



**MINUTES of
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 FEBRUARY 2019**

PRESENT

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| Chairman | Councillor M W Helm |
| Vice-Chairman | Councillor R P F Dewick |
| Councillors | P G L Elliott, M S Heard, R Pratt, CC, N R Pudney and S J Savage |
| Substitute Councillor(s) | R Pratt, CC |

896. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

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

897. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor I E Dobson. In attendance as substitute was Councillor R Pratt, CC.

898. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2019 be received.

Minute No. 727 – 2018 / 19 Programme of Work

Councillor S J Savage requested that the minute was amended to read as follows:

“Councillor S J Savage provided information regarding the need for a licence for the sewage works throughout the district, and public/press awareness when discharging into a river.”

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2019 be confirmed.

899. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

900. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were none.

901. PRESENTATION FROM THE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman welcomed guest speakers Dr Julie McGeachy, Clinical Vice Chair, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) / Senior Partner, Dengie Medical Partnership, and Mr James Wright, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, Mid Essex CCG, to the meeting.

Dr McGeachy and Mr Wright provided Members with an update on the work of the CCG over the past twelve months, provided the following information on current and future projects:

- The CCG looked forward to working with Maldon District Council (MDC) to continuously improve service provision;
- The CCG was committed to the National Health Service (NHS) Long Term Plan. This includes educating the public on their health, prevention, and relevant lifestyle factors such as employment, housing and air quality.
- It was acknowledged that MDC was also working with the plan by promoting active lifestyles and weight management.

- **Primary Care Foundations Project (Mid Essex)**
 - Look to effectively utilise funding
 - Continue the recruitment of General Practitioners (GPs);
 - Diversify the offers available to the public and encourage them to see a relevant primary care specialist, such as a nurse or pharmacist, to release GPs appointments for more complex cases.
- **NHS Long Term Plan** (available on the [NHS website](#))
 - Move away from traditional acute services to enable strong primary care and complimentary services;
 - Provide sustainable healthcare for the future by working on prevention.
 - Work towards social prescribing from clinical pharmacists, physiotherapists, paramedics etc;
 - Build up Primary Care Networks to form strong networking clusters and groups;
 - The Long Term Plan is expected to be fully embedded by May 2019.
 - Sharing resources between local practices to provide the best possible service.
- **GP Recruitment**
 - Acknowledged that recruitment was an ongoing problem;
 - From 2020, 50% of GPs' in Essex would be eligible to retire, failure to recruit would adversely impact Maldon and the surrounding areas;
 - It takes 10 years for a GP to qualify;

- The William Fisher Medical Centre, Southminster has become a training practice, trainees will undertake 18 months at the centre, and initially deal with no more than 6 patients a day.

The Committee was informed of a visit to Holland in October 2018 where progressive working has been identified and is currently being translated into working practice within the Dengie. Projects included the following:

- **15 Minute Project**
 - A collaborative project between NHS England, LMC, CCG, and Neighbourhood Care.
 - If delivered, fewer consultations will be required. This could result in a more attractive offer and aid the recruitment and retention of GPs.
- **Neighbourhood Care**
 - Neighbourhood Care aimed to create teams of care workers with set geographic areas. It was considered that this would allow consistency for patients and families.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the CCG for a comprehensive and informative presentation. The CCG provided the following information in response to Members questions:

- **Section 106:** A meeting would take place in March 2019 with the CCG's Director of Estates. This would be an appropriate forum to discuss the potential spending of Section 106 funds.
- **St Peter's Hospital:** A meeting to discuss the replacement of St Peter's Hospital was expected to take place. By September 2019, it was hoped that development and site options would be agreed. Hospital visitors should be reassured that there was a commitment to ensure no disruption would occur to primary care services.
- **Education of the public:** The education of the general public was expected to free up GPs time for complex cases, as primary care could also be provided by a Nurse Practitioner.

Members suggested the inclusion of a flyer with the annual Council Tax Bill for raising public awareness. The Director of Resources advised that the deadline for inclusion this year has been missed. Members suggested that the CCG attend a September 2019 meeting of the Committee to discuss the inclusion of information with the 2020/2021 bill.

The CCG advised that by continuing to work with MDC on the Live Well Campaign and Health and Wellbeing Strategy would aid in tackling the current demands placed on the Health Service. More digital options should also be considered to help rural areas.

- **Retention of General Practitioners:** It was acknowledged by the CCG that recruiting and retaining GPs in coastal regions was very difficult. It was hoped that projects such as the "15 Minute Project" would help overcome this.
- **Communications campaigns:** There are a number of health projects being promoted at present. These are being promoted through various means including screens in GP surgeries, posters, and social media.

The Chairman thanked Dr McGeachy and Mr Wright for their detailed responses and ongoing work within the district.

RESOLVED

- (i) That an invitation to the CCG would be sent for the November 2019 meeting of the Committee.

902. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 20:18.

903. RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS IN OPEN SESSION

RESOLVED that the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be resumed at 20:19.

904. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

Members received the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance which provided the six-monthly update on Section 106 infrastructure projects. The report set out the progress on Section 106 projects delivered by Maldon District Council, NHS England, and Essex County Council.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance introduced the report making reference to the Appendices. The Committee was advised that the monitoring and recording of Section 106 Agreements (S106) had significantly improved.

A short discussion ensued where the following answers were provided in response to Members questions:

- Funds secured, totalling £14,520.00, are not enough for the provision of community allotments. This was undergoing consultation and would be reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.
- Affordable housing schemes within the district were subject to an allocations policy. Subsequent to the meeting, Officers confirmed that Maldon District Council has 100% nomination rights on first lets to people registered on the Housing Register (Gateway to Homechoice) currently living in the District followed by people who have a local connection to the District (parents, siblings, or children). Generally, subsequent lets are advertised on the System allowing applicants from all 7 Councils in the Gateway to Homechoice System (Babergh, Braintree, Colchester, Ipswich, East Suffolk, Maldon, Waveney) to apply.
- Sheltered housing within the district is subject to S106. The additional facilities are provided as a requirement.
- Burnham Town Council would be receiving £12,000.00. Clarification on spending is to be checked and provided to the town council.

- The BMX youth facility in Burnham-on-Crouch would have consultees for the project. Subsequent to the meeting, Officers have confirmed that on-site consultation will take place with users of the existing ramps and skate park, and that Social Media would be used to gain a wider opinion. Suggestions have been that it should be aspiring to a scale-able version of the Great Baddow and Hadleigh facilities if at all deliverable.
- Primary Schools within Burnham were subject to S106 as clarified in Appendix B of the report.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Provision of funds for allotments within the Garden Suburb would be reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.
- (ii) Clarification on the spending of £12,000.00 to Burnham Town Council to be confirmed and provided to the relevant parties.

905. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 3 2018/19

Councillor M Heard declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was employed by Essex Police as an Auditor until the end of March 2019.

The Committee received and confirmed that the report of the Director of Resources. The report supplied Members with details of performance against targets set for 2018/19 to ensure that progress is being achieved toward the overall corporate goals and objectives detailed in the Corporate Plan.

The Director of Resources then provided Members with the following information in response to questions on the report:

Levels of Reported Crime

- Members were advised that there was no Quarter 1 on the report so that figures provided for Quarters 2 and 3 can be compared to the previous municipal year.
- The figures provided for the Levels of Crime refer to those reported. Members were advised that any further questions around these would need to be directed towards the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Homelessness Prevention

- Figures in the report are those provided by the Maldon District Council Housing Team.

North Heybridge Garden Suburb

- The report covers the period up to December 2018. An update for Members will be provided at the next meeting of the Extraordinary Council (Planning) on 28 February 2019.
- The Council cannot make comment on any live Enforcement Notices.

Site S2g

- An update on enforcement will be provided at a future meeting of the Committee.

Flooding

- This is being considered at the next meeting of the Extraordinary Council (Planning) on 28 February 2019.

Waste

- There are over 16000 collections per day; an average of 10 missed collections is considered a good number.
- Missed collections are usually a result of remote properties or issues around access.
- The figures provided were a result of garden waste tonnage due to a particularly dry summer.
- Figures provided do not demonstrate whether it was the same properties that had missed collections. The data collected does not allow for this information to be identified.

Central Area Masterplan (CAMP)

- Owners of property and local businesses will be consulted as part of the project.
- At present no contracts have been issued, CAMP sites are currently undergoing procurement.

Air Quality

- Air quality on Market Hill had exceeded the legal limit.
- Chelmsford City Council have won the bid and are writing an action plan to improve air quality. This is a process which is expected to take 12 months to complete.

Revenues and Benefits

- It is expected that the department will be fully staffed by June 2019, there is a mitigation plan in place were this not to happen.
- Where there is a delay in the assessment of Council Tax Support (CTS) no compensation is paid. This is due to the applicant's liability being monitored by the Council and payment of CTS being applied directly to their billing account. Applicants are not pursued for non/under-payment whilst there is a pending claim.
- Parish precepts should be set bases of the difference between forecast income and expenditure for the following year. Some Parish Councils were looking to set the precept rather than charge residents for the difference.
- It was agreed that clarification will be sought on the following questions from Members:
 - Whether an empty relief is applicable to newly built, empty properties.
 - How the date liability for Council Tax is determined following the completion of a new build property.

- Whether any compensation is offered to claimants where there is a delay on the assessment of benefit which results in arrears on their rent.

Planning Applications

- Members requested that a report be provided to a future meeting of the Committee on any staffing or processing which may cause delays in the processing of planning applications.

The Chairman advised Members that they should look to submit questions on reports in advance of the meetings and by doing so it would allow the Corporate Leadership Team to prepare efficient responses.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Quarter 1 figures on reported crime levels were to be included on future reports.
- (ii) An update on Enforcement would be provided to a future meeting of this committee.
- (iii) The aforementioned questions on Revenues and Benefits would be raised and responses would be circulated to Members.
- (iv) An update on the processing of planning applications would be reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.

906. 2018/19 PROGRAMME OF WORK UPDATE

Members received the report of the Director of Resources which provided an update on the progress of items included in the Programme of Work for 2018/19.

The Committee received and confirmed the report of the Director of Resources. Members had no questions on the Programme of Work Update.

907. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF SCRUTINY MEMBERS WISH TO CONSIDER

The Director of Resources requested that Members advise any items they wish to be considered for inclusion in the Committee Programme of Work. The following issues were raised:-

- **Tennis Courts at Promenade Park** - The Council owned tennis courts at the Promenade Park are currently leased out and following the end of the contract will be going out to tender in April 2019.
- **Provision for a Business Advisor to Local Businesses for support following BREXIT** - Members questioned whether a business advisor could be provided within the district to advise on import/export tariffs under the World Trade Act following BREXIT on 29 March 2019. After a brief discussion the Committee agreed that this was not an item for the programme of work.

- **Ownership of the Burnham-on-Crouch Allotments** - Councillor P G L Elliott provided information to the Committee in support of his request for the Council Solicitor to take the case of Ownership of the Burnham-on-Crouch Allotments at no expense to the Parish Council. Included in this was a timeline of the ownership for the Allotments as follows:
 - 1932 land gifted to Burnham Town Council.
 - 1972 transferred to MDC.
 - 1995 Plume (now Moat) acquired the land from MDC.

Members agreed this was a legal issue and not an item for scrutiny. It was requested that Burnham Town Council provide suitable information to Moat.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That no items be added to the Programme of Work at this time.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.22 pm.

M W HELM
CHAIRMAN