

<p style="text-align: center;">CABINET 2 September 2020</p>

Present: - Councillor Cory (Chairman)
Councillors Fox, Goss, Higgins, King, Lilley and J. Young.

Also in attendance: - Councillors Barber, G. Oxford, Scordis, Scott-Boutell and T. Young

492. Minutes

Councillor G. Oxford attended and with the consent of the Chairman addressed the Cabinet to seek clarification of paragraph (ii) of the resolution in minute 490 and whether it meant that wheeled bins would be introduced regardless of the views of ward councillors. Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that it was an in principle decision and that there would further consultation with ward councillors prior to any further roll out of wheeled bins.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

493. Have Your Say

Councillor Scordis attended and with the consent of the Chairman addressed the Cabinet about the recent white paper on changes to the planning system. This had been subject to full discussions at the Local Plan Committee. There had been cross party consensus and it had resolved that the Chair should write to the three MPs representing Colchester to urge them to lobby against the proposals. He urged Cabinet to do the same. There were serious concerns about a number of aspects including proposed housing numbers, the provision of affordable housing, permitted development, the allocation of growth areas and the loss of democratic accountability.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, responded and indicated he shared the concerns and would be bringing forward a motion on this issue to the meeting of Full Council in October, which would seek the support of the MPs representing the borough for the Council's views. This fitted in with the timescale for the responses to the consultation on the white paper.

Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety and Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, expressed their support for the views of Councillor Scordis. They stated their concern about the proposals in the white paper and their hope that the MPs representing the borough would take appropriate action and lobby against the

proposals.

494. Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23

The Chief Operating Officer submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, introduced the Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23. As a consequence of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic the Council needed to review its strategic priorities to ensure they remained relevant focused on the needs of the borough's residents. It remained ambitious and inspiring. There were five key themes:-

- Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability;
- Creating safe, healthy and active communities;
- Delivering homes for people who need them;
- Growing the economy so everyone benefits;
- Celebrating our heritage and culture.

Tackling the climate challenge remained the biggest challenge and sustainability ran through all the other priorities. The focus on safe, healthy and active communities would help tackle inequalities, whilst prioritising the economy would ensure that the borough was well placed to bounce back from the impact of Covid 19. The value of arts and heritage had been demonstrated during the Covid 19 pandemic where arts organisations had helped communities stay safe and entertained.

Councillor Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services, highlighted the work the Council was undertaking in conjunction with partners to improve cycling and walking provision within the borough. Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, stressed that the Council would help arts organisations with their national portfolio funding applications for funding. Continued support and investment in the arts was vital for the local economy, as the arts and heritage sector supported 7000 jobs and attracted tourism into the borough.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, stressed the importance of growing the economy and ensuring all residents benefitted from the resulting growth. The impact of the pandemic on the local economy must not be underestimated and the full effects had not yet been felt. Support for the economy would encourage investment in Colchester. The borough needed to be confident and be prepared to adapt to the new environment.

Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, stressed that the Council was using its powers to borrow to invest in housing, particularly affordable housing. He was proud of the Council's work in providing new Council housing and improving sheltered accommodation for the elderly. The Council was working to provide sustainable communities at Northern Gateway and through the Tendring/Colchester Garden Community.

Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, highlighted how well Colchester's communities had reacted to the Covid 19 pandemic. Volunteer groups and third sector organisations such as Community360 had worked together with the Council to support communities and minimise the impact on the vulnerable. In terms of public safety, significant improvements to the CCTV network were planned.

Councillor Cory thanked Pam Donnelly, Strategic Director, Customer and Relations, and Lucie Breadman, Assistant Director, Communities, for their work with One Colchester through the pandemic, which had helped support residents, particularly the most vulnerable. The Council would be able to build on this work as it delivered its strategic priorities.

RESOLVED that the Strategic Plan 2020-23 be agreed.

RECOMMENDED to *COUNCIL* that the Strategic Plan 2020-23 be adopted and included in the Policy Framework

REASONS

To enable the Strategic Plan to be adopted and included in the Policy Framework.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2020-21 but does not reflect significant new priorities agreed by the Council as part of setting its budget strategy and Medium-Term Financial Forecast. Crucially the current Strategic Plan does not reflect the unanimous decision by Full Council to declare a Climate Emergency or the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A new plan is required and needs to be adopted by the Council. The absence of a relevant Strategic Plan would create a significant risk of the Council failing to identify and deliver on its core priorities.

495. Council Recovery Programme and Plan (Covid 19)

The Assistant Director, Place and Client Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, introduced the report. The Council Recovery Programme and Plan had been subject to robust and thorough scrutiny at the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on 18 August. The fact that it had not been subject to major change despite this challenge showed the quality of the work by officers. The Plan would complement the Strategic Plan priorities.

A huge amount of work had been done on recovery from Covid 19. This did not focus solely on the economy. The development of new housing at Northern Gateway was also a

symbol of a strong recovery. The Plan would lead to investment in the public realm in the town centre which would help generate footfall in the town centre, The Council had also invested £100,000, which was a symbol of its commitment to the town centre. Whilst these were first steps, there were signs of better prospects in the future.

Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, stressed that that Covid 19 pandemic had exacerbated existing inequalities and the Council had worked hard to address these. The Council had ambitious plans for the town centre and it would pursue funding opportunities to support the town centre. Whilst it was important to be realistic on the budget constraints faced by the Council, officers had an excellent track record in seeking inward investment.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The progress made to date on the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Programme be noted.
- (b) The Covid-19 Recovery Plan as outlined in the Assistant Director's report (and at Appendix A) be approved.

REASONS

- (a) To endorse the approach to recovery from Coronavirus as represented by the development of the Recovery Programme summarised in the Assistant Director's report.
- (b) To approve and endorse the objectives and activity outlined in the Covid-19 Recovery Plan itself (Appendix A of the Assistant Director's report), acknowledging that the plan needs to be flexible and evolve in response to future uncertainties in the economy and society as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

A number of options were considered in relation to development of the 'cell' areas, with the option described being favoured as it was felt to reflect the broad areas of work needed to sustain recovery and aligned to existing Council priorities. The approach, framework and plan structure are outlined in detail in the report to Cabinet of 3 June 2020: Council Recovery Programme (Covid-19) and summarised in item 5 of the Assistant Director's report.

496. Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing

The Assistant Director of Place and Client Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, introduced the report and made a presentation to Cabinet on the proposal to invest £2 million to acquire approximately 100 former Council homes. These would be refurbished and let at affordable social rents.

The housing would be managed by Colchester Borough Homes and would largely be in areas in which they already worked, which would help keep maintenance costs low. The houses would be brought up to a good standard and made energy efficient, in line with Council's climate emergency commitment. The homes would be let through the Council's choice based system, Gateway to Homechoice, and would be reserved for Colchester households. It was anticipated that 100 households would benefit and 220 children would be able to live in safe, decent and affordable homes as a consequence. Some homes would have the potential to be adapted for wheelchair users. The scheme would also help provide work for contractors and estate agents and would stimulate the Colchester housing market and therefore help contribute to the recovery programme. It was anticipated that more than one contract would be needed to manage the work of bringing the housing up to standard so the decision at 2.6 of the Assistant Director's report would need to be amended accordingly.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety and Councillor Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services, all expressed their support for the project, in particular the environmental and accessibility aspects.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The addition to the HRA capital programme for the acquisition of approximately 100 local homes at market rates be approved.
- (b) The granting of up to £2million of retained right to buy receipts to use towards the acquisition of the 100 homes be approved.
- (c) Financial provision be made in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme for 2020/21 and 2021/22, up to £22 million to enable the purchase of the 100 homes. The £22 million will include the £2 million approved at Cabinet in July 2020.
- (d) Financial provision be made in the HRA revenue estimates for 2020/21 and 2021/22 up to £150k for the associated revenue costs of purchasing the 100 homes.
- (e) The General Fund capital programme be amended to reflect that these acquisitions are now being undertaken in the HRA.
- (f) Authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Housing for the award of the contracts to carry out work to bring the properties up to a lettable standard and carry out the energy efficiency work.

REASONS

There are currently just under 3,000 households on the Council's Housing Register seeking affordable housing. There are also 170 households who have experienced homelessness in temporary accommodation waiting for a permanent home to become available. The Council continues to seek new and innovative ways to increase the supply of affordable housing and provide good quality, affordable and stable homes for

Colchester's residents who are in housing need.

In January 2020 Cabinet approved a new innovative approach to increasing the supply of affordable housing. Due to the acute financial pressures that the Council is experiencing as a result of the global health pandemic, the Council has had to review all of its operations and planned projects. Having carefully considered the benefits, risks and financial implications of the 100 Homes Project in the context of the Council's overall strategic priorities, Colchester Borough Council's Cabinet did not feel it could proceed with this project at this time in the General Fund.

With the reduction in the interest rate charged on Council borrowing in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) by the Public Works Loan Board, the HRA can afford to undertake the 100 acquisitions through use of Right-to-Buy (RTB) receipts and prudential borrowing.

The timeline for purchasing the 100 homes is ambitious. Once acquired the properties will be repaired, brought up to a good standard and have significant investment in environmental and sustainability improvements to ensure that the Council responds to its Climate emergency commitments. So that the project can be delivered on time and properties repaired and let as quickly as possible, delegated authority to award the contract for this work is requested, in the event that Cabinet meeting timetables would lead to a delay in the award and jeopardise the delivery of the project..

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Council could do nothing, however as detailed in Section 5 of the Assistant Director's report, with rising homelessness pressures resulting in reduced lifetime outcomes for the affected households and the financial impact for the Council, this is not considered a realistic option.

Councillor King (in respect of being a director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd) and Councillor J. Young (in respect of being a substitute director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd) declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

497. North Essex Garden Communities Project and NEGC Ltd Update and Financial Information

The resolution from the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 17 August 2020 was submitted to the Cabinet a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Barber attended and with the consent of the Chairman, addressed Cabinet in his capacity as the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel on 17 August 2020. He indicated that recommendation (ii) had received unanimous cross party support. The Panel had felt that it had reached the limits of the work it could do on scrutinising the North Essex Garden Communities project and that it would benefit from an independent review, which would allow lessons to be learnt, particularly in regard to future delivery vehicles and as moves toward unitary authorities were explored. It was accepted that there would be a cost to

this, and the extent of this was not known, but if recommendation (I) was accepted this would create a saving. The recommendations were sensible and prudent

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, responded. It was not the case that the Council had saved money as a result of the Council votes on 5 December 2019 and 15 July 2020. The Council was had commitments through the Shareholder Agreement and it was damaging to the Council's reputation not to meet these. This was particularly the case when discussions on unitary authorities would be needed with the other authorities who were parties to the Shareholder Agreement.

Insufficient consideration had been to what had been achieved through the NEGC project.. The delivery of the Tendring/Colchester garden community would be a huge prize. There was also a continuing misrepresentation of the costs and there needed to be an emphasis on looking forward. Colchester was a well run and well managed authority and the continued emphasis on this issue and failure to meet the Council's commitments put this at risk.

In respect of recommendation (i) the Cabinet would follow proper accounting procedures in line with advice from the section 151 officer. If the Council did not pay its 2019/20 contribution in accordance with the shareholder agreement his view was that it is appropriate that the NEGC project accounts exclude the 2019/20 Colchester Borough Council carrying costs. These are at an equivalent level to the outstanding Colchester Borough Council contribution. The final NEGC project balance is being determined, with distribution an issue that must be jointly decided with Colchester's fellow Shareholders, Essex County Council, and Braintree and Tendring District Councils. Therefore Cabinet could not agree to the proposals in recommendation (i).

In respect of recommendation (ii) Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, indicated that the Cabinet would approach the partners on North Essex Garden Communities project to consider taking part in a Local Government Peer Review of the project. This could allow for learning from the project and could stop the issue being used as a political football.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) Recommendation (i) from the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 17 August 2020 be rejected.
- (b) Cabinet agrees that this Council will follow accounting proper practice as confirmed by the Council's Section 151 Officer. As Colchester Borough Council did not pay its 2019/20 contribution in accordance with the shareholder agreement his view is that it is appropriate that the NEGC project accounts exclude the 2019/20 Colchester Borough Council carrying costs. These are at an equivalent level to the outstanding Colchester Borough Council contribution. The final NEGC project balance is being determined, with distribution an issue that must be jointly decided with Colchester's fellow Shareholders, Essex County Council, and Braintree and Tendring District Councils.
- (c) Cabinet will invite the Colchester's garden community partners, Government, Homes England, Essex County Council and the Braintree and Tendring District Councils

to consider a Local Government Peer Review of the NEGC Project, to terms they must find acceptable, on which the views of the Scrutiny Panel will be sought if Shareholders and Government are so minded to proceed.

REASONS

As set out in the minute.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

It was open to Cabinet to agree with the Scrutiny Panel recommendations.

498. Stanway Western Approaches Community Facility

The Assistant Director, Communities submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Scott-Boutell attended and with the consent of the Chairman addressed the Cabinet and sought clarification on a number of points in the Assistant Director's report:-

- In respect of paragraph 2.2, all ward councillors should be involved in future discussions on the ownership and management of the facility, and the meaning of "management and ownership" should be clarified. In particular would the Council retain control of the land and what would happen if the building fell into disrepair and was worthless at the end of the lease? What safeguards were in place if either Colchester Borough Council or Stanway Parish Council ceased to exist during the course of the lease?
- In respect of paragraph 4, what were the implications of paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, and in 4.3 who would form a not for profit organisation? Did the freehold mean the land, or the land and building?
- In respect of paragraph 5.6 what safeguards were in place to ensure the facility delivered what the community expected?
- Could clarification be provided on paragraph 5.9 on when discussions on the Parish Council owning the building started? The proposal was that the building be leased on a long term basis, rather than the Parish Council owning it.
- The information about accessibility in paragraph 6.1 was welcomed. Reassurance was sought that this would be written into a covenant and what action would be taken if the agreement was not met.
- In respect of paragraph 11.2 who would agree what support services would be charged for booking part of the building and could this be included in the lease?
- A funding application had been made to the Local Highway Panel for a crossing point, which had been archived by Essex County Council. The Portfolio Holder should seek to resurrect the application.

Councillor Dundas had provided a written submission which was read to the Cabinet in which he expressed his support for the recommendation in the report, as a ward councillor for Stanway and a member of Stanway Parish Council. In respect of the alternative

options in the report he considered that regarding paragraph 4.1, he would not expect the Parish Council to accept a short tenancy or one which did allow full responsibility for the building, In respect of paragraph 4.2, this seemed to offer little tangible benefit to what the recommended decision. In respect of paragraph 4.3 it needed to be noted that the facility was likely to require some ongoing financial support, particularly in the early years of operation. As regards paragraph 4.4 there was unlikely to be any organisation with sufficient financial resources to take on the facility, particularly give the impacts of Covid 19, unless significantly underwritten by Colchester Borough Council.

Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, thanked Councillor Scott-Boutell for her comments. The recommendation was in line with the Council's policy of giving communities control of their assets. He was sure that the Parish Council would continue to involve ward councillors going forward.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, and Councillor Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services, also commented. A written response would be sent to Councillor Scott-Boutell on her detailed queries and it was likely that a number of these points would be addressed in the detailed negotiations on the terms of the lease. However, the points raised did not prevent the Cabinet agreeing the recommendation before them.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) On completion of the new Community Facility, the Borough Council will work with Stanway Parish Council to secure a sustainable and community led future for this facility within the terms of the section 106 agreement.
- (b) The Assistant Director for Communities be granted delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety and Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, to work with Stanway Parish Council to agree the future arrangements for the management and ownership of this important facility for Stanway residents.
- (c) The Borough Council's preferred approach of retaining ownership of the land but granting the potential lessee (Stanway Parish Council) a 150-year ground lease at a peppercorn rent be confirmed. Granting a long-term lease to the Parish Council would be very similar to that of a freehold arrangement. The Parish Council, as lessee, will have full responsibility for the building, surrounding land associated with the site and full repairing and insurance liabilities, but to retain some flexibility for the Assistant Director for Communities to consider other viable alternatives as set out in section 4.0 of her report, should it be necessary.

REASONS

Stanway Parish Council would like to have responsibility for this important community asset on behalf of the local Community. This approach is in line with the Councils Community Enabling Policy and its emerging Asset Based Approach. It provides a sustainable future that ensures the local community can gain maximum value from the

facility, which is aimed at mitigating the impact of local developments and improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Offer Stanway Parish Council a Shorter Tenancy Agreement without long term responsibility of the building.

Offer Stanway Parish Council the Freehold of the new Community Facility with restrictions on the title using the content of the S106 agreement.

Form a Not for Profit Community Interest Company or charity to hold the freehold in the interests of the local community of Stanway.

Carry out another expression of interest exercise to find an alternative tenant.

499. Year End April 2019 – March 2020 Performance Report Including Strategic Plan Action Plan

The Assistant Director, Corporate and Improvement Services, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, introduced the report and highlighted the excellent standard of performance shown in the report. It highlighted some exceptional levels of performance. Only three indicators were at red, and performance on a number which had previously been red had now improved, such as staff sickness levels. Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, highlighted the awards and accreditations at Appendix C which demonstrated how well the Council worked for the residents of the borough.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) The satisfactory performance against Key Performance Indicators be confirmed and where Key Performance Indicators have not been met it be confirmed that appropriate corrective action has been taken.

(b) The satisfactory delivery against the Strategic Plan Action Plan and that the Council has made satisfactory progress in meeting its strategic goals be confirmed.

REASONS

To review year end performance for 2019 - 2020.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to Cabinet.

500. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman – Annual Review Letter 2019-2020

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter for 2019/2020 be noted.

REASONS

To inform the Cabinet of the contents of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter relating to Colchester Borough Council for 2019/2020.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to Cabinet.

501. `Recommendations from the Policy Panel

The recommendations in minutes 2,3, 4 and 5 of the Policy Panel meeting of 5 August 2020 were submitted to Cabinet, a copy of which had been circulated to each member.

In respect of the recommendation on the purchase and use of the thermal camera, Councillor Fox indicated that this was a sensible suggestion which he would examine further.

As regards the recommendations on results and data collected in recent surveys, Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, indicated that work was already underway with partners looking at issues relating to deprivation and the impact of Covid 19 and these were included in the strategic priorities. Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, indicated that issues on the promotion of heritage assets had been looked at in detail by the Heritage and Tourism Task and Finish Group and did not consider that it was an effective use of resources for this issue to be looked at again. Considerable work was being done to promote heritage assets.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, thanked the Panel for highlighting issues around small traders and independents. However, the Council was aware of the issue and was taking action, through supporting the BID, improving the environment of the town centre and looking at how a distinctive and welcoming local identity could be created. As the Council moved forward with the Town Deal issues around the public realm and the marketing of the town centre would be addressed further.

In respect of the recommendations relating to the anti-social use of fireworks, Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, indicated that the Council already undertook a lot of work around this. A lot of work was done with the police, but their resources were limited. Councillor Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services, highlight the impact of anti-social use of fireworks. Councillor Lilley

indicated that he was content to look at how messages on fireworks could be promoted more effectively and to lobby MPs to encourage the restriction of fireworks to public displays.

As regards the recommendations around the work programme, Councillor Cory indicated that these issues were both being looked by other Committees. In respect of the changes to the planning system white paper, the Panel could look at this once the Local Plan Committee had looked at the issue in detail, and the motion on the issue had been considered by Full Council. In respect of the issues relating to local government reorganisation, the Panel could look at this issue once the relevant white paper was published

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Consideration be given to the purchase and use of a thermal camera for loan to residents to ascertain the insulation of their homes be recommended, by Cabinet, to the Essex Association of Local Councils [EALC] and that Cabinet write to EALC to suggest that the Association provide such a service as an addition to their existing energy efficiency promotion scheme.
- (b) The issues highlight in the recommendations on results and data in recent surveys and consultations were already being addressed by Portfolio Holders and Cabinet and did not need further consideration by the Policy Panel at this stage.
- (c) In respect of the recommendations on the anti-social use of fireworks;
 - (i) The Council more heavily promote how the public can safely and considerately use fireworks, including health and safety considerations and use of quieter fireworks; and
 - (ii) Officers of the Council work with Essex Police to find ways to make it easier for residents to report antisocial or illegal uses of fireworks; and
 - (iii) The Council lobby local Members of Parliament to raise this issue in central government.
- (d) The Policy Panel be given leave to consider:
 - (i) The potential effects of the coming proposals for local government reorganization, once the relevant White Paper has been published; and
 - (ii) The ramifications of the proposals for changes to the current planning system, the likely impacts on how the Council currently operates and how this might further change should the Council form part of a larger unitary authority in the future, once the Local Plan Committee had first considered changes to the planning system and Council had considered the motion on the issue at its meeting on October 2020.

502. Nomination of Deputy Mayor

Consideration was given to the nomination for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor for the Borough of Colchester for the period from 16 October 2020 to the end of the 2021-22 Municipal Year.

Councillor G. Oxford proposed Councillor T. Young as Deputy Mayor. Nominations for the Mayoralty were based on length of service and Councillor T. Young had served on the Council since his election in 1992 and was the second longest serving Councillor on the Council.

Councillor T. Young returned thanks for his nomination, it was a great privilege to be nominated. He thanked Councillor G. Oxford for the nomination and all Councillors who indicated they would support him. It was also an honour for Greenstead for one of their ward councillors to be nominated. He would respect the traditions of the Mayoralty and looked forward to supporting Councillor Davidson in his Mayoralty.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL (FOUR voted FOR and THREE ABSTAINED from voting) that Councillor Tim Young be nominated for appointment as Deputy Mayor for the Borough of Colchester for the period from 16 October 2020 to the end of the 2020-21 Municipal Year.

503. Progress of |Responses to the Public

The Assistant Director, Policy and Corporate submitted a progress sheet a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Progress Sheet be noted.

REASONS

The progress sheet was a mechanism by which the Cabinet could ensure that public statements and questions were responded to appropriately and promptly.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to the Cabinet.