



**MINUTES of
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
24 JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor R Pratt
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Mrs B D Harker
Councillors	Miss A M Beale, A T Cain, I E Dobson, M F L Durham, Miss M R Lewis, N R Pudney, Mrs N G F Shaughnessy and Miss S White
Ex-Officio Non- Voting Member	B S Beale MBE

904. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs N G F Shaughnessy to her first meeting of the Committee following her election. He then drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

905. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

906. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 November 2017 be approved and confirmed.

907. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor N R Pudney declared a non-personal and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 – Project Update – Maldon Health Hub, as he was employed by the NHS.

908. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

909. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CHAIRMAN'S GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that he proposed to bring forward item 10 (Project Update – Maldon Health Hub) on the agenda to enable the Chief Executive to leave the meeting earlier.

He then referred to the following items of good news:

- Saltmarsh 75 Website – now live, and attracting entrants for the 2017 event
- Volume and Value Survey (Visit Essex) – positive feedback from this showing increased visitor numbers and spend within the District.

910. PROJECT UPDATE - MALDON HEALTH HUB

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive on progress of the above project. The report had also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee at its meeting on 30 August 2016 had received an update on the Community Hospital project and was informed of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) stated commitment to the development of an affordable primary/community care facility centred on Maldon to replace St Peters Hospital.

The Committee was asked to note that the project had now been rebadged the Maldon Health Hub project. This was because at the current time there was no certainty that beds would be provided within the new facility and it may not therefore be considered to be a "hospital".

The Chief Executive reported on a recent meeting between leading Councillors, herself and the Regional Director of NHS England. She said that following some uncertainty as to what primary care facilities would be provided and where, given that the proposed new health hub at North Heybridge seemed linked to the replacement facility for St Peters Hospital, it had been confirmed that there was a commitment to the facility at Heybridge in its own right.

The Chief Executive added that the Project Board would continue to receive key Primary Care updates at its meetings, and that there were reports being submitted to the Planning and Licensing and Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the use and monitoring of s106 agreements for strategic development sites. She also commented that Planning Services had been asked to look at possible initiatives for the provision of key worker accommodation to assist recruitment to the Health Service. She concluded by confirming that a detailed Project Plan for the Maldon Health Hub together with an Actions Log had now been received and that the CCG would be held to its commitments on this.

Debate ensued in which reference was made to the following issues:

- The involvement of the NHS and spare capacity at the new Health Centre at Danbury
- Loss of key facilities currently provided at St Peters, e.g. stroke unit
- Recruitment of GPs – could be improved if surgeries became training surgeries

- Consultants engaged to scope the project – due to report in March/April
- GPs reducing home visits on cost grounds if places in care homes cheaper
- The Council’s preparation of an alternative Business Plan had not been progressed due to the uncertainty of the facilities likely to be commissioned
- Every opportunity to now be taken in the continuing dialogue to question and press the various Health representatives

RESOLVED that the report is noted with dismay and disappointment.

911. LEISURE CONTRACT UPDATE

The Committee received presentations from the Leisure and Community Development Manager and also Mr Mark Taylor of People for Places Leisure Management Ltd (PfP), the leisure contract services provider.

The first presentation gave an overview of the new leisure contract and the associated management arrangements, and then provided details of the various initiatives and support provided by the Community Development Team.

The second presentation provided an overview of PfP as an organisation and some of the positive outcomes of the new leisure contract.

Following questions from Members, the Committee recognised what a good deal this had been for Maldon and the success that had been achieved with good liaison between the Council and the service provided. Both teams were congratulated and the representatives thanked for their presentations.

RESOLVED that the update be noted with pleasure and that steps be taken to provide a press release on the successful outcomes from the new Leisure Contract.

912. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A STRATEGIC HOUSING BOARD

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community on a proposal to establish a Strategic Housing Board. The report was also being considered by the other two programme Committees.

It was noted that the range of Housing issues for the Council had moved on and was not principally concerned with Affordable Housing. It was about meeting and managing all housing needs, and helping to turn Planning approvals into actual delivery. The setting up of a Strategic Housing Board would assist in providing strategic direction to meet these objectives.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) that a Strategic Housing Board be created with two Members appointed from each of the programme Committees with the intention that the Board will meet quarterly, that this Committee nominates Councillors Mrs B D Harker and B S Beale;

- (ii) that the Terms of Reference for the Board be agreed once established by its Members which will also include senior officers of the Council;
- (iii) that the fundamental purpose of the Strategic Housing Board will be to consider and advise relevant committees on the Council's strategic priorities and actions for meeting the need for affordable housing and the housing need of other groups in the District.

913. FOOD CADDY LINER SUPPLY

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customer and Community on an evaluation of the option of continuing to supply plastic caddy liners for the food waste bins.

It was noted that due to the increased volume collected, the income from Essex County Council had covered the cost of collection and it was expected that this would continue for another year. If discontinued, the collection volume might reduce.

The Committee again reflected on the success of the new waste contract which along with the leisure contract had provided most positive and pleasing outcomes for the Council.

RESOLVED that the Council continues to supply the food caddy liners to residents as the resulting increased tonnage leads to a greater income than the cost of the liners.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

R PRATT
CHAIRMAN

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(b)