

CABINET held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Lodge (Chair)
Councillors A Armstrong, D Eke, J Evans, N Hargreaves,
P Lees, L Pepper

Also present: Cllr Day (Cabinet Deputy for Community Safety (Police and Emergency Services), A Dean (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group), N Gregory (Chair of Scrutiny Committee), B Light (Representing the Green Party Group), R Pavitt (Leader of the Independent Group) and M Sutton (Cabinet Deputy for Communities)

Officers in attendance: D French (Chief Executive), A Bochel (Democratic Services Officer), R Harborough (Director - Public Services), S Pugh (Assistant Director - Governance and Legal), J Snares (Housing Strategy and Operations Manager) and A Webb (Director - Finance and Corporate Services)

CAB62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asker and Barker.

CAB63 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

CAB64 QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (STANDING ITEM)

Councillor Freeman spoke on the importance of the Planning Committee being able to adopt planning policies that were coming forward in the draft local plan. He suggested that Cabinet adopt these policies earlier in order for the Committee to have an adequate toolkit for dealing with the skills of developers.

The Chair said a report on this matter would be brought to an upcoming Planning Policy Working Group meeting.

Councillor Pavitt asked when an agreement that Easton Park should never have more than 10 properties built on it would be overturned.

The Assistant Director – Governance and Legal said the appropriate time to do this was in receipt of a planning application. The Chair suggested that officers look into whether this would be possible to achieve any earlier.

CAB65 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (STANDING ITEM)

Councillor Gregory said that in his capacity of Chair of Scrutiny Committee, he and the Vice Chair, Councillor LeCount, had received a report from the Director – Finance and Corporate Services on the Norse contract which was discussed at the previous Cabinet meeting. They had been satisfied with the information they had received.

CAB66 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24

The Chair gave a summary of the report which set out the latest draft of the Corporate Plan. This document set out the Council's vision and priorities for the next four years and formed part of a wider strategic planning framework which directed how and where Council resources are allocated. The updated draft would be submitted to the Scrutiny at the 4 February meeting. It was important for the work on this plan to be done properly.

Councillor Hargreaves proposed a series of changes. Cabinet agreed to make the following amendments:

- Change 'encourage town and parish councils to better represent their communities' to 'support town and parish councils to better represent their communities'.
- Remove 'actively' from 'actively apply for all relevant grants'.
- Amend 3e in the 'Putting Residents First' section to read 'set a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to fund council services by balancing the mix of investment, services and tax income, while maintaining adequate reserves.
- Change 'follow best practices for investment risk management and board composition' to 'follow best practices for investment risk management and Investment Board composition'.

Councillor Dean asked that the following be taken into account:

- There was currently not much in the plan that maintained the principle of maintaining or improving council services.
- It would be good to see a reference on lobbying on emissions from aviation.
- It would be good to see a reference to the ongoing work on providing properly affordable housing.
- Mention of pride of place should be made.
- Reducing other material residual waste should be made.

Councillor Day suggested that 3a in the 'Champion For Our District' section read 'work with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to reduce crime in our area'.

Members noted the report.

CAB67 HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY

Councillor Lees gave a summary of the report which said the Cross-Government Rough Sleeping Strategy had committed to ensuring that all local authorities had an up to date homelessness strategy available online by winter 2019. The updated Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy had been attached to the report.

RESOLVED to adopt of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025.

CAB68 GARDEN COMMUNITIES DELIVERY MEMBER GOVERNANCE BOARD UPDATE JUNE 2019 – DECEMBER 2019

The Chair gave a summary of the report which described the work of the Garden Communities Delivery Member Governance Board and the progress made over the last seven months, and identified the current work programme.

In response to a Member question, the Chair said the problems the North Essex Authorities (NEA) were experiencing raised issues for Uttlesford District Council's local plan, but the Council was working with the NEA to resolve various issues.

Councillor Day asked that a briefing be held for members to bring them up to speed on the work of the Garden Communities Delivery Member Governance Board and the delivery boards specific to each new garden community. The Chair said he would like papers from these meetings to be made available to other councillors if possible, to maintain the principle of transparency.

In response to a Member question, the Chief Executive said a briefing would be held for Members when the council received the Inspector's letter responding to its local plan.

Members noted the report.

CAB69 NOMINATION OF THE QUEEN'S HEAD AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Councillor Lees gave a summary of the report which asked Members to determine whether to list The Queen's Head, Littlebury as an Asset of Community Value.

Members noted that The Queen's Head met the criteria to be an Asset of Community Value.

RESOLVED to list The Queen's Head, Littlebury as an Asset of Community Value.

CAB70 **CHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair gave a summary of the report, which recommended appointing Councillor Lees to represent Uttlesford District Council on the Local Strategic Partnership.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Lees to be the Council's representative on the Local Strategic Partnership.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.