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#### COUNCIL

DATE: Tuesday, 13 July 2021

TIME: 7.30 pm

**VENUE:** Princes Theatre - Town Hall, Station

Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Councillor Bray (Chairman)

Councillor J Henderson

Councillor Harris (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor P Honeywood

Councillor S Honeywood

Councillor Allen Councillor King
Councillor Amos Councillor Knowles
Councillor Baker Councillor Land

Councillor Barry Councillor McWilliams

**Councillor Bush Councillor Miles Councillor Calver Councillor Morrison Councillor Casey Councillor Nash Councillor Cawthron Councillor Newton Councillor Chapman Councillor Placey Councillor Chittock Councillor Porter Councillor Scott Councillor Clifton Councillor Codling Councillor Skeels Councillor Colev Councillor Steady** 

**Councillor Davidson Councillor G Stephenson Councillor Davis Councillor M Stephenson Councillor Stock OBE Councillor Fairley Councillor Talbot Councillor Fowler Councillor Griffiths Councillor Turner** Councillor C Guglielmi **Councillor White** Councillor V Guglielmi **Councillor Wiggins** Councillor I Henderson **Councillor Winfield** 

Most Council meetings are open to the public and press.

Agendas and Minutes are published on the Council's website www.tendringdc.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date and the Council aims to publish Minutes within five working days of the meeting.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, or on disc, tape, or in other languages.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting, contact lan Ford Email: democraticservices@tendringdc.gov.uk or Telephone on 01255 686584.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Thursday, 8 July 2021

#### **AGENDA**

Reports Submitted to the Council by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee Reference from the Council's two Overview and Scrutiny Committees - A.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Proposed Work Programmes for 2021/2022
and a review of the work carried out during the period 2019 to 2021 (Pages 1 - 60)

The Council will consider the proposed work programmes for the two overview and scrutiny committees (i.e. the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee) for the 2021/22 Municipal Year and will note the work carried out by those committees during the period 2019 to 2021.

#### **Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is to be held in the Princes Theatre - Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 14 September 2021.

#### **Information for Visitors**

#### FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE

There is no alarm test scheduled for this meeting. In the event of an alarm sounding, please calmly make your way out of any of the fire exits in the hall and follow the exit signs out of the building.

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Please do not re-enter the building until you are advised it is safe to do so by the relevant member of staff.

Your calmness and assistance is greatly appreciated.

#### COUNCIL

#### 13 JULY 2021

#### REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

#### A.1 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES: PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2021/2022 AND REVIEW OF WORK UNDERTAKEN FROM 2019 TO 2021

(Report prepared by Keith Simmons, Ian Ford and Keith Durran)

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek the Council's approval to proposed work programmes for the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of 2021/22 and to note the work undertaken by those Committees in the period 2019 to 2021.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Constitution states, in relation to the Work Programme (Rule 7), that:

"Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will submit a work programme for the year ahead and a review of the previous year's activities to the Full Council for approval. In addition, it will be responsible for coordinating and prioritising its work programme on an ongoing basis.

In preparing, co-ordinating and prioritising its programme, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will take into account:-

- the General Role and Principles of undertaking its functions, as set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution;
- the planned work on the preparation of elements of the Budget and Policy Framework, as set out in the Council's Business Plan:
- the need for statutory timetables to be met;
- the wishes of all members of the committee:
- requests from the Cabinet to carry out reviews; and
- requests from Group Leaders in accordance with Rule 8."

Under Article 6.02(ii) of the Constitution the Resources and Services Scrutiny Committee shall "perform the role of overview and scrutiny and its functions in relation to the effective use of the Council's resources including approval of discrete researched and evidenced reviews on the effectiveness of:

- Financial Forecast and Budget setting and monitoring (including the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account)
- Service Delivery and Performance (where not delegated to the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
- Procurement and Contract Management
- Transformation and Digital Strategies

Customer Service and Standards"

Meetings of task and finish groups can be called as required following the terms of reference being agreed by the Committee.

Under Article 6.02(i) of the Constitution the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall "perform the role of overview and scrutiny and its functions in relation to:

- Community Leadership developing the external focus of overview and scrutiny on 'district-wide issues' (and where appropriate sub-regional, regional and national issues), in particular through collaborative work with local partner authorities, providers, stakeholders and members of the public.
- Approval of discrete researched and evidenced reviews on the effectiveness of partnership operating in the area with particular focus on:
  - o Community Safety
  - Health and Well-being
  - Economy, Skills and Educational Attainment
- Community engagement, development and empowerment
- Leisure and Tourism (except matters relating to budgets)
- Housing Strategy and Homeless Service (except the Housing Revenue Account)
- Emergency Planning"

Meetings of task and finish groups can be called as required following the terms of reference being agreed by the Committee.

In addition, and on 21 March 2021, Council approved and incorporated into the Constitution, a Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Protocol which includes the following in respect of work programming by the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

- "9.1 Around the start of each Municipal Year, the Overview & Scrutiny committees will hold a work planning workshop. As part of this workshop the views of the relevant Cabinet Member(s) will be inputted alongside the views received from others. The Cabinet's adopted priorities in support of the Corporate Plan will be considered, areas of planned policy development over the relevant Municipal Year (and the next) will be provided and they will be asked to highlight any areas where overview & scrutiny may be specifically invited to assist in work (including Community Leadership areas).
- 9.2 The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees will meet quarterly with representatives of the Cabinet in order to ensure ongoing opportunities for Cabinet input into Overview & Scrutiny Committee work plans, ongoing opportunities for Overview & Scrutiny to input into Cabinet policy development or to address performance issues and to build on the positive working relationship between the two functions.
- 9.3 Overview & Scrutiny Committees may legitimately expect to receive a written report with relevant details for each item on its work programme and, where possible, this report should always be circulated with the agenda for the meeting."

The overview and scrutiny committees each formally reviewed the work carried out during 2019-2021 and considered items for inclusion in their respective proposed work programmes for 2021/2021 as follows:

Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 June 2021; and

Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 July 2021.

This formal approval followed informal meetings of the Members of the Committees to explore issues and matters that could be included in the work programmes. The Chairmen of the two Committees then met to consider all proposals and to confirm the allocation of subjects between the two Committees, based on their respective terms of reference, and to consider areas of joint working to avoid overlaps of work (if they were completed separately). The resulting draft work programmes were then provided to the Leader of the Council and colleagues on the Cabinet and to the Chief Executive for staff to contribute comments. From that process, revised draft work programmes with suggestions for joint panels and dates of enquiries were submitted to the formal meetings identified earlier of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

A copy of the proposed work programmes for the overview and scrutiny committees and a summary of the main issues addressed by the overview and scrutiny committees during the period 2019-2021 are attached as Appendices A and B respectively to this report for Council's consideration.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council -

- (a) approves the proposed work programmes for the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix A; and
- (b) notes the work carried out by those Committees in the period 2019-2021, as set out in Appendix B.

#### PART 2 - IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

#### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

The General Role and Functions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (as set out in Article 6.01 of the Council's Constitution) are to:-

- 1. Review or scrutinise executive decisions made by the Cabinet (including those delegated to Portfolio Holders and Officers) or are due to be made by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder including performance in relation to individual decisions over a period of time;
- 2. Act as a consultee on policy development and review of policies;
- 3. Submit to Full Council for approval an annual overview and scrutiny work programme;
- 4. Make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council as appropriate, with respect to the discharge of any Council function or on any matter affecting the authority's area or its inhabitants.
- 5. Prepare and present an annual performance report to Full Council covering the outcomes of the overview and scrutiny functions by each committee;
- 6. Deal with any call-in of Cabinet decisions (including those delegated to Portfolio

Holders and Officers (key decisions only)) in accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules; and

7. Consider requests for scrutiny reviews under the Councillor Call for Action process and petitions as referred under the Petitions Scheme and Council Procedure Rules.

In undertaking the General Role the following principles apply:-

- (i) The focused co-ordination of all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council including the performance reporting on the Corporate Plan, Priorities and Projects;
- (ii) Appoint, where appropriate, and in accordance with its agreed work programme, a group to undertake researched and evidenced reviews on a specific topic, on a task and finish basis. The terms of reference of any Task and Finish group must be agreed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to its commencement; and
- (iii) Consideration of the Council's priorities and resources when making researched and evidenced recommendations and referral decisions as an outcome of the scrutiny and prioritising those referrals in a timely manner.

#### FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

#### **Finance and Other Resources**

There are no significant financial or other resource implications arising from the contents of the report.

#### Risk

If the work of overview and scrutiny committees is ineffective, the Council will have an increased risk of poor decision-making and lack focus on the key priorities.

#### **LEGAL**

The actions proposed are within the Council's statutory powers.

#### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below (Crime and Disorder; Equality and Diversity; Health Inequalities; Area or Ward affected; Consultation and Public Engagement), Climate Change.

The Committees' work focuses on the many key aspects that impact upon the community of Tendring, including Crime and Disorder, Education and Skills, Equality and Diversity, Health Inequalities, the local Economy and climate change.

#### **PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION**

There are none.

#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Proposed Work Programmes for 2021-22, along with the schedule to consider the items during the year.

Appendix B - Review of the work carried out by the overview and scrutiny committees in the period 2019 to 2021.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To establish a Joint Panel with Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee  Carbon Neutral by 2030. The assessment of measures to progress towards the policy unanimously agreed by Full Council and adopted into the Council's Policy Framework. How will these carbon reduction measures affect the Council and its partners financially (and is there a consequence for job numbers/skills	Subject to scoping Document to be presented	Delivering High Quality Services/ A7 - Carbon Neutral by 2030	A copy of the approved Plan The papers considered by the Climate Change Portfolio Holder's Working Party that oversaw the development of the Plan. The Cabinet's approved Key Actions for 2021/22 to deliver elements of the Plan in that year. Performance detail against the Cabinet's Key Actions. Details of Carbon Neutral measures/plans adopted by Parish and Town Councils in the District.	Cllr Michael Talbot, Portfolio Holder Lee Heley, Interim Corporate Director Tim Clarke, Assistant Director Relevant representatives from Parish and Town Councils Representatives from Ecotricity Electric Highway network and GridServe (who provide the Braintree Electric Forecourt) in respect of electric vehicle charging	To support delivery against the Plan in the most appropriate way that takes account of the wider implications of carbon neutral measures and to look at how we can work with our partners to pursue the wider objectives of encouraging carbon neutrality locally.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
of the individual measures)?					

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To establish a Joint Panel with Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Post COVID Regrowth Town Centres, Supporting them to survive and thrive (adapting to the post covid uses by residents and visitors) and investment into those Town Centres. Revisit Tendring4Growth and see when and where the money is being spent. Back 2 Business- joined up thinking of skills, jobs and enterprise, in short medium and long	Subject to scoping Document to be presented	Building Sustainable Communities for the Future/B6 - Effective planning policies andB3 - Vibrant Town Centres  A Growing and Inclusive Economy/D2 - Support existing businesses	The Council's relevant policies and strategies (including Tendring4Growth). Copies of relevant bids; such as for the Government's Towns Fund The Cabinet's approved Key Actions for 2021/22 to deliver 'back to business'/business support in that year. Performance detail against the Cabinet's Key Actions. Details of occupancy, footfall and other measures of the vibrancy of the District's economy	Mike Carran, Assistant Director	To support delivery against the approved Plans/Strategies in order to maximise the benefit to the local economy and to look at how we can work with our partners to achieve this.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
term goals. Progress with the previously discussed Business round table proposal. The prioritisation of the funded projects and initiatives.					

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Crime and disorder. To consider the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's emerging/revised Police and Crime plan and its application to the District. The review will also look at anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse in the district.  Anti-social behaviour including community speed watch schemes and the allocation of additional Police Officers to the area  It is proposed that this enquiry be held as soon as possible after the Resources	27 September 2021	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Law and Order - for a safer community	The Commissioner's emerging/revised Police and Crime Plan. Data on recorded crime (including domestic abuse), crime survey data and anti-social behaviour levels over the last five years. Numbers of Police and PCSOs over the same period for the District of Tendring. Details of measures specifically taken on the issue of domestic violence. Details on local watch schemes including home watch and community speed watch.	Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Essex Police's District Commander Representatives from relevant organisations and watch schemes including Home watch. Anastasia Simpson, Assistant Director	To help inform the emerging Police and Crime Plan/consider the implications of the Plan for the District and to examine ways to support community schemes to address violence in a domestic setting and antisocial behaviour.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered enforcement issues in respect of services provided by the Council.					
The lawful and unlawful use of escooters and the extend of policing/action against those unlawfully using them	27 September 2021	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Law and Order - for a safer community	Data on the Spin provided e-scooters, their use, issues of misuse (use on pavements, dual riders, moving traffic offences) and control of the scooters by the provider.  Details of the authorisation of the Spin e-scooters and assessment of their use.  Reports/use of unlawful e-scooters and enforcement against those who use them	Representatives of Essex Police Essex County Council Highways	To identify whether the enforcement issues around the unlawful use of e-scooters is appropriate or whether recommendations need to be made to better address issues with unlawful use of them.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To examine the informal partnerships that were harnessed during the covid-19 pandemic lockdowns in 2020/21 and consider how those partnerships can inform future community partnerships going forward	27 September 2021	Community Leadership Through Partnerships	Details of the range of community partnerships that existed, the services they provided and the network of support they had access to.	Cllr McWilliams, Portfolio Holder for Community Partnerships/Anastasia Simpson	To support community engagement with recommendations for the future and help to galvanise informal groups going forward.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To enquire into educational achievement locally, issues impacting on that achievement and measures to enhance achievement	8 November 2021	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Education - for improved outcomes	To look at GCSE and A level results Other post-16 educational attainment levels and training/apprenticeship entry  Data on children with special needs (those with Education, Health and Wellbeing Assessments) and how that is being provided across the District  Potentially use enquiry days ahead of the meeting to receive more evidence	Essex County Council Education Service Local Academy Trust representatives.  Representatives of secondary school students and parents of those students	To support measures to improve educational achievement/opportunities to progress in non-academic settings locally and thereby contribute positively toward the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the District

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To enquire into the safeguarding and educational position concerning those of school age not attending mainstream schools	13 December 2021	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Education - for improved outcomes	Data on the children who do not attend main stream schools. To include alternative providers in so called 'mini' schools, home educated and those for whom there is no known/verified education provision  Potentially use enquiry days ahead of the meeting to receive more evidence	Essex County Council Education Service Local Academy Trust representatives  Representatives of alternative providers  Representatives of organisations such as 'Lads need Dads' who are providing mentoring or other support for those not in mainstream education.	To examine the extent of the issue of elective home education (EHE) arrangements, the circumstances in which EHE occurs for children previously in school and the opportunities to return to school. The extent to which there are unassessed EHE arrangements and the use of School Attendance Orders

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
District wide health levels and Health inequalities due so socioeconomic factors.	31 January 2022	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses	Information from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) profile for Essex, localised to the District, that provides an overview of the changing health and wellbeing needs in the county/district  Details of funding secured by the Council to address health inequalities	Representatives from the Essex County Council's Public Health/Policy Team  Anastasia Simpson, Assistant Director/John Fox, Public Health, Wellbeing & Environmental Protection Manager	To assist in the development of measures to address health inequalities in the District and specifically also to look at delivery of measures in this financial year for which the Council has funding available.
Enquire into the work of the Anchor Institutions and consider opportunities for taking that work (and lessons from it) to be applied locally to maximum effect	31 January 2022 (A briefing note to be requested for late 2021 from those leading the Anchor Institutions work)	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses  A Growing and Inclusive Economy/Support existing businesses	Details of the work of the Anchor Institutions and the opportunities this work provides	Representatives from the Anchor Institutions	To consider the opportunity to apply good practice being developed across Essex and maximising the benefit for the District.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Jaywick, social issues, crime and deprivation, housing.  Private Sector Housing and rental build quality. Plus a look at the housing condition survey to be undertaken in Jaywick Sands as a measure to inform action to improve quality of rental accommodation.	14 March 2022	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses  Building Sustainable Communities for the Future/B2 Jaywick Sands - more and better housing; supporting the community, B5 - Building and managing our own homes and Effective planning policies  Delivering High Quality Services/A6 - Effective Regulation and Enforcement	Data around the current position as it relates to Jaywick by way of demographics, health inequalities, recorded crime, service provision and plans for the area. Information from the housing condition survey to be undertaken in Jaywick Sands as a measure to inform action to improve quality of rental accommodation.  Assessment of the impact of the 10 new properties built by the Council on the areas and the lives of those living there.	Representatives from the Environment Agency Representatives from the Clinical Commissioning Group/Primary Care Network Representatives from Community Groups in Jaywick Cllr P Honeywood as Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Jaywick Damian Williams, Corporate Director and Tim R Clarke, Assistant Director	To look holistically at the issues as they relate to Jaywick Sands and the measures in place to address those issues and encourage further working between partners to collaboratively take opportunities to improve the area for its residents.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Freeports, the progress of the proposals for Freeport East (its interlinking with Thames Freeport), specific measures on site (and particularly on the Harwich site), impact on previous planning permissions being implemented and measures outside of the Freeport to harness the most from them into the local community.	9 May 2022	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Influence and lobby - for Tendring's future  Building Sustainable Communities for the Future/B6 - Effective planning policies	Freeport East Proposals. Development Plans to deliver the Proposals. Details of planning permissions already in place for sites associated with the existing port of Harwich	Representatives from the Freeport East Group Mike Carran, Assistant Director	To look at the proposals for the Freepost East, the opportunities this may offer and how these can be harnessed. The Committee will consider whether recommendations need to be submitted to assist in this process.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To consider the issue of suicide levels in the District. (and related demographics of those more prone to suicide) and mental health provision (including access to emergency mental health services for those most prone to suicide).	To be allocated	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Health and wellbeing - for effective services and improved public health	Demographics data to identify those more prone to suicide and comparative data from elsewhere. Details of suicide numbers locally and those attempting suicide over the last five years Details of services to those prone to and having attempted suicide Emergency mental health beds Learning from the lived experience of those with poor mental health. Information from the County Health and Wellbeing Board's current work on suicide issues.	Service providers and organisations with a specific role in this sector lan Davidson, Chief Executive in view of his role on Essex-wide bodies looking at suicide levels and mental health.	To help encourage place/ neighbourhood based support for those prone to, attempting or affected by suicide and to support strategic decision making in respect of critical emergency mental health services.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To consider the mental health needs of residents of the District and the services to meet those needs. Specifically looking beyond the Mental Health Hub and Primary School Mental Health initiative.	To be allocated (A briefing note to be requested initially from the Clinical Commissioning Group)	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Health and wellbeing - for effective services and improved public health	Information on the mental health needs of the local population and services to respond to that need. Information in respect in the gaps of service provision and examples of services that could be provided to bridge that gap	Service providers and organisations with a specific role in this sector	To seek re-assurance that the mental health needs of the Council are appropriately been met or otherwise propose measures to improve that provision

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Maintenance of existing B&C roads. How often are they being maintained, time it takes to fix works, notice times of works given.	To be allocated	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses	Assessment of the condition and maintenance requirements for B and C roads in the District. Details of expenditure on B and C classified roads in the District over the last five years Service standards and maintenance policies of the County Council for B and C roads Performance data on works undertaken over the past five years.	Representatives from Essex County Council Highways/highways contractor to the County Council.	To better understand the position and thereby inform the development of policies/strategies and opportunities to improve the B and C road network in the District.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Bridleway provision locally and facilities for horse riders to ride safely around the District	To be allocated	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses	Details of the bridleways and the extent to which they are maintained and accessible.	Representatives of the Essex County Council Service with responsibility for Footways and Bridleways. Representatives of those who operate stables and/or organisations for those who ride horses.	To examine this issue as part of the safe leisure pursuit of horse riding locally
Housing issues in the district how it impacts residents, socially, mentally and financially. The struggle of finding somewhere to live on low or no wages.	To be allocated	Community Leadership Through Partnerships/ Health and wellbeing - for effective services and improved public health  Building Sustainable Communities for the Future/Effective planning policies	Details around housing supply generally and specifically for those with low income.	A representative from Shelter to speak of that organisation's experience of helping house people in the district.	To help inform delivery of policies to assist with quality housing supply to meet need.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Housing register numbers and how they are categorised in family size and what type of property they want and the locations sought.	Not applicable	This item should be looked at as a member training module for all Councillors so they can understand and explain the Housing process to residents.			

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Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Joint Panel with Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee Carbon Neutral by 2030. The assessment of measures to progress towards the policy unanimously agreed by Full Council and adopted into the Council's Policy Framework. How will these carbon reduction measures affect the Council and its r partners financially (and is there a consequence for job numbers/skills of the individual measures)?	Scoping Document to be produced	Delivering High Quality Services/ A7 - Carbon Neutral by 2030	A copy of the approved Plan The papers considered by the Climate Change Portfolio Holder's Working Party that oversaw the development of the Plan. The Cabinet's approved Key Actions for 2021/22 to deliver elements of the Plan in that year. Performance detail against the Cabinet's Key Actions. Details of Carbon Neutral measures/plans adopted by Parish and Town Councils in the District.	Tim Clarke, Assistant Director Relevant representatives from Parish and Town Councils	To support delivery against the Plan in the most appropriate way that takes account of the wider implications of carbon neutral measures and to look at how we can work with our partners to pursue the wider objectives of encouraging carbon neutrality locally.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Joint Panel with Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee Post COVID Regrowth Town Centres, Supporting them to survive and thrive (adapting to the post covid uses by residents and visitors) and investment into those Town Centres. Revisit Tendring4Growth and see when and where the money is being spent. Back 2 Business- joined up thinking of skills, jobs and enterprise, in short medium and long term goals. Progress with the previously	Scoping Document to be produced	Building Sustainable Communities for the Future/ B6 - Effective planning policies and B3 - Vibrant Town Centres  A Growing and Inclusive Economy/D2 - Support existing businesses	The Council's relevant policies and strategies (including Tendring4Growth). Copies of relevant bids; such as for the Government's Towns Fund The Cabinet's approved Key Actions for 2021/22 to deliver 'back to business'/business support in that year. Performance detail against the Cabinet's Key Actions. Details of occupancy, footfall and other measures of the vibrancy of the District's economy	Gary Guiver, Assistant Director  Mike Carran, Assistant Director	To support delivery against the approved Plans/Strategies in order to maximise the benefit to the local economy and to look at how we can work with our partners to achieve this.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
discussed Business round table proposal. The prioritisation of the funded projects and initiatives.					

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Leisure centres and the Leisure Strategy – looking at the developing Strategy against previously discussed intentions for it and the implication for investment in Leisure provision locally to address those areas where Tendring is below comparable averages in activity levels among the local community.  This enquiry will also look at the refurbishment of the skate park at the Clacton Leisure Centre	20 September 2021	Delivering High Quality Services  Strong Finances and Governance/Effective and positive Governance  Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Health and wellbeing - for effective services and improved public health	The Leisure Strategy and Action Plan Details of the leisure facilities of the Council and individual proposals for each of them based on the Strategy and Action Plan Consultation proposals for users of the facilities Details of the budget over the last five years including revenue income and expenditure and capital/one off investments and grants to the Council. Details of usage of each of the facilities in each of those years and projects for usage in the current and next following four years. Details of percentage of the population that are inactive, fairly active and	Cllr. Alex Porter, Portfolio Holder Mike Carran, Assistant Director	To examine the Council's strategy for leisure facilities, the basis for this strategy and how that is delivered and its potential to support increasing activity levels locally and opportunities for learning from one scheme to the next.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
		Priority	active etc. over the same five years and how that compares with all District Councils in the East of England in each of those years (21 September 2020 (Minute 87 refers)).  A detailed assessment of the costs of the works undertaken at Clacton Leisure Centre in 2021/22 as to how they secured value for money and made a positive contribution to the Council's aims of reducing its carbon foot print and the lessons for future works at Leisure facilities (21		review
			September 2020 (Minute 87 refers)).		

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
			Details of the refurbishment of the Clacton Skate Park, costs, timescales, impact ion thee revenue budget for maintenance and envisaged lifespan of the Skate Park together with the lessons learned that informed this refurbishment from the site in Dovercourt as delivered to Harwich Town Council (21 September 2020 (Minute 87 refers)).		

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Cliff stabilisation – Looking at the issue based on previous discussions around the risks and evaluating/surveying them to support financial decision making in the medium and long term, preventative maintenance measures to mitigate the risks of those cliffs with the greatest incline and assessing opportunities to look at introducing more access for the disabled from the upper promenade to the lower one when cliff stabilisation work is being undertaken.	20 September 2021	Strong Finances and Governance /C1 - Balanced annual budget and 10 year financial plan  Delivering High Quality Services/Public spaces to be proud of in urban and rural areas  A Growing and Inclusive Economy/ Maximise our coastal and seafront opportunities	Details of the expenditure on cliff stabilisation works over the last five years and the schemes that have been undertaken in those five years (including the specific stretch of cliff Details of the cliffs that are over 18° incline that are still prone to slippage (22 June 2020 (Minute 62) and on 21 September 2020 (Minute 85) refers)  Details of numbers of Beach Huts, the licence fees and expenditure on the service, numbers where the licensee change hands, unpaid licence fees action.	Cllr. Carlo Guglielmi, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Richard Barrett, Assistant Director Andy White, Assistant Director	To consider the Council's delivery against the Corporate Plan commitments and determine whether any recommendations for adjustment to policies or budget allocation are appropriate.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
The Beach Huts Service  The costal defence 'fish tails', the created beaches and the potential for Beach recharge activities  Details of the Summer Plan and how this has evolved given experience.			Details of the coastal defence steps and quantifiable data on the beaches created and the extent to which recharges to the beaches may be required.  Details of the Summer Plans over the last five years and how they have developed in the face of experience over those years.		

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
TDC Enforcement in the district, including:  (1) Waste, Fly tipping, Littering, Abandoned cars and abandoned dogs enforcement  (2) Environmental Protection Nuisances - Noise, odour, bonfires, pests and light pollution enforcement  (3) Private sector Housing (private landlords) as well as Caravan parks and camp sites) enforcement  (4) Food, Health and Safety, skin piercing operators, animal licensing, breeding, kennelling selling, riding	1 November 2021	Delivering High Quality Services/A6 - Effective Regulation and Enforcement	Details of strategies and plans from across the council on enforcement Details of the Council's co-ordination of enforcement approaches and detection of matters that can be evaluated for enforcement (crossservice training and working to identify and report matters while undertaking other activities)  Use of PCN or similar, warnings, removal of authorisations and prosecution by services over the last five years.	Cllr. Carlo Guglielmi, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Assistant Directors - Andy White. Tim Clarke Anastasia Simpson Graham Norse Richard Barrett	To assess the extent to which policies on enforcement exist, are up to date and provide a coherent approach to proportionate enforcement of offences/breaches across the Council. Thereby to inform any recommendations around this.  To assess the extent to which the delivery matches the expectations in the approved plans and whether adjustments to delivery should be considered to improve that coherent approach.

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Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
	1	1		T	
establishments,					
performances of					
animals and zoos					
enforcement.					
(5) Alcohol,					
entertainment and					
taxi/private hire					
licensing					
enforcement					
(6) Planning and					
Building Regulation					
Enforcement					
(7) Benefit fraud					
enforcement and					
Council/NNDR					
payment					
enforcement					
And looking at the co-					
ordination of the					
Council's enforcement					
across the above.					

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Waste (1) Specifically waste material that is generated in connection with the Waste Transfer Station and occurs along the A12 and A133. (2) Public Litter bin provision (determination of such sites and gaps in provision), replacing damaged bins, bin emptying schedules and rotas. How will that provision accommodate increased litter due to increased visitor numbers during the usual tourism season and outside of that season	1 November 2021	Delivering High Quality Services/Minimise waste: Maximise recycling and Public spaces to be proud of in urban and rural areas	Details of the services provided, the related budgets and service requests/performance data over the last five years. This is to include details on the points raised in the item details. The mean level of recycling for all local authority districts in the East of England, compared with the position for Tendring in each of those years and the aspiration of the service over the coming four years to reach that level (21 September 2020 (Minute 86 refers)); The details of all bring sites detailing the recycling available, the extent of use as far it is known, the	Cllr. Michael Talbot as Portfolio Holder Andy White, Assistant Director Jon Hamlet, Head of Service	To enquire into specific elements of the strategic approach to waste/ recycling and the delivery against that approach with a view to determining whether refinements to one or both appear appropriate.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
(where popularity is increasing)?  Recycling bring sites – looking at previously discussed improvements and progress with these to ensure such sites are accessible, known about, the adequacy of the range of opportunities to recycle, the cleanliness of those sites and the recording of usage/provision of additional capacity.(4)  Progress with increasing the recycling levels from residents.			collection frequency and the plans for improving them, the range of recycling to be made available to extend that provision and address any excess of use over capacity for it and the signage at those sites to be clear that side waste should not be left.		

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To examine the Council's communications strategy – using different media, utilising technology efficiently, assessing the impact of communication	20 December 2021	Delivering the Council's Vision  Delivering High Quality Services	The Strategy and details of key campaigns Details of the expenditure on communications over the past five years Analysis of communication activity as to the reach, understanding and action based on the messages Details of service user communications from across the Council (with details of frequency and examples) Marketing opportunities and those implemented for key services	Cllr. Carlo Guglielmi, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Anastasia Simpson, Assistant Director	To appreciate the underlying elements of the Council's communications approach and the opportunities for developing these to address the information needs of residents and service users.
Budget scrutiny – 12 January 2022					

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Celebrating the Area's Heritage – what is being done, how much money the Council is investing in this and what are the outcomes of that investment.	7 February 2022	A Growing and Inclusive Economy/ D4 - Promote Tendring's tourism, cultural and heritage offers	The Council's Heritage Strategy and action plans. The Strategy was adopted by decision of the Leader on 24 April 2020  Details of budgets and performance/output indicates over the last five years.  Heritage and Conservation Area Planning Guidance and its application for traditional farm buildings, conservation areas and listed buildings	Cllr. Alex Porter, Portfolio Holder Mike Carran, Assistant Director Gary Guiver, Assistant Director	To examine the Strategy and how it has been implemented since its adoption and the local projects identified in the Strategy. This will inform the Committee as to whether any recommendations need to be submitted to Cabinet on the Strategy and/or its implementation.

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
To be determined	21 March 2022	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined
To be determined	23 May 2022	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Disabled Facilities Grants –progress with the measures previously agreed and the occupational therapist support capacity to assist in the assessment and design of adaptations?	To be allocated	Strong Finances and Governance/Use assets to support priorities Community Leadership Through Partnerships/E2 – Health and Wellbeingfor effective services and improved public health	Details of the spend and numbers of applications received and processed, time span from receipt of application to payment of grant/decision to refuse in each of the last five years.  Demographic details of the population of the District and any other indicators of latent demand.  Details of the communications plan to bring the detail of the scheme to the attention of those in need.	Cllr. Paul Honeywood, Portfolio Holder Tim Clarke, Assistant Director Representatives of Essex County Council' Occupational Health Service who assess applications Representatives of community groups who represent those most likely to require/use facilities funded by these grants.	To look at this element of the service provided to local residents and to assess whether the Cabinet should be recommended to take action in relation to this service



# Tendring District Council Overview and Scrutiny Report for the years 2019/21

This report has been prepared and is submitted in accordance with the requirements of clauses 3 and Rule 7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution





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Note: OSC = Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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#### Foreword to the 2019/21 Overview and Scrutiny Report

On this occasion, we have decided to produce a single joint bi-annual report on the work of overview and scrutiny at Tendring District Council as the 2020/21 report was unable to be delivered due to the COVID Pandemic. As the Chairmen of the Community Leadership and of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) we are happy to offer this joint report to Council and trust that it will be recognised as a record in which both Committees have taken seriously their 'critical friend' responsibilities to the Cabinet and more widely the two Committees have sought to positively contribute to good governance at Tendring District Council and to urge others to share the Council's ambition for the area.

In submitting this foreword, we wish to record our thanks to all the Members of the two Committees for their contributions to the scrutiny reviews and to the Members of the Cabinet for their co-operation. We would also like to thank Council officers and representatives of partners who have attended our meetings and have provided a wealth of information to the Committees in order that they could undertake their scrutiny work.

We know we can improve further our scrutiny work and we want to achieve this improvement in 2021/22. This is something the new Chairman of Community Leadershp, Cllr Chittock, is also committed to. We cannot achieve this in isolation and we look foreword to working in conjunction with the Cabinet and partners to achieve this. The development of our approach to scrutiny will also involve some training and we expect those on the two Committees to make every effort to attend such training when it is arranged. Other Councillors will be welcome as always.





Our key focus is that overview and scrutiny seeks to 'add value' to the decision making processes of the Council and its partners and addresses the concerns of local people. As such, we are committed to being more visible still as part of those processes going foreword and to open up channels for issues and evidence that can inform our work programmes and individual scrutiny reviews.

Cllr. Mick Skeels
Chairman of the Community Leadership OSC

Cllr. Mark Stephenson
Chairman of the Resources and Services OSC

#### Introduction to Scrutiny

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced new political systems for principal councils such as Tendring District Council, allowing them to have a separate 'executive' (e.g. a Cabinet model similar to central government) rather than committee systems as had been the case prior to that.

To provide a counterweight to the powerful 'executive', the 2000 Act also introduced overview & scrutiny, whereby every council with an executive arrangement is required to have at least one scrutiny committee (e.g. a select committee to act as a 'critical friend' to the Cabinet – and so Cabinet Members are barred from also sitting on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)).

OSCs also look at the decisions and actions of organisations external to the Council on behalf of the public. In this way they can play a vital role in following the public "£" and ensure that it is contributing to the area as intended.

The diagram on the next page sets out the key principles of scrutiny that underpin its role.

On 7 May 2019, the Government issued its new statutory guidance for scrutiny in local government. The foreword to that new puidance from Rishi Sunak MP, currently Chancellor of the Exchequer, included the following:

"I would, [...] strongly urge all councils to cast a critical eye over their existing arrangements and, above all, ensure they embed a culture that allows overview and scrutiny to flourish."

The guidance had several themes including:

ensuring a clear division of responsibilities between the scrutiny function and the audit function; reporting
findings of
independent
whistle blowing
investigations to
OSCs for them to
consider their
wider
implications;

consider
whether to
appoint (or
voluntarily/desig
nate) a
(statutory)
scrutiny officer
(or equivalent);

consider
electing the
Chairmen of
OSCs by taking
the vote by
secret ballot:

consider
establishing a
formal co-option
scheme for OSCs.
Also consider issue
of Technical
Advisers
(independent local
experts); and

consider
creating an
ExecutiveScrutiny Protocol
to be formally
integrated into
the Constitution.

The Council already had strong measures in place to demonstrate the openness of Cabinet being held to account having introduced some years ago that Group Leaders of all political groups would have the right to attend Cabinet meetings and to speak on agenda items whilst not being able to vote. The Terms of Reference of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee states that the positions of its Chairman and Vice-Chairman will normally be filled by a Member of a political group not represented on the Cabinet. Informal Group Leaders' meetings are also held at which the Leader or Deputy Leader could share information in advance of going to Cabinet or on other topics, which had proved particularly useful during the Council's response to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Chief Executive

holds regular All Member Briefings, at which Portfolio Holders have presented initial ideas on strategies and policies for discussion. Furthermore, the Deputy Leader chairs a Constitution Review Working Party (CRWP), whose membership is made up by representatives from all political groups on the Council.

Following its publication, the new statutory guidance was reported to both of the OSCs at Tendring District Council and to its Cabinet. Due regard has been given to the guidance and on 16 March 2021 Council approved an 'Executive Scrutiny Protocol' in order to help Define the relationship between these two arms of the

corganisation, dealing with the practical expectations of Scrutiny \*Committee members and the Executive, as well as the cultural

dynamics.

The Protocol introduces a number of principles and how it applies between the roles of Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny building upon a relationship of trust whilst both bodies are performing their statutory functions, whilst also acknowledging the inter-relationship with the Audit Committee. It is designed to sit alongside the range of other commitments to openness and inclusiveness as described above. It also sets out how Policy Development Overview and Pre-Decision Scrutiny can work in addition to the traditional 'view' of solely holding the Cabinet to account. The importance of timely overview and scrutiny in budget setting and monitoring throughout the year (to show how the process can add value) as well as by reviewing whether the financial plans and strategies of the Council are sound (and have taken into consideration all

relevant factors) has been proved by this Council's experience over many years.

Advocate for the public

Critical Friend of decision makers

Enabler of reviews

Driver of

savings and

improvement

Source of good practice

Developer of policy

Seeker of influence

#### Snapshot of the years 2019/21

The Annual Council meeting at the beginning of the municipal year 2019/20 (28 May 2019). Constituted two Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) each with nine Councillors as Members. There was no Annual Council meeting in 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and associated restrictions. The Memberships were as follows with slight changes in 2020:

#### **Community Leadership OSC**

Cllr Mick Skeels (Chairman)

Cllr John Chittock (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Chris Amos

Cllr Paul Clifton

CIIr Bill Davidson

Cllr Anne Davis

Cllr KT King

Cllr Delyth Miles

Cllr Nicola Overton (2019/20)

Cllr Graham Steady (2020/21)

#### Resources and Services OSC

Cllr Mark Stephenson (Chairman)

Cllr Gary Scott (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Terry Allen

Cllr Mick Barry

Cllr Jeff Bray

Cllr James Codling

Cllr Chris Griffiths

Cllr Pam Morrison

Cllr Nick Turner (2019/20)

Cllr James Codling (2020/21)

The Annual Council on 28 May 2019 also approved the initial work programmes for those two OSCs for the municipal year 2019/20 which the two Committees then extending through 2020/21.

In the year 2019/20 the Resources and Services OSC met nine times and Community Leadership OSC six times.

In March of 2020 we met with an unprecedented situation as we were enveloped by a global pandemic that halted Committee meetings across the Council. Central Government issued emergency powers to allow Councils to carry out "Virtual Meetings" so they could carry out their duty.

The Resource and Services OSC were one of the first Committees to lead the way with these remote meetings, holding five OSCs in the four months from June till September 2020 and a total of nine meetings for 2020/21 and the Community Leadership OSC meeting five times.

#### Working arrangements of the OSCs

Early in 2019 the Resources and Services OSC recorded its expectation that for each item on its work programme it would expect a written report to be provided to it. The aim of this request was that Councillors could read the information, consider the key lines of enquiry for the meeting and otherwise prepare themselves for the scrutiny of the matter involved. This was adapted into the new 'Executive Scrutiny Protocol' in March of 2021 as part of constitution.

Both OSCs also resolved to receive a recommendations monitoring report so that the Cabinet's or other response/outcome to recommendations from the OSCs were reported back to them for completeness.

Fach OSC can demonstrate that they have kept their work programmes under preview as this has been reported to the ordinary meetings of those OSCs and regularly updated as circumstances required.

The OSCs have also shown novel solutions to issues that span the terms of reference of the two Committees. One such item has been the scrutiny of the NEGC Ltd and the funding commitments and governance arrangements in relation to it. The two OSCs established a Joint Scrutiny Panel and this Panel has undertaken its scrutiny of this subject has had its report and recommendations broadly approved by Cabinet on 19 March 2021.

The NEGC Joint Scrutiny Panel was comprised of Councillors M Stephenson (Chairman), Bush, Griffiths, Steady and Turner.



#### Corporate Plan

In 2019/20 the Council prepared and adopted a new Corporate Plan as part of the Council's Policy Framework. Prior to its adoption by Council, and also prior to its consideration by Cabinet, the two OSCs had the opportunity to examine the developing proposals and to help shape those proposals. The Community Leadership OSC undertook this input on 7 October 2019 and the Resources and Services OSC undertook its input on 14 October 2019. Both OSCs were supportive of the emerging proposals and the engagement undertaken to support the proposals.

In 2020/21the Cabinet prepared it's key provisional actions for 2020/21 and long term planning from 2020 to 2024 which was scrutinised by the Resources and Services OSC on 1 February 2021 and by the Community Leadership OSC on 8 February 2021. The view of the OSCs were considered by Cabinet in March 2021 when the key actions were adopted.

#### \*Performance Reporting

Council has determined that the OSCs have a specific role in reviewing and scrutinising the performance of implemented decisions of the Executive over time. The Constitution sets out one of the principles guiding OSC work as the focused co-ordination of all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council including the performance reporting on the Corporate Plan, Priorities and Projects. Under these provisions, the two OSCs are able to examine performance across the Council and in key elements of the Council's Community Leadership role.

The purpose of this performance reporting to the OSCs is to submit to them the relevant performance data so that they can undertake scrutiny of it in so far as:

Is the performance monitoring system capturing the right level of data to support delivery of the Corporate Plan and its priorities and projects? – and to make recommendations thereon.

Is there any specific performance, as identified in the monitoring data, that warrants scrutiny of an activity? – and to determine whether and how that scrutiny should take place; including it as appropriate in the work programme.



The OSCs are not the sole route for monitoring performance as the Leader and each Portfolio Holder has the responsibility for monitoring service performance to ensure the Council achieves delivery of its strategies, service standards, objectives and key projects. In addition, the Audit Committee has a responsibility to look at performance issues to the extent that it affects the Council's exposure to risk and the control environment.

#### Specific Overview and Scrutiny Powers

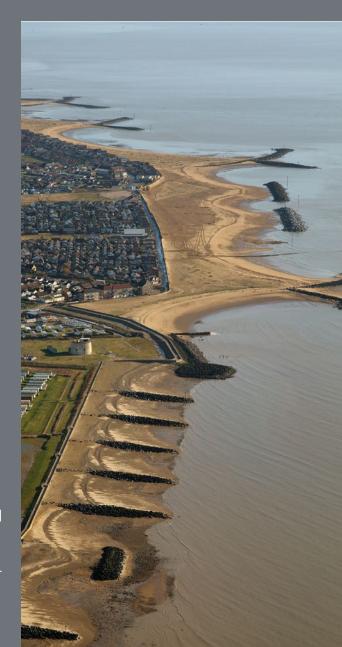
In 2019/20, there was a single 'call-in' and none in 2020/21, the "call-in" in 2019/20, and was considered by the Resources and Services OSC. This related to the financial provision for Allowances for Councillors in accordance with a revised scheme for those Allowances approved by Council on 21 January 2020. 'Call-in' is where a decision of the Executive is not implemented until an OSC has considered it and determined whether to refer the matter to Council (concerning a budget/policy framework issue) or back to the Executive for reconsideration or to allow the decision to come into effect.

There was no use of the "Call for action" provisions through 2019/21. The Councillors Call for Action is an additional means for Councillors to raise issues of local community concern, for consideration by the Council's overview and scrutiny function, on behalf of residents. A Councillors Call for Action should only be raised where other means of resolving the matter have been exhausted.

In the year 2019/20 there were no questions under Procedure Rule 38 that permitted Members of the OSC to give notice of an intention to ask the OSC Chairman a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties of which affect the Tendring District and which falls within the terms of reference of that OSC.

In 2020/21 the Resource and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked two such questions, the first on 9 July 2020 in relation to the "Spendalls Project" and the second on the 13 August 2020 in relation the to the "Gardens Community Project". The Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked one such question on the 28 September 2020 in relation to the "Green Agenda". All three questions asked were answered to the satisfaction of the Councillor that raised it.

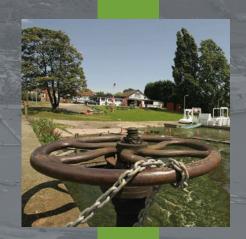
Other than under the 'call-in' procedures, the work of the OSCs generally falls into the pre- or post- decision scrutiny of decisions. During the Municipal Years covered by this report, there were the following examples of pre-decision scrutiny:



- The Corporate Plan The Community Leadership OSC input into the proposals on 7 October 2019 and the Resources and Services OSC input into them on 14 October 2019.
- Housing Strategy The Community Leadership OSC scrutinised the draft Housing Strategy 2019-2024 ("Delivering Homes to Meet the Needs of Local People") on 5 August 2019.
- House Building Strategy The Community Leadership OSC scrutinised the basis that would underpin the Council's House Building Strategy on 5 August 2019.
- Homelessness Reduction & Rough Sleeping Strategy The Community Leadership OSC scrutinised the draft Strategy on 13 January 2020.
- Future use of Spendells House, Walton-on-the-Naze on 17 February 2020, the Resources
  and Services OSC commenced its enquiry of the proposed decision by Cabinet on the
  future use of this building following the Council's previous decision to cease to use it, due to
  the COVID pandemic this item is now to be scrutinised post-decision.
- The Corporate Budget– An extensive pre-decision scrutiny over two days in early January 6th and 8th January) for 2020 as well as scrutiny over two days in early January (11th and 14th January) 2021 of the underlying budget strategies and the specific proposals for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and the delivery of projects to be funded through that budget.
- Annual Capital and Treasury Strategy the Resources and Services OSC scrutinised this proposed update to the Strategy for 2020/21 on 17 February 2020.
- Tendring Back to Business Priorities and Projects 2020/21 the Resources and Services OSC provided overview to Back to Business and Recovery plan for 2020/21 on 13 August 2020.
- Leisure Provision by the Council in the District on the 21 September 2020 the Resource and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee input to help set out the position concerning the emerging District-wide Leisure Strategy.

The ability to undertake pre-decision scrutiny, as directed by the OSCs, is often seen as a good indicator of a positive culture towards overview and scrutiny; as part of a good balance between pre- and post- decision scrutiny.







#### Oversight of the Budget and financial management

As referenced above, the Resources and Services OSC has a specific role to review the Council's Corporate Budget, the Housing Revenue Account and the financial management arrangements of the Council. This role is separate from the role of the Audit Committee in respect of the risks to those management arrangements.

The diagram below is designed to set out how that oversight is arranged over a rolling two year budget:



#### Summary of scrutiny reviews undertaken in 2019/21

Earlier in this report there is reference to specific pre-decision scrutiny reviews undertaken by the two OSCs. As such, on the whole, the following represent post-decision scrutiny and/or ongoing oversight of issues relevant to the District involving the Council and its partners. Reference has also been set out elsewhere in the report around performance and budget monitoring and as such it is not repeated here.

#### Community Leadership OSC

Update on the Children and Young People Strategy At the 1 July 2020 meeting the OSC:

The Committee was advised of the 2017/18 Delivery Plan for the Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2020. A new Partnership Delivery Plan for 2019/20 was also reviewed. **The Committee recommended that the learning from the pilot well-being hub be extending.** 

#### **Community Safety**

The OSC also met on the 28 September 2020 when the OSC considered elements of the work of statutory bodies and others to make communities safer and ensured that the voices of local people were heard on policing and on measures to detect and deter anti-social behaviour.

- (a) The Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Darren Deex outlined their challenges and priorities over the coming period. He set out the challenges and response to County Lines/Cuckooing etc. and the proliferation of drugs misuse.
- (b) The outcome of the partnership funding of £10,000 by this Council/Essex Police for additional police patrols in July/August, delivery of the new Anti-Social Patrol Officer (looking at the justification for the post and how it had operated, delivering against the rationale for being established), and the arrangements for and work involved in Community and Street Action Days. The Committee praised the early evidence from the new Anti-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer post, recommended that joint funding for high visibility Policing in Clacton over the summer 2020 should be looked at favourably and it noted the announcement to it that the Police were to introduce monthly written briefings that will be circulated to Councillors.



The Committee also looked at the instances of fly tipping over recent time and the extent to which occurrences are increasing or not, measures to deter fly tipping and detection and action against those who do fly tip. The Committee looked at the speed of response to fly tipping on public land.

Within that work stream, the Committee examined the extent of noise nuisance reports and whether or not those had increased, the response to such reports and the outcomes in the forms of advice, seizure of equipment, reviews of licences, enforcement notices and prosecution of offenders, as well as the extent to which Homewatch (or other Watch) groups exist across the District, the information flow to and from them and the support they require will be examined. The Committee to scrutinised the work of the new/revived Multi-Agency Coordination Panel (MACP); that had the remit of examining enforcement powers and protocols between various agencies locally to ensure that the most effective response possible was put in place to a range of criminal and anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that the Committee would receive an update in terms of the progress made by Operation Luscombe at some time in the future.

#### Health and Wellbeing

At the 13 January 2020 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee examined what the current state of health was in the District of Tendring as evidenced by the latest update to the Index of Multiple Deprivation and what actions Essex County Council was undertaking, both itself and working with partners to help deliver improved health. The Committee also reviewed the local North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance and the work programmes it is undertaking to deliver improved health in the District of Tendring and how it is working with partners to achieve this. The Committee also considered what actions the CCG is undertaking as part of the Alliance to deliver improved health within the District. The Committee agreed to keep watching for a brief of the measures reported to it; in particular the intended Tendring South integrated neighbourhood team, improvement plans for Clacton Hospital and reconfigured GP services from Kennedy House, Kennedy Way, Clacton.



This was revisited at the 30 November 2020 meeting the OSC where the Committee also heard the impact of COVID 19 on the district in relation to the above topics as well as the creation of North East Essex Forum. The recommended the suggestion from the Chief Operating Officer for the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to create a forum across North East Essex that will allow Councillors to communicate the views of their constituents with the GP practice leads directly be supported and the CCG urged to implement this as soon as possible.

#### Education Economy and Skills

At the 3 February 2020 meeting the OSC:

The Committee looked at educational attainment across the District and data around those 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEETs). Plus there was a look at Special Educational Need (SEND) provision locally and exclusions and the impact of decisions on the progress of other children and community safety. The OSC looked at raising aspirations and measures of success for this. The work of Career Track was examined to see what can be done and by whom to ensure we maximise the skills development of young people (in particular) locally. School Place provision and requirements for the future were also reviewed. The need for Councillors to engage as School Governors, and encouragement to Nundertake that role was highlighted.

On the 28 September 2020 the Committee looked at information at the meeting, as to whether (at the start of the autumn term) it is fully open to teach the full range of year groups or whether restrictions are in place that meant this was not the case. It was recommended that the Committee wish to receive a report of pupil participation with in the district and would also like invite the Assistant Director of Education to come and talk to the Committee at the next appropriate meeting.



#### Leisure and Tourism

At the 6 April 2020 meeting the OSC:

Considered the new Tourism Strategy. To exemplify elements of that strategy the Committee specifically looked at Mayflower 400:

The Cabinet decisions of 14 December 2018 (Minute 89) to agree an action plan and a budget of £135,000 to support the delivery of that action plan and of 19 July 2019 (Minute 24) to allocate £11K to "meet the cost of additional staff capacity to help deliver projects such as the Mayflower 400 commemorations" were reviewed.

The Economic impact assessment of the action plan

The operating model of Harwich and Dovercourt Tourism Group and the extent to which the Council should seek to establish similar models throughout the District to take foreword tourism development was looked at.

The Committee also looked at Sports Delivery and specifically joint use facilities – their operation and whether the arrangement delivers the benefits for both parties.

There will also be scrutiny of the Essex Health and Wellbeing/Active Essex delivery pilot to reduce the proportion of residents who are inactive and lead sedentary lifestyles. The meeting reviewed the following projects against the strategic aims of the Pilot by way of exemplars for the Pilot's overall ambition and direction.

Tendring Mental Health Hub - Melanie Hammond, chief executive of The Mental Health Hub, attended.

Let's Keep Moving – The project co-ordinator, Lorraine Hughes, attended to set out the development of this project which formed on the eve of summer 2018, as a friendly and welcoming group for adults aged over 50 looking to get and stay active.

Active 4 Life – Maggie Parkes, Group Fitness Manager, attended and outlined achievements of the club which runs classes for over 100 people aged over 50.

Buggy Boot Camp - The organiser of the Boot Camp in Harwich attended and set out how this project is helping carers of young children to undertake exercise and socialise.



#### Mitigation Measures for Impact of Public Firework Displays

At the 28 September 2020 meeting of the OSC:

On 21 January 2020 Council deferred Councillor S Honeywoods motion in relation to Fireworks so that the subject could be fully investigated by the Community Leadership OSC, this scrutiny took place over two meetings, the 28 September 2020 and 8 February 2021. The Committee supported Councillor S. Honeywood's motion to Council in relation to mitigation measures for the impact of firework displays and that the Council is made aware of the Government's response to the Petitions Committee. The material already available to the Council from Central Government be used as part of the public relations campaign for firework mitigation. Also that the Chief Executive write a letter to Central Government in support of any measures coming forth to tighten the restrictions on licensable sales of fireworks and a channel is developed for information in relation to the illegal and underage sale of fireworks to be passed along through the Council to Trading Standards.

### LICENSED PREMISES

At the 30 November 2020 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee looked at the sale of alcohol in the District and the impact COVID 19 had taken. The report advised them on the Licensing Teams, practices and powers as well as some recent enforcement cases.

#### Social Isolation and Mental Health

At the 8 February 2021 meeting of the OSC: The Committee heard about the impact of social isolation and loneliness on an individual's physical and mental wellbeing specifically in relation to lockdown.



#### Resources and Services OSC

#### Careline Computer System

At the 24 June 2019 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the then forthcoming decision by the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder and Housing Portfolio Holder on the Replacement of Careline Computer and Call Handling System. The Council's Head of Customer and Commercial Services (Mark Westall) attended the meeting and answered Members' questions on the then proposed decision. The investment in the UMO system identified to the Committee was recommended.



#### Ground Maintenance

At the 29 July 2019 meeting of the OSC:
The Committee scrutinised the arrangements for, funding of and delivery of the public realm grounds maintenance service and, within this, the weed control on highways. The Committee recommended that £50,000 be available for works to be carried out in the Tendring District's area to improve the look of the area for visitors and improve the quality of life for residents.



## Review of the Business Case for the future of publicly owned leisure centres within the District



At the 14 October 2019 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee considered an outline of the intended basis for the Business Case for the Future of publicly owned leisure centres within the district and the specific business case presented to it for investment at Clacton Leisure Centre. In relation to the investment at Clacton leisure Centre, the Committee recommended that the improvement works not be commenced until after the end of January 2020 and that consultation be undertaken on the works and the findings of those consultations reported on and considered.

# Scrutiny of the implementation of the new waste and recycling collection service.

At the 17 February 2020 meeting the OSC:

The Committee looked at the waste collection and recycling service, including:

- The implementation and planning of the roll out of the new 'wheelie bin' fortnightly collection service.
- The re-cycling performance data compared to expected data,
- waste minimisation efforts,
- Waste on the A120 left by those travelling to and from the Waste Transfer Station on behalf of the Waste Disposal Authority.
- The 12 months of the new Clinical Waste Collection and possible expansion of it.
- The green waste service, comparisons of use over time, the tonnages of waste collected, the cost-income assessment for the service and how charges compare with similar schemes.
- The use of non-compostable bags.
- The numbers of properties on black sack collections and the extent to which they are utilising red/green recycling boxes compared with those using wheelie bins and the measures taken/planned to increase recycling amongst this group.

The Committee recorded its views on the problems observed during the implementation of the new waste collection service and the need to capture learning for future major changes in service delivery. Further action to improve recycling and waste minimisation were recommended and representations were proposed about littering from waste disposal authority contractors moving waste from the local waste transfer station.

The OSC revisited waste at the meeting on 21 September 2020 and heard how COVID 19 had impacted the service and the steps taken to deliver a service throughout lockdown. It was recommended that Cabinet be invited to set the aspiration for this Council over the next four years to reach the mean level of recycling for all local authority districts in the East of England and that the aspirational information presented to the meeting be assessed and an action plan be developed to take the relevant ones forward in the short, medium and long term and aimed at achieving the aspiration referenced and that this action plan to be submitted to this Committee for its overview. That work with schools in Education about recycling is undertaken and that Cabinet should also explore the possibility of funding for schools to support recycling efforts Oalso that details of all bring sites be submitted to the Committee etailing the recycling available, the extent of use as far it is known, the collection frequency and the plans for improving them, the range of recycling to be made available to extend that provision and address any excess of use over capacity for it and the signage at those sites to be clear that side waste should not be left.



## Scrutiny of decisions of the Leader of the Council during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic

At the 22 June 2020 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee considered each of the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council during the peak of the First national Lockdown associated with the Covid-19 lockdown. They recommended that write of the Leisure Facilities membership fees be an ongoing practice and the exemption of rent payments for htose who fall under the CAROS scheme be extended until August 2020 at the very least and a second £1000 ward Councillor grant scheme be implemented.

#### Housing Issues

At the 14 October 2019 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee considered an outline of the intended basis for the Business Case for the Future of publicly owned leisure centres within the district and the specific business case presented to it for investment at Clacton Leisure Centre. In relation to the investment at Clacton leisure Centre, the Committee recommended that the improvement works not be commenced until after the end of January 2020 and that consultation be undertaken on the works and the findings of those consultations reported on and considered.



### Back 2 Business

At the 13 August 2020 and the 3 September 2020 meetings of the OSC:

The Committee scrutinised the development of 'Priorities and Projects' that was incorporated as part of the Council's Back to Business and Recovery Plan, and Performance Management framework for the Council for 2020/21. It was recommended that a range of trade services and skill training is supported in the plan.



#### Leisure Provision

At the 21 September 2020 meeting of the OSC: The Committee was updated on a number of items on the Sport and Leisure work programme which included the emerging district leisure strategy, refurbishment of the Clacton Leisure Centre, the sale of land to CCH and the refurbishment of the Clacton skate park. The Committee recommended that the strategy be brought forward as soon as possible and was developed to extend beyond COVID, that the Council aims to reduce its carbon footprint with its Leisure Centre refurbishment and that the refurbishing the Clacton Skate Park be pursued and that associated lessons from the site in Dovercourt as delivered to Harwich Town Council, be harnessed. They also asked for common district branding be applied to our leisure service facilities.

#### Transformation Agenda of the Council

At the 16 November 2020 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee scrutinised the Transformation agenda in relation to Digital Services, Digital Customer Services and Staffing. The Committee endorsed the principle that Councillors be consulted on the IT kit that is to be provided to them to fulfil their roles as Members. That our customer interaction logistics be analysed against similar organisations and that the leisure app is expedited.

#### The NEGC Joint Scrutiny Panel

On the 19 March 2021 a joint Resource and Services OSC, Community Leadership OSC and Audit Committee report was submitted to Cabinet. The report explained how the panel had proved to be a good vehicle for examining in detail the operation of NEGC Ltd, possible Development

Corporation proposals and governance arrangements. Across all meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Panel there was reference to best practice models for governance arrangements for Council controlled companies such as NEGC Ltd. The report provided valuable recommendations about what might be appropriate for the future development of governance around NEGC Ltd, but, also around future companies that the Council may establish or participate in where the Company was a Council controlled company.





#### Look forward to 2021/22

The two OSCs are committed to developing the scrutiny role at the Council. As such, they have developed the initial work programmes set out separatley for Couil to approve. There is an amount of work in the two programmes that the OSCs believe will contribute positively to that ambition and, with the Budget and Performance Management scrutiny, has clear links back to delivery of the Council's adopted Corporate Plan.

The two OSCs are keen to address issues that matter to the people of the District and to ensure that the Council delivers services that are responsive to the requirements of our population, businesses and visitors to the area. As such, the two OSCs wish to engage with local Parish and Town Councils, a range of community groups, representatives of business and the public to help refine the work programme during the Municipal Year and then build this consultation into the development of work programmes for future years. Feedback on the reviews undertaken is an important part of this engagement work and the OSCs intend to produce a quarterly e-bulletin for consultees so that there is a greater understanding of the work of scrutiny and the opportunities others have to input into it.

Good scrutiny in Councils relies to a large extent on a positive culture and approach to that function. The support of colleague Councillors on the Cabinet to fostering this culture is appreciated. The good practice of recognising the supportive relationship between Executive and Scrutiny in a protocol was made true in March 2021.

It is also vital that we support the development of Councillors on the OSCs or who want to work on a discrete scrutiny review through a task and finish group appointed by an OSC. As such, it is intended to provide appropriate training for Councillors on scrutiny in general and also to look at particular elements including scrutiny of partner organisations, budget scrutiny, developing key lines of enquiry for scrutiny and questioning skills.

In summary therefore, the OSCs intend to:

To maintain a work programme that can support service improvement and ensure the people of Tendring are best served by the Council and its partners.

To engage with a range of relevant organisations and individuals to inform the work programme of the OSCs and provide feedback on the work undertaken.