

MINUTES OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON 7 DECEMBER 2010

Membership

*	P J Martin (Chairman)	*	N J Hume
*	S Candy	*	J Jowers
*	S C Castle	*	D Louis
*	Mrs T M Chapman	*	J R Lucas
*	D M Finch	*	A Naylor

* present

Councillor Councillors M Mackrory and T C Smith-Hughes were also present as as observers.

Councillors J Aldridge, W J C Dick and G McEwen were also present.

46. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

47. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

49. Integrated County Strategy (ICS)

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/026/10** by the Leader of the Council, that provided an overall strategy for the development of economic, spatial and regeneration activities of the Council and its partners.

Resolved:

1. That the role, scope and future investment priorities for Essex identified in report CAB/026/10 be approved.
2. That the Leader of the Council be given delegated powers to approve any subsequent minor alterations proposed by ICS partners and the Essex Chief Executives Association that do not affect the substance of the ICS as set out in report CAB/026/10.

3. That the continuation of the ICS to the next stage be approved, which includes, but is not limited to, the resourcing and delivery of more detailed proposals and includes engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership, RGD bids, and Essex County Council's corporate/budget planning (including future capital programme and asset management plan) as set out in report CAB/026/10.

50. Essex and Suffolk Shore Management Plan

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/027/10** by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, that provided background information to the development of the Shoreline Management Plan 2.

Resolved:

1. That the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan 2 as set out in report CAB/027/10 be endorsed as the future of coastal decision making.
2. That Essex County Council's endorsement be subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State that the Shore Management Plan 2 is compliant with European Union Habitats Regulations as set out in report CAB/027/10.
3. That once the Shore Management Plan 2 is endorsed by the Secretary of State it be submitted to the Environment Agency's Regional Director for formal sign off as set out in report CAB/027/10.
4. That Essex County Council continue to take a key and active role in ensuring adequate progress is made and monitored towards the delivery of the Shore Management Plan 2 Action Plan as set out in report CAB/027/10.

51. Procurement of Facilities Management Services

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/028/10** by the Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Commercial Services, that set out a proposed way forward for Facilities Management and Property Services.

Resolved:

1. That all Essex County Council functions relating to Facilities and Asset Management be consolidated and outsourced through an OJEU procurement process to 1 or 2 external providers as set out in report CAB/028/10.
2. That Cabinet commit £151,000 in 2010/11 and £157,000 in 2011/12 to fund project costs, appropriated from the Waste Reserve as set out in CAB/028/10.

52. Home to School Transport Policies

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/029/10** by the Cabinet Members for Education and the 2012 Games, and Children's Services, that outlined the scope and context of the review and proposed changes to the Essex County Council's Home to School Transport Policy, and the public and stakeholder communication required before implementation of specific changes.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the removal of escorts from all mainstream vehicles and the consideration of escorts on other contracts transporting children and young people on a needs basis as set out in report CAB/029/10.
2. That approval be given to the consideration of Higher Rate Mobility Allowance in the assessment of eligibility of Learner's with Special Educational Needs (SEN) both aged post sixteen and five to fifteen years as set out in report CAB/029/10.
3. That there be a review of the amount of transport provided to SEN students in exceptional circumstances, and the introduction of fuel reimbursement to parents rather than providing expensive single passenger contracts as set out in report CAB/029/10.
4. That a centralised assessment of SEN applications be introduced to achieve greater consistency and fairness in decision making, and also to develop greater participation in Travel Training Schemes as set out in report CAB/029/10.
5. That approval be given to increasing charges annually in line with inflation from September 2012, as part of an overall review of charging policies as set out in report CAB/02910.

53. Future Commissioning of Children's Residential Care

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/030/10** by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, that informed Members of the proposals for the future commissioning of residential care and the associated implications to the Council, its staff and children and young people.

Resolved:

1. That there be a full assessment of each residential home and its attractiveness to the market with a view to outsource all mainstream residential care (with the exception of Leverton Secure and Leverton House – as detailed below) as set out in report CAB/030/10.
2. That approval be given to close one in-house residential home to fund the specialist fostering scheme; over the next three months a suitable

home will be identified for closure and a transition plan put in place to enable release of this resource to create 20+ placements (details of this process are outlined on page 13 of report CAB/030/10).

3. That Leverton Secure Unit be retained and Leverton House be retained as a move on unit to provide move on accommodation from the Secure Unit, with the potential to sell placements to other Local Authorities, subject to the results of full market analysis, as set out in report CAB/030/10. (In terms of worst case scenario in which the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector do not wish to accept the Local Authority asset in terms of residential homes or the TUPE of staff then full redundancy would be applicable).
4. That approval be given to continue with the internal residential short break care provision for Children with Disabilities and to re-tender current PVI contracts for respite care and where additional capacity is required, continue to spot purchase against the unique demands of each case and seek best value through dynamic purchasing, as set out in report CAB/030/10.
5. That the proposals for the future commissioning of residential care and the associated implications to the Council, its staff and children and young people be referred for consideration by the Children and Young Peoples Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

54. Reconfiguring Integrated Youth Services in Essex

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/031/10** by the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games concerning the Government announcement earlier this year, of an in-year reduction to the 2010/11 Area Based Grant (ABG) allocation for Essex County Council. This grant funded the whole of the Connexions Service, which is part of the wider Integrated Youth Service within Schools, Children and Families.

Resolved:

1. That the Integrated Youth Service be restructured to make the required savings of £7 million, with these reductions predominantly coming from the Connexions arm of the service as set out in report CAB/031/10.
2. That the estimated redundancy costs of £4 million be funded by way of withdrawal from the Waste Reserve, and the replenishment of the Reserve be incorporated in the future budget proposals as set out in report CAB/031/10.
3. That a core team (6 posts) be retained within the new Employability and Skills Unit and the existing SEN posts located within the Adult Transitions Service as set out in report CAB/031/10.

4. That the remaining youth service resource be redesigned as a more targeted service that will support both local integrated working and be aligned with the Council's Transformation Programme, as set out in report **CAB/031/10**.

55. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members

The Cabinet received report **CAB/032/10** by the Secretary to the Cabinet listing the decisions published since the last meeting. Cabinet noted that decision FP/292/09/10* was taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and 2012 Games and not the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme as stated in the report.

56. Dates of Future Meetings

The Cabinet noted report **CAB/033/10** by the Secretary to the Cabinet listing the dates of future meetings.

57. Exclusion of the Public

To consider whether the public (including the press) should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved:

That the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: (Paragraph 3 – relating to the financial and business affairs of another party).

58. Corporate Risk Report

The Cabinet considered report CAB/034/10 by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, that informed Members of the key risks facing Essex County Council, and the actions being taken to mitigate effectively the risks.

Cabinet was satisfied with the strategic risks and actions taken to mitigate these risks as set out in report CAB/034/10.

