

The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues

1. Establishment of new primary schools

Cabinet has agreed that a new 210-place primary academy/free school needs to be established from September 2016 on St John's Road, Stansted to provide 30 places each year in order to accommodate population growth in the area. It agreed that the Director for Commissioning: Education and Lifelong Learning issue a document seeking proposals to establish an academy/free school in the area.

Cabinet has given authority to proceed with a construction project to build a 420-place primary school and 56-place early years provision at Newhall, Harlow, in readiness for September 2017 to meet the predicted demand for primary places in the area and to add £9.135m to the Capital Programme to be fully funded by S106 contributions.

2. Procurement of Reablement at Home Service

The Department of Health defines "reablement" as:

"an active period typically of up to 6 weeks of intense activity and support designed to promote people's independence. This is a preventive measure that can reduce people's need for both acute hospital care and can help people to continue living at home for longer."

Reablement services are delivered typically by Occupational therapists, Physiotherapists and home care support workers. The aim is to support individuals to improve their confidence, so they can manage their personal care, practical tasks and activities of daily living. The service is not means tested and is delivered free of charge for a period of up to six weeks for those who meet the criteria and would benefit from a period of reablement.

Cabinet has authorised a competitive tender process to procure one or more suppliers to provide a Reablement at Home service (formerly known as Domiciliary Reablement) for a period of five years commencing on 1 April 2016, when the current contracts for this service end. Cabinet agreed that with effect from the start of the new contract, reablement will become the default pathway and that other than in exceptional cases all new service users will be required to undergo a period of reablement before their longer-term care needs are assessed.

3. Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (Health Visiting Services) from NHS England to Essex County Council and Associated Novation of Contracts

Following the enactment of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the commissioning responsibility for public health transferred to Local Authorities on

1 April 2013. Commissioning responsibilities for children's public health services from pregnancy to age 5 transferred to local authorities with effect from 1 October 2015. The 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) includes health visiting services and Family Nurse Partnership services (targeted service for teenage mothers).

Cabinet approved the formal novation of the five 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (Health Visiting Service) contracts to Essex County Council as part of this transfer of responsibility.

4. Exercise of extension provisions in the Children's Centres contracts

Cabinet approved the extension of the four Children's Centres contracts for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 with a view to integration of the Children's Centres contracts with the Public Health contracts from April 2017 onwards to procure and deliver the Pre-birth – 19 Health, Wellbeing and Family Support Provision service model.

The Early Years Review revealed how complex Children's Services are for children and families to navigate due to various complementary services being delivered by a number of providers within the early years system. The fragmentation of services across multiple contracts and providers increases the risk that children and families may fall through the net and that services are not identifying needs and targeting resources as fully as they could if services were more integrated and collaborative.

Commissioning an integrated service will make it easier for families to navigate and find the most appropriate services, reduce risk within the system and may also lead to efficiencies through a rationalisation of resource, specifically management costs and overheads, resulting from a lead provider or carefully managed consortium.

5. Incorporation of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation for Active Essex

Cabinet agreed to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to be known as the "Active Essex Foundation" to access additional funding and resources that will enable Active Essex to increase further the participation in sport and physical activity for the population of greater Essex.

6. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – Adoption 2015

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory document under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SCI does not itself contain any planning policies it simply sets out the Council's commitments as to how it will consult when it is preparing Development Plan Documents and determining planning applications. It sets out the opportunities for early community involvement and how to provide for a sense of ownership over local policy decisions. Once adopted, the SCI becomes binding and the Council must comply with it.

Cabinet approved the Statement of Community Involvement – Update 2015 for adoption. The Draft SCI Update which was approved for consultation incorporated amendments needed partly as a result of new regulations around

development management processes, partly as a result of internal changes in how information is provided and finally to address policy considerations around other documents that are intended to be produced.

Following consultation in May/June this year the draft SCI was amended to provide better clarity.

7. Long-term disposal of Solid Recovered Fuel

The treatment process at the County's new mechanical and biological waste treatment (MBT) facility reduces, by mechanical and biological means, the mass of waste received by approximately 50%. The remaining material forms an output which can be safely landfilled (the biodegradable content responsible for creating landfill methane having been removed during the treatment process) or it can be used as a fuel in energy facilities. In the latter scenario, the product is known as Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF).

Under the MBT Contract the SRF produced by the MBT facility is returned to the Authority's ownership and control for onward transportation to a waste management company. Cabinet has approved arrangements for procuring the disposal of the SRF.

Councillor David Finch
Leader of the Council