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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 28 October 2021**

[A YouTube recording of the meeting is to be found online.](#)

### **Present:**

#### **Members:**

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor D Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor R Moore	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor L Shaw	Vice-Chairman
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	
Councillor M Stephenson	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor H Whitbread	

#### **ECC Officers:**

Mark Doran	Director, Sustainable Growth
Clare Perkins	Business Intelligence Partner
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer
Michael Hayes	Democratic Services Assistant

Also in attendance were:

Councillor M Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling (to Item 6)  
Councillor L Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning  
Councillor T Cunningham, Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance. He noted that the meeting was taking place under the rules of social distancing, and that if anyone moved from their seat, they should wear a facemask.

### **2. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies had been received from Councillors Crow and Cannell.
3. No Declarations of interests were made.

The Chairman, Councillor Goggin, reminded members that any interests must be declared during the meeting if the need to do so arose.

### **3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

Following an amendment to note Councillor Stephenson was in attendance, the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 September 2021 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Questions from the Public**

It was noted that no questions had been received from the public.

### **5. Cabinet Member Update**

Councillor Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling, gave a verbal update on his portfolio and how the performance measures in *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* would be achieved.

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and provide comment.

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- The focus on waste minimisation as a key priority including issues around avoidable food waste;
- Access to recycling facilities and the lack of uniformity in recycling processes amongst collection authorities across the County;
- The impact of the emerging Environment Bill on current policies and the recycling targets specified in *Everyone's Essex*;
- How the recycling targets would be achieved and the ongoing partnership work with district, borough, and city councils;
- Further work was needed on the measurement (and the reporting) of CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as the impact of incinerators;

- How to persuade residents to recycle and to make environmentally friendly lifestyle changes i.e., to move away from single-use plastics;
- Covid-19 had seen the amount of household waste increase (potentially as a result of people working from home).

It was agreed that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, which aimed to address some of the issues above (e.g., on recycling uniformity), was currently being updated and would be brought to the Committee at a later date.

It was also agreed that the latest recycling data broken down by district would be provided to the Committee.

## 6. Cabinet Member Update – Cllr Wagland

Councillor Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, gave a presentation on her portfolio and how the performance measures in *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* would be achieved. The presentation can be found [here](#).

During the presentation, it was noted that separate scrutiny sessions could be considered on the management of real estate assets at the Council and the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and provide comment.

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- Clarification would be provided on the impact of the Marketing Essex media campaigns;
- The problems with the roll-out of superfast broadband and the 'gaps' in some rural areas were highlighted. In response, it was reported that work was ongoing, local information could be found at [www.superfastessex.org/maps](http://www.superfastessex.org/maps), regular member development sessions were being run, and further information would be provided on the timings regarding commercial operators and state-aid;
- The work of the Net Zero Innovation Network was highlighted particularly in regard to housing and the work of Essex Housing;
- Further information would be provided on funding and the areas of the County receiving 'Levelling-Up' monies from Central Government;
- Members were encouraged to provide appropriate support for funding bids to Government, the work of Essex Housing, the distribution of Business Adaption Grants, as well as to promote the [Essex High Street Business Summit](#) on 24 November, 2021.

**7. Task and Finish Group**

After noting that Councillor Stephenson was also a member of the proposed Group, it was

**Resolved**

To approve the 'scoping document' for the Local Highway Panels Task and Finish Group.

**8. Work Programme**

The report was noted. A further update would be presented to the Committee for consideration at its 25 November meeting.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on Thursday 25 November and the rearranged December meeting would take place on Friday 10 December 2021 (both at County Hall).

**10. Urgent Business**

No items were raised.

**Chairman**