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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 30 June**

[A YouTube recording of the meeting is to be found online.](#)

### **Present:**

#### **Members:**

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor S Barker	
Councillor D Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S Crow	
Councillor P Gadd	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor H Whitbread	

#### **ECC Officers:**

Nicole Wood	Executive Director Corporate Services (Item 6)
Jim Aldridge	Programme Director for Waste Transformation (Item 6)
Alex Crecy	Chief Technical Advisor (Item 6)
Daniel Maclean	Highway Liaison Officer Team Leader (Item 7)
Justin Styles	Design Manager (Item 7)
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer
Michael Hayes	Democratic Services Assistant

Councillor M Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling (joined remotely for Item 6)

Councillor B Massey, Deputy Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling (for Item 6)

Councillor L Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport (for Item 7)

Councillor C Pond, Chairman, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee (for Item 6)

Councillor A McGurran, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee (for Item 6)

Councillor C Siddall, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee (for Item 6)

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance including members of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee attending for Item 6.

**1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report. The Chairman welcomed Councillors Barker and Gadd to their first meeting as members of the Committee, and paid tribute to the contribution of the outgoing members, Councillors Stephenson and Shaw.
2. Apologies had been received from Councillor Moore.
3. No Declarations of interests were made.

The Chairman, Councillor Goggin, reminded members that any interests must be declared during the meeting if the need to do so arose.

**2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2022 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The 'matters arising' appendix was noted, and it was confirmed that this would be included as a part of agendas going forward.

**3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

The Chairman formally thanked Councillor Shaw for her contribution as Vice-Chairman.

Following this, it having been moved by Councillor Goggin and seconded by Councillor Vance, and there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Councillor Steel be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

**4. Questions from the Public**

It was noted that no questions had been received from the public.

**5. Work Programme**

The updated Work Programme was noted.

It was agreed that the Committee would request an update on library statistics (usage and loans) toward the end of the year.

It was reported that the item on Arts and Culture would be considered at the October meeting with the Highways Maintenance Update moved to July.

## **6. Future of the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Tovi Facility**

Councillor Buckley introduced the presentation on the MBT facility, which can be found [here](#).

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and provide comment.

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- The Cabinet Member and officers outlined their view that the procurement process undertaken in 2012 was followed with due diligence and was sufficiently robust and thorough.
- It was noted that the High Court Judgement had been clear that the failure of the project was down to the contractor and not the Council.
- The Cabinet Member confirmed that he would be very reluctant to consider MBT technology in the future, but no final decision had been taken.
- The importance of the 'waste hierarchy' was emphasised by several speakers, and it was agreed that the future waste strategy must focus heavily on reducing, reusing and recycling waste.
- It was confirmed by officers that the existing Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) had set an initial recycling target of 50% by 2020 (which had been reached) and an aspiration of 60% (which had not).
- The Community Liaison Group would be commencing work soon and would be seeking residents' views on the future of the Burnt Mills Industrial Estate site in Pitsea.
- Clarification was given on the asbestos issue that had been awarded in favour of UBB: deliveries to the site had been stopped for a short period of time when the Council believed there may have been an asbestos issue with the processing of material at the facility.
- No final decision had been taken by the Council on the future treatment of residual waste; it was noted by officers that in terms of climate emissions there was currently a fine balance between energy-from-waste and landfill solutions.
- The issue of residual waste would form part of the new JMWMS, and this strategy would come back to the Committee for consideration before adoption.

## **7. Initial Response to LHP Task and Finish Group Report**

Councillor Scott outlined his initial response to the recommendations of the LHP Task and Finish Group.

It was agreed that officers would begin work immediately on the recommendations that the Cabinet Member endorsed, such as the Group's support for the rollout of the new online reporting tool.

Meanwhile, areas of divergence or those requiring further work would be brought back to the Committee in September. These included plans for a new Chairman Panel, further information on the plans for member training, and a review of scheme lifecycles.

It was further agreed that prior to the September meeting, there would be an informal meeting between Councillor Scott and the members of the Task and Finish Group.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 21 July 2022, 10:30am at County Hall.

## **9. Urgent Business**

No items were raised.

**Chairman**