



**MINUTES of
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
5 JULY 2016**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor Cllr R Pratt
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Cllr Mrs B D Harker
Councillors	A T Cain, I E Dobson, M S Heard, N R Pudney, Miss S White, B S Beale MBE, H M Bass, Mrs M E Thompson and B E Harker
Substitute Members	Councillors Miss A M Beale, M.F.L. Durham and Miss M R Lewis

242. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES (PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF)

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

243. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Miss A M Beale, M F L Durham and Miss M R Lewis. It was noted that Councillor I E Dobson would be late in arriving.

In accordance with notice duly given, Councillor B E Harker was substituting for Councillor Miss Beale, Councillor H M Bass was substituting for Councillor Durham, and Councillor Mrs M E Thompson was substituting for Councillor Miss Lewis.

244. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 May 2016 be approved and confirmed.

245. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There was none.

246. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

247. CHAIRMAN'S GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that all good news items were incorporated in a presentation to be received later in the meeting.

248. SAFEGUARDING

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Marina Bailey of Catch 22 and the Director of Customers and Community on the following aspects of safeguarding:

- Procedures and responsibilities
- Public service implications and changed expectations arising from serious case reviews
- Expectations embedded in the law
- Extension of existing provisions relating to children to adults as a result of the Care Act 2014
- Role of Councillors
- Internal reviews and training programme
- Designations for reporting purposes and the reporting process

Councillors I E Dobson and Miss S White arrived at the meeting during the course of this item.

Arising from Members' questions and subsequent discussion, reference was made to the importance of feedback on referrals as an encouragement to make more referrals. It was noted that the District Council had no remit beyond being a reporting authority, and that a tailored version of the presentation together with case studies was being prepared for staff team meetings. The Committee agreed that the presentation was excellent and most useful.

249. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SECURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THOSE IN PRIORITY NEED

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services seeking approval for the Housing Service to consult with Registered Providers of Social Housing on the possibility need to give financial assistance or guarantees to those in most urgent housing need to meet the Council's statutory duties.

Officers sought to explore the possibility of arrangements whereby the concerns of Housing Associations over the non-payment of rent could be managed, for example through an undertaking to guarantee to meet the cost of non-payment if not recoverable from existing sources. This would be in return for Housing Associations' agreement to exercise discretion over their policies for not housing those with former arrears or with lower levels of disposable income. It was stressed that the proposal was not a form of indemnification of rent and the likely contribution would probably equate to the cost of

providing bed and breakfast accommodation. This would only be used in cases where the Council had a statutory duty to fulfil, and would be unlikely to commit the Council to any more than it had in the past to private landlords.

RESOLVED

- (i) That it is agreed that Officers consult with Registered Providers and other agencies to identify the most appropriate and effective agreements that would help ensure they remain able to assist with meeting the Council's statutory duties to those who are homeless;
- (ii) That a report is brought back to the Committee with recommendations that will include details of the financial implications and resources.

250. EVENTS PROGRAMME 2016 / 17

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community providing an update on events scheduled for the remainder of 2016 together with an insight into works necessary to support events provided either directly by the Council or by other organisations. The complete 2016/17 programme was set out at appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee also received a presentation from the Leisure, Countryside and Tourism Manager. This sought to explain the role the Council had and the work undertaken by Officers in connection with the preparation of events. It was noted that, for example, in relation to Promenade Park, Maldon there was a need properly to manage conflicts between uses to ensure that the original use for recreational/sporting purposes was not compromised.

Arising from Members' questions and discussion it was suggested that there should be better publicity on the fringe of the town for events, the orderliness and signposting of parking for events at Promenade Park, and that there should be more recognition for the District Council's role in the organisation of the Cabbies Day. Some concern was expressed at the extent of flyposting in association with the funfairs and Officers were asked to take follow-up action where required. A suggestion was made that there should perhaps be a separate and dedicated budget for events support although it was noted that the considerable Officer time given in this connection was not at the expense of routine and core work responsibilities as many of the duties performed feel at evenings and weekends.

The report and presentation was noted.

251. WASTE CONTRACT UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community providing an update on the mobilisation and first two days of the new collection service.

Further information was provided at the meeting as a result of four weeks' operation of the service. The level of recycling collection including garden waste was now at 68% compared with 51.7% at this time last year. The refuse collection tonnage had gone down by one third and food recycling had increased by 85.6%. The increase in missed collections was below 1%.

Some discussion took place over the collection of cardboard and also the use and resilience of the new pink sacks. Overall, however, the Committee recorded that it was a job well done and the report was noted.

252. 2015 / 16 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive giving details of performance against targets set for 2015/16 and to ensure that progress is being achieved towards the corporate goals and the outcomes detailed in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 adopted by the Council.

Set out in Appendix 1 to the report were performance details for each of the corporate goals marked with particular relevance to this Committee.

Reference was made to figures for reported crime which it was stated did not match those supplied to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Director of Customers and Community went on to explain the data provided was sourced from Essex Police and that it is intended, once the new data analyst takes up the position within the Police, a meeting will be held to ensure consistent and local data is used in the future.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Director of Customers and Community reports back to the Committee in more detail on the reported crime figures;
- (ii) that subject to (i) above, the report in all other respects be noted.

253. 2015 / 16 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE - SOUTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community on the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) Annual Report for 2015/16 with particular regard to data relevant to the Maldon District. A summary report and the actual Annual Report were set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

It was noted that SEPP carried out on-street parking enforcement for a number of Districts including Maldon on behalf of Essex County Council, the highway authority, under a delegation agreement. Councillor R Pratt, being the Council's nominated representative, had recently been re-elected Chairman of the SEPP Joint Committee.

The Committee noted the additional enforcement resource provided by this Council which had contributed to the increase in income and the general stable financial position of the operation. The Chairman remarked that the model now operated was far more efficient than that previously operated by the County Council.

In the discussion that followed reference was made to the insufficient deterrent to unauthorised parking in the lower part of High Street, Maldon, between Butt Lane and Mill Road, including parking on pavements with resultant danger and damage. The Director of Customers and Community agreed to look at this and take up the matter with the Parking Partnership.

Reference was also made to the School Parking Initiative which it was noted was being piloted in Chelmsford before being extended throughout other Districts.

The Committee noted the report.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24 pm

R PRATT
CHAIRMAN