

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NOTES OF A MEETING OF GOVERNANCE SELECT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2016  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING  
AT 7.15 - 8.10 PM**

**Members Present:** N Avey (Chairman), R Baldwin, D Dorrell, L Hughes, S Kane, H Kauffman, M Sartin, D Stallan (Vice-Chairman of the Council) and H Whitbread

**Other members present:** R Bassett and J Philip

**Apologies for Absence:** G Chambers, S Jones, M McEwen, L Mead, B Rolfe, B Surtees and D Wixley

**Officers Present** C O'Boyle (Director of Governance), B Copson (Senior Performance Improvement Officer) and J Leither (Democratic Services Officer)

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**22. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, who had tendered his apologies, the Chairman requested nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman. Councillor D Stallan nominated Councillor S Kane which was seconded by Councillor M Sartin.

**RESOLVED:**

That in the absence of the Vice-Chairman, Councillor S Kane be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

**23. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)**

The Select Committee noted that Councillors R Baldwin and M Sartin were substituting for Councillors D Wixley and G Chambers respectively.

**24. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the notes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 29 September 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

**25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct.

**26. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME****Terms of Reference**

The Director of Governance reported that there was an error in the Terms of Reference, after paragraph 1 referral was made throughout to the Communities Directorate whereas this should read Governance Directorate.

**Work Programme**

Members requested that the new Customer Services Manager be invited to a future meeting of the Governance Select Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Terms of reference be corrected and noted;
- (2) That the Customer Services Manager be invited to a future meeting;  
and
- (3) That the Work Programme be noted.

**27. INVITATION TO ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS TO DISCUSS THEIR CONSULTATION WORK ON DISTRICT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Director of Governance advised the Select Committee that an Officer from Essex County Council Highways would be attending the next meeting of the Governance Select Committee to discuss the consultation work that they do in relation to District planning applications. This meeting would be a single issue one held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 31 January 2017.

The Chairman advised that Members should use this meeting to discuss questions and themes which should be submitted to Essex County Council Highways in advance of the 31 January 2017.

Members expressed concerns that they had no support from Essex Highways regarding planning applications and voiced questions that they would like to see addressed as below:

**Aspects the Governance Select committee wish to see addressed**

- (1) Who would be attending and what was their role/level of seniority?
- (2) The level of resourcing ECC devotes to assessing referred planning applications prior to commenting.
- (3) Information about the way in which ECC assessed each application, for example, what determines when they visit, what use of technology is available/used to evidence objections or lack of them.
- (4) Members and local residents have real concerns at times over highway issues, particularly safety concerns yellow lining, existing accesses which through increased use become dangerous junctions, turning circles for delivery vehicles, site lines etc – could an explanation of the ECC approach to these issues be given?

- (5) There was a perception that ECC did not sufficiently defend their own parking standards – an insight into their approach on this would be welcomed.
- (6) In seeking appropriate infrastructure to support new development what guidance and support could/do ECC give to EFDC in seeking s106/278 at appropriate times/amounts?

The Director of Governance advised that she would circulate the questions discussed, as above and would request members to address any additional questions that they would like to put to Essex County Highways by the end of this week so that they could be submitted in good time.

## **28. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR'S MEETING**

The Director of Governance advised Members that there was a report going to Cabinet on 1 December 2016 seeking the resources to appoint a Planning Validation Technical Officer and an Information/Records Team to convert Development Control and Building Control paper records to an electronic format, which would streamline the process and provide a better service to the customer.

## **29. CORPORATE PLAN KEY ACTION PLAN 2016/17 - QUARTER 2 PROGRESS**

The Select Committee received a report from the Performance Improvement Officer regarding the Corporate Plan Key Action Plan 2016/17 – Quarter 2 Position.

The Corporate Plan was the Council's key strategic planning document setting out its priorities over the five year period from 2015/16 to 2019/20. The priorities or Corporate Aims were supported by Key Objectives which provided a clear statement of the Council's overall intentions for these five years.

The Key Objectives were delivered by an annual action plan which contained a range of actions designed to achieve specific outcomes and were working documents which were subject to change and development.

The Corporate Plan Key Action Plan for 2016/17 was agreed by the Cabinet in March 2016. Progress in relation to all actions and deliverables was reviewed by the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly and basis.

There were 49 actions in total for which progress updates for Quarter 2 were as follows:

- (a) 29 (59%) of these actions had been achieved or were on target;
- (b) 14 (29%) of these actions were under control;
- (c) 2 (4%) of these actions were behind schedule; and
- (d) 4 (8%) were pending.

There were 8 actions that fell within the areas of responsibility of this Select Committee, these were:

- (a) 6 (75%) of these actions had been achieved or were on target;

- (b) 2 (25%) of these actions were under control;
- (c) 0 (0%) of these actions were behind schedule; and
- (e) 0 (0%) of these actions were pending.

This report would also be considered by the Cabinet on 1 December 2016 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 December 2016.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Corporate Plan Key Action Plan 2016/17 – Quarter 2 Progress Report be noted.

**30. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016/17 - QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE**

The Select Committee received a report from the Performance Improvement Officer regarding the Key Performance Indicators 2016/17 – Quarter 2 Performance Report.

The Local Government Act 1999 required that the Council made arrangements for securing continuous improvement in the way in which its functions and services were exercised. As part of this duty, a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relevant to the Council's services and key objectives were adopted each year by the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee. Performance being monitored on a quarterly basis by the Management Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The overall position for all 37 KPIs at the end of Quarter 2 was as follows:

- (a) 28 (76%) indicators achieved target;
- (b) 9 (24%) indicators did not achieve target; although
- (c) 2 (22%) of these indicators performed within the agreed tolerance for the indicator;
- (d) 31 (84%) of indicators were currently anticipated to achieve year-end target and a further 4 (11%) were uncertain whether they would achieve year-end target.

Five of the Key Performance Indicators fell within the Governance Select Committee's areas of responsibility. The overall position with regard to the achievement of target performance at Q2 were as follows:

- (a) 3 (60%) indicators achieved target;
- (b) 2 (40%) indicators did not achieve target; however
- (c) 0 (0%) of these KPI's performed within the agreed tolerance for the indicator
- (d) 3 (60%) of indicators were currently anticipated to achieve year-end target, and a further 2 (40%) indicator was uncertain whether it would achieve year-end target.

There was uncertainty amongst some members present regarding the definitions of GOV007 and GOV008.

GOV007 – The percentage of planning applications recommended by Planning Officers for refusal that were overturned and granted permission following an appeal. This indicator was expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals determined and sought to assess the levels of applications that may be refused in order to meet development control performance targets. This measured the performance of only Officer recommendations for refusal of planning permission.

GOV008 – The percentage of planning applications refused by Members against the planning officers recommendations that were granted permission to appeal. This indicator was expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals determined and sought to assess the levels of applications that may be refused in order to meet development control performance targets. This measured the performance of only Officer recommendations for granting of planning permission which were overturned by Members.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Key Performance Indicators 2016/17 – Quarter 2 Performance report be noted.

**31. EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 2016-2020 - 6 MONTHLY REPORTING**

The Select Committee received a report from the Performance Improvement Officer regarding the Equality Objectives 2016-2020, 2016/17 Quarter 2 report.

In April 2016, the Cabinet agreed four equality objectives for the four years from 2016 to 2020, designed to help the Council meet the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This report reflects the progress against these objectives at the end of September 2016, and other work to ensure compliance with the Council's equality duties. This was the first 6 monthly report of the 4 year life span.

The report sought to ensure the development and coordination of a corporate approach to the Council's statutory equality duties. Actions discussed in the report covered the full range of the Council's services, and its dual role of service provider and employer. Whilst no equality implications arose from the report, the appropriateness of actions to deliver the objectives, together with the successful achievement of the objectives, had the potential to impact on service users and employees across all the protected characteristics.

**RESOLVED:**

The 6 monthly Equality Objectives 2016-2020 report be noted.

**32. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Director of Governance advised members that the select committee would be requiring new items for next year's work programme. The following were suggested:

- (a) Work in relation to complaints to the end of year;
- (b) Building Control report for April 2017; and

- (c) A report in respect of the Essex County Council Highways meeting at the next meeting of this Committee on 31 January 2017.

**33. DATE OF THE NEXT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next meeting of the Select Committee will be held on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber. Essex County Council Highways have confirmed that an Officer will be attending to talk about Consultation Work on District Planning Applications. This meeting will be a one item meeting and will resume back to normal at the meeting on 4 April 2017.