

Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
21 September 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING REPORT
(Prepared by Keith Simmons)

| Recommendation(s) Including Date of Meeting and Minute Number | Actions Taken and Outcome | Completed, follow-up work required or added to Work Programme |
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| <p>Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2020 (Minute 61 refers)</p> <p>SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL DURING THE PEAK OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SO FAR AS THEY RELATE TO THE PANDEMIC AND THE RESPONSE TO IT</p> <p>The Committee RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET that:</p> <p>a) the swift decision to use of part of the Tendring Community Fund to provide for Ward Councillors to nominate organisations to receive grants to enable them to respond to the Covid19 pandemic locally, within an overall limit of £1,000 per Ward Councillor, be recognized as being a success.</p> | <p>On 11 September Cabinet approved that the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the following comments of the Leader of the Council, in response thereto, be noted:</p> <p><i>“The Leader of the Council welcomes the positivity of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on their review of the urgent decisions taken during COVID-19 pandemic, which continues with the One Council approach which has been adopted during this time. In particular, the Committee is thanked for their acknowledgement of the success of the £1000 allocation to each Ward Councillor from the Tendring Community Fund to support their local areas. A Portfolio Holder Working Party was being established prior to the COVID-19 outbreak to review the scope of the future use of the Tendring Community Fund and it is important this work resumes as part of the Council’s recovery plans.</i></p> | |

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| <p>b) the approval of the publicly announced intention to write-off the Leisure Centre Membership Fees for June etc. be regularised.</p> <p>c) the waiver of rents for those within the CAROS Scheme be extended to the end of August 2020 at least.</p> | <p><i>It is noted the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in June however for completeness, it is confirmed that formal decisions were made to approve the write-off of Leisure Centre Membership fees for June and July. In respect of the CAROS Scheme a review can be undertaken as part of the Back to Business Strategy.”</i></p> | |
| <p>Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2020 (Minute 62 refers)</p> <p>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT: IMPACT OF COVID-19</p> <p>The Committee RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET that:</p> <p>(a) the hard work of Council staff, led by the Chief Executive, community groups, individual Members and individual members of the public locally to support the local communities across Tendring (and particularly those most in need) and sustain businesses with the available grants, be applauded and recognized; including the Council’s Finance and IT teams who created the system to pay those much needed grants at a swift pace.</p> <p>(b) within the allocation of £4,000,000 for cliff stabilisation work, a District wide survey is commissioned this year to identify the implications for the Council of works and</p> | <p>On 11 September Cabinet approved:</p> <p>(a) That the RSOS Committee is thanked for the work they have undertaken; and</p> <p>(b) That Cabinet notes the comments raised, which will be considered as part of associated activities going forward.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance made the following comments:</p> <p><i>“The Committee’s work is appreciated and I welcome their comments, especially those set out in point (a). It is at times like this that the strength of the Council and our local communities really shines through and I am happy echo and amplify the words of the Committee.</i></p> <p><i>In respect of point (b), a lot of work is undertaken within the framework of the long term forecast in terms of keeping an eye on potential cost pressures that the Council faces, such as cliff stabilisation that the Committee refers to. Such considerations will continue to be an important element of the long term forecast in 2020/21 and</i></p> | |

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| <p>thereby assist in the resource considerations of the Council over the long term.</p> <p>(c) the offer of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance to include the Chairman of this Committee in an examination of the subject of Council House voids be welcomed.</p> | <p><i>beyond. In addition, the Council continues to support the approach of keeping work in-house wherever possible, which has already proved a success with the management of previous cliff stabilisation work that has been completed on time and within budget.</i></p> <p><i>In respect of point (c), I will be requesting the latest update from officers following which I will make the necessary arrangements to review this information with the Chairman of the Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Although 2020/21 will be a very challenging year for various reasons, from a financial perspective the Government have already provided significant funding to the Council along with committing to underwrite the risk of losses in income over the remainder of the year (up to 75% after the first 5%). A further financial update is due to be presented to Cabinet in October which will provide the latest in-year position, which is set against an improved position compared to earlier in the year given this on-going support from the Government. And finally, I will be looking to maximise the flexibility that the long term approach to the forecast was designed to do by exploring the option of relaxing the savings target for 2021/22 given the unprecedented position we face in 2020/21.”</i></p> | |
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| <p>Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2020 (Minute 63 refers)</p> <p>SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED DECISIONS</p> <p>The Committee RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET that no more funding from this Council should be released to NEGC Ltd until the Budget and Business Plan identified in the forthcoming decisions referred to here has been subject to an enquiry through this Committee.</p> | <p>On 11 September Cabinet approved that the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the following comments of the Leader of the Council, in response thereto, be noted:</p> <p>“It is noted that the recommendations from Resources and Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee were made in respect of forthcoming decisions, which at the time included the Budget and Business Plan of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd. Events have overtaken this and in July, Cabinet made a decision, acting as Shareholder, that North Essex Garden Communities Ltd ceased trading with effect from 31st August 2020, I can confirm this has taken effect and consequently no further funding will be provided to the Company. There is however still an ambitious work programme in respect of the delivery of Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community including the partnership working with Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council, I can confirm the Cabinet Member whom I wish to appoint to take this forward is Councillor G V Guglielmi, the Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder.”</p> | |
| <p>Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2020 (Minute 68 refers)</p> <p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF HOUSING ISSUES</p> | <p>On 11 September Cabinet noted and endorsed the following comments of the Housing Portfolio Holder’s response to the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>“It is clear that the Committee covered a number of housing related topics at this meeting.</p> | |

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| <p>The Committee RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet be recommended to develop a public engagement plan in respect of financial assistance for private sector housing that includes providing information to community groups, health professionals and more widely to ensure that all those who would benefit from adaptations that could be funded through the financial assistance available through the Disabled Facilities Grant arrangements are aware of those arrangements and the process to apply for those Grants;</p> <p>(b) the Chief Executive be advised that this Committee considers that it would be advantageous to report on the public engagement plan at the time that it is prepared and ready to be delivered so that Councillors can support the delivery of that plan across the District;</p> <p>(c) consideration be given to including details of grants available for those in private rented accommodation and in receipt of benefits (at the time of notification of benefit award/change/discontinuance) to support the installation of adaptations to the properties they rent to improve their lives (both related to disability facilities, safety</p> | <p>The discussions highlighted the great work undertaken by our officers in delivering much needed adaptations to our residents and managing and maintaining our own housing stock to a high standard, resulting in high levels of tenant satisfaction that we should be proud of.</p> <p>I therefore accept the recommendations (a)-(c) as proposed above. In respect of (d) the Maintenance contract is tendered as a seven year contract and as such I propose to carry out a review after one year to ensure that the contract is being run properly and to ensure an appropriate balance between the in-house and contracted maintenance delivery.”</p> | |
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| <p>and to address energy poverty).</p> <p>(d) the maintenance contract currently out for tender not be extended beyond the first year or re-tendered until this Committee has had the opportunity to review the delivery of that contract and the appropriate balance between in-house and contracted maintenance.</p> | | |
| <p>Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 August 2020 (Minute 73 refers)</p> <p>FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2019/20 AND ALLOCATION OF GENERAL FUND VARIANCE FOR THE YEAR</p> <p>the Committee RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET that it:</p> <p>(a) Implements the invitation from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance to convene a meeting with the Chairman of this Committee, and other interested Councillors, to examine in detail the financial reserves and provisions to look at progressing further and speedier with those schemes or releasing the funds with a view to the outcome of that meeting being reported to the meeting of this Committee to be held on 21 September 2020</p> <p>(b) Notes that this Committee endorses the decision to allocate £862k from the</p> | <p>On 11 September Cabinet approved:</p> <p>(a) That the Committee is thanked for the work they have undertaken in reviewing the Financial Outturn for 2019/20 and their ongoing support in their overview and scrutiny of the Council's financial performance, both in-year and future years; and</p> <p>(b) That the Committee's comments are taken into account as part of developing the Back to Business Action plan, which will include regular and timely updates being presented to the Committee as part of their important overview and scrutiny role in delivering against this key priority for the Council.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder made the following comment at the time:</p> <p><i>"As with earlier reports, the Committee's work is always appreciated and their comments welcomed, especially in supporting the allocation of £862k to the Back to Business Initiative.</i></p> | |

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| <p>2019/20 General Fund Outturn variance to 'Back to Business' Initiatives and associated activities; and</p> <p>(c) Considers establishing a corporate dedicated project completion resource, with project management skills, with a direction to progress projects and priorities of corporate significance to the Council, support delivery milestones for those projects and unlock capacity and other issues that could frustrate delivery of those projects and priorities.</p> | <p><i>In respect of point a), this to a large extent overlaps with point c), and together they will be considered as part of our Back to Business initiative and action plan that is currently being developed where there is a need to translate comments and feedback into practical actions that can delivered on the ground and in a timely manner.”</i></p> | |
| <p>Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 August 2020 (Minute 74 refers) and 3 September (Minute 80 refers)</p> <p>TENDRING BACK TO BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS 2020/21</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <p>(a) To confirm the Committee’s decisions of 13 August 2020 in respect of the outputs from its discussion of ‘Back to Business’ (and the Outturn 2020/21, Minutes 73 and 74 refer);</p> <p>(b) To recommend that the Cabinet approves the necessary work to assess the various ‘Back to Business’ proposals,</p> | <p>On 11 September Cabinet approved:</p> <p>That the RSOS Committee’s comments are taken into account as part of developing the Back to Business Action plan, which will include regular and timely updates being presented to the Committee as part of their important overview and scrutiny role in delivering against this key priority for the Council.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder made the following comment at the time:</p> <p><i>“I would like to thank the RSOS Committee for their work on the back to business priorities and projects. I will certainly be looking at how many of these initiatives we can progress within the funds available. I would be keen to focus on the key business and resident support measures we can put in place given that we are not yet clear</i></p> | |

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| <p>proceeds to implement those schemes and services that can be speedily focussed on 'Back to Business', develops an Action Plan of assessed and costed proposals (based on short, medium and long-term measures) and sets about the delivery of that Action Plan.</p> <p>(c) To further recommend to Cabinet that the themed approach to 'Back to Business' at Appendix B to the report [submitted to the meeting] be adopted.</p> <p>(d) To record the Committee's intention to monitor the development of the Action Plan referred to in (b) above and its delivery. This will include project management and performance (which itself will include success measures and milestones towards delivery) and to approve that the work programme for this Committee shall be prepared to provide for this.</p> | <p><i>about where in the Coved cycle we may be and so it is critical that there is longevity to the initiatives and that any spend is done wisely.</i></p> <p><i>To this end Cabinet will focus on putting together an action and delivery plan to focus on short term actions, drawing from the suggestions from RSOS Committee and the other suggestions submitted by other Councillors."</i></p> | |
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