

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Tuesday 18 September 2018

Present:

Councillor	Cabinet Member Responsibility
D Finch	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
K Bentley	Deputy Leader and Infrastructure
S Barker	Customer and Corporate
R Gooding	Education and Skills
S Lissimore	Culture and Communities
L McKinlay	Finance, Commercial and Traded Services
D Madden	Children and Families
G Mohindra	Economic Development
J Spence	Adults and Health
S Walsh	Environment and Waste

Councillors J Aldridge, J Baker, T Ball, J Beavis and L Scordis 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. There had been no changes in membership since the last meeting;
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors I Henderson (for whom Cllr L Scordis substituted), M Mackrory (for whom Cllr J Baker substituted) and C Pond.
3. No declarations of interest were made.

2. Minutes: 17 July 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment to minute 4 (2018/19 Financial Overview as at the First Quarter Stage):

Insertion of the words 'of the financial impact of the policy to Essex County Council' after the word 'review' in the final line of the eighth bullet point, such that this would now read:

'Changes to the policy for Home to School Transport had delivered savings. However, there were challenges arising from the significant increase in demand for Special Educational Needs Home to School transport, delivery of which was a statutory responsibility (as well as a moral one). Work was ongoing to identify ways in which commercial

operators could be supported and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills would welcome scrutiny involvement in this if appropriate, as well as involvement in a review of the financial impact to Essex County Council of the policy.'

3. Questions from the public

None.

4. Concessionary Fares Scheme 2019/20 (FP/128/04/18)

(Information contained within a confidential appendix was taken into account in reaching a decision on this issue – minute 11 below refers.)

The Cabinet considered the options for a scheme of reimbursement (including any legal challenges that may arise) in relation to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme. Authority to negotiate and agree a final scheme was delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in association with the Director for Highways and Transportation.

The following information was provided in response to questions by Councillors Scordis and Baker:

- Although introducing concessionary travel for young people in post-16 education would be desirable, it was unlikely to be affordable. It would continue to be borne in mind for the future.
- The decline in passenger numbers reflected the national position. The reasons for this were unclear and likely to be complex, but contributory issues such as bus reliability and bus service reduction would be raised as part of the negotiations on the Concessionary Travel Scheme. Legislation required the Scheme to be negotiated and provided on an annual basis.

Resolved:

1. That the Director for Highways and Transportation be authorised to negotiate on behalf of Essex County Council over the 2019/20 English National Concessionary Travel Scheme within the parameters laid out in the confidential appendix to report FP/128/04/18.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills be authorised to approve and publish the final scheme, provided any settlement falls within the upper limit as set out in the confidential appendix to report FP/128/04/18.
3. That the Director for Highways and Transportation be authorised to publish a default scheme on or before 1 December 2018.

5. Housing Related Support Services Procurement (FP/192/07/18)

The Cabinet's authority was sought to re-commission contracts for services to provide support to help people maintain their accommodation and to go to the market to carry out two single stage procurements in respect of Floating Support Services and Homelessness Accommodation Based Support Services, which together make up Housing Related Support Services.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Baker, Councillor John Spence, the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, advised that statutory responsibility for homelessness services lay with City, District and Borough Councils. The provision being made by this Council was supplementary and had been prioritised, despite financial constraints, as Essex residents were concerned at levels of homelessness and were keen for help to be offered to those affected. Councillor Spence commented that all agencies providing homelessness services were aware that some homeless people preferred not to be housed.

Resolved:

1. That a seven-year contract, with the ability to terminate with 12 months' notice should there be further funding pressures on ECC budgets, be procured, to commence on 1 April 2019, for one provider to provide a Floating Support Service within Essex using the Open (one-stage) procedure and evaluation criteria based on 70% price and 30% quality subject to reaching a minimum quality threshold.
2. That seven-year contracts for Homelessness Accommodation Based Support Services be procured with a number of providers using the Open (one-stage) procedure and evaluation criteria based on 70% price and 30% quality to commence on 1 April 2019, subject to reaching a minimum quality threshold.
3. That the Executive Director, Economy, Localities and Public Health be authorised to award the contracts following the competitive procurement for:
 - a) Floating Support Services; and
 - b) Homelessness Accommodation Based Support Services.

6. Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-22 (FP/206/07/18)

The Cabinet was asked to endorse the Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2011 (JHWS) which has been adopted by the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, including the proposed JHWS priorities, actions timescale and ownership.

The following information was provided in response to questions by Councillors Baker and Scordis:

- Concerning the issue of buy-in from health bodies across the County, the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board was attended by the key decision makers from such bodies, all of whom had contributed to and approved the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. In addition, a meeting of key decision makers in North East Essex was also planned to consider the particular issues affecting that part of the County.
- Essex Schools, Essex Football Association, Essex Youth Service and other relevant bodies all had a role to play in addressing obesity and this would be set out in detailed action plans associated with implementation of the Strategy. In addition, the Council was working with Basildon, Colchester and Tendring Councils on a bid to Sport England for funding for a project designed to bring about 'whole system change' with regard to levels of physical inactivity.

Resolved:

1. That the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022 and associated Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to report FP/206/07/18, be endorsed.
2. That the Council should play its part in delivering the Action Plan as set out at Appendix 1 of the Strategy.

7. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members (FP/187/07/18)

The report of decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet was noted.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

It was noted that future meetings of the Cabinet would take place on the following dates:

2018

Tuesday 16 October

Thursday 22 November

Tuesday 18 December

2019

Tuesday 22 January

Tuesday 26 February*

Tuesday 19 March

Tuesday 16 April

Tuesday 28 May*

Tuesday 18 June

Tuesday 23 July

Tuesday 17 September

Tuesday 22 October

Tuesday 26 November

Tuesday 17 December

2020

Tuesday 21 January

Tuesday 21 April

Tuesday 25 February

Tuesday 26 May

Tuesday 17 March

*** Change from previously agreed date****9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Tuesday 16 October 2018 at 10.00am.

10. Exclusion of the Press and Public**Resolved:**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

11. Confidential Appendix: Concessionary Fares Scheme (FP/128/04/18)
(Press and Public excluded)

The Cabinet noted the Confidential Appendix to report FP/128/04/18 which contained information exempt from publication referred to in that report and in decisions taken earlier in the meeting (minute 4 above refers).

The meeting closed at 10.19am.

.....
Chairman
16 October 2018