

**CABINET MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD  
SAFFRON WALDEN on 12 OCTOBER at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillor H Rolfe (Leader)  
Councillor S Barker (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for  
Environmental Services)  
Councillor S Howell (Cabinet Member for Finance and  
Administration)  
Councillor L Wells (Cabinet Member for Communities and  
Partnerships).

Also present: Councillors A Dean (Liberal Democrat Group Leader and Chair  
of Scrutiny)

Officers in attendance: D French (Chief Executive), M Cox (Democratic  
Services Officer), R Harborough (Director of Public Services)  
and A Webb (Director of Finance and Corporate Services).

**CA49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Lodge and Redfern.

Councillor S Barker declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item relating to  
the Air Quality Action Plan as a member of Essex County Council.

**CA50 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2016 were received and  
signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**CA51 BUSINESS ARISING**

**i) Minute CA46 – Equalities Scheme**

In answer to a question from Councillor Barker, it was confirmed that officers  
would look at options for providing equalities training for Members.

**CA52 REPORTS FROM PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEES**

Councillor Dean reported on two recent meetings of the Scrutiny Committee.

**i) North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP)**

The meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September had looked at the proposal to extend the  
NEPP partnership arrangements for a further four years. Richard Walker, and  
Lisa Hinman from the NEPP had given a presentation to the meeting and held

a useful question and answer session, which was detailed in the minutes attached to the agenda. Of particular note was that there was only 1/2 Civil Enforcement Officer operating in Uttlesford at any given time.

The NEPP officers said they were keen to build relations with UDC members and would provide a who's who of contact names and numbers, which would be circulated to all members of the Council.

During the discussions, it became clear that it would not be viable for UDC to provide the service in house and members supported the proposal to extend the agreement. However, the Committee had concerns about the level of staffing and the value for money of the service for Uttlesford and agreed that the Chairman would discuss with officers possible areas for improvement and bring these back to the November Scrutiny meeting.

## **ii) Air Quality Action plan**

The Scrutiny Committee had called in the decision to approve the Saffron Walden AQAP made at the Cabinet meeting on 15 September. At the meeting on 4 October it had referred the decision back to Cabinet with a recommendation for improvements to be made to the Action Plan was approved and submitted to DEFRA.

The suggested improvements included a position statement, prioritising of the actions, confirmation of the underpinning budget or commitment to carry out the actions and an assurance that the plan was in line with the expectations set out in the DCLG guidance.

The Leader said the Cabinet took this plan seriously and had asked for the recommendations to be prioritised and for project plans to be generated for the various recommendations. However, there was still information outstanding in relation to the Local Plan proposals for Saffron Walden and the detailed highway report, and this would need to be taken into account in the final version of the Plan.

The Cabinet AGREED not to implement the decision taken on 15 September. Officers would continue to work on the plan, taking account of the points raised at the Scrutiny Committee, and the AQAP would be brought back to a future Cabinet meeting.

CA53

## **MULTI – YEAR SETTLEMENT**

Councillor Howell gave further details of the multi-year funding offer, that would provide a settlement to 2019/20. The request had to be submitted by 14 October 2016.

At the last meeting, the Cabinet had decided to take up the settlement offer on the basis that it would provide greater certainty for planning purposes at a time when the council's financial position was likely to become more challenging.

The Cabinet was informed there was a caveat with the offer, that it would be honoured 'barring exceptional services' but it was not yet clear what that would entail. Although the council could opt not to take up this offer and instead operate on a year by year basis, the Government had indicated that it would not guarantee the level of funding for authorities that took this option. It was therefore considered prudent to accept the offer.

To take up the offer, the council was required to produce an efficiency statement. There was no prescribed form but officers had followed DCLG guidance and produced a concise document using the MTFs as its base. The statement set out the proposals under the headings of commercialisation and income generation, service redesign and new ways of working. It also mentioned the £1m Transformation Reserve to support the efficiency programme.

The MTFs showed the council was in a stable condition until 2018/19, after which it would be in a deficit position, which would be up to £1m by the end of the plan period. The efficiency plan showed how the savings would be achieved under each heading.

There were still areas of uncertainty in relation to the New Homes Bonus (NHB) and the Business Rate Retention scheme (BRR), and no adjustments had yet been included in the plan.

The Leader asked officers to include examples of items for generating income, new ways of working and service redesign in the text of the efficiency plan.

RESOLVED to authorise the S151 Officer to submit the Multi – year settlement request and associated efficiency plan.

CA54

## **NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Barker presented the report on the proposed extension to the NEPP agreement, which would extend the partnership arrangements to March 2022. She thanked the Scrutiny Committee for its detailed consideration of the proposals.

Councillor Barker explained the services provided by the NEPP. The on-street service was the responsibility of ECC, as highway authority and dealt with parking enforcement, traffic regulation orders, residents' parking. This service was self-funding.

The off-street service covered the UDC car parks. The parking revenue came back to the council while the NEPP made a charge of £154k for the services provided. This was the area of the service that potentially could be taken back in house. This issue had been discussed at length by the Scrutiny Committee but had not been seen as a viable option. However, the points raised in relation to service improvements had been noted.

Councillor Howell said the NEPP was a good example of how a service could be delivered more effectively when working with partners.

**RESOLVED**

- 1 The Cabinet agrees that the Council should sign up to the four year extension of the Joint Committee Agreement offered to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) by Essex County Council.
- 2 The Cabinet will take into account the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 22 November 2016.

CA55

**TEEP ASSESSMENT**

Councillor Barker presented a report on the TEEP assessment of the Council's recycling arrangements. The report explained that the waste regulations required all authorities to collect materials for recycling separately, but they could be collected on a different basis, when there was sound justification to make separate collections.

The assessment had considered the co- mingled collection of dry recyclables that was currently operated by the council and concluded that the current system was more technically practical, environmentally and economically beneficial than collecting the four materials separately.

Members supported the recommendation and said that the scheme had one of the highest collection rates and lowest costs in the country and was a robust and successful scheme.

The Leader said it was beneficial for residents to have a single bin for dry recyclables but the downside could be problems with contamination of the material. He said the latest issue of Uttlesford Life had focused on this area.

**RESOLVED** to approve the TEEP assessment attached to the report

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.