

**MINUTES OF  
CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL CABINET**

on 14 April 2026 at 7pm

Present:

**Cabinet Members**

Councillor S Robinson, Leader of the Council (Chair)  
Councillor L Foster, Deputy Leader of the Council  
Councillor C Davidson, Cabinet Member for Finance  
Councillor N Dudley, Cabinet Member for an Active Chelmsford  
Councillor D Eley, Cabinet Member for a Safer Chelmsford  
Councillor S Goldman, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property

**Cabinet Deputies**

Councillor J Hawkins, Cabinet Deputy for Support Services  
Councillor J Lardge, Cabinet Deputy for Cultural Services

**Opposition Spokespersons**

Councillors G. Bonnett, J Jeapes, J. Potter, J. Raven M. Steel, A. Thorpe-Apps and R.  
Whitehead

Also present: Councillors H. Clark and R. Hyland

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moore and Wilson.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Cabinet were reminded to declare at the appropriate time any 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 27 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record. No decisions had been called in. Item 9.1 from the meeting on 27th January 2026 had been called in and was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th February. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved that the decision be implemented, unamended as agreed at Cabinet.

## 4. Public Questions

No public questions had been submitted for the meeting.

## 5. Members' Questions

Councillor Bonnett asked a question about how residents could contact the Council to report unauthorised traveller incursions outside of office hours.

In response it was noted that an emergency phone line was available to residents that linked to CCTV at the Council. It was also agreed that officers would write to members to remind them of the City Council's approach to such matters and the Council's responsibility, along with the County Council's and Police's responsibilities too. It was also noted that the County Council's Traveller Unit would look at matters on public land, but any matters on private property, were for the City Council's Planning Enforcement team.

## 6.1 Reallocation of delegations from Cabinet to Director of Public Places to another appropriate officer

### Declarations of interest:

None.

### Summary:

The Cabinet considered a report

### Options:

1. Agree the delegation.
2. Not agree the delegation.

### Preferred option and reasons:

Option 1 was the preferred option, as it would allow delegated decisions to continue to be made.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive (or in their absence a Director) may reallocated any delegation previously granted to the Director of Public Places to the Chief Executive, a Director or an Assistant Director

(7.06pm to 7.07pm)

## 7. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

## 8. Reports to Council

Item 6.1 was subject of recommendations to Council.

## Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for item 9.1 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Act (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information).

## 9.1 Civic Centre Accommodation Proposal

### Declarations of interest:

None.

### Summary:

The Cabinet considered a proposal to invest in the reconfiguration of the Civic Centre so that it can better support modern service delivery, partnership working in a new unitary authority and the long-term regeneration of the West End of Chelmsford.

### Options:

1. To approve the budget spend set out in the appendices, following a successful tender exercise.
2. To do nothing and leave the buildings as they currently are.
3. To keep the current office configuration with some investment to bring the building to a reasonable standard.

### Preferred option and reasons:

Option 1 as it represented the best value for money.

RESOLVED that;

1. Cabinet amended the budget for Coval Lane improvements to a budget that encompasses the wider Civic Centre complex.
2. the capital budget be increased for the improvements - there is currently £383k of the Coval Lane budget remaining unspent. Approve amendments to the revenue budget, additional financing capital expenditure of £127k per year, offset by savings including maintenance of buildings and IT equipment and business rates, plus additional income from rent, resulting in a net improvement by the end of 2027/28 of £70k per annum.
3. Cabinet agreed to award the tenders for the works and furniture required.
4. the decision to proceed be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to award contracts up to total value of £670k to the successful bidders.

The meeting closed at 7.22pm

Chair