

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL – 20TH JULY 2009

Agenda Item 8(i)

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Nigel Harley

CABINET PORTFOLIO: Enterprise & Culture

Portfolio covers:-

- District growth and infrastructure (inc. Transport Strategy)
- Economic Development Strategy
- Cultural Strategy
- Built Environment (planning policy)
- Business Support
- Tourism

REPORT COVERS ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD COMMENCING 23RD JUNE AND ENDING 20TH JULY 2009

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Latest Developments:

- Local Development Framework panel Supplementary Planning Document report on Public Open Spaces.
- We are soon to be consulting East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) on the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy up to the period 2031.
- We will soon hearing of our allocation of this year's Housing and Planning Delivery Grant – A report will go to Cabinet in September.
- Economic Development & Transportation Board on 13 July considered the proposals by National Express East Anglia to improve rail services.
- We are actively working with Local Parish Councils and Consultants in presenting a joint case to the Planning Inquiry into the Waste Proposal at Rivenhall Airfield. The Inquiry is to commence on 29 September 2009 for 12 days. We understand the venue will be the Institute at Bocking End Braintree.

ENTERPRISE

Latest Developments:

- The Business Summit on 10 June at Essex Golf and Country Club was a great success and well attended by local businesses. The summit identified a number of opportunities for the Council to assist local businesses. The support being provided by the Council was highly appreciated by those in attendance.
- Take up of small business rate relief. The amount of additional business rates saved by local businesses as a result of our direct intervention amount to £397,000.

- Proposals to support local economic recovery were presented to Economic Development and Transportation Partnership Board on 13 July. It is proposed to invest £41,000 of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant (LABGI) in 12 projects. The next phase of this work will be to identify ways of improving our market service in Braintree, Witham and Halstead.
- We are presently considering ways of working partnership with other local authorities on the development of a museum trust, which would include the Warner Archive. A report on this work will be considered by Cabinet in September.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:

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