



**NOTES of
COVID-19 INTERIM MEASURES GROUP
3 APRIL 2020**

PRESENT

Councillor: M S Heard, Leader of the Opposition

Substitutes Councillors B E Harker and Miss S White

Directors: Mr Paul Dodson, Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance
Mr Richard Holmes, Director of Service Delivery
Mr Matt Leigh, Lead Specialist Place
Mrs Tina Stankley, Interim Director of Resources

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R G Boyce MBE and A S Fluker. Councillor B E Harker was attending as a substitute for Councillor Boyce and Councillor Miss S White as a substitute for Councillor Fluker.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS (LOCAL LIST)

The Lead Specialist Place presented the report which sought approval to adopt the revised information requirements for the validation of planning applications lists (local list), following completion of the six-week consultation on the draft document and associated revisions.

A report on the consultation in relation to the validation of planning applications was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The consultation period was due to end on 3 April 2020 and the report set out the responses received to date. The Officer drew attention to the Members' Update which had been circulated prior to the meeting and provided an update to the report and a revised version of the proposed list (Appendix 2).

Councillor Miss S White advised that she had an interest in this matter because of having live planning applications. The Lead Specialist Place advised that the consultation related to new applications and would not therefore affect anything live.

In response to a question raised by Councillor M S Heard, the Lead Specialist Place explained that a biodiversity check was different from an ecology report and that they were required at different times in the application process. The Officer commented that biodiversity checklist had been added and explained the benefits this would have to the Council.

Taking the above discussions into account the Director of Service Delivery **RESOLVED** that subject to the end of the consultation period (3 April 2020 at 5pm) and no further consultations being received, the Maldon District Council Planning Validation Requirements List – Update January 2020 (as attached at Appendix 2 to the Members' Update document) be adopted.

3. DRAFT SOUTH EAST INSHORE MARINE PLAN CONSULTATION

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance presented the report seeking agreement of the Council's proposed response to the Draft South East Inshore Marine Plan Consultation (set out in Appendix 1 to the report). It was noted that the consultation was due to end on 6 April 2020.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance **RESOLVED** that the consultation response to the Draft South East Inshore Marine Plan Consultation (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report), be agreed.

4. DRAFT LOWER HIGH STREET ACTION PLAN - ENDORSEMENT BY THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING BUSINESS AND STAKEHOLDER REVIEW

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance proposed as there were no actions which could be progressed at this time that this item of business be deferred and brought back to a future meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee, once meetings were reconvened. This was supported by all members of the Group.

Councillor M S Heard advised that he had an interest in this item of business as a Maldon Town Councillor. He commented on the Lower High Street Action Plan (Appendix 2 to the report) and the recommended change column when there were no changes. The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance advised that Officers would review this prior to it being brought back for consideration.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance **RESOLVED** that the Lower High Street Action Plan be **DEFERRED** and brought back to a future meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee, once reconvened.

5. STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING PROCESS

The Interim Director of Resources presented the report seeking agreement of the annual Strategic and Financial Planning Process (S&FPP) for 2021 / 22 (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report). It was noted that the previous years timetable would be followed to arrive at a budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy for consideration by the Council in February 2021.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance **RESOLVED** that the Strategic and Financial Planning Process for 2021 / 22 (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

6. REPORTS FOR NOTING

It was noted that the following reports were for information only.

Supplementary Estimates, Virements and Use of Reserves: 1 October 2019 - 29 February 2020

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedures, the report detailed a procurement exemption and draw down from reserves.

Reduction in Income for Recyclate

The report provided an update regarding the reduction in income for recycling and its impact on the waste budget.

Supplementary Estimate for Monitoring Officer Investigations

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, the report detailed a new supplementary estimate which had been agreed.

Potential Financial Implications for the Council Arising from the Impact of the Coronavirus

The report informed of potential financial implications for the Council arising from the impact of the Coronavirus and in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedures detailed virements agreed under delegated powers.

7. DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT POLICY FOR ESSEX CARE LEAVERS

The Director of Service Delivery presented the report seeking approval of a Council Tax Discount Careleavers Policy (attached at Appendix 1 to the report). He reported that in December 2019 Leaders, and Chief Executives to County, District, Borough and City Councils in Essex agreed to support care leavers with their council tax liabilities and this Policy sought to address this.

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance **RESOLVED** that the Council Tax Discount Careleavers Policy (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

The meeting closed at 11.38 am.

MR PAUL DODSON
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE
AND GOVERNANCE