

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Tuesday 24 September 2019

Present

Councillor Mike Mackrory (Chairman)	Councillor Valerie Metcalfe
Councillor James Abbott	Councillor John Moran
Councillor Malcolm Buckley	Councillor Ron Pratt
Councillor Graham Butland	Councillor Andrew Sheldon
Councillor Mike Garnett	Councillor Anne Turrell
Councillor Ian Grundy	

Apologies

Councillor Michael Hardware	Councillor Mike Steptoe
Councillor Wendy Schmitt	Councillor Julie Young

Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager was supporting the meeting.

1. Membership, apologies and declarations

A change of membership was noted, effective from 1 October 2019, that Councillor Malcolm Maddocks will replace Councillor Wendy Schmitt on the committee.

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Michael Hardware (substituted by Councillor Ian Grundy)
- Councillor Wendy Schmitt
- Councillor Mike Steptoe
- Councillor Julie Young

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 July 2019 were approved by the committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Questions from the public

No questions from members of the public received.

4. Brexit Preparation

Councillor Mackrory welcomed Robert Surtees, Senior Strategy Adviser to the meeting who introduced the item:

- There are three scenarios that could occur:
 - Deferred departure

- Withdrawal agreement
 - No deal exit
- Timescale for a decision is short – European Council on 17 October 2019 is a key date
 - Updates are presented weekly to Essex County Council' (ECC) Corporate Leadership Team and Political Leadership Team
 - ECC's options have been reviewed since March 2019 in relation to staff changes and employment
 - No issues are envisaged in relation to international data transfers as ECC host their data within the UK
 - Continuity will remain for funding cycles received from the EU until 2024
 - The impact on Trading Standards is being looked into
 - Central Government has funded a number of Voluntary Community Service (CVS) groups to raise awareness of the settlement scheme (none local to Essex)
 - London Gateway are confident about handling the Brexit situation – extra space for lorry parking has been identified
 - ECC are keeping an eye on expenditure if departure date is delayed
 - ECC are able to make businesses aware of Government advice at a local level.

The committee asked a number of questions and received the following responses:

- There is a large-scale national communications plan. Focus is around the settlement scheme and encouraging EU nationals to sign up
- ECC is working with ports around trader readiness
- The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) includes ECC and unitary authorities and the Essex Resilience Forum (ERF) encompasses greater Essex, including the unitary authorities
- There is no centralised data for ECC employees in relation to settled status. Information is on ECC's intranet for employees
- The site identified at North Weald can accommodate 50 lorry bays. This is a temporary site and will be set up by HMRC

5. Work Programme

The current work programme was noted by the committee.

6. Future meeting dates

The committee agreed it meeting dates until November 2020.

The committee agreed that the meetings due to take place in February 2020, May 2020 and November 2020 will commence on the rise of the 'Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers', around 11:00am.

7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 October 2019 at 10:30am.

8. Urgent business

No urgent business was received.

9. Urgent exempt business

No urgent exempt business was received.

The meeting closed at 12:11pm.

Chairman