

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, AT 10.00AM ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Present:

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Cabinet Member responsibility</b>
Councillor David Finch	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor Kevin Bentley	Deputy Leader and Economic Growth and Partnerships (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Rodney Bass	Infrastructure
Councillor Anne Brown	Corporate, Communities and Customers
Councillor Ray Gooding	Education and Lifelong Learning
Councillor Eddie Johnson	Highways and Transport
Councillor Dick Madden	Adults and Children

Councillors B Aspinell, M Buckley, M Danvers, M Maddocks, R Howard, Mrs P Channer and S Canning also attended.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

Councillor J Spence (Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing and Planning)  
Councillor G Butland (Cabinet Member for Health)  
Councillor M Mackrory (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group).  
Councillor I Henderson (Leader of the Labour Group)

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman reminded Members to declare any interests now or at the point during the meeting when they arose.

### **4. Public Questions**

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

## **5. Multi-Year Settlement and Efficiency Plan**

The Cabinet considered report FP543/06/16 by the Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services which set out an efficiency plan to submit to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in order to accept the offer of a multi-year finance settlement.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Danvers, Councillor Brown confirmed that the increase in Council Tax revenue assumed in the report was based on an assumed population growth rather than any intended Council Tax increase. It was also noted that £521 million savings had been made over the past five years, whilst Council Tax rates had been frozen and ECC continued to provide a good service through innovative delivery.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the offer of a Multi-Year Settlement from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) be accepted.
2. That the flexible use of capital receipts policy implemented by the DCLG be accepted.
3. That the report (reference FP/543/06/16) be submitted to the DCLG as the Council's efficiency plan.

## **6. Future Direction of the Quality Improvement Service – Early Years & Childcare**

The Cabinet considered report FP/531/06/16 by the Director of Commissioning, Education and Lifelong Learning and the Director for Integrated Commissioning and Vulnerable People which sought agreement to the commissioning strategy for the Quality Improvement and Sufficiency Service for Childminders and Out of School Provision from April 2017.

In introducing the report, Councillor Gooding confirmed the recommendation was for option two as outlined in the paper.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Danvers and Councillor Aspinell, Councillor Gooding confirmed that this paper related to monitoring and improving quality within settings and, whilst he was aware of the potential funding challenges due to changes to Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE), this did not affect the funding for this service. He also confirmed that funding changes proposed by the Education White Paper March 2016 had not yet been implemented and he continued to lobby against the changes.

**Resolved:**

1. That it be agreed to commission a single ECC Quality Improvement Intervention Team provided by ECC employees which includes support for Childminders and Out of School (OOS) providers which are currently provided by contractors.
2. That the new service take effect on 1 April 2017.

**7. To approve the Procurement of a Corporate software, hosting and associated services contract**

The Cabinet considered report FP/540/06/16 by the Director for Customer Service and Information Services which sought agreement to procure and award a single supplier framework contract for Corporate Software, Hosting and Associated Services, which will provide the corporate Microsoft Enterprise Agreement and essential software and hosting services to support the services provided by ECC to its employees and citizens.

**Resolved:**

1. That a single framework agreement be procured to enable ECC to purchase its Microsoft Enterprise Agreement and additional software and hosting services.
2. That the contract be awarded to the preferred bidder based on the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 3.10 of report EFA/540/06/16.
3. That the contract be awarded by the Leader of the Council.

**8. Extension of Day Opportunities contract**

The Cabinet considered report FP/559/07/16 by the Director for Integrated Commissioning and Vulnerable Adults which sought approval to the extension by mutual agreement of existing arrangements for day opportunities to allow time for future options for the redesign of the service to be considered and future options for the service to be reconsidered.

In response to a question regarding Essex Cares raised by Councillor Aspinell, the Leader confirmed that it is a separate legal entity to Essex County Council and that the company was on a trajectory of improvement.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Danvers regarding continuance of services in the future, Councillor Madden confirmed that this extension ensured services would continue for the coming year while the review of the service was taking place, however future services could not be guaranteed to remain at the same level. He recognised Councillor Danvers' concerns that the service provided for some of the most vulnerable people in society. Councillor Madden also confirmed that the report regarding the redesign of the service would come back to Cabinet early next year and he would share this with all members.

**Resolved:**

1. That the current contracts and grant agreements for day opportunities listed in the appendix to report FP/559/07/16 be extended for twelve months from 1 October 2016 until 30 September 2017.
2. That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in due course on the future procurement of the service.

**9. Superfast Essex Phase 3 delivery programme**

The Cabinet considered report FP/579/08/16 by the Executive Director for Place Operations and Chief Information Officer which sought agreement to create a £9.3m project, using only savings, income and external funding, for enhanced access to broadband for Essex Residents to be known as Superfast Essex Phase 3.

Councillor Bentley confirmed that the coverage already achieved in Essex is one of the most advanced nationally, and is considered to be in the top four authorities by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK). The target for phase 3 will be 97% for the areas that Essex County Council has control over. The long term aim of 100% coverage may have to involve different solutions.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Buckley, Councillor Bentley confirmed that in some areas of Essex coverage is the responsibility of third party suppliers, meaning Superfast Essex cannot work in that area. Councillor Bentley does continue to meet with the third party suppliers who are responsible to remind them of their responsibilities. Councillor Bentley confirmed that any individual member could contact him if they had queries regarding a particular area and he would respond to them in full.

In response to comments made by Councillor Danvers regarding the cost of the project and its value in light of cuts to other services, Councillor Bentley confirmed that was considered a priority by both the previous and current governments. He commented that high speed broadband was required to allow businesses to compete globally. The capital expenditure for the project was an investment and provided sources of revenue which have been reinvested into the project.

**Resolved:**

1. That the creation of 'Superfast Essex Phase 3' be authorised as a new capital scheme at an overall value of £7.4m over four years (2017/18 to 2020/21) to be funded by:
  1. £3m from savings from phases 1 and 2
  2. £2.2m from Tendring DC
  3. £2.2m from BDUK

2. That, in addition, the £1.9m 'Gainshare' savings from the take up of broadband in phases 1 and 2 be invested as part of phase 3 by the current supplier as set out in report FP/579/08/16.
3. That the agreed target for phase 3 be that 97% of premises in Essex have access to 30Mbps Broadband.
4. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place Operations and CIO
  - 4.1. to agree with BDUK and Tendring DC the areas to be included within the Superfast Essex Phase 3; and
  - 4.2. to determine whether the solution offered by the current supplier is acceptable based on price and delivery timescale.
5. That authority be given for the procurement of suitable delivery partners to deliver Superfast Essex Phase 3 through a competitive, single stage OJEU procurement process with a contract length of ten years, divided into geographical lots.
6. That the Executive Director for Place Operations and CIO be authorised:
  - 6.1. to determine, in consultation with BDUK and Tendring DC, the evaluation criteria for the award of the contracts; and
  - 6.2. to award contracts for the delivery of Phase 3, once the procurement is complete and he is satisfied that the formal evaluation and due diligence shows that the proposed contract(s) represent value for money.
7. That authority be given for the drawdown of £195,000 revenue from the transformation reserve for Superfast Essex Phase 3, to be profiled over three years, 2017/18 to 2019/20 to be used to drive demand and take-up of the new broadband services deployed under the Superfast Essex programme (all Phases).

**10. Chelmsford Park and Ride – approval for agency agreement with Chelmsford City Council covering the operation of the Chelmsford Park and Ride sites**

The Cabinet considered report FP/580/08/16 by the Director for Place Commissioning: Connectivity which sought agreement to the approach for the establishment of an agency agreement with Chelmsford City Council for the management of front of house services and site maintenance at the Sandon and Chelmer Valley Park and Ride sites ('the sites'). Agreement was also sought to the establishment of an officer-led operations board to oversee operational aspects of the Park and Ride services, with overall performance and strategy to be led by Cabinet Members of Chelmsford City Council and Essex County Council ('the Council'). Finally, the report proposed an extension of current Park and Ride contracts for a period of up to three months, pending implementation of the agency agreement.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Aspinell regarding timescales, Councillor Johnson confirmed that the existing contracts would be extended for three months to allow for the implementation of the proposed agency agreement which would run for 5 years with an optional 2 year extension.

**Resolved:**

1. That authority be delegated to Chelmsford City Council via an Agency Agreement with effect from Autumn 2016 for a period of five years, with an optional two year extension, in accordance with the financial information set out in paragraph 5.4 of report FP/580/08/16, with responsibility for:
  - a) the operation of the site and facilities management at the sites, including responsibility for all staff; and
  - b) the maintenance of the site and facilities including all reactive maintenance.
2. That an Officers Operations Board ('the Board') be established which will oversee operational aspects of Park and Ride services, including maintenance, asset condition and potential capital investment requirements, customer feedback, and consideration of new income generation incentives.
3. That the current Park and Ride contracts with Chelmsford City Council for front of house and site maintenance be extended for a maximum three-month period at a cost of £98,794 to the Council, to ensure interim delivery of services while the Agency Agreement is developed.

**11. Cabinet Decisions Report**

The Cabinet received report FP/549/07/16 by the Secretary to the Cabinet setting out the decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting.

**12. Dates of future Cabinet meetings**

The dates of future Cabinet meetings were noted as follows:

2017

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Tuesday 18 July 2017

**Tuesday 22 August 2017\***

Tuesday 19 September 2017

Tuesday 17 October 2017

Thursday 23 November 2017

Tuesday 19 December 2017

2018

Tuesday 23 January 2018

Tuesday 20 February 2018

Tuesday 20 March 2018

Tuesday 17 April 2018

Tuesday 22 May 2018

**Note of secretary**

*Following the meeting it was confirmed that there would be no meeting on Tuesday 22 August 2017.*

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 10.00am.

### **14. Closing Remarks**

The Leader of the Council congratulated representatives from BBC Radio on their recent award nomination.

The meeting closed at 10:25am.

**Chairman**  
**18 October 2016**