

EXTRACT FROM THE CABINET MINUTES 11TH MAY 2009

7 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2009-2013**

Councillor Harley, Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Culture, presented the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan and referred to the consultation process, the impact of the economic recession, the introduction of short and long-term measures, and for working on a regional and county level, including with stakeholders. The sub regional economic hubs, i. e. the Haven Gateway, M11 corridor, will be kept under review, and to the awareness of grants available and funding initiatives. The promotion of the District is vital to the Strategy to encourage business and inward investment and involves five Strategic Priorities as part of a realistic Action Plan.

Cabinet supported the Strategy and the need to promote the district and grasp opportunities in the current economic climate, where thousands of jobs are being lost, including in the manufacturing sector. Members stated that the focus should not always be on the three main towns and requested that the north of the area is not overlooked. With regard to Strategic Priorities 2 and 3 the importance of engagement with the local Chambers of Commerce was accentuated. It was noted that the Council had already appointed four apprenticeships, in line with Objective 32 of the Action Plan.

DECISION: That the District's Economic Development Strategy for 2009-2013 and action plan be adopted.

10 **CABINET MEMBERS' UPDATES**

Councillor Harley, Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Culture, reported that Councillor Abbott and himself had attended the Essex County Council Planning Committee on 24th April 2009, and made statements opposing the **revised plans for Rivenhall Airfield**. He reported that no Councillor on their Planning Committee spoke in favour of the planning application, and the vote to grant had been carried by the vote of the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. This controversial application had attracted public opinion and concern, and was held in a small committee room unsuitable for the large numbers of public attending and, overall, the whole democratic process was considered flawed. Therefore, it is proposed to recommend from Cabinet to Council the concerns of this authority.

All Cabinet Members supported the proposal, and stated that the current planning application differs significantly to the extant planning consent for Rivenhall Airfield granted two years previously. The current application proposes an additional large paper pulping facility, and an increased commercial and industrial waste facility – that will result with a massive site at Rivenhall.

DECISION: That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that

This Council continues to support the Waste Strategy of Essex County Council. However, Braintree District Council reaffirms its' opposition to the revised application for Rivenhall Airfield submitted by Gent Fairhead, as it differs significantly to previous consent. That the Leader be supported retrospectively to write to the Secretary of State to 'call-in' this planning application, on behalf of Braintree District Council.

Furthermore, the Council expresses its concern regarding the process of the ECC Planning Committee on 24th April 2009 in terms of public access and quality of discussion to support this application.

13 **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

That the following delegated decision be noted

- Councillor Schmitt agreed an amendment to the Private Sector Housing Renewal and Assistance Policy to reflect the need to reduce the maximum Minor Works Assistance grant from the existing £3,000 to £1,000.

The Leader stated that with regard to the delegated decision by Councillor Harley to the revision of fees charged for property searches and to set new charges for access to property data, following the introduction of new regulations, this will be referred to Council for decision as the loss of income could be significant and exceed the delegated responsibility of the Cabinet Member. A background report and further details will be provided to the next Council meeting on 22nd June 2009.

DECISION: That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

For the revision of fees charged for property searches and the setting of new charges be considered