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**ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
TUESDAY 23RD JULY 2013**

Book 2 - 2013/2014

Council Enquiries – Ann Horgan, Ext. 2413

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Council Offices, Kiln Road,
Thundersley, Benfleet,
Essex SS7 1TF.
Tel. No: 01268 882200
Fax No: 01268 882455



David Marchant LLB (Hons) BSc (Hons) CEng FICE FCMl
Chief Executive

A **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the Borough of Castle Point will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kiln Road, Thundersley, on **TUESDAY, 23RD JULY, 2013** at **7.30 p.m.**, and all Members of the Council, listed below, are hereby summoned to attend to transact the undermentioned business.

Councillors Mrs A.M. Iles,(The Worshipful the Mayor), Mrs J.E.E.Govier,(Deputy Mayor), J. Anderson, L.J. Barrett, Ms G.Barton, D.A. Blackwell, C.N. Brunt, P.M. Burch B.Campagna, Mrs P.A. Challis, A.R. Cole, S.Cole ,D.T. Cross, W.J.C. Dick, Mrs B. Egan, E. Egan, Mrs P.D. Freeman, Mrs W. Goodwin, P.C. Greig, S.Hart , N.R. Harvey, R.C. Howard, G.I. Isaacs, Mrs.J.King, N.E.Ladzrie, Mrs J. Liddiard, P.J. May,J.A.Payne, Mrs.J.Payne, A. Partridge, C.G. Riley, W.K.Sharp, A.G.Sheldon,T.F. Skipp, N.G. Smith, J.A. Stanley, M.J.A. Tucker, A.C.Walter, Mrs L. Wass, Mrs G. Watson and N. Watson.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I (Business to be taken in public)

Before commencing the business of the meeting, prayers will be offered by the Chaplain.

1. Apologies for absence

2. Members' Interests

3. Minutes

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Council held on 5th December 2012; the Special Council Meeting held on 20th February 2013 and the Annual Meeting held on 15th May 2013.

4. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor will report at the meeting.

- 5. Questions from members of the public of which Notice has been received**
None have been received.
- 6. Any explanations for urgent decisions taken by Cabinet**
There are none.
- 7. Any references from the Policy and Scrutiny Committees in relation to Cabinet decisions**
There are none
- 8. Consideration of recommendations from Cabinet**
There are none.
- 9. Report from the Leader of the Council**
The Leader is to report at the meeting.
- 10. Report on the Change to Specified Investments in the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy**
The Council is asked to consider the report which has been circulated separately.
- 11. Leave of Absence**
Council is asked to ratify approval of leave of absence for Councillor Partridge who has been unable to attend meetings of the Council for a period of more than six months while he recovers from heart surgery.
- 12. Notices of Motion**
Details of Notices of Motion are attached in a report.
- 13. Petitions submitted by Members of the Council of which Notice has been given**
There are none.



ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

5TH DECEMBER 2012

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Castle Point held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kiln Road, Thundersley on 5th December 2012.

PRESENT:

Councillors P.M. Burch (The Worshipful the Mayor), Mrs A.M. Iles, (Deputy Mayor) L.J. Barrett, D.A. Blackwell, C.N. Brunt, B.Campagna, Mrs P.A. Challis, A.R. Cole, S.Cole ,D.T. Cross, W.J.C. Dick, Mrs B. Egan, E. Egan, Mrs P.D. Freeman, Mrs W. Goodwin, Mrs J.E.E.Govier, P.C. Greig, S.Hart, , N.R. Harvey, R.C. Howard, G.I. Isaacs, Mrs.J.King, N.E. Ladzrie P.J. May, A. Partridge. C.G. Riley, W.K.Sharp, A.G.Sheldon,T.F, T.F. Skipp N.G. Smith, J.A. Stanley, M.J.A. Tucker, A.C.Walter, Mrs L. Wass, Mrs G. Watson and N. Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Anderson, Ms G.Barton, Mrs J. Liddiard JAPayne, Mrs.J.Payne,

42. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors Dick, Howard and Riley each declared a non pecuniary interest under Minutes 48 and 52 as members of Essex County Council.

Councillor Mrs Wass declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Minute 48 consideration of Recommendations from the Cabinet: New Local Plan – Five Year Housing Land Supply.

Councillor Campagna declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Minute 49 Recommendations from the Cabinet- Local Tax support Scheme.

Councillor Sharp referring to Paragraph 5 and 10(2) of the Council's Code of Conduct declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Minute 48 consideration of Recommendations from the Cabinet: New Local Plan – Five Year Housing Land Supply.

43. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Council held on 25th September 2012 were taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the correction to show that Councillor Mrs Govier was present at the meeting. The Mayor signed the Minutes.

44. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor was delighted to attend the official opening of the Castle View School on Canvey Island at the end of September. Also at the end of September the Mayor had commissioned the Jubilee Stone outside the Council Offices to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Mayor was pleased to take part in the Remembrance Sunday Service on 11th November at St.James the Less Hadleigh and afterwards at the War Memorial. The Mayor thanked all those Councillors who had attended the services either at St.Mary's Benfleet or at the Paddocks Canvey Island.

The Mayor thanked the Benfleet Operatic Society for hosting a Mayor's Gala Night to raise funds for the Mayor's Christmas Appeal.

The Mayor reminded everyone that Community Carols were to take place on 9.12.2012.

Finally the Mayor took the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

45. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF WHICH NOTICE HAD BEEN RECEIVED

There were none

46. ANY EXPLANATIONS FOR URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET

There were none.

47. ANY REFERENCES FROM THE POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES IN RELATION TO CABINET DECISIONS.

There were none.

48. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET: NEW LOCAL PLAN – FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

The Council considered recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 17th October 2012 on a proposed five year Housing Land Supply portfolio of locations in order to underpin on-going work on the New Local Plan to adopt as updated planning policy.

At the meeting of the Cabinet, the Cabinet had considered a report on a proposed five year housing land supply and portfolio of locations to underpin the ongoing work on the New Local Plan.

The Cabinet had considered housing targets for the first five years of the new Local Plan, the strategic locations within the five year housing land supply portfolio, amendments to Green Belt boundaries at Catherine Road, Benfleet, London Road, Benfleet and Castle View School. The Cabinet had also noted a suggested way forward to identify housing land supply for the years 6 to 15.

Council was asked to consider the report presented to the Cabinet.

Discussion took place on the recommendations at the conclusion a recorded vote having been requisitioned under Rule 16.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules Meetings and Proceedings of Council the Members present voted as follows:

For:

Councillors: Brunt, Burch, Mrs. Challis, A. Cole, Cross, Dick, Mrs B.Egan, E.Egan, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. Govier, Hart, Howard, Mrs Iles, Isaacs, Ladzrie, Partridge, Riley, Sheldon, Skipp, Smith, Stanley, Walter.

Against:

Councillors: Barrett, Blackwell, Campagna, S.Cole, Greig, Harvey, Mrs. King, May, Tucker, Mrs. Watson, N.Watson.

The Motion was carried and it was

Resolved: to adopt the following matters as updated planning policy in order to underpin work on the New Local Plan:

- a. To agree a housing target for years 0 to 5 of the New Local Plan of 200 homes per annum. Taking into account the requirement of paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to identify land sufficient to provide an additional 20% of homes (brought forward from later years within the plan period), the five year housing land supply requirement will be 1,200 homes.
- b. To agree to the following strategic locations being included within the five year housing land supply portfolio, having regard to the descriptions of development set out in section 6 of this report:
 - Land allocated for Housing at Point Road, Canvey Island
 - Land allocated for Long Term Housing at Kiln Road Thundersley;
 - Land allocated for Long Term Housing at Scrub Lane, Hadleigh;
 - Land allocated for Long Term Housing at Thorney Bay Caravan Park, Canvey Island;
 - Previously developed land within Hadleigh Town Centre, delivered through Town Centre Regeneration;
 - Previously developed land within the Green Belt at Brickfields, Great Burches Road, Thundersley;
 - Previously and partially developed land within the Green Belt at 396 to 408 London Road, Benfleet;

- Previously developed land within the Green Belt on the footprint of the former Castle View School, Canvey Island; and
 - Partially developed land and greenfield land within the Green Belt between Felstead Road and Catherine Road, Benfleet.
- c To agree for work to be undertaken as part of the New Local Plan to make amendments to the Green Belt boundaries at Catherine Road, Benfleet, 396 to 408 London Road, Benfleet and the Castle View School to facilitate the five year housing land supply.

Councillor Sharp and Mrs. Wass each having declared a prejudicial interest Minute 42 referred left the Chamber while this item was considered and took no part in the discussion or vote.

49. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET: LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Council considered and discussed a report presenting the un-prescribed elements of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme to the Council for approval. The local scheme was to replace the current Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme from 1.4.2013.

Resolved:

1. That Council approve the un-prescribed, local council tax support scheme for working age claimants for adoption.
2. That Council approve the full disregard of War pensions in the calculation of Local Council Tax Support from 1st April 2013 onwards, under their discretionary 'local scheme' provisions.
3. That Council approve the continuation of a full disregard of War pensions in the calculation of Housing Benefit (separate to local council tax scheme) under their discretionary 'local scheme' provisions.
4. That Council approve the Exceptional Hardship policy as referred to in section 7 of the report and appended at appendix C.
5. That Council approve the amendment to the delegated authority as set out in the report.

Councillor Campagna having declared a prejudicial interest Minute 42 referred left the Chamber while this item was considered and took no part in the discussion or vote.

50. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

There were none.

51. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council reviewed the past year which had been fantastic with celebrations across the Borough to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

In July the Olympic Flame arrived in the Borough – the Flame was carried to the Olympic mountain bike venue at Hadleigh Farm by Kim Axford a Canvey mother and fitness instructor at Waterside Farm.

The Borough looked splendid and a letter had been received from the Department for Communities & Local Government thanking the Council for its contribution to the success of the mountain biking event.

The venue had also received accolades as the easiest venue to visit .The Leader congratulated and thanked all those who had been involved in the event.

The Leader reported on progress on various regeneration initiatives in the Borough including the Learning and Skills College on Canvey Island which was nearing completion and the official opening of both the Castle View School and the Cornelius Vermuyden School.

The regeneration of the town centres plans for Canvey and Hadleigh were continuing to move forward.

In concluding the Leader indicated the Council would continue to move forward to strive for the very best for Castle Point and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Happy New Year.

52. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Sharp had given notice of the following:

1. 'Castle Point Borough Council supports the motion put forward by Essex County Council which called on the EU to significantly cut the UK's contributions and redirect the money back to the people of the UK including Essex businesses and residents .It also called on Brussels to cut its budget and accelerate rapidly the removal of bureaucratic burdens on the hard pressed taxpayers .It also called for no further powers to be transferred to the EU without the consent of British people through a referendum.'

The Motion was **MOVED** by Councillor Sharp and **Seconded** by Councillor Riley. Debate took place at the conclusion a vote was taken which was **CARRIED** and **RESOLVED** accordingly.

Councillor Blackwell had given notice of the following:

2. 'The Canvey Island Independent Party call upon Castle Point Council to ask the Chief Constable Essex Police to increase police patrols on Canvey Island in the light of rising serious crime.'

The Motion was MOVED by Councillor Blackwell and Seconded by Councillor N Watson. Debate took place during which the following AMENDMENT was MOVED by Councillor Isaacs and Seconded by Councillor Howard:

'Castle Point Council welcomes and supports the early action of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of Essex Police to improve and increase the policing arrangements on Canvey Island in the light of the recent serious crime incidents and asks that this continues.'

Debate took place at the conclusion a vote was taken the AMENDMENT was CARRIED and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

53. PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

There were none.

Mayor



SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

20TH FEBRUARY 2013

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Castle Point held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kiln Road, Thundersley on 20th February 2013.

PRESENT:

Councillors P.M. Burch (The Worshipful the Mayor), J. Anderson, L.J. Barrett, D.A. Blackwell, C.N. Brunt, B. Campagna, Mrs P.A. Challis, A.R. Cole, S. Cole, D.T. Cross, W.J.C. Dick, Mrs B. Egan, E. Egan, Mrs W. Goodwin, Mrs J.E.E. Govier, P.C. Greig, S. Hart, R.C. Howard, G.I. Isaacs, Mrs J. King, N.E. Ladzrie, P.J. May, J.A. Payne, Mrs J. Payne, C.G. Riley, A.G. Sheldon, T.F. Skipp, N.G. Smith, J.A. Stanley, M.J.A. Tucker, Mrs L. Wass, Mrs G. Watson and N. Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms G. Barton, Mrs P.D. Freeman, N.R. Harvey, Mrs A.M. Iles, Mrs J. Liddiard, A. Partridge, W.K. Sharp, A.C. Walter,

54. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

55. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Councillor Watson made a personal statement apologising to Councillor Norman Smith, the Mayor and Council for remarks made by him impugning the integrity of Councillor Smith in calling him a liar during debate at the Council Meeting on 5th December 2012.

Councillor Smith accepted Councillor Watson's apology.

56. POLICY FRAMEWORK AND BUDGET SETTING FOR 2013/2014

This Special Meeting of the Council had been scheduled to determine the budget requirement and the level of Council Tax for 2013/2014.

At the Cabinet meeting held earlier that evening, the Cabinet considered the report on the Policy Framework and Budget Setting for 2013/14.

The Council was required to make certain statutory calculations in relation to the budget requirement and these were set out in full in the report submitted to the Cabinet.

The Council was asked to consider and resolve the recommendations 1 to 23 as set out in the report to Council.

In moving the recommendations the Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy, Resources and Performance drew attention to the key features of this balanced budget highlighting that the Council had continued to maintain a balanced budget notwithstanding that over the past four years the Council had suffered a reduction in its grant settlement of £2.7million. He explained the proposal to increase the by 1.96% the Council's element of the Council Tax which represented an increase of £4.50 on a Band D property. The cost to deliver all the Council's services equated to £234 per household.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy, Resources and Performance warned of the continuing budget pressures to be faced by the Council and the actions planned to mitigate the effects. This included among other matters continuing with the reductions of members allowances; improved recycling income; savings on contracts. In summary there was to be no reduction in frontline services but efforts continued to be made on smarter more effective working. The Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy, Resources and Performance referred to the Councils' spending plans including amongst other matters a budget to maintain a a top up fund for discretionary rate relief ;the provision of public toilets ; a small increase in support for crossroads Cavs and CAB together with the proposal to release funds to renovate the Council's car parks.

The Leader of the Council seconded the recommendations.

Discussion took place on the recommendations during which Members welcomed the balanced budget to maintain Council services but recognised the challenge to be faced by the Council given the continuing economic pressures.

Members acknowledged and thanked the hard work and dedication of the officers mentioning specifically the Head of Resources, the Council's Section 151 Officer and her colleagues for their work in preparing the budget.

Resolved:

1. To note the completion of the statutory return to DCLG in relation to National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR1) as referred to in paragraph 11 of section 6 of the accompanying report.
2. To ratify the aforementioned delegation.

Implementation of Council policies and related spending plans

3. To note the cashable savings summarised in table 4.1 and the efficiency target for achievement by 2014/15 in table 4.2.

4. To note the proposed efficiency work programme (service reviews) to be undertaken during the period 2013/14 to 2017/18 shown in table 4.3.
5. To approve the continued funding of priority projects and other items of discretionary expenditure, as set out in table 9.1.
6. To note the cost pressures and other budget increases as set out in table 9.2.
7. To approve subject to resolutions 3 to 6 above, the revenue spending plans for 2012/13 (revised) and 2013/14, set out in section 9, tables 9.3 (summary) and 9.4 of the accompanying report.

Capital spending plans and prudential indicators

8. To approve the capital spending plan described in section 10 of the accompanying report (tables 10.2 and 10.3) in respect of 2012/13 (revised) and 2013/14.
9. To note that as stated in paragraph 25 of section 10 of the accompanying report, gross external borrowing exceeded the capital financing requirement in 2012/13 by 0.1% which is considered immaterial. It is not expected that the Council will exceed the limit in future years.
10. To reconfirm as set out in paragraphs 50 and 51 of section 10 of the accompanying report, the £1.5m limit previously approved for affordable housing projects to be expended by the end of March 2017.
11. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2013/14 as set out in section 11 of the accompanying report.
12. To approve as required by section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the following Prudential Indicators as set out in the appropriate sections of the accompanying report:

Prudential Indicator	Reference to sections 10, 11 and 12 of accompanying report
Capital expenditure	Tables 10.2 and 10.3
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	Table 10.4
Capital financing requirement	Table 10.5
Authorised limit for external debt	Table 10.6
Operational boundary for external debt	Table 10.7
Incremental impact of capital investment	Table 10.8
Housing Revenue Account limit on indebtedness	Section 10 para 38
Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing - upper and lower limits	Table 11.2

Upper limits on the proportion of net debt compared to gross debt	Table 11.3
Upper limits of fixed and variable interest rate exposures	Table 11.4
Maximum period and counterparty limits for specific and non-specific investments	Tables 12.1 and 12.2

13. To approve the Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision for 2013/14, as stated in paragraphs 39 to 41 of section 10 of the accompanying report.

14. That no new capital proposals are allowed until:

- the proposal has been evaluated in accordance with all relevant evaluation criteria;
- the Cabinet has confirmed affordability and compliance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- the Cabinet has considered and approved details of the proposal.

15. To approve the Investment Strategy for 2013/14 as set out in section 12 of the accompanying report.

16. To approve the Pay Policy as set out in section 13 of the accompanying report.

Statutory report of the Head of Resources

17. That as required by section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the report of the Head of Resources set out in section 15 of the accompanying report in respect of robustness of the estimates is noted.

18. That as required by section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the report of the Head of Resources set out in section 8 of the accompanying report in respect of the adequacy of proposed financial reserves is noted.

Statutory calculations in respect of the budget requirement and Council Tax as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (“the Act”)

19. That as set out in section 5 of the accompanying report it is noted that acting under delegated authority and in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Resources, Policy and Performance the Head of Resources has calculated

- a) a tax base for the Borough of Castle Point of 28,070 being the amount T required by section 31B of the Act; and
- b) a tax base for Canvey Island to which a Town Council precept applies as 10,686.

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20. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2013/14 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

Ref	Amount £	Item
(a)	63,405,535	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish (Town) Councils.
(b)	56,614,391	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	6,791,144	being the amount by which the aggregate at 20(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 20(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the act)
(d)	241.94	being the amount at 20(c) above (item R), divided by item T (19(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish (Town) precepts).
(e)	267,435	being the aggregate amount of the (Parish (Town) precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
(f)	234.09	being the amount at 20(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 20(e) above by item T (19(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

21. That Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each category of dwelling.

Castle Point Borough Council Tax 2013/14, including and excluding Town Council precept, for each of the following categories of dwelling:

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Band	Council Tax Including Town Council £	Council Tax Excluding Town Council £
A	169.80	156.06
B	198.10	182.07
C	226.40	208.08
D	254.70	234.09
E	311.30	286.11
F	367.90	338.13
G	424.50	390.15
H	509.40	468.18

22. To note that the County Council, the Policy Authority and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area, as indicated in the table below:

Band	Castle Point Borough Council £	Essex County Council £	Essex Fire Authority £	PCC for Essex £	Total Excluding Town Council £	Canvey Island Town Council £	Total Including Town Council £
A	156.06	724.50	44.28	94.32	1,019.16	13.74	1,032.90
B	182.07	845.25	51.66	110.04	1,189.02	16.03	1,205.05
C	208.08	966.00	59.04	125.76	1,358.88	18.32	1,377.20
D	234.09	1,086.75	66.42	141.48	1,528.74	20.61	1,549.35
E	286.11	1,328.25	81.18	172.92	1,868.46	25.19	1,893.65
F	338.13	1,569.75	95.94	204.36	2,208.18	29.77	2,237.95
G	390.15	1,811.25	110.70	235.80	2,547.90	34.35	2,582.25
H	468.18	2,173.50	132.84	282.96	3,057.48	41.22	3,098.70

23. To note that, in accordance with the requirements of section 52ZC of the Act the Council has determined whether its Relevant Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 is excessive, as follows:

Ref	Amount £	Item
(a)	229.59	being the Relevant Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2012/13, excluding local precepts.
(b)	2.0%	being the percentage increase above which the Secretary of State has determined the Relevant Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 would be excessive.
(c)	234.18	being the amount above which the Relevant Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2013/14, excluding local precepts, would be excessive (rounded down to the nearest penny).

(d)	234.09	being the Relevant Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2013/14, excluding local precepts.
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The Relevant Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 was therefore, not excessive and the duty to make substitute calculations and hold a referendum did not apply (Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Act).

57. NOTICES OF MOTION

Resolved – to suspend Rule 11 of the Council’s Procedural Rules to consider the following Notices of Motion

58. NOTICE OF MOTION: OPPOSITION TO THE CENTRALISATION OF NON URGENT BLOOD TESTS

Councillor Dick had given notice of the following:

‘Following local opposition to the centralisation of non urgent blood tests, this Council calls on the Local Primary Care Trust and the forthcoming Clinical Commissioning Group to suspend the proposal to transfer the analysis of non urgent blood tests to a central point away from the local hospital. This Council is concerned that the proposal is being carried out without due consultation and to the detriment of the local population.’

The Motion was MOVED by Councillor Dick and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. Challis OBE, Leader of the Council. Debate took place at the conclusion a vote was taken which was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolved – Following local opposition to the centralisation of non urgent blood tests this Council calls on the Local Primary Care Trust and the forthcoming Clinical Commissioning Group to suspend the proposal to transfer the analysis of non urgent blood tests to a central point away from the local hospital. This Council is concerned that the proposal is being carried out without due consultation and to the detriment of the local population

59. NOTICE OF MOTION: COPPICING OF HADLEIGH GREAT WOOD

Councillor Ladzrie had given notice of the following:

‘This Council notes the important conservation work being undertaken in Hadleigh Great Wood by Southend Council in consultation with Natural England in order to maintain its ancient woodland character and ecology as befits this Site of Special Scientific Interest.

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Nonetheless it requests that in future the coppicing be carried out on non-contiguous compartments of the Great Wood, in accordance with the Management Plan in order to mitigate the effect of the loss of trees in one area. This would allow for natural regeneration of the affected area of the Great Wood to take place before adjacent compartments are then coppiced.

The Motion was MOVED by Councillor Ladzrie and Seconded by Councillor Hart. Debate took place at the conclusion a vote was taken which was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY and

Resolved – To note the important conservation work being undertaken in Hadleigh Great Wood by Southend Council in consultation with Natural England and to request that in future the coppicing be carried out in accordance with the Management Plan to mitigate the effect of the loss of trees.

Mayor



ANNUAL COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Castle Point held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kiln Road, Thundersley on 15th May 2013.

PRESENT:

Councillors P.M. Burch (The Worshipful the Mayor), Mrs A.M. Iles,(Deputy Mayor), J. Anderson, L.J. Barrett, Ms G.Barton, B.Campagna, Mrs P.A. Challis, A.R. Cole, S.Cole ,D.T. Cross, W.J.C. Dick, Mrs B. Egan, E. Egan, Mrs P.D. Freeman, Mrs W. Goodwin, Mrs J.E.E Govier, P.C. Greig, S.Hart, N.R. Harvey, R.C. Howard, G.I. Isaacs, N.E. Ladzrie, P.J. May, J.A. Payne, Mrs J. Payne, C.G. Riley, W.K. Sharp, N.G. Smith, J.A. Stanley, M.J.A. Tucker, Mrs L. Wass, Mrs G. Watson and N. Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.A. Blackwell, C.N. Brunt, Mrs J. King, Mrs J. Liddiard, A. Partridge, A.G. Sheldon, T.F. Skipp and A.C. Walter.

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor was pleased as one of his last acts as Mayor to present the Mayor's Community Award to Diana Hawkins. Diana had been nominated for her role in founding the Benfleet UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund). Diana was also nominated for her support for the Canvey Youth Project, the Legacy Project the Benfleet Annual 10k Challenge Walk and the winter and summer fairs at St. Mary's Church Benfleet.

3. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

Moved by Councillor Sharp seconded by Councillor Howard and -

Resolved – That unless she resigns or becomes disqualified, Councillor Maryse Iles be elected Mayor to continue in office until her successor becomes entitled to act as Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Iles made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and left the Chamber to robe and assume the Chain of Office. On returning to the Chamber the Mayor thanked the Council for her appointment and in dedicating her year of office to the community indicated that her funding raising would be directed to supporting the voluntary groups.

4. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR, COUNCILLOR PETER BURCH

Moved by Councillor Mrs Govier who paid tribute to the retiring Mayor. The vote was seconded by Councillor Dick

Resolved – That a vote of thanks be accorded to Councillor Peter Burch on his retirement from the office of Mayor.

Councillor Burch responded on his term of office during the past year.

The Mayor presented Councillor Burch with his ‘Past Mayor’s Badge’.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Moved by Councillor Isaacs seconded by Councillor Mrs Goodwin and –

Resolved - That unless she resigns or becomes disqualified, Councillor Mrs Jackie Govier be elected Deputy Mayor to continue in office until her successor becomes entitled to act as Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Govier made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for her appointment.

6. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Moved by Councillor Smith seconded by Councillor Stanley –

Resolved - That unless she resigns or becomes disqualified, Councillor Mrs Pamela Challis be appointed Leader of the Council in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 for the Council year.

The Leader of the Council congratulated the Mayor on her appointment. and Councillor Dick on his appointment as an Honorary Alderman of the Essex County Council.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Council for appointing her as Leader of the Council which was a privilege the Leader did not take for granted. The Leader gave an assurance that she would continue to work hard to promote the Castle Point Community.

The year ahead would be challenging with reduced resources available for local government. However the Council would continue to aim to provide high quality services for residents with the emphasis on Street Scene, Leisure and Housing as well as assisting the agencies supporting the community.

The Council would continue to work with Police through the Community Safety Partnership and the Leader took the opportunity to announce the appointment of Cllr Isaacs as Chairman of the Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnership, the Council's representative on the Safer Essex Group and the Essex Police and Crime Panel.

In conclusion the Leader thanked Councillors and staff for the hard work for the past year and looked forward to face the challenges and the Council's continued success in the year ahead.

7. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Moved by Councillor Mrs Challis, seconded by Councillor Smith and –

Resolved - That unless he resigns or becomes disqualified, Councillor Jeffrey Stanley be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

In respect of Minute 6 Election of the Leader of the Council and Minute 7 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Watson indicated that members of the Canvey Island independent Group were dissatisfied that voting on the appointments had been taken by acclamation rather than by show of hands so that they could register their views. They did not agree these appointments.

8. POLITICAL PROPORTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Council considered a report which reviewed the allocation of seats to the Political Groups on the Council. Details of the allocations were set out in the report. There were no Borough elections and consequently no change to the political proportions as determined last year. There was one Independent Member on the Council who was not affiliated to a Political Group on the Council.

The Council's Constitution provided for the appointment of the Committees on the Council.

The appointments were to be made based on the Council Structure approved at the Annual Meeting last year on 15.5.2012 for the conduct of council business under the Localism Act 2011.

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In appointing the Policy & Scrutiny Committees Council was asked to note that the role of the Corporate Resources Policy & Scrutiny Committee had been absorbed into the Place & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

The allocation of memberships on the Committees had to be on the basis of the political proportions of the Council. Details of the Groups' wishes so far as known concerning the appointments had been circulated in an informal memorandum. The appointment of the Independent Member to seats on the Council was matter for Council to determine.

Council was also asked to approve a review of community engagement arrangements as the Community Liaison Group meetings approved last year had not proved to be effective. It was proposed that an appropriate Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake this. Pending consideration of recommendations from the review it was proposed that public meetings of the Community Liaison Groups should be suspended.

Moved by Councillor Mrs Challis and duly seconded, and –

Resolved:

1. To make the appointments as set out in the following resolutions.
2. To appoint the following Committees and that the membership and the appointment of the Chairman be as follows:

Scrutiny Committee

Conservative:

Councillors: Brunt, E.Egan, Mrs Iles, Ladzrie, Walter.

Canvey Independent:

Councillors: Blackwell, Tucker N.Watson,

Chairman: Councillor Blackwell

Policy & Scrutiny Committees

Environment

Conservative:

Councillors: A. Cole, Cross Mrs. Freeman, Ladzrie, Partridge, Walter

Canvey Independent:

Councillors: Anderson, Mrs JPayne, JAPayne, Tucker*

Chairman: Councillor Ladzrie

Wellbeing

Conservative:

Councillors: E.Egan, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs.Govier, Hart, Mrs.Iles, Sheldon

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Canvey Independent:
Councillors: Campagna, Harvey, Mrs.J.Payne

Independent: Councillor Mrs Liddiard

Chairman: Councillor E. Egan

Place & Communities

Conservative:
Councillors: Brunt, Partridge, Sharp, Sheldon, Skipp, Walter

Canvey Independent:
Ms Barton, Campagna,* May, Mrs.G.Watson

Chairman: Councillor Brunt

Audit

Conservative:
Councillors: Brunt, Burch, Walter
(*Substitute Members: Dick, E.Egan*),

Canvey Independent:
Councillors: Barrett, J.A Payne
(*Substitute Member: Mrs King*)

Chairman: Councillor Walter

*Nominations confirmed after the meeting by the Leader of the Canvey Island Independent group

3. To appoint the following Regulatory and Standing Committees and that the membership and the appointment of the Chairman be as follows:

Review

Conservative:
Councillors: Brunt, Burch, Mrs. Egan, Dick, Mrs Govier

Canvey Independent:
Councillors: S. Cole, Harvey, N.Watson

Chairman: to be appointed at each meeting as required from the Majority Group membership on the Committee.

Development Control

Conservative:
Councillor: Brunt, Cross, Mrs Govier, Hart, Ladzrie, Skipp, Smith, Mrs Wass

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Canvey Independent:

Councillors: Anderson, Barrett, Blackwell, Mrs King
Independent: Councillor Mrs. Liddiard

Chairman: Councillor Brunt

Vice Chairman: Councillor Ladzrie

Licensing

Conservative:

Councillors: Brunt, Burch, Cross, E.Egan, Mrs Freeman, Hart, Mrs Iles,
Stanley Mrs Wass

Canvey Independent:

Councillors: Ms Barton, Greig, May, Mrs.G.Watson, N.Watson
Independent: Councillor Mrs. Liddiard

Chairman: Councillor E.Egan

4. To appoint Councillor Mrs Liddiard as an Independent member to the Wellbeing Policy & Scrutiny Committee, Development Control Committee and Licensing Committee.
5. To approve the review of arrangements for Community Engagement.

9. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET

The Leader presented a report to Council which set out details of her appointment of Members to the Cabinet and outlined their responsibilities.

Resolved – to note the report and the following appointments:

Councillor Mrs Challis (Chairman)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Stanley	Deputy Leader of the Council Corporate Policy ,Resources and Performance
Councillor Burch	Leisure
Councillor Dick	Responding to Challenge
Councillor Mrs Goodwin	Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Mrs Egan	Homes and Customer Engagement
Councillor Howard	Waste, Floods and Water Management

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Councillor G.I Isaacs	Neighbourhoods and Safer Communities
Councillor Riley	Environment and Street Scene
Councillor Smith	Economic Development & Business Liaison

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Moved by Councillor Mrs. Challis and duly seconded, and –

Resolved - That the following Members be appointed representatives on outside bodies:-

Name of Body	Councillor
Age Concern	Cllr Mrs J.E.E. Govier
Air Training Corps (Canvey Squadron)	Cllr J. Anderson
Air Training Corps (Thundersley Squadron)	Cllr G.I. Isaacs
Arts Ministry	Cllr P. Burch
British Red Cross Society (Essex Branch)	Cllr Mrs Freeman
Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services	Cllr Mrs Goodwin Cllr Riley
Castle Point Citizens' Advice Bureau	Cllr G. Isaacs
Castle Point Home Safety & Health Promotion Committee	Cllr Wass Cllr Mrs J.E.E. Govier Cllr Skipp Cllr B. Campagna
Castle Point Sports Club for the Disabled (Executive Committee)	Cllr May
Castle Point Sports Council Executive Committee	Cllr Burch
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme (Castle Point Branch) Management Committee	Cllr Mrs Goodwin
Jubilee Training and Welfare Centre Trust	Cllr Howard
Local Government Association	Leader of the Council, Cllr Mrs Challis OBE
London Southend Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr Partridge

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Castle Point Local Action Group	Cllr Mrs G. Watson
Veolia North Thames Trust	Cllr Howard
Relate South Essex	Cllr Mrs J. Govier
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Canvey Island Branch)	Cllr N. Harvey
South East Essex Environmental Protection Sub- Committee	Cllr Howard Cllr Mrs J. King Cllr Partridge
South Essex Partnership	Leader of the Council, Cllr Mrs Challis OBE
Women's Royal Voluntary Service	Cllr Mrs Goodwin
Domestic Violence Panel	Cllr Mrs Goodwin
Wyvern Community Transport	Cllr Brunt

11. DAY AND HOUR OF MEETINGS

Resolved – to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the Council year 2013/2014.

Mayor

ORDINARY COUNCIL

23RD JULY 2013

Subject: Report on the Change to Specified Investments in the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy

Cabinet Member: Councillor Stanley – Corporate Policy, Resources and Performance

1 Purpose of Report

This report submits an update to the annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for approval. In accordance with the Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Local Government Investments this update must be approved by full Council.

2 Links to Council's priorities and objectives

The approval of the Council's Treasury Management and Investment activity is linked to the Council's objective of improving the Council through sound financial management.

3 Recommendation:

That the list of specified investments in the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy approved by Council on 20th February 2013 be amended to include current accounts, notice accounts or term deposits with credit-rated deposit takers (banks and building societies) with a minimum credit rating of long-term A-, short-term F1 (on a lowest common denominator basis). The new proposed list is at Annexe A.

4 Background

- 4.1 On 9th May 2013 Moody's, the credit-rating agency, downgraded the Co-operative Bank (Co-op) to "non-investment grade". On 18th June Fitch also downgraded the Co-operative Bank to "non-investment grade". This is significantly below the very high credit quality level, (defined as a minimum AA- long-term rating) the Council requires of the counterparties it deposits funds with (other than for daily cash management purposes).

- 4.2 Moody's opinion is that the bank faces the risk of further substantial losses in its non-core portfolio.
- 4.3 The Co-op announced plans to restore its balance sheet through the issue of equity and the conversion of bonds into shares. This is expected to take place later in 2013 and the Council will continue to monitor developments closely.
- 4.4 Until stability and financial strength within the Co-op is restored, the Head of Resources has instructed that the Council's Co-op account will be used only for day to day transactional purposes. Significant funds will not, therefore, be held with the bank. The majority of the Council's temporary investments are held with AAA-rated money market funds.
- 4.5 Work is now concluding on the establishment of a second or "back up" bank account which the Council may transfer banking operations to, in the event that the Co-op bank account, for whatever reason, becomes inaccessible.
- 4.6 The majority of UK banks currently fall below the Council's minimum credit rating. In order to facilitate the establishment of a second or back-up account, it is necessary to widen the criteria for the Council's approved counterparties to include institutions with a long-term rating of A (indicating a strong capacity to meet obligations). Currently the Council uses institutions with a long-term rating of AA (very strong capacity).
- 4.7 A revised list of counterparties is therefore submitted at Annexe A for Council approval. The list has been expanded to include current accounts, notice accounts or term deposits with A-rated deposit takers (UK banks and building societies), and amended to continue to allow investment in institutions guaranteed by the UK Government following the loss of the UK's AAA-status. "UK" now precedes the word "banks" to reflect the Council's practice of not investing in foreign banks. In other respects the list remains unchanged.
- 4.8 When a bank fails, and is taken into 'resolution', the UK banking authorities will take action to ensure the failed bank's customers can continue, or resume, their payments activity with minimal disruption. On a positive note bank recovery and resolution methods used in the past have resulted in little or no disruption to payments.
- 4.9 The aforementioned actions are in accordance with advice from the Council's Treasury advisors.

5. Corporate Implications

a Legal implications

The contingency bank account will be opened separately to the Council's current contract for banking services with the Co-operative Bank, under authority granted to the S151 officer through the Council's Constitution. Subject to developments, the Council's contract with the Co-operative Bank will continue.

b Financial implications

It is expected that there will be a small charge for maintaining a contingency account, which can be met from within existing budgets. In addition there will be an impact on transactional charges if the contingency account is required to be used, but these should be short term.

c Human resource and equality implications

None.

d Timescale for implementation and risk factors

The contingency account is expected to be operational within the next few weeks.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 These contingency steps are being taken to minimise any risk and financial exposure to the Council.

Background Papers:

- Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14

Report Author: Chris Mills – Head of Resources, Section 151 Officer

All “Specified Investments” listed below must be sterling-denominated.

Table 12.1 Specified Investments for the Financial Year 2013/14						
Investment	Share/ Loan Capital?	Counterparty limit	Security / Minimum Credit Rating	Capital Expenditure?	Circumstance of use	Maximum period
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) (this facility is at present available for investments up to 6 months)	No	No limit	Agency of the UK Government	No	In-house	6 months (DMO imposed time limit)
Term deposits with the UK Government or with UK local authorities (i.e. local authorities as defined under section 23 of the 2003 Act)	No	The lesser of £5m or 33% of total investments	High quality as either directly invested or via agencies of UK Government. (Although local authorities are not specifically credit rated)	No	In-house	364 days
Term Deposits with institutions guaranteed by AAA-rated governments or the UK Government where there is level of ownership exceeding 30%	No	The lesser of £5m or 33% of total investments	Guaranteed by sovereign countries (excluding UK) which have AAA long-term ratings from two of the three main agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors). Maturity before expiry of guarantee	No	In-house	364 days
Money Market Funds (i.e. a collective investment scheme as defined in SI 2004 No 534) These funds do not have a maturity date	No	The lesser of £5m or 33% of total investments	Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poors AAA (Minimum of two ratings)	No	In-house	N/A (repayable on demand)
Term deposits with credit-rated deposit takers (UK banks and building societies), including callable deposits	No	The lesser of £5m or 33% of total investments	long-term AA-, short-term F1+ (lowest common denominator Fitch, Moody's & S&P)	No	In-house	364 days (Call deposits repayable on demand)

Table 12.1 Specified Investments for the Financial Year 2013/14 (continued)

Investment	Share/ Loan Capital?	Counterparty limit	Security / Minimum Credit Rating	Capital Expenditure?	Circumstance of use	Maximum period
Forward deals with credit rated UK banks and building societies < 1 year (i.e. negotiated deal period plus period of deposit).	No	The lesser of £5m or 33% of total investments	long-term AA-, short-term F1+ (lowest common denominator Fitch, Moody's & S&P)	No	In-house	364 days
Current accounts, notice accounts or term deposits with credit-rated deposit takers (UK banks and building societies)	No	The lesser of £4m or 25% of total investments	long-term A-, short-term F1 (lowest common denominator Fitch, Moody's & S&P)	No	In-house	364 days

Table 12.2 Non-Specified Investments for the Financial Year 2013/14

Co-op Call Account Co-op is the Council's current bankers. The Call account is used for daily cashflow requirements.	No	The lesser of £4m or 25% of total investments	Funds are repayable on demand. If ratings are downgraded then a lower limit and/or alternative accounts or investments will be considered	No	In-house	N/A (repayable on demand)
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ORDINARY COUNCIL

23RD JULY 2013

Subject: Notices of Motion

1. Purpose of Report

To present to Council Notices of Motion received for consideration at this meeting.

1. Councillor Riley has given notice of the following:

'This Council fully supports the governors, staff, parents and pupils of the Deanes School in their campaign to retain this local and well respected educational and sporting facility

Furthermore the Council acknowledges the important work the school carries out in the field of special education coupled with its ongoing support through the Batic Group for local primary school education.

It also supports the excellent work it does for the health and well being of the community and Castle Point residents in general.'

The Motion is to be seconded by Councillor Mrs. Challis OBE

2. Councillor Blackwell has given notice of the following:

'We call upon this Council to arrange a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the changes in the Constitution at Annual Council. That it was within the spirit that all Members of this Council agreed and signed up to.'

The Motion is to be seconded by Councillor Neville Watson.

3. Members are advised that in order to consider the notice submitted from Councillor Anderson below it will be necessary to suspend the Council's Procedure Rules for the meetings and proceedings of Council (Rule 14 refers)as it less than six months since the Annual Council meeting when Council approved the calendar of Council meetings

Members are also respectfully advised there are provisions within these rules for meetings of the Council to be called should there be business for the meetings within this intervening period.

Councillor Anderson has given notice of the following

'We call upon this Council to once again reinstate full Councils as per Constitution. For example from 25th September 2013 to the 11th December 2013 there is a matter of some 11 weeks between each full Council meeting.'

The Motion is to be seconded by Councillor Tucker.

4. Councillor Harvey has given notice of the following:

'We call upon this Council to end the practice of giving Members Agendas on the evening of meetings , this practice does not allow time for Members to research and investigate any background information or papers, this in turn leads to bad decision making.'

The Motion is to be seconded by Councillor Neville Watson

5. Councillor Greig has given notice of the following:

'We call upon this Council to allow Motions to Council to be electronically delivered via email as per Essex and other Councils allow.'

The Motion is to be seconded by Councillor Ms. Gail Barton.

6. Councillor Mrs. Grace Watson has given notice of the following:

'We call upon this Council to consider that as next year is the Anniversary of the WW1 1914-1918 War it would be appropriate for this Council to spread poppy seeds on all our hedgerows, roundabouts and other wildlife areas, in preparation for the upcoming anniversary to show the people and the country that we at Castle Point commemorate the courage and bravery of all those who took part. Also that we at Castle Point show our respect and have not forgotten.

The Motion is to be seconded by Councillor Mrs King