

## **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON 8 FEBRUARY 2011**

**Published with effect from Tuesday 8 February 2011.  
Provided a decision has not been called in by close of  
business on Friday 11 February 2011 it can then be  
implemented.**

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### 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, N Edey, S Mayzes, S Barker, C Riley, R Howard, G McEwen, K Twitchen, P Channer, R Walters and R Bass, Chairman of the Council were also present.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs T Chapman and Councillor Ann Naylor.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **4. 2011/12 Budget**

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/001/11** and an **addendum** to the report by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and the Transformation Programme, that informed the Cabinet of the process for the development of the corporate business plan, and the provisional revenue and

capital budgets for 2011-12 and beyond, and sought agreement to the proposed 2011-12 budget and to the draft 2012-13 budget.

**Resolved:**

1. That the revenue budget proposals for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 as set out in report CAB/001/11 Addendum be agreed.
2. That a net budget requirement of £864.173 million for 2011-12 and an indicative net budget requirement of £858.304 million for 2012-13 as set out in report CAB/001/11 Addendum be recommended to Council.
3. That a capital programme of £231.456 million for 2011-12 and indicative programmes of £126.015 million for 2012-13 and £101.550 million for 2013-14 as set out in report CAB/001/11 Addendum be recommended to Council.
4. That the council tax precept for 2011-12 be set at £1086.75 per annum for a Band D property, which equates to a 0% increase over 2010-11, generating a total precept of £578.685 million based upon a final taxbase of 532,492 as formally notified to Essex County Council by the billing authorities be recommended to Council.
5. That a schools budget of £923.906 million funded by a dedicated Schools Grant of £871.336 million (the balance of £52.570 million is met by post 16 funding made available by the Young People's Learning Agency) and as set out in report CAB/001/11 Addendum be recommended to Council.
6. That a General Balance for 2011-12 of £41.741 million as set out in report CAB/001/11 Addendum be recommended to Council.

**5. 2010/11 Financial Review as at the third quarter stage**

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/002/11** by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and the Transformation Programme that provided an updated assessment of the financial position of the Council in 2010/11, based upon the position at the third quarter stage.

**Resolved:**

1. that the current revenue and capital outturn forecasts (which are for a net over spend for the year of **£2.117 million** on the Revenue Budget (*i.e. after taking account of the proposals within the report for the utilisation of reserves and balances*) and an under spend of **£23.587 million** against the approved capital payments guideline) and the explanatory comments provided in the Executive Summary (starting on page 4 of report CAB/002/11) and the subsequent sections and appendices of report CAB/002/11 be noted.

2. That **£2.825 million** be returned to the General Balance in respect of under spends by the Leader and Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing portfolios and in relation to financing costs and precept payments in the Finance and Transformation portfolio.
3. That the following amounts be appropriated into earmarked revenue reserves:
  - Reserve for Future Capital Funding - **£60,000**;
  - Trading activities (IS Infrastructure) - **£43,000**; and
  - LAA Performance Reward Reserve - **£7.103m** (to be offset by a saving of **£2.669 million** by the Leader portfolio, an anticipated allocation of additional performance reward grant (**£1.412m**) and a withdrawal from the Emergency Contingency, as per recommendation (v) below.
4. That approval be given to a supplementary estimate of **£3.398 million**, to meet the costs associated with the restructuring of various services, as follows:

	£000
Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing	239
Children's Services	404
Education & 2012 Games	531
Highways and Transportation	1,425
Heritage, Culture and the Arts	344
Recharged Support Services	
Transport Coordination Centre	27
Facilities Management Service	232
Finance	120
Human Resources	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,398</b>

This supplementary estimate request is financed by a withdrawal from the General Balance (**£2.825 million**) with the balance being financed from the Waste Reserve (**£573,000**).

5. That approval be given to other supplementary estimate requests, amounting to **£4.310 million**, which it is proposed are financed from the Emergency Contingency, the Children's reserve and from the accumulated revenue reserves of the Education and 2012 Games portfolio's trading activities, as follows:

	Financing Source			Total
	Emergency contingency	Trading Reserves	Children's Reserve	
Portfolio / RSSS requesting funds	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children's Services	-	-	131	131
Education & 2012 Games	-	671	-	671
Heritage, Culture and the Arts	343	-	-	343
Major Projects and Commercial Services	100	-	-	100
Operating costs - Appropriations				
LAA Performance Reward Reserve	3,022	-	-	3,022
IS Infrastructure trading activity	43	-	-	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>4,310</b>

6. That Revenue under spends of **£6.512 million** be retained by Services at this stage; the treatment of these under spends will be confirmed at the Provisional Outturn stage, once the actual position is confirmed.

7. That Portfolios' 2010/11 capital payments guideline and financing assumptions be:

- increased by **£5.6 million** to take account of new, self financed, schemes;
- reduced by **£21.060 million** with a corresponding increase in the payments guideline for 2011/12 and subsequent years, to reflect the impact of slippage in schemes; and
- reduced by **£8.127 million** to remove provision for schemes that will no longer be progressed or which have been completed below budget.

The impact upon Portfolios' capital payment guidelines of making these changes is summarised in **Appendix E** to report **CAB/002/11**.

## 6. Working Better Together in Essex

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/003/11** by the Leader of the Council that set out the recommendation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Braintree District Council and Brentwood Borough Council 'Working Better Together'.

Councillor Smith-Hughes asked that a progress report be brought to a future meeting and this was agreed.

### Resolved:

That the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Braintree District Council and Brentwood Borough Council be signed.

**7. Library Service - Revised Service Arrangements**

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/004/11** by the Cabinet Members for Heritage, Culture and the Arts, that outlined proposals for Essex County Council's Library Service to make savings of £4 million over the two financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

**Resolved:**

That option 3 as set out on page 5 of report CAB/004/11 be endorsed.

**8. Approval to implement changes to the scope and operation of the Recycling Centre for Household Waste (RHCW) Service**

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/005/11** by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste that set out the future delivery options for the Recycling Centre for Household Waste (RHCW).

**Resolved:**

1. That the work to date and scope of study into the options for the future delivery of the RHCW Service as set out in CAB/005/11 be noted.
2. That the proposed consolidation of the RHCW Service as outlined in report CAB/005/11 be endorsed.
3. That the Waste and Recycling Service aim in relation to the provision of RHCW sites within a 10 kilometre radius as set out in report CAB/005/11 be amended.

**9. Commissioning Strategy – Home to School Transport – Travel Subsidy to Faith Schools**

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/006/11** by the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games that set out the scope and context of the review and proposed changes to Essex County Council's Home to School Transport Policy, related to transport subsidised by reason of parental choice to faith schools.

**Resolved:**

That, subject to a formal public consultation, subsidy for travel to faith schools be removed, whilst retaining it for low income families, as set out in report CAB/006/11.

**10. Fee Rates in the Registration Service**

The Cabinet considered report **CAB/007/10** by the Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Commercial Services that detailed the outcome of the review of

the existing fee rates in the Registration Service as part of the Revenue Income Optimisation (RIO) project.

**Resolved:**

That the new pricing regime as set out in report CAB/007/10 be implemented with effect from 1 April 2011.

**11. Delegation of Civil Parking Enforcement**

The Cabinet considered report CAB/008/11 by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation that detailed a new parking model which will:

- I. execute Essex County Council's statutory duty for on-street parking and waiting restriction enforcement; and
- II. remove, over the next two years, the current £900,000 annual deficit support payment that Essex County Council makes to the District and Borough Councils (cost avoidance).

**Resolved:**

That a new parking partnership model as set out in report CAB/008/11 be endorsed.

**12. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members**

The Cabinet received report CAB/009/11 by the Secretary to the Cabinet listing the decisions taken since the last meeting.

Chairman  
29 March 2011