

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Meeting

7 December 2017, 6.00pm

Supplementary Information

Apologies: Cllr D. Ellis

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

3. Minutes

A... Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record (see page 9 of the Council Summons).

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

None

7. Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees

To consider the following recommendations:-

(i) Local Council Tax Support 2018/19

B... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 220 of the Cabinet meeting of 22 November 2017 be approved and adopted (see page 25 of the Council Summons).

(ii) Officer Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

C... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 221 of the Cabinet meeting of 22 November 2017 be approved and adopted (see page 27 of the Council Summons).

(iii) Nomination of Deputy Mayor 2018/19

D... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 224 of the Cabinet meeting of 22 November 2017 be approved and adopted (see page 29 of the Council Summons).

8. Revised Committee Membership

E... Motion that Council agrees change to the membership of the Licensing Committee which has been agreed between the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups.

9. Notices of Motion pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11

9(i) Vineyard Gate

Proposer: Councillor Willetts

F... Council informs Cabinet of its disappointment that it has abandoned support for the Vineyard Gate project, which would have completed the redevelopment of the town centre, and accordingly requests Cabinet to fully embrace the economic redevelopment opportunity of the Vineyard Gate area, consulting with the residents of Colchester on the opportunities available.

As the motion invites Council to express its view to Cabinet, the motion will be debated and determined by Council.

Main Amendment

Proposer: Councillor Smith

I move that the motion on Vineyard Gate be approved and adopted subject to:-

- The deletion of the words “disappointment that it has abandoned”;
- The insertion of the words “the new approach to ” between the words “for” and “the” ;
- The deletion of the words “have completed” and their replacement with the word “continue”;
- The deletion of the words “accordingly requests Cabinet” and their replacement with the words “understands that, in the view of recent decisions, a fresh look is required which may include residential, leisure, street scene and entertainment, in addition to retail development. It accordingly endorses the Cabinet’s position”
- The deletion of the word “of “and its replacement with the words “and relevant stakeholders and partners in”

If approved the amended motion would read as follows:-

Council informs Cabinet of its support for the new approach to the Vineyard Gate project, which would continue the redevelopment of the town centre, and understands that, in the view of recent decisions, a fresh look is required which may include residential, leisure, street scene and entertainment, in addition to retail development. It accordingly endorses the Cabinet’s position to fully embrace the economic redevelopment opportunity of the Vineyard Gate area, consulting with the residents and relevant stakeholders and partners in Colchester on the opportunities available.

9(ii) Universal Credit

Proposer: Councillor Bourne

G... In July 2018, the staged roll out of Universal Credit reaches Colchester. Universal Credit replaces individual payments for: Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income

Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Working Families Tax Credit.

This Council is aware of the escalating concerns surrounding implementation of Universal Credit for new claims and existing 'legacy' claimants. In recognising these worries this Council will:

- 1) continue building on the work with local agencies, such as the Department of Work and Pensions, voluntary sector organisations, Colchester Borough Homes, Housing Associations, to prepare residents fully for July 2018 implementation and beyond for legacy claims.*
- 2) encourage local private sector landlords to play their part in working cooperatively with tenants who are also Universal Credit claimants, to alleviate hardship and possible later eviction due to late rent payment caused by changes to Universal Credit payments.*
- 3) use channels available to us to feedback on pre and post implementation of Universal Credit in order to mitigate any negative effects on Colchester claimants - especially through the District Councils' Network, Local Government Association and the MPs for the Borough of Colchester: Will Quince; Bernard Jenkin; and Priti Patel.*

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined by Council.

9(iii) Plastic Packaging

Proposer: Councillor J. Scott-Boutell

H.... This Council notes:

- That since introducing clear sacks for plastic recycling a decade ago, Colchester Borough Council has been able to collect and recycle a wide variety of plastic products.*
- That there are still a number of types of plastic that cannot be easily collected and recycled such as polystyrene packaging, bubble wrap and plastic film. Some of these are particularly prevalent in food packaging, making it harder for residents to reduce and/or reuse them too.*
- That much non-recyclable plastic is also non-biodegradable and is known to be a pollutant of our oceans with significant harmful effects on marine life.*
- That the Government has proposed taking action both to reduce the amount of plastic entering the seas and the amount of waste generated by unnecessary and unrecyclable food packaging.*

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and local MPs to support reductions in the amount of non-recyclable and non-biodegradable materials used in packaging.*
- To encourage other Councils to take similar actions to show support for these causes.*

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined by Council.

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

(i) Councillor Barber to Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

Public Health England have called for councils to tighten up planning regulations to help fight obesity. In particular, they have called for tougher regulation on A5 businesses (fast food takeaways), which have seen an 8% increase in openings in three years. The heaviest concentrations of fast food outlets were to be found in the most economically deprived areas and are also often clustered nearby to schools. Would the council review its planning policies to ensure they are well placed, as called for by Public Health England, to help fight obesity among the population and in particular young and/or lower income people?

(ii) Councillor Barber to Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Government guidelines on Local Plans recommend that councils lay out for their first 5 years specific details on planned infrastructure improvements, where this infrastructure will go and the sources of finance for it. Our emerging Local Plan does no such thing. Do you accept that you have once again failed to address resident concerns on not having infrastructure led development?

(iii) Councillor Laws to Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

In the light of the celebrity Janet Street Porter's public criticism of poor signage when looking for Firstsite, can the Borough Council review this area and with a broader approach to include other key destinations and historic sites of interest?

(iv) Councillor Laws to Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

Colchester's High Street lit with Christmas lights is dwarfed by the unlit Jumbo. Can we meet soon to discuss how we can get Jumbo lit up at night?

(v) Councillor Warnes to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Licensing

Has the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Licensing any plans to introduce electric buses in Colchester Town Centre.

(vi) Councillor Warnes to Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

A recent report by Savills states that in England nearly 100,000 new households a year are unable to afford to rent or buy in their local housing market. A proportion of those will be in the Colchester Borough. Given that it is becoming increasingly obvious that 'affordable housing' is no longer affordable, can the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities tell me if she has been in touch with Ministers asking them to release funds to allow us to once more start building Council Homes in Colchester.

11. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders

To note schedules covering the period 13 October - 28 November 2017 (page 33 of the Council Summons).

12. 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.

14. 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).