

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Meeting

13 February 2020, 6.00pm

Supplementary Information

Please note that the business will be subject to short breaks at approximately 90-minute intervals.

Apologies: Councillor B. Oxford

3. Minutes

A.. Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

6. Items (if any) referred under the Call-in Procedure

None

7. Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees

7(i) 2020-21 Revenue Budget, New Strategic Priorities and the Medium Term Financial Forecast

B... Motion that the recommendations contained in draft minute 412 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 and the recommendations contained in the reports from Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services entitled "Precept and Council Tax Levels 2020/21" and "Supplementary Budget Report 2020/21" be approved and adopted (page19 of the Council Summons).

MAIN AMENDMENTS

The following main amendments have been submitted:

(i) Proposer: Councillor Davidson

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 412 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 and the recommendations contained in the reports from Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services entitled "Precept and Council Tax Levels 2020/21" and "Supplementary Budget Report 2020/21" be approved and adopted subject to:-

The addition of the following words at the end of the recommendation: "and that it is Council's opinion that the target of carbon neutrality by 2030 will not be achieved unless climate emergency is promoted as the single most important issue in the budget, which as

it stands, is significantly defective in that it omits a robust and transparent prioritisation and costing of each and every issue identified in sections 3 to 6 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.”

(ii) Proposer: Councillor Dundas

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 412 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 and the recommendations contained in the reports from Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services entitled “Precept and Council Tax Levels 2020/21” and “Supplementary Budget Report 2020/21” be approved and adopted subject to:-

The addition of the following words at the end of the recommendation relating to the budgetary provision for the Local Plan: “That the budgetary provision of any funds to North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) in 2020/1 and 2021/2 set out in Paragraph 6.14 of the Cabinet Report of January 29 2020 will only be allowed following a further vote and approval in Full Council.

(iii) Proposer: Cllr Willetts

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 412 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 and the recommendations contained in the reports from Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services entitled “Precept and Council Tax Levels 2020/21” and “Supplementary Budget Report 2020/21” be approved and adopted subject to:-

The addition of the following words at the end of the recommendation : “and Council notes that, with the exception of the contribution to the Local Highways Panel, the Towns Fund projects, and to St Mark Community Centre, the budgetary provision for the 17 New Strategic Priorities lack focus on our climate change emergency and infrastructure and are not rigorously prioritised or costed. Accordingly, apart from the three exceptions above, the capital and revenue financial provision in the 2020/1 budget for the New Strategic Priorities is removed and placed in reserves. This will protect taxpayer money and ensure Full Council properly scrutinises how taxpayer money is spent”

(iv) Councillor Barber

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 412 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 and the recommendations contained in the reports from Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services entitled “Precept and Council Tax Levels 2020/21” and “Supplementary Budget Report 2020/21” be approved and adopted subject to:-

The addition of the following words at the end of the recommendation relating to Better Colchester Communications: “and that no budgetary provision is made for Better Colchester Communication, instead allocating £75,000 to restore the Council’s grant to Colchester Citizens Advice, and the remainder being placed in reserves.”

(v) Councillor G. Oxford

That the recommendations contained in draft minute 412 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 and the recommendations contained in the reports from Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement Services entitled “Precept and Council Tax Levels 2020/21” and “Supplementary Budget Report 2020/21” be approved and adopted subject to:

The addition of the following words to the recommendation on the budgetary provision for the Local Plan: “The budgetary provision of any funds to North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) in 2020/21 and 2021/22 as set out in paragraph 6.14 of Cabinet report of 29 January 2020 only be released following confirmation of funding for the realignment of the A12 and A120 (provided that funding for preliminary preparatory work but excluding commencement of construction of the garden communities be agreed) following a further vote and approval in full Council.

7(ii) Climate Emergency Action Plan

C... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 411 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 be approved and adopted (page 49 of the Council Summons).

7(iii) Safeguarding Policy and Suicide Protocol

D.... Motion that the recommendations contained in draft minute 420 of the Cabinet meeting of 29 January 2020 be approved and adopted (page 53 of the Council Summons).

7(iv) Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

E... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 193 of the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 21 January 2020 be approved and adopted (page 55 of the Council Summons).

8. Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Pre-notified questions:-

(i) Councillor Warnes to Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Can the Portfolio Holder for Housing tell me if a response from the borough’s three Members of Parliament, Bernard Jenkin, Priti Patel and Will Quince, has been received to the Council’s request for them to:

- lobby Her Majesty’s Treasury and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to significantly enhance the ability of Councils such as Colchester to build more new council homes by ending restrictions on the use of the Right to Buy receipts so all the money we raise from council house sales could go back into building replacement homes

- provide clarity over long-term social rent levels so we can continue to prudently borrow in order to deliver at scale a new generation of council housing for working families and those households in greatest need within our borough, and
- to call on government to review the Right to Buy Scheme.

9. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders

To note schedules covering the period 27 November 2019 – 4 February 2020 (see page 57 of the Council Summons).

10. Urgent items

To consider any business not specified in this summons which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor determines should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

12. Exclusion of the Public

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 motion to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).