



Tendring District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Report for the years 2019/21

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

Tendring
District Council



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Note: OSC = Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Foreword to the 2019/21 Overview and Scrutiny Report

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

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

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

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



Cllr. Mick Skeels

Chairman of the Community Leadership OSC

Cllr. Mark Stephenson

Chairman of the Resources and Services OSC

Introduction to Scrutiny

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

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

OSCs also look at the decisions and actions of organisations external to the Council on behalf of the public. In this way they can play a vital role in following the public "£" and ensure that it is contributing to the area as intended. The diagram on the next page sets out the key principles of scrutiny that underpin its role.

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

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

The guidance had several themes including:

ensuring a clear division of responsibilities between the scrutiny function and the audit function;

reporting findings of independent whistle blowing investigations to OSCs for them to consider their wider implications;

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

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

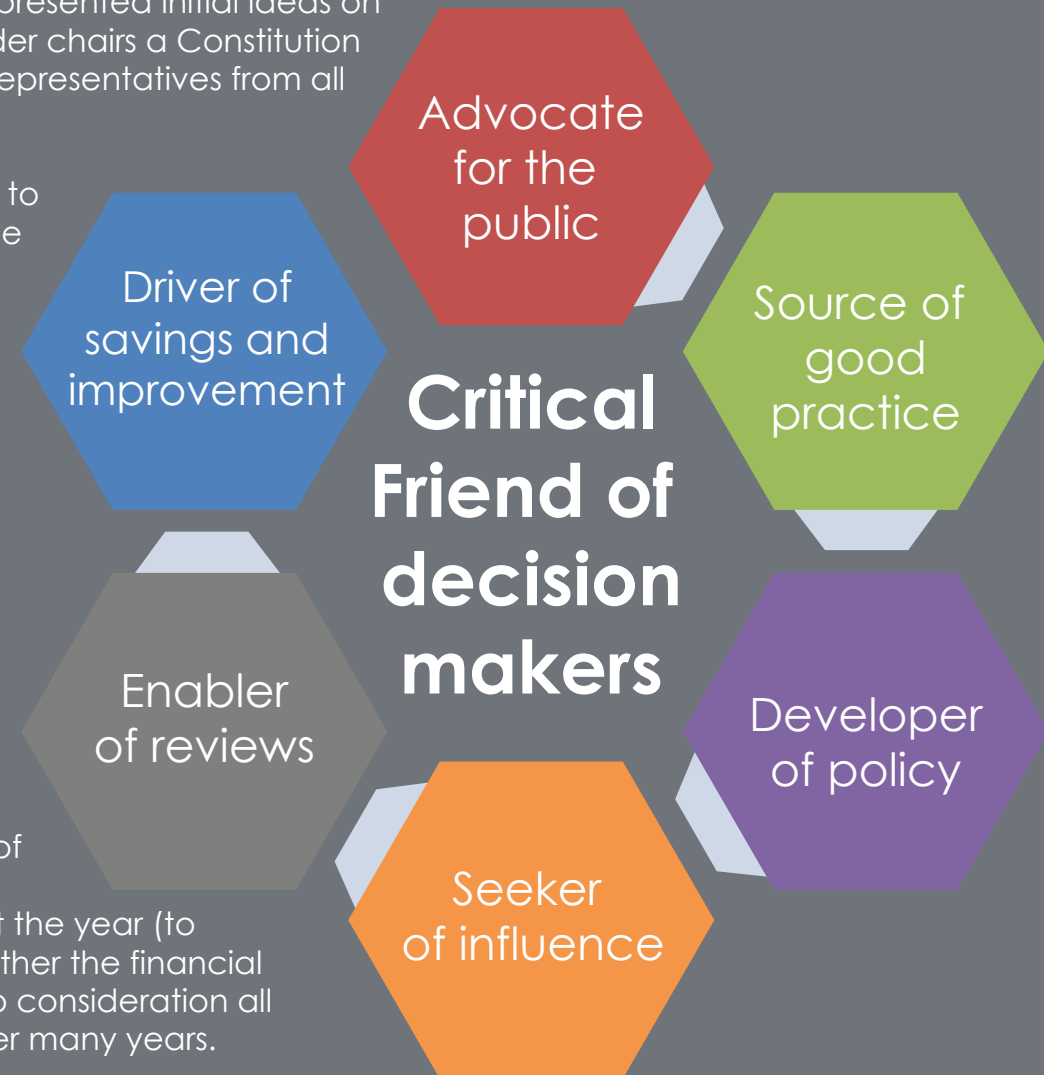
consider establishing a formal co-option scheme for OSCs. Also consider issue of Technical Advisers (independent local experts); and

consider creating an Executive-Scrutiny Protocol to be formally integrated into the Constitution.

The Council already had strong measures in place to demonstrate the openness of Cabinet being held to account having introduced some years ago that Group Leaders of all political groups would have the right to attend Cabinet meetings and to speak on agenda items whilst not being able to vote. The Terms of Reference of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee states that the positions of its Chairman and Vice-Chairman will normally be filled by a Member of a political group not represented on the Cabinet. Informal Group Leaders' meetings are also held at which the Leader or Deputy Leader could share information in advance of going to Cabinet or on other topics, which had proved particularly useful during the Council's response to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Chief Executive holds regular All Member Briefings, at which Portfolio Holders have presented initial ideas on strategies and policies for discussion. Furthermore, the Deputy Leader chairs a Constitution Review Working Party (CRWP), whose membership is made up by representatives from all political groups on the Council.

Following its publication, the new statutory guidance was reported to both of the OSCs at Tendring District Council and to its Cabinet. Due regard has been given to the guidance and on 16 March 2021 Council approved an 'Executive Scrutiny Protocol' in order to help define the relationship between these two arms of the organisation, dealing with the practical expectations of Scrutiny Committee members and the Executive, as well as the cultural dynamics.

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



Snapshot of the years 2019/21

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

Community Leadership OSC

Cllr Mick Skeels (Chairman)
Cllr John Chittock (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Chris Amos
Cllr Paul Clifton
Cllr Bill Davidson
Cllr Anne Davis
Cllr KT King
Cllr Delyth Miles
Cllr Nicola Overton (2019/20)
Cllr Graham Steady (2020/21)

Resources and Services OSC

Cllr Mark Stephenson (Chairman)
Cllr Gary Scott (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Terry Allen
Cllr Mick Barry
Cllr Jeff Bray
Cllr James Codling
Cllr Chris Griffiths
Cllr Pam Morrison
Cllr Nick Turner (2019/20)
Cllr James Codling (2020/21)

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

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

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

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

Working arrangements of the OSCs

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

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

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

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

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



Corporate Plan

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

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

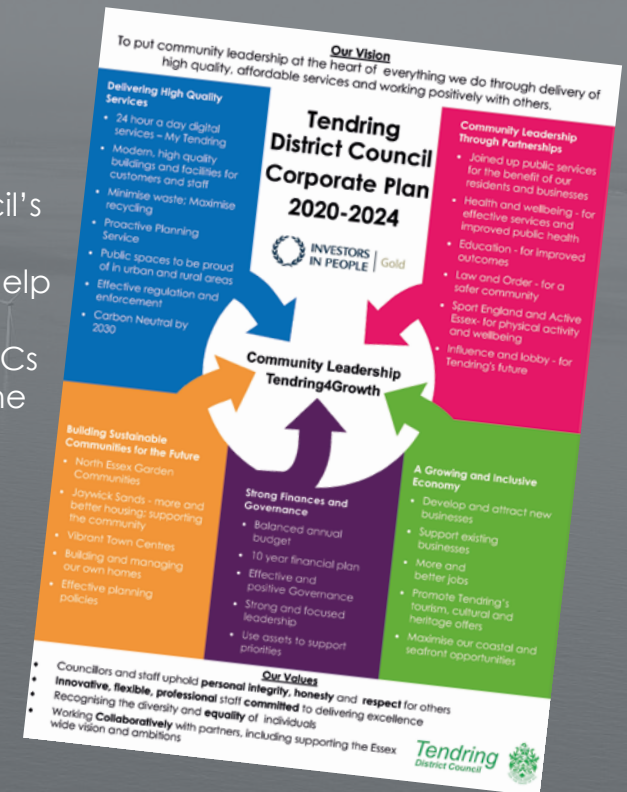
Performance Reporting

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

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

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

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



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

Specific Overview and Scrutiny Powers

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

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

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

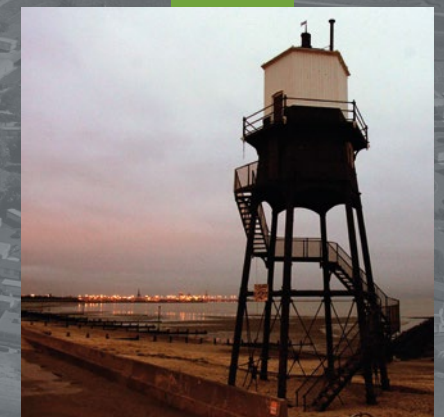
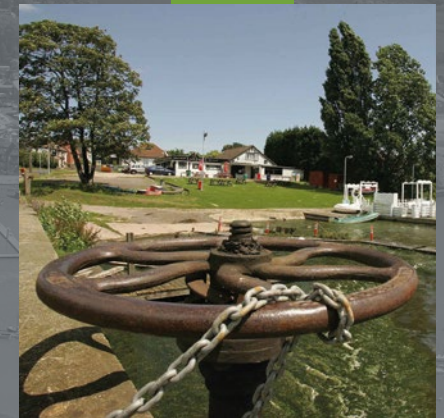
In 2020/21 the Resource and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked two such questions, the first on 9 July 2020 in relation to the "Spendalls Project" and the second on the 13 August 2020 in relation the to the "Gardens Community Project". The Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee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

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



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

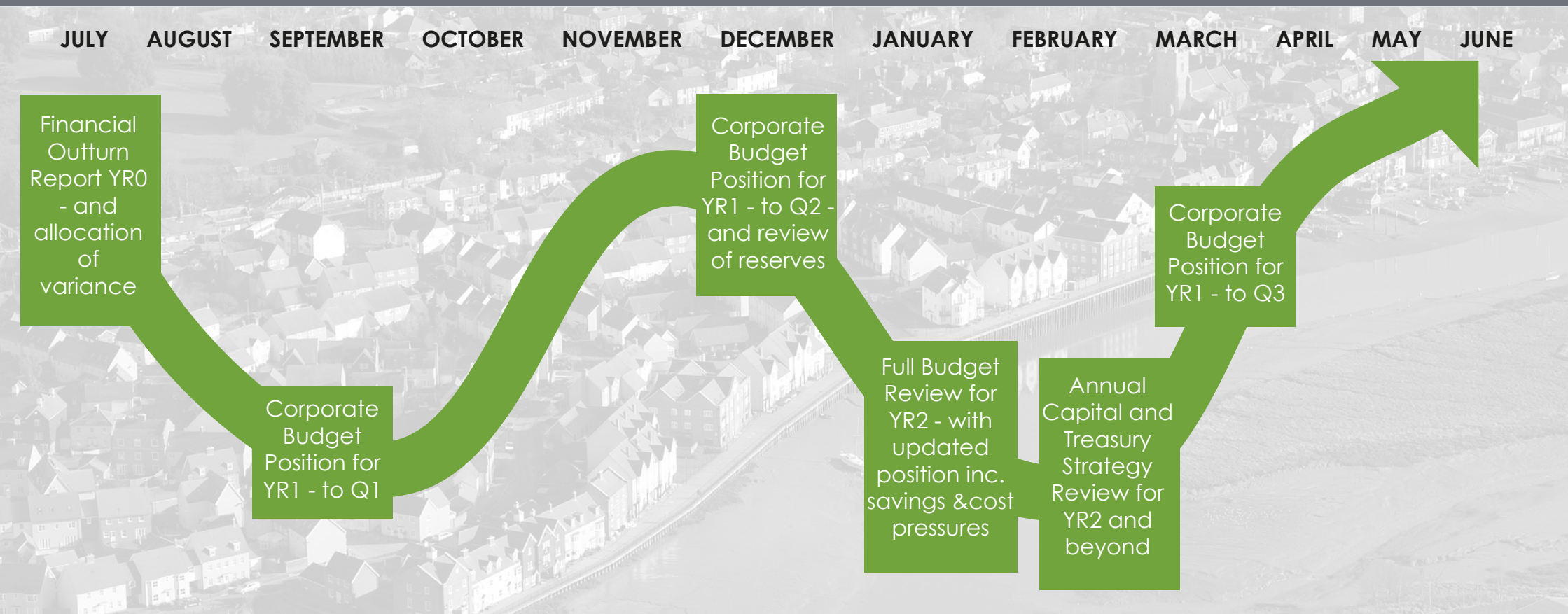
The ability to undertake pre-decision scrutiny, as directed by the OSCs, is often seen as a good indicator of a positive culture towards overview and scrutiny; as part of a good balance between pre- and post- decision scrutiny.



Oversight of the Budget and financial management

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

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



Summary of scrutiny reviews undertaken in 2019/21

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

Community Leadership OSC

Update on the Children and Young People Strategy

At the 1 July 2020 meeting the OSC:

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

Community Safety

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

(a) The Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Darren Deex outlined their challenges and priorities over the coming period. He set out the challenges and response to County Lines/Cuckooing etc. and the proliferation of drugs misuse.

(b) The outcome of the partnership funding of £10,000 by this Council/Essex Police for additional police patrols in July/August, delivery of the new Anti-Social Patrol Officer (looking at the justification for the post and how it had operated, delivering against the rationale for being established), and the arrangements for and work involved in Community and Street Action Days. The Committee praised the early evidence from the new Anti-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer post, recommended that joint funding for high visibility Policing in Clacton over the summer 2020 should be looked at favourably and it noted the announcement to it that the Police were to introduce monthly written briefings that will be circulated to Councillors.

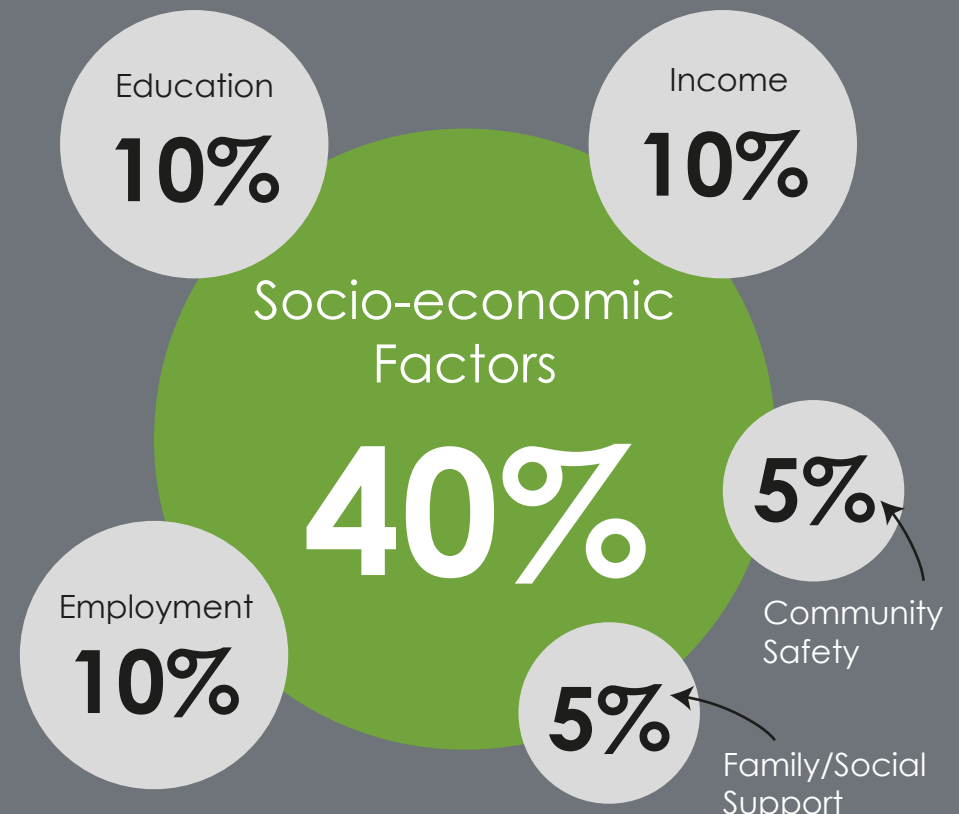


The Committee also looked at the instances of fly tipping over recent time and the extent to which occurrences are increasing or not, measures to deter fly tipping and detection and action against those who do fly tip. The Committee looked at the speed of response to fly tipping on public land.

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

Health and Wellbeing

At the 13 January 2020 meeting of the OSC:
The Committee examined what the current state of health was in the District of Tendring as evidenced by the latest update to the Index of Multiple Deprivation and what actions Essex County Council was undertaking, both itself and working with partners to help deliver improved health. The Committee also reviewed the local North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance and the work programmes it is undertaking to deliver improved health in the District of Tendring and how it is working with partners to achieve this. **The Committee also considered what actions the CCG is undertaking as part of the Alliance to deliver improved health within the District. The Committee agreed to keep watching for a brief of the measures reported to it; in particular the intended Tendring South integrated neighbourhood team, improvement plans for Clacton Hospital and reconfigured GP services from Kennedy House, Kennedy Way, Clacton.**



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

Education Economy and Skills

At the 3 February 2020 meeting the OSC:

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

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



Leisure and Tourism

At the 6 April 2020 meeting the OSC:

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

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

The Economic impact assessment of the action plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mitigation Measures for Impact of Public Firework Displays

At the 28 September 2020 meeting of the OSC:

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

LICENSED PREMISES

At the 30 November 2020 meeting of the OSC:

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

Social Isolation and Mental Health

At the 8 February 2021 meeting of the OSC:

The Committee heard about the impact of social isolation and loneliness on an individual's physical and mental well-being specifically in relation to lockdown.



Resources and Services OSC

Careline Computer System

At the 24 June 2019 meeting of the OSC:

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



Ground Maintenance

At the 29 July 2019 meeting of the OSC:

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



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



At the 14 October 2019 meeting of the OSC:
The Committee considered an outline of the intended basis for the Business Case for the Future of publicly owned leisure centres within the district and the specific business case presented to it for investment at Clacton Leisure Centre. **In relation to the investment at Clacton leisure Centre, the Committee recommended that the improvement works not be commenced until after the end of January 2020 and that consultation be undertaken on the works and the findings of those consultations reported on and considered.**

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

At the 17 February 2020 meeting the OSC:

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

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

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

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



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

At the 22 June 2020 meeting of the OSC:

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

Housing Issues

At the 14 October 2019 meeting of the OSC:

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



Back 2 Business

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

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



Leisure Provision

At the 21 September 2020 meeting of the OSC:

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

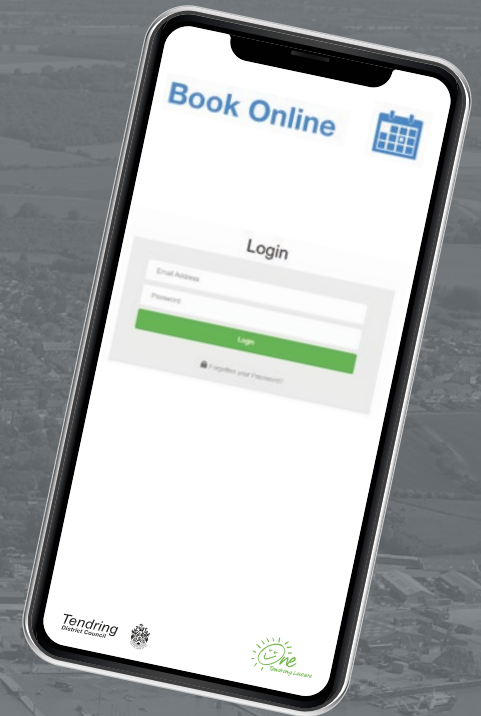
Transformation Agenda of the Council

At the 16 November 2020 meeting of the OSC:

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

The NEGC Joint Scrutiny Panel

On the 19 March 2021 a joint Resource and Services OSC, Community Leadership OSC and Audit Committee report was submitted to Cabinet. The report explained how the panel had proved to be a good vehicle for examining in detail the operation of NEGC Ltd, possible Development Corporation proposals and governance arrangements. Across all meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Panel there was reference to best practice models for governance arrangements for Council controlled companies such as NEGC Ltd. The report provided valuable recommendations about what might be appropriate for the future development of governance around NEGC Ltd, but, also around future companies that the Council may establish or participate in where the Company was a Council controlled company.



Look forward to 2021/22

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

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

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

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

In summary therefore, the OSCs intend to:

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

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