

Leader's Executive Statement – Shaping our council for the future

Mr Chairman,

Introduction of vision language

- Supporting the most vulnerable people in Essex and enabling communities to achieve their ambitions is at the heart of everything we do at Essex County Council.
- We have demonstrated this by resettling 34 individuals affected by the Syrian conflict to date, with a further 32 individuals expected over the remainder of 2016.
- We want Essex to be the best place to live and work in England.
- Essex has always been a place of aspiration.
- It is where people have moved to in pursuit of a better life for their families.
- Essex people are friendly and welcoming but fiercely independent and ambitious too.
- It is a county where people dare to dream and back themselves to succeed.
- It is a place of rich historical and cultural diversity where rural and urban, old and new towns, and coastal and London border communities live side by side and thrive.
- It is a place of unlimited potential.
- We are ambitious for our County and residents.

Organisation Design

- As a means of achieving those ambitions the Chief Executive has proposed a new organisation design for the 2 layers of Officers under him.
- The proposed structure offers:
 - a. Streamlining
 - b. Protection of the key service areas of adult social care and children & families with a strong strategic policy and commissioning capability, and keeping a geographical quadrant structure to support delivery and partnership working.
 - c. Creation of a strong centralised infrastructure function.
 - d. Increased focus on public health, economic growth, strengthening communities and partnerships with Districts.
 - e. Increased focus on commercial activity, digital strategy and capability, and the use of agile methodology by placing these Director positions on CMB under an Executive Director for Corporate Development
- The structure proposal is just that – it is subject to change as a result of feedback until a final decision is made at the end of the formal consultation period; November 16.

Tribute to Cllr Bass

- Rodney Bass, who has decided to step down from Cabinet ahead of retiring from the County Council in May 2017.
- Rodney was first elected to the Maldon District Council in 1967, as one of the youngest councillors in the UK, aged only 21.
- Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources 2000-2003
- Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation 2003-2007
- Vice-Chairman of the Council 2008-2010
- Chairman of the Council 2010-12
- Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation 2013 - 2015
- Cabinet Member for Infrastructure 2015 – present
- His tenacity, attention to detail and knowledge will be greatly missed by all. Rodney, thank you for all your support and efforts on behalf of Essex County Council.
- Rodney will continue to advise on constitutional matters as well as help the transfer of infrastructure and as Chairman of the Pensions Board.

Cabinet Changes

- Cllr Bass stepping down has enabled me to refresh the Cabinet to help meet the challenge of embracing the potential that digital technology provides us, not only to transform how we provide services, but transform what the council does.
- Cllr Bentley will take on infrastructure to build on his excellent record on economic growth.
- He will be responsible for our rail, port and aviation strategy as well as Strategic Infrastructure Commissioning.
- Cllr Johnson will remain as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation but will gain responsibility for the Local Transport Plan, Highways Capital Programme and Strategic Highways Delivery.
- Due to the significant nature of our challenges and the importance of digital technology for the future of the council, I am creating a new Cabinet post.
- Cllr Stephen Canning will become the Cabinet Member for Digital Innovation.
- His portfolio will include: the Council's digital strategy, ICT, digital transformation and customer services.
- Mr Chairman, this is a team that has the right people, with the right skills, focusing on the right things.
- And I am confident it is a team that will, together with our officers, help us shape the council for future.