



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

DATE:	Thursday, 11 January 2024
TIME:	7.30 pm
VENUE:	Committee Room - Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor Steady (Chairman)
Councillor Barrett (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Codling
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Doyle

Councillor Ferguson
Councillor Griffiths
Councillor McWilliams
Councillor Oxley

Most Council meetings are open to the public and press. The space for the public and press will be made available on a first come first served basis. 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.

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: Thursday, 21 December 2023

AGENDA

1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

Councillors are invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests, and the nature of it, in relation to any item on the agenda.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors are invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Personal Interest, and the nature of it, in relation to any item on the agenda.

3 **Questions on Notice pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 38**

Subject to providing two working days' notice, a Member of the Committee may ask the Chairman of the Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Tendring District **and** which falls within the terms of reference of the Committee.

4 **Delivering Against The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-28 - Initial Proposals For Highlight Priorities for 2024/25 (Pages 1 - 14)**

The Committee is asked to consider and comment upon, as appropriate, the initial proposals for the highlight priorities for 2024/25 submitted to it by the Cabinet.

5 **Grant Funding (Pages 15 - 40)**

To enable the Committee to scrutinise the Council's grant funding with its external partners and submit any comments as appropriate to the Cabinet.

Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to be held in the Committee Room - Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 23 January 2024.

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.

Please heed the instructions given by any member of staff and they will assist you in leaving the building and direct you to the assembly point.

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.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JANUARY 2024

REFERENCE FROM CABINET

A.1 DELIVERING AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2022-28 – INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR HIGHLIGHT PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Committee is asked to consider and comment upon, as appropriate, the initial proposals for the highlight priorities for 2024/25 submitted to it by the Cabinet.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting held on 15 December 2023 (Minute 62 refers), the Cabinet had considered a report of the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance (A.2), which had reminded Members that the Council's strategic direction was set out in its Corporate Plan which was a fundamental element of the Council's Policy Framework. The Corporate Plan ('Our Vision') had been adopted unanimously by Council on 28 November 2023 (Minute 76 referred) and covered the period 2024-28. Key elements of delivering against the adopted Corporate Plan would be through annual highlight priority actions approved by the Cabinet. The 2024/25 initial proposals for highlight priorities had been set out at Appendix B to the Portfolio Holder's report. Through that report, Cabinet had been invited to adopt those for consultation purposes before finalising its highlight priorities for 2024/25; which would involve consideration of the outcome of the consultation undertaken.

Recognising that the rationale for the Portfolio Holder's recommendations was to set out openly for all concerned the initial proposals for highlight priorities for 2024/25 and that this supported the openness agenda of the Council and provided an opportunity for engagement with the public, businesses and partners on those initial proposals. Through consultation it was hoped that the views received could help shape the priorities that would finally be adopted (within the reality of the Council's budgetary position). Cabinet had -

“RESOLVED that Cabinet resolves that -

- (a) the initial highlight priorities for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B to report A.2, be approved for consultation;*
- (b) all Councillors, other partners and the public be invited to consider the initial priorities referred to in (a) above; and*
- (c) the outcome of the consultation referred to in (b) above be reported to Cabinet on 15 March 2024 in order that Cabinet can formally adopt its finalised highlight priority actions for 2024/25.”*

A copy of the published Leader of the Council's report (and its appendices) to the Cabinet meeting held on 15 December 2023 is attached to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee considers the Cabinet's initial proposals for the highlight priorities for 2024/25 and decides what comments and/or recommendations (if any) it wishes to submit Cabinet for their consideration.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

Published Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2023.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 =

Published A.2 Report (and its appendices – see below) of the Leader of the Council for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2023

A.2 Appendix A Corporate Plan 2024-2028

A.2 Appendix B Initial Highlight Priorities for 2024/25

CABINET

15 DECEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A.2 DELIVERING AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2024-28 – INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR HIGHLIGHT PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Council's strategic direction is set out in its Corporate Plan which is a fundamental element of the Council's Policy Framework. The Corporate Plan ('Our Vision') was adopted unanimously by Council on 28 November 2023 (Minute 76 refers) and covers the period 2024-28 (and is reproduced at Appendix A to this report). Key elements of delivering against the adopted Corporate Plan is through annual highlight priority actions approved by the Cabinet. The 2024/25 initial proposals for highlight priorities are set out at Appendix B to this report. Through this report, Cabinet is invited to adopt these for consultation purposes before finalising its highlight priorities for 2024/25; which will involve consideration of the outcome of the consultation undertaken.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28 ('Our Vision') sets out its strategic direction. That strategic direction itself seeks to reflect the issues that matter most to local people, the national requirements from Government and the challenges that face the District over the time period of the Plan.

The themes of the 2024-28 Corporate Plan ('Our Vision') are:

- Pride in our Area and Services to Residents
- Raising Aspirations and Creating Opportunities
- Championing our Local Environment
- Working with Partners to Improve Quality of Life
- Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer
- Financial Sustainability and Openness

The Corporate Plan ('Our Vision') itself is set out at Appendix A to this report.

Cabinet establishes each year its priority actions to deliver against the Corporate Plan and thereby ensure that the ambition of that Plan is central to its work. The priority actions do not cover every separate element of the ambition of the four year Corporate Plan; nor are they intended to indicate that other projects, schemes or activities are not being pursued. They are though intended to reflect imperatives across the Council and for the District and actions that it is right to focus on in 2024/25.

At Appendix B are the initial thoughts for highlight priorities for 2024/25 and through this report it is hoped that they can be adopted to support an engagement with residents and partners on those priorities. The outcome of that consultation will be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet when finalised proposals will be considered having regard for the outcome of the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- (a) Cabinet approves the initial highlight priorities for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B to this report, for consultation;
- (b) all Councillors, other partners and the public be invited to consider the initial priorities referred to in (a) above; and
- (c) the outcome of the consultation referred to in (b) above be reported to Cabinet on 15 March 2024 in order that Cabinet can formally adopt its finalised highlight priority actions for 2024/25.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The rationale for the recommendations above is to set out openly for all concerned the initial proposals for highlight priorities for 2024/25. This supports the openness agenda of the Council and provides an opportunity for engagement with the public, businesses and partners on those initial proposals. Through consultation it is hoped that the views received can help shape the priorities that will finally be adopted (within the reality of the Council's budgetary position).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As these are initial proposed highlight priorities the Cabinet has not discounted any alternatives replacing those identified in Appendix B. The option of not publishing initial proposed highlight priorities was assessed and discounted as it did not support the Council's openness agenda and good decision making (through taking account of the views of residents, businesses and partners).

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The initial highlight priorities set out at Appendix B seeks to deliver in the year 2024/25 on the ambitions of the four year Corporate Plan 2024-28. Other actions in 2024/25 will also be undertaken as the Council applies the strategic direction of the Corporate Plan to its work overall.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT (including with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders where the item concerns proposals relating to the Budget and Policy Framework)

The consultation undertaken this year as part of the development of the Corporate Plan 2024-28 has helped shape the initial highlight priorities of the Cabinet now submitted in this report. The link to the report from the social research agency who supported that consultation exercise for the Council is in the public domain using this link:

[Corporate Plan \(Our Vision\) 2024-28 Consultation Findings Report](#)

A paper copy of that Findings Report is available upon request.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)			
Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	YES/NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	<i>Although not a Key Decision, notice of the intention for Cabinet at this meeting to consider 'Draft Highlight Actions to support the Corporate Plan' was given on 26 October 2023.</i>
<p>Through highlight priorities that will be adopted, following the intended consultation, will support to deliver against the Council's adopted Corporate Plan 2024-28. That Corporate Plan decision was a key decision for the Council. While this report (and its recommendations) are not of themselves a Key Decision, particular schemes and actions referenced in the highlight priorities will be such decisions and require the relevant prior notification. The legal implications of individual actions will be assessed when they are brought forward for formal decisions to be made.</p>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Deputy Monitoring Officers confirm they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:		
<p>No further comments are submitted.</p>			
FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS			
<p>The initial highlight priorities set out at Appendix B includes the delivery of the financial savings target within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In considering all matters, it is vital that the balance of resources can be accommodated by this Council and that it does not put further strain on the Council being able to balance its budget each year.</p>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:		
<p>No further comments are submitted.</p>			
USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY			
<p>The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:</p>			
A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	<p>The Corporate Plan 2024-28 includes the critical theme of "Financial Sustainability and Openness" and Cabinet intends to pursue this theme in order to secure services and functions for the residents the Council serves. To this</p>		

	end, the initial highlight priorities outline actions that at this stage appear appropriate to support good resource management.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The development of highlight priorities each year seeks to keep the organisation focussed on measures aimed at securing the intentions of the Council's Corporate Plan. These highlight priorities sit between the Council's Corporate Plan and the individual decisions that will relate to the actions and activities necessary to achieve the intentions for the highlight priorities at Appendix B. As such, this process seeks to add to the governance reassurance of the Council around good decision making and awareness of cross cutting risks.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	Performance against the annual highlight priorities is measured during the year concerned (and beyond) and the experience obtained from that monitoring assists the Council on its continuous improvement journey.
MILESTONES AND DELIVERY	
<p>The Council has worked at pace to reach this point with initial highlight priorities for 2024/25 being considered by Cabinet at this meeting. This follows the adoption unanimously by Council of the Corporate Plan 2024-28 on 28 November 2023. The proposed highlight priorities for 2024/25 will again be made available for comment and suggestions for changes by residents, businesses and partners across the remainder of this month and January 2024. The outcome of this consultation will then be submitted to Cabinet for consideration of the finalised highlight priorities. This is scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 15 March 2024.</p> <p>It is an important part of this process that, for each highlight priority action/activity, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely milestones are identified, approved and resources allocated to achieve those milestones. These milestones will be reported to the 15 March 2024 meeting of Cabinet as part of its consideration of the highlight priorities to be adopted for 2024/25.</p>	
ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION	
<p>The most significant risk associated with this process is that overall package of highlight priorities for 2024/25 do not match the issues that matter most to local people, the national requirements from Government, the challenges that face the District and the capacity of the organisation to deliver those activities and actions in 2024/25. Through the process of consultation and evaluation of the resource needs associated with each activity and action, prior to the adoption of the finalised highlight priorities, the Council seeks to address that risk and ensure that the finally adopted priorities do match the various tests referenced.</p>	
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
<p>In developing the initial highlight priorities for 2024/25, consideration has been given to the general equality duty set out in S149 of the Equality Act 2010. This requires that the Council (as a public authority), in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:</p>	

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Further consideration of equalities implications will be given in respect of each and every decision that will, in due course, be taken in respect of the actions and activities that will form the finalised highlight priority actions. The views of residents, businesses and partners will help to frame that consideration in so far as that related to those with protected characteristics and implications of taking particular decisions on those actions/activities.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

The actions and activities that will, finally, be adopted by the Cabinet as its highlight priorities will seek (collectively) to secure social, economic and environmental benefits for the District and its residents. More generally, the Council will continue to encourage the creation of job opportunities for local people, support young people into apprenticeships and provide opportunities for local suppliers (and in particular SME businesses) to be represented in the Council's supply chain.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030

The consideration of measures to support the Council's net zero by 2030 aim will be a feature of consideration of each of the required decisions involving Cabinet that will be associated with the activities and actions that will form the highlight priorities for 2024/25. The initial proposed priorities itself references the Council's next Climate Change Action Plan.

OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR 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	Individual highlight priorities set out in Appendix B seek to specifically support anti-crime and disorder measures and, more widely, each action/activities that will form part of the finalised highlight priorities for 2024/25 will, in due course, be considered against the duty under S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to (within the limits set out in that section) do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder, misuse of drugs etc., re-offending and serious violence.
Health Inequalities	Individual highlight priorities set out in Appendix B seek to specifically support measures to address and respond to health inequalities.
Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance)	While this is not a matter for this report, subsidy control considerations will be undertaken in respect of any relevant actions/activities finally adopted as Highlight priorities for 2024/25 (and

	more generally where relevant)
Area or Ward affected	All

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The development of the Cabinet’s annual highlight priorities in support of the Corporate Plan ambition, and the reporting on them, follows the rhythm set out below:

1. Initial draft proposals for the Highlight Priorities for the following financial year will be considered at the meeting of Cabinet that also considers the Initial budget for the Council for the same year (in December).
2. The initial proposals will be subject to consultation; including Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
3. The outcome of consultation and finalised proposals for the Annual Highlight Priorities for the following financial year will be considered early in the New Year.
4. Following the adoption of the Annual Key Priority Actions, the performance triggers will be built into the performance monitoring system of the Council based on the milestones approved as part of those Priority Actions.
5. Officers will report to the relevant Portfolio Holder on delivery of the Priority Actions and Portfolio Holders will determine, by exception, if issues need to be reported to Cabinet throughout the year.
6. Each quarter, a summary report on delivery against all of the Cabinet’s Annual Highlight Priority Areas for the year will be reported to Portfolio Holders and then published as part of the Council’s transparency data. Overview and Scrutiny Committee members may then identify specific key actions where there is performance against relevant milestones that should be subject to further enquiry and these may then be referred to the next relevant meeting of the Committee.
7. A half-yearly report on performance against the Annual Key Priority Actions will be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Meeting (in October). This not only enables the Cabinet to consider the delivery of key actions in that year but also to encourage the start of the process to set key actions for the following financial year.
8. The half-yearly report will be available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to include in their work programmes so as they can consider the likely achievement of the envisaged outcomes envisaged.

The Outturn position on performance against the Cabinet’s Annual Highlight priority actions for the previous financial year will be timed to be reported to the Cabinet Meeting at which budget Outturn for that year will be reported.

In considering the annual highlight priorities for 2024/25, Cabinet has been made aware of the following deliverables across the lifetime of the Corporate Plan 2024-28. These

deliverables are in addition to the multi-million pound investment schemes the Council is responsible for that are referenced in Appendix B that will span several of those years:

2024/25:

- Council to implement significant savings.
- Review the Council's arrangements against the Government's Best Value Duty Guidance.
- Apply learning from major projects.
- Use data on cost and performance to support improvements/efficiency.
- To receive and assess the external pay review for the Council.
- Address the implementation of the Beach Hut Strategy.
- Develop and implement a Social Value Policy for the Council.
- Undertake a Community Governance Review.

2025/26:

- New Waste, Recycling and Street Cleaning arrangements
- Updated Local Plan (pre-examination).
- Council to implement significant savings.
- Develop a District-wide Coastal Strategy.
- Develop a new Open Space Strategy.
- Look at opportunities for a Beach Festival.

2026/27:

- Council to implement significant savings.
- Tendring-Colchester Borders Garden Community – Spades in the ground to commence.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

Council on 28 November 2023 (Minute 76) – Adoption of the Corporate Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

APPENDICES

A – Corporate Plan 2024-28
 B – Initial Highlight Priorities for 2024/25

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Name	Keith Simmons
Job Title	Head of Democratic Services and Elections
Email	ksimmons@tendringdc.gov.uk

CHAMPIONING OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

PRIDE IN OUR AREA AND SERVICES TO RESIDENTS

WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Page 10

RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE OFFER, ATTRACTING VISITORS AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO STAY LONGER

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND OPENNESS



TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL
CORPORATE PLAN THEMES 2024-28

Delivering 'Our Vision' 2024/25

Community Leadership runs through all the priorities

2024-28 Theme (and its supporting text) – Theme A

Pride in our area and services to residents

We want to put residents first, by promoting clean and tidy communities, providing decent housing that everyone deserves, and tackling the things that make a big difference to you. This means getting the basics right on our services. The Council will look to harness the power of digital delivery of services while ensuring that no resident is left behind. We also want to promote pride in our communities by encouraging everyone to take responsibility for keeping their area a pleasant place in which to live and work.

Highlight 2024/25 Year Priorities (and tangible actions to be undertaken in that year)

Getting the basics right.	<i>Extend a 'You said, we did' approach to all major services to the public across the Council.</i>	A1
Supporting decent housing for residents	<i>(1) In the Council's own housing stock – driving improvement with expanded estate management and well informed enhancements around kitchens and bathrooms etc. Enhanced tenancy engagement.</i>	A2
	<i>(2) More widely, develop a revised Housing Strategy to address the needs of the District and its residents. Progress the review of the Local Plan to support sustainable development of quality housing for a range of tenures.</i>	A3
Promoting clean and tidy communities... encouraging everyone to take responsibility for keeping their area a pleasant place.	<i>Options appraisal for waste & street cleaning strategy. Community leadership promoting pride of place.</i>	A4

2024-28 Theme (and its supporting text) – Theme B

Raising aspirations and creating opportunities

Tending is ambitious and our residents will be supported to reach their potential and realise their opportunities. To do this, working with businesses and partners, we want to improve access to skills learning and training so that residents can find employment and enable businesses to thrive; particularly taking the opportunities afforded by Freeport East and the Garden Community. We want to maximise the opportunities for young people and see them enthused with purpose. To inspire those dreams we will celebrate business success, encourage cultural, tourism and economic growth.

Highlight 2024/25 Year Priorities (and tangible actions to be undertaken in that year)

We will celebrate business success, encourage cultural, tourism and economic growth.	<i>(1) Develop a long term plan for Clacton-on-Sea working with partners in a Town Board</i>	B1
	<i>(2) Implement Levelling Up Fund, Capital Regeneration Partnership Projects and</i>	B2

	High Street Accelerator Schemes, taking these through design and planning.	
	(3) Manage the UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects that build pride in place, support training, economic growth, and improve life chances.	B3
Tendring is ambitious and our residents will be supported to reach their potential and realise their opportunities.... particularly taking the opportunities afforded by Freeport East and the Garden Community	(1) Take the opportunities afforded by Freeport East and the development of Bathside Bay.	B4
	(2) Progress the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community DPD through the planning process to enable the opportunities for new jobs, housing and infrastructure to be delivered on the ground from 2025/26.	B5
	(3) Work with partners in the North Essex Economic Board to enhance economic advance across North Essex.	B6

2024-28 Theme (and its supporting text) – Theme C

Championing our Local Environment

We believe our environment is special, it is the space where we live and work, and therefore deserves protection. We will be tough on those who do not respect our environment. We want to create and maintain spaces for leisure, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles, and deliver access to open spaces and community resources.

Highlight 2024/25 Year Priorities (and tangible actions to be undertaken in that year)

We believe our environment is special to our residents.	Delivering quality Council open space and street scene.	C1
Our environment deserves protection.	Implement measures from the new Climate Change Action Plan.	C2
We will be tough on those who do not respect our environment.	Enhancing capacity to be tough on those that litter and fly-tip on land for which the Council is responsible.	C3
We want to create and maintain opportunities for leisure, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.	Implement the Sports and Activity Strategy for the District.	C4

2024-28 Theme (and its supporting text) – Theme D

Working with partners to improve quality of life

We want to promote safer, healthier, well connected and inclusive communities by working with our partners across government, public, private and third sectors. We will strive to build on the firm foundations, developed over time, with those partners to meet the identified needs of our communities. We recognise the vital role volunteers play in caring for others and our environment, and we will support, encourage and facilitate those opportunities.

Highlight 2024/25 Year Priorities (and tangible actions to be undertaken in that year)

We want to promote safer, healthier, well connected and inclusive communities by working with our partners across government, public, private and third sectors.	(1) To support projects to reduce Health inequalities e.g. around Fuel Poverty and access to the jobs market.	D1
	(2) To expand the Pupil Encounters' Project, to provide all school children with	D2

	additional encounters with businesses and employers throughout their Education.	
	(3) To deliver a STEAM event for Primary Schools whereby pupils are introduced to a range of Employers including Galloper, EDF, Dance East, Essex Police and Colchester Zoo.	D3
	(4) To look at measures to address nuisance driving/noisy vehicles and consult with residents on these measures. The appropriate measures would then be introduced.	D4
	(5) To complete enhanced CCTV coverage in public areas.	D5
	(6) Establishing the feasibility for a new wellbeing hub in the District	D6

2024-28 Theme (and its supporting text) – Theme E

Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer

We want to boost our tourism by attracting more visitors to the 36 miles of sunshine coast and to our rural towns and villages. We will support our unique heritage, work with our partners, run events and promote the district for the benefit of our residents and to encourage visitors to come and to stay for longer.

Highlight 2024/25 Year Priorities (and tangible actions to be undertaken in that year)

We will support our unique heritage, work with our partners, run events and promote the district for the benefit of our residents and to encourage visitors to come and to stay for longer.	(1) Fundraise to support heritage in Tendring, for example the Witches' Trail around Manningtree and the Leading Lights in Harwich	E1
	(2) Re-introduce the Tour de Tendring cycling event	E2
	(3) Working with the Arts Council and others to deliver vibrant cultural and arts activities in the District	E3
We want to boost our tourism by attracting more visitors to the 36 miles of sunshine coast	(1) Developing a programme of events in the District and promoting those events.	E4
	(2) Host the Clacton Air Show and draw in additional sponsorship funding	E5

2024-28 Theme (and its supporting text) – Theme F

Financial Sustainability and openness

To continue to deliver effective services and get things done we must look after the public purse; that means carefully planning what we do, managing capacity, and prioritising what we focus our time, money and assets on. Tough decisions will not be shied away from, but will be taken transparently, be well-informed, and based upon engagement with our residents. We will give clarity on where the Council spends the money it is provided with.

Highlight 2024/25 Year Priorities (and tangible actions to be undertaken in that year)

Prioritising what we focus our time, money and assets on.	Maximise the value of our assets and take advantage of procurement opportunities with partners.	F1
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Tough decisions will not be shied away from, but will be taken transparently, be well-informed, and informed from engagement with our residents.	Carefully plan the Council's budget and taking appropriate action to respond to liabilities / costs pressures.	F2
We will give clarity on where the Council spends its money.	(1) Reviewing and reinforce the Council's engagement strategy	F3
	(2) Review its communication strategy.	F4

Listening to and delivering for our residents and businesses

Note: While the Highlight Priorities above have been assigned to one of the Corporate Plan Theme it is recognised that many of the proposed Priorities will also significantly contribute to another or several other of the Themes.

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PARTNERSHIPS)

A.2 **GRANT FUNDING**

(Report prepared by Keith Durran)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable the Committee to scrutinise the Council's grant funding with its external partners and to submit any comments, as appropriate, to the Cabinet.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION

The attached report is due to be considered by Cabinet in February 2024. The Committee is invited to make any comments they wish the Cabinet to consider at that meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the report attached and determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to make or put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

APPENDICIES

**Appendix A: Report to Cabinet
Appendix A.1: Grant Funding Review
Appendix A.2: Grant Policy**

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MANAGEMENT TEAM

FEBUARY 2024

CABINET

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS

A. Review of voluntary and community funding across the Council and future options.

(Report produced by John Fox)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is to meet the recommendation within the Cabinet report in respect of creation of a subsidy scheme for the purposes of direct grant funding for Citizens Advice Tending which went to Cabinet on 21 July 2023.

One of the recommendations was that a review of grant funding across the Council be approved and a report following the review considering the options available during 2023/24 be presented to Cabinet in readiness for 2024/25.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council allocates a significant amount of funding across the voluntary and community sector either from external provision such as from Government for example the Shared Prosperity Fund and also from internal resources such as for the Tending Community Fund.

Currently funding is allocated individually by services within the criteria of any funding received but could potentially be subject to a more joined up approach.

The existing governance across services includes in many cases criteria for applying, an application form and approval routes including Member sign off.

Consideration could be given to developing governance criteria to help ensure funding allocation is based on a sound process and is transparent and allows for decision making at an appropriate level.

Although specific aims could be set for allocating funding for example in line with the Corporate Plan care needs to be taken to ensure sufficient flexibility allows for funding to be allocated in relation to need

A general policy could also be considered which sets the giving of grants in context for example highlighting underpinning principles, eligibility etc.

APPENDIX A

Within the allocation of funding reference needs to be made to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 to ensure all allocations are legally compliant.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- a) The contents of this report are noted
- b) Consideration is given as to development of governance criteria or a wider policy in relation to allocating community and voluntary sector funding.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

To ensure that good governance criteria are implemented for allocating grant funding.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To continue allocating funding under existing governance criteria which varies across departments and where funding is allocated, although has a number of similarities in terms of criteria, application process and approval.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The provision of grants to organisations across the district helps support and develop the district and so will help meet priorities around pride in our area and services to residents. It can also raise aspiration and create opportunities and help champion our environment.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT (including with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders where the item concerns proposals relating to the Budget and Policy Framework)

It is currently proposed that the report is sent to Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	YES/NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the	

	<p>Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)</p>	
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Allocation of funding must follow good governance procedure to ensure effective use of public money and also to ensure that external funding meets grant requirements.

The allocation of funding must be in accordance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. All allocations of funding should therefore be considered in relation to whether the Act applies. If funding does constitute a subsidy then a subsidy scheme will usually be required to allow any payment.

How funding is allocated may ensure it is not subject to the requirements of the Act for example if a procurement exercise is undertaken or there is an open call for bids to a fund as there is no distortive effect on competition as it is free for a wide range of organisations to apply.

External funding will have provisions for the spending of the money either as grant conditions or for example via a Memorandum of Understanding and all spending must be in accordance with these provisions.

When significant funding is received, particularly if of a one off nature, this will need to be formally accepted by the Council and in that process the approval route for spending of the money will be highlighted.

Appropriate approval routes for spending must be obtained, if necessary at a Member level for example via a portfolio holder consultation and also spending must be supported by an officer decision.

The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Council allocates a significant amount of funding each year either from external funding provided or use of internal resources. It needs to ensure that this is being allocated in accordance with the provisions of any external funding agreements and in line with the Council priorities.

Although difficult to determine an exact figure as some funds such as the Shared Prosperity Fund are used both to support Council activity for example around the Starlings site and also community and voluntary activities there is potentially in excess of £1M available to allocate from external partners and with the Tendring Community Fund in the region of £750K from internal resources this year.

In particular, allocation of internal Council resources needs to be considered in terms of the savings requirements and that if allocated it is for appropriate provision and to ensure that in

terms of decision making how funding may work together.

The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

<p>A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;</p>	<p>Funding is either provided from external sources and needs to be managed in terms of allocation and whether funding is recurrent and therefore when investing in projects consideration would be given as to whether the work is sustainable and what any sustainability requirements are.</p>
<p>B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and</p>	<p>Funding governance is currently via a number of routes which varies depending on the types of funding and amount of money allocated. Routes include officer decisions through to Member approval for example by Portfolio Holder decisions and on some occasions Cabinet. Identifying good governance criteria to be used across departments will help aid good allocation of funding</p>
<p>C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.</p>	<p>This report seeks to highlight the types of funding available and utilised and consideration of a policy around allocation of funding will support improved used of resources.</p>

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

Each individual amount of funding will need to be allocated in a specific time period and therefore generates its own milestones to effectively allocate the resources.

Delivery of all funding should also include review to ensure the resources have achieved the aim of the funding or to understand what improvements could be made.

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

There is a risk if funding is allocated without reference to the Council’s objectives in the Corporate Plan it may not meet the Council’s aims and similarly funding needs to be allocated in a coordinated way to ensure it is consistent across the Council.

The use of good governance criteria will help focus Council funding opportunities and ensure that corporate priorities are achieved and resources are allocated in a consistent approach.

APPENDIX A

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
<p>A policy for allocating funding could include criteria to ensure funding is allocated in an equitable way. Allocation of funding should ensure it helps address inequality and provides an equality of access within the conditions associated with the funding and this may be demonstrated via an equality impact assessment</p>	
SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS	
<p>The allocation of funding provides an opportunity to address wider social value considerations and those applying for funding can be asked to demonstrate the wider impact the use of the funding may have.</p>	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030	
<p>Allocation of funding can be in accordance with the Council's aims to be net zero by 2030 for the types of funding which may have an implication for net zero and this criteria can be included in a policy.</p> <p>Funding may allocated to a wide variety of projects and not all funding will have a direct impact on the Council's net zero approach.</p>	
OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS	
<p>Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.</p>	
Crime and Disorder	<p>Depending on the type of funding allocated it may have an impact on crime and disorder and will be in accordance with the Council's priorities</p>
Health Inequalities	<p>Grant funding is likely to be wide in its nature however in accordance with the Council's priorities and in delivering partnership work it is likely that some funding will be allocated to help address health inequality and in particular funding can be beneficial an addressing overall inequality</p>
Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance)	<p>All allocation of funding must comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 either by being outside the Act for example if a procurement route is used to allocate funding or if it constitutes a subsidy it must be in accordance with a subsidy control regime</p>
Area or Ward affected	All

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND
<p>The focus of this report is on the grant funding to the voluntary and community sector as wider funding such as allocation of disabled facilities grants or use of health inequalities</p>

funding to support wider inequality work is subject to separate governance procedures.

The Council has agreed a new Corporate Plan which has community leadership as a crosscutting element of the Plan. To deliver its priorities the Plan identifies the key areas of

- Pride in our area and services to residents
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities
- Championing our local environment
- Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer
- Financial sustainability and openness

The awarding of grant funding to the community and voluntary sector can help address a number of the priorities and help deliver the key aims of the Plan. For example developing pride in our communities is often supported by the voluntary and community sector as they help to improve local areas either through direct work such as litter picks through to developing community and reducing social isolation. Similarly supporting young people, improved digital access via support, culture and open space can be delivered through grant activity.

The allocation of funding is currently broad including the Tendring Community Fund, Citizen's Advice Tendring, Shared Prosperity funding, the Community Asset Rent Offsetting Scheme, discretionary business rate relief and allocating health inequalities funding for food and fuel vouchers.

A review of the types of funding available which could be given out over a year period (some funding is allocated over a number of years) identified in the region of £750K is allocated from Council resources and external funding is in the region of £1M. Some of this funding is not necessarily directed to the voluntary and community sector as for example the Shared Prosperity Fund has also been used to support the Starlings project.

Currently funding given out may have Cabinet approval such as for Citizens Advice Tendring, portfolio holder approval for example health inequalities funding or is supported by member working groups such as under the Tendring Community Fund.

Although there is currently good oversight of the different grant funding available it is not necessarily following a consistent approach and one organisation could be applying for funding from two different parts of the Council at the same time.

Appendix A.1 details some of the funding allocated and some of the wider funding the Council receives and can utilise.

With significant allocations of funding available it is therefore important to have a consistent, transparent and compliant grant process to ensure that the Council can deliver its objectives allowing careful planning, effective prioritisation which is transparent and well informed in accordance with the Corporate Plan focus on financial sustainability and openness.

Grant Funding

When external funding is passed to the Council a funding agreement is usually received. However agreements often allow the Council to have some discretion as to how funding is

allocated in terms of the grants provided.

Funding is also allocated from within Council resources either as part of long standing agreements or for example community support through the Tendring Community Fund.

The governance around funding varies across the allocation of money although has similar general principles across most areas and is highlighted below.

Citizens Advice Funding – this is ongoing funding allocated each year. No criteria or application form are used to allocate the funding however it is subject to grant agreements (led by the Council for the core funding and currently the Integrated Care Board for the mental health hub funding as part of a wider funding partnership). Funding provision is currently agreed at a Cabinet level.

Tendring Community Fund – allocation of funding is via a set of criteria and an application form which is then assessed by a Member panel with final approval from the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships. All allocations of funding are supported by a grant offer letter or grant agreement.

Public Health Funding – recent allocation is to ongoing work undertaken by the Council for example the Dig for Jaywick project.

Community Safety Partnership funding for community projects is funding allocated by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and therefore governance is via their office and allocation of funding must be in accordance with the criteria they set.

Joint Use Facilities funding is allocated via a set of criteria and application form and then supported by portfolio holder approval.

Shared Prosperity Fund – some of this funding is allocated directly to Council projects for example around the Starlings site and where funding is provided as grants there are specific criteria, use of an application form, scoring criteria and an award process.

For the small event grants and sports participation grants criteria are published and organisations apply and funding is then allocated and supported by a grant offer letter.

Town Centre Grants (£10K) and Local Cultural and Education Partnership funding (£10K) are more responsive in nature and are used on demand and usually for relatively low value. They seek to provide grant offer letters.

Rural England Prosperity Fund – this has published criteria and organisations apply and then recommendations to the portfolio holder and Leader for allocation and grant offer letters provided.

Harwich Ferry is funded on an ongoing basis and although this is not via a set of criteria or via an application form but is subject to a wider funding agreement with partners which sets out the allocation and the agreement between funders. Similarly the Community Rail Partnership works on this type of model. Both these allocations are of low value the highest being £2100.

Discretionary Rate Relief – this is often ongoing support for organisations who have received

support previously. It is used to support with rate bills for certain non-profit making bodies. There are criteria and application form on initial application.

Rough Sleeper Grant – although this funding is allocated to a voluntary/community organisation in terms of Anglia Care Trust this is undertaken through a routine procurement approach.

Community Asset Rent Offsetting Scheme – no new applications have been accepted on to this scheme in the last four years. When they could apply it was via an application form and needed to demonstrate community benefit and if the criteria were met they could be considered to access the scheme.

Good Governance Criteria

Although there are a variety of governance routes there is an overall similarity especially around criteria and grant award letters/offers.

Consideration can be given to identifying what the key criteria are that could apply to how funding is allocated. This could include

- Any substantial external funding must be formally accepted by the Council
- That any MOUs or grant agreements associated with external funding must be complied with
- Specific criteria should be developed for funding
- Accessing funding should be via an application form which details the criteria
- Any bids should be assessed by officers/Members in accordance with criteria
- Grant funding offers or letters should be provided when allocating funding which include the aim, purpose and what is to be achieved by the funding, details expenditure and reporting mechanisms around evaluation and monitoring
- All allocations of funding must comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022

General Policy

A review of grant funding provides an opportunity to develop a more coordinated and strategic approach delivering a transparent and consistent process which aligns grant funding to the council's ambitions and priorities and could be supported by the development of a policy.

This could recognise the vital role of local people and community groups and also the importance of local businesses in providing employment as a key support for communities. It will also provide an opportunity to help these sectors thrive and help deliver the outcomes important to the Council and our communities.

One option to help develop further consistency would be to develop a policy which sets the overriding criteria for provision of grants. Areas for consideration could for example include

- Aligning with the Council's Corporate Priorities and strategic priorities
- Being able to evidence unmet need
- Deliverable within a timescale, and not necessarily requiring ongoing funding

- Providing value for money
- The lasting impact and sustainability and ability to demonstrate the difference made
- Considering how the public have been engaged

Any policy would also highlight the requirement for the ability to provide proof that the grant has been spent on the activity intended and outlined in the grant application. This could also include the social, community and economic impact of any allocation

The strategic outcomes which the Council may wish to achieve via this process could include the aims within the Corporate Plan for example pride in our area, developing services to address needs and supporting our heritage.

Subsidy Control Act 2022

The Subsidy Control Act 2022 imposes duties on public authorities where they provide support to an enterprise that gives the enterprise an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms. Provision of any grant funding therefore needs to consider whether the funding may constitute a subsidy.

A subsidy may arise if the following criteria are met,

Is the financial assistance given, directly or indirectly, from public resources by a public authority?

Public resources includes public funds administered by local authorities, whether they are given directly, through public bodies or private bodies.

Does the financial assistance confer an economic advantage on one or more enterprises?

The recipient must be an enterprise - that is any entity that is engaged in economic enterprise which means offering goods and services on the market.

The financial assistance must also confer an economic advantage, meaning that it is provided on favourable terms. The financial assistance will not confer an economic advantage if it could reasonably be considered to have been obtained on the same terms on the market.

Is the financial assistance specific? That is, has the economic advantage been provided to one (or more) enterprises but not others?

This covers financial assistance that is provided to specific beneficiaries determined on a discretionary basis as well as assistance that benefits only enterprises in a particular sector, industry, area or with certain characteristics.

Will the financial assistance have or is it capable of having, an effect on competition or investment within the UK, or trade or investment between the UK and another country or territory?

To constitute a subsidy, the assistance must have a genuine effect that is more than incidental or hypothetical on competition or investment in the UK, or on international trade or

investment.

All allocation of funding will need to be in accordance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 which if the above criteria are met and the funding is still required to be allocated may involve the publishing of a subsidy control scheme.

There are a number of other options to ensure the requirements of the Act do not need to be met and this is by ensuring the allocation will not be considered as a subsidy.

Currently a number of proposals for funding are via an open call process in which case anyone within the criteria can apply for example the Tendring Community Fund was available for community groups to apply to support their community if they were meeting the corporate plan priorities. On this basis this is unlikely to be provided to one beneficiary in a way which distorts competition as there is a broad range that could apply for the funding.

Similarly if a procurement process is completed then this is outside the Act as all relevant parties can apply and so there is no distortive effect on competition. Although potentially this could start to affect some providers for example within the community sector moving them more towards acting like economic operators.

Grant Funding Options

Currently the Council gives out significant amounts of funding either from existing resources or from awards from Government and partners.

Governance criteria

The governance around allocating funding has a number of similarities across departments which does appear to show good oversight but on a case by case basis and is not necessarily consistent.

There is therefore the opportunity to consider determining a set of governance criteria under which funding is allocated to ensure consistency across the Council.

If criteria are set however this will need to include a degree of flexibility as not all cases will be straight forward allocations following an application form process. For example some allocation of funding is by wider agreements with other partners where the Council is a relatively smaller contributor although the removal of Council funding may mean the wider scheme cannot continue. For example the Council's ongoing contribution of £23K to the Citizen's Advice Tendring Wellbeing Hub is less than a quarter of the total funding provided by partners to run this scheme.

Other funding is allocated in a responsive way and so needs a degree of flexibility to be able to respond quickly for example the funding used as town centre grants.

In addition there may need to be flexibility around some long standing schemes for example CAROS where although no new applicants can apply there is ongoing allocation of funding.

Identifying key areas of focus for grants

In line with the Corporate Plan a set of key areas could be determined where the Council wishes to allocate grant funding. This would then become part of the criteria for funding and so organisations not delivering around these specific objectives would not be able to meet the specific criteria for applying.

Although this does allow for much more targeting of grants it removes flexibility. The Tendring Community Fund was directly set up in response to the cost of living crisis and the developing challenges communities faced. If a set of key areas of focus for allocating grants had already been determined it may prevent responding to developing need.

In addition a significant amount of funding either comes from Government or partners who may either set criteria in the first place which may not be in accordance with any key priority areas for focus set by the Council or, as with health inequalities funding where it has been provided in line with an MOU, but also requires Alliance Board approval to be allocated.

In addition when setting criteria it may be difficult to ensure that the right balance is achieved which meets any focus the Council wants but is also broad enough to ensure it does not exclude bids from those the Council wishes to support.

The current situation where there is generally use of criteria, application forms and often portfolio holder approval does provide good oversight of how money is being allocated and that it remains within the corporate priorities.

Grants Policy

There is however the potential to have a wider grants policy and this could include reference to good grant governance as well and which would set out the overall position in relation to grants.

This could for example include around the underlying principles in relation to grants and the general background and cover some general areas for example around eligibility.

This would help transparency and can remain broad enough so the Council can achieve its aims.

A draft policy is attached as appendix A.2 for discussion if appropriate.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

APPENDICES

Appendix A.1 Grant Review

Appendix A.2 Grant Policy**REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Name	John Fox
Job Title	Head of Health and Community
Email/Telephone	jfox@tendringdc.gov.uk 01255 686746

APPENDIX A.1

Funding	Where did the funding come from?	Funding amount	Amount spent	Amount remaining	Governance or decision to allocate this funding	What has the funding been used for?	Subsidy Control considerations
Citizen's Advice Tendring	Council resources	£144,000	£72,000	£72,000 - to be allocated imminently	Cabinet approval to create a Subsidy Scheme in order to award the funding	Core funding for advice services	The funding has been awarded as a Subsidy Scheme which was approved by Cabinet in July 2023
Citizen's Advice Tendring	Council resources	£23,000	£23,000		cabinet approval to create a Subsidy Scheme in order to award the funding	Mental Health Hub	The funding has been awarded as a Subsidy Scheme which was approved by Cabinet in July 2023
Tendring Community Fund	Council resources	£456,000	£442,133	£13,867	The creation of the fund was approved on 21 February 2020 by Cabinet as part of the Council's approval of its budget.	To award a series of grants to community groups and organisations to support community interventions across Tendring.	The Council considers that any financial assistance given under the Tendring Community Fund will not be considered a subsidy because it uses an open call application process and assessment. Minimal Financial Assistance - As an extra measure, we are asking all applicants to confirm that they have not received more than £315,000 in total in the current financial year and two preceding financial years.

APPENDIX A.1

Health Inequality and Healthy Housing Funding	Integrated Care Board and Health and Wellbeing Alliance	£600K + £165K	Ongoing	Ongoing	Cabinet acceptance of funding and approval via Alliance Board and Portfolio Holder Partnerships	Health inequalities e.g. fuel poverty officer, Housing and benefits early intervention officer and food and fuel vouchers for CVS Tendring	Compliant as identified in reports approved by Heads of Legal, Finance and Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, no subsidies have been paid as it is used for Council activity or where passed to the voluntary sector it was for direct allocation of vouchers, or for commissioned services at Essex County Council.
Primary School Wellbeing Hubs	Integrated Care Board and Health and Wellbeing Alliance	£68K	Ongoing	Ongoing	Grant agreement from ICB following application process	Wellbeing hubs in primary schools	Passed to schools which can apply to join the scheme and will be accepted so essentially an open call process
Public Health Grant	Essex County Council	£20K for post, £21K for projects	On going	Ongoing	Currently spent on Council activities for example Dig for Jaywick	Internal projects e.g. Dig for Jaywick and Tendring Junior Ambassadors	Internal use so no subsidy control issues
Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) funding	Police Fire and Crime Commissioner	CCTV £319K, £25K Community Safety Partnership Delivery Group	Ongoing	Ongoing	CCTV - Cabinet approval, Delivery Grant is under governance from PFCC	CCTV and grants for priorities as highlighted by PFCC	Under the auspices of PFCC

APPENDIX A.1

Leisure club support	Council resources	£25K	Ongoing	Ongoing		To support sports clubs following coming out of the joint use facilities at Brightlingsea and Harwich	Open call for clubs affected
Grant funding to Community Rail Partnership and Harwich Ferry	Government	Rail £2100, Ferry £1500	All allocated		Agreements across joint partners funding both activities	Contribution to the Rail Partnership and also the Ferry	Both activities are undertaken only by the organisation receiving funding
Shared Prosperity Funding	Government	£1.18M over 3 years	Ongoing	Ongoing	Allocated to internal projects such as Starlings. For wider applications criteria and application process and agreed by Leader	Internal projects and funding community activity	Community activity funding allocated via an open call process
Rural Prosperity Fund	Government	£600K over 2 years	Ongoing	Ongoing	Some direct allocation for Council work e.g. charging points, wider grants by criteria as set by DEFRA and application process and approved at	Council activities such as charging points and rural community support	Open call process

					Portfolio Holder level		
Town Team Partnership	Government	£15.8K	Ongoing	Ongoing	Funding can only be drawn down if meets criteria set by Government	Town Team Partnerhsip support	Can only be allocated in accordance with Government criteria
Discretionary Rate Relief	Council resources	£30K	Ongoing	Ongoing	Have to meet criteria and intioal application form although some in receipt of this fundign are now longstanding	Rate relief for organisations showing community benefit	Origonally open call and must meet criteria
Community Assett Rent Offsetting Scheme	Council resources	Approximately £80K	Ongoing	Ongoing	Scheme closed to new applicants and initial applicationm process for those currently in receipt of benefit with associated criteria	Offset rents on Council owned facilities	Scheme now not open to new applicants

APPENDIX A.1

Better Care Fund – DFG	Essex County Council	£2,000,000 per year	50% per year		Funding allocated from Government under the financial assistance policy	Home improvements and adaptations to support people being discharged from hospital.	Client applied for grant and pays the contractor directly.
Capital funding for home improvements	Council resources	£600,000	N/A	All		This funding is currently not being used following advice from Richard Barrett	
Homelessness prevention grant	Government	£800,000	Spent during year	N/A		This funding is used for homelessness support directly to individuals.	Individuals only qualify if they are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
Rough sleeper grant	Government	£30-40,000				Used to commission Anglia Care Trust to deliver rough sleeper outreach project.	Procured
Peabody - homeless prevention grant to fund Derek Crosfield House	This comes from the homelessness prevention grant	£30,000				Grant provided to support mothers	Under discussion
Jaywick Healthy Housing Initiative	SNEE ICB	£900,000	Ongoing		Accepted by Cabinet	Funding internal staff to undertake housing	Internal

						improvement in Jaywick	
Sanctuary Scheme	This comes from the homelessness prevention grant					Arrangement with organisations to support with domestic violence.	More info

Funding Policy

Policy Statement

The Council is committed to distributing available funding fairly, efficiently and effectively. The purpose of this policy is to outline the Council's approach to allocating funding in relation to resourcing external bodies, community organisations and relevant businesses to assist in the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and priorities.

Background

The Council recognises the importance of supporting local people who are passionate about helping develop our communities and for example run organisations, clubs, provide support groups and deliver activities.

The value of local businesses is also recognised as important in helping to deliver opportunities for residents for example supporting employment opportunities.

The Council wants to ensure that communities and residents continue to thrive in this context.

This Policy therefore seeks to ensure that our communities and our area thrives and where funding is available to provide resources and support to deliver outcomes important to local communities.

The Council delivers its own funding programmes and also can deliver grant funding on behalf of third parties such as the Government.

1. Introduction

The Funding Policy is built on a set of principles and an understanding that:

- Funding awards are at the sole discretion of the Council but are dependent on the Council's available and agreed level of funding as part of its budget.
- Activities that are funded must be consistent with the strategic aims and priorities of the Council as set out within the Corporate Plan
- All funding applications will be determined on their objective merits. No organisation is entitled to funding because it may have been grant funded in the past or for any other reason.
- The Council will ensure proper, prudent and effective use of public money
- Contracted services must be tendered in adherence with the Council's procurement procedures
- Use of funding must be in accordance with any memorandum's of understanding or conditions which apply to the funding

2. Definitions

Grant – A grant is a financial transfer used to fund an activity that is in alignment with the Council’s objectives

Contract for Services – where a level of service is defined and commissioned by the Council outside a grants regime this is a conventional trading relationship established through procurement. This will be for the acquisition of goods and services from a third party.

Provision of funding may be via a grant process or via procurement.

3. Underpinning Principles

a) Funding will be based on need

Funding should meet local needs which have been identified by the Council or its partners or otherwise acknowledged by the Council.

Activities should be able to meet the following requirements

- Have an identified need and benefit which will support residents
- Can deliver outcomes to meet the need
- Deliver cost effective, quality service provision meeting the funding remit
- Be delivered by a credible group, organisation or individual with the ability to deliver
- Align with the Council’s Corporate Plan

b) Transparency

- All decisions will adhere to this policy and criteria within programmes
- All decisions must be justifiable and any rationale for decisions should demonstrate why organisations are funded to a particular level
- Officer decisions will be published for allocation of funding

4. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the funding process is

To have a consistent approach to provision of funding to support our area and community.

The objectives of the policy are to ensure that funding allocated,

- Furthers the objectives of the Corporate Plan
- Targets resources at areas of need
- Seeks to maximise leverage via match funding, where appropriate
- Provides guidance around funding

5. Eligibility

Eligible costs may include (depending on the agreement to fund) for example,

- A proportion of core running costs – (salaries, heat and light, premises costs etc.)
- Programme or activity costs
- Venue hire
- Training
- Publicity and marketing
- Technical assistance
- Hire of equipment
- Travel costs
- Capital costs

Non eligible costs may include, (unless specifically covered in any agreement) for example,

- Funding to an individual
- Where funding would breach legislation
- Projects outside the area which do not meet residents needs
- Activities which are discriminatory or political
- Organisations with substantial, demonstrable unrestricted reserves
- Costs that can be claimed back from elsewhere for example where an organisation can claim back VAT
- Cost towards banking charges or repayment of debt
- Payment to individual members of the applicant group who may have a pecuniary interest
- Gifts and prizes
- Alcohol

6. Equality Implications

Allocation of funding should consider equality and equity considerations so as to be able to demonstrate how it can tackle inequality and ensure the approach provides equal access across communities within the conditions associated with the funding.

Equality Impact Assessments may be used to demonstrated appropriate allocation of funding.

7. Breach of Offer

If the purpose of the funding ceases to be carried out at any time during the period of funding the recipient will be required to pay back all or part of the funding.

Repayment of funding may also be required for breaches including the following

- Provision of misleading or inaccurate information during the application process or period of funding
- Where members of the recipient organisation act in a way to the detriment of the project or the Council's reputation
- Where duplicate funding from another source is obtained for the same or any part of the project
- Where fraud, bribery or corruption is undertaken

8. Subsidy Control Act 2022

All allocations of funding must be in accordance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

A subsidy is likely to arise where

- Financial assistance is provided from public resources
- Financial assistance confers an economic advantage on an enterprise(s)
- If the financial assistance is specific i.e. confers economic on one enterprise(s) but not others
- Financial assistance has an effect on competition or investment

A subsidy control regime must be published if a subsidy may be paid.

Open call applications where anyone can apply (within the funding criteria) and use of procurement can also ensure that a subsidy is not likely to be paid.

9. Review of the Policy

The Policy will be used on a three yearly basis or more frequently if required.

APPENDIX 1

The Process

Step	Action	Remarks
1.	Open call or procurement	Via appropriate media for example the Council's website or in accordance with procurement procedure rules for procurement
2.	Closing date for applications	All application must be received by the closing date
3.	Eligibility review	Applications assessed for eligibility by the team seeking to award funding
4.	Assessment and award	Applications are assessed by Members, an officer panel or individual officers to make recommendations for the decision maker where appropriate
5.	Notification of results	Successful applicants and those not successful informed
6.	Officer decision	Officer decisions published for awarding funding
7.	Letter of offer and conditions	The offer letter may attach a funding award document with conditions.
8.	Claims, monitoring and evaluation	The processing of claims is undertaken followed by appropriate monitoring and evaluation

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