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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 18 April 2019**

### **Present:**

Councillor I Grundy (Chairman)	Councillor J Moran
Councillor T Ball	Councillor C Pond
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor R Pratt
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor L Scordis
Councillor S Hillier	Councillor C Weston
Councillor D Kendall	

### **Also present:**

The following members of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee were also in attendance:

Councillor J Beavis  
Councillor M Buckley  
Councillor M Hardware  
Councillor V Metcalfe

Also present: Councillor L Wagland, Cllr A Jackson (items 1-5)

John Hammond (Member of the public)

### **1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest** The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that

1. The membership of the Committee was unchanged since the last meeting;
2. Councillor Wendy Schmitt sent her apologies, Councillor John Moran attended as her substitute. Councillor Julie Young also sent her apologies, Councillor Lee Scordis attended as her substitute.
3. A Code interest was declared by Councillor C Pond with regards to Agenda Item 4 (Future Libraries Strategy – Petitions Update), in that he is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th March were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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**Questions from the Public**

John Hammond, a Chelmsford resident asked the following question in respect of agenda item 6 (Ringway Jacobs Task and Finish Group – Draft Report)

“Before the Ringway Jacobs (RJ) contract, it was possible to monitor the progress position of cycle schemes being delivered through different mechanisms. Now, I have to make Freedom of Information requests, which introduces another level of bureaucracy. Please can this basic information be made more easily available to public stakeholders. I assume RJ should be providing it because Essex County Council (ECC) would need to monitor delivery as a main consideration in any contract continuation.

What information is used for monitoring performance of scheme design progress/delivery and how do I get to see it?

The Committee Report Appendix paragraph 15 Customer Services and Communications states “ ECC and RJ are both excellent with regard to reactive communication”. What is the evidence for this, as the Appendix also says there are no KPIs for customer service.”

The Chairman advised Mr Hammond that there was no one present at the meeting who was able to provide a response to his question and therefore it would be passed onto the relevant cabinet member.

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**Future Libraries Strategy – Petitions Update**

Members received and noted report (**PSEG/05/19**) from Peter Randall Senior Democratic Services Officer regarding petitions received by Essex County Council that relate to the Future Libraries strategy.

The following issues were raised by members:

- a request for clarity regarding the closure of tier 4 libraries
- a request for clarity regarding the reduced opening hours
- a request for an update regarding the request to change the tiering in respect of Shenfield library
- confirmation as to whether an application concerning Education Endowment funding been made by ECC and will the full results of the consultation be made public.

It was confirmed that the above issue would be referred to the cabinet member.

**5 IPRC Annual Review**

The Committee receive report (**PSEG/06/19**) from Ben Finlayson, Head of Infrastructure Delivery, together with a presentation from Garry Fisher, Corporate Health and Safety Manager and Leslie Pilkington, Head of Facilities Management Strategy.

The presentation was based upon Appendix B of the above-mentioned report – progress against each of the 14 recommendations. Thereafter members were invited to ask questions and the key areas raised included:

- Sample auditing – a request was made that the Committee be provided with details of a sample audit. It was confirmed that this information would have to be provided by the “quality improvement team”. It was confirmed that MITIE who carry out the audits do possess the relevant accreditation.
- Academies and private schools– It was confirmed that the Director for Education had contacted all academies in the County to provide relevant advice and guidance. However, ECC’s remit is limited with regards to academies so it is not possible to check whether the recommendations have been implemented. With regards to private schools it was advised that no contact had been made as ECC have no responsibility in this regard. The guidance has also been published on a “for information only” basis, on the Essex Schools’ InfoLink system and thereby made available to all Essex schools, including those not maintained by ECC.
- Safety concerns for both elected members and the public in County Hall – one Member did not recall receiving any safety advice during his time as a member. He also felt that a safety announcement should be read out by the Chairman as the start of all public meetings.
- Specialist fire safety advice- a concern was raised as to whether a process had been put in place, with a request made that evidence is provided in this regard.
- Installation of sprinklers -it was confirmed that in general sprinklers are not fitted in schools. It was explained that this followed a risk assessment (including cost implications) and that they are not considered necessary for business continuity.
- Concerns were raised that recommendation 12 was not being implemented- it was confirmed that this is the case and that the minutes of the relevant meeting in this regard will be provided

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked all those involved in the presentation. It was confirmed that Peter Randall will bring a report outlining the next steps to the May meeting of the Committee.

**6 Ringway Jacobs Task and Finish Group – Draft Report**

(Members of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee had been invited to attend for this item and participated in the discussion at the invitation of the Chairman.)

The Committee received report **(PSEG/07/19)** from Peter Randall, Senior Democratic Services Officer which was presented by Councillor Tony Ball, Chairman of the Ringway Jacobs Task and Finish Group. The Chairman advised that this was a draft report and that a final report would be considered at the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 30th April.

Councillor Ball offered his thanks to all those involved with the report and highlighted some of the recommendations made.

The Committee received some potential amendments to the recommendations from officers and there followed a discussion, during which members discussed those and offered their own amendments. Subsequently, the amended recommendations were voted through unanimously by the Committee.

The recommendations as amended, and the contents of the report were endorsed by the Committee.

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**Air Quality**

The Committee received an update from the Chairman on the Air Quality Task and Finish Report, submitted to the relevant cabinet members on the 4 March 2019.

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**Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the next activity day will be on Thursday, 23 May 2019.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.45 pm

**Chairman**