



**MINUTES of  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
5 JUNE 2019**

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**PRESENT**

Chairman	Councillor M W Helm
Vice-Chairman	Councillor R P F Dewick
Councillors	E L Bamford, C P Morley, S P Nunn, and R H Siddall
Substitute Councillor(s)	B S Beale MBE and C Morris

**109. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES**

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

Councillor R P F Dewick proposed that the sentence “*At the start of the meeting an announcement will be made about the sound recording*” was removed from the agenda. This was duly seconded and upon a vote being taken it was agreed that this be removed from future agendas of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Notices for the agenda of this Committee be updated.

**110. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V J Bell and M S Heard.

In accordance with procedure rule 17, paragraph 9, Councillor B S Beale MBE attended as a substitute for Councillor M S Heard and Councillor C Morris attended as a substitute for Councillor V J Bell.

**111. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 April 2019 be approved and confirmed.

**112. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

### **113. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

There was none.

### **114. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the report and the Director of Resources drew Members' attention to appendix 1 of the report which detailed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In response to questions from Members, the Director of Resources advised that ToR for all Committees were being reviewed by the Corporate Governance Working Group (CGWG) in advance of the new committee structure being implemented in October 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the Director of Resources update Members of the Committee on any future changes to the Terms of Reference.

### **115. 2018-19 PROGRAMME OF WORK UPDATE AND 2019-20 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Resources providing an update on the Work Programme of this Committee for 2018 / 19 and seeking further discussion on potential areas for the 2019 / 20 Work Programme. The Director of Resources drew the Committees attention to appendix 1 of the report which outlined the Programme of Work for 2018-19 and appendix 2 which outlined items from the Programme of Work.

Members discussed each item on the Programme of Work before new Member Sponsors were assigned. In addition to comments made by the Committee, the Director of Resources and Director of Service Delivery provided further information as detailed below:

#### **Monitoring of the Organisation Change Programme**

The Director of Resources reminded Members about the upcoming training session they were invited to and confirmed that the business case for the Future Model was available within the private area of Modern.Gov.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that the Council was moving towards Agile working, using PRINCE2 methodology, and Members would receive quarterly updates on the Organisational Change Programme.

Following a vote, it was agreed that Councillor R H Siddall was elected as the Member Sponsor for this item of work.

#### **Provision of Car Parking**

The Director of Service Delivery had met with South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) and triggered a review of the parking restrictions as safety concerns had been raised within residential areas around the Promenade Park. It was confirmed that SEPP would

consult with the Town Council, residents, and other agencies at a later stage.

Members commented on the Park and Ride Scheme within the Maldon District. The Director of Service Delivery confirmed an allocation of spaces was located at Tesco, and an area of land had been identified within the leisure quarter as part of ongoing work on the Central Area Masterplan.

Following a vote, it was agreed that Councillors M W Helm and R P F Dewick be elected as the Member Sponsors for this item of work. Councillor R H Siddall requested it be noted that he was against this decision.

### **Dealing with Waste Water**

The Committee was advised that this item on the Programme of Work focussed on the pumping of waste water within the district and not flood/surface water. An update on the Water Cycle Study from Essex County Council was expected to be received in advance of the July meeting of the Committee.

The Director of Resources confirmed that a meeting was due to take place where Anglian Water would present their proposals for pumping systems to be used on future developments within the district. It was anticipated that the Water Cycle Study from Essex County Council would be available for feedback at the July meeting of the Committee.

Councillor S P Nunn proposed that the *Dealing with Waste Water* item be amended to include both rivers Chelmer and Blackwater. This was duly seconded and, upon a vote being taken, agreed.

Following a vote, it was agreed that Councillor C P Morley be elected as the Member Sponsor for this item of work.

### **Provision of Healthcare Services (including the recruitment and retention of General Practitioners)**

Members acknowledged the lack of Surgeries within Southminster and that this was difficult to advance with a shortage of General Practitioners (GPs) in the area. The Director of Resources advised that she would raise this with the regional Head of Estates for NHS England and report back to the next meeting.

Following a vote, it was agreed that Councillor E L Bamford be elected as the Member Sponsor for this item of work.

### **Section 106 (S106)**

It was noted that the next six-monthly update was due at the August 2019 meeting.

It was agreed that the Member Sponsor for this item would be discussed at the next meeting of this Committee.

### **Review of Fire and Rescue Service Provision within the Dengie**

The Committee reflected that the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner had met with Members of the Council on 7 February 2019 and reassured Members that the Fire Stations within Burnham-on-Crouch and Tillingham would not be closing.

The Director of Service Delivery advised that further information on the Fire Break Project was still outstanding. It was agreed by the Committee that this item remain on the Programme of Work with a watching brief.

### **Council Tax**

The Committee agreed that the information provided in appendix 1 of the report resolved the query therefore this item could be removed from the Programme of Work.

### **Business Opportunities within the Council**

It was confirmed that this referenced opportunities across all Council owned properties and was not exclusive to the offices on Princes Road. Officers were already in talks with prospective clients and current tenants.

### **Waste Contract**

Councillor R P F Dewick advised the Committee that the vehicles used were not conducive to the nature of work carried out so future problems were to be expected.

It was agreed that this remain on the Programme of Work.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That scrutiny on Council Tax was complete and therefore be removed from the Programme of Work;
- (ii) That the following items of scrutiny remain on the Programme of Work for 2019 / 20 under a watching brief:
  - Review of Fire and Rescue Service Provision within the Dengie,
  - Waste Contract.
- (iii) That the following Member sponsors be appointed for the following scrutiny topics on the Programme of Work for 2019 / 20:
  - Monitoring of the Organisation Change Programme – Councillor R H Siddall,
  - Provision of Car Parking – Councillors M W Helm and R P F Dewick,
  - Dealing with Waste Water – Councillor C P Morley,
  - Provision of Healthcare Services – Councillor E L Bamford,
  - Waste Contractors – Councillor R P F Dewick.
  - Business Opportunities within the Council – M S Heard.
- (iv) That Member Sponsors for the scrutiny topic Section 106 be appointed at the July meeting of this Committee.

## **116. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF SCRUTINY MEMBERS WISH TO CONSIDER**

The Director of Resources requested that the Committee present suggestions to be added to the Programme of Work for 2019 / 20.

### **Strategic Themes**

Councillor R H Siddall requested that the Strategic Themes adopted by the Council be considered to ensure that they were accurate and specific. The Director of Service

Delivery assured the Committee that these were currently being discussed and agreed through the Corporate Governance Working Group.

### **Business Opportunities**

Councillor S P Nunn queried whether the business opportunities within the Council were specifically focused on the Princes Road site. The Director of Resources advised that this related to all property owned by Maldon District Council, and in response to further questions from Members confirmed that the Council had a value for money clause on all leases.

### **Front Line Services meeting Customer Expectations**

Councillor R H Siddall proposed that a review of frontline services be undertaken to confirm that customers' expectations are being met.

In response the Director for Service Delivery confirmed that Officers were working on a review of benchmarking and processes. This was due to be completed in Summer 2019.

### **Local and District Elections – 2 May 2019**

Councillor R H Siddall requested that the Committee investigate the election count and process to evaluate any concerns which may have occurred on 2 May 2019. The Chairman put this to the Committee, and upon a vote being taken this was duly agreed.

Other Members of the Committee considered that the election and count ran smoothly and queried what specifically Councillor Siddall wished to query. Councillor B S Beale stated that in 36 years he considered this to be the quickest and smoothest election in his experience.

At the suggestion of the Director of Service Delivery, it was agreed to defer the proposed investigation and discuss the issue outside of the Committee before being added as an item for scrutiny.

### **Political Balance Representation**

Councillor B S Beale, voiced concerns that the majority of appointments as *Representatives on Outside Bodies* and *Chairman of Committees* were conservatives and requested a review in six months time. Additional concern was raised querying whether it was appropriate for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be chaired by a Member of the main party.

Members were advised that the appointments had been formally approved at the Statutory Annual meeting of the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the following amendments would be made to the Programme of Work for 2019 / 20:

- (i) Business Opportunities be updated to show that this related to properties owned by Maldon District Council.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32 pm.

M W HELM  
CHAIRMAN