

Executive Statement – “Managing Change”

Chairman, fellow members,

As we start a new Municipal year may I first of all congratulate you Mr Chairman and your Vice Chairman on your successful re-appointments in your respective roles. It is absolutely true that the work you and your predecessors have undertaken is largely unseen and unknown, yet you represent the very best of Essex and together with your wives do great credit to us and this County which we are all proud to represent.

I would also like to inform the Council of some Cabinet changes I am making. It is important to get the very best talent to undertake the onerous and full-time work of an Essex Cabinet Member and we have been lucky with those who have served, are currently serving and those who will serve in the future. They all have and will do great work with every resident in mind.

These new changes will build on the work already done over the last two years and take that momentum forward.

Firstly, I welcome Tony Ball to the role of Cabinet Member for Economic Development. Cllr Ball has already served for some time as a Deputy, but he is ready to take the step up and deliver the highest quality economic growth for our great County.

Cllr Gagan Mohindra will move to the Finance, Property, and Housing portfolio. Cllr McKinlay has guided the council through an incredibly challenging economic period and it is great credit to her abilities that this council is not only surviving – but thriving.

Cllr Mohindra will bring his sharp eye for detail to bear on the portfolio, and after his excellent work with Economic Development he will take on this new challenge with enthusiasm and vigour.

Cllr Louise McKinlay will take up the mantle as Cabinet Member for Children and Families. As you all know, Cllr Madden has done a sterling job with the portfolio for the last 8 years – taking the service from needing vast improvement to its recent award of ‘Outstanding’ by OFSTED. I have every confidence that Cllr McKinlay will be able to take this legacy and build on it even further.

Finally, Cllr Dick Madden will be taking up a new role as the Cabinet Member for Performance, Business Planning and Partnerships.

The role will ensure that the strategic priorities of the organisation are at the heart of every piece of work this council takes forward. His characteristic nuance and alacrity will be well suited to the role and I'm sure we all look forward to the updates he will bring to future council meetings.

The Cabinet Appointments will therefore be as follows:

Name	Portfolio
David Finch	Leader
Kevin Bentley	Deputy Leader and Infrastructure
Louise McKinlay	Children and Families
John Spence	Health and Adult Social Care
Ray Gooding	Education and Skills
Dick Madden	Performance, Business Planning, and Partnerships
Gagan Mohindra	Finance, Property, and Housing
Susan Barker	Customer, Communities, Culture, and Corporate
Tony Ball	Economic Development
Simon Walsh	Environment and Waste

Budget Announcement Updates

Putting people at the heart of everything we do is at the cornerstone of the policies of this Conservative Administration and investing in this County's future while embracing new technologies, will ensure Essex goes from strength to strength.

That is why at the Budget meeting in February I announced vital extra resources to help every resident in Essex and crucially some of the most

vulnerable in our society. Not only is this the pragmatic approach it is also the right thing to do.

Therefore, as I announced earlier there will be an extra:

- £1m to support our strategic ambitions around mental health
- £700k to improve our footpaths and pavements
- £500k to tackle county lines gangs with the PFFC, and
- £250k to combat homelessness

Mental Health –

On Mental Health, the funding I announced will focus on securing improved early intervention responses for vulnerable people in our society, with a specific emphasis on children in care, care leavers and children with a disability such as autism.

We have already embarked upon several projects. These include training specialist mental health coaches for care leavers and homeless young people to help them through difficult times and enable them to become more emotionally stable and resilient, allowing them to develop positive aspiration for the future.

We will also be investing in a study to understand the nature and scale of the mental health challenge amongst former service personnel and their families in the County. This will ensure we can provide the best possible support to the brave men and women of our armed forces that live here in our county.

Footpaths and Pavements –

As announced, this earlier this morning, the additional £700k announced in the budget will be complemented by a £1m grant from the Department for Transport – to create an initiative where each and every county council member will get the opportunity to identify priority footways in their areas for repair. My able colleague Cllr Bentley has written to you all this morning with details of how to ensure you can get work done; putting County Councillors in control in their Divisions.

County Lines –

On tackling the scourge of County Lines gangs, the first Violence and Vulnerability Round Table took place last Friday 10th May. This forum is the first of a series of multi-agency meetings which bring together the police, youth offending services, public health, and local government to

create a partnership approach to dealing with all violent crime in Essex. Our funding will help the partnership approach in several ways, namely:

- To undertake early identification, referral and support of those at risk
- To provide education, myth busting, skills and qualification to vulnerable young people so they are less likely to become involved in gang activity, and
- To undertake disruption activity to create the conditions in which gang activity cannot thrive

I look forward to bringing further updates on the progress of the PFCC and ECC in tackling County Lines.

Homelessness –

I am happy to confirm that since my announcement for £250k extra funding for homelessness and rough sleeping, the Council have been in detailed discussions with providers for 2 key programmes.

The first is a preventative programme aimed at working with vulnerable people and families with the aim of stopping 150 households in Essex from becoming homeless.

The second is a programme working with 50 of the most vulnerable rough sleepers to help to break the cycle of homelessness.

Negotiations have gone well, and we will be looking to sign the contracts with these providers over the next few weeks.

Conclusion

So, to sum up. We have an excellent team in Cabinet, and a commitment to tackle the big issues affecting the county – with a programme of work to match – I look forward to continuing to deliver it.