis, Deputy Cabinet Member and Lead Member for the Armed Forces to present the Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme for our outstanding support to the Armed Forces Community in Essex.

National Holiday Activity and Food Programme at the Mott MacDonald Global Social Impact Awards

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance, informed members that the impact video produced by ECC for the Essex ActivAte programme had been included as part of the submission my Mott MacDonald for the National Holiday Activity and Food Programme at the Mott MacDonald Global Social Impact Awards and had won the European category and been a runner up in the global category.

6. Petitions

The Chairman invited Councillor Massey to present a petition relating to the future of catering at Marsh Farm Country Park, South Woodham Ferrers. Councillor Butland responded to receive the petition.

7. Executive Statement

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, The Leader of the Council gave a statement entitled 'We said, we did, and we are doing!'.

The Executive Statement is published on the ECC website and the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

8. Motions

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the proposed revised wording in the Order Paper of Motion 2 on Free School Meals. This brought together some minor changes to amend to refer to 'the Government' and an amendment from the Liberal Democrat Group into a revised substantive motion to be moved by the Labour Group.

Resolved:

That the Council consented to receive and consider the revised Motion 2 on Free School Meals, as set out in the Order Paper, in place of the original motion to be moved by the Labour Group.

1. Waste Strategy

Moved by Councillor Gadd and seconded by Councillor Pond:

'Council believes that landfilling, other than of inert materials, should be reduced as much as possible, and that markedly less waste creation, plus a determined, renewed, approach to increase recycling from the current 53% in Essex to 70% by 2030 as a move towards an eventual zero-waste system, is to be aimed at.

Non-inert waste has an inherently high carbon content, and should not therefore be burned, or used as the basis for fuel, as both of these lock in reliance on carbon-emitting energy for decades to come, rather than seeking renewable alternatives.

Council considers that a new waste strategy to be agreed with the collection authorities is now urgently needed, avoiding mass-burn incineration and widespread reliance on energy from waste plants.

Council calls upon the cabinet to adopt a waste plan conforming to the above within a year.'

Having been put to the vote the motion was **lost**.

2. Free School Meals

Moved by Councillor McGurran and seconded by Councillor Scordis

'This Council notes the council's work in providing support to families in receipt of free school meals during school holidays. This council notes the benefits to children's educational achievement if they are not hungry.

This Council regrets the Government's decision not to extend free school meals. The decision not to extend the scheme - which affects around a million under-privileged children nationally - has been taken when prices are soaring in the shops, at the petrol pump and on energy bills.

This Council notes that most children in Year 3 or above are ineligible for free school meals if their household income is more than £7,400 a year. This Council does not believe this is acceptable and is not prepared to stand by and see our children go hungry when this can be avoided.

This Council notes that, since the policy was introduced seven years ago, the Conservatives have increased funding per pupil from £2.30 to just £2.34 - an increase of 1.3% compared to inflation of 7%. As a result, children in the Essex County Council area have lost the equivalent of £1,171,603 - more than any other area in the country. Had funding increased with inflation, it would currently stand at, at least £2.46 per pupil. This funding cut has left Essex schools covering the extra cost by spending less on textbooks and teachers.

This Council notes that Henry Dimbleby- the Leon founder and the Government's food Tsar - has urged the PM to extend free school meals to all children in households receiving Universal Credit. As a compromise he has suggested raising the income threshold to £20,000.

This Council recognises that an idle promise by the government "to keep free school meal eligibility under review" is not enough when children in this county are going hungry now and recognises in the present situation it is vital to re-instate plans to expand free school meals to all children in UC households.

Therefore the Council calls upon the Leader to write to the Government as a matter of urgency asking him to implement plans to

extend free school meals to all of those in families who receive Universal Credit and to increase the funding in line with inflation.'

It was moved by Councillor Cunningham and seconded by Councillor Sheldon that the motion be amended to read:

'This Council notes Essex County Council's work in providing support to families in receipt of free school meals during school holidays. This council also notes the benefits to children's educational attainment when this and other targeted support is provided, including:

- **The Essential Living Fund (ELF)** which is available to individuals and families who are in crisis and have exhausted all other options available. This provides essential items such as bedding, furniture, white goods, and general living items representing an investment of over £3.3m in 2021/22 and £2.3m in 2022/23.
- **Holiday Activity Clubs** which are supporting young people and families through Essex County Council's partnership with Active Essex in order to deliver free holiday clubs during the summer holiday, with over 20,000 individuals young people and their families supported in 2021. This summer, two hundred clubs will take place across the county.
- **Vouchers and other payments scheme** where Essex County Council has invested:
 - £4.2m in the provision of food vouchers
 - £3.2m for financially vulnerable pensioners
 - £482k to unpaid carers, vulnerable adults and targeted family support
 - £60k vouchers to vulnerable adults
 - £800k to expand the government's Holiday Activity and Food Programme which will provide more spaces to working families and a half term offer

However, this Council believes that support should be targeted at those families with the greatest need, as our approach has demonstrated that this is not only far more effective but also represents much better value for money when there are finite resources.'

The amendment moved by Councillor Cunningham and seconded by Councillor Sheldon was put to the meeting and was **carried** and became the substantive motion. The following Members requested that their vote against the amendment be recorded in the minutes:

Councillor Aspinell	Councillor Henderson	Councillor Pond
Councillor Blackwell	Councillor Hoy	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Cory	Councillor King	Councillor Scordis
Councillor Deakin	Councillor Mackrory	Councillor Smith
Councillor Foley	Councillor May	Councillor Thorogood
Councillor Gadd	Councillor McGurran	
Councillor Goldman	Councillor Newport	

Having been put to the meeting the motion was **carried**.

3. National Grid's East Anglia Green Project

Moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor Steel

'National Grid's East Anglia green Project, proposes an energy transmission route consisting of the construction of 180 km of 50m tall pylons carrying 400kv cables through the entire central length of our County (as well as through our neighbours, Norfolk and Suffolk), save for a section of undergrounding at Dedham Vale.

This Council has already expressed its ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the plans for renewable wind farms off the East Anglian coast is welcomed. However, This Council has serious concerns, about the nature and short period of consultation, the route, and how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons are which rely on 50 year old technology. Furthermore, this Council believes that:

- There has been insufficient consideration of alternative approaches which would allow for the required infrastructure but without the sheer scale of the damage to the environment, landscape and the difficulties of this project going ahead, all at the same time as multiple large-scale infrastructure projects which have the potential to cause major disruption across the East of England.
- New offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, which is why an offshore grid is needed. This is firmly in the interests of both residents and business, offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g. our Freeports. Such an alternative approach would future proof the network and could avoid all the physical constraints of an above or below-ground solution, retain ease of access for ongoing maintenance and provide a more direct point of connection for any current or future off-shore wind farms.
- This pylon infrastructure is neither wanted nor needed considering the viable option of undersea power cables. These cables could transport power to where it is needed, helping future proof energy supplies and boost energy security, without adversely impacting on residents, businesses and communities across Essex.

This Council therefore calls upon:

- Both the Government and National Grid to refocus the East Anglia Green Proposals on an offshore solution and engage in discussions with Essex and its neighbouring County Councils to achieve this.
- National Grid to:
 1. Provide this Council with all the information asked for in our response of 16 June by 30 August 2022.
 2. Make publicly available full, open and transparent information on all options, including offshore and undergrounding, to enable evaluation and comparisons to be made by Essex residents, businesses, Councils and other stakeholders. This information to be publicly available for a period of at least 6 months before any Development Control Order (DCO) application is made.'

It was moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor King that the motion be amended to read:

'National Grid's East Anglia green Project, proposes an energy transmission route consisting of the construction of 180 km of 50m tall pylons carrying 400kv cables through the entire central length of our County (as well as through our neighbours, Norfolk and Suffolk), save for a section of undergrounding at Dedham Vale.

This Council has already expressed its ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the plans for renewable wind farms off the East Anglian coast is welcomed. However, This Council has serious concerns, about the nature and short period of consultation, the route, and how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons are which rely on 50 year old technology. Furthermore, this Council believes that:

- There has been insufficient consideration of alternative approaches which would allow for the required infrastructure but without the sheer scale of the damage to the environment, landscape and the difficulties of this project going ahead, all at the same time as multiple large-scale infrastructure projects which have the potential to cause major disruption across the East of England. Alternatives could include restoring funding to support householder and local community generation, and initiatives to reduce demand, such as insulating every home and making all new homes low energy.
- New offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, which is why an offshore grid is needed. This is firmly in the interests of both residents and business, offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g. our Freeports. Such an alternative approach

would future proof the network and could avoid all the physical constraints of an above or below-ground solution, retain ease of access for ongoing maintenance and provide a more direct point of connection for any current or future off-shore wind farms.

- This pylon infrastructure is neither wanted nor needed considering the viable option of undersea power cables. These cables could transport power to where it is needed, helping future proof energy supplies and boost energy security, without adversely impacting on residents, businesses and communities across Essex.
- This Council and District and other Councils across Essex, has serious concerns about the nature and short period of consultation, the absence of alternatives, options and evidence base as well as the route, and how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons are.

This Council therefore calls upon:

- Both the Government and National Grid to refocus the East Anglia Green Proposals on an offshore solution and engage in discussions with Essex and its neighbouring County Councils to achieve this.
- National Grid to:
 1. Provide this Council with all the information asked for in our response of 16 June by 30 August 2022.
 2. Make publicly available full, open and transparent information on all options, including offshore and undergrounding, to enable evaluation and comparisons to be made by Essex residents, businesses, Councils and other stakeholders. This information to be publicly available for a period of at least 6 months before any Development Control Order (DCO) application is made.
- The Government to support householder and community generation schemes and energy demand reduction.'

The amendment moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor King was put to the meeting and was **lost**.

Having been put to the meeting the motion was **carried**.

9. Adjournment

With the agreement of Council, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:50. The meeting reconvened at 13:30.

10. Council Issues

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

Resolved:

1. Changes to arrangements for approval of member and officer travel

1. That Council agree to remove section 8.1.4 of the Constitution as set out in the Council Issues report and renumber the Constitution accordingly and that the new process is implemented from September 2022.
2. Note that the proposed scheme for councillors allowances takes account of this proposed change.
3. Note the impact on political balance.

2. Speaking for Cabinet Members in motions

1. Delete paragraph 16.9.5 of the Constitution and renumber current paragraphs 16.9.6 to 16.9.18 and alter cross-references as necessary.
2. Amend the newly renumbered paragraph 16.9.5(1)(b) to read as follows:

(b) a speech made by a Cabinet Member where the question relates to a matter under their portfolio responsibility (such speech may be made at the time an amendment is proposed or seconded) – five minutes.

3. Dates of forthcoming Council meetings

1. That the Council amends Paragraph 16.1 (ii) to read:
(ii) in any other year, on the Tuesday following the Second Thursday in May.
2. That the Council meeting in May 2023 be held on Tuesday 16 May 2023.

4. Health and Wellbeing Board Review

1. That paragraph 8.1.8 of the constitution be amended as set out in the appendix to the Council Issues report.

11. Cabinet Issues

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

Resolved:

To receive the list of urgent decisions taken and the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 May and 21 June 2022.

12. Independent Remuneration Panel Report and recommendations

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report. It having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor Pond it was

Resolved:

1. That the findings and recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in Appendix 1 to the Member Allowances report be noted.
2. That the recommendations of the panel be accepted except that the indexation for a period of four years should be in accordance with the public sector pay growth (excluding bonuses) as published by the Office of National Statistics.
3. That the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme be as set out in Appendix 2 to the Member Allowances report with effect from 1 September 2022.

Councillors Smith and McIvor requested that their vote against the recommendations be recorded in the minutes.

13. Essex Pension Fund Annual Report (2021-2022)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Barker, Chairman of the Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board presented the report. Councillor Barker thanked the Pensions team and Members of the Boards for their work. Councillor Platt seconded the report and also put on record his thanks to the officers for their support to the Boards.

It having been moved by Councillor Barker and seconded by Councillor Platt it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

14. Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Annual Report

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hedley, Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee presented the report. Councillor Hedley put on record his thanks to the Members for their engagement and the officers for their work in support of the Committee.

Councillor King also put on record his support for the Annual Report.

It having been moved by Councillor Hedley and seconded by Councillor Platt it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

15. Oral Questions of the Leader, Cabinet Member, a chairman of a committee or the representative of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

The oral questions and answers as part of the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).

The questions asked were:

Question asked by:	Question asked to:	Subject of the question
Cllr Pond	Deputy Leader	Sale of surplus library stock
Cllr Henderson	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Public rights of way obstructed by overgrown vegetation.
Cllr Henderson	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Delays in highway repairs.
Cllr Scordis	Leader	Encouraging staff to cycle given that cycle theft warning signs erected at County Hall
Cllr Scordis	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Update on policy for introducing 20mph limit.
Cllr Mackrory	Leader	'Thank you' payments for sponsors of Ukrainian Refugees

Question asked by:	Question asked to:	Subject of the question
Cllr King	Leader	Improve awareness about re-matching of rematching for Ukrainian refugees.
Cllr King	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Speeding issues
Cllr Land	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Support for vulnerable Essex residents during the heatwave
Cllr Aspinell	Deputy Leader	Shenfield Library
Cllr Hoy	Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling	Rayleigh Recycling Centre
Cllr Goldman	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Concerns about illegal use of e-scooters.
Cllr Sheldon	Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Infrastructure and Planning	Sadler's Farm roadworks

16. Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.22pm

Chairman

Motions

Members have given notice that they intend to move the following motions in accordance with paragraph 16.8.2 of the Constitution:

The Courts have made it clear that the Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it is considering these motions, even if they are motions without legal effect. There is not a general requirement for an equality impact assessment but regard should be had to the equality duty when drafting and considering motions.

The equality duty requires Council to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes it unlawful to discriminate etc on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

1. Improving the County's Infrastructure

Moved by Councillor Chris Pond and seconded by Councillor Wendy Stamp.

'Council considers that there is a continuous need to improve the county's infrastructure, which is under constant pressure from new development. Council therefore instructs officers to be diligent in seeking to secure as many infrastructure improvements as possible via the planning system and in particular via infrastructure levies and planning obligation agreements; and calls upon local planning authorities to assist the County Council by ensuring as much is delivered as possible.'

2. Supporting Essex Residents and Businesses

Moved by Councillor Tom Cunningham and seconded by Councillor Holly Whitbread

'The combined effects of the Covid 19 Pandemic and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine have led to rising energy prices, with Essex residents and businesses facing significant cost pressures.

This council therefore welcomes the measures taken by Essex County Council to support residents and businesses with a package of measures including the following:

Allocating £9.4m of the Household Support Fund, including:

- **£4.2m** for food vouchers for children in school holidays.
- **£3.2m** for food vouchers for pensioners.
- **£1.3m** for the Essential living fund for general living expenses, furniture, household furnishings, white goods, clothing and other essential goods for people on low incomes.
- **£482,000** for support for unpaid carers, vulnerable adults and targeted family support delivered through trusted voluntary and community sector organisations and foodbanks to support children and their families.

Keeping families and individuals warm this winter by:

- Investing **£17m** in helping households improve their energy efficiency.
- Distributing **£600,000** from the Warm Homes Grant to help residents with energy efficiency.
- Through the new Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Programme, working with partners, community organisations and using our services to provide local and accessible places for winter warmth over the coming months. This includes a grant scheme to enable community groups to access small grants to put on activities.

Ensuring people have food on their tables and are eating well by:

- Investing an additional **£4.2m** to continue the Essex ActivAte Holiday Activity and Food Programme, providing families with a healthy meal, activity sessions and education on the importance of eating well and moving more.
- Supporting foodbanks and other food support groups through the Household Support Fund.
- Helping residents learn how to cook low-cost meals and giving them access to equipment to do so through 'Slow Cooker Clubs'.
- Investing up to **£500,000** to establish community supermarkets in Essex, starting with ECC's 6 priority levelling up areas.

Providing help with money management for residents by:

- Offering 14,000 residents easy access to free maths and finance training through the **£7.9m** Essex multiply initiative.
- Delivering free financial wellness sessions to Essex businesses and employers to support employees in being able to better manage their money and build financial confidence.
- Piloting financial wellbeing coaches in a number of parts of Essex, supporting 1,000 working families to manage their finances.
- Exploring the development of financial support tools and services for jobseekers and benefits claimants.

Providing information and guidance for residents by:

- Investing **£120,000** in the Citizens Advice network in Essex this year to assist them in supporting residents with information and advice.

- Investing **£50,000** to offer free legal advice thanks to a partnership with Central Law Community Interest Company.
- Working with Age Well East to help with information and advice for older people in relation to cost of living pressures.
- Through a partnership with UK Power Networks, create a Priority Service Register so vulnerable customers are supported quickly should there be any power disruption.

Looking after the wellbeing of our residents by:

- Investing **£6m** in the Essex Wellbeing Service to support residents across a range of wellbeing issues and day-to-day needs.
- Continuing to connect people and communities through the digital social movement 'United in Kind' which helps people connect with their community and foster neighbourly acts of kindness.

However, this Council believes that long term prosperity for the residents and businesses of Essex can only come by removing the barriers to enterprise and delivering economic growth.

This Council therefore welcomes the Government plans for Investment Zones and calls on Ministers to work in partnership with Essex County Council in developing Essex based Investment Zones, to drive opportunities for businesses to grow, creating new and better jobs for the residents of Essex.'

3. Afghans, Ukrainians and the Housing Crisis

Moved by Councillor Mike Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Mark Cory.

'Essex County Council offers thanks to the generous Essex residents who offered their homes to host new residents from Ukraine and to others who have volunteered to support new residents from Afghanistan.

The Council notes that we need to ensure that if placements under the Homes for Ukraine scheme end for any reason that local authorities work together to ensure that refugees are rematched with new hosts wherever possible.

This Council regrets that there are over 300 Afghans stuck in hotels around the county, some of whom have been there nearly a year, due to a lack of homes for them to rent. This Council believes that hotels, except for a short stay, are inappropriate housing for such a long period, in particular for the long-term wellbeing of children.

This Council notes the ongoing housing crisis in Essex, where there is a huge lack of affordable homes to rent or buy, meaning there are thousands of Essex residents who are currently homeless and being housed in emergency accommodation by the city, district, and borough councils.

Therefore, this Council asks the Leader of the Council to:

Work with the Borough, City and District councils to ensure that rematching works as effectively as possible.

Ensure that funding allocated by central Government for the Homes for Ukraine scheme is made available to all local authorities who are incurring costs with respect to the scheme , to reduce the risk of housing authorities having to locate and fund emergency accommodation for Ukrainians.

Request the Secretary of State at DLUHC to (a) redouble discussions with other Government departments to identify Government-owned land and property where Afghan families might be accommodated, and (b) support councils so that they can build substantial, extra numbers of genuinely affordable homes, whilst protecting the Green Belt, so that ALL residents of Essex can afford a decent home.'

Improving Health and Wellbeing

At the annual meeting of the Council in May 2022 the Council resolved that a report be brought back to this meeting by the Cabinet to bring forward its ambitious plans to further improve health, well-being and the environment for all residents.

The May 2022 motion rightly recognised that improving the health and wellbeing of residents across Essex is everyone's responsibility.

Everyone's Essex has health and wellbeing front and centre as a fundamental priority for the County Council, and much has already been done to improve outcomes for residents, with much more being planned.

Those plans are at Appendix One.

Recommendations:

- (1) To note the information set out in Appendix One
- (2) To note the all-member briefing on 10 October 2021 including details of our new Public Health business plan being set out by our Director of Public Health, Lucy Wightman.

Appendix One

Contents:

- 1) A new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex
- 2) ECC's new approach to public health
- 3) A Reset for the Essex Wellbeing Service
- 4) Levelling Up
- 5) Tackling the cost of living and its impact on health and wellbeing
- 6) In our schools
- 7) Active Essex - progressing the Find Your Active campaign and more
- 8) Job Creation
- 9) Culture
- 10) School Streets – new plans for developing the scheme

Below is a wide-ranging selection of areas where activity to support and promote the health, wellbeing and environment of residents is prominent in the work of the county council. This list is in no particular order; nor is it exhaustive of our work.

1) A new Join Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex

At the end of May, the new Essex Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026 was published.

The overarching vision of the strategy is:

“To improve the health and wellbeing of all people in Essex by creating a culture and environment that reduces inequalities and enables residents of all ages to live healthier lives.²

To achieve this vision, the strategy sets out our five key priorities for the next five years:

1. Improvement mental health and wellbeing
2. Physical activity and healthy weight
3. Supporting long term independence
4. Alcohol and substance misuse
5. Health inequalities & the wider determinants of Health

The strategy sets out in detail the issues behind each of these priorities, the key outcomes to have achieved by the end of it and how we as a system will go about achieving these priorities. Crucially, the strategy also sets out how the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board fits within, and works with, the other major elements within the Essex health and care system.

It is a comprehensive, system-wide approach to tackling the key health and wellbeing issues in Essex, and is available to read via this link:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/knkzaf64jx5x/dW4ULQt3z0drmsJ44BkPT/4e1087574de56130bf7c82374758b5d5/Essex-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2022-2026.pdf>

2) Essex County Council's New Approach to Public Health

Everyone's Essex rightly provides a framework for shaping our ambitions over the next four years into four key areas. Public Health cuts across all these areas. The creation of new Integrated Care Partnerships with a broad remit to address health and care issues across their respective geographies also provides an opportunity to develop health and wellbeing strategies that seek to address both the underlying causes of ill-health (the so-called wider determinants), and also seek ways to support primary care in Essex – both in terms of NHS and community support.

Lucy Wightman, our new DPH, has been working to reset the Public Health business plan to capture these changes and wider ambitions. She will be outlining them in an all-member briefing on 10th October, to which you are all invited.

Below are a few highlights of our new thinking and plans around public health.

Our new approach focuses on the Four Ps:

- Productive Partnerships
 - Bringing together the support of local businesses, public sector organisations, local academic institutions, the voluntary sector as well as communities and individuals themselves to create the right policies, invest in the right areas and create the right culture for people to live healthier, longer lives.
- Place-based Public Health
 - Working at both a strategic level (e.g. the development of community, service, educational and cultural facilities and decarbonisation; ensuring people can access the services, facilities and jobs they need and/or aspire to have; encouraging people to maximise the facilities and services locally and contribute to their sustainability); and at a local level (e.g. building on the active and engaged communities work), we will engage directly with the people of Essex to better understand their needs and support them to identify solutions and play an active part in delivery.
- Prevention
 - Using population health management (PHM) approaches to identify groups of people at risk of developing disease or disability, we will work with partners to reduce lifestyle risk factors to drive down poor health outcomes and loss of independence and support programmes of work to delay deterioration where people are already unwell. Work programmes will cover the four stages of prevention: primordial, primary, secondary and tertiary.
- Public Health Priorities
 - Six common risk factors are responsible for 60% of deaths and a high number of years lived with disease/disability in Essex: smoking, high systolic blood pressure; high fasting blood glucose; high body mass index; high LDL cholesterol; alcohol use. We will therefore focus our efforts on reducing the prevalence of these key public health issues.

Mental Health

It is well evidenced that mental wellbeing significantly affects both our quality of life and life expectancy. Maintaining positive mental health is also important if we are to

maintain functional relationships with family, friends and the wider community. It is also a major influence on our aspirations and ability to maximise our educational opportunities and maintain fruitful employment.

- Work to break down the stigma surrounding talking about and seeking help for mental health issues
- Develop a range of services that promote positive mental wellbeing and that provide tools for people to use in their everyday lives to cope with pressure and change
- Increase the number of Mental Health First Aiders in the community to support people with low level mental health concerns and signpost them to support services
- Develop a suicide prevention strategy to develop services that better identify those at risk and provide support that is easy to access as and when its needed
- Work with partners to ensure that those at risk of poorer mental health are encouraged to be physically active and those who have confirmed mental health conditions are able to maintain their physical health

3) A reset for the Essex Wellbeing Service

Having initially been created during the early stages of the pandemic, the last few months have seen a reset of the service to create a strong, joined-up approach to supporting people with public health issues. It is delivered through a partnership approach, working closely with Adult Social Care, Providers, Charities, and Volunteers. Services include befriending, emotional and mental wellbeing support, debt, housing and employment queries, child and family lifestyle services and carers support, as well as a range of health improvement services including smoking cessation, physical activity, NHS health checks and weight management.

By working as one system and bringing together an alliance of expert partners, this highly innovative service demonstrates true integration and delivers wellbeing outcomes both at scale and sustained over a longer period. There is a single point of access and EWS uses a shared data platform for holistic assessment and case management.

The focus of the service is very much on promoting the wellbeing of people, looking at the building blocks of health and supporting those in most need, preventing needs from escalating and reducing demand on health and social care services.

Some of the outcomes in the first 100 days are:

Essex Wellbeing Service



Essex Wellbeing Service



4) Levelling Up

Poorer health outcomes among residents in deprived communities is a fundamental driver of our levelling-up programme.

Reducing the disparity in life expectancy between these areas and the most affluent in Essex is possibly our longest-term performance indicator and will be the ultimate sign of success.

There is a recognised alignment between the Levelling-Up missions and wider determinants of health. We are working to join up activity and thinking around these areas to amplify the impact.

The county council has announced significant investment for health initiatives in key levelling-up locations and it has been identified as a priority within the targeted levelling-up cohorts.

Below is a selection of some of the health initiatives currently underway:

Place	Project/Initiative	
Essex - Countywide	Community Supermarkets	To help address poor health outcomes by supporting families on low incomes to buy food and household essentials at lower prices and in turn helping to ease some of the cost of living pressures people are now facing
Canvey Island	Active Essex healthy and active best start projects in Canvey Island (Physical Literacy)	Consists of: Breakfast clubs for 300 of the most disadvantaged reception aged children and their families, offering physical activities that enable physical development and gross motor skills early EYFS/KS1 Programme for children to enable them to experience high quality, active story-based physical literacy sessions. It is hoped that by maximizing activity in lessons, children will be actively engaged for the whole lesson, have fun and love physical education, meaning they are more likely to be active throughout their childhood and into their adult lives
Colchester	ACL Multipurpose training room	To enable learners to gain improved hands-on experiences within the health and science sector. An inspiring and exciting new space will be created and designed to encouraged participation in STEM based subjects.
Tendring	Beat the Street physical activity game	Delivered in July 2022. Aimed to kick start health within the community, engaging many inactive people, in partnership with CVS Tendring and the Intelligent Health team. Evidence suggest that the majority of people who took part, will remain active six months after the game.
Tendring	Harwich Community Hub	Investment in a local community asset to enable (one of its many) aims to support Health and Wellbeing for the local community (physical activities are available alongside mental health support). The Hub advertises itself as a shared space where 'it's ok not to be ok'.
Tendring	Essex Pedal Power	To enable 2,200 people to enjoy the benefits of cycling whilst improving their health.

		Providing free bikes to citizens in most low-income postcodes in Clacton, Jaywick, Harwich and Dovercourt for multiple uses including work, shopping, fitness, and visiting friends and family.
Tendring	ParkPlay Jaywick and Clacton	ParkPlay involves bringing people together in groups for fun games and activities. Families are being encouraged to come together and get active at new weekly ParkPlay sessions in Jaywick and Clacton.
Tendring	Disability Cycling project	A new disability cycling project for Tendring engaging over 7,500 people with disabilities and long-term health conditions in regular cycling.

5) Tackling the cost of living and its impact on health and wellbeing

Essex County Council is committed to supporting households and businesses through the cost-of-living challenges we are facing. We represent everyone who lives and works in Essex and will always be their ultimate champion.

That is why, on 28 September 2022, we launched our 'Cost of Living Support for Households and Communities' policy paper. This sets out our approach to addressing the short-term response, medium-term resilience and longer-term root causes of the cost of living challenge. The paper sets out a six-point plan on cost of living focused on: paying for essentials; keeping warm; eating well; money management; information, advice and guidance; and well-being. The Council is investing around £50m in a range of projects to support households on these cost-of-living issues. The projects we have undertaken so far this year along with some new announcements are set out in the policy paper. However, this is just the beginning as we enter the winter period. We will be making more announcements over the coming weeks, including on how we will be spending the latest tranche of the Household Support Fund, worth £9.4million, from October 2022 through to April 2023.

Announcements include:

- The aforementioned £9.4m additional support going into the Household Support Fund to focus on essential costs and support with energy hikes.
- Launch of the new Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Programme – a new programme supporting community organisations, partners, and our own services to provide additional activity in local places so that people can keep warm whilst doing something useful. This includes a new £100,000 grant scheme (from the community challenge fund) to be made available to community groups to come forward with their ideas which we will grant fund up to £1k.
- Sustainable Warmth Programme - click [here](#) - we have secured a further £17m of government funding – administered through the South East Energy hub to help households make improvements to secure energy efficiency – this

money is available from October – and can pay for insulation and other energy saving improvements.

- **Information, Advice and Guidance:** as well as funding citizens' advice and other agencies to provide support services, we are also providing a central resource that pulls together advice and guidance for residents and are signposting to top tips to help people maximise use of their money. We have set up a collaboration with HSBC to provide free webinars for residents on financial planning and financial health checks to support people to manage their budgets through the cost of living pressures. We are also working with the DWP on additional support tools.

We will also be hosting a Cost-of-Living Summit on 7 November, which will bring together system partners as we seek to commandeer a system-wide response to this challenge.

6) In our schools

Below are two important complementary pieces of work are happening with schools that are engaging in our core offer, known as Trauma Perceptive Practice (TPP) for understanding and supporting social, emotional, and mental health. These are

- Physical activity for Emotional Wellbeing*** - produced and led by Active Essex
This is newly launched, designed in Partnership with Essex County Council, Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) team. This **Physical Activity for Emotional Wellbeing** module combines and enhances the ECC full TPP course, with this module specifically focused on active interventions and the use of physical activity to help support emotional wellbeing and contribute to behaviour management.
- Promoting Resilience*** - helping children manage the ups and downs of life
This is a scheme of work which has been created in collaboration with children and young people from the Multi Schools Council. It provides teachers and support staff to systematically help children to look at, understand, and support one another through the things that they are likely face as they emotionally develop at an age-appropriate way. We know that connecting and belonging to schools and communities is very strong protective factor.

There are opportunities for schools to receive training for both of these.

We also have a programme of work on-going this academic year looking at promoting better and more effective self-care. We will be using the voice of children and young people in Essex to scope how we build on the NHS '5 Ways to Wellbeing' as one tool. One of these five Ways is being physically active. The themes of the other self-care will cover topics such as:

- Sleep
- Diet and nutrition
- Social media and screen time
- Where to seek help

7) Active Essex – progressing the Find Your Active campaign and more

Active Essex is a county-wide partnership working to strengthen communities and provide tools to enable all residents to access physical activity and sport for good physical and mental wellbeing. Set out as a Strategic Priority in the physical activity and sport strategy for the county, *Fit for the Future*, Active Essex prioritise the work of *Active Environments*.

The integral work has seen some significant progress around active sustainable travel and active environments. With initiatives such as Essex Pedal Power, ParkPlay and gamification developments taking hold within the pilot areas, learning and evaluation is helping provide Active Essex with vital insight into how to develop this area further.

As part of the behaviour change campaign Find Your Active, an Active Travel guide for workplaces and schools has been created, as well as a number of new opportunities for residents to engage with physical activity in the county's green and blue spaces; Blue Therapy Active is a group that coach swim safety and bring the community together to support their mental wellbeing; whilst ParkPlay is an initiative growing quickly across the county, ensuring our green spaces are utilised at the weekend through a free, family activity session every Saturday morning. By utilising the counties green and blue spaces, Find Your Active are helping to create a healthier, safer and more active environment across the county.

The Find Your Active initiative and RideLondon-Essex event has led to a new partnership with The London Marathon Charitable Trust, who are powering a School Active Travel Grant. In addition, the relationship brokered with the Sustainable Travel team and Essex Local Delivery Pilot has helped to supercharge the Essex Cycle Grant, following the prioritisation of the active travel agenda. Further funding has been added to the well-established grant, already helping to reach a wider audience, with 75% of recipients being new to the Sustainable Travel team. The grant supports organisations throughout the county to engage with more people to get them cycling, aiming to help those needing support learning to ride or accessing a bike, as well as those who are more confident wanting to explore more of Essex on two wheels.

Lastly, working in partnership with Place Services, Chelmsford City Council, Essex County Council and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has enabled Active Essex to develop the Livewell Accreditation Scheme. The scheme provides a health specific development accreditation to developers that are embedding healthy placemaking and active design. This all helps contribute to the safer streets agenda and shows Essex's commitment to sustainable and active travel.

8) Job creation

The single most important factor in improving outcomes for residents is to provide them with jobs. Earlier this year we launched our [Sector Development Strategy](#) which has identified five county-wide economic growth sectors to provide new jobs. This strategy was based on research with hundreds of Essex businesses, builds on existing strengths within the county economy and predicted future trends. The five growth sectors identified are green construction; clean energy; advanced manufacturing and engineering; Digitech; and life sciences-including MedTech and CareTech.

Through the Retrofit Academy Pilots ECC are working to understand the scale of retrofitting required for Essex homes so that residents are warm, facing lower bills in the future and providing training for Essex firms and their employees to undertake this work, creating warm homes and new jobs.

9) Culture

Our investment in both National Portfolio Organisations to support their community outreach work and directly into local groups through our Arts and Culture Fund is supporting residents of all ages to engage in outdoor arts and cultural activities and participate in activities aimed at improving their mental health.

10) School Streets: plans for building on the success

a. Developing a Healthy School Street's strategy and toolkit

There are 600+ schools in Essex and it is not possible for ECC to work directly on each Healthy School Street individually, due to constraints such as funding and resources. ECC are developing a strategy to help us determine best practice in school street design, the types of intervention appropriate for Essex schools, how we can prioritise which school streets need direct support from ECC, and what schools can do themselves. Our aim is to ensure that all schools have the access to the information and tools to be able to make a difference, without the need for heavy intervention from ECC. By empowering schools the information and skills to put some actions into place, they can work directly with their children's caregivers to educate the children from a young age.

b. Creating a School Streets Design Manual for developers – design out the need to drive

We have ambitions to evolve the design of school streets from the very beginning, so all new schools built have innovative design that ensures the Healthy School Streets are safer, greener and healthier for all users. Historically schools have been designed to end the school 'street' at the school gate or to have multiple schools on single streams, causing traffic chaos. Working with developers, ECC are going to create a guidance/ policy on best practice school street design.

c. Launching a trial of 'Home Run' car share scheme

App-based Home Run is a new car share scheme specifically designed for caregivers to share lifts to and from school. It is designed to reduce traffic around schools, making it safer for those who can walk to do so. Our pilot will focus on a selection of rural and urban schools, to identify what works and where, with a view to a full roll out across the county.

d. Partnership with Sustrans and Living Streets to utilise national best practice

We are continuing to partner with charities Sustrans and Living Streets (National cycling and walking charities) on multiple projects. And will continue to develop this relationship to be at the forefront of innovative designs, and ambitions that can be achieved within the partnership. There are a number of active travel behaviour change programmes designed for schools such as Walk

on Wednesdays and Cycle to School week, that have been developed with these charities, and are promoted to all schools through ECC. These are easy, and often free, gamification programmes which schools can implement themselves.

We are also working with both parties on a consultancy / engagement basis, leveraging their national expertise, exposure and experience on more challenging school streets e.g. Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood and Winstree Rd, Colchester.

e. 3PR parking campaign with Parking Partnerships

3PR is a national parking behaviour change scheme focuses on caregivers of school children, encouraging Care, Caution and Consideration when parking. It's highly successful in making school streets safer. We are working with schools both NEPP and SEPP, to look at ways schools can introduce this themselves, with the support of the parking partnerships. Our ambition is to educate and change behaviours so enforcement is a last option. Empowering schools to look at the multiple ways that they can influence the behaviour of their children's caregivers will ensure long-term impact, and sustained behaviour change for future generations.

f. School Transport Planning Officer

As part of the ECC Travel Planning Team, we have a dedicated officer working on school travel planning, giving bespoke guidance and advise to schools on how to produce a travel plan and how to introduce active travel initiatives such as 3PR and Cycle to School. Again, leading on empowerment to the schools on behaviour change, we aim to have contact with all Essex schools possible, and for the School Transport Planning Officer to work closely with the headteachers using the Healthy Streets toolkits, and incorporating all of the above points; 3PR, behaviour change programmes, innovative design, car share schemes etc.

Agenda item 9

Council Issues

1. Constitutional Changes: attendance book

Purpose of the item

- 1.1 To update the constitution to reflect modern practice regarding attendance at meetings.

Summary of issue

- 1.2 Prior to the pandemic members were asked to sign a book when attending meetings of Council, this was a hangover from when members were required to sign in to receive their attendance allowance payment.

- 1.3 The Constitution currently says:

'16.13 Record of attendances

Every Member of the Council attending a meeting of the Council is requested to sign his name in the attendance book or on the sheet provided for that purpose. The attendance book shall be used to monitor Members' attendance and ensure compliance with Article 3.8(xvi).'

- 1.4 At full council meetings the book was set out prior to the meeting of Council in the Chamber Foyer for members to sign on arrival. At other meetings it was circulated in the meeting room.
- 1.5 The books were seldom signed by all members attending and it was frequently not possible to read all of the names.
- 1.6 The officer from the democracy team present at each meeting always records each member's attendance and cross checks with the recording. As a result, the attendance book now serves no operational purpose for the administration of the Council.
- 1.7 It was obviously impossible to comply with the requirement of paragraph 16.13 during covid and it has not been reinstated following the ending of restrictions.
- 1.8 Rather than reinstating the practice it is recommended that the Council agrees to remove the requirement from the constitution.

Recommendation:

That Council agree to remove paragraph 16.13 of the Constitution as above and update the numbering of the Constitution accordingly.

2. Constitutional Changes: Chief Officers

Purpose of the item

- 2.1 To update article 4 of the constitution to reflect the current Chief Officers.

Summary of the item

- 2.2 Following a number of staffing changes within the senior management structure, the list of designated Chief Officers at Article 4, 4.3 needs updating.

Recommendation:

That Council agree to update the list of chief officers in paragraph 4.3 of the Constitution to read as below :

4.3.1 Chief Executive

4.3.2 Executive Director, Children and Families

4.3.3 Executive Director, Corporate and Customer Services

4.3.4 Executive Director, Place and Public Health

4.3.5 Executive Director, Corporate Services

4.3.6 Executive Director, Adult Social Care

4.3.7 Executive Director, People and Transformation

3. Amendment to the Member Allowance Scheme for Co-opted members of the Pensions Strategy Board

- 3.1 The new scheme of members allowances included terms put forward by the Essex Pension Fund to introduce an allowance for any member of the fund's Board who is not a councillor or an employee and who therefore did not receive any allowance or payment for their time. This change allowed such persons to claim an allowance of £16.08 per hour.
- 3.2 This change did not clearly permit time to be claimed for other than attending formal meetings with some preparation time. Those administering the Fund consider that it would be beneficial to allow the allowance to be claimed for some other duties, for example some training duties. It is proposed that the strategy board should determine what can be claimed for.
- 3.3 A further change is recommended in order to clarify that the allowance can be paid for training time in certain circumstances and to allow the Pension Strategy Board to approve duties for which the allowance is payable.

Recommendation:

That the final paragraph in 26.8 of the constitution be replaced with the following:

‘Any Co-Optee to the Pension Strategy Board who is not an employee, officer or member of their appointing organisation and who is not otherwise entitled to payment for time spent on the role is entitled to claim an allowance in accordance with appendix 2 with respect to time spent attending meetings of the board and for such other duties as may from time to time be formally approved by the Pension Strategy Board.’

4. Review of ‘written questions’ pilot**Introduction**

- 4.1 In December 2021 Council agreed to trial the replacement of the process for dealing with written questions at council meetings with a rolling ability for members to ask written questions.
- 4.2 The trial was to start in early 2022 and be reviewed before the annual meeting of the Council. The process was launched to members in January 2022.

Summary of issue

- 4.3 In May 2022 Council agreed to extend the trial until the December meeting and bring a further report to this meeting.
- 4.4 If no action is taken, the temporary changes to the constitution will expire meaning that written questions at council will resume at the December 2022 meeting.
- 4.5 Answered questions are published here [EssexCmis5 > Written Questions to Cabinet Members](#). Members are notified when a batch of questions and answers are published.
- 4.6 This was due to be discussed at a meeting of the Constitution Working Group which had to be cancelled. After consulting group leaders it is proposed to continue the trial for a further period until there is time to discuss.
- 4.7 It is proposed to bring a final report to the December meeting.

Recommendation:

- 1. That the trial is extended until the February 2023 meeting, bringing back a further report to the December meeting.

2. That paragraph 16.12 of the Constitution is amended by replacing the words 'until after the meeting of the Council on 11 October 2022' with 'until after the meeting of the Council on 13 December 2022'

5. Dates of forthcoming Council meetings

- 5.1 The dates of the future meetings of Council were agreed at the meeting held in May 2022, to be on Tuesday 13 December 2022 and Thursday 9 February 2023.
- 5.2 The meetings of the Council are normally held at County Hall in the Council Chamber and commence at 10:00am.
- 5.3 It is necessary to schedule further forthcoming Council meetings. The proposed dates are Tuesdays, 16 May 2023, 11 July 2023, 10 October 2023, 12 December 2023 and 13 February 2024.

Recommendation:

1. That the dates of Council meetings scheduled for Tuesday 13 December 2022 and Thursday 9 February 2023 remain unchanged.
2. That future Council meetings be scheduled on Tuesdays, 16 May 2023, 11 July 2023, 10 October 2023, 12 December 2023 and 13 February 2024.

The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues

This report is

- a) To note decisions that have been taken as urgent key decisions, not on the forward plan (Constitution para 19.17), or non-key decisions exempt from call-in on the grounds of urgency as attached as Appendix 1 to the report since the last meeting of Council on 12 July 2022 and
- b) To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 July 2022 attached to the report as Appendix 2.

Recommendations

To receive the list of urgent decisions taken and the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 July 2022.

Urgent Decisions

Part 1: Key decisions taken with less than 28 days prior notice.

The following decision was taken after giving 5 clear days' notice to the Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee because it was not practicable to give the full 28 days notice. The notice to the Chairman was also published on the Council's website.

DATE PUBLISHED	CABINET MEMBER	TITLE OF DECISION	REFERENCE NUMBER
22/08/22	Cllr John Spence	Award of Contracts for Block Purchase of Domiciliary Care in Uttlesford and Braintree	FP/481/08/22

Part 2: Decisions Exempt from Call-in

The following decisions were taken which were either not key decisions or where prior notice was given, but the Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee agreed that it was in the best interests of the Council for the decision to be implemented urgently and the decision was therefore exempted from call-in.

DATE PUBLISHED	CABINET MEMBER	TITLE OF DECISION	REFERENCE NUMBER
18/08/2022	Cllr Chris Whitbread	Award of new energy supply contracts – Draw Down from Reserves	FP/488/08/22

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet that took place in the Council Chamber at County Hall on Tuesday 19 July 2022

Present:

Councillor	Cabinet Member Responsibility
Councillor K Bentley	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor L McKinlay	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance (via Zoom)
Councillor B Egan	Children's Services and Early Years
Councillor Lee Scott	Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport
Councillor J Spence	Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor L Wagland	Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning
Councillor C Whitbread	Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs

Councillor G Butland, Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture was present for some parts of the meeting and was therefore not included in the quorum.

Councillors M Durham, M Mackrory, B Massey, M Platt, A Sheldon and P Schwier were also present. Councillors I Henderson, D King, C Pond attended remotely, via Zoom.

Andrew Summers, Transport East, was also in attendance and addressed the Cabinet under Agenda Item 8 (Endorsement of the Transport East Transport Strategy) – minute 8 below refers.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest.

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

1. There had been no changes of membership since the last report.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability, Malcolm Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling, Graham Butland, Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture and Gavin Jones, Chief Executive, for whom Nicole Wood, Executive Director, Corporate Services, attended.
3. Councillor Bentley, Leader of the Council, declared a non-registerable interest in respect of item no. 8 – Endorsement of the Transport East Strategy, as he was the Chairman of Transport East. Councillor Bentley left the room for the duration of the item and did not participate in the debate or subsequent vote.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Questions from the public

None.

4. 2022-23 Financial Overview as at the First Quarter Stage (FP303/02/22)

The Cabinet received a report setting out the current forecast financial position of Essex County Council's (ECC) revenue and capital budgets as at the first quarter stage of the 2022/23 financial year. The report highlighted that, while there is a small forecast over spend of 0.5% against a net revenue budget of £1.1bn, the short to medium term outlook remains incredibly challenging, with demand uncertainty, market volatility and rising inflation alongside cost of living impacts.

The Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport responded to questions from Councillors Mackrory, Henderson, King and Pond in relation to:

- Savings related to the proposal to exit from County Hall;
- Backlogs for assessments within Adult Social Care, the impact on hospital discharge rates and the delivery of savings not reflected in the forecast;
- The underspend within Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport and how the Council sought to encourage bus use since the pandemic;
- The breakdown of the additional inflation pressures and related risks for the current year and beyond;
- The assumptions made in relation to salary costs;
- The possibility of ringfencing the underspend within Passenger Transport to encourage use of public transport;
- The under recovery of income for the Park and Ride service.

Resolved:

1. To draw down funds from reserves as follows:
 - i. £2.2m from the Adults Transformation Reserve to the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio for the following Programme costs: Meaningful Lives Matter £1.3m, Newton Connects £367,000, Choice & Control £330,000, Physical and Sensory Impairment £170,000 and Transforming Community Care & Dementia £102,000 (section 5.1.v)

- ii. £1.5m from the General Risk Reserve to the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport portfolio to cover increased energy prices from September 2022 (section 5.9.iii)
- iii. £1.2m from the Essex Climate Change Commission Reserve to the Leader portfolio towards the costs of implementing a programme to respond to the recommendations in the Essex Climate Action Commission Interim Report and to deliver the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy. This is as per the previously approved CMA FP/898/11/20 which has now time lapsed (section 5.10.ii)
- iv. £999,000 from the General Risk Reserve to the Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs RSSS portfolio to fund increased energy costs in 2022/23 owing to current energy price rises, inflation and new contract rates (section 5.15.iii)
- v. £964,000 from the Adults Transformation Reserve to the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio relating to investment in Business Support staff in the Countywide Duty Team, Welfare Independent Practitioners social work posts to support the tackling of the backlogs and increased volumes in activity (section 5.1.v)
- vi. £940,000 from the Covid Equalisation Reserve to the Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning portfolio (£571,000) and the Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability portfolio (£369,000). This relates to the Economic Recovery Programme, previously approved in Cabinet Member Action (CMA) FP/844/10/20 but has since time lapsed, as follows: Economic Growth £468,000, Employability and Skills £369,000 and Sector Development £103,000 (section 5.5.ii and 5.7.ii)
- vii. £818,000 from the Covid Equalisation Reserve to the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport portfolio to cover the income shortfall as a result of the pandemic on the Park and Ride service (section 5.9.iii) Page 21 of 204
- viii. £665,000 from the Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Equalisation Reserves to the Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability portfolio in relation to Debden PFI (£495,000) and Clacton secondary schools PFI (£170,000) (section 5.7.ii)
- ix. £583,000 from the Covid Equalisation Reserve to the Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs RSSS portfolio in relation to Covid pressures on: Transformation and Delivery service £218,000 originally approved via CMA FP/856/10/20 but has since time lapsed, People and Transformation service centre £143,000, Business Support £131,000 and Resource Strategy staffing £91,000 (section 5.15.iii)
- x. £562,000 from the Everyone's Essex Reserve to the Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture portfolio for payments due to successful

bidders who have been awarded funding from the Arts and Culture Grant Fund. This relates to CMA FP/250/12/21 Arts and Cultural Fund which was previously approved but has since time lapsed (section 5.4.ii)

- xi. £439,000 from the Adults Transformation Reserve to the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio relating to the following projects; expenditure for Bedfinder £199,000, Mental Health staffing £86,000, Mental Health accommodation resource £80,000 and My Care Record £74,000 (section 5.1.v)
- xii. £324,000 from the Technology and Digitisation Reserve to Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs RSSS portfolio for the Azure Technology £300,000 and for project staffing £24,000 (section 5.15.iii)
- xiii. £99,000 from the Community Initiatives Fund Reserve to the Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance RSSS portfolio to fund payments to community groups that have been awarded small grants (section 5.13.ii)
- xiv. £85,000 from the Adults Transformation Reserve to the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio relating to the resourcing of the Adults Digital Programme (section 5.1.v)
- xv. £76,000 from the Children's Transformation Reserve to the Children's Services and Early Years portfolio in order to fund an Anti-Racism Service Manager (section 5.2.ii)
- xvi. £70,000 from the Covid Equalisation Reserve to the Leader RSSS portfolio relating to the Communications and Marketing team for pandemic related activity (section 5.16.ii)
- xvii. £40,000 from the Covid Equalisation Reserve to the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio for additional resources relating to the Specialist Page 22 of 204 Sensory Support Services contract with Essex Cares Limited (ECL) (section 5.1.v)
- xviii. £22,000 from the Adults Risk Reserve to the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio for Market Support expenditure (section 5.1.v)
- xix. £22,000 from the Quadrennial Election Reserve to the Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance RSSS portfolio relating to costs of the May 2021 elections (section 5.13.ii)

2. To appropriate funds to reserves as follows:

- i. £3.8m to the Transformation Reserve from the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport portfolio to support future work in the Passenger Transport service (section 5.9.iii)

- ii. £151,000 to the Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Equalisation Reserves from the Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability portfolio in relation to Building Schools for the Future (section 5.7.ii)
 - iii. £114,000 to the Commercial Investment in Essex Places Reserve from the Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs portfolio to protect against tenancy voids (section 5.8.ii)
3. To approve the following adjustments:
- i. Vire £465,000 from within the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport portfolio from Essex Highways Operations to Essex Highways Commissioning, following the Essex Highways re-organisation (sections 5.9.iii)
 - ii. Adjust the profile of spend of the Children and Families Covid-19 Response as originally set out and approved in CMA FP/072/05/20 to £1.9m in 2022/23 and £132,000 in 2023/24 in order to reflect the current anticipated spend
 - iii. Adjust the profile of spend of the Impacts of Covid ASC as originally set out and approved in CMA FP/886/11/20 to £1m in 2022/23 in order to reflect the current anticipated spend
 - iv. To amend the capital budget as shown in Appendices C (i) and C (ii) which allows for capital slippage of £4m, with £3.7m slipped into 2023/24 and £324,000 into 2024/25. Capital budget additions of £10.9m, capital budget reductions of £17m and advanced works of £663,000 (£4.8m to be advanced from 2024/25, £663,000 into 2022/23 and £4.1m into 2023/24 (see section 7.2).

5. Procurement of Social Care Case Management Platform (FP/406/05/22)

The Cabinet received a report seeking approval to procure an integrated social care case management platform for adults, children and finance to satisfy all the Council's social care case management requirements.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs and the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care responded to a question from Councillor Mackrory in relation to the length of the contract and the absence of a break clause.

Resolved:

1. Agreed to procure an integrated Social Care Case Management Platform (SCP) for adults, children and finance to satisfy all the Council's social care case management requirements.

2. Agreed that the contract length will be seven years with the opportunity to extend for up to a further three years.
3. Agreed that the contract will be procured using the restricted procurement procedure and that the high-level evaluation criteria will be 20% price: 80% quality (of which 5% of the quality score will assess social value).
4. Agreed that Executive Director, Adult Social Care, is authorised to approve the detailed evaluation model.
5. Agreed to drawdown the following funding from the Technology and Digitisation Reserve to procure and implement the new Social Care Platform: 2022/23 £1.846m 2023/24 £6.123m 2024/25 £3.551m.
6. Agreed to ring-fence an additional £1m from the Technology and Digitisation Reserve for contingency for the programme, which, if required, would be subject to a further decision to draw down.
7. Agreed that the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs is authorised to agree the terms of, and award the contract to, the successful supplier following completion of the procurement process.

6. Health and Care Act 2022 – Adult Social Care Reforms (FP/421/05/22)

The Cabinet received a report which set out the Council's proposals to prepare for two elements of the reforms to be introduced by the Health and Care Act 2022, specifically the charging reforms and the new national assurance regime. Approval was sought for investment to ensure that the Council can implement these changes successfully and for the benefit of Essex residents.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care responded to questions from Councillors Henderson, Mackrory, King and Pond in relation to:

- The one-off funding required through to October 2023 and the impact on the Medium Term Resource Strategy;
- The review to the Council's fees and charges policies and whether the scrutiny function should consider this matter;
- The potential impact should the Government proposals to increase National Insurance contributions not be proceeded with.
- The modelling undertaken in relation to the Fair Cost of Care cap and the impact on the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care also agreed to provide a written response to Council King in relation to the funding gap figures provided in the report.

Resolved:

1. Agreed to the drawdown of £2m from the Adult Transformation Reserve for the purpose of funding resources to support the Council to prepare for the

changes arising from the Health and Care Act 2022 in relation to charging reform and the CQC assurance framework related to Adult Social Care as set out in section 6.1.3

2. Agreed to the drawdown of £3.3m from the Council's Transformation Reserve for the purpose of funding resources to support the Council to prepare for the changes arising from the Health and Care Act 2022 in relation to charging reform and the CQC assurance framework.
3. Noted that any further government funding received in relation to implementation of these reforms will be applied to replenish the draw on the Corporate Transformation Reserve.
4. Noted the scale of work required to prepare for, and implement, these reforms and that any ongoing resource requirement will be considered as part of the future MTRS work once the final guidance is fully understood and learning from our implementation is able to inform future need.

7. Beaulieu Park Railway Station – Commissioning of Network Rail GRIP Stages 6-8 (FP/434/06/22)

The Cabinet received a report seeking approval for an updated Procurement Strategy, designed to bring it in line with the Everyone's Essex priorities.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning responded to questions from Councillors Pond and Mackrory in relation to options to maximise travel to the station by public transport, the risk to the Council should costs overrun, the financial liability of the Council should usage of the station not meet expectations and the naming of the station.

Resolved:

1. Agreed subject to paragraph 2.2 of report FP/434/06/22, to authorise the Director, Highways and Transportation, in consultation with the section 151 officer and the Director, Legal and Assurance to enter into the Implementation Agreement (IA) with Network Rail for GRIP (Governance in Rail Investment Projects) stages 6 to 8.
2. Agreed that the authorisation in paragraph 2.2 of report FP/434/06/22 does not apply until the final GRIP Stage 4 total project Anticipated Final Cost (AFC) has been ascertained and is equal to or less than £157.07m.
3. Noted the risks set out in report FP/434/06/22.

8. Endorsement of the Transport East Strategy (FP/409/05/22)

The Cabinet received a report seeking formal endorsement for the Transport East Transport Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning responded to questions from Councillors Henderson, Pond and Mackrory in relation to:

- The suggestion that plans for the A120 / A12 Link Road to Braintree had been discontinued;
- The use of shipping to alleviate pressures on road and rail travel;
- The Government's lack of prioritisation for reopening rail stations;
- The consideration given to cross border issues and engagement with Local Enterprise Partnerships;
- How the promotion of air traffic could be reconciled with Net Zero ambitions.

Resolved:

Agreed that Essex County Council endorses the Transport East Transport Strategy in the form appended to report FP/409/05/22.

9. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members (FP/414/06/22)

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Sustainable Transport responded to a question from Councillor Mackrory in relation to points raised by bus operator in respect of the implementation of 20mph speed limits. The report was noted.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet was scheduled at 10.15am on Tuesday 13 September 2022 at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH.

11. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

12. Confidential Appendix: Procurement of Social Care Case Management Platform (FP/406/05/22)

The confidential appendix to report FP/406/05/22, to which minute 5, above, refers, was agreed.

13. Urgent Exempt Business

There was no urgent exempt business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.05pm.