



**MINUTES of
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
11 APRIL 2017**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor R Pratt
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Mrs B D Harker
Councillors	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	Councillor B S Beale MBE
Substitute Members	Councillor B E Harker
In attendance	Councillors R G Boyce MBE CC and M S Heard

1175. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

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

1176. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss A M Beale and A T Cain. In accordance with notice duly given Councillor B E Harker was acting as a substitute for Councillor Miss A M Beale. It was noted that Councillor Miss M R Lewis would be arriving late.

1177. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 December 2016 be received.

Minute 1037 – Parking Update

Councillor Mrs B D Harker advised that in the 2nd paragraph, in the last sentence the word 'not' was not needed.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 February 2017, be approved.

1178. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor I E Dobson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 – Permit for school parents parking, as he was a governor at All Saints School.

Councillor N R Pudney declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 - Maldon Health Hub Project as he was an employee of the NHS.

1179. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the Council's public participation scheme, Elaine Mason, the Head teacher of Maldon Court Preparatory School, Nick Jones and Bruce Gavin, both parents of pupils at Maldon Court Preparatory School, addressed the Committee in relation to Agenda Item 13 – Permit for school parents parking.

1180. CHAIRMAN'S GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had no items to share under this Agenda Item.

The Chairman proposed that Agenda Item 13 - Permit for school parents parking be considered next by the Committee as there were members of the public present who were interested in this item. This was duly agreed.

1181. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman announced that in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 he had agreed to allow the Director of Customers and Community to raise an urgent item of business due to the procedural and preparation work required in order for the new arrangements, if agreed, to take effect from 1 June 2017.

1182. URGENT BUSINESS - PERMIT FOR SCHOOL PARENTS PARKING

The Committee considered the urgent report of the Director of Customers and Community on a proposal of a new policy on parking permits to be allocated to school parents picking up and dropping off their children at school within Maldon. It was noted that this report was also due to be considered by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2017.

Following the recent Council decision to withdraw existing arrangements for parents Members were advised that the proposed parking permit would enable parents to continue to park in the Council's car park but at a rate reflective to their use.

There was some discussion about whether offering permits to school parents would then be unfair to other organisations, such as Churches, youth clubs, evening clubs and classes.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that something similar with permits had been trialled in the past for school parents and that the permit system was abused so had been taken away.

In response to a question, the Group Manager for Community and Living advised that the word 'term' in the report referred to the period of time (39 weeks) and not a school term. It was agreed that if this report was to be approved the wording would be amended to make this clearer.

Councillor I E Dobson proposed that the recommendation to issue parking permits be subject to the time frame being extended from 30 minutes per drop off/pick up to a duration of two periods of 45 minutes'. Councillor Miss S White seconded this proposal but added that registration numbers and the time frame be included on the actual permit.

Upon being put to the meeting and a vote taken this proposition was declared lost. The Chairman therefore declared that the recommendation set out in the report were not agreed.

RESOLVED that the Council does not make available parking permits to parents of children attending Maldon schools to use in Council car parks and the Finance and Corporate Services Committee advised accordingly.

1183. THE DENGIE GATEWAY PROJECT

The Committee received a presentation from the Dengie Gateway Project Officer on progress of the above project.

Councillor Miss M R Lewis joined the meeting at this point.

Members of the Committee congratulated Officers on the hard work and great use of branding in this project.

After some discussion around rural signage, the countryside and coastal codes, it was suggested that Natural England be invited to a future meeting.

It was suggested that a news piece go out to the parish councils to remind them to inform local businesses that they can be added to the Visit Maldon District Website, by contacting the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk.

RESOLVED that Natural England to be invited to future meeting of this Committee to give a presentation on the new Coastal Trail.

1184. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FIRE CONSULTATION ON JOINT GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received the report of the Director of Customers and Community on the consultation which is currently being undertaken by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in relation to Essex Fire and Rescue Service and proposed governance arrangements and considered the response from Maldon District Council.

Councillor M S Heard declared an interest as an employee of Essex Police Authority.

In response to a question, the Director of Customers and Community agreed to clarify from the PCC if council tax would be collected by one organisation rather than two, and if it would be transparent still what funds went to which authority. The response once received would be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the following formal response to the consultation be sent on behalf of Maldon District Council:

“Maldon District Council welcomes this opportunity to respond to the consultation on the proposed changes to governance arrangements for Essex Fire and Rescue Service. The Council supports any arrangements which will improve the service provision to the district by the reinvestment of savings into frontline services. We believe the consultation has been thorough and there are clear identifiable improvements by this collaboration in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. The transition from Police Authority to Police and Crime Commissioner has proved successful therefore it would seem sensible to take this step further with the fire service. This Council will keep a local focus by having a representative on any future agreed panels. The Council is in agreement that the joint governance model should be adopted in terms of the identified benefits for public safety, effectiveness, economy and efficiency and ease of delivery and looks forward to seeing these plans implemented as soon as reasonably practicable”.

- (ii) that the following questions be put to the Police Crime Commissioner with answer to be sent to all Members of this Committee.

Will Council tax be collected by one agency in future? (as opposed to the Police and Essex Fire & Rescue Service)

Will the budgets remain separate for transparency?

1185. OUTLINE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Planning Services for approval to go out to consultation on the above strategy. The Outline Housing Strategy was attached as Appendix A to the report.

The Housing Strategy covered a wide range of issues and included the homelessness strategy. It was noted that the Strategy had been timed to coincide with the release of the Government’s Housing White Paper, creating an ideal opportunity to bring together plans for housing and planning with the national agenda.

It was noted that under the Key Priorities section in Appendix A the first two points were not within the corporate plan and would be amended before the strategy is released for consultation.

RECOMMENDED that the Outline Housing Strategy (attached as **APPENDIX A** to these Minutes) be approved for consultation.

1186. RECYCLING 'BRING BANKS' SITE REVIEW

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community reporting the findings of recycling centre in the District and seeking approval for the removal of containers from recycling sites in the District.

Appendix 1 to the report provided Members with further detailed information regarding the location, number of banks and range of materials collected at each recycling site. There was some discussion around the idea of removing all 'bring banks' as the Council offers recycling through kerbside collection.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that some 'bring banks' on supermarket sites were used during the holiday seasons by those who own or use caravans, who do not receive the kerbside collection and where recycling was not offered on the specific caravan sites.

Members questioned whether the data in the report was accurate as they had seen 'bring banks' overflowing on occasions. The Officer responded that the data the Council received was from the contract companies themselves and was down to what their drivers inputted.

In response to a question, Members were advised that an initial six month trial would be put in place during which Parish Council comments would be sought. It was agreed that the Committee would receive a six monthly performance update.

RESOLVED

- (i) That containers be removed from recycling sites in the District which are inefficient through under-use by residents resulting in excessive cost to the Council;
- (ii) That Members be updated on performance in six months.

1187. WASTE UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Waste Contract Task and Finish Working Group on an update of performance after the first year of the new alternative weekly refuse collection contract. The report also sought Member approval of the conclusion of the Task and Finish Working Group and creation of a liaison meeting going forward.

Appendix 1 to the report provided comparison details of the tonnage of waste recycled from June 2016 compared to the same period in 2015. Members were advised that the high number of missed bins anticipated at the commencement of the contract had reduced to what was a satisfactory level and this was evidenced in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 route the zones routes were mapped into to ensure crews worked together.

It was noted that there was no requirement for the Waste Contract Task and Finish Working Group to continue and it was suggested that this be replaced with a less formal annual liaison meeting with the relevant contractor. In response to a question, the Director of Customers and Community advised that these meetings would not replace the regular contract monitoring meetings with contractors.

The members of the Committee congratulated the Waste team on a great success story.

It was suggested that the waste contractors be invited to a future meeting of this Committee on an annual basis. Following discussion it was agreed that recommendation (iii) as set out in the report be amended to reflect this.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the performance of the new alternate weekly refuse collection service since introduction be noted;
- (ii) that Members approve the conclusion of the Waste Task and Finish Working Group;
- (iii) that the Council's principal waste and street cleansing contractors be invited to a meeting of the Community Services Committee on an annual basis.

1188. MALDON HEALTH HUB PROJECT

The Committee received the report of the Chief Executive detailing progress on the Maldon Health Hub project.

Appendix A to the report detailed a report presented to the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) Project Manager, Mr Martin Royal.

It was noted that the Council continued to work with partners to progress the delivery of a health hub in the Maldon District. Progress had been made but there had been some expression raised by Partners regarding the lack of evidence base and strategic rationale for the project direction. The Council and Partners would continue to press the CCG to develop a business case to support delivery of a facility which would meet the needs of the local community.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that Mr Royal's contract had now been extended beyond the end of March 2017.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

R PRATT
CHAIRMAN