

**MINUTES OF
CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL CABINET**

on 3 March 2020 at 7.00pm

Present:

Cabinet Members

Councillor S J Robinson, Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor M C Goldman, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Connected Chelmsford
Councillor C K Davidson, Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford
Councillor J Deakin, Cabinet Member for Safer Chelmsford
Councillor M J Mackrory, Cabinet Member for Greener Chelmsford

Cabinet Deputies

Councillor M Bracken, Economy and Small Business
Councillor D Clark, Strategy

Councillors

P Clark, A Davidson, J Galley, I Grundy, L Mascot, G H J Pooley,
J Raven, A Sosin, M S Steel and R T Whitehead

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Cabinet Deputies:
Councillors S Rajesh and R Moore

Opposition Spokespersons:
Councillors K Bentley, W Daden, S Dobson, R J Hyland, R J Poulter, I C Roberts, M Sismey and M Watson

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Members of the Cabinet were reminded to declare at the appropriate time any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any of the items of business on the meeting's agenda.

3. **Minutes and Decisions Called-in**

The minutes of the meeting on 28 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. No decisions at that meeting had been called in.

4. **Public Questions**

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

5. **Members' Questions**

There were no questions for Cabinet Members from other members of the Council.

6.1 **Discretionary Council Tax Relief Policy on Care Leavers (Fairer Chelmsford)**

Declarations of Interest: None

Summary: The County and district councils in Essex had agreed a policy whereby they would share the cost of granting discretionary relief under S13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act to reduce the Council Tax liabilities of those who were leaving care. The policy was submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

Options: Approve or not approve the proposed policy.

Chosen Option and Reasons: The policy submitted as Appendix A to the report to the meeting would provide support to a vulnerable group of young people as they became accustomed to living independently in the community.

Discussion: The Cabinet was informed that whilst there was no formal review mechanism for the agreement between the local authorities, the councils would look at its operation at the end of each year and would discuss any changes that might be needed.

RESOLVED that the Discretionary Council Tax Relief Policy for Essex Care Leavers attached as Appendix A to the report to the meeting be approved.

7.02pm to 7.04pm

6.2 **Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy (Fairer Chelmsford)**

Declarations of Interest: None

Summary: The government had announced in the Queen's Speech on 19 December 2020 a number of measures to reduce various business rate liabilities. The government had asked that local authorities implement them by amending their Discretionary Rate Relief Policies and the policy for Chelmsford was submitted for approval.

Options: Approve or not the proposed changes to the policy set out in Appendix A to the report to the meeting.

Chosen Option and Reasons: The changes would give effect to the government's proposals and would assist local businesses at a time of economic pressure and uncertainty.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy set out in Appendix A to the report to the meeting be approved.

7.04pm to 7.06pm

7. **Community Funding Scheme Allocation (Safer/Greener Chelmsford)**

Declarations of Interest: None

Summary: The Community Funding Panel had considered applications for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) neighbourhood allocation and the Council's discretionary grant fund. Of the 26 applications, 14 of the projects with a total value of £302,885.94 met the criteria for the CIL neighbourhood allocation and 12 with a total value of £46,919 were eligible for discretionary funding.

Options: Approve, amend or reject the Panels' recommendations.

Chosen Option and Reasons: The projects recommended by the Community Funding Panel met the criteria for funding and would be of benefit to local communities.

RESOLVED that:

1. the recommendations of the Community Funding Panel detailed in the report to the meeting be approved;
2. where the CIL funding is agreed and the grant or cost of works is to be met in full by the CIL funding, the budget sums shown in Appendix 1 to the report be approved and included as either Revenue expenditure or added to the Capital Programme; and
3. the appropriate Director is authorised to spend the approved budget after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, ensuring any conditions of the CIL funding are met.

7.06pm to 7.10pm

8. **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

9. **Reports to Council**

None of the reports to the meeting needed to be referred to the Council.

The meeting closed at 7.11pm

Chair