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# ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 22 February 2011 Order Paper

## Agenda Item

### 6 The Budget and Corporate Plan 2011/12

- The attached document *procedural note for dealing with the budget* provides supporting information to accompany the brief report circulated with the Council agenda.
- An amendment to page 42 of the *Corporate Business Plan 2011-12 to 2013-14* is attached. The change is to the Capital table – the line which read '**Community Initiatives Scheme**' now reads '**Big Society Fund**'. There is also a note below the table to highlight the total capital and revenue funding for the Big Society Fund.

(These amendments have been made to the published document).

### 8a) Questions (Standing Order 17.11.3)

#### 1. By Councillor Mrs T M A Higgins of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'I regularly receive updates of proposed cuts / changes to subsidised bus services that are not proving to be economic. In this regard, can you please tell me -

- Have Equality Impact Assessments been carried out?
- What provision is made for those people affected by these cuts?
- How does this tie-in with the "Access to Services" pledge?

**2. By Councillor L A Barton of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation**

'Would Essex be prepared to follow the example set in East Sussex, in line with "The Big Society" –

- to supply and deliver hippo bags to prearranged locations in residential areas that are not priorities for gritting and
- collaborate with local residents, businesses etc. to spread the grit in cold weather to identified black-spots?'

**3. By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste**

'Many of my residents are concerned about a number of proposed changes in Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood. These include changes to the current parking arrangements, the sale of properties in the park, and possible changes to the grazing arrangements.

Would the Cabinet Member please confirm what changes are definitely being proposed, and how she intends to consult with the Thorndon Park users to ensure that their views are taken into account before any final decisions are made?'

**4. By Councillor Janet Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation**

'I have received requests for a bus shelter at Thornwood Common to replace one that was destroyed in an accident. Highways have responded to say that, since the previous shelter was in place, the standards to which they are working have altered and there is insufficient pavement width to accommodate a new shelter.

Are these county or national standards? Is it obligatory to enforce them? It seems that regulations are often given as the reason why requests cannot be met and residents suffer.

The parish clerk has searched the web and found a shelter that appears to be satisfactory. If the standards are not statutory is there any reason why the provision of this shelter should not be pursued?'

**5. By Councillor Janet Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for**

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## **Highways and Transportation**

'Applications for street closures to celebrate the Royal Wedding are coming into my district council. The county council is preparing guidance to put on the web and has consulted district councils on this. However, it is not clear whether county highways will continue to deal with the TROs when these are required. I am told they have powers under the Road Traffic Act (Special Events) 1994 to close roads for such special events but district councils do not.

Will residents holding street parties in closed roads have to display the standard Road Closed signs? If so will these be provided by Highways?'

### **6. By Councillor D Kendall of the Leader of the Council**

'Many members of the County Council, cross party, have found a great deal of benefit from having the regular Locality Member Briefing meetings. These meetings have not only helped to improve communications and the flow of information, but provided a much needed open forum for members to discuss issues affecting their areas. That being the case, please would the Leader give members his assurance that the Locality Member Briefing meetings will continue in their current form, and will be given the necessary officer support?'

### **8b) Essex Police Authority's meeting held on 14 February 2010.**

The report is attached.