Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 26 January 2022

Councillor Dundas (as a member of Stanway Parish Council) declared a nonpecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

623. Resetting the Capital Programme and Strategy

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

Councillor T. Young attended and with the consent of the Chair, addressed Cabinet in respect of the Heart of Greenstead project. It was vital that funding was allocated to this project which would improve and enhance facilities in Greenstead. This was a once on a lifetime opportunity. It was important that as the project went forward that the views of residents were listened to.

Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, stressed that he fully supported the Heart of Greenstead project and that he appreciated the need for residents' views to be heard and acted on. The Capital Programme overall was a very ambitious programme which would a very real difference to Colchester in the long term.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL

(a) The Capital Strategy set out in Appendix A of the Chief Operating Officer's report be approved.

(b) The reset capital programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendices B and C of the Chief Operating Officer's report be approved subject to resolutions (a) and (b) below.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Approval of the Town Deal schemes in the Reset Capital Programme be conditional on project business cases being approved by Cabinet, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

(b) Further advances to Council companies be reviewed in the light of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities consultation on minimum revenue provision as set out in Section 6 of the Chief Operating Officer's report.

REASONS

To take forward continuing investment in Colchester, in the interests of regeneration and the health, social and economic wellbeing of residents and how they are housed, local businesses and the local economy and the attractiveness of Colchester as a destination.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

A reduced Capital Programme would reduce the benefits investments will provide in the health and wellbeing of Colchester, impacting regeneration, the quality of services, the accessibility of housing and the state of the public realm, regeneration and economic recovery.