

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council, held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford on Tuesday, 16 May 2023

Present: Chairman: Cllr Jillian Reeves
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Ray Gooding

Cllr Barry Aspinell	Cllr Anthony Hedley	Cllr Mark Platt
Cllr Tony Ball	Cllr Ivan Henderson	Cllr Ross Playle
Cllr Lewis Barber	Cllr Jeff Henry	Cllr Chris Pond
Cllr Susan Barker	Cllr Paul Honeywood	Cllr Patricia Reid
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Cllr Michael Hoy	Cllr Stephen Robinson
Cllr Lynette Bowers-Flint	Cllr Eddie Johnson	Cllr Peter Schwier
Cllr Malcom Buckley	Cllr John Jowers	Cllr Lee Scott
Cllr Graham Butland	Cllr Sam Kane	Cllr Laureen Shaw
Cllr Mark Cory	Cllr David King	Cllr Andrew Sheldon
Cllr Simon Crow	Cllr Dan Land	Cllr Chris Siddall
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Cllr Derrick Louis	Cllr Mick Skeels
Cllr Jude Deakin	Cllr June Lumley	Cllr Kerry Smith
Cllr Mark Durham	Cllr Luke Mackenzie	Cllr Clive Souter
Cllr Beverley Egan	Cllr Mike Mackrory	Cllr John Spence
Cllr Jane Fleming	Cllr Bob Massey	Cllr Wendy Stamp
Cllr Martin Foley	Cllr Peter May	Cllr Mike Steel
Cllr Mike Garnett	Cllr Aidan McGurran	Cllr Mark Stephenson
Cllr Alan Goggin	Cllr Jaymey McIvor	Cllr Mike Steptoe
Cllr Marie Goldman	Cllr Louise McKinlay	Cllr Paul Thorogood
Cllr Ian Grundy	Cllr Anthony McQuiggan	Cllr Marshall Vance
Cllr Carlo Guglielmi	Cllr Dr Richard Moore	Cllr Chris Whitbread
Cllr Dave Harris	Cllr James Newport	Cllr Holly Whitbread
		Cllr Andy Wiles

Chairman's Welcome and Introduction

The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Eddie Johnson informed those present that the meeting would be broadcast live over the internet by way of the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

The opening remarks, together with the broadcast of the entire meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).

Prayers

The meeting was preceded by prayers led by Councillor Spence, a lay Canon in the Church of England.

Councillor Eddie Johnson formally opened the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

It having been proposed by Cllr Susan Barker and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay and there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Cllr Jillian Reeves be elected Chairman of the County Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

Cllr Jillian Reeves made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

At the invitation of the newly elected Chairman, the Council passed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, Cllr Eddie Johnson and Mrs Carol Johnson.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It having been proposed by Cllr Carlo Guglielmi and seconded by Cllr Tony Ball and there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Cllr Ray Gooding be appointed Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

Cllr Ray Gooding made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Dave Blackwell, Cllr Mike Hardware, Cllr Sue Lissimore, Cllr Lee Scordis and Cllr Lesley Wagland.

4. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded by the Chairman of the need to declare any interests and to do so immediately or at the start of the consideration of any relevant item of business.

Cllr John Spence declared a non-registrable interest in respect of agenda item 14, Motion 2 – Health and GP Services in Essex, due to previously being a Governor at Anglia Ruskin University and remaining as a Trustee of

the Anglia Ruskin Foundation.

Cllr Graham Butland declared a non-registrable linterest in respect of agenda item 14, Motion 2 – Health and GP Services in Essex, due to having worked within the NHS and in charge of general practice and primary care in Essex.

5. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9 February 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Public Speakers

There were none.

7. Chairman's Announcements and Communications

Coronation of King Charles III

The Chairman on behalf of Members and the people of Essex wished His Majesty King Charles III and her Majesty Queen Camilla a very happy reign. The Chairman reflected on all the ways that residents had celebrated the coronation weekend with their friends, families and neighbours and also as part of the big help out. She extended thanks to everyone who had volunteered over the weekend and all year round and expressed gratitude for the time that individuals put into volunteering in their communities. The Chairman expressed her hope that the coronation and its events had brought together the community and that the good work and feeling continued throughout the King's reign.

Deaths

Former County Councillor and Honorary Alderwoman Iris Pummell

The Chairman informed members of the death of former County Councillor and Honorary Alderwoman Iris Pummell who died peacefully in hospital on 16 February.

Iris was first elected to Essex County Council in 1989 serving the residents of Wickford Crouch until 2013. Iris served on many committees during her time at Essex but had a particular interest in those relating to people, she served as Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools, Education and Community Services.

Cllr Malcolm Buckley and the Chairman paid tribute.

At the invitation of the Chairman, members stood in silent remembrance of Iris.

Flooding

The Chairman informed members that she was sorry to hear about those in the county and beyond who had been impacted by the flash floods the previous week and acknowledged that some homes and businesses had suffered huge levels of damage in a matter of minutes. The Chairman's thoughts were with those individuals who had been impacted.

Awards

People Management Association Awards

The Chairman announced that Essex County Council had won the Human Resources and Organisational Development Team of the Year award at the People Management Association Awards on 27 April 2023. At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Chris Whitbread, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs spoke on the award.

Pension Age Awards

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Susan Barker, Chairman of the Essex Pension Fund Investment Steering Committee and Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board, spoke on the award won at the Pension Age Awards for Defined Benefit Scheme of the year 2023 award.

Boundary Review

Lastly, the Chairman informed members that there was an extension to the consultation date for the boundary review, the new closing date being 31st July 2023. Members and residents could find more information on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England website and by searching for Essex.

8. Petitions

The Chairman invited Cllr Aidan McGurran to present a petition relating to pavements on the Riverview Estate in Vange, Basildon. Cllr Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, responded to receive the petition.

The Chairman then invited Cllr Dave Harris to present a petition relating to the condition of Queen Elizabeth Way. Cllr Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport responded to receive the petition.

9. Return of Members Elected and Proportionality

The Chief Executive presented a report confirming the result of the by election for the Laindon Park and Fryerns division which was held on 4 May 2023. Cllr Pat Reid was elected and had joined the Labour Group.

It was confirmed that the effect of the by election meant that the composition of the Council remained:

The Conservative Group:	52
The Non-Aligned Group:	10
The Liberal Democrat Group:	8
The Labour Group:	5
Total:	75

It having been proposed by Cllr Kevin Bentley and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay it was

Resolved:

That there be no change to the allocation of committee seat places which remain as determined by the Council at its annual meeting in May 2021.

10. To note the Political Group's appointments to Committees

At the time that the agenda for the meeting was published, the Non-Aligned Group had not put forward a nomination for the vacancy on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and therefore Council could nominate to the vacant seat outside the political balance rules. The Conservative Group, as the majority group had put forward a nomination. At the meeting the Liberal Democrat Group also put forward a nomination. The Non-Aligned Group then nominated cllr Wendy Stamp and as the seat is allocated to the Non-aligned group there was no longer an unfilled vacancy for the other groups to put forward a nomination to fill.

It having been proposed by Cllr Kevin Bentley and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay it was

Resolved:

That members be appointed to committees as set out in the report circulated to members prior to the meeting, with the addition of Cllr Wendy Stamp appointed to the vacant position on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.

11. Appointment of Chairmen of Committees

It having been proposed by Cllr Kevin Bentley and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay it was

Resolved:

That chairmen of committees be appointed as set out in the report

12. Other Appointments

The Chairman reminded Members that the appointments to approved bodies contained within the report and Order Paper were only the appointments made since the last annual meeting, taking place in 2022, the full list is available on the website.

It having been proposed by Cllr Kevin Bentley and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay it was

Resolved:

1. The appointments to the Health and Wellbeing Board were Cllr John Spence and Cllr Beverley Egan as members with Cllr Ray Gooding as the named substitute, as set out in the report.
2. The County Council's appointment on the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel was Cllr Ross Playle as the member with Cllr Ian Grundy as the named substitute, as set out in the report.
3. The County Council's appointment on the Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board was Cllr Chris Siddall, as set out in the report.
4. That the full list of Approved Bodies be received and the changes to appointments to Outside Bodies since the last Annual Meeting, as set out in the report and Order paper, be noted.

13. Executive Statements

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of the Council and Cllr Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance gave a statement on 'Everyone's Essex – Everyone Counts'.

The Executive Statements are published on the ECC website and the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

14. Motions

1. Rising sea-level and the Essex coast

It was moved by Cllr Paul Thorogood and seconded by Cllr Chris Pond.

'Given that the world is in all probability going to overshoot a +1.5C temperature rise Council asks the Cabinet to prepare plans for Essex to be ready for a world with higher sea levels, long-term droughts, occasional flash flooding and supply chain problems impacting food supply. Council further asks the Cabinet to present those draft plans to Council in December 2023 for the purpose of consultation'

It was moved by Cllr Ross Playle and seconded by Cllr Peter Schwier that the motion be amended to read:

‘This Council notes that, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report issued in March 2023, warns that global warming this century is on course to exceed an agreed 1.5°C limit without drastic and immediate cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

This Council therefore acknowledges the significant progress that has been made to date and the ambitious programme of work in Essex County Council to reduce its emissions to Net Zero by 2030 along with the significant mitigation measure delivered and planned with partners at all levels.

This Council asks that the Essex Climate Action Report for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are presented to Full Council in December 2023 to provide a formal update to all Members’

The amendment moved by Cllr Ross Playle and seconded by Cllr Peter Schwier was put to the meeting and was **carried**.

Having been put to the meeting the motion was **carried**.

2. Health and GP Services in Essex

It was moved by Cllr Marie Goldman and seconded by Cllr Stephen Robinson.

‘This Council believes that timely and face to face access to GP services are essential for the health and wellbeing of our residents and calls for more consistent access across the county and reduced waiting times, as this will help Essex residents, and reduce pressure on Accident and Emergency and other hospital services.

This Council notes unacceptable waiting times and difficulty in securing access to a GP. Same day appointments are available for some, but other residents can wait for a week or more, with significant risks to health for some. A face-to-face appointment is increasingly difficult to secure in some practices, and many residents are having to see other health professionals, rather than a GP.

This Council requests the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to obtain from the three Integrated Care Systems a position statement on the number of GP vacancies in the county and what steps are being taken to fill these.

The Council requests the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care asking that the Government fund additional doctor training places at Anglia Ruskin University's Medical School, to meet the need for new doctors, based on growing demand and forthcoming retirements.
- Support the City, Borough and District Councils in Essex when they want to make provision for GP surgeries and other health provision in their Local Plans.'

It was moved by Cllr Holly Whitbread and seconded by Cllr John Spence that the motion be amended to read:

'This Council believes that timely and, in many cases, face-to-face access to GP services are essential for the health and wellbeing of our residents and calls for more consistent access across the county and reduced waiting times, as this will help Essex residents, and reduce pressure on Accident and Emergency and other hospital services.

This council:

- Recognises the challenges GPs have had during and post the pandemic, resulting in them needing to adopt new working practices;
- Recognises that primary care will work best when doctors, local authorities and communities work in collaboration with shared knowledge;
- Welcomes the development of multi-disciplinary health care centres where residents can talk with the best person to address their needs but notes the importance of triage being fully and sympathetically explained;
- Recognises that in some practices the levels of same-day and/or face-to-face appointments are well below the expectation of patients and that delays inevitably create anxiety while possibly impacting on the health of the individual;
- Notes that there are simply not enough GPs practising in Essex, that some practices are closing and that – despite the Chelmsford Medical School success – more capacity is required.

This Council requests the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to obtain from the three Integrated Care Systems a position statement on the number of GP vacancies in the county and what steps are being taken to fill these.

The Council requests the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to:

- Liaise with Anglia Ruskin University in approaching the secretary of state to secure funds for doubling the capacity of the medical school
- Work with relevant cabinet colleagues and all partners to ensure that City, Borough and District Councils require, and that the NHS requests, sufficient appropriate healthcare facilities when developing local plans and approving specific plans for housing development.'

The amendment moved by Cllr Holly Whitbread and seconded by Cllr John Spence was put to the meeting and was **carried**.

Having been put to the meeting the motion was **carried**.

15. Adjournment

With the agreement of Council, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:04pm. The meeting reconvened at 2:03pm.

16. Council Issues

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Bentley presented the report and it having been moved by Cllr Kevin Bentley and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay it was

Resolved:

1. Minor changes to the Constitution

1.1 Amend paragraph 16.11.1 (iv) of the constitution to read as follows:

- '(iv) The subject of any proposed statement and the identity of the person who will be making it should be notified to the Head of Democracy and Transparency by 5pm two working days prior to the Council meeting. The Head of Democracy and Transparency will send an e-mail notification to all Members of the Council.'

2. Member Allowances – Annual Indexation

2.1 To note the new rates for Member Allowances.

2.2 Amend Appendix 2 – Member Allowances Scheme, of the Constitution to reflect the new rates for member Allowances as follows:

Members Allowances Scheme

Basic Allowance

£12,941 per annum

Special Responsibility Allowances

Postholder	Rate	Amount
Basic Allowance (75)	-	£12,941
Leader	450% of basic allowance	£58,235
	As a % of the Leader's allowance	
Deputy Leader	80%	£46,582
Cabinet Member (8)	67%	£39,017
Deputy to Cabinet Member (11)	25%	£14,559
Scrutiny Board Chairman	30%	£17,470
Committee Chairman (8)	25%	£14,559
Leader of the largest opposition group	30%	£17,470
(The SRA for the leader of the main opposition group will be split equally between two or more leaders of opposition groups for the duration of any period of time in which they have an equality of members in the group.)		
Smaller opposition group leaders (for groups which include at least 5% of Members in their Group)	10%	£5,823
Chairman of the Council	40%	£23,294
Vice-Chairman of the Council	20%	£11,647
Co-opted members of Pension Strategy Board (in accordance with paragraph 26.8)		£16.92 per hour to include reasonable preparation time.

2.3 Amend Paragraph 8.1.4 Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board – **Remuneration**, as follows:

The agreed allowance to be paid is £16.92 per hour to include reasonable preparation time. Therefore it is considered that the following can be claimed:

- PSB attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £67.68 per meeting

- ISC attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £67.68 per meeting
- ISC Strategic meeting attendance - up to six hours which includes preparation time = £101.52 per meeting
- Extra activities = £16.92 per hour which includes:
 - attendance at internal training events hosted by Essex Pension Fund;
 - attendance at and preparation for Task and Finish Groups; and
 - attendance at and preparation for the Appointments Panel, as part of the Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board (PAB) appointments process.

2.4 Amend Paragraph 8.1.6 The Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board –
10. Remuneration and Expenses, as follows:

10. Remuneration and Expenses

(A) Subject to (B) below, an allowance may be made to Scheme Member representatives for attending meetings relating to Board business at a rate of £16.92 per hour, in line with the PSB Co-optee allowance at Appendix 2.

This allowance includes reasonable preparation time. Therefore it is considered that the following can be claimed:

- PAB attendance - up to four hours which includes preparation time = £67.68 per meeting
- Extra activities = £16.92 per hour which includes:
 - attendance at internal training events hosted by EPF; and
 - attendance at and preparation for Task and Finish Groups.

This allowance does not include time spent on external training events or observing at PSB or ISC meetings.

17. Cabinet Issues

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Bentley presented the report and it having been moved by Cllr Kevin Bentley and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay it was

Resolved:

To receive the list of urgent decisions taken and the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21 February, 21 March and 18 April 2023.

18. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Ray Gooding, Chairman of the Scrutiny Board, presented the report.

During the discussion two points were raised for improving the scrutiny process going forward. The first being a request that Cabinet Members engage with the relevant scrutiny committee as part of the consultation process on significant and potentially controversial issues. The second point was to request that scrutiny work and reports are publicised more widely as part of the scrutiny communications strategy.

It having been moved by Cllr Ray Gooding and seconded by Cllr Jeff Henry it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

19. Member Development Annual Report

The Chairman, as Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group, presented the report.

It having been moved by Cllr Jill Reeves and seconded by Cllr Jeff Henry it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

20. Oral Questions of the Leader, Cabinet Member, chairman of a committee or the representative of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

The oral questions and answers as part of the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).

The questions asked were:

Asked by	Asked to	Subject
Cllr Dave Harris	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance	Essex Girls and Boys Clubs
Cllr Ivan Henderson	Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	Booking system for recycling and household waste centres.
Cllr Jaymey McIvor	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Visually impaired highway users
Cllr Aidan McGurran	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Member led pothole scheme

Asked by	Asked to	Subject
Cllr David King (for Cllr Mark Cory)	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Highways drainage and flash flooding
Cllr David King (for Cllr Mark Cory)	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	20mph zones
Cllr Marie Goldman	Leader of the Council	Essex Business Boards
Cllr Mike Mackrory	Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	Residual waste procurement
Cllr Pat Reid	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Changes to pothole repairs to make them more durable.
Cllr Chris Pond	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Safety of motorcycles – follow up of scrutiny review. Especially on A104.
Cllr Jude Deakin	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance	Future of youth grants given morphing of Youth Strategy Grant into Local Community Fund.
Cllr Michael Hoy	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Flooding of Watery Lane, Hullbridge.
Cllr David King	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Rumble strip near Hythe Tesco
Cllr David King	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Information for members about planned highway works.
Cllr Susan Barker	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Thanks to Ride London team.
Cllr Alan Goggin	Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	Booking system for recycling and household waste centres.
Cllr Ivan Henderson	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Additional money for highway maintenance
Cllr Mike Steptoe	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Warners Bridge – maintenance responsibilities between ECC and Southend.
Cllr Mike Steptoe	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Gulleys blocked by mud deposited by developer of new houses at Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

21. Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 3:03pm.

A recording of the meeting is available as [a video on YouTube](#).

Chairman