
**Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council, held in Council Chamber
County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Tuesday, 11 July 2017****Present:**

Chairman: Councillor J F Aldridge

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J G Jowers

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|-------------|-------------|------------|
| J Abbott | R J Gooding | G Mohindra |
| B Aspinell | I Grundy | Dr R Moore |
| J Baker | C Guglielmi | J Moran |
| T Ball | M Hardware | M Platt |
| S Barker | D Harris | C Pond |
| J Beavis | A M Hedley | R Pratt |
| K Bentley | I Henderson | J M Reeves |
| D Blackwell | J Henry | S Robinson |
| A Brown | S Hillier | C Sargeant |
| M Buckley | P Honeywood | W Schmitt |
| G Butland | A Jackson | L Scordis |
| S Canning | E C Johnson | A Sheldon |
| J Chandler | D J Kendall | K Smith |
| P Channer | S Lissimore | C Souter |
| T Cutmore | D Louis | J Spence |
| A Davies | J Lumley | M Steptoe |
| J Deakin | M Mackrory | A Turrell |
| M Durham | R A Madden | L Wagland |
| B Egan | M Maddocks | S Walsh |
| D Finch | B Massey | C Weston |
| R Gadsby | M McEwen | A Wood |

M Garnett

L McKinlay

J A Young

A Goggin

V Metcalfe

Public Questions

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ian Fuller, a resident of Springfield, Chelmsford, who had registered to speak.

Mr Fuller addressed Council concerning the s.106 agreement between the Council and the developers at the 'Channels' development.

He referred to the agreement dated 17 July 2015 and the fourth deed of variation (an amendment to Schedule 5 relating to payments for transport matters), dated July 2016 and asked why the promised local highways' works had not been delivered and when might they be.

Councillor Grundy, the Cabinet Member for Highways, replied that he shared Mr Fuller's disappointment that the works had not been completed. He was informed that plans have been submitted by the developer to the County Council on a number of occasions but none had met the County Council's standards. He added that it was the duty of the Council, on behalf of the residents of Essex, to ensure that such works were delivered to the correct standard and he would do all he could to ensure that the work was completed as soon as possible.

The Chairman formally opened the meeting

The Chairman advised those present that the meeting would be recorded and broadcast live over the internet and the recording would be available for download after the meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Erskine, May, Mitchell, Reid and Whitbread.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16 May 2017

Members objected to the omission in the minutes of the written record of questions asked and replies. In response, the Chairman, whilst noting that the online recording of the meeting contained such detail, agreed to refer the matter to the Constitutional Working Group and pending their deliberations it was

Resolved:

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16 May 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Confirmation of the minutes of the special meeting held on 16 May 2017
Resolved:

That the minutes of the special meeting held on 16 May 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Chairman's Announcements and Communications
Honorary Aldermen

The Chairman noted that at the meeting held on 16 May 2017 Council had resolved to create Honorary Aldermen. In recognition of this, the Chairman presented certificates and badges to Mr Rodney Bass OBE, Mr Keith Bobbin, Mrs Margaret Fisher, Mr Ray Howard MBE, Mr Norman Hume and Mrs Kay Twitchen OBE.

Recent Deaths

Former Councillor Ian Abbey

The Chairman informed Members that former Councillor Ian Abbey had died on 23 May 2017. He had been a North Weald Parish Councillor and a former Chairman of Epping Forest District Council. He had been first elected to Essex County Council in 1985 to represent the Division of North Weald and Nazeing and at the County Council he had served on numerous committees including those relating to Planning, the Environment, Education, Libraries and the Audit and Public Health Select Committee.

Former Councillor Lord Braybrook

The Chairman informed Members that former Councillor Lord Braybrook, (formerly Robin, Henry Neville had died on 5 June 2017. He had been elected as a Councillor in 1970 to represent the Division of Stansted and had been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Essex from 1992 to 2000.

Former Councillor Stanley Goodwin

The Chairman informed Members that former Councillor Stanley Goodwin had also died. He had been first elected to Essex County Council in 1993 to represent the Division of Loughton St Mary's and later Loughton St John and had served on the Highways and Transportation Committee, the Social Services Committee, the Development Control and Regulation Committee and many others. He had also been Chairman of Epping Forest District Council.

The Chairman informed Members that as neither he nor the Vice-Chairman were able to attend, Councillor Pond would represent the Council at the funeral on 19 July 2017.

Members to stand in remembrance

Queen's Birthday Honour

The Chairman noted that twenty-one residents in the County had been recognised in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours including:

- Former Essex County Councillor Mr Rodney Bass – OBE (for services to Local Government)
- Former Essex County Councillor Mr Ray Howard – MBE (for services to Local Government and the community of Canvey Island) and
- Councillor John Baker - MBE (for services to Education)

The Grenfell Tower Fire

The Chairman informed Members that following the Grenfell Tower Fire he had written to Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi, the Mayor of The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to express his condolences and he read an extract from the reply he had received.

Award

The Chairman invited Councillor Spence, the Cabinet Member for Health, to present an award won at the National Patient Safety awards in Manchester by the Essex Quality Innovation Team supported by the Quality Improvement Team for being the 'Best Patient Safety Improvement Team'.

Retirement of Mr Colin Ismay

The Chairman expressed the gratitude of Members and wishes for a long and happy retirement to Mr Colin Ismay, former Council and Member Support Manager who had taken his retirement after 42 years of continuous service for the Council.

Police and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst - event

The Chairman reminded Members that, immediately on the rise of Council there would commence in the Chamber a private booking made by the Police and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst to which all members were invited and at which he would make a presentation concerning:

- 1 Managing demand within Essex Police
- 2 The Recruitment of Special Constables and
- 3 PREVENT – our role in counter-terrorism.

There would then be the opportunity for Members to ask questions.

6 Receipt of petitions

The Chairman received petitions concerning:

- a safe crossing for London Road, Widford, Chelmsford, presented by Councillor Deakin,

- to prevent obstruction of the 90-degree bend on the highway near the entrance to Loughton Cricket Ground, from the residents of Uplands, Loughton presented by Councillor Pond and
- consequences of changes to bus routes and increased use of large vehicles in Wickford presented by Councillor Buckley.

The petitions were passed for the attention of Councillor Grundy, the Cabinet Member for Highways.

7 Essex Organisational Strategy

The Leader, Councillor Finch, presented a report concerning the Essex Organisational Strategy as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 20 June 2017. He asked the Council to make a non-material amendment to the policy whereby the words 'digital principles' were substituted for 'digital standards' throughout.

It was moved by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Bentley and it was

Resolved

That the Organisation Strategy be adopted as shown in Appendix 1 to the report, as amended to substitute the words 'digital principles' for 'digital standards' throughout.

8 Motions

1. Localism and Subsidiarity

It was moved by Councillor Pond and seconded by Councillor Sargeant that

'This Council applauds achievements of the Administration to date in the field of localism, such as the Community Initiatives Fund. Local Highways Panels were a useful step in bringing together County and District members; their funding needs to be sufficient, and their processes (including Highway Rangers) more effective, the better to suit local needs.

This Council now needs to take further initiatives to ensure that decisions affecting local people are taken as close to them as possible, instead of centrally at County Hall, or by remote joint boards. Devolution to or involvement of districts and parishes in such functions as highway repairs, parking control and enforcement would all increase local buy-in, and should be attainable within existing budgets.

This Council refers this whole question to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

for further examination.'

It was moved by Councillor Grundy and seconded by Councillor Johnson that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'This Council applauds achievements of the Administration to date in the field of localism, such as the Community Initiatives Fund. Local Highways Panels were a useful step in bringing together County and District members; their funding needs to be sufficient, and their processes (including Highway Rangers) more effective, the better to suit local needs.

This Council now needs to consider further initiatives to ensure that decisions affecting local people are taken as close to them as possible, instead of centrally at County Hall, or by remote joint boards. Devolution to or involvement of Districts, Boroughs, the City and parishes in such functions as highway repairs, parking control and enforcement would all increase local buy-in, and could be attainable within existing budgets.

This Council refers this whole question to the Place Services & Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee to be considered along with other important issues for inclusion in their work programme.'

Councillor Pond and the seconder Councillor Sargeant accepted the amendment and, with the approval of Council, the amendment having become the substantive motion it was put to the meeting and was carried.

2. Support for local business, commerce and local government finance

It was moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Robinson that

'This Council notes that the result of the recent General Election did not give any one party an overall majority. This Council therefore welcomes the opportunity for more cross party working in the House of Commons to deal

with the enormous challenges facing this country.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to support local business leaders by:

- a. Negotiating a Brexit deal to include membership of the Customs Union and the Single Market which will benefit business and commerce in Essex and the eastern region

and

- b. Agreeing a new long term funding settlement with Local Government leaders to meet the ever growing demands, in particular Adult Social Care, placed upon it.'

It was moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor Spence that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'This Council notes that the result of the recent General Election did not give any one party an overall majority, although the preference of the majority of Essex residents was very clear.

It also notes that 85% of all those voting in the General Election was for a party that did not support a second referendum on Brexit and in Essex 62% voted to leave the EU in last year's referendum.

This Council therefore recognises the will of the people and welcomes the opportunity for cross party working in the House of Commons and also through the Scrutiny Committees at Essex County Council to deal with the significant challenges facing this country and county.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to support local business leaders by:

- i. Negotiating a Brexit deal which will support business and commerce in Essex

and

b) utilising the knowledge of local authorities, including Essex County Council, to look at how we can create a long-term solution to local government finance to meet the ever growing demands placed upon it, in particular Adult Social Care.'

The amendment moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor Spence having been put to the meeting was carried and became the substantive motion.

Having been put to the meeting the motion was carried.

3. Planning and Infrastructure

It was moved by Councillor Gadsby and seconded by Councillor Wagland that:

'At the October 2014 Full Council, it was agreed that:

Essex County Council will not support Local (Development) Plans unless adequate resources are identified from developers, local councils and/or Government grants to ensure that sufficient infrastructure, including roads, schools, medical facilities, parking, sewerage and drainage, is provided in a timely manner and in a way that balances the needs to promote economic growth and provide housing for residents whilst protecting their quality of life.

Given the significant housing development emerging from Local Development Plans, this Council reaffirms its commitment to this policy.

This Council also expresses its concern that whilst Local Development Plans and Neighbourhood Plans are being progressed to decide where this housing should be best located, some developers are exploiting the lack of a 5 year housing supply to gain planning permission on greenfield sites, often outside

the development boundary, even when these sites have been excluded from the draft local plan and in some cases where there are brownfield sites available or in the pipeline.

This Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to issue urgent statutory guidance, which removes the opportunity for this exploitation and protects valued greenfield sites from predatory development.'

It was moved by Councillor Turrell and seconded by Councillor Aspinell that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'At the October 2014 Full Council, it was agreed that:

Essex County Council will not support Local (Development) Plans unless adequate resources are identified from developers, local councils and/or Government grants to ensure that sufficient infrastructure, including roads, schools, medical facilities, parking, sewerage and drainage, is provided in a timely manner and in a way that balances the needs to promote economic growth and provide housing for residents whilst protecting their quality of life.

Given the significant housing development emerging from Local Development Plans, this Council reaffirms its commitment to this policy.

This Council also expresses its concern that whilst Local Development Plans and Neighbourhood Plans are being progressed to decide where this housing should be best located, some developers are exploiting the lack of a 5 year housing supply to gain planning permission on greenfield sites, often outside the development boundary, even when these sites have been excluded from the draft local plan and in some cases where there are brownfield sites available or in the pipeline.

This Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to issue urgent statutory guidance, which

- a. removes the opportunity for this exploitation and protects valued greenfield sites from predatory development and
- b. recognises the need for a regional housing policy based on an

evidence housing needs assessment.'

The amendment moved by Councillor Turrell and seconded by Councillor Aspinell having been put to the meeting was lost.

The motion having been put to the meeting was carried.

4. Fire Safety

It was moved by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Scordis that:

'This Council recognises and applauds the heroic effort of the London Fire Service attending the horrific Grenfell Tower fire; action which demonstrates the very best of public service. We further pay tribute to and commend the community and voluntary organisations who pulled together to support the victims of this tragic fire in their hour of need.

This Council believes that all councils must take action to ensure people are safe and remain safe. Therefore this Council asks the Leader to arrange for a thorough investigation into all buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council to be undertaken to ensure that any cladding is fire resistant and, if not, action is taken to resolve this.

In addition, the Council calls for the Leader to ensure that any new school, hospital, care home, house in multiple occupation or high-rise accommodation commissioned by or in partnership with Essex County Council must include a sprinkler system.

Finally, the Council calls for the Leader to ensure that sprinkler systems are retro fitted into schools, hospitals, care homes, houses in multiple occupation or any high-rise buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council, as part of future refurbishment plans.'

It was moved by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Bentley that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'This Council recognises and applauds the heroic effort of the London Fire Service attending the horrific Grenfell Tower fire; action which demonstrates the very best of public service. We further pay tribute to and commend the community and voluntary organisations who pulled together to support the

victims of this tragic fire in their hour of need.

This Council believes that all councils must take action to ensure people are safe and remain safe. Therefore this Council asks the Leader to arrange for a thorough investigation into all buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council to be undertaken to ensure that any cladding is reviewed to ensure that it complies with appropriate national standards, if not, action is taken to resolve this.

In addition, the Council calls for the Leader to establish an independently chaired all-party commission involving partner organisations to look into the whole system of fire safety for employees and other users of our buildings. This would take into account the size, scale, location and use of the particular building and consider the tools and technologies available to protect human life and the building.'

It was moved by Councillor Aspinell and seconded by Councillor Turrell that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'This Council recognises and applauds the heroic effort of the London Fire Service attending the horrific Grenfell Tower fire; action which demonstrates the very best of public service. We further pay tribute to and commend the community and voluntary organisations who pulled together to support the victims of this tragic fire in their hour of need.

This Council believes that all councils must take action to ensure people are safe and remain safe. Therefore, this council asks the Leader to arrange for a thorough inspection by qualified fire safety officers into all buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council to be undertaken to ensure that any cladding is fire resistant and, if not, immediate action is taken to resolve this.

In addition this Council calls for the Leader to ensure that sprinkler systems are retro fitted into all Essex County Council premises and other premises that Essex County Council have involvement with, such as care homes, schools, sports buildings, etc. as part of future refurbishment plans.

Finally, Essex County Council undertakes a thorough fire safety inspection of all our above mentioned buildings, to include all fire resistant doors, smoke seals, escape windows / doors, fire stairwells or fire escapes, fire-fighting equipment (including dry and wet risers), all smoke alarms (replacing battery operated smoke alarms with in-line) and regular fire drills and fire alarm testing be carried out. That an officer of Essex County Council take ownership and responsibility, working with Essex Fire and Rescue Service in ensuring that regular fire inspection and enforcement is carried out. The regularity of these checks must be as laid down by Essex Fire and Rescue Service together with the implementation of any recommendations or change in legislation that arises from the conclusion of the Grenfell fire investigation.'

Councillor Aspinell, with the approval of Councillor Turrell, requested that Council note that the amendment he had moved had inadvertently had the word 'new' omitted from what had been intended to read as 'new buildings'.

Councillor Henderson, the Leader of the Labour Group, suggested that if the amendment moved by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Bentley were changed by removing the words 'to ensure that it complies with appropriate national standards' then the amendment may receive wider support..

With the approval of Council, Councillor Finch and Councillor Bentley agreed that such an alteration should be made and so their amendment to the motion was altered to be:

'This Council recognises and applauds the heroic effort of the London Fire Service attending the horrific Grenfell Tower fire; action which demonstrates the very best of public service. We further pay tribute to and commend the community and voluntary organisations who pulled together to support the victims of this tragic fire in their hour of need.

This Council believes that all councils must take action to ensure people are safe and remain safe. Therefore this Council asks the Leader to arrange for a thorough investigation into all buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council to be undertaken to ensure that any cladding is reviewed as appropriate and action taken.

In addition, the Council calls for the Leader to establish an independently chaired all-party commission involving partner organisations to look into the whole system of fire safety for employees and other users of our buildings. This would take into account the size, scale, location and use of the particular building and consider the tools and technologies available to protect human life and the building.'

The altered amendment to the motion moved by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Bentley having been put to the meeting was carried and became the substantive motion.

The amendment moved by Councillor Aspinell and seconded by Councillor Turrell having been put to the meeting was lost.

The motion having been put to the meeting was carried.

9 Waste Local Plan

Councillor Lissimore, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Planning presented the report to adopt the Essex Replacement Waste Local Plan including the modifications recommended by the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the Plan, which were necessary to make the Plan sound and legally compliant.

The Cabinet had considered the Plan and the Inspector's final report at its meeting on 20 June 2017.

Councillor Abbott declared a Code Interest as he had been instrumental in the preparation of the Plan.

Having been moved by Councillor Lissimore, and seconded by Councillor Gadsby it was

Resolved

That the Council adopt as the Essex Replacement Waste Local Plan the version approved by Council in 2016 as amended by:

1. the main modifications recommended by the Inspector in her final report (attached at appendix 1 to the report);
2. The minor modifications supported by Cabinet in 2016 (attached at appendix 4 to the report); and
3. The further minor modifications (attached at appendix 6 to the report).

1 Adjournment

- 0** With the agreement of Council the Chairman adjourned the meeting for luncheon at 13:22. The meeting reconvened at 14:15.

1 Essex Pension Fund Board Annual Report

- 1** Councillor Barker, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Culture and the Chairman of the Finch, presented the eighth Annual Report of the Essex Pension Fund Board(s), covering the period from 1 April 2016 until 31 March 2017.

It having been moved by Councillor Barker and seconded by Councillor Finch the report was noted.

1 To receive a report of matters reserved to the Council and to consider any 2 recommendations

Councillor Finch, the Leader of the Council, presented the report of matters reserved to Council.

It having been moved by The Leader, Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Bentley it was

Resolved

- 1. Property Investments**

- a. Amend paragraph 5.3.2 of the constitution by adding a third exemption to the definition of the definition of a Key Decision by the addition of an additional sub-paragraph:

‘(iii) The purchase of property for the purpose of investment.’

- b. That Financial Regulations 7.1.4 and 10 shall be amended to insert the underlined text

£2m and above but less than £5m

For transactions relating to land acquired for operational purposes the **Cabinet Member** with responsibility for Property Management (following consultation with **Executive Director** as above and the **Cabinet Member for Finance**)

In the case of a property transaction for investment purposes rather than operational purposes the **Cabinet Member for Finance** after consulting the Leader

£5m and above

For transactions relating to land acquired for operational purposes **Cabinet** (following consultation with **Cabinet Members** as above and **Executive Director** as above)

In the case of a property transaction for investment purposes rather than operational purposes the **Cabinet** or the **Cabinet Member for Finance** after consulting the Leader

- c. That an additional paragraph be inserted in financial regulation 7.1.4 to read:

‘Where property is acquired for the purposes of investment the role of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Property shall be discharged by the Cabinet Member for Finance. Any proceeds of sale of any investment may be reinvested in property by the Cabinet Member for Finance.’

and

- d. In paragraph 14.6.6 of the constitution, the role of the Portfolio Holder, Resources, by the insertion of the following bullet point after the first sub point:
- Decisions about investment property (subject to prior consultation with the Leader on acquisition and sale decisions)

2. Cabinet Issues Report

That paragraph 16.12.5 of the Constitution, paragraph 16.12.5 be amended to:

‘A Member may ask the Leader, Cabinet Member or Chairman of a committee any question on any report of the Cabinet or a committee (other than a report which is for information only) when that item is under consideration by the Council.’

3. Appointments to Committees

- a. That the Delegations to the Director, Legal and Assurance as detailed in the Constitution, paragraph 15.3.10 be amended by addition of an additional sub-paragraph:
- ‘(xiii) To change the membership of any committee, substitute or appointment to an outside body in accordance with wishes expressed by the Leader of a political group.

PROVIDED THAT use of this delegated power authorise amendments of Members’ appointments to committees that are recommended subsequent to the Annual Meeting of Council.’

4. Scrutiny Committees

- a. That the Scrutiny Committees shall be re-named:
 - Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee,
 - People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee and
 - Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee
 - Health Overview, Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

- b. That the constitution shall be amended with the new names of the committees wherever they occur.

5. Changes to Call-in

That paragraph 20.15 (xix) of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

(xix) The call-in procedure set out above does not apply where

- a. The Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee or in their absence the Chairman of the Council or in the absence of both, the Vice Chairman of the Council agrees that it is in the interests of the Council for the decision to be implemented urgently.
- b. The decision is to make a recommendation to full Council
- c. The decision is to go out to consultation or to respond to a matter upon which the Council has been consulted; or
- d. The decision is to appoint an individual to a particular role.

Decisions exempt from call-in on the grounds of urgency shall be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, setting out the decision and the reasons for urgency.

6. Joint Committees

- a. The penultimate paragraph in section 13.3 of the constitution be amended to read

‘The following joint committees exercise Executive Functions in accordance with their terms of reference as set out in Appendix 4 and the agreements currently in operation:

- the South Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee;
- the North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee;
- the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee
- the South East Local Enterprise Partnership Accountability Board
- the ACCESS Pension Fund Pool Joint Governance Committee.’

- b. All bodies named in paragraph 13.3 to be included in the List of Approved Bodies shown as Appendix 3 to the constitution

- c. A new Appendix 4 of the constitution be created as shown at appendix 1 to the report subject to corrections such that the word ‘north’ which appears in paragraphs 8 and 11 should be replaced with ‘south’. Those paragraphs should read:

‘8. Determine the levels and nature of fees and charges in respect of on street car parking provisions in South Essex;

11. Provide a forum to discuss strategic issues relating to parking across South Essex;’

7. Change to Job Title of the Monitoring Officer

That paragraph 4.5 of the constitution, Statutory Officers be amended such that the words ‘Principal Lawyer (Governance)’ be deleted and replaced with ‘Director, Legal and Assurance.’

8. Number of Motions raised under the ‘notice of motion’

procedure at Council Meetings

That paragraph 16.8.2 of the constitution be amended to read:

'16.8.2 Notices of motion

Except for motions which may be moved without notice under paragraph 16.8.5 below, written notice of every motion must be delivered to the Chief Executive not later than 10:30am on the eleventh calendar day before the Council meeting.

Written notice must be signed by the Member intending to move the motion and at least one other.

Other than at the annual budget meeting for which no notices of motions shall be accepted, a maximum of four motions shall be accepted for debate at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council under this standing order.

The motions available at each meeting will be allocated annually by the Chairman in advance of the Annual Meeting in accordance with the following rules:

- (i) A group which has a majority of seats on the Council shall be allocated 2 motions at each meeting where motions are allowed.
- (ii) The remaining motions shall be allocated to other groups in proportion to the proportion of opposition seats held by that group. Where exact proportionality cannot be achieved the Chairman shall have regard to broad proportionality and to the number of motions received by a group in preceding years.

If any Group does not take its allocation of motions at a meeting there will be no reallocation to another Group.

If there are two or more independent members then they shall be considered as a group for the purposes of this rule only.'

1. Appointments to Outside Bodies

That Appendix 3 of the constitution is updated with the revised list at Appendix 2 of the report.

1 To receive the Leader's report of Cabinet Issues

3 Councillor Finch, the Leader of the Council, presented a report concerning matters considered by Cabinet since the last Council meeting.

- Members asked questions of the relevant Cabinet Members details of which

are available on the audio recording of the meeting

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

Resolved

That the report be received.

1 Clarification of answers provided in response to the written questions asked 4 by Members of the Council

The published answers to the 24 written questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 16.12.1 were noted as follows:

1. By Councillor Pond of the Cabinet Member for Education

‘What proposals are there to make good the shortfall in bus provision caused by:

1. The withdrawal of Route 167.
2. The halving of service frequency on Route 418 serving Loughton, Theydon Bois, Abridge and Epping.
3. The incipient opening of a substantial retail park at Langston Rd Loughton without any bus service.’

Reply

‘As the member is fully aware, the County Council reviewed the payments made to Transport for London in regard to services 20 and 167, running between Loughton and London in 2015 as part of its major review of bus services. The review suggested that the level of service being provided by TfL was significantly higher than that which could be expected by similar sized town in Essex and that the payment of £580k per year by ECC to TfL for this service was highly disproportionate. In all other large towns in Essex the daytime elements of such services are normally provided commercially without any cost to the County Council. The County Council consulted over the future of the payments in 2015 and at this time made the decision to cease payment.

TfL subsequently made the decision to withdraw the northern part of the 16 journey. This service withdrawal was assessed in the standard way that we assess all withdrawals against our policy framework and it is important to note that there are alternative bus services that allow most of the journey, formerly covered by the 167, to be made.

The member will also be aware that the service reductions made to service 418 are the result of a commercial decision made by Galleon Travel Ltd (Trustybus). The changes were assessed against the County Council’s established criteria. This suggested that changes to service 418 were likely to have most effect on passengers travelling from Loughton to Harlow and

back. They would also have an impact on residents of Abridge and Theydon Bois. The County Council looked into the cost of replacing the services but this was considered prohibitively expensive. It would have meant withdrawing other services from communities with no alternative public transport. While the level of service had been significantly reduced, there is still a two-hourly bus service. In addition, Epping Forest Community Transport runs a shopper bus to number of areas in Abridge that has limited access to bus services. On this basis, the County Council has no plans to introduce additional services at this time.

Finally, the opening for the retail park has been noted by local commercial bus operators and officers understand that they are aware of the opportunity. We expect commercial enterprises to identify appropriate travel to their locations without using the taxpayer as the first port of call. We understand that the planning authority, Epping Forest District Council, did not feel it appropriate to require S106 funding to be provided for the support of bus services. This being the case, the County Council will continue to talk to commercial operators about the opportunities for improved transport links this development offers.'

2. By Councillor Blackwell of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'There seems to be an increase in weed growth in the streets on Canvey Island could the Cabinet Member look into getting a weed spray programme done in June instead of July in the future before weeds set seed.'

Reply

'Weed spraying was to begin in Castle Point on 19 June but, due to weather slippage in the preceding districts, the programme only started on Canvey Island on 21 and 22 June. Each year start dates vary depending on growth across the county, with the whole programme taking 10 to 12 weeks.

Unfortunately we cannot weed spray before the weeds set seed, because the only chemical we are permitted to use is most effective when the weed has begun to grow.'

3. By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Planning

'What extra powers does the Essex County Travellers Unit need from the Government to make their job and that of the Police more effective when it comes to the removal of travellers from publicly owned land?

What steps is Essex County Council taking to lobby for these powers?'

Reply

‘There has been a 200%+ increase in the number of unauthorised encampments in Essex over the last two years, but the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) remain effective in moving on such encampments from partner land using existing legislation with 90% of encampments moved on within 7 working days and 100% within 10 days.

However, it is essential that we continue to review whether there are any more proactive approaches we could take to minimise the number and impact of encampments that occur and ensure we continue to deal effectively with those that do. I was recently appointed as Chairman of the ECTU Joint Committee and have been encouraged by the recognition from members of the need to work together on this issue that is of such great importance to our local residents and businesses.

Work is underway to build on the effectiveness of the ECTU and Police response to unauthorised encampments using existing powers including a dedicated and expanded Gypsy and Traveller team at Essex Police, the development of a single protocol setting out more clearly the responsibilities and powers available to deal with encampments.

ECC has an active campaign lobbying activity and together with partners in communities, the Police and local Councils we will seek to identify what (if any) additional powers are needed and raise them with Government.’

4. By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Education

‘Would it be possible for the Cabinet Member or his Deputy to attend each of the Transport Representative meetings that are held twice a year across the County?’

I make this request because I know that a number of people who attend these meetings in my area are concerned that the County Council is not taking on-board the constructive input that is being put forward to maintain, develop and promote bus services in the Borough of Brentwood.

If residents and Parish, Borough and County Councillors are going to give up their time to attend these meetings, they would like those making the ultimate decisions to be in attendance to hear their views.’

Reply

‘I note the concerns raised by Cllr Kendall. I greatly value the contribution made by the Transport Representatives and recognise the time and effort that this entirely voluntary group make to help shape the bus network in Essex.

There are 16 transport representatives meetings across the year and they are undertaken to promote exchanges of knowledge, information and advice about issues and developments in local bus services between council

officers, (including commissioners) and service users and the representatives at a local level. Officers always listen closely to what the representatives are telling them and this information is often used to support decisions about how the county council should support bus services in their area.

For example, the representatives network was instrumental in helping design and publicise the new demand responsive transport services that have seen significant growth in passenger journeys and also played a role in examining proposed changes to services made during the recent bus reviews. It is also a useful conduit for information about persistent or long standing problems and issues for services, which often result in these being resolved.

As the Cabinet Member with responsibility for passenger transport, I already chair the Bus Board, (the Council's strategic level partnership board for bus services with operators and other stakeholders) and the Bus Forum (a wider strategic body which includes the representatives from bus user groups and local councils as well as operators and members). Given the number and regularity of the Transport Representatives meetings it would not be possible to commit to attending all of them as a statutory representative, I will however, attend them on a statistical basis but only as an ex-officio observer. The statutory attendees at these meetings will therefore remain as they are.'

5. By Councillor Robinson of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'What measures are being taken to ensure traffic flows are maintained on the approach roads to Broomfield Hospital while works are underway on Hospital Approach between now and October. Will works be phased to avoid the peak periods?'

Reply

'The majority of works for Hospital Approach will be done, without the need to close the carriageway, from mid-July until mid-September. The second phase will take place mid-September until late October. This phase will require multiway lights to be in operation on Hospital Approach during off peak times only.

Bus companies have been informed, the contractor has liaised closely with the hospital, and wherever possible traffic lights will be erected after 9am and taken down at 3pm.'

6. By Councillor Turrell of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'Could the Cabinet Member please clarify that the current Transport Plan Consultation that is going out to 6000 residents can also be completed by any other resident? If yes, where will the paper questionnaires be held?'

Reply

'The National Highways and Transport (NHT) public satisfaction survey is not a Transportation Plan consultation, it is a public opinion survey carried out by IPSOS MORI that is sent to 6,000 households at random across the county. To give the best balance of views and Essex County Council has no influence over who receives a copy. Residents cannot fill it out unless they receive a copy through the post.

If residents have issues, they can use our new Tell Us tool www.essex.gov.uk/highways'

7. By Councillor Robinson of the Cabinet Member for Education

'What advice, guidance and training is given to schools, teachers and young people on dealing with the growing problem of cyber-bullying - via computers and phones? Since `phones are becoming essential, even for school pupils, it can be difficult to get away from cyber bullying.'

Reply

'I thank the member for raising this important issue, which requires consistent and dedicated work to ensure that the schoolchildren in Essex are fully supported. Schools provide a range of support / information to parents, staff and pupils regarding cyber bullying. This is delivered through emotional well-being programmes, lessons in school, newsletters and briefings, open evenings, training for parents, staff and pupils, peer mentoring and counselling, to name a few. Training for schools on this matter is provided through the termly safeguarding forums where e-safety is discussed in one form or another at practically each session. Specific training on e-safety was delivered in Autumn 2015 and 2016 to schools (through launch of the new Keeping Children Safe in Education) and is to be revisited in the Autumn 2017.

In addition, there are resources on e-safety on the safeguarding area on Essex School Infolink and resources are published in the weekly newsletter that goes to all schools and via the termly safeguarding briefings which are delivered by the Safeguarding Adviser to Schools. There is a dedicated 'anti-bullying' section on Essex School Infolink which contains many resources and advice / guidance for school. To keep up to date with information ECC is a member of the Stonewall Education Champions Programme, the Anti-bullying Alliance and the Bullying Information Group (BIG). Essex School Infolink is kept updated with the latest advice and guidance to schools from these groups and other key organisations who can support around all aspects of bullying.

Finally, ECC is currently part of a Department of Education funded programme that offers a 12 month trial of the Tootoot anti-bullying support tool to Essex schools. Tootoot provide a reporting mechanism and offers access to support and guidance for school staff, young people and parents / carers (just under 50 Essex schools have taken the opportunity to be part of the trial).'

8. By Councillor Turrell of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'Recently we heard that the Ombudsman upheld a complaint from a resident, supported by the majority of residents, myself included, about the shared cycle/pedestrian path on Mile End Road, Colchester.

The complaint was among other issues that Highways did not look at any other option, the shared path was dangerous because the access to private driveways crossed the shared path and the hill would mean cyclists travelling up to 25mph downhill.

The cost of the work was almost £1million.

The shared path is not used by the majority of cyclists who still use the road as it is wide enough for cars and cyclists to use; nor has it encouraged others to cycle.

Will the Cabinet Member now remove the traffic order that makes the pavement on one side of Mile End Road a shared path and ensure that in future any such schemes only proceed if backed by a proper consultation?'

Reply

'Essex County Council did consult on this scheme, and the Ombudsman's decision notes no issues with that. It also notes that the plans were amended as a result of the consultation that was conducted.

I need to make it clear that the Ombudsman only partially upheld the complaint in this case. The only actions emerging from the decision were for Essex County Council to review and update its Cycling Design Guidance to take national best practice into consideration when designing shared-use facilities, which we will of course do.

There are certainly no actions on Essex County Council to remove the scheme and none of the concerns raised about safety were upheld. As a result we will not be removing the traffic order that allows cycling on the shared use facility and we will continue to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to consult on proposals where there is no statutory consultation duty.'

9. By Councillor Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

‘Will the Cabinet Member make representations to the Essex Pension Fund regarding the apparent contradiction of their doubling of investments to £9m into tobacco companies whilst the County Council is funding Health programmes encouraging people to give up this habit which costs lives and the NHS millions of pounds each year.’

Reply

‘It is indeed true that Essex County Council has committed to helping and encouraging people to stop smoking, and we have committed £1.985M for lifestyle services this financial year.

It is equally true that we wish our pensioners to benefit from a really strong pension fund which is run separately, both to maximise focus on return and to minimise political interference.

In my experience of ethical investment issues, influence is maximised through engagement rather than exclusion.’

10. By Councillor Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

‘In the light of the recent report from the National Audit Office into the costs of the Hinkley Point nuclear plant project, which stated that it was ‘risky’ and ‘expensive’ and the costs have increased from £6bn in 2013 to £30bn now, is the Cabinet Member confident that the Bradwell nuclear plant is a project Essex County Council should be promoting?’

Reply

‘The scale of opportunity that the development of Bradwell B nuclear power station could offer Essex is illustrated by the first new nuclear development at Hinkley Point C, Somerset, which will create c. 26,000 jobs, with supply chain contracts already amounting to over £435m. However, significant investments in infrastructure, housing and skills will be required to ensure that benefits accrue to Essex businesses and residents. In the first instance, ECC & Maldon DC, as formal consultees, are working together to ensure that Essex benefits especially by learning from other new nuclear developments, notably at Sizewell C, Suffolk, which will be developed before Bradwell.’

11. By Councillor Baker of the Leader of the Council

‘In light of the outcome of the recent General Election and the Brexit negotiations currently underway, would the Leader of the Council explore the possibility of negotiating and setting up a cross-party working group to meet on a regular basis, with senior officer input, in order to identify potential opportunities and possible threats for the County of Essex arising out of leaving the European Union.

The strategic purpose for setting up this group would be to minimise any discernibly negative outcomes and to maximise any discernibly positive outcomes for the people of Essex and for its businesses and communities.’

Reply

‘There are still a number of uncertainties relating to Brexit and the risks and opportunities it could bring. Nevertheless this is a very important issue and I would encourage our Scrutiny Chairmen to include a Brexit implication item on their work plan.’

12. By Councillor Smith of the Cabinet Member for Highways

‘Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update with regards to the re-paving of Station Way (in front of Trafford House) and the filling in of the nearby subway to enable a set of traffic lights to be installed?’

Reply

‘The works are to be carried out by a developer under a proposed Section 278 agreement. We sent the developer a draft agreement in December 2016. Despite reminders from legal services, we didn’t receive comments until 5 June 2017. They then sent a revised agreement on 4 July 2017, which legal services are now looking at. This will be progressed as quickly as possible.’

13. By Councillor Smith of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Customer

‘Has the footfall within the library at the Basildon Centre increased since the relocation of the DWP offices/front counters to the Basildon Centre? Is the library service now using this unique opportunity to actively reach out to the DWP’s clients to improve literacy rates in Basildon?’

Reply

‘I have personally visited the centre in recent weeks and was impressed by both the new layout and the staff.

Because the building was redesigned when the DWP offices were moved

into the Centre, it has not been possible to measure footfall in the same way – the library had to remove its visit count machine because the wall was extended and the gap is now far too wide to be able to pick up footfall accurately. We estimate that footfall has increased from around 300 people per day to 500. As an indicator, participation in Baby and Toddler sessions has doubled, monthly loan figures have increased by up to 10% year on year, usage of our Public Network computers is seeing a 10-20% increase year on year and with WiFi hits on site increasing rapidly, three times larger in June than February this year.

The refurbishment has also given us the opportunity to offer spaces for tuition. Libraries are contacting colleagues in Adult Community Learning and DWP to explore this opportunity further. The Hub is also planning its first joint event in September, which will see the whole centre being used to host a 'Money Matters' event. This is where partners such as Essex Water, uSwitch and local solicitors will offer money/debt advice to residents. We are also in the process of kitting out the Maker Space in the library, offering space for residents to learn new digital, practical and technological skills.'

14. By Councillor Scordis of the Leader of the Council

'Following the Agreement between the Conservative and Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionist Party on Support for the Government in Parliament and the £1 billion extra funding going to Northern Ireland, will the Leader confirm whether he will be lobbying the government for increased funding for Essex County Council?'

Reply

'The council has strong a track record of lobbying central government for the resources needed by Essex residents, working with the County Council Network and the Local Government Association. We saw an additional £30.7m come to the council this year as a result of changes to adult social care funding we pressed for. This month I am writing to new ministers, including to request for clarity on local government finance reform, security of funding for supported housing, and our desire to see additional investment in Essex through the Housing Infrastructure Fund'

15. By Councillor Scordis of the Cabinet Member for Education

'In light of proposed cuts to the Education Services Grant and a plan to introduce a National Funding Formula, could the Portfolio Holder confirm what representations have been made to the Secretary of State for Education, regarding funding?'

Reply

'I recognise the financial challenges facing schools as a result of increased costs such as rising pension and national insurance contributions, the apprenticeships levy and other increased costs, and have been making representations to Government. I wrote to the Secretary of State to lobby that the Education Services Grant should be retained as the statutory duties of local authorities would not be changing with regards to maintained schools in Essex. In addition, the Authority has continued to lobby the Department for Education as part of the national funding formula consultations stating that the ESG cut should be reversed.

For the National Funding Formula the Authority has responded in full to both consultations and further contributed to the response made by the Essex Schools Forum to both consultations.

However I am very proud of the achievements of Essex schools despite the budget pressures faced by schools and the council. More than nine in ten Essex schools are currently rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted and pupils continuing to achieve good educational outcomes, as evidenced by last week's Key stage 2 SATs results. That said, we are not complacent and will continue to work with both schools and the Government to try and ensure the funding available is appropriate and fair.'

16. By Councillor Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Education

'Statistics published in June 2017 by the Department for Education, show that following the upward trend between 2010 and 2015, there has been a further increase in the percentage of schools which have at least one advertised vacancy or temporarily-filled post. In Essex 11.9% of schools reported having at least one advertised vacancy or temporarily-filled post on the census day in November 2016.

What measures are Essex County Council taking to address the crisis in vacancy rates and reduce the number of teacher vacancies in Essex?'

Reply

'We recognise the ongoing task facing schools in terms of teacher recruitment and retention and continue to work closely with them on the issue. The council leads a strategic group set up to explore and implement new teacher recruitment and retention strategies in Essex, working with representatives from EES for Schools, the Association of Secondary Headteachers in Essex (ASHE), the Essex Primary Headteachers' Association (EPHA), Essex Special School Education Trust (ESSET) and the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust.

Among the latest strategies has been a highly successful Return to Teaching programme. 38 former teachers have now completed the intensive course, with seven already successful in securing teaching posts. Plans are now in place to re-run the programme for a second cohort in October and

November this year. We are also continuing to explore initiatives around overseas recruitment, key worker housing, additional support for newly qualified teachers, supply agencies and retention strategies.'

17. By Councillor Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'It is a duty of the highway authority to keep public rights of way free from obstruction by natural upgrowth [Highways Act 1980, Section 41]. Could the Cabinet Member confirm when the decision was taken to restrict public rights of way routes to one cut per year and explain why contracts do not include removal of the resulting green waste?'

Reply

'We currently carry out two cuts per year across promoted routes. These are the highest category routes that are most heavily used by the public. Other routes receive a cutting regime that is appropriate to their usage levels.

The removal of green waste on public rights of way is not carried out unless the waste causes a significant safety or environmental issue. Generally, green waste naturally biodegrades and creates natural habitats for other flora, fauna and creatures.'

18. By Councillor Young of the Cabinet Member for Education

'Vacancy rates are at all-time high for school crossing patrols in Essex.

Could the Cabinet Member advise if terms and conditions for the role have been altered or pay rates reduced in the last 12 months?'

Reply

'I share the concern that the School Crossing Patrol Service is not performing in the manner that we would all require and it is for that reason that I have set up a cross party Task and Finish Group to investigate the matter. Indeed, the first meeting of that group is scheduled for 11th of July 2017 after close of the Council Meeting.

The terms and conditions of school crossing patrol officers were amended within the last year to ensure fairness and bring their holiday entitlement in line with other term-time only ECC employees. However, there is no evidence that those changes have had any impact on the recruitment and retention of SCPO's. It is clear that a number of other factors, including both physical and verbal abuse from motorists, has deterred many people who would traditionally have taken on this role.

It is intended that the Task and Finish group will investigate all of these issues with a view to securing a service that is sustainable whilst assisting parents to ensure the safety of their children.'

19. By Councillor Young of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

'Falls account for up to 40% of ambulance call-outs to homes for people aged over 65, costing £115 per callout and between 2010 and 2015 there has been a 18% rise in emergency hospital admissions for older people Could the Cabinet Member confirm that priority will be given to falls prevention given these statistics?'

Reply

'I can confirm prevention of falls has been and continues to be a priority for Essex County Council.

You would be aware that the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the Essex Prevention Strategy in March 2015 – falls prevention is specifically referenced in this strategy, and monitoring outcomes is undertaken by Essex CCGs.

This Council will continue working with partners to deliver falls prevention that is more integrated with the wider frailty approach that NHS colleagues have adopted.

Most areas of falls prevention services can be delivered in this way including: identification and risk assessment of people; assessment of home hazards and home improvements; access to equipment; vision assessment; and medicines reviews. One key area of best practice is strength and balance training, and we are working with a wide group of partners including the voluntary sector to deliver this effectively in Essex.'

20. By Councillor Davies of the Cabinet Member for Resources

'Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that the lack of mention in the Queens Speech about Business Retention Rates is deeply concerning and could lead to a shortfall in this council's financial plans?'

Reply

'The Council's current Medium Term Resourcing Strategy does not currently include any changes in our income as a result of the proposed move to 100% Business Rates Retention. Therefore there is no impact on the Council's financial plans as a result of the Queens speech.

Whilst it is disappointing that this piece of legislation was not contained within the Queens Speech, there are some elements of Business Rates Retention that could be implemented without legislation. At this stage, it is unclear how Government wish to progress. However we will continue to discuss with Government our wish for more devolution of grants, more

freedoms and flexibilities, notably on charging and council tax, and incentivise for growth through greater devolution.'

21. By Councillor Harris of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'Could a 20 mph speed limit be applied as a standard measure for all new developments and a simpler retrospective application of 20mph be applied to estates with a simple access in and out of the estate?'

Reply

'Where practical we apply 20 mph speed limits to new residential developments, as our design guide and strategy states. In some cases this is not the most suitable approach, such as on higher category roads through developments, or for example where they include bus routes.

The retrospective application of 20 mph speed limits in residential areas is assessed on a case-by-case, road-by-road basis.'

22. By Councillor Hillier of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

'Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the current status of the MBT waste plant in my Pitsea division?'

Reply

The Cabinet Member, Councillor Walsh, having undertaken to provide a verbal response stated that there were ongoing discussions with the operator of the facility, Urbaser Balfour Beatty, about some performance issues. The Council and the company have been using the appropriate contractual mechanisms to resolve these issues. However, the Council has now commenced proceedings in court. Because these issues are both contractual and commercial they cannot be discussed in public.

It is important to note that the facility continues to operate and is diverting considerable waste from landfill.

The Cabinet Member undertook to give further updates to Members on the facility.

23. By Councillor Butland of the Leader of the Council

'How many EU nationals currently work for Essex County Council and how many are employed in Essex schools?'

Reply

'A job applicant's nationality is immaterial as long as they can prove they are

eligible to work in the UK. As such Essex County Council does not currently hold information on the number of EU nationals (excluding British Citizens who are also EU Citizens) that currently work for the Council or are employed in Essex schools.'

24. By Councillor Butland of the Cabinet Member for Highways

'How many claims have been submitted to the Council in respect of (a) personal injuries, (b) damage to motor vehicles, (c) damage to motor cycles and (d) damage to pedal cycles arising from alleged faulty road surfaces including potholes in each of the financial years 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17?

How many of the claims resulted in the claimant being successful and what was the total compensation paid in each the four financial years?'

Reply

The County Council has received the following number of claims for damage which relate to alleged faulty carriageway surfaces. The payments below include all costs, including legal costs. It is not possible to break down the claims between different types of vehicles without looking at every claim individually. It has not been possible to break down the figures between personal injuries and damage to property within the time available

| Year | No of Claims Received | Settled Paid | Open | Amount Paid |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 2013/14 | 2661 | 186 | 15 | £ 497,127 |
| 2014/15 | 1447 | 111 | 16 | £ 195,456 |
| 2015/16 | 866 | 97 | 18 | £ 107,783 |
| 2016/17 | 869 | 42 | 242 | £ 17,241 |

- Members asked supplementary questions of the relevant Cabinet Members details of which are available on the audio recording of the meeting

1 Oral questions of the Leader, Cabinet Member or the chairman of a committee

5 Members asked questions of the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the chairmen of committees. The questions asked and the answers given were recorded. The recording is published on the County Council's website.

1 Oral questions of the representative of the Essex Police and Crime Panel on any matter relating to the business of that Panel

6 There were no questions.

- 1 Questions of the Representative to the Essex Fire Authority regarding the**
- 7 report to the Constituent Authorities of the meetings on 14 and 28 June 2017**
Members asked questions of the representative of the Essex Fire Authority. The questions asked and the answers given were recorded. The recording is published on the County Council's website.

Chairman