

## Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council, held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 10 February 2022

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Councillor E C Johnson</b>	
B Aspinell	C Guglielmi	R Playle	
L Barber	D Harris	C Pond	
S Barker	A M Hedley	S Robinson	
K Bentley	I Henderson	P Schwier	
A Brown	J Henry	L Scordis	
M Buckley	M Hoy	L Scott	
G Butland	J G Jowers	A Sheldon	
S Crow	D King	C Siddall	
T Cunningham	D Land	M Skeels	
J Deakin	S Lissimore	K Smith	
M Durham	D Louis	C Souter	
B Egan	L Mackenzie	J Spence	
J Fleming	M Mackrory	M Steel	
M Foley	B Massey	M Stephenson	
P Gadd	A McGurran	M Steptoe	
A Goggin	J McIvor	M Vance	
M Goldman	L McKinlay	L Wagland	
R J Gooding	A McQuiggan	C Whitbread	
I Grundy	Dr R Moore	H Whitbread	
	M Platt	A Wiles	

It was noted that Councillor Jowers was supporting the Chairman at the meeting as the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reeves, was unable to be present in the Chamber.

### **Not present but attended the meeting online (these members did not vote on any item):**

D Blackwell	P Honeywood	J M Reeves
L Bowers-Flint	J Lumley	L Shaw
M Cory	P May	W Stamp
		P Thorogood

## **Chairman's Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman thanked all those members and officers who had contributed to the arrangements for the meeting and welcomed those who were present, socially distanced, in the chamber and those who had joined the meeting virtually.

He informed members that a fire alarm test was not expected and so if the alarm should sound all attendees should leave by the nearest door and the nearest fire exit, and then assemble the grounds of the nearby Cathedral.

He repeated advice from the Director of Public Health that those present were encouraged to wear face coverings unless speaking and if leaving the meeting or moving around the chamber to maintain social distancing where possible.

Lastly, he informed those present that the meeting would be recorded and 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 Johnson formally opened the meeting.**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ball, Garnett, Hardware and Kane.

### **2. 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.

The Chairman also reminded members of the advice they had been given by the Monitoring Officer relating to the budget debate:

- '(a) that any member who may have any arrears of Council Tax outstanding for two months or more must make a declaration of interest and you not entitled to vote on the Annual Budget but are not prevented from taking part in the discussion; and

- (b) members must also make declarations of interest relating to the Budget debate in accordance with the detailed advice given by the Monitoring Officer in his email of 30 January.'

**3. Confirmation of the minutes of council meetings held on 7 December 2021**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2021 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman, subject to a correction of an error on page seven to show that former Councillor Harper had served until May 2001.

**4. Public Speaker**

The Chairman noted that registered as a public speaker was Mr Peter Irvine, Chairman of Little Baddow Parish Council.

Mr Irvine, having been invited to speak, said:

'Sir,

As the Cabinet Member for Highways are you aware of the full background to this proposal, which has profound negative implications for an iconic location, the village of Little Baddow and a beautiful Conservation Area?

The proposal is to build a new bridge and elevated causeway driving through a Conservation Area in deep countryside, crossing the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. That in itself would be a cause for controversy, as is evidenced in part by the petition of over 800 names that has been presented to you.

But what is especially galling is that there has been no effective evidence that we have seen of the need for such damage and harm to the area, or of the need for what would be a very expensive proposal at a time of financial stringency.

There is an existing bridge, built in 1934. The project was initiated against a belief that the existing bridge was unsound. The bridge was assumed by the contractors to have no proper footings, but the Parish Council has provided evidence that – unusually for the time – it was in fact properly founded. Our evidence has not been refuted by any evidence to the contrary offered to us as to its current state.

The Chelmsford Local Plan does not offer any statement as to the need for a radical and suddenly emerging need for a wholly new road structure in this immediate vicinity. It does, however, stress the importance of the valley, a Conservation Area, through which it is proposed to drive it.

If the existing bridge is repaired, the nature of the roads leading to it is such that there will be a natural limit to community rat-running in the area, whereas with a new, fast road there is likely to be a radical change in driving patterns, with unpredictable implications for the demand placed upon roads at either end – and importantly, additional pressure on Main Road, Boreham, that is likely to become a major congestion point at its access to the Boreham Interchange. Meanwhile the character of the valley will be changed forever.

Paper Mill Lock is an iconic beauty spot, always well attended by walkers and other visitors but now much more so following the localness of activities driven by Covid. The outlook down the valley is very special, and not to be lightly destroyed by such a major potential construction.

I asked at the outset if you were aware of all that surrounds this proposal. If you, as Cabinet Minister, have already been made aware of all of this and of the intense feelings against the proposal among residents of Little Baddow and nearby Villagers, then I am sorry for rehearsing it. But at Parish Council level we hate to see money spent expensively on replacement where much cheaper repair could work and avoid harm, and we have not been made aware of ANY argument in favour of the proposal or against repair and strengthening of the existing bridge. A meeting with us in January was proposed by Essex Highways but has now been deferred to an indefinite future date later in the Spring.

Thank you for your time and attention.'

Before asking Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to respond, the Chairman considered amending the order of business.

## **5. Variation in the Order of Business**

The Chairman, with the agreement of council, determined to vary the order of business to allow the agenda item 'Receipt of petitions and deputations' to be taken. He noted that the first petition related to the matter raised by the public speaker, Mr Irvine. He would permit Councillor Scott to respond to both Mr Irvine and the petition to be presented by Councillor Spence.

## 6. Petitions

Councillor Spence presented a petition relating to Paper Mill Lock Bridge.

Councillor Scott received the petition and responded to both Councillor Spence and the public speaker, Mr Irvine.

He said:

'I would like to thank you for taking the time to speak today. It is clear from your question how important this issue is to the local community.

With all decisions I must be guided by the Highways Officers whose primary purpose is to ensure that we are safe on our roads, pathways, and bridges, in line with our statutory duties.

No final decision has been taken and the team are still working onsite before bringing forward their recommendations for Paper Mill Lock. The team are continuing to investigate the bridge's carrying capacity in more detail with a view to understanding more about the possibilities of retaining the structure in its current position as a vehicle crossing.

We have gained consent from the Environment Agency to obtain samples of the bridge's steelwork from mid-March (the earliest the Environment Agency would allow us access), which will inform the structural assessment of the bridge.

These works will likely take six days to complete however they are not expected to impact the carriageway as the work will be carried out from the underneath the bridge. We do, however, wish to complete these works as soon as possible before further constraints apply associated with the increase usage of the river as we go from Spring to Summer.

Assuming our investigations can take place without unexpected delay, we anticipate being able to share our findings with the parish council at end of May 2022 for further discussion. Therefore, the January meeting was postponed, and a new date hasn't been set – in case the planned works are delayed.

I understand not only your concerns for the local environment and your wish to avoid the council spending money on a replacement when a repair would suffice however, as with any decision, we must take a risk-based approach. It may be the case that a repair is in fact more expensive than replacement. Many of the bridges across the

county were simply not designed to accommodate modern requirements and standards and so we simply cannot repair them but must replace them.

I had not, prior to your question, been made aware of this issue, however this is not because of an omission by officers, but because, as highlighted above they are still conducting investigations into the status of the bridge.

This is the case with any decision that is brought to me – officers complete the investigations and come forward with a recommendation based on their professional expertise. They also highlight the concerns of interested parties so that I am aware of the wider ramifications of the decisions that I make. This includes speaking to local members, in this case, Councillor John Spence, so that I am fully aware of all parties' views.

Personally, I also prefer to stand back from the preliminary work so that I cannot be accused of bias in any response because I visited or spoke to one person but not the other.

An example might be where a proposal has come forward where some residents would like a speed limit, a disabled parking space or a driveway. I need to balance our statutory responsibility but also the impact on other residents, some of whom will not be supportive of the case being put forward and I make sure to listen to all interested parties.

In closing I do want to reassure you that Highways Officers are very aware that this is something that residents and the Parish Council are extremely invested in, and they would not seek to force through a decision that did not take these feelings into an account – but I must emphasise that safety will always be my number one priority.'

*The public question, the related petition and the response of the Cabinet Member may be found as part of the broadcast of the meeting on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#)*

The Chairman invited Councillor Smith to present a petition relating to charges for car parking at the Westley Heights/Langdon Hills Country Park and the Leader, Councillor Bentley responded to accept the petition.

## **7. Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

### **New Year's Honours**

The Chairman informed members that 29 Essex people had been awarded honours in the Queen's New Year honours list.

He noted that of those recognised, seven had received awards for helping their communities in the Covid-19 pandemic and one was known to many members as former Councillor Valerie Metcalf, who had represented the Division of Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South. She had received an MBE for her political and public service.

The Chairman congratulated on behalf of the council, all those in Essex who had received an award.

### **Accession Day**

The Chairman noted that the 6 February 2022 marked 70 years since The Queen acceded to the throne. In order to congratulate Her Majesty and thank her for her dedicated service the Chairman reported that he had written to her on behalf of the council and the people of Essex.

### **Dr Mike Gogarty**

The Chairman advised members that Dr Mike Gogarty, the Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities, had this week, left Essex County Council. He noted that Dr Gogarty had been at the forefront of the response to the pandemic, his advice and guidance had enabled members to hold meetings in the safest way possible. He had also made regular appearances on the television and spoken on radio giving advice and guidance directly to the residents of Essex.

Members in the chamber spoke with respect for Dr Gogarty and were grateful for his timely and measured advice, noting that he took a practical and pragmatic approach to the pandemic.

The Chairman, The Leader and many members wished him a very happy and healthy retirement.

*Their remarks, as part of the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).*

**Mr Andy Gribben**

The Chairman advised members that Andy Gribben, the Senior Democratic Services Officer who was the clerk to the meeting of Council, to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and had other duties within the Democracy Team was about to retire and he thanked him for his many years of service to Essex County Council.

**Awards****Charter Plus Assessment**

The Chairman informed members that again, ECC had been recognised as one of the best Councils in the Country for its support and development offer to its elected councillors. On 20 January, an assessment team for the LGA had interviewed many members and officers after reviewing a portfolio of evidence.

The Chairman noted that the Lead Assessor had stated:

‘Congratulations for the successful Charter Plus Assessment, it was thoroughly deserved, ECC put together a great portfolio and all the interviews were positive, and the value of councillor development was evident across the whole organisation. Your high-quality submission certainly made it difficult for the Assessment Team to identify improvements.’

The Chairman advised members that the award would be presented to Council at a future meeting, but he had wanted to share the important news and pay tribute to Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency and Sophie Crane, Senior Democratic Services Officer, both of whom had been instrumental in the success, for their dedication and hard work. To show the appreciation of members he presented Joanna Boaler with some flowers.

**8. Executive Statement**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, The Leader of the Council gave a statement entitled ‘A Budget for Everyone’s Essex’.

*The Executive Statement is [published on the ECC website](#) and the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).*

## 9. Everyone's Essex Annual Plan and Budget 2022-23

The Council received the report Everyone's Essex Annual Plan and Budget 2022-23 that was in two parts, Part 1 being the Section 151 Officer's report and Part 2 being the Budget and Plan.

There were also four appendices:

- Appendix A – Essex County Council Annual Plan 2022-23
- Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment 2022-23
- Appendix C – Pay Policy Statement 2022-23 and
- Appendix D – Budget Consultation Report.

It was noted that there had been an addendum report and replacement recommendations as since the publication of the Annual Plan and Budget 2022/23 the council had been advised of the final local government finance settlement.

It was moved by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Mackrory that the recommended budget be amended as follows:

- '1.0 Recognising the rising pressures of the energy and cost of living crisis on the most vulnerable and just about managing. Noting that the Government's Council Tax rebate and fuel bills loan, whilst welcome, will be far too late and too little. Not enough to stop yet more families falling into fuel poverty, to choose between warmth and food;
- 1.1 To reduce the proposed Council Tax increase by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> from 4.49% to 3% at a cost of some £10.9m in 2022/23. Such a reduction to be set against the 2% general Council Tax increase proposal, rather than the specific precept for Adult Social Care.
- 1.2 This is to be funded by reducing the General Balance in 2022/23 by £10.9m, from 6% towards 5% of the Council's net expenditure budget.
- 2.0 The following revenue investment proposals are to be funded by drawing on unrestricted reserves and that the budget recommendation be amended as detailed in the Section 151 officer's commentary and statement below.
- 3.0 Protect low income families from the impacts of the increases in Council Tax **by adding** £2.1m to the base budget over each of the 4 years of the MTRS **adding to the proposals developed from the Local Council Tax Support grant for 2021/22 (after recompense for any loss of Council Tax base) and funded in 2022/23 through the Everyone's Essex reserve.** This scheme will be developed in partnership with Essex District, Borough and City Councils who in past years have generously supported many households, so reducing hardship and the pressure of their Council Tax bills

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- 4.0 **Supporting the mental health needs of children and young people:**
- 4.1 The huge increase in numbers of young people requiring advice and treatment for mental health issues due to Coronavirus is well documented. Current demand is not being met fast enough as shown by waiting times, to the detriment of those young people. Pressures made worse by the impact on wider NHS capacity. It is accordingly proposed to **Increase the Children and Families base budget by £2m** (Children's Services and Early Years portfolio). This additional funding to enable **more vital work with children and young people with mental health issues**, in the knowledge that any such measures may reduce the risk of harm and suicide prevention, and benefit the NHS. We will promote the benefits of investing in match-funding this significant additional expenditure with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (and successor Integrated Care Systems) to provide more mental health counselling support in all schools to help identify and address mental health issues at an early age with the intention of reducing demand on services in the future.
- 5.0 Supporting Essex's young people recognising the impacts of isolation and loneliness and the cuts over many years, made worse by the impacts of lock down and pandemic:
- 5.1 An increase of £500,000 in the base budget provision for Youth Services (Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance portfolio) for the provision of Youth Service projects including, support, mentoring and respite for young carers, school lunchtime clubs/drop in sessions run by youth workers and outreach work, including detached working. And to actively explore the potential for a transformational step change in youth provision, by working with Onside and their partners, which include the Government, to bring Youth Zones to Basildon and Colchester.
- 6.0 Recognising the gravity of the Climate Emergency to accelerate our response, by agreement with the independent Essex Climate Action Committee.
- 6.1 To treat this as a Climate Emergency, to accelerate the pace and scope of feasibility work and early design and development proposals and to invest a further £2m, working with Government and philanthropic partners. This is in the knowledge that early progress will position Essex better to take advantage of Government funding, to set the pace and lead nationally. **Essex Pension Fund is exploring how impact investing might be deployed in UK/County wide investments, without material loss of income to pension holders, to target the 10 (ten) Responsible Investment priorities the**

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**Investment Steering Committee have identified which include climate change and the impacts on their members.**

- 7.0 Investing in our Infrastructure and Quality of Life
- 7.1 An increase of £4.5m in the Highways Capital programme provision for Road Maintenance (Infrastructure portfolio). In addition, to start to clear the massive backlog of footway, cycleway and drainage repairs, investment as set out below.
- 7.2 To double footway maintenance spend, as the most neglected and in need of repair area of highways. And as a contribution to the wider aims of Active Travel, by an additional one-off capital investment of £8m.
- 7.3 To devolve decision making and to improve the effectiveness of existing expenditure, create a new Member Priority Budget of some £2.25m or £30,000 **per county councillor** to meet the worst pothole and other highways issues in their communities.
- 7.4 To increase Surface Water Alleviation funding by adding £350,000 to help alleviate such issues for residents, including £100,000 to be earmarked as a mitigation contribution to tidal and heavy rain events disrupting businesses and travel at the Hythe Colchester.
- 7.5 An increase in our capital investment in new cycling and walking infrastructure, doubling this from £0.75m to £1.5m, improving thus our prospects of attracting match and grant funding from Government and other partners, such as the NHS.
- 7.6 An increase in Electric Vehicle Infrastructure. £200,000 earmarked as drawdown from the climate reserve in 2022/23 to be doubled to £400,000 and included within the capital budget, as a contribution to our efforts to respond to the Climate Emergency and to improve air quality across Essex.
- 7.7 A one off increase in Active Travel support, promotion and delivery in 2022/23, restoring the budget to that of 2021/22, a revenue increase of £1.2m to £1.656m, and to seek additional match funding from other partners including the Government and the NHS.
- 8.0 Improving the look and feel of our natural environment by reduced littering:
- 8.1 A one off increase of £250,000 in the budget provision in 2022/23 for Waste Disposal (Environment and Waste portfolio) to tackle the scourge of fly-tipping, which is blighting both the countryside and urban areas, in particular to pursue the prosecution of offenders. This

increase is to be funded from the Waste Reserve in 2022/23. And to include exploration of:

- 8.2 The introduction of litter-cam technology to catch and fine vehicle drivers, losing loads and or throwing litter from their vehicles, so doing improving the appearance of our main roads and entrances to our towns and villages across Essex, and reducing the risk to those who litter pick.

#### 9.0 Cost and Use of Reserves

- 9.1 It is recognised that these measures (Council Tax proposal plus table detail within 10.1) will be an increase of £19.1m to the 2022/23 budget or some 2% arising from the proposed changes. To be funded by reducing the General Balance from 6% towards 5%, (£10.9m) and by drawing on unrestricted reserves (**primarily Everyone's Essex, future capital funding and the waste reserves**), reducing these by £8.2m to £177m.'

The amendment moved by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Mackrory was put to the vote and was **lost**.

In accordance with Standing Order 16.10.2 (Voting on budget decisions) the Motion as shown in the Budget report, the Addendum Report and Replacement Recommendations document was put to a division by name and **carried** by 45 votes for, 14 against and 1 abstention.

Those voting for the Motion were Councillors:

L Barber	A M Hedley	P Schwier
S Barker	J Henry	L Scott
K Bentley	J G Jowers	A Sheldon
M Buckley	D Land	C Siddall
G Butland	S Lissimore	M Skeels
S Crow	D Louis	C Souter
T Cunningham	L Mackenzie	J Spence
M Durham	B Massey	M Steel
B Egan	J McIvor	M Stephenson
J Fleming	L McKinlay	M Steptoe
P Gadd	A McQuiggan	M Vance
A Goggin	Dr R Moore	L Wagland
R J Gooding	M Platt	C Whitbread

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I Grundy	R Playle	H Whitbread
C Guglielmi	C Pond	A Wiles

Those voting against the Motion were Councillors:

B Aspinell	D Harris	A McGurran
A Brown	I Henderson	S Robinson
J Deakin	M Hoy	L Scordis
M Foley	D King	K Smith
M Goldman	M Mackrory	

Councillor Johnson abstained.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Section 151 Officer Report be noted.
- 2.1 That the Everyone's Essex Annual Plan be approved in the form appended to the report (Appendix A) subject to changes in paragraph 2.16 below.
- 2.2 The net cost of services be set at **£1,089.9 million (m)** for 2022/23 – Appendix A (page 21).
- 2.3 The net revenue budget requirement be set at **£958.0m** (net cost of services less general government grants) for 2022/23 – Appendix A (page 25).
- 2.4 The total council tax funding requirement be set at **£763.7m** for 2022/23 – Appendix A (page 25).
- 2.5 That Essex County Council's element of the council tax be increased by 4.49% made up of a 1.99% increase in the general council tax precept, and 1% adult social care precept as set out by government for 2022/23, plus an additional 1.5% adult social care precept, deferred from 2021/22 using the flexibility set out by government for 2021/22. Therefore, the Essex County Council element of the council tax charge for a Band D property in 2022/23 will be **£1,401.12**. A full list of bands is as follows:

Council Tax Band	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Band A	893.94	934.08
Band B	1,042.93	1,089.76
Band C	1,191.92	1,245.44
Band D	<b>1,340.91</b>	<b>1,401.12</b>
Band E	1,638.89	1,712.48
Band F	1,936.87	2,023.84
Band G	2,234.85	2,335.20
Band H	2,681.82	2,802.24

- 2.6 That Essex County Council element of the council tax for each category of dwelling and the precepts on each of the council tax billing authorities for 2022/23, together with the final tax base, be as set out in the table below:

Billing Authority	2021/22 Final Tax Base Band D Equivalent	2021/22 Gross precept £000
Basildon	61,376	85,995,407
Braintree	54,957	77,001,352
Brentwood	33,172	46,477,813
Castle Point	31,299	43,853,627
Chelmsford	70,142	98,276,911
Colchester	64,722	90,682,728
Epping Forest	54,865	76,872,869
Harlow	27,950	39,161,304
Maldon	25,524	35,762,607
Rochford	32,708	45,827,273
Tendring	49,892	69,904,959
Uttlesford	38,436	53,853,028
<b>Total for ECC</b>	<b>545,042</b>	<b>763,669,878</b>

- 2.7 That the proposed total schools' budget be set at **£576.1m** for 2022/23 which will be funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant, Universal Free School Meals Grant, Pupil Premium Grant, PE and Sports Premium Grant, Sixth Form Grant, Teachers Pay and Pension Grants and the

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COVID-19 Recovery Premium Grant. The majority of this will be passed through to maintained schools.

- 2.8 That the underlying balance on the General Balance be set at **£68.1m** as at 1 April 2022 (Appendix A, Annex 1, page 53).
- 2.9 That the capital payments guideline be set at **£283.6m** for 2022/23 – Appendix A (page 24).
- 2.10 That for the purposes of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council formally determines that the increase in council tax is not such as to trigger a referendum.
- 2.11 That the 2022/23 to 2025/26 Prudential Indicators and limits, together with updated limits for 2021/22 as set out in Annexes 3A and 3B of the Capital Strategy (Appendix A) be approved.
- 2.12 That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 be approved, comprising:
  - (a) Borrowing strategy, as set out in Annex 3 of the Capital Strategy (Appendix A, Annex 3, page 78).
  - (b) Treasury management investments strategy, as set out in Annex 3 and Annex 3D of the Capital Strategy (Appendix A, Annex 3, page 84).
  - (c) Indicative strategy for commercial investment activities, as set out in Annex 3 of the Capital Strategy (Appendix A, Annex 3, page 87).
- 2.13 That the policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt, (the Minimum Revenue Provision policy) as set out in Annex 3C of the Capital Strategy (Appendix A, Annex 3, page 96), be approved.
- 2.14 That the revised Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendix A, Annex 3, page 102) and Treasury Management Practices (Appendix A, Annex 3, page 103), which set out the policies, objectives and approach to treasury management, are adopted.
- 2.15 That the Council adopts the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix C to the report.
- 2.16 That the following figures be amended to the Annual Plan which forms Appendix A to the report (which starts at page 54 of the published agenda pack) as shown on the replacement pages annexed to the addendum report.

- (a) Where the net cost of service currently shows **£1,083,337,745** (page 78 of the agenda pack), this will be amended to **£1,089,884,195** (as shown on page 2 of this report)
- (b) Where the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio shows **£737.288m** gross expenditure and **£115.669m** specific grant income (page 80 of the agenda pack), this will be amended to **£743.274m** and **£121.655m** respectively.
- (c) Where the Children's Services and Early Years portfolio shows **£249.649m** gross expenditure and **£103.475m** specific grant income (page 82 of the agenda pack), this will be amended to **£249.866m** and **£103.693m** respectively.
- (d) Where the Ambition Fund Reserve shows **£6.800m** total net expenditure (page 102 of the agenda pack), this is amended to **£8.800m**
- (e) Where the Everyone's Essex Reserve shows **£0** total net expenditure (page 102 of the agenda pack), this is amended to **£1.000m**
- (f) Where the Collection Fund Risk Reserve shows **£5.951m** total net expenditure (page 102 of the agenda pack), this is amended to **£9.497m**
- (g) Where the Other Operating costs portfolio shows **£109.106m** total net expenditure budget (starts at page 101 of the agenda pack), this is amended to **£115.652m**.
- (h) That pages 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 101, 102, 103 and 106 of the agenda be replaced with those appended to the addendum report circulated at the meeting.

2.17 That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to amend other figures in the Annual Plan which need to change as a result of the mathematical changes of the above consequence.

## 10 Financial Regulations

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor Whitbread it was

### Resolved

That the updated financial regulations as detailed in the report be adopted.

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**11. Independent Remuneration Panel**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and asked members to note the additional information and recommendation that was to be found in the Order Paper.

It having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

**Resolved**

1. That Mark Palmer be appointed to chair the new Independent Remuneration Panel serving alongside the members recommended in the order paper, those being: Fiona Bodle, Russell Everard and George Yerosimou.
2. That the Terms of Reference and remuneration for the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
3. That the report of the Panel be brought back to the next suitable meeting of the Council.

**12. Council Issues**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

**Resolved****1 Approval of reason for non-attendance at this meeting**

- a) That for the purposes of section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council approves the following as a reason for a Member's non-attendance of the council meeting on 10 February 2022:
- b) The Member took part in the meeting via zoom as a result of the public health advice regarding attendance in the council chamber for that meeting.

**2 Delegated Decision-making on employment policies etc**

To amend the constitution by adding a new paragraph 15.1(o):

- '(o) Nothing in this scheme of delegations authorises any decision to be taken to do any of the following without first consulting both the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer (or their nominee):
  - (i) Changing the management structure of the council
  - (ii) Making a decision which will affect the pay of more than one employee or contractor.
  - (iii) Adopting any policy or plan relating to the exercise of the Council's functions as employer.'

### **3 Auditor Appointment Scheme for External Auditors**

- a) That Council agree to opt into the PSAA's national procurement arrangement for auditor appointments for contracts due to start from 1 April 2023 and covering the audit of accounts for the financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28.
- b) Agree that the Section 151 officer gives formal notification of the Council's decision to PSAA Limited.

### **4 Appointment of Co-opted Members to the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

That future vacancies on the People and Families Police and Scrutiny Committee for co-opted parent governors of maintained schools are opened to any such governor of a primary or secondary school in Essex.

## **13. The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

### **Resolved**

To receive the list of urgent decisions taken as attached as Appendix 1 to the report and the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 24 November and 21 December 2021 and 18 January 2022.

## **14. Oral Questions of the Leader, Cabinet Member, a 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:

<b>Asked by</b>	<b>Asked to</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Cllr C Pond	Leader of the Council	Changes to bus fuels
Cllr L Scordis	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Part night streetlighting and graffiti
Cllr P Gadd	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Carry forward of local highway panel funding
Cllr I Henderson	Leader of the Council	Transport East and Dualling of the A120
Cllr S Barker	Leader of the Council	Expiry of stamps
Cllr W Stamp	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Question concerning a number of highway related issues

## **15. Closure of Meeting**

*The Chairman's closing remarks is part of the recording of the meeting and may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).*

The meeting closed at 13:01

**Chairman**