

Minutes of a meeting of Essex County Council held at County Hall, Chelmsford on 12 July 2011

Present

Chairman: Councillor R L Bass

Vice-Chairman: Councillor K Twitchen

Councillors:

J F Aldridge	R G Gooding	Mrs M A Miller
B Aspinell	C Griffiths	G Mitchinson
Mrs S Barker	A M Hedley	D Morris
L Barton	Mrs T M A Higgins	A Naylor
J Baugh	Mrs S Hillier	M J Page
K Bentley	R C Howard	R A Pearson
R G Boyce	N J Hume	J W Pike
G Butland	A J Jackson	C C Pond
R Callender	E C Johnson	Mrs I Pummell
S Candy	J G Jowers	Mrs J M Reeves
S C Castle	D J Kendall	C G Riley
R P Chambers	J Knapman	D C F Robinson
P Channer	M C M Lager	Mrs T L Sargent
J A Deakin	D Louis	J M Schofield
W J C Dick	J R Lucas	M Skeels
J Dornan	G W McEwen	Mrs A Turrell
T Durcan	M Mackrory	S M Walsh
N D C Edey	R A Madden	R G Walters
D Finch	P J Martin	Mrs E A Webster
M D Fisher	S Mayzes	Mrs M J Webster
M Garnett	L Mead	B Wood
	Mrs V Metcalfe	J A Young

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors D Abrahall, A Brown, Mrs T M Chapman, Mrs E M Hart, J Roberts, T C Smith-Hughes and Mrs J H Whitehouse.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To report the result of the Chelmsford Central By-Election held on 9 June 2011.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Richard Madden to the Council having been elected to the Chelmsford Central Division.

4. Minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to the wording on page 18, Minute 10, such that this would now read:

‘The Council received a report from the Chief Executive confirming that the political proportions applying to Committee memberships as submitted complied with Regulation 17 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.’

5. Duke of Edinburgh’s 90th Birthday.

The Chairman advised the Council that he had sent to the Palace on behalf of the Council a letter of congratulations on the occasion of the Duke of Edinburgh’s 90th Birthday.

6. Recent Royal Visits to Essex.

The Chairman advised Council of three Royal Visits to Essex that had taken place since Council’s last meeting.

7. Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council congratulated the following individuals with a connection to the County Council who had received honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List:

- **Mr Richard Boyd** – former Essex County Councillor – OBE (recognising his role as Chief Executive of Disability Essex)
- **Mr David Bebb** – Braintree District Councillor – MBE (for voluntary service to education)
- **Mr Alastair Cook** – Essex and England batsman – MBE (for services to cricket)

8. The Alan Cherry Award.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Lucas who, on 17 May 2001 had been shortlisted for the Alan Cherry Award for Placemaking 2011 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the County's built environment.

Although he was not awarded the prize, Councillor Lucas was the only local authority politician to have been shortlisted.

9. New Colchester A12 Junction Scheme Wins Prestigious Industry Award.

The Chairman congratulated the staff of the Highways and Transportation Department for their work relating to the new A12 Junction 28 in Colchester that has been recognised with an Exceptional Merit Award for Team Achievement at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Merit Awards.

Judges praised the construction team for delivering the scheme three months ahead of schedule, as well as their commitment to community consultation, site safety and sharing knowledge.

10. Presentation of petition.

The Chairman formally received a petition from Councillor Hedley relating to a speeding issue in the parish of Great Burstead.

11. Variation in the order of business.

The Chairman (in accordance with Standing Order 17.7) varied the order of business following an Executive Statement by the Leader to allow an Emergency Motion proposing amendments to the Constitution to be put to Council, followed by Motion 2; Use of Council's Resources as set out in Item 7 (Motions)

12. Executive Statements.

The Leader of the Council delivered a statement regarding the use of Council's Resources.

In accordance with the agreed procedure, Councillor Mackrory responded as Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Council replied to the matters raised by Councillor Mackrory and then, subsequently, to questions put by other members of the Council.

The statement was received.

13. Emergency Motion: Amendment to The Constitution.

It was moved by Councillor Martin, Leader of the Council, Seconded by Councillor, Deputy Leader of the Council, and supported by Councillor Aldridge that:

'That the Constitution be amended by the addition of the following at the start of paragraph 27.4 Suspension of Allowances of the Member's Allowance Scheme, to take immediate effect:

'Where a Member, since his election has been convicted of any offence and has had passed on him a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine, the Council shall suspend any part of any Allowance payable to him from the date of sentence. Such suspension shall remain in force until such time as section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 (disqualification for election and holding office as member of a local authority) takes effect. Where an application of leave to appeal or the appeal is finally disposed of or abandoned or fails by reason of the non-prosecution determining that the conviction and/or sentence should be quashed, or reduced so as to fall outside the remit of section 80, the Council shall reimburse to the Member those amounts of allowance suspended to be included with the next available payment date'.

Upon being put to the meeting the motion was agreed.

14. Motion 2: Use of Council's Resources:

It was moved by Councillor Mackrory, seconded by Councillor Kendall and supported by Councillor Mrs. Higgins:

'That Council notes that evidence provided in the recent trial of Lord Hanningfield regarding House of Lords expenses, and the subsequent

statement by the current Leader of Essex County Council that the Council was referring to Essex Police concerns about Lord Hanningfield's County Council expenses when he was Leader, have raised serious concerns and questions by the public about what was going on at the County Council at the time and what controls, if any, were in place to prevent misuse by Councillors of taxpayers' money.

Whilst Council notes that the Leader of the Council has publicly stated he has worked with others to enhance the governance processes, since becoming Leader in February 2010, for some years prior to that there were widespread serious concerns regarding improper use of Council resources.

Whilst understanding the need not to prejudice any possible future Court proceedings, Council resolves that, at the earliest opportunity, it will act in an open and transparent manner to address public concern and publicly state –

1. when it was aware of possible improper and/or unlawful use of Council resources;
2. what internal or external investigations took place regarding these concerns and their findings;
3. what action is being taken to recover money and benefits if it is found that any have been improperly received;
4. what steps have been taken to enhance governance processes and guard against future improper behaviour.'

It was moved by Councillor Martin, Leader of the Council and seconded by Councillor Finch, Deputy Leader of the Council that the Motion be amended to read as follows (divergence from the original motion shown in bold):

'That Council **recognises** that evidence provided in the recent trial of Lord Hanningfield regarding House of Lords expenses, and the subsequent statement by the current Leader of Essex County Council that the Council was referring to Essex Police concerns about Lord Hanningfield's County Council expenses when he was Leader, has raised serious concerns and questions, including what controls, were in place to prevent misuse of taxpayers' money.

The Council notes that the Leader of the Council has publicly stated he has worked with others to enhance the governance processes, since becoming Leader in February 2010 **and that Essex County Council's own rigorous internal audit revealed concerns over Lord Hanningfield's expenses whilst he was Leader of the Council.**

Whilst recognising that the case is subject to *sub judice*, Council further notes that, the Leader has continued to act in an open and transparent manner by publicly stating today:

1. when **the Council** was aware of possible improper and/or unlawful use of Council resources;
2. what internal or external investigations took place regarding these concerns and their findings;
3. **that actions will be** taken to recover money and benefits if it is found that any have been improperly received;
4. what steps have been taken to enhance governance processes and guard against future improper behaviour.

in addition, the Leader has also promised to publish as soon as he is able:

- **details of Lord Hanningfield's County Council credit card payments**
- **Responses to related Freedom of Information Requests**
- **The 2008 and 2009 Internal Audit Reports relating to this matter**
- **the status of our Corporate Governance Action Plan.'**

The amendment and corrections were accepted by Councillor Mackrory and Councillor Kendall and, therefore, the amendment became the substantive motion.

Upon being put to the meeting the substantive motion was agreed.

15. Executive Statements.

The Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing, Councillor Naylor made a statement concerning the care provider company Southern Cross and agreed that an email would be sent to all Members to detail the action that Essex County Council will make to prevent any potential disruption in the level of care to residents and describe the range of services available.

In response to questions Councillor Naylor anticipated that there was sufficient capacity in Essex to replace any places that may be lost, welcomed the offer of help from Districts should it be required and urged Members to ensure that their quality assessments were undertaken regularly.

16. Motions.

Children's Homes

Moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Durcan and supported by Councillors Pond and Wood:

'That Council believes the administration should pause for thought over plans to dispose of children's homes.

With the news of a financial crisis in the care sector and in Southern Cross in particular, the present seems a particularly inappropriate time to transfer to third parties the homes of many vulnerable young Essex people.

Council appreciates that achieving savings is necessary, but calls upon the Cabinet to re-assess whether these can be made without closure or disposal of these homes.'

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Higgins but was regarded as negating the motion and so was declared to be invalid by the Chairman.

Upon being put to the meeting the motion, was lost.

17. Report of Council Issues

In considering the report, it was noted that there were amendments such that:

- on page 38, Executive Function (ii) shall be deleted as it is already shown on page 32 and also
- on page 38, Executive Function (iii) shall be moved to become (iii) (e) on page 32.

Having been moved by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Martin the report was received and it was

Resolved:

(1) Part 3 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions

That the revised Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions attached as Annex "A" to the Council Issues report and as amended as set out above be adopted as part of the Council's Constitution.

(2) 2011/12 Treasury Management Strategy – Investments

That the 2011/12 Treasury Management Strategy be updated to include the amendment set out in Annex "B" to the Council Issues Report, which gives the Executive Director for Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, discretion to reinstate counterparties which are on negative ratings watch.

(4) Foreign Travel

- (1) That with immediate effect Article 8, Council Committees, be amended by the addition of the following:

'Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers'

Membership: Five Members of the Council in the ratio 4:1 to include the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader (or their nominee Cabinet Members if they have an interest in the decision), two other Conservative Members and one Liberal Democrat:

(a) To determine whether a duty should be an approved duty by a Member:

- where it involves travel abroad;
- where the total cost for the Member is estimated to exceed £500 when only one Member is involved; or
- where the aggregate costs for all the Members is estimated to exceed £1,000 when more than one Member is involved.

(b) To approve expenditure on foreign travel by officers."

(2) That the Members Allowance Scheme be amended to take account of the creation of the Committee at (1) above.

(5) Revised Article 9 of the Constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

That the revised version of Article 9 of the Constitution as attached as Annex 'D' to the Council Issues report be agreed.

(6) Appeals Committee

- (1) That a permanent appeals committee be established of five members in the ratio four Conservative: 1 Liberal Democrat with an appointed Chairman and the two Groups be invited to nominate members to it.
- (2) That in light of her considerable experience on the Appeals Committee, Councillor Iris Pummell be appointed Chairman.
- (3) That a Special Responsibility Allowance of £6,700 per annum be established with effect from 1 April 2011 for the role of Chairman of the Appeals Committee.

(8) Committee Memberships

That the appointment of Councillor Madden be appointed as a member of the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Roberts be noted.

(9) Members' Annual Statement

That the format for a member Annual Statement be approved and that each Member produce a first report for the year 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 using the format set out in Annex "E" to the Council Issues report.

(10) Development of a Local Code of Conduct

- (1) That, in principle, Council agrees it is in the best interests of both the Council as a whole and of all its members for there to be a voluntary Code of Conduct for Members.
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer take responsibility for the drafting of a code based upon the work being undertaken by the Local Government Association, the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (the Monitoring Officer's professional body) and work by Monitoring Officers in local councils acting collectively.

(12) Dates of Future Meetings

That meetings of the Council be held on Tuesdays at 10am on 10 July, 9 October and 11 December 2012 and 5 February (Budget) and 14 May 2013 (Annual).

18. Report of Cabinet Issues

The report of Cabinet Issues was received and adopted and in respect of a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Essex it was

Resolved:

That the new Local Transport Plan circulated with the Agenda be approved as part of the Council's policy framework.

19. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report was received and adopted.

20. Audit Committee Annual Report

The Audit Committee Annual Report was received and adopted.

21. Essex County Council and Essex Fire Authority Standards Committee Annual Report

The Essex County Council and Essex Fire Authority Standards Committee Annual Report was received and adopted.

22. Essex Pension Fund Board Annual Report

The Essex Pension Fund Board Annual Report was received and adopted.

23. Questions to the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairmen

Members responded to questions as follows:

- (i) Roding Valley High School (Councillor Pond of the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games)

The Cabinet Member endorsed the result of the School's Forum Debate on the debt (caused by criminal activity) at Roding Valley High School. On the adequacy of sixth form provision in Loughton and the Epping Forest District he said he would continue to listen to concerned councillors and parents.

- (ii) Consultation concerning the future of Sawyers Hall College, Brentwood (Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games)

The Cabinet Member stated that there were proposals for redesigning education in the area. The Council supports a varied landscape in schools, bids for three 'Free Schools' and the variety of provision for education that this affords. The proposals are due to be brought to the attention of the Secretary for State, although this will most likely be not before the end of the Summer Term.

- (iii) Reduction of the speed limit close to the Davenant School in Loughton (Councillor Knapman of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation)

The Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member accepted his thanks and agreed to ask the Cabinet Member to investigate further and get back to Councillor Knapman.

- (iv) The commencement of road-works at Sadlers Farm (Councillor Howard of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation)

The Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member accepted his thanks on behalf of the local community for the commencement of the works but shared his concerns about the detrimental effects of the road-works

being experienced by the residents of Canvey Island and agreed to ask the Cabinet Member to look at suggestions that may alleviate the resultant congestion.

- (v) The completion of road-works at Sparrows Herne (Councillor Schofield of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation)

The Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member accepted his thanks for enabling the works to be done.

- (vi) the re-location of the Royal Mail Sorting Office from Halstead to Sudbury, Suffolk (Councillor Pike of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning)

The Cabinet Member agreed that the relocation would have an impact upon the local community and regretted that it might appear as if large government bodies were less engaged with the localism agenda than might be hoped.

24. Written Questions (Standing Order 17.11.3)

(1) By Councillor Baugh of the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing.

‘There has been much discussion on a national and local level concerning the funding of dementia services. In this regard could the Cabinet Member advise on the total cost to Essex County Council of caring for people with dementia who occupy dementia beds in care homes within the County and what percentage this represents of overall expenditure on people with dementia?’

What financial saving could be realised – for re-distribution on care in dementia patients’ own homes – if entry to a care home was universally delayed by two months?’

Reply

The Council spends just over £31 million on caring for people with dementia in placements registered for dementia care in care homes. To put this into context, in 2010/11 Essex spent just under £92 million on registered care for all older people; and a total of £180 million on all social care for older people. Of the total adult social care budget for older people 17% is spent supporting people with dementia in registered dementia care placements.

We know that the prevalence of dementia is under-reported. People with dementia, particularly if their primary needs do not relate to dementia, can be supported in placements that do not specialise in dementia care. The National Dementia Strategy estimates that "at least 50% of people in long term registered care have dementia". The condition of dementia is also under-reported for people who are supported in their own homes. Practitioners have been reluctant to record a diagnosis of dementia on our social care systems until a formal diagnosis by a medical practitioner has been made. This masks the many people who will be experiencing the first stages of dementia, but are still to receive a formal diagnosis.

The average weekly cost (before client contributions are taken into account) of supporting someone with dementia in a registered care home is £471 per week. The average cost of supporting someone with dementia with community-based services is £207 per week. This does not mean however that the same person with dementia could be supported in the community for £264 less than in registered care. There are two main reasons for this.

1. Dementia is a continuum ranging from the early stages which may have a limited impact on a person’s ability to care for themselves, to the later stages where people need support with all their daily living and personal care tasks. People only tend to be admitted to registered care when their condition has progressed to the extent that they need 24-hour on-going support. People who need registered care will have greater needs than those that are supported in their own homes.

2. National charging policies mean that people in registered care tend to contribute more to the cost of their care and support than people supported in their own homes.

The Council's strategy is to support people to live at home for as long as possible. The pledge to support people with dementia and their carers through the use of technology and personal budgets builds upon the preventative work that the Council has undertaken for many years. Nearly 6,000 older people received telecare in 2010/11 - providing them with the security and support to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible. This builds upon last year's pledge to offer telecare to all people over 80. As a result the total number of older people receiving telecare increased by 30% between 2009 and 2011, compared to the two-year period before the pledge.

Re-ablement supports people, particularly following a traumatic episode such as a hospital admission, to regain their independence and remain living at home. Our reablement service supported 2,900 people during 2010-11 - a 12% increase compared to the previous year with considerable success. The latest figures from our reablement service show that over 60% of people who received reablement regained their independence to the extent that they either needed no further social care support from the Council or were able to reduce the amount of support they received. Whilst the focus of the reablement service has primarily been on supporting people discharged from hospital, it is being expanded this year to support more people with dementia, and to take a higher number of referrals from community-based settings.

For those people who do require social care support to remain living at home, the number receiving personal budgets has more than doubled since 2009/10. Personal budgets allow people to have greater choice and control over the support they receive. Over 900 people with dementia were using personal budgets in 2010/11 and this will increase over 2011/12 as the programme of work to deliver the pledge takes effect.

(2) By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

'Brentwood was one of the first Borough Councils in Essex to embrace the Highways Localism project three years ago. The initial budget for Brentwood was £2.5 million, but that has now shrunk down to £129,275 for this year's allocation. Out of this £129,275 only £38,575 is available to spend on locally determined schemes. If the Localism agenda is going to be taken seriously in places like Brentwood, what steps are the County Council going to take to ensure that a realistic funding stream is put in place to deliver the schemes that have been outstanding for sometime?'

Reply

The budget for Brentwood for 2011/12 is £2,318,087 compared to £2,710,154 in 2010/11. The specific amount referred to for the Highways Rangers Service (previously known as the locally determined budget) has remained the same as the previous year. The Highways Panels are able to discuss and influence all areas of the budget and in particular prioritise resources within the overall funding available to the Brentwood area.

(3) By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

‘Essex had 3,000 over running road works last year. How much was collected from the utility companies in fines? Was the County Council partly to blame for any of the problems? What steps has the County Council put in place to address this issue going forward?’

Reply

Essex had 3,000 over running road works last year.

In the period from January to December 2010 there were approximately 3,000 instances of overrunning road works by utility companies. These are a combination of works that actually overrun on the ground (i.e. the notice gives a finish date that has been exceeded) as well as works that have been completed on the ground but the noticing process has not been properly completed and so the EToN system (EToN – Electronic Transfer of Notices system) shows that the works are continuing.

How much was collected from the utility companies in fines?

The amount that the Council has received from overruns in the period Jan - Dec 2010 is £505,040. The amount still outstanding from the same period is £21,810.

Was the County Council partly to blame for any of the problems?

The Council is exercising the powers it has in relation to the activities of utilities, undertaking sample inspections as defined in legislation. The issue of utilities works overrunning is more a symptom of the way in which utilities manage works; we need to work closely together to ensure that they are fully aware of their duties in relation to noticing and the need to set realistic timescales for works. The Council is also working with utilities to ensure that they also understand and take on board the Council's aim of minimising congestion, delays and inconvenience to the travelling public.

What steps has the County Council put in place to address this issue going forward?

We are continuing to carry out regular performance meetings with all utilities and we are starting to see the benefits, especially with National Grid whose overruns have now reduced dramatically.

The Council continues to work with Essex Highways and Utilities Coordination Group to share performance information and discuss weaknesses/failures.

The Council has also started to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to utilities for inaccuracies/errors that the utilities make on the EToN system with regard to their work: this is delivering a reduction in alleged overruns (where the works are complete on site but the EToN system still shows the works as continuing).

(4) By Councillor Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

‘On 22 February I presented a petition to the Chairman of the Council, requesting a pedestrian crossing in New Nabbotts Way, Springfield, Chelmsford.

The petition was duly passed to the Cabinet Office and acknowledged by the Governance Officer by letter on 31 March.

On 11 May my constituent received a letter from Customer Liaison Team, but not copied to me, saying that they no longer deal with such highways improvement requests where a Parish Council exists, as that is a matter for them.

On 1 June I wrote back querying that assertion and asking for some flexibility where a local Member supports such a request for a highways improvement. On 13 June at the Chelmsford Localities Panel, as I had not received a reply, I raised the issue with the Highways representative who requested copies of the correspondence in order to pursue the matter for me. These were provided that day.

As of to-day’s date I have received no further communication, or indeed since 31 March.

My question therefore is: now that 20 weeks has elapsed since handing in the petition does the Cabinet Member agree that this delay in communicating with a Member is unacceptable and will she urgently pursue the matter?’

Reply

Yes, this delay in communication with the local member is absolutely unacceptable and is something that I am currently investigating.

I understand that the lack of communication with Councillor Mackrory was the result of a number of administrative errors and miscommunications and that this is being investigated.

The feasibility of the proposal is also being investigated and I will personally ensure that the outcome is reported to Councillor Mackrory when completed.

(5) By Councillor Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Education and The 2012 Games

‘Would the Cabinet Member inform me of the number of Science, Mathematics and Literacy Consultants (formerly known as Advisors) who will be made redundant from 1 August, and how many more, including Early Years Consultants, will be made redundant from April 2012?’

Reply

Science, Mathematics, Literacy, ICT and Early Years Consultants have been part of the national support programmes of the National Strategies, which first began with English and Maths support to primary schools in 1996.

The Council has used consultants to provide support for improvements in educational attainment. The majority of the staff and activity costs for the consultants was paid for by grant by Standards Fund.

The work and funding of the national support programmes was ended by the previous Labour government from 1 April 2011. With the decision to remove the funding and cease national support programmes, local authorities needed to reduce staffing directly employed to provide these programmes. As a result, there were 19 primary consultants at risk of redundancy from 1 September 2011 plus three ICT consultants.

The Council has worked hard to assist those affected with finding posts back in schools. So far eight consultants have been supported in finding alternative employment. Three people on secondments have returned to their schools and these posts have been made redundant, along with three other vacancies. There are eight consultants at risk of redundancy covering Science, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, and social and emotional aspects of learning. There are no further redundancies planned as a result of these reductions from September 2012.

Early Years consultants are funded from the new Early Intervention Grant (EIG), into which various ring fenced grants were incorporated. However, the total funding from EIG is a reduction overall and the impact of this reduction on Early Years’ consultants has not been finalised.

With a continued shift to increasing autonomy of schools and the shift towards mainstreaming grant funding into school budgets, the decision to allocate funding for support to learning through consultants is now the responsibility of schools. Where schools choose not to allocate funding to ICT consultants, Essex County Council has to adjust the provision of this resource. As a result, two part-time advisors have been affected by this change and will be made redundant from 1 September.

1.4 Healthy Schools Advisors previously funded by the ended Area Based Grant have also been affected; however, the Council will retain two posts having identified another funding stream. Two advisory posts for the Achievement for All pilot project also funded by the ended Area Based Grant have been removed.

The education landscape, including how it is funded, will continue to change considerably. The Council will continue to mitigate the effects of funding changes to ensure educational attainment is improved in every school. This will include the continuation of advice and support to schools, which will continue on a traded basis.

25. Questions to the Essex Police Authority Representative

The report of the Authority's meeting held on 6 June 2011 was received. Councillor Jackson, Chairman of Essex Police Authority, responded to matters raised.

26. Questions to the Essex Fire Authority Representative

The report of the Authority's meetings held on 20 April 2011 and 8 June 2011 was received. Councillor Hedley, Chairman of Essex Fire Authority, responded to matters raised.

27. Transformation

The Chairman paid tribute to the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and their staff for the work being undertaken on the Essex County Council Transformation Project particularly as it was being undertaken at a time of particular difficulty for the Authority.

The meeting closed at 13:12

Chairman
11 October 2011