



**MINUTES of
MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL
10 JULY 2014**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor F A Delderfield
Vice-Chairman	Councillor P G L Elliott
Councillors	J P F Archer, H M Bass, B S Beale MBE, R G Boyce CC, A T Cain, Mrs P A Channer CC, A R Cheshire, A J Cussen, M F L Durham, A S Fluker, Mrs B D Harker, B E Harker, M S Heard, Miss M R Lewis, M R Pearlman, R Pratt, S J Savage, Rev. A E J Shrimpton, S M J Slodzik, Mrs M Thompson, Miss S White, D N Williams and M J Wood.

1. SOUND RECORDING OF MEETING

The Chairman announced that as part of a trial the Council would be recording any part of the meeting held in open session for subsequent publication on the Council's website. Members of the public attending the meeting with a view to speaking were deemed to be giving permission to be included in the recording. Anyone wishing to make their own audio recording may do so only after informing the Chairman of the Council before the start of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs A M Beale, R P F Dewick, D G Horner, N R Pudney and D M Sismey.

3. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY ANNUAL MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Statutory Annual meeting of the Council held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.

At this point, the Chairman advised that he wished the Council to consider Agenda Item 12 – Local Development Plan prior to Agenda Item 11 – Petition – Save Maldon Action Group to ensure that Members were made aware of the most up to date situation as it was not possible to respond to the Petition without having first received that information.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The following Members disclosed interests in Agenda Item 11 Petition – Save Maldon Action Group and Agenda Item 12 – Local Development Plan Update:

- Councillor S J Savage – non-pecuniary as he was a Maldon Town Councillor, Member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and Member of the Planning Policy Panel.
- Councillor A J Cussen – a pecuniary interest as he had throughout the Local Development Plan process and advised that he would withdraw from the meeting of these items of business.
- Councillor Miss S White – a pecuniary interest, advising that she would withdraw from the chamber for these items of business.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Essex County Council and advised that she had been involved in consultations relating to the Local Development Plan.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1(3)(e) and the Council's Public Question Time and Participation at Council and Committee Meetings Scheme, the Leader of the Council received one question from Judy Lea, on behalf of the Maldon Society, of which prior notification had been given. A copy of the question and a prepared response from the Leader of the Council was circulated to all Members and a copy provided to the public.

Question:

"In the light of the current situation in respect of the LDP's possible delay or withdrawal, can the Council please give specific confirmation of the following:

1. *In respect of the greenfield areas immediately adjacent to Maldon and Heybridge but **outside** the primary LDP proposals, that development in the meantime will be opposed by every means possible. In particular:*
 - *The inspector mentioned last Wednesday a wealth of case law where presumed consent had been disallowed. Are the Council's legal advisers fully aware of the body of evidence he referred to?*
 - *Will the Council's planning officers give full weight to strategic infrastructure issues in considering specific other applications, being aware of the adverse cumulative effect individual applications will make? This is especially necessary as the CIL has not been approved either. It is truly bizarre if carefully considered locations and proposals are subjected to microscopic examination, whereas ad hoc opportunistic proposals in ill considered locations around Maldon and Heybridge are not.*
 - *Will members be alert to the opportunity cost of using reserved sites prematurely, especially given the inspector's confirmation that fines are not imposed for failing to meet the five year land supply? Given the*

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size of the potential LDP proposals around Maldon and Heybridge and the length of time needed to build them, and with as yet unknowns in respect of related health and park and ride potential as just two examples, reserved sites for future flexibility and change are essential. The location of the Park Drive site is a case in point.

- 2. In respect of the current proposal to accelerate the garden suburb developments **within** the LDP proposals, can the Council please confirm that this renewed push for housing starts will NOT skew the timing of necessary infrastructure provision? Similarly, can the Council confirm it will not lead to a drop in design standards in sensitive areas, such as the singularly inappropriate 123 High Street development under consideration currently?"*

Response:

To address many of the immediate queries from the Maldon Society, I would refer them to tonight's (Thursday 10 July) reports to the Council – the reports for Maldon District Local Development Plan (LDP) Examination Update, legal advice and the report for Petition submitted from the Save Maldon Action Group which are all available on the Council's website.

We acknowledge that there is pressure on sites around Maldon and Heybridge and that several developers have promoted speculative development schemes on greenfield sites. When considering planning applications for these potential sites, the Council must primarily have regard to the Replacement Local Plan (RLP), so far as it is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), but also to other material considerations.

Since the Local Development Plan was submitted for Examination in Public, this has become a material consideration, however until the LDP is formally adopted it is not the legal development plan for the District thus the Council cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply. The NPPF through paragraphs 14 and 47 tells us that where a Council lacks a five year housing land supply, then it should grant Planning Permission unless the adverse impact of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of doing so when taking the NPPF as a whole.

Although this places the Council in a difficult and unenviable position when planning applications are submitted, however the Council must give due consideration to the requirements in the RLP and the NPPF for infrastructure and will seek consultation responses from infrastructure providers to individual planning applications.

While it is not possible to provide site-specific confirmation to the Maldon Society, we would like to thank the Maldon Society who have appreciated that the Council will be facing challenging circumstances until the adoption of the LDP.

The Council will continue to work closely with developers to facilitate the developments in accordance with the draft master plan and infrastructure delivery plans.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that he had attended a number of events and details of these are reproduced below. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman for attending a number of events on his behalf.

10/05/2014	Classic Car Show, Warren Golf Club
11/05/2014	ECC Chairman End of Term Service
06/06/2014	Cream teas in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Acacia Drive Maldon
21/06/2014	Services of Thanksgiving to mark 125th Anniversary of the Crouch Valley Branch
25/06/2014	Maldon and East Essex Scout Council Annual General Meeting (AGM)
28/06/2014	Armed Forces Day
28/06/2014	Dengie Project Trust Thank you event for Volunteers (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
30/06/2014	Basildon Civic Dinner (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
01/07/2014	Episcopal Ordination of the 7th Bishop of Brentwood
02/07/2014	Reception of the East London Cabbies Outing for Children with Disabilities (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
04/07/2014	High Sheriff Garden Party
05/07/2014	Book Launch Burnham-on-Crouch Museum - Our Dear and Brave Men (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
06/07/2014	Maldon Car Show
09/07/2014	Rural Community Council for Essex AGM and Essex Village of the Year Awards
10/07/2014	Official Opening of Porter Place, Tollesbury
10/07/2014	Funeral of Frederick Anderson (former Maldon District Councillor and Chairman of Braxted Parish Council)

The Chairman drew Members' attention to Rule 8 of the Council's Procedure Rules and asked all Members prior to the next meeting to read through this and refresh their memories as he intended to ensure it was adhered to.

7. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 8 MAY 2014

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (ii) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (iii) that subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the special meeting of the Planning and Licensing Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.

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- (iv) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (v) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the Audit Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (vi) that subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the special meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (vii) that subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the special meeting of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (viii) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the Central Area Planning Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (ix) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the North Western Area Planning Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.
- (x) that the Minutes of the special meeting of the South Eastern Area Planning Committee held on 8 May 2014 be received and adopted.

8. MINUTES OF NORTH WESTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE - 13 MAY 2013

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the North Western Area Planning Committee held on 12 May 2014 be received and adopted.

9. MINUTES OF SOUTH EASTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE - 19 MAY 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the South Eastern Area Planning Committee held on 19 May 2014 be received and adopted.

10. MINUTES OF SOUTH EASTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING) - 20 MAY 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the special meeting of the South Eastern Area Planning Committee held on 20 May 2014 be received and adopted.

11. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27 MAY 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 27 May 2014 be received and adopted.

12. MINUTES OF CENTRAL AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE – 28 MAY 2014

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Area Planning Committee held on 28 May 2014 be received.

Minute 111 – Enforcement Update

Councillor S J Savage advised that although this Minute was correct in respect of showing him leaving the chamber when a particular item was discussed, he had returned the meeting following this.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above clarification, the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Area Planning Committee held on 28 May 2014 be adopted.

13. MINUTES OF NORTH WESTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE - 2 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the North Western Area Planning Committee held on 2 June 2014 be received and adopted.

14. MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 June 2014 be received and adopted.

15. MINUTES OF SOUTH EASTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2013

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the South Eastern Area Planning Committee held on 9 June 2014 be received and adopted.

16. MINUTES OF APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE - 10 AND 11 JUNE 2013

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 10 and 11 June 2014 be received.

Minute 137 – Appointment of Director of Resources, Director of Customer and Community and Director of Planning and Regulatory

It was noted that reference to the Director of Planning and Resources in paragraph four of this Minute should refer to Planning and *Regulatory*.

Minute 140 – Appointment of Director of Resources, Director of Customer and Community and Director of Planning and Regulatory

It was noted that reference to the Director of Planning and Resources in paragraph two of this Minute should refer to Planning and *Regulatory*.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendments the Minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 10 and 11 June 2014 be adopted.

17. MINUTES OF PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 12 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Licensing Committee on 12 June 2014 be received and adopted,

18. MINUTES OF CENTRAL AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE – 18 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Area Planning Committee held on 18 June 2014 be received and adopted.

19. MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE – 19 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19 June 2014 be received and adopted.

20. MINUTES OF APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2014

The Leader of the Council advised that these Minutes had not been circulated as they were not ready but would be presented to a future meeting of the Council.

21. MINUTES OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee held on 23 June 2014 be received.

The Council received the Committee's recommendation on the following matters:

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Minute 191 – Local Government Pensions Scheme Employer Discretions

RESOLVED

- (ii) that the Local Government Pension Scheme Statement of Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee is adopted.

Minute 193 – Budgetary Control 2013 / 14 and Indicative Outturn

RESOLVED

- (iii) that the overall final outturn for Maldon District Council for 2013 / 14, be approved;
- (iv) that the net carry forward of revenue budgets to 2014 / 15 as detailed below, be agreed;

Area	Amount (£)	Description
Leisure and Community Services	1,800	Double yellow lines and Traffic Regulation order for Civic Amenity Access Road
Leisure and Community Services	8,000	Compensation payments Parks staff overtime following review
Planning Services	5,900	Planning Policy Overtime for Local Development Plan (LDP) consultations
Planning Services	7,700	Enforcement Officer - agency cover
Democratic	1,500	Chairman's Allowance
Planning Services	2,600	Central Area Masterplan & Viability Study update
Planning Services	12,000	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) stages 1 - 8
Planning Services	1,500	Programme Officer for LDP
Leisure and Community Services	5,500	Dengie Gateway Project and Central Area Regeneration
Leisure and Community Services	3,000	Leisure Contract Consultancy
Planning	6,300	EU Leader (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de L'Économie Rurale) Developing Local Action Group (LAG) / Economic Impact Tourism report / Wallasea Island Wild Project
Leisure and Community Services	22,500	Consultancy – Robin Thompson Leisure Contract
Leisure and Community Services	10,300	Income Generation Promenade Park (Visitors Centre) Consultancy
Leisure and Community Services	3,800	Tree Surgery works - Verges in Maldon
Leisure and Community Services	1,000	DoorStep Clubs

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Area	Amount (£)	Description
Leisure and Community Services	7,600	CCTV - Community Safety
Housing, Revenues and Benefits	5,300	Non Domestic Rates analysis software
Financial Services	9,900	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants professional training
Customer and Democratic Services	1,400	Leaders allowance
Total	120,900	

- (v) that the net carry forward of General Fund Capital Underspends as detailed below, be agreed;

Project	Budget £
Splash park surfacing	2,600
Parks Vehicles and mowers	20,000
Prom road and footpath surfacing	12,000
Tree Survey	11,300
End of Life Leisure Centres (now includes Interior Fire Doors)	84,100
IT various projects	10,600
Resurfacing of splash park entrance area	16,800
Total	157,400

- (vi) that the appropriation of the net under-spend in General Fund Revenue Expenditure in the year to the Transformation reserve, be approved.

Minute 194 – Annual Treasury Management 2013 / 14

RESOLVED

- (vii) that Annual Treasury Management Report for 2013 / 14 attached as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee is approved.

RESOLVED

- (viii) that subject to the above decisions, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee held on 24 June 2014, be adopted.

22. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor R G Boyce, CC, the Leader of the Council, made a Statement (attached at **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes) setting out the Council's report and programme for the current municipal year. He then commended this to the Council.

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The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor B S Beale, thanked the Leader of the Council for an advance copy of his Statement and opportunity to respond. He then made reference to the following points outlined in the Leaders' speech.

- New Nuclear build project
- Sheltered Housing – He felt that the Council should look to provide more sheltered housing in the District, making use of underutilised homes.
- Community Hospital – He reiterated the importance of this which all parties were striving for.
- War Graves – He asked the Leader to confirm the location of these.
- Government legislation – Councillor Beale advised how this year was the 40th anniversary of Maldon District Council and made reference to the major changes in Government legislation that the Council had absorbed over this period.

In response the Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Beale for his comments. He advised how in respect of new nuclear it was not certain but he would continue to lobby for a new power station for the District, especially in light of the benefits this would have to the local economy. In respect of sheltered housing, the Leader thanked Councillor Beale for raising this, advising that the Council was looking to increase its reserves and sheltered housing was one of the areas that would be investigated as part of this. In respect of the Community Hospital, the Leader advised that he had tried constantly to engage the National Health Service through the Primary Care Trust (now the Clinical Commissioning Group) for a number of years. The War Graves related to over 200 graves in the District of both World Wars include a Victoria Cross grave dating back to 1912. He made further comment regarding the other points raised by Councillor Beale.

RESOLVED that the Statement made by the Leader of the Council, attached at **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes, be received.

23. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 6 (2) OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

There were no questions.

Following their earlier declarations Councillors A J Cussen and Miss S White left the meeting at this point and did not return.

24. MALDON DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION UPDATE

The Council considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing an update in relation to the Local Development Plan (LDP) Examination-in-Public (EiP) process and to consider the potential implications of the 'Key Concerns' raised by the Planning Inspector.

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The report provided background information regarding submission of the LDP to the Secretary of State for EiP and work undertaken / required to produce a sound and robust local plan. Detailed information on the key concerns raised by the Planning Inspector in relation to the LDP EiP were set out in the report along with implications and initial legal advice received.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1 – Notes from meetings with the Planning Inspectorate and Planning Minister.
- Appendix 2 – Report of the Head of Planning Services to the Planning and Licensing Committee on 12 June 2014.
- Appendix 3 – Report of the Head of Planning Services to the Planning and Licensing Committee on 6 March 2014.

An addendum to the report was circulated at the meeting and set out options for progressing the LDP examination and included details of legal advice received. Option 1 would allow the Examination to resume in early October, with hearings taking place in late November / December 2014. Option two allowed the LDP to resume sooner than early October, with limited hearings on housing issues to be undertaken which would then be followed by an interim (or partial) report on the soundness of the Plan's housing policies and further hearings on other policies in the plan taking place at a later date. It was noted that option two would provide the council with a five year housing land supply.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and proposed that recommendations (i) to (vi) as set out in the report be adopted. This proposal was duly seconded. Upon clarification the Leader amended his proposal to include an additional recommendation (option two) to endorse progression of the LDP EiP allowing for an earlier resumption of the examination and limited hearing on housing issues to be undertaken, following an internal or partial report on the soundness of the Plan's housing policies. Hearings relating to other policies in the plan would take place at a later stage. This was duly seconded.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer, Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee provided the Council with detailed background information regarding the progress of the LDP to date and the options set out in the addendum.

Councillor Mrs B D Harker proposed an amendment to the recommendation, that where the recommendation referred to 'favourably consider' these words should be deleted and replaced with 'proactively encouraged'. In addition the words 'seek' and 'seek to' in recommendations (iii) – (v) should be deleted and replaced with 'will work towards'. This proposal was duly seconded.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the amendment of Councillor Mrs Harker to the Council, upon a vote being taken this was agreed.

Councillor A R Cheshire raised a number of concerns regarding the LDP in particular the proposed additional development at Heybridge and potential flooding. He did not agree with recommendation (iv) and proposed that it be withdrawn as it was against

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the recommendation of the Council and he asked Members to reject this recommendation. This proposal was duly seconded. In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 13 (3) Councillor A T Cain requested a recorded vote.

A debate ensued with other members of the Council speaking both in favour and against the proposition of Councillor Cheshire. Comments were made regarding the proposed options given by Planning Inspector and the impact of the LDP in rural areas.

The Chairman then put the amendment as proposed by Councillor Cheshire to delete recommendation and upon a vote being taken the motion was declared lost. The Chairman then put the proposal from Councillor Mrs Channer, amended by Councillor Mrs Harker.

For the recommendation:

Councillors H M Bass, B S Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, F A Delderfield, M F L Durham, A S Fluker, P G L Elliott, M S Heard, Miss M R Lewis, M R Pearlman, R Pratt, S J Savage, Rev. A E J Shrimpton, S M J Slodzik, Mrs M Thompson and M J Wood

Against the recommendation:

Councillors J P F Archer, A T Cain, A R Cheshire and B E Harker

Abstention:

Councillors Mrs B D Harker and R J S Long

RESOLVED

- (i) that the correspondence with the Planning Inspector in relation to the ongoing Local Development Plan Examination-in-Public, be noted;
- (ii) that the implications of the Inspector's Key Concerns and the subsequent legal advice received by the Council, be noted;
- (iii) that the submission of planning applications be invited and proactively encourage applications which are in accordance with the Submitted Local Development Plan for sites located within the South Maldon Garden Suburb (LDP sites S2(a), S2(b) and S2(c)) in order to boost the five year supply of deliverable housing land and demonstrate the deliverability of the LDP. Officers will work towards achieving compliance with the emerging South Maldon Garden Suburb Strategic Masterplan Framework and Infrastructure Delivery Plan through the planning application process.
- (iv) that the submission of planning applications be invited and proactively encourage applications which are in accordance with the Submitted Local Development Plan for sites located within the North Heybridge Garden Suburb (LDP sites S2(d), S2(e) and S2(f)) in order to boost the five year supply of deliverable housing land and demonstrate the deliverability of the LDP. Officers will work towards achieving compliance with the emerging North Heybridge Garden Suburb Strategic Masterplan Framework and Infrastructure Delivery Plan through the planning application process.

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- (v) that the submission of planning applications be invited and proactively encourage applications which are in accordance with the Submitted Local Development Plan for Strategic Allocations (LDP sites S2(g), S2(h), S2(i), S2(j) and S2(k) in order to boost the five year supply of deliverable housing land and demonstrate the deliverability of the LDP. Officers will work towards achieving compliance with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan through the planning application process.
- (vi) that planning applications which are considered to be sustainable in accordance with the Local Development Plan and National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 14) where proposals will contribute positively to the five year supply of deliverable housing land and will assist in demonstrating the deliverability of the LDP be proactively encouraged;
- (vii) that the Council endorses the progression of the Local Development Plan Examination-in-Public allowing for an earlier resumption of the Examination and limited hearings on housing issues to be undertaken, to be followed by an Interim (or Partial) report on the soundness of the Plan's housing policies. Further hearings would then take place at a later date to examine all other policies in the Plan.

25. PETITION – SAVE MALDON ACTION GROUP

The Council considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' consideration of a petition submitted to the Council by the Save Maldon Action Group (SMAG).

The Petition contained over 3,200 and therefore in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme the petition has been brought to the Council for consideration.

The report set out details of the present position in the Local Plan process and referred to a separate report which had been considered by the Council at this meeting and a series of decisions taken. In view of the current situation, the Council was being recommended that it should not take the action requested by the petition.

Ms J Vale, the petition organiser, addressed the Committee presenting the petition for consideration and drawing Members attention to a number of particular points.

Councillor B E Harker disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as he knew Ms Vale. He then spoken in favour of the petition and against the recommendation raising a number of concerns he had with the LDP. Other Members of the Council then spoke both in favour and against the recommendation.

Following a lengthy debate, the Chairman put to the Council the recommendation to not taken any action, as set out in the report, and a recorded vote was taken as follows:

For the recommendation:

Councillors H M Bass, B S Beale, R G Boyce, Mrs P A Channer, F A Delderfield, M F L Durham, A S Fluker, P G L Elliott, M S Heard, Miss M R Lewis,

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M R Pearlman, R Pratt, S J Savage, Rev. A E J Shrimpton, S M J Slodzik,
Mrs M Thompson and M J Wood

Against the recommendation:

Councillors J P F Archer, A T Cain, A R Cheshire and B E Harker

Abstention:

Councillors Mrs B D Harker and R J S Long

RESOLVED that the Council responds to the petition on the basis that it cannot take the action requested for the reasons outlined in the report.

26. **AMENDMENT TO APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive seeking Members' agreement to revise the membership of the Audit Committee following a request received from the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs M Thompson replaces Councillor J P F Archer as a Member of the Audit Committee.

27. **REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE 2013 / 14**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive supplying Members with details of the Council's performance against targets set for 2013 / 14 and to ensure that progress was being achieved towards the corporate goals and outcomes detailed in the agreed Corporate Plan 2011 – 14.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the end of year position for each of the service pledges and performance on key indicators and measures relevant to the corporate goals. Members' attention was drawn to the achievements and concerns set out the report.

The report provided a summary of complaints and compliments received during 2013 / 14 and Appendix 2 to the report provided further information. Appendix 3 set out the proposed indicators / measures and targets for 2014 / 15.

RESOLVED that the proposed 2014 / 15 Indicators and Targets (as set out in Appendix 3 to the report) be approved.

28. **ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – REVIEW OF PROCESS**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive reviewing the Council's arrangements for managing the Assets of Community Value process (also known as Community Right to Bid). A copy of the full process was shown in the process map attached as Appendix A to the report.

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Members were reminded that the management of the Assets of Community Value had been taking place for just over one year. There had not been a huge number of nominations received but a number of different scenarios which required research and administration. The report outlined the current delegation progress for Assets of Community Value.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the contents of this report be noted;
- (ii) that pending the conclusion of the Senior Management Review, the consideration of nominations of Assets of Community Value are delegated to the Director of Customer and Community in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee and Leader of the Council or their deputies in their absence, in consultation with the relevant Ward Member(s)

29. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive updating Members on progress in implementing the Senior Management Restructure (SMR).

The report set out the course of action agreed by the Council at its last meeting to implement Phase 1 of the SMR and move to formal consultation with staff affected by Phase 2. An update on this was set out in the report along with the result of recent interviews for the posts of Directors and Legal and Democratic Services Manager.

Following completion of its work it was suggested that the Senior Management Restructure Working Group be disbanded. This was agreed.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the contents of this report be noted;
- (ii) that that the Senior Management Structure Working Group be disbanded.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:27pm.

F A DELDERFIELD
CHAIRMAN

Statement of the Leader of the Council – 10 July 2014

Chairman,

I would like to speak to you tonight of anniversary and change.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of Maldon District Council following Local Government Re-organisation in the early '70s. The year started well when, in the spring, our beautiful District and thriving communities were acknowledged by The Times property experts as the 'best place to live in the countryside', with this special area taking the crown as the number one of thirty top places nationally. Furthermore, according to the 2014 Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey, our residents enjoy a good quality of life with a rating of 15 out of 119 rural local authorities.

This Conservative led council will strive to maintain our excellent status by responding to ever-tightening purse strings through working innovatively, efficiently and proactively creating new opportunities for economic growth and community benefit.

When the National Conservative Government came into power in 1979, they inherited a £10 billion annual deficit. By 1997, the country had a gold plated economy which was then not only squandered by Labour but, by 2010 when the Conservative led coalition was elected; they inherited a £183 billion annual deficit, which has now been reduced to £105 billion. Like other local authorities, Maldon District Council has endured its share of trying to reduce this deficit and funding from Central Government continues to drop by approximately 10% each year. Between now and 2019, we have to identify even further savings of approximately £1.7m. As a result, the Council continues to face deeper spending cuts and is currently reviewing its Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2019. We are committed to identifying savings of £350k in 2014-15 for implementation in 2015-16 and work is being carried out to ensure our long term service contracts are sustainable. For example, by awarding the leisure contract to a new supplier, some £100k savings per year will be generated.

The Council's management and operational structure is in the process of being thoroughly appraised. Already we have successfully processed a review of our senior management structure. Their forward objectives will be performance based and will involve constantly reviewing ways to improve services. Customers are now able to access a number of services using the Council's website. This reduces the demand on staff time and allows them to serve customers who require additional help.

To complete this strategic renaissance, as mentioned in the recent Members workshop, we will be producing a new 4 year Corporate Plan, to take effect from 2015, to be developed with our community and partners who will be asked to identify and prioritise which services they consider are the most important for the Maldon District. The results will be set alongside our Medium Term Financial Strategy to enable us to make decisions on the corporate goals.

Chairman,

Following the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Council continues to strive to put in place an up to date Local Development Plan (LDP) as soon as possible, thus protecting the District against speculative and uncoordinated development. The Examination of the submitted Plan has commenced and an Exploratory meeting with the appointed Planning Inspector identified some areas for clarification. The most significant concern raised by the Planning Inspector, relates to the identification of objectively assessed housing needs within the Plan and he indicated that the Council may have to plan for an even higher level of housing. In response, the Council has commissioned an independent expert

consultant to undertake a detailed external audit of housing needs to provide the clarification required. The Planning Inspector has now agreed to a three month suspension to the Examination in order to allow the Council to produce this additional evidence. It is anticipated that Hearing sessions will take place during the autumn and winter.

The LDP is dependent on supporting information and, to this end the Council has issued its draft Masterplan Framework for public consultation. It has to show how our District can prosper, providing employment and opportunity. Maximising growth through delivery of our Economic Prosperity Strategy with an adopted LDP, allows us to shape and protect our District for the future.

Ensuring that our District is Open for Business has led the Council to consider areas for our existing local businesses to grow and new ones to emerge. For example, workshops for the Causeway Regeneration have taken place and an Intermediate Study will be incorporated into a full Masterplan. Support for a vocational training centre and the regeneration of the wider Heybridge employment area, are included in this Plan.

As the Bradwell decommissioning reaches an end, a Bradwell Power Station Legacy Partnership has been formed. A recent meeting of the Partnership addressed issues of governance, opportunities and project activity. As part of the Decommissioning Programme, we commissioned a study to identify projects which would have a significant impact for the long term of the Dengie area. These findings help steer the projects and co-ordinate funding bids to provide the necessary resources for their delivery.

However, a new nuclear build project remains a key element in the Council's economic development and local plan strategies. We continue to promote the development of a new nuclear power station at Bradwell as we believe the site has many positive factors that make it most appropriate for the siting of next generation of nuclear reactors. We continue to lobby both Department of Environment & Climate Change (DEFF) and EDF for acceleration of the new plant and promote external investment to benefit local economy and prosperity.

A Member/Officer Group has been formed to look at promoting local tourism in order to boost visitor numbers, presently in the region of 3 million day visitors, worth £182m per annum to this District and creates a good deal of local employment. A bid has been prepared to the Coastal Communities Fund to provide much needed funding to support a number of initiatives for the Dengie, including a coastal trail and signposting to promote the area as a tourist visitor destination and allow us to capitalise on links with the Wallasea Island Project. The Council already support and assist various charities including the Mud Race, Carnival and the Rotary Club fireworks event which are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and other events and attractions are being planned.

Our Armed Forces Day event, now in its 6th year, was held at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome by kind permission and the generous support of the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Trust. The event was very well supported with air and sea cadets, veterans, historic vehicle owners and a record number of visitors, not forgetting the added attraction of a number of aircraft that flew in for the day. Our Chairman raised the Armed Forces flag; in what was a very solemn ceremony, followed by a fly-past in the very poignant 'missing man' formation. We hope that with the continued support of the Great War Aerodrome Trust, we can make our Armed Forces Day event a regular feature at the Aerodrome.

The famous Carter's Steam Fair made its first visit to the Promenade Park over the last Bank Holiday weekend. This was a trial event designed to attract more visitors including a free public fireworks display and the event proved to be exceedingly successful. The Classic Vehicle Show took place last weekend; an event that attracted nearly 1000 impressive

vehicles to the Promenade Park. Also, preparations for Saltmarsh 75, the long distance running and walking challenge being held again this October, are coming together and we have now received entries from as far away as Scotland, which proves we are reaching the national audience and attracting even more visitors to the District.

Work is underway to finalise the contractual arrangements and transition to the new leisure contract. This project will receive just under £2m from Council reserves to refurbish both the Dengie Hundred Sports Centre and the Blackwater Leisure Centre and will not only provide updated venues for residents' health and leisure pursuits but will also generate a significant revenue income stream over its 10 year life.

Chairman,

The impact of the various welfare reforms introduced in 2013-14 continues to be felt by residents. The Council, together with its partners such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Job Centre Plus, One Support and Moat Homes Ltd, will continue to offer free advice and support. A review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme will be undertaken during 2014-15 to ensure that it remains affordable, whilst offering the maximum possible level of financial assistance to low income households. The Council has a strong track record of homelessness prevention and it has been an increasing challenge in the light of the various welfare reforms and the wider economic situation.

In consideration of Housing Needs established within our LDP, particularly in view of our growing elderly population, this Conservative led council has started to look into the possibility of investing in new homes to assist in meeting those housing needs. Our aim is to make better use of Council resources, whether land or money, to provide a better return.

Moreover Chairman,

As you will be aware, this Conservative Council has long been struggling to secure the future of a hospital in Maldon. We have been exceedingly disappointed by the responses of the various Health Service bodies. Our Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested that a review be conducted of the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and other relevant NHS organisations, to obtain a direct response on the future of St Peter's Hospital and other health provision in the Maldon District. I am confident there will be a robust scrutiny which will provide much needed clarity for the people of Maldon on this very important topic.

Finally Chairman,

This, our 40th anniversary as an authority, also marks the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion and the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1. As mentioned in my February statement, this Conservative run Council, is dedicated to commemorating the latter two major events which had worldwide significance. To mark these events, I have requested the renovation of the war graves in our District and the restoration of the Great War Avenue of Trees at the Promenade Park – these will be concluded with a service of dedication in the autumn.

Over the last 40 years, Maldon District Council has continually absorbed major changes in Government legislation but we will continue to meet the challenges of the future, equally robustly for the benefit of our District.

Cllr. R.G. Boyce, Leader
Maldon District Council
July 2014