

The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues

This report details the main issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 18 October 2016.

1. Negotiation of Concessionary Fare Scheme for 2017/18

Cabinet has considered arrangements concerning the operation of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in Essex for 2017/18. Under the Scheme legislation, each Concessionary Travel Authority is required to have a concessionary bus pass scheme in place by 1 March before the start of each financial year.

Cabinet has authorised the Director for Commissioning: Connectivity to undertake negotiations on behalf of the Council with regard to the 2017/18 Scheme in Essex, within agreed parameters and with a view to securing a multi-year agreement with bus operators. The final scheme, which will continue the discretionary provision of free travel from 9am, will be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, in association with the Director for Commissioning: Connectivity.

2. The Organisation's Proposed New Structure

The Cabinet has endorsed the proposed new structure for the Council, as prepared by the Chief Executive. It has authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make changes to the structure following the close of the consultation period, and has approved the draw down of £530,000 from the Transformation Reserve to fund the one-off costs of the reorganisation.

Cabinet noted the design principles taken into account in developing the new structure, together with the stated aim of ensuring that the Council is in the best possible position to thrive in an environment of accelerating change. This would be achieved by building new capabilities in areas such as digital and commercial, and having adaptability as a core principle, so that responding quickly to change is second nature.

Members also agreed to refer the proposed structure to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

3. 2016/17 Financial Overview as at the Half Year Stage

The Cabinet was informed of the forecast financial position of the Council's revenue and capital budgets as at the half year stage. A full-year forecast overspend on revenue of £7.1m against a net budget of £937.7m and an

underspend of £3.5m on capital against the current budget (to be reduced to £323,000 after adjustments had been made) were reported.

Cabinet noted the report and approved a number of actions to draw down funds, appropriate funds to reserves and effect necessary adjustments.

Councillor David Finch
Leader of the Council