



**MINUTES of
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 JULY 2019**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor M W Helm
Vice-Chairman	Councillor R P F Dewick
Councillors	E L Bamford, V J Bell, M S Heard, C P Morley, R H Siddall and Mrs J C Stilts
Substitute Councillor(s)	Mrs J C Stilts

258. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

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

259. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S P Nunn.

In accordance with procedure rule 17, paragraph 9, Councillor J C Stilts attended as substitute for Councillor S P Nunn.

260. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 June 2019 be approved and confirmed.

261. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

262. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor E L Bamford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12, Monitoring of the Organisational Change Programme, as she sits on the Transformation Board and Audit Committee. The Chairman confirmed that she could remain in the Council Chamber to observe as a Member of the Council and not partake in any discussion on the item.

263. PARK AND RIDE SERVICE MALDON

The Committee received the report of the Director of Service Delivery which related to the item of scrutiny on the Provision of Car Parking within the District. The report provided background information on the park and ride service operated by Tesco as part of a Section 106 (S106) agreement as at appendix 1 of the report.

A discussion ensued where Members commended the Director of Service Delivery on his report which highlighted aspects of the S106 agreement that needed to be reviewed and progressed.

It was acknowledged that the current free service was being used to take shoppers from the high street to Tesco rather than increase the footfall within the Highstreet, which Members surmised this could be due to the lack of signage identifying the fifty free spaces allocated to the Park and Ride Service and the lack of a marketing plan. Further comment was made on the S106 agreement being legally enforceable.

Members explored the possibility of extending the Park and Ride Scheme, or creating a second route, to include the Garden Suburbs. Councillor R H Siddall proposed that the park and ride scheme was looked at with the inclusion of the Garden Suburbs. After much discussion the proposal was not seconded as it was considered that this would be a separate consideration under the item of scrutiny on the Programme of Work - *Car Parking within the District* to review the current scheme as set out in the S106 agreement.

Councillor R P F Dewick proposed that the Officers recommendations be approved, with the second recommendation "*That Officers identify opportunities to extend the service to serve the new Garden Suburbs and report back to Members with any options identified...*" instead becoming a separate item of scrutiny. This was duly seconded and upon a vote being taken the proposal was approved.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a full review of the requirements as set out in the 106 agreement with Tesco is undertaken as a matter of urgency and Officers develop an action plan to ensure requirements are reviewed and progressed as required.
- (ii) That Officers report back to Members on progress relating activities associated with the existing 106 agreement within three months of the date of this committee.
- (iii) That a separate item of work is created to review parking arrangements within the Maldon and Heybridge Central Area.
- (iv) That a separate item of work is created to identify opportunities for a second park and ride scheme to serve the new Garden Suburbs and report back to Members with any options identified.

264. WATER CYCLE STUDY UPDATE

The Committee received the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance which provided an update on the development of a Water Cycle Study and proposed timescales.

Members were asked to note the report which contained the presentation from Anglian Water on the Planning Application Process at appendix 1. It was noted that Anglian Water were not in attendance, however, it was confirmed that they would be present at the August meeting.

The Committee commended Councillor Miss S White on bringing this as an item of scrutiny following issues within North Fambridge, as the item of work was significant to the entire district.

Councillor E L Bamford suggested that all Members of the Council be invited to the Anglian Water presentation. The Chairman advised that Members were always welcome to attend any meeting of the Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance advised that Essex County Council were well placed to carry out the Water Cycle Study.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Members note the content of the report.
- (ii) That all Members of the Council be invited to attend the Anglian Water presentation to the committee in August 2019.

265. PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Committee received the report of the Director of Resources which provided an update on the Committee's Programme of Work for 2019/20. It was requested that the content of the report be noted, and that sponsors were nominated for the *Section 106* and *Review of Fire and Rescue Services within the Dengie* items of scrutiny.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Councillor M W Helm would be the Member Sponsor for Provision of Fire Services within the Dengie, and Councillors M S Heard and V Bell be the Member Sponsors for Section 106 Agreements.

In addition to comments made by the Committee, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance and Director of Service Delivery provided further information as detailed below:

Provision of Car Parking within the District

It was agreed that Future Parking Provision would be added as a sub-section on this item of scrutiny, and that the Specialist – Local Plan would provide a presentation to Members. The presentation would cover parking and transport issues identified within the Maldon and Heybridge Central Area Masterplan.

Section 106

A new S106 Officer was to be employed by the Council. Whilst candidates were being considered two ~~contractors~~ consultants¹ would be employed to ensure business continuity.

¹ Minute 330, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 28 August 2019.

This item of scrutiny would have its next six-monthly update presented at the August 2019 meeting of the Committee.

Provision of Healthcare within the District

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had confirmed their attendance for the August 2019 meeting of the Committee.

Waste Water within the District

Anglian Water were expected to present to Members at the August 2019 meeting of the Committee.

Waste Disposal within the District

Members sought clarification as to whether the green bags for waste within the district had stopped being distributed to residents. The Director of Service Delivery advised that he would seek clarification and report back on this question.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That for the following items of scrutiny Member Sponsors were agreed:
 - a. Provision of Fire Services within the Dengie - *Councillor M Helm*;
 - b. Section 106 – *Councillors M S Heard and V Bell*.
- (ii) That the points raised, as detailed above, be noted by Members and the Programme of Work updated accordingly with any further points for action.

266. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF SCRUTINY MEMBERS WISH TO CONSIDER

There was none.

267. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Following a short discussion, the Chairman confirmed that Members present at the meeting who did not sit on the Committee or those who held a non-pecuniary interest in this agenda item be allowed to remain in the Council Chamber to observe, but not contribute to any discussion on the following item of work.

RESOLVED that under Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

268. MONITORING OF THE ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Committee received a verbal update from the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), which included the report on the Full Council Transformation: Gateway Review that was presented to a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2019 (as attached at appendix 1 to the report).

In addition to comments made by the Committee, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance and Director of Service Delivery provided further information as detailed below:

Front Line Services

It was acknowledged that there had been a period of leavers and redundancies as a result of the restructure. Front-line services were continuing to be effectively delivered and, where necessary, contractors were being brought in to cover any shortages.

Parks and Green Spaces

Staff for parks worked varied hours depending on the seasons, with additional contractors brought in over the summer months. It was agreed that the Director of Service Delivery would liaise with Councillor V Bell to discuss concerns within the Burnham-on-Crouch area.

Commercial Strategy

It was acknowledged that, if left unresolved, the lack of a Commercial Manager would impact on delivery. Development of the commercial strategy was being progressed through close collaboration with Ignite.

Strategic Project

Staff savings were considered ahead of schedule with gaps to be identified prior to being put before Members in February 2020. Significant changes were going to be made to the Council website and Firmstep had already been introduced.

Updates for Members

Agendas and minutes from the Transformation Board are located on the internal iDrive. Members had received a briefing in June 2019 and updates continue to be reported to Council through the quarterly report on the Gateway Reviews.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance advised the Committee that MDC is currently where it had planned to be at this stage of the Organisational Change Programme.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the content of the report and verbal updated be noted by Members.
- (ii) That the Director of Service Delivery liaise with Councillor V Bell to discuss concerns around the parks and green spaces within Burnham.
- (iii) That the Director of Programmes, Performance and Governance meet with Councillor R Siddall regarding milestones for scrutiny on the Organisational Change Programme.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

M W HELM
CHAIRMAN