

The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues

1. Floating Support contract extension and roll out of Mental Health Caseworker Service across Essex

Floating support is a non-statutory cost effective preventative service. The floating support services support vulnerable people across Essex to live independently and prevent the need for more costly health and social care interventions. Cabinet agreed to activate 22 months of the three-year extension provision within the existing floating support contracts with One Housing Group Ltd (also known as One Support) and Family Mosaic from 1 June 2015 to 31 March 2017 and to vary these contracts from 1 July 2015 to include the Public Health-funded Mental Health Caseworker service across Essex (excluding the District of Tendring where it will continue to be delivered by Tendring Citizens Advice Bureau under separate contractual arrangements).

2. Essex County Council's Equalities Policy Statement and Equalities Strategy 2015-2018

Embedding equalities into its policy and practice is vital to help the Council achieve its outcomes. The Council recognises that many individuals and communities experience disadvantage on the grounds of their background.

The equalities policy statement sets out the Council's commitments to advancing equalities. The Equalities Strategy outlines what the Council will do to make Essex a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, providing a foundation for strong and cohesive communities. It also includes proposed equality objectives.

Cabinet adopted both documents and received a report on the progress that has been made around embedding equalities into the day-to-day business of the Council.

3. Getting Around in Essex: A Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy

Cabinet considered the Getting Around in Essex Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy and the findings of a recent consultation on the draft strategy and confirmed its intention to proceed with the Strategy. Cabinet authorised officers to take forward the eight key proposals listed in the strategy, which include the carrying out of local area reviews. Cabinet agreed the principles that will guide the development of options under the local area reviews.

4. Sustainable Drainage Systems Adoption

Cabinet considered the options available for Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) adoption and agreed to introduce a policy of not adopting SuDS unless the proposed SuDS is to be built in a location where the highway and/or existing

adjacent homes are known to be in an area which has a high risk of flooding and the development incorporates SuDS which are calculated significantly to improve the existing known flood problem.

Cabinet agreed to the introduction and scale of fees and charges when considering applications for the adoption of SuDS. The fees and charges will increase annually in line with inflation and/or the actual cost of delivering the service.

This position will be reviewed after one year of implementation, to determine the success or otherwise of this policy.

5. Superfast Essex Phase 2 Project 2b (Rural Challenge) - Contract Award

Cabinet was informed of the results of the procurement for a supplier to deliver Superfast Essex Project 2b (Rural Challenge). The procurement was conducted via a European tender (restricted procedure) in compliance with EU procurement regulations.

Cabinet agreed to progress to award the Project 2b Contract to Gigaclear, and to enter into the contract for the provision of Project 2b with the supplier identified by the procurement process, Gigaclear plc. The contract will be awarded following final assurance sign-off from the Department for Culture, Media and Sports, via its Broadband Delivery UK function ("BDUK"). Cabinet also agreed to enter into a funding agreement with BDUK for £1.089m Government funding.

6. Meals Service

The contract for the community meals service, commonly known as "meals on wheels", expires on 30 September. Sodexo the current Service Provider has indicated that it is not prepared to agree to extend the contract on the current terms. Cabinet was therefore asked to agree an interim future for the meals service.

Cabinet agreed terms to enter into a new one-year contract with Sodexo and to grant a waiver from the Council's procurement rules to enable this contract to be awarded. The users of the service who will be affected by the reduction in the geographical area covered by the service will be assessed to ensure they are provided with an equivalent service via domiciliary care or community alternatives. A review will be undertaken of the transition and a report made to Cabinet in the autumn setting out future options for the meals service.

Cabinet agreed a drawdown from the general balance of up to £175,000 over the next three years to meet the forecast budget shortfall arising from the new arrangements for the provision of a meals service.

Councillor David Finch
Leader of the Council