



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: Thursday 1 December 2022 by Zoom

PRESENT: John Gili-Ross (Chairman), Robert Johnstone (Vice Chairman), Petra Palfreyman (CALC Clerk), Simon Dougherty Abberton & Langenhoe, Maggie Holmes Layer de la Haye, Monica Taylor Wakes Colne, Mick Mead Gt Horkesley, John Akker, West Mersea, Alan Frost Abberton & Langenhoe, Brian Butcher West Bergholt, Andrew Mowbray Marks Tey, Andrew Boyce Wormingford, Dan Jordan Stanway, Karen Turnbull Economic Strategy Specialist CBC

- 1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES** Sue Allen-Shepherd Tiptree, Jo Beighton Ems Wivenhoe, Karen Thompson Boxted, Emma Coney Wakes Colne & Carol Harbach Langham
- 2. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2022**
All agreed
- 3. MEETING TOPICS & GUEST SPEAKER** – Karen Turnbull CBC Economic Strategy Specialist gave a brief talk about the new city status for Colchester and Rural Shared Prosperity Fund – followed by a Q & A session.
Karen talked through the presentation attached.

CITY STATUS

Karen advised that she wrote the bid (and previous bids) for Colchester to gain City status. Research indicated the population wanted to put Colchester back on the map, as the Roman Capital and the oldest recorded town in Great Britain. Colchester has always had a good history, but we also need to look to the future. Historically city status brings opportunities, new commerce, and a boost to the economy. Many retail decisions are made according to population, further influenced by city status. “Visit Britain” also want to run an international campaign about Colchester. Following city status, the Borough no longer exists and all Parish and Towns all now lie within the city boundary. The successful bid was modelled on Winchester. The three elements of the new status are i) formal confirmation and letters of patent ii) a year of celebration (although there isn’t a budget for this) including an event called Gladiator which is a collection of artifacts from the British Museum. iii) a longer-term project about the kind of city we want to be. The Council want to work with communities to see what is wanted out of the new status and to improve skills and job opportunities. It is 10 years since Chelmsford became a city and they are now starting to see the benefits. The new economic strategy will be published in January 2023.

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Q – Will there be a Royal Visit following the new city status

A – The Council have applied via the Lord Lieutenant and the city is expected to be allocated a member of the Royal Household to visit however this has yet to be confirmed.

RURAL SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

Q – How do you apply for the fund

A – There will be a set of criteria to be confirmed

Q – It is important to support local business, so it is important they get the right information and advice

A – This is where the Town & Parish councils can help as they have the local information

Q – There is only £160 000 between 31 Towns & Parishes, which is not a large amount.

A – In the past money has not often been available to local business so the higher proportion will be going to them, to support capital only projects

Q – As the fund administration is not yet determined it was suggested that the EALC should be approached to see if they can be of assistance.

A – Karen agreed to get contact details from the clerk

4.TO RECEIVE REPORTS

a. **TREASURES REPORT** - The clerks' fees of £218.00 for the previous quarter to December 2022, were agreed. The last bank statement held to 20 October 2022, showed a balance of £1205.50. A credit of £138.00 against hall hire costs at Marks Tey Village Hall is also held. 19 payments out of the membership have paid so far. One member has decided not to renew their membership. The clerk forwarded the bank reconciliation to JGR for agreement. Proposed RJ 2nd – SD

b. **LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL** – will be meeting next week. All information can be found on <https://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/local-highway-panels/colchester-lhp>

c. **GOVERNANCE BOARD** – not met

d. **EALC EXECUTIVE** – at the recent annual meeting, the election of officers took place. EALC email attached. Brian Butcher attended the exec meeting for the first time.

5.INFORMATION SHARING Code of Conduct – there are some admin errors in the CoC document in that it refers to some bodies that no longer exist. The main omission is that sanctions that would apply for breach of the CoC was not issued with the template.

Councils are advised to contact Andrew Weavers (CBC Monitoring Officer) to take part in the training that will be offered. Councils should review the sanctions when they are made available as accepting the sanctions was not compulsory in the existing CoC conditions.

Dog waste bin collections - prices for CBC collections have for some councils increased significantly but Councils have few other options available to them other than using private waste collection companies.

Bus User Group – RJ has volunteered to write a paper on the lack of a group and the need for a group in the area. The nearest group is Southend. RJ has contacted a Facebook group but hasn't had a reply. A public meeting will be set up to discuss the way forward.

20's Plenty For Us Webinar – RJ attended the webinar which is running a campaign for 20mph speed limits on roads where there are people, villages & communities etc. Many towns and parishes are considering it and the hope is that ECC Highways will look favourably on suitable initiatives. The campaign is recognised globally by the UN. There is a 20% less chance of an injury at 20 mph than 30 mph. Emissions are 33% higher at 30mph than 20mph. Modern/hybrid cars are better as they use less power and energy. Only Essex Highways can give the go ahead for a 20-mph speed limit. When implemented evidence shows the public generally comply with the limits.

Devolution project – this project ended in March 2022, but Councils were not informed until the summer. If Councils had sufficient evidence of work undertaken and associated costs incurred between March and the formally announced project end date, they may be able to make a claim through highways.

6.DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Date: Thursday 9 March 2023

Location: By Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87516937978?pwd=NCtMaDNxMCtPQU1xQk5Nd2RXV3Bkdz09>

Time 7.00pm

Speakers: CBC Leader David King & CBC CEO Pam Donnelly

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending and providing valuable feedback.

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman: John Gili-Ross