

# COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

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## Council Meeting

21 February 2018, 6.00pm

## Supplementary Information

Apologies: Councillors Buston, Elliott

**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 7 December 2017 be confirmed as a correct record (see page 9 of the Council Summons).

### 5. Mayor's Announcements

To include a presentation by the Vice Chairman of the Local Council Awards Scheme to the Chairman of Marks Tey Parish Council who have been accredited at the Foundation level of the Local Council Awards Scheme

### 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) Strategic Plan 2018-2021

B.... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 230 of the Cabinet meeting of 31 January 2018 be approved and adopted, subject to the inclusion of an additional priority under the Opportunity theme to read "Promote initiatives to help residents live healthier lives" (see page 23 of the Council Summons).

For ease of reference an updated version of the Opportunity page of the Strategic Plan is included at page 5 of this Supplementary Agenda.

#### (ii) 2018-19 General Fund Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Forecast

The Leader of the Council will move the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 14(3) to allow the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Leaders of the Conservative, Labour and Highwoods Groups to speak untimed on this item only.

C... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 232 of the Cabinet meeting of 31 January 2018 and the recommendations contained in the Assistant

Director Policy and Corporate's report entitled "Precept and Council Tax Levels 2018 - 2019" be approved and adopted (see page 35 of the Council Summons).

## **Main Amendment**

### **Proposer: Councillor Laws**

That the recommendations contained in minute 232 of the Cabinet meeting of 31 January 2018 and the recommendations contained in the Assistant Director Policy and Corporate's report entitled "Precept and Council Tax Levels 2018-2019" be approved and adopted, subject to the necessary amendments to give effect to the following:-

1. To allocate £100,000 to 'deep clean' the Historic Old Town centre, return civic pride and challenge the 'broken window effect' cycle. Funded by reinvestment of savings from management restructuring into the front line.
2. To use the £92,000 Heritage Reserve to light up and enhance our historic Roman City Walls, Jumbo and historic monuments. To allocate £200,000 from the New Homes Bonus for the capital costs of installation.
3. To allocate £200,000 to introduce weekly black bag collections with a 2 bag limit per week to address residents storage and hygiene concerns. This will be delivered through efficiency savings, achieving income targets and allocated against the end of annual elections (£177k).
4. To use the £250,000 allocated to the RIF to prioritise investment into town centre regeneration schemes such as at St Nicholas Square and at the public realm around Jumbo. To urgently prepare for feasibility of such schemes. For example, an archaeological investigation of St Nicholas Square with potential schemes laid out to enhance the public realm. This will enhance and revitalise the historic town centre for residents and visitors, making it a more attractive experience day and night and see a tangible return to the council through the appreciation of assets - and potential further income opportunities.
5. To invest £200,000 into the Local Highway Panel to deliver safer roads, pathways and communities from the New Homes Bonus.
6. To ring fence the remaining New Homes Bonus and place it into an 'Infrastructure and community facilities fund' to help reduce congestion, improve connectivity and ensure a greener borough.

### **(iii) Mandatory Member Development**

D... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 239 of the Cabinet meeting of 31 January 2018 and the recommendations contained in the report by the Assistant Director Policy and Corporate entitled "Mandatory Member Development – Consultation with Independent Remuneration Panel" be approved and adopted (see page 51 of the Council Summons and page 6 of this Supplementary Information).

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

(i) Councillor Laws to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Licensing

*Joy from Frinton visits Colchester often but she notes that Culver Square and Red Lion Walk have cleaner floor surface and less litter. I told Joy our Zones team work incredibly hard in what is often a thankless task. How can Council managed streets be of the same standard of cleanliness?*

(ii) Councillor Laws to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Licensing

*Julie from North Station Rd recently moved to the area, she has little option to travel to work by car but when she returns home she finds it difficult to park. Two years ago 124 permanent parking tickets were issued in the F2 Zone. This year the figure has increased to 137, yet no additional space capacity has been made available. Can we keep an eye on the numbers of permanent parking tickets made available vs space allocation please?*

(iii) Councillor Laws to Councillor J. Scott-Boutell, Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability

*A young mother from Albert St told me last month that she and her two immediate neighbours have had no option but to visit the tip because they live in a property with no rear access and limited storage space but that they don't want wheelie bins - probably because they are unsightly and we don't want to end up looking like Ipswich. Can the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability please assure residents in Castle Ward that there are no plans for a roll out of compulsory wheelie bins?*

(iv) Councillor Barber to Councillor J. Scott-Boutell, Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability

*Does the Portfolio Holder think it is acceptable that around two dozen bags were left at a gate of a public footpath for three days? This is unsightly, reflects poorly on our town and was an environmental hazard close to a children's playground. Please can she explain what she will do to ensure similar situations are not repeated in future across the borough?*

(v) Councillor Scott to Councillor J. Scott-Boutell, Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability

*The problem of poor air quality in Colchester has been highlighted and is very clear from our own figures. We know that there is no safe level of nitrous oxide and hat micro particles from exhaust fumes are a modern plague causing disease and premature deaths in all demographics, from unborn children to very elderly people.*

*Do you agree with me that Colchester needs to take back control of our air? Can you please tell me what CBC is doing to improve air quality, and to ensure that air pollution is taken into consideration in all planning decisions?*

(vi) Councillor Goss to Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

*What is the latest situation regarding positive work with Essex County Council over congestion improvements at North Station and also Stanway and East Colchester please?*

**9. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders**

To note schedules covering the period 29 November 2017 – 5 February 2018 (page 53 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).

## OPPORTUNITY

Promote and enhance Colchester borough's heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support job creation

Encourage green technologies through initiatives such as SMART Cities

Help business to flourish by supporting infrastructure for start-up businesses and facilitating a Business Improvement District

Ensure a good supply of land available for new homes through our Local Plan

Promote initiatives to help residents live healthier lives.



Report of	Assistant Director of Policy and Corporate	Author	Richard Clifford
Title	Mandatory Member Development – Consultation with Independent Remuneration Panel		☎ 507832
Wards affected	Not Applicable		

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Council has before it on the agenda for this meeting a recommendation from Cabinet on Mandatory Member Development that the following training be made mandatory:-
  - Training on Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity and Data Protection for all Councillors;
  - Training in Chairing Skills for all Chairs newly elected to the Council's Committees and Panels from May 2018, unless they already have extensive experience of chairing meetings in a local authority environment.
- 1.2 Cabinet also agreed that the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel be sought on the principle of withholding payment of relevant allowances should relevant mandatory training not be undertaken. This report sets out the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel on this issue and invites Council to approve a change to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

## 2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To note the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 2.2 To amend the Members' Allowances Scheme by the inclusion of an additional paragraph as set out below:-

### 7. **Mandatory Member Development - Withholding of Allowances**

*Where the Council specifies that training and development on a particular subject is mandatory for all Councillors or specified groups of Councillors, should that training and development not be undertaken the payment of the relevant Councillors allowances, including any Special Responsibility Allowance, shall be withheld until the Councillor has undertaken the required training and development.*

*Where, in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, the withholding of the payment of the allowance is likely to cause financial hardship then this provision shall not apply.*

## 3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 As part of the Review of Meetings and Ways of Working, the Governance and Audit Committee asked the Member Development Group to look at the issue of mandatory member development and report to Cabinet. Cabinet considered this recommendation at its meeting on 31 January 2018 and referred the recommendation to Council.

- 3.2 Alongside this, Cabinet also requested that the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel be sought on the issue of withholding payment of allowances where mandatory training was not undertaken. The Independent Remuneration Panel supported the proposal subject to a proviso to prevent it causing financial hardship.

#### **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 It is open to Council not to approve the changes to the Members Allowances Scheme.

## **5. Background Information**

- 5.1 At its meeting on 31 January 2018, Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Member Development Group in respect of mandatory Member Development. It agreed with the recommendation and recommended to Council that the following training be made mandatory:-
- Training on Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity and Data Protection for all Councillors;
  - Training in Chairing Skills for all Chairs newly elected to the Council's Committees and Panels from May 2018, unless they already have extensive experience of chairing meetings in a local authority environment.
- 5.2 Cabinet also agreed that the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel be sought on the principle of withholding payment of relevant allowances should relevant mandatory training not be undertaken. The views of the Independent Remuneration Panel on this issue were sought by e-mail and the following points were made and endorsed by all members of the Panel:-
- It was welcomed that safeguarding was recognised as imperative, in addition to the other issues;
  - The proposal to withhold payment of allowances should the relevant mandatory training not be undertaken was supported, with the proviso that special exception be made if withholding the allowance would cause hardship. This would recognise the need to attract Councillors of all backgrounds.
- 5.3 Therefore, should Council approve the recommendation from Cabinet in respect of mandatory member training, it is suggested that it also approve a change to the Members Allowances Scheme to include a new paragraph as set out below:-

## **7. Mandatory Member Development - Withholding of Allowances**

*Where the Council specifies that training and development on a particular subject is mandatory for all Councillors or specified groups of Councillors, should that training and development not be undertaken in the prescribed timescale the payment of the relevant Councillors allowances shall be withheld until the Councillor has undertaken the required training and development. Where the training and development relates to a particular defined Special Responsibility Allowance, then payment of that Special Responsibility Allowance only shall be withheld. In all other circumstances then all allowances, including Special Responsibility Allowances, shall be withheld.*

*Where, in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, the withholding of the payment of the allowance is likely to cause financial hardship then this provision shall not apply.*

## **6. Strategic Plan References**

- 6.1 There are no direct Strategic Plan references. However the provision of high quality member development indirectly helps support all the priorities in the Strategic Plan.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The training required to implement these proposals will be funded through the member development budget, where external training is required, or provided in-house through existing officer resource.



## **8. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 8.1 An EQIA for the member development policy has been completed and can be found on the Council's website via the pathway Colchester Borough Council / Policies, Strategy and Performance/ Equality and Diversity/ Equality Impact Assessment/ Corporate Management. It can be accessed via the link below:-

[Councillor Development Policy EQIA](#)

- 8.2 The proposal in this report and the recommendations from Cabinet will increase Councillor awareness of issues relating to Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding.

## **9. Standard References**

- 9.1 There are no particular references to publicity or consultation considerations; or community safety; health and safety or risk management.