

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

RESOURCE AND SERVICES OVER AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 NOVEMBER 2021 AND

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & ELECTIONS

A.1 SCOPING THE JOINT ENQUIRY INTO “MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH”

(Report prepared by Keith Simmons and Keith Durran)

1.0 THE BRIEF FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

On 13 July 2021, Council approved the proposal from the Resources & Services and the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committees for a single joint scrutiny panel to be established in order to enquire into the appropriateness of the strategies adopted for the District to support economic development, the actions/priorities approved to support those strategies and the implementation of those actions/priorities. With reference to this enquiry, the joint panel will look at the strategies around creating/supporting Vibrant Town Centres, Tendring4Growth and Back2Business.

The intrinsic value of scrutinising the “Meeting the needs of the District – Economic Development and Growth” was demonstrated as –

- the topic was of high local importance and reflected the concerns of local people and businesses in relation to how our towns are rejuvenated.
- to look at how existing local businesses are supported, both internally and externally
- to look at how new local businesses are supported, both internally and externally
- to look at how all three separate plans work together in unison
- the findings from the scrutiny could realistically influence and shape delivery against the framework which could shape community’s and businesses in the long term.
- the issue was relevant to all or large parts of the local area.
- such scrutiny would be in the Council’s interests to ensure that the frame work was reviewed by a critical friend

It was also felt that the nature of the enquiry, spanning the responsibilities of both of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees and the impact on the economic success of the District necessitated a joint scrutiny approach, unfettered by considerations as to whether the issues were internal to the Council or its external partnership working. The creation of a new Joint Scrutiny Panel with a membership drawn from both Overview and Scrutiny Committees would avoid work duplication; a key consideration in good scrutiny.

In establishing the Joint Panel it is recognised that the Leader has established a Freeport East Portfolio Holder Working Party and the Joint Panel is not seeking to duplicate that Working Party's work. Likewise, there are separate arrangements for developing the Colchester-Tendring Garden Community envisaged in the Local Plan and it will not seek to duplicate those arrangements. However, both Freeport East and the Garden Community will need to be referenced and considered in the work of the Joint Panel.

2.0 TERM OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of "Meeting the needs of the District – Economic Development and Growth" Joint Scrutiny Panel are to enquire into the appropriateness of the strategies adopted for the District to support economic development, the actions/priorities approved to support those strategies and the implementation of those actions/priorities. With reference to this enquiry, the joint panel will look at the strategies around creating/supporting Vibrant Town Centres, Tendring4Growth and Back2Business. It will also look at how the Council works with partners such as Essex County Council, the North Essex Economic Board, the Success Essex Board/South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and others.

To submit comments and recommendations, as appropriate, to the Leader of the Council or Cabinet via the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

3.0 SCOPING THE REVIEW

Review Topic	Meeting the Needs of the District – Economic Development And Growth
Membership of the Joint Scrutiny Panel	To be determined by the two Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Members should also not be serving Members of Cabinet. It is suggested that the Joint Panel is comprised of 5 to 7 members.
Officer Support	Keith Simmons – Head of Democratic Services & Elections Keith Durran – Committee Services Officer
Rationale for undertaking scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the topic was of high local importance and reflected the concerns of local people and businesses in relation to how our towns are rejuvenated. • to look at how existing local businesses are supported, both internally and externally • to look at how new local businesses are supported, both internally and externally

Review Topic	Meeting the Needs of the District – Economic Development And Growth
Rationale for undertaking scrutiny <i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to look at how the separate strategies (including those for Vibrant Town Centres, Tendring4Growth and Back2Business) work together in unison • the findings from the scrutiny could realistically influence and shape delivery against the framework which could shape communities and businesses in the long term. • the issue was relevant to all or large parts of the local area. • such scrutiny would be in the Council’s interests to ensure that the frame work was reviewed by a critical friend
Purpose of Scrutiny	<p>To scrutinise the Vibrant Town Centres, Tendring4Growth and Back2Business strategies –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The benefits to the community; ➤ The impact on the Council’s corporate and financial strategies; ➤ The cost effectiveness of implementing the plans; ➤ Sources of funding (both public sector and private sector); ➤ Measuring the success of the implementation of the plans(s); ➤ Possible alternative arrangements; and ➤ Future proposals.
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Panel is formed, enquiry undertaken and recommendations submitted.
Methodology/Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Panel will determine its approach to this enquiry through its intended meetings.
Witnesses/Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Portfolio Holder(s) • Tendring District Council Officers • Representatives of Partner Agencies /Organisations • Representatives of Colbea – the management organisation for the District Wide Business Support Scheme (see decision of 14/05/2021) • Local business representatives – including recipients of schemes such as Business Adaptation Grants • Representatives of Parish and Town Councils
Evidence Sources for Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the Vibrant Town Centre, Tendring4Growth and Back2Business strategy’s, related action plans and performance against those plans to date.. • The Joint Panel will determine its approach to this enquiry through its intended meetings.

Review Topic	Meeting the Needs of the District – Economic Development And Growth
Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Panel will determine its approach to this enquiry through its intended meetings.
Evidence Sources for Views of Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Panel will determine its approach to this enquiry through its intended meetings.
Resource requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer Admin Support
Barriers/dangers/risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilisation of commercially sensitive information

4.0 THE WORK PROGRAMME

	Tasks	Outcomes	People involved
Meeting 1	Scope the review, accepting terms of reference, confirm membership and agree work programme	<p>A programmed approach to the review looking at: The context of the District and the extent to which the strategies for economic development appropriately address that needs locally. The development and selection of priorities and actions within the strategies and the suitability of the choices. The delivery of projects and adopted actions. The assessment of the success measures of projects/actions implemented.</p> <p>The Joint Panel will look seek to establish its Key Lines of Enquiries for the above.</p>	<p>Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel Portfolio Holder for Business & Economic Growth. Interim Corporate Director - Projects Delivery, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure and Head of Economic Growth Head of Democratic Services & Elections and Democratic Services Officer.</p>
Meeting 2 (this may take more than one meeting)	Using the Key Lines of Enquiry from Meeting 1 to enquire into the extent to which the strategies for economic development appropriately address that needs locally.		<p>Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel Interim Corporate Director - Projects Delivery, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure and Head of Economic Growth Head of Democratic Services & Elections</p>

			and Democratic Services Officer. Relevant invitees (to be determined)
Meeting 3 (this may take more than one meeting)	Using the Key Lines of Enquiry from Meeting 1 to enquire into the development and selection of priorities and actions within the strategies and the suitability of the choices.		Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel Interim Corporate Director - Projects Delivery, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure and Head of Economic Growth Head of Democratic Services & Elections and Democratic Services Officer. Relevant invitees (to be determined)
Meeting 4 (this may take more than one meeting)	Using the Key Lines of Enquiry from Meeting 1 to enquire into the delivery of projects and adopted actions and the assessment of the success measures of projects/actions implemented.		Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel Interim Corporate Director - Projects Delivery, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure and Head of Economic Growth Head of Democratic Services & Elections and Democratic Services Officer. Relevant invitees (to be determined)
Meeting 5	To consider the Panel's report and recommendations to the two Overview & Scrutiny Committees/Leader of the Council and Cabinet		Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel Portfolio Holder for Business & Economic Growth. Interim Corporate Director - Projects Delivery, Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Leisure and Head of Economic Growth Head of Democratic Services & Elections and Democratic Services Officer.

