
Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet meeting that took place in the Chamber of County Hall on Tuesday 8 June 2021

Present:

Councillor	Cabinet Member Responsibility
Councillor K Bentley	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor L McKinley	Deputy Leader and Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance
Councillor T Ball	Education Excellence, Skills and Training
Councillor M Buckley	Waste Reduction and Recycling
Councillor G Butland	Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture
Councillor B Egan	Children's Services and Early Years
Councillor L Scott	Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport
Councillor L Wagland	Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning
Councillor C Whitbread	Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs

Councillors Pond, Henderson, King, Durham, Platt, Schwier and Hoy were also present.

1. **Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest.**

The report of Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received and the following were noted:

1. The new membership of the Cabinet was noted and introductions were made.
2. Apologies were received from Councillor Spence, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and Councillor Mackrory, Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group.
3. There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 20 April 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

4. **Allocation of Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF): 2021/22 Spending Programme (FP/071/0521)**

The Cabinet considered a report advising that the Council had received additional Contain Outbreak Management Funding from the Department of Health and Social Care to help further contain and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic in Essex. The report asked Cabinet to agree how that one-off funding would be spent.

The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance, and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs responded to questions from Councillors Henderson, King and Pond regarding:

- The provision of support to organisations that may find the bidding process difficult;
- The need to fund community transport, particularly considering increased NHS pressures;
- The establishment of the Central Law Group, working with Chelmsford Citizen's Advice Bureau, to provide assistance particularly in relation to employment issues;
- The need for regular updates and suitable assurance methods to ensure the funding was being used where it could give the most value;
- The scope of measures to support the Armed Forces;
- The dispersal of funds to areas with high levels of tourism and visitor numbers and how these areas had been identified;
- The need to ensure that urban areas were not disadvantaged when considering the dispersal of funds to support community buildings;
- The importance of the business adaptation grant scheme.

A written answer would also be provided to Councillor King by the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care in relation to how the measures set out at 3.4.11 in the report to support adults with learning difficulties would be administered.

Resolved:

1. That £13.3m of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) will be used to fund the following public health coronavirus response activities in Essex:
 - 1.1. To increase the maximum Business Adaptation Grant that businesses can apply for from £1,500 to £5,000 and allocate £5m to be made available to District, Borough and City Councils for this purpose, to be paid in stages to each authority to enable them to meet demand in their area.
 - 1.2. That £2.5m will be used to fund measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus in places in Essex open to the public with high levels of tourism and visitor numbers. £925,000 of this will be used to fund measures in Essex County Council's Country Parks, Essex Outdoors Centres and Cressing Temple Barns. £1.575m will be allocated to a grant scheme which will be open to applications

from District, Borough and City Councils.

- 1.3. To allocate £1.08m to be divided equally between the twelve District, City and Borough Councils in Essex to fund an additional 12 months of direct support to local communities via the community hubs they have established.
 - 1.4. To grant £680,000 to Citizen Advice Bureaux in Essex to meet continued increased demand due to Covid-19.
 - 1.5 To allocate £550,000 to the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) to deliver, on the Council's behalf, a grant scheme for grassroots clubs to assist with Covid-19 remobilisation costs.
 - 1.6 To agree that £508,000 will be used by the Council's Early Years team to provide a one-off payment to early years settings in the County to assist with PPE costs. A payment of £200 will go to childminders and out-of-school providers, and £500 to pre-schools and day nurseries.
 - 1.7. To allocate £25,000 to the Chelmsford Citizens Advice Bureau to host an Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer.
 - 1.8. To agree that £500,000 will be used by ECC to make bottles of hand sanitiser and face coverings freely available to young people and adults with low income.
 - 1.9. To agree that £50,000 will be used to deliver a targeted Covid-19 communications campaign for gypsy and traveller communities.
 - 1.10 To agree that £100,000 will be used to fund Essex Coronavirus Action (ECA), a digital community campaign model supporting Covid safety compliance, for an additional 12 months.
 - 1.11 To agree that £200,000 will be used to purchase devices for adults with learning disabilities, autism, carers and older people, and £100,000 will be used to facilitate implementation and the upskilling of isolated residents to help them become digitally connected.
 - 1.12 To agree that £500,000 will be used to fund Covid-19 communications and campaigns.
 - 1.13 To allocate £1.5m to the Rural Community Council of Essex to administer a grants scheme to support community buildings, such as village halls, community centres, and faith buildings with the costs of being Covid compliant.
2. To agree that £500,000 will be used to fund Covid-19 communications and campaigns.

3. To allocate £1.5m to the Rural Community Council of Essex to administer a grants scheme to support community buildings, such as village halls, community centres, and faith buildings with the costs of being Covid compliant.

3.1. to agree the criteria for and approve applications for funding pursuant to paragraph 2.1 above; and

3.2. to approve the terms of agreements under which funding is paid.

4. To agree that the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Director, Wellbeing Public Health and Communities and the Executive Director, Place and Public Health is authorised between now and the end of November 2021 to reallocate the funding referred to in paragraph 1. between different heads of funding set out in paragraph 1. to respond to demand and priority need.

5. **Report of decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members (FP/045/04/21)**

The report was noted.

6. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on the morning of Tuesday 22 June 2021, with the venue and time to be confirmed.

(Post meeting note – due to incorrect advice being provided to the Chairman, the date of the next meeting was advised as being 29 July 2021. 22 June 2021 is the correct date).

7. **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

8. **Urgent Exempt Business**

There was no urgent exempt business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.45am.