

# RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2021

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## CABINET

8 OCTOBER 2021

### REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### **A.4 KEY PRIORITY ACTIONS 2021/22 TOWARDS CORPORATE PLAN THEMES – MONITORING REPORT AT THE HALF YEAR POINT**

(Report prepared by Keith Simmons)

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the positive progress with the Key Priority Actions adopted for 2021/22 towards the Council's Corporate Plan Themes for 2020/24.

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Corporate Plan 2020/24, adopted by Council, sets out the strategic direction and policy objectives for the Council over that period. Taking the Corporate Plan Themes, Cabinet on 19 March 2021 adopted a series of key priority actions for 2021/22 with individual milestones for each of those actions. This meeting of Cabinet provides an opportunity to report on the six month position on each of those key priority actions and the specified milestones.

It is also important to note that the Leader of the Council added to the key priority actions approved by Cabinet in March 2021 to add a further key priority action around Freeport East. This report includes progress with this action too.

Circumstances generally, and with progressing individual key priority actions may impact on the individual milestones associated with those actions. This report invites Cabinet to realign those milestones as set out in the Appendix to this report.

In addition to the key priority actions, Cabinet also approved a performance reporting arrangement for those actions and the milestones associated with those priority actions. In accordance with that arrangement, the detail of performance at the end of Quarter 1 (for April to June) was placed on the Council's website in the Transparency data section. All Councillors were advised by email of the data being placed there. The arrangement envisaged reporting on the six month position to this meeting of Cabinet. The Q3 position on the key priority actions for 2021/22 is to be reported to Cabinet on 28 January 2022 when it is intended it will finalise its proposals for key priority actions for 2022/23. This meeting will also recommend the Council's budget for 2022/23. The final position at the end of 2021/22 in respect of the key priority actions for that year will also be reported in 2022/23 and it is hoped to align this with the budget outturn position.

In considering this report, it is also worth reflecting on the range of significant matters that the Council has delivered in these six months. It has been a busy six months and a range of the bids, and deliverables in that period are set out in the Background section of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the contents of the report be noted together with the highlighted realignment of particular milestones for particular key priority actions set out in the report.**

## **PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

The Council approved a Corporate Plan for 2020/24 and this established its strategic direction for those four years. That strategic direction itself seeks to reflect the issues that matter most to the local people, the national requirements from Government and the challenges that face the District over that time period. The Corporate Plan was adopted unanimously at the Council meeting on 21 January 2020 (Minute 78 refers).

The themes of the 2020/24 Corporate Plan are:

- Delivering High Quality Services
- Building Sustainable Communities for the Future
- Strong Finance and Governance
- Community Leadership through Partnerships
- A Growing and Inclusive Economy

The Corporate Plan shapes and directs the Council's work and an extensive range of actions have been, are being and will be undertaken across the 2020-24 life of the Plan to deliver against its themes and priorities.

The Key Priority Actions adopted by the Cabinet on 19 March 2021 seek to take forward the Corporate Plan. This meeting of Cabinet provides the opportunity to review progress with the Key Priority Actions adopted and realign the milestones for certain of those Key Priority Actions in view of the circumstances that now require this.

### **FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK**

The key actions set out at Appendix A 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.

A key risk highlighted in the report to Cabinet when it determined its key priority actions for 2021/22 was the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the restrictions imposed to address the pandemic and the extent to which the recovery from the pandemic is impacted by outside issues. Cabinet was also advised that further tasks may be required for the Council to undertake, such as new grant schemes, and this too would impact on the capacity of the Council to achieve the Cabinet's adopted key priority actions.

## LEGAL

The legal implications of individual actions are assessed when they are brought forward for formal decisions to be made. A number of these decisions will be designated 'Key' Decisions. Consideration of legal implications can then require additional steps to be undertaken which could impact on approved milestones and require them to be realigned.

## OTHER 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 / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.**

In preparing this report, due regard has been given to the likely effect of the exercise of the Council's functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. In addition, due consideration has been given to the District Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

The report has also had regard to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as adopted by the Council. A key action proposed in Appendix A is to take forward the delivery of the actions under that Strategy/Action Plan and thereby achieve its objectives as approved by Council.

## PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### BACKGROUND

The Key Priority Actions for 2021/22 (and the performance monitoring arrangements for these) were proposed in draft form by Cabinet at its January 2021 meeting and, with the agreement of the Chairmen of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered the proposals and submitted comments on them. The outcome of the consultation was then submitted to the 19 March 2021 meeting of Cabinet when the finalised Key Priority Actions were approved for 2021/22 (and the performance reporting arrangements).

The half year position on the delivery of the key priority actions for 2021/22, and the related milestones, are set out at Appendix A to this report.

In considering this report, Cabinet is also reminded that this first half year of 2021/22 has seen the following significant matters:

**Section Two of Tendring District Council's (TDC) Local Plan** – detailed and extensive work to support a two-week public hearing in front of the designated Inspector with a view to securing approval of the Section Two of the Plan, the Inspector submitting their series of main modifications picking up many of the issues raised by the Council and consideration of the Inspector's recommendations by the Council; followed by publication of them for a six-week public consultation in the summer.

**Wellbeing Hubs To Support Good Mental Health In Schools** – supporting and encouraging the development of wellbeing hubs across 21 schools in the District; including the collection of baseline data and training for those delivering the hubs using funding secured from the Clinical

Commissioning Group totalling £245K. The roll out built on the pilot at Great Bentley Primary School established in 2017 and will massively extend the number of children who can access the hub services who have mild to moderate mental health issues.

**Submitting a Bid For £20m To Improve Clacton Town Centre** – Making financial commitments from the Council's own budget, along with those from Essex County Council, of £20M with a view to securing a further £20M in funding from Government through its levelling up agenda to fund improvements to Clacton town centre. If successful the bid proposes an 'Electric Parade' scheme in Pier Avenue, creating an events space in the town square and a covered market and starter units, a 'Carnarvon Towers' scheme around Carnarvon Road, Station Road and High Street, with a new library and adult learning centre, flexible office space, new homes, starter business units and a new multi-storey car park and public realm and highways works, including promoting electric vehicles, walking and cycling, and more greenery.

**£35,000 fund for Grants to Event Organisers across the District** - To support local event organisers to bring more events to town or village centres, or seafronts close to them, using local traders or performers. With grants of between £0.5-1.0K to event organisers to make the most of the current staycation boom.

**Financially Local Independents to Harness Digital Retailing Through The Click It Local Scheme** – Several Local Businesses have signed up to the scheme that enables shoppers to get great deals and locally-made products through the new online shopping platform. Click It Local ([clickitlocal.co.uk/tendring](http://clickitlocal.co.uk/tendring)) enables shoppers to get those products delivered to their door on the same day. The Council has provided funding for the Click It Local platform and promotes the service locally to businesses and shoppers.

**Helping Community Groups Under the Community Assets Rent Offsetting Scheme (CAROS) Scheme** – At a cost of £83K, the Council has waived for this financial year the rents of community groups eligible under the CAROS scheme. This is aimed at helping those community groups recover from the impact of Covid-19. In addition, any planned rent increases or reviews for the 2021-22 financial year were paused so as not to put up costs for the next year.

**Cliff Stabilisation Scheme Approved and gets underway** - £2.1M of funding was approved by the Council in April 2021 and the works on two stretches of the cliffs at Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea are now being worked on by specialist contractors to stabilise them for decades ahead. Through the works the gradient of the cliffs will be altered and drainage installed to reduce the build-up of ground water, which is the primary cause of slippage. The whole works will be completed within 2021/22. The works may also provide space for a further 30 Beach Huts to be installed.

**Heritage Trail To Mark Clacton's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday** – With funding from the National Lottery, a trail consisting of 19 information boards, stretching from Jaywick Sands to Holland Haven and going into Clacton town centre, charting various aspects of Clacton's history was created. Some of the boards also have augmented reality options for those with smartphones, and there are also audio benches recanting people's memories of the town.

**150th Anniversary Flights Over Clacton** - Clacton's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked with two flight displays above the town's seafront on Thursday, 26 August and Friday, 27 August. The Anniversary Flights included displays by the RAF Red Arrows and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF). The events saw around 160,000 spectators across both days of the flying programme.

**Secured Funding For The Replacement Of The Artificial Pitch At Clacton Leisure Centre** – With funding being secured from the Football Foundation and from Essex County Council, the £670K scheme is fully funded. The new 3G pitch will replace the existing sand-filled pitch, which is

reaching the end of its lifespan. The pitch will contribute to a range of investments at the Clacton Leisure Centre site to improve facilities there.

**Increasing recycling rates** – For the first three months of this financial year the percentage of household waste sent for recycling in the District was up to 42.61% from 38.36% in the immediate previous quarter (and up from 42.03% in the comparable Q1 quarter in 2020/21). Incidents of fly-tipping were also down to 217 reports in the first three months (Q1) of 2021/22 from 415 in January-March 2021 (Q4 for 2020/21) and from 561 reports in the comparable Q1 quarter in 2020/21.

**Piloting solar powered LED streetlights** – The Council has 191 street lights it is responsible for and is now conducting a year-long pilot of 23 of these using solar powered LED lights. The pilot will invite views before, subject to the pilot, the solar powered LED lights are installed in the remaining 168 street lights elsewhere in the District.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **APPENDICES**

A – Q2 Position on the Key Priority Actions approved by Cabinet in March 2021