



Essex Association of Local Councils

Minutes

EALC Executive Meeting Thursday 24th March 2022 at 10 am

This meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom

24th March 2022

Executive Members Present

Cllr Peter Davey	Brentwood	Cllr David McPherson Davis	Basildon
Cllr Paul Lees	Braintree	Cllr Richard North	Brentwood
Cllr Alan Acott	Castle Point	Cllr Martin Lee	Braintree
Cllr John Gili-Ross	Colchester	Cllr Abdul Hafiz	Maldon
Cllr Sheila Jackman	Epping Forest	Cllr Susan Martin	Rochford
Cllr Wendy Stamp	Maldon	Cllr Michael Talbot	Tendring
Cllr Stephanie Gill	Uttlesford	Cllr Alan Townsend	Uttlesford

Also present – Chief Executive Officer Charlene Slade
Executive County Training Officer Pearl Willcox

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and introduction to Cllr Angelina Marriot from Rochford District Association of Local Councils.
Welcome to Cllr Mike Eldred of Rayne Parish Council our Local Council Forum Representative.**

The Chairman welcomed all members present, including Cllr A Marriott and Cllr Mike Eldred. Welcome to Cllr Lewis barber.

The Chairman attended the following meetings:

3rd February EALC Executive Committee
7th February Grt Baddow Accreditation

14 th February	NALC Chair/Vice-Chairs update + NALC Management Board
15 th February	Hyland's House Visit
16 th February	National Assembly Levelling up meeting
17 th February	EALC Personnel
22 nd February	Buckhurst Hill opening
23 rd February	NALC Finance and Scrutiny meeting
28 th February	Climate Commission meeting
2 nd March	High Sheriff Awards Hyland's House
3 rd March	Larger Local Council Forum
8 th March	Safer Essex Board meeting
9 th March	Grt Bardfield Accreditation
10 th March	EALC Finance Meeting
14 th March	ERP Board meeting
16 th March	EHWB meeting at County Hall
22 nd March	NALC London Media
23 rd March	Lobby Day
24 th March	EALC Executive

Gt Baddow accreditation 1.4 million, precept of 380k there are inconsistencies with the number of Cllrs to the ratio of reserves and precept.

IT to provide full support at the AGM, up to 22nd Feb there are only 18 member councillors and 29 voting members and this should be 36 as these voting members should be 36.

2. Apologies for Absence Please email pearl.willcox@ealc.gov.uk

Cllr Jim Devlin - Basildon

Beverley Rumsey – Epping Forest

Cllr Danny Botterell – Tendring

Cllr Angelina Marriot no apologies received.

Cllr Jeanette Stilts – LLCF Maldon

Jeanette has resigned from the Executive and many thanks go to her for the support and work on behalf of the committee.

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 3rd February 2022

Proposed: Cllr Abdul Hafiz

Seconded: Cllr Sue Martin

All those present agree these minutes are an accurate record of the minutes.

4. Personnel – The Personnel Committee update.

4.1 Update from the Chief Executive Officer

Brief update.

5. Finance

5.1 Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee Meetings held on 13th January 2022
Noted.

5.2 Budget Report at 28th February 2022 Quarter 2/3 of the Financial Year 2021/2022
Proposed: Cllr Michael Talbott
Seconded: Cllr Martin Lee

All those present agree the budget report.

5.3 Bank Balances latest version
Noted.

5.4 Weekly Grant Report latest version
Ride to London event in May funding opportunity for parish and town councils.

5.5 EALC Reserves Policy

Thanks to the Finance Committee all the staff Robert out funding officer and Maurice Howard for the great work and presentation for the report.

6. Vice Chairman Report – Cllr John Gili-Ross

Cllr John Gili- Ross: Feedback

The Vice-Chairman attended the following virtual meetings:

17th March	EALC Personnel Meeting
21st March	NALC Community Safety Meeting - Pre-Event Briefing for Speakers
23rd March	NALC MP Lobby Day
Various dates	Police Fire and Crime Activities - Several meetings throughout February and March (3 of) were held leading up to the Precept approvals. Home Office Training events (3 of) for Police and Crime Panels.

7. Vice Chairman Report – Cllr Wendy Stamp

Cllr Wendy Stamp: Feedback

The Vice-Chairman attended the following virtual meetings:

17 th December	EALC Interview Panel
27 th January	EALC Climate Crisis Conference
23 rd February	Councillor training next steps run through
9 th March	Councillor training next steps run through
15 th February	Hyland's House annual meeting

8. Essex Matters

8.1 Essex County Council Report – ECC Representative

By way of an update, you will likely be aware that since I last attended that we have had our budget meeting in which we set out the County's priorities for the year. Social care continues to be a considerable pressure on our budget and the increase in the adult and social care precept reflects the necessity to increase the budget to maintain excellent and sustainable care.

Of course, we still have a raft of other areas we want to invest and improve. I represent a rural division so appreciate the pressures there often are, particularly on the extensive rural highway network we have. There is a new £2m infrastructure and pothole fund for County Councillors and these will be areas given immediate priority when allocated by your Councillor. I would encourage you to have dialogue with your County Councillor once the scheme is rolled out.

We also have seen uptick in flooding challenges, driven in part by climate change, and I would remind everybody of the grant available to support properties impacted by flooding issues.

At present, there are well documented pressures on living standards. The County Council has doubled the Essential Living Fund and the Government made further announcements on this funding yesterday for which we will await more details. If you have residents come to you seeking support, please do point them towards this fund. We are also seeking to help address the underlying causes of these difficulties, including through an additional £1m in a levelling up fund, a £750,000 localities fund and a £1.3bn capital programme over the next four years.

A big area of focus will be the climate and environment and £200m will be invested over the next four years to reach our objectives. There is also a new grant opening on the 1st April via the Government for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.

In addition, there is the Green Homes Grant Scheme that is designed to assist the least energy efficient homes, which is also often those lowest income households. Please search Green Homes Grant Scheme Essex for this.

Finally, the bus network review closes tomorrow and I would encourage all to have their say in this consultation as part of the Council's new bus strategy. If there are any questions, I will note them down. Please do confirm your email to me so I can get a response to you.

Also please do add my thanks for the ongoing work parishes and other local groups do.

9. **NALC Update** – By Justin Griggs – Head of Policy and Communication.

Salary update.

Update on Lobby Day.

Policy, Civility and Respect.

Local Council Award Scheme.

Digital first organisation to be effective as we can be, development of the NALC website.

Legal Topic notes updated for the benefits of timely updates for the members.

Thank you for everyone for working as a team.

9.1. PFCC Update from Jane Gardner Essex Deputy PFCC

National level time is being invested in the PFCC 's review and how this can be strengthen going forward, part one and two is under review. The justice system, new reciprocal duty for collaboration.

Essex is committed and working in partnership review part two. Desire to put the criminal justice system on a statutory footing particularly in the prison service.

There is strength in the partnerships around Essex, there is work to do in some areas. Violence and vulnerability.

HMICFIS Annual stated briefing report. Need for policing nationally to build in public confidence. Essex has a great chief constable. Will continue to keep you updated. Funding for domestic abuse and sexual abuse of £800K for advisors.

Recruitment campaign is going well 900 additional officers in Essex.

Date PFCC Conference 24th May this year at the Community Stadium.

Chair of the Southend and Thurrock suicide prevention board, for suicide prevention. Refresh the governance.

Themed working groups, Realtime suicide surveillance, agile and strategy to retain the focus locally where there are hotspots. Join work with

Zero suicide prevention training.

Questions raised from members with regards to the policing of the high streets. Jane will direct to the district commander policing needs to be visible. Link janes response to Abdul.

11:49 Jane Gardner left the meeting.

10 Lobby Day – 23rd March 2022 Update

Disappointed in the lack of number on the day, however the Ceo will follow up with the other MP's.

Action: Send all details of briefing paper and notes to the Executive Committee.

11. RCCE / ERP Update – Nick Shuttleworth Report

Under 1.4 note that Nick Shuttleworth will link in the Chief Executive Officer and therefore report back to the Executive Committee. Simon Lister is the Chair of the particular committee.

Please do respond to Nick directly.

12. New Initiatives and other matters for discussion

12.1 Executive Committee Meetings Great Dunmow

The next meeting will be in Great Dunmow in person. Please do join us for tea and cake.

12.2 Crouch Harbour Advisory Committee – Nomination request of a Representative

Two Nominations are required for the advisory committee, preferably from the estuary areas. The meetings are very interesting and you have the meeting dates.

12.3 **Larger Local Council Forum** Introduce Mike Eldred who cannot be with us today.

Jim Devlin, Chairman of the LLCF, to update the meeting on the future concept

Peter gave an update on the work and thanked Pearl Willcox and Jim Devlin for the work they have done on reforming the committee.

The terms of reference will need to be formed.

Cllr Alan Acott was also appointed as the Vice Chairman. The agreement was the main issue is the title of the forum as it deflects members of a smaller size attending the meeting. A meeting has taken place with Cllr Jim Devlin, Cllr Alan Acott and Pearl Willcox. Cllr Mike Eldred would like to be seen and will be visiting the larger council and small councils to explain and encourage members to attend these meetings as it will benefit the members.

The forum needs to seek the views of the members and report back through the representative to the Executive Committee. Currently it is an open book but requires to be structured with an agenda giving the Clerks and Councillors time to network and to ensure there is direct feedback to the Executive Committee.

13. **Procedural Documents for Review**

13.1 Executive Committee Roles and Responsibilities

The document is still relevant

Change the titles of the Finance Committee to Sub-Finance Committee and Personnel Committee to Sub-Personnel Committee.

Proposed: Cllr John Gili-Ross

Seconded: Cllr Roger Mannion

All those present agree to the document subject to the changes as above. Dated January 2022.

13.2 Strategic Plan

13.3 Strategic Action Plan

A small working group required. Cllr Michael Talbot explained.

14. Staff Reports

14.1 Chief Executive Report (Charlene Slade)

Brief update given.

14.2 Executive County Training Officer Report (Pearl Willcox)

The tutors and Lodge IT services will be getting together to ensure there is a meeting in the training centre with the tutors. Hearing loop required in the training room ASAP.

Action: Legal enquires template to Wendy of the topics and numbers.

14.3 Funding Officer Report (Robert Laurie)

Annual audit of funding streams. Also, an annual audit of the funding streams will be undertaken by Heelis and Lodge.

14.4 Parish Council Development Officer (Amanda Brown)

14.5 Communications Officer (Eli Haines) (no report)

The report will follow to the Executive Committees.

14.6 Sage Administrator (Lucy Alston-Nogueira)

Noted.

14.7 Health and Wellbeing Officer (Danielle Frost)

Comment raised with regards to the staff reports and the standard of the reports and their complexity.

Climate commission report needs to be circulated to the membership.

Communications are presented to the membership very comprehensively with a smart corporate look.

Active Essex toolkit relates to the parish and town councils along with the resident's pack (page19).

One off special update needed, climate change and climate commission. 'Climate Emergency'

Action: to understand the commonality at NALC and with Jules Pretty.

15. Feedback and Next Agenda

15.1 Feedback 15 minutes of open forum for members to raise issues of mutual interest

Feedback from District Association meetings.

Colchester, recording of meeting are put on the website for all to view.

Braintree, 32 parish and town councils signed up to BALC.

Tendring, discussion about meetings to continue via zoom. Climate change.

Uttlesford, lots of concerns with climate change, airport concerns.

Basildon, withdrawal of the local plan at Basildon council. Green belt. Future of solar panel speed signs. Parishes can purchase solar speed signs and is the responsibility of the parish council to maintain must work hand in hand with Highways. Check section 106. Write to chief constable to uplift the powers. All purchased by the fire and rescue service. Seek clarification from Jane Gardner with regards to speed signs to activate in the parishes.

Epping, nothing to report.

12:49 Cllr Sheila Jackman left the meeting.

AGM numbers are low, the announcement next to be sent again next week.

12:45 Cllr Paul Lees left the meeting.

12:47 Cllr Wendy Stamp left the meeting.

16. Date of Next Meetings

26th May – in person at the EALC Offices in Great Dunmow
Please join us for Tea and Cake

17. Matters for future agenda items

18. Meeting closed at 12:57