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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE:	Wednesday, 17 July 2024
TIME:	7.30 pm
VENUE:	Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on- Sea, CO15 1SE

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor Steady (Chairman) Councillor Barrett (Vice Chairman) Councillor Davidson Councillor Doyle Councillor Ferguson Councillor Griffiths Councillor Oxley Councillor Platt

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: Tuesday, 9 July 2024

1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

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

2 <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

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 <u>Review of the Work Programme</u> (Pages 5 - 24)

The report provides the Committee with an update on its approved Work Programme for 2023/24 (including progress with enquiries set out in its Work Programme), feedback to the Committee on the decisions in respect of previous recommendations from the Committee in respects of enquiries undertaken and a list of forthcoming decisions for which notice has been given since publication of the agenda for the Committee's last meeting.

The report also provides an update of the current position on the development of the work programme for 2024/25. This Committee is specifically invited to determine a proposed Work Programme to be submitted to the meeting of Council on 6 August 2024 for approval.

Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to be held in the Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SE at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 15 October 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 AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 JULY 2024

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

A.1 <u>WORK PROGRAMMING – INCLUDING MONITORING OF PREVIOUS</u> <u>RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY OF FORTHCOMING DECISIONS</u> (Pepert propared by Keith Durran)

(Report prepared by Keith Durran)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report provides the Committee with an update on its approved Work Programme for 2023/24 (including progress with enquiries set out in its Work Programme), feedback to the Committee on the decisions in respect of previous recommendations from the Committee in respects of enquiries undertaken and a list of forthcoming decisions for which notice has been given since publication of the agenda for the Committee's last meeting.

INVITEES

None.

BACKGROUND

The Council commissioned the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to undertake an 'Overview & Scrutiny Development Review' in 2021 as a way of further improving that function at the Council. Two relevant recommendations arising from that review were:

"Further strengthening the annual process for developing work programmes for each O&S committee - Engaging Members, Officers, partners and the public to prioritise the topics for review. This could include a selection criteria to identify appropriate topics for the work programme. Currently the work programme is also the last item on the agenda at O&S meetings, we would recommend bringing it to the beginning, so it can be given greater priority and benefit from more considered discussion, rather than being subject to the inevitable end of meeting fatigue.

Reviewing how the recommendations are made and how impact is measured – This could include putting the 'recommendations monitoring report' at the beginning of agendas to orientate O&S towards outcomes-focused meetings, alongside an emphasis on finding strong recommendations from questioning to present to Cabinet (or partners) as improvement or challenge proposals."

The inclusion of the matters set out in the "purpose of this report" section above seeks to further re-inforce the inter-relationship of the matters referred to. As such, it is designed to further support consideration of work programming of the Committee and contribute to addressing progress with the Corporate Plan.

DETAILED INFORMATION

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

The detailed matters relating to the following matters are set out in the relevant Appendix identified:

(1) Proposed Work Programme Report for Full Council for 2024/25 – See Appendix A;
 (2) feedback to the Committee on the decisions in respect of previous recommendations from the Committee in respects of enquiries undertaken – see Appendix B; and
 (3) a list of forthcoming decisions for which notice has been given since publication of the agenda for the Committee's last meeting – See Appendix C.

In considering work programming matters, the Committee is further reminded of the other recommendations from the CfGS review undertaken in 2021:

"Considering greater use of task and finish groups – This more informal type of O&S can allow improved cross-party working and detailed investigation of a single issue focussed on producing substantive recommendations.

Improved agenda planning and management - Committees should focus on one or two substantive items per agenda to allow for cross-cutting themes to be properly identified and explored, and different insights brought to bear on critical issues.

Considering how to engage the public in the work of O&S - This could include O&S going on more site visits in the community, inviting the public to offer ideas for work programmes, and greater use of social media channels for resident input and communicating the progress and impact of scrutiny work.

A clearer focus on democratic accountability - Scrutiny of Cabinet Members should form a key part of the work programme, providing an opportunity to hold the Leader and portfolio holders to account for delivery of the corporate plan and any other issues O&S feel is important."

The Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee is one of two overview and scrutiny committees established by the Council to specifically focus on the following areas of Council work (as detailed in Article 6.02(i) of the Council's Constitution):

"To 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:
 - Community Safety
 - Health and Well-being
 - Economy, Skills and Educational Attainment
- Community engagement, development and empowerment
- Leisure and Tourism (except matters relating to budgets)
 Page 6

- Housing strategy and Homeless Service (except the Housing Revenue Account)
- Emergency Planning"

The Constitution provides for the two overview and scrutiny committees to submit a work programme to full Council for approval. Rule 7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules sets out the position as follows:

"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 co-ordinating 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;
- 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."

In considering the Work Programme of enquiries, the Committee must have regard to the Corporate Plan 2024-28 and the themes of that Corporate Plan 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

It should also be noted that this Committee held an INFORMAL meeting on 4 June 2024 and selected the items contained within the draft copy of the Council report Appendix A.

The Democratic Services Team have also started talks with both Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees into the creation of the Scrutiny Annual Report for the year 2023/24. THIS REPORT IS TO FOLLOW.

RECOMMENDATION

- a) That the Committee considers and notes the progress with enquiries set out in its Work Programme 2023/24, feedback to the Committee on the decisions in respect of previous recommendations and the list of forthcoming decisions.
- b) Approves the proposed work programme for the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year

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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ENQUIRIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 2024/25

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
Improving Access to NHS Dentistry for Residents in Tendring and Specifically Those Who Should Have Such Access Free of Charge. (a) Under 18s and under 19s in full time education (b) Those on Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Income related Employment and Support Allowance (c) Those below the income threshold and in receipt of child tax credits,	At Committee on 15 Apr 2025	 Working with Partners to improve quality of life Raising aspirations and creating opportunities 	 The number of dentists in the area now compared with 5-10 years ago, reasons for growth/decline. Public versus private. Legislative changes over the last 10 years that affected the service the NHS was obliged to provide, if any. Costs for procedures both public and private, waiting times. How many people are without a dentist in the district? How does Tendring sit against the rest of the UK in relation to the above questions? 	Lizzie Mapplebeck, Associate Director of Strategic Change, Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board Greg Brown, Senior Performance Improvement Manager, Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board Professor Nick Barker, Oracle Dental Group The Portfolio Holder for Partnerships	To look at the provision of NHS dental provision in the District since the local Integrated care Board took responsibility for its commissioning and consider how the significant adverse health implications from poor dental health and gum disease in respect of: • Respiratory infections • Diabetic complications • Cardiovascular problems • Kidney disease

working tax credit (including a disability element) (d) Pregnant women and those who have had a baby in the last 12 months (e) Those in receipt of a war Pension/Armed Forces Compensation scheme payments			 What steps are being taken to improve things? What sort of numbers are we now been seen by NHS Dentistry compared with previously? How many fast-tracked patients have there been? Evidence/stats/figures to show if service is stabilising. Visit to Essex University with post visit meeting, 	Assistant Director (Partnerships)	• Rheumatoid Arthritis And thereby seek to ensure that the steps being taken by commissioners of NHS dentistry are seeking to mitigate against such issues.
Crime and Disorder (Familial Violence/Abuse) – To look at all types of	Through a Task and Finish Group	□ Working with Partners to improve quality of life	but prior to the meeting in April Levels of recorded violence against Women + Girls (and violence of children against parents	Insp, Wendy Byrne, Essex Police.	To shine a light on unacceptable behaviours with in families and the
familial violence, elder abuse and FGM. What support mechanisms exist locally? Looking at funding for voluntary sector organisations working in this area.			etc) for Tendring over a 5 year period. Measures being taken by public authorities to address/reduce/eliminate violence and tackle behaviours by perpetrators. What services are available	Portfolio Holder, Partnerships Assistant Director Partnerships Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager.	benifit this created for so many families. It will also look at prevention and support measures to consider strengthening these where possible.

What support is there for victims/survivors.			locally by voluntary sector arrangements for victims of violence.	PFCC Essex Representatives of organisations who provide support to victims of violence.	
To Consider the New District Wide Sports and Activity Strategy and its Related Action Plan and the Extent to Which this Address the Needs of the District.	At Committee meeting on 15 Oct 2024	 Pride in our area and services to residents Working with Partners to improve quality of life Raising aspirations and creating opportunities Financial sustainability and openness 	Data over a 5 year period on the extent to which residents are inactive, moderately active and very active and the different provisions to support activity among those different sectors of the Community.	The Portfolio Holder for Sports and Leisure Corporate Director, Place and Economy Representatives of organised sports operations in the area. Representatives from Active Essex.	To consider the extent to which the District wide Strategy achieves the following, from national strategy published on 30 August 2023 of: 1. Being ambitious to making the area more active 2. Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for also that everyone can have confidence that there is a place

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Coastal Communities Unit To consider the work of the Coastal Communities Unit (CCU) and how this may help shape public policy.	At a Committee meeting to be determined. [It had been hoped to achieve this on 17 July 2024 but this was not possible].	 Championing our local environment Pride in our area and services to residents Working with Partners to improve quality of life Raising aspirations and creating opportunities 	The impetus behind the creation of the CCU and its intended working and research to be undertaken.	Dr Emily Murray, Director of the CCU at the University of Essex	in sport for them. 3. Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust. As well as not inadvertently damaging existing opportunities for physical activity. To be able to make recommendations around actions and activities that may have a beneficial impact on health inequalities locally.
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To examine joint working with Parish & Town Councils in the District and opportunities and for the mutually beneficial collaboration to enhance that joint working.	Through a Task and Finish Group	 Pride in our area and services to residents Working with Partners to improve quality of life 	Details of existing area of joint working between the District Council and Town and Parish Councils in the District. Examples of joint working elsewhere in the nation that may be beneficial to consider	Chief Executive Assistant Director, Partnerships The Chair/Secretary TDALC Representatives from the National Association of Local Councils Appropriate Officers/Portfolio Holders for areas of further joint work.	To develop options for the Cabinet/Council to develop collaborative working opportunities that are mutually beneficial.
To examine the extent of Youth Provision of School age Children outside of that school/education and the opportunity for that provision to be adjusted/supported with improvements for mental health and reduced prosperity anti-social behaviour.	Through a Task and Finish Group	 Championing our local environment Pride in our area and services to residents Working with Partners to improve quality of life Raising aspirations and 	The extent of Youth Provision outside of state education for school age children. The extent of demand for such out of School Activities. The opportunity for groups/individuals	Portfolio Holder, Partnerships Essex Conty Councils Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Early years Assistant Director, Partnerships	To explore further the benefit for young people of out of school organised activities and events and provision around this age group.

To examine evidence around water quality in the District – including sea water, freshwater courses and drinking water.	on 28	previous 5 years for sea water, fresh water and drinking water. Activities already planned to improve water quality over the next 5 years by	Essex County Councils Executive Director, Children, Families and Education Representatives of Voluntary Youth Provision in the District. Water and waste water services in the District. Environmental Agency Maritime Marine Organisation Harwich haven Port Authority Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners Surfers Against Sewage Portfolio Holder, Environment	To establish information on water quality in different settings and measures to improve water quality with a view to consider the appropriateness of that measure.
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To Consider Grant Funding by the Councl and Others and its Appropriateness Given the Needs of the DistrictAt a meeting of the Committee in January 2025	□ Financial sustainability and openness	The outcome of the complete review of the grant funding commissioned by Cabinet in 2023 and the progress with that review.	Corporate Director, Operations and Delivery Leader of the Council Portfolio Holder, Partnerships Assistant Director Finance and IT Assistant Director Partnerships Representatives of voluntary organisations in the District.	To consider the Councils approach to grants, the relationship between other grant funding organisations. The extent to which gaps in funding have been identified and addressed.
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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 JULY 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING REPORT

Recommendation(s) Including Date of Meeting and Minute Number	Actions Taken and Outcome	Completed, follow-up work required or added to Work Programme
 This Committees meeting on 23 April 2024) SCRUTINY OF SCHOOL AGE EDUCATION PROVISION Recommended to Cabinet that: a) Advocate and champion where possible local mental health support for young people. b) Seek funding opportunities, wherever possible, to provide mental health support for young people. c) Promote the suicide prevention training (free online learning package) to schools across Tendring. 	At Cabinet on 17 May 2024 (minute 18 refers) it considered the recommendations submitted to it by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee following that Committee's scrutiny on 23 April 2024. Cabinet had before it the following comment submitted by the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships:- "The Education Task and Finish Group highlighted the significant challenges both for Tendring secondary schools and young people in relation to mental health and school attendance. I welcome this report and the focus around the mental health of our young people as it is one of the significant reasons for non-attendance and with the many challenges young people face,	

d)	Support and have Officer attendance at the Tendring Education Strategic Board, Attendance sub-group.	early mental health support and provision is critical. As teachers are not routinely trained around mental health, projects such as the Wellbeing Hubs provide an excellent and very	
e)	Champion and continue to work closely with Family Solutions.	powerful opportunity to support our young people and upskill our teachers.	
f)	To continue to support the Primary Wellbeing hubs and cascade the evaluation from the University of Essex through the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, Tendring Community Safety Partnership/Health and Wellbeing Board.	I support the championing of mental health services for young people and also the broader provision, for example around Family Solutions which can provide wider holistic support for families and thereby opportunity for young people. Attendance is a key priority of the Tendring	
g)	To request an update from ECC Education colleagues regarding school attendance data:-	Attendance is a key priority of the renaring Education Strategic Board this academic year. The work of the task and finish group has identified some key areas of focus and I look forward to seeing how this work develops."	
	The following requests to be submitted to ECC post January 2025 - (this will be the earliest opportunity for school data to be available under new reporting arrangements for schools. (Ref: Department for Education Guidance, "Working Together to Improve School Attendance," (update February 2024)):	RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Partnerships Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.	
•	Request attendance data relating to the autumn term of 2024/25 to show levels of persistent and severe absence within the district (for the		

Tendring area and broken down by school).

- Number of alternative commissioning arrangements which have been commissioned by the LA (Education Access Team/SEND Team) for the Tendring district, including the reasons why such provision has been deemed necessary. This request should cover the autumn term 2024/25.
- Number of SEND children (SEN Support or EHCP) who have been removed from a Tendring school roll in favour of elective home education, during the autumn term (Tendring district data for the autumn term 2024/25, broken down by primary and secondary phases), where the reason provided suggests needs have not been met by the school.

This Committees meeting on 23 April2024)SCRUTINY OF MAINSTREAM AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVISION IN THE DISTRICT	At Cabinet on 17 May 2024 (minute 19 refers) it considered the recommendations submitted to it by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee following that Committee's scrutiny on 23 April 2024.	
Recommended to Cabinet that:		
a) Hold a summit with local transport providers including Hedingham and Chambers and Greater Anglia, to seek	Cabinet had before it the following comment submitted by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Tourism:-	
to improve the frequency, reliability and quality of local public transport services;	<i>"I welcome the work completed by the Task and Finish Group and the report of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Improvements to public and community transport are of critical importance to residents</i>	
b) Support advocacy for an improved rail service from Clacton, moving to a half hourly service;	in a coastal district like Tendring, and I recognise the challenges faced by our residents seeking to get about the district without a car. I endorse these recommendations and in particular commit to organising a summit of	
c) Take advantage of levelling up funding where available to support improved public transport;	Iocal transport providers in 2024." RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted	
d) Engage with ECC and providers on the potential for Demand Responsive Transport to supplement the current public transport offer;	and that the response of the Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.	

e) Advocate where possible for services to be brought to coastal areas so that there is less need to travel for education and health care; f) Ask Hedingham to review the provision of a bus stop to support the new Marks and Spencer's store at Brook Park West, the Crematorium and the potential for park and ride to Clacton at peak tourist season building on the experience of the Airshow; q) Prioritise gaining developer contributions for new bus routes in the delivery of the revised Local Plan; and that h) Councils should take these recommendations into account when developing the Tendring Future Transport Strategy (ECC) and the Local Plan (TDC).

Recommendations monitoring for those recommendations from earlier meetings of the Committee have been previously reported to the Committee and, as such, are not repeated here as there is no further update to be provided on them.

APPENDIX C

Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee 17 July 2024

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 13 – SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED DECISIONS

(Prepared by Keith Durran)

The below forthcoming decisions are those published since 15 April 2023 – the publication date for the Committee's last ordinary meeting.

In presenting the following, the Committee's attention is drawn to the agenda item notes in respect of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13.

DESCRIPTION OF DECISION	KEY DECISION – YES/NO	DECISION MAKER	Decision Due Date
Levelling Up Partnership – for the Council to lead in delivery of Projects in Jaywick and Clacton, accept funding to deliver these and allocate funds to increase capacity	YES	Cabinet	26/07/2024
Sports and Activity Strategy – Adoption and following consultation to consider adopting a District wide Strategy	YES	Cabinet	20/09/2024
Review of Grants – Further General Report	NO	Cabinet	20/09/2024
Community Projects Update – from Partnerships Directorate	NO	Cabinet	18/10/2024

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