

Cabinet – 17 December 2021

Initial Thoughts for Highlight Priorities for 2022/23

The initial thoughts for Highlight Priorities for 2022/23 are set out below and grouped by the appropriate theme within the Corporate Plan. The themes are:

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

As part of the Delivering High Quality Services Theme

Climate Change Action Plan Actions for 2022/23

The Council has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 from The Council's own activities and from the electricity it uses. The Council has an Action Plan 2020-2023 to help it make progress towards this goal, and it will continue to deliver actions within the Action Plan. In particular, the Council will focus on electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and consideration of the opportunities for solar, alongside improving the efficiency of the Council's estate, and engaging externally with partners with common interests in climate action.

Commitments about Environmental service delivery

The Environment Act 2021 and subordinate legislation and guidance will have a defining influence on the forward direction of the Councils waste and recycling service. The failure of the County Council's proposals for the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant will impact on future waste collection rounds and costs. County wide waste collection authorities are working together to agree a new Municipal Waste Strategy. In order to deliver the new strategy Councillors will be presented with evaluated and costed options for consideration and appropriate level decision. At this moment in time the costs are unknown. The aim will be to meet regulatory requirements whilst increasing recycling rates in a manner that balances financial constraints.

Community Safety and Supporting good practice enforcement

The Covid response work continues, alongside a commitment to Enforcement. As agreed at the Corporate Enforcement Group the Community Ambassadors are being trained to respond to three key offences using Fixed Penalty Notices. The areas of priority are dog fouling, littering and fly tipping. The

Community Safety Team continue to use the powers available to the authority in the Anti- Social Behaviour 2014 Act. These powers are usually used in conjunction with partners such as Essex Police or Housing Associations.

As part of the Building Sustainable Communities Theme

Tendring-Colchester Borders and Development Planning Document

Working in partnership with Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council to develop both the planning framework and a long-term stewardship model for a new Garden Community of 7,000-9,000 homes with associated employment opportunities and infrastructure. The Garden Community will be an exemplar development that incorporates the very highest standards of design, architecture, planning and carbon reduction measures and delivery of the scheme will require positive cooperation with the lead development partners Latimer Clarion and Mersea Homes and continuous engagement with both existing and future communities.

Council Housing/Building (including Honeycroft)

Working in partnership with procurement specialists at Essex County Council in order to run a tender exercise for the design and construction single storey homes suitable for older and disabled persons. The procurement exercise will result in a high profile redevelopment of around 20 bungalows at the Honeycroft site.

The redevelopment will seek to provide homes achieving appropriate energy efficiency and lifetime homes standards along with meeting other industry benchmarks for quality and design. Options for the use of Modern Methods of Construction will be included along with offering the opportunity to Small & Medium size Enterprise (SME) developers. The overall design is to recognise current landscape constraints and provide a secure yet welcoming micro community that supports independent living and quality lifestyle.

Further to the redevelopment of Honeycroft site, two further sites held within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) will be progressed to design and tender phase such that construction can follow on once Honeycroft is completed, or in parallel if funding permits. These sites could deliver a total of ten additional council homes for rent.

Discussions with Councillors will be facilitated on a range of further potential development sites identified within the HRA and General Fund estates. Proposals around a range of disposal or development options will touch on a spectrum of priority themes and balance financial and service considerations.

All of the above will be subject to appropriate (further) Cabinet and Full Council level decisions on scheme design, cost and funding.

Jaywick Sands Place Plan

Working with the community of Jaywick Sands and other stakeholders to develop a long-term strategic plan for the area which will provide both a basis for making future planning decisions and a strategy for seeking and securing external private and public funding towards ongoing rejuvenation of the area and tackling deprivation. Key matters to address will include improving housing conditions, provide access to training and employment opportunities, improving community facilities and infrastructure and, perhaps most challenging of all, providing a long-term sustainable future of the community in the face of climate change and the increased likelihood and risk to life and property associated with of coastal flooding.

As part of the Strong Finances and Governance Theme

Achieving Savings target

To continue the development of a zero based approach to deliver the required savings over the remaining years of the long-term forecast.

This will need to be balanced against the level of cost pressures that may emerge over the same timescales along with the delivery against the emerging Corporate Investment Plan.

Improving governance arrangements further

The Council continually seeks to improve and enhance its governance arrangements and in 2022/23 further enhancements will be made. This includes actions from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's Scrutiny Development Review of the Council and actions to keep the Constitution and Councillor training opportunities up to date.

Through this highlight priority the progress with such activities such as the development of a revised strategy for Inclusion and Equality will be captured. The revised Strategy, including an updated People Impact Assessment is aimed at securing robust governance arrangements are in place across the organisation.

Use of the Council's assets

Appropriately disposing of land at the redundant Weeley Office Site in support of priorities.

To facilitate member decision on a range of potential development sites identified within the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund estates. Propose a range of disposal or development options that touches on a spectrum of priority themes and balances financial and service considerations.

To ensure that the Council's general fund assets support in the delivery of the Council's key priorities including health, the provision of modern high quality

buildings for customers and staff along with a commitment to carbon neutrality.

As part of the Growing and Inclusive Economy Theme

Freeport East

Partners have submitted a successful Outline Business Case for Freeport East, with the potential to bring investment and jobs to the Port at Harwich. The Council will be an effective partner in the Freeport East programme, working with other local authorities and the Port to support efforts to bring forward Bathside Bay. The Council will work with Essex County Council and other partners to develop future proposals for the regeneration benefits that Freeport East could bring to District of Tendring.

Exploring Town Centre Renewal/improvement

The Council has the opportunity to seek government funding to invest in its major town centres in Clacton and Harwich through the Levelling Up Fund. The Council will develop a pipeline of projects to support the District's town centres, working with partners, and seek funding for them.

Tourism Offer/Events

Tourism is a major industry for District of Tendring. The sector is worth almost £402 million to Tendring, with the industry responsible for almost 9,000 jobs, equivalent to 17.9% of the District's employment. Most recently Clacton 150 has demonstrated the capacity of the Council to bring forward events and animate the seafront. The Council's Tourism Strategy aims to grow the value and volume of tourism for the wider benefit of the District, with a 10 point plan. The Council will co ordinate a programme of events including the Clacton Airshow and celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and bring forward proposals to support the visitor economy.

As part of the Community Leadership Theme

Health Inequalities Grant funded initiatives

The Council has agreed a number of health Memoranda of Understanding primarily to support the work around health inequalities across the District. At the current time the evaluation framework is being constructed with a view to recruiting additional post holders on a temporary basis to move this work forward across communities. For example, an additional Family Solutions worker is to be recruited to support families in the Harwich area. This work will be completed with communities, stakeholders, statutory and voluntary bodies.

Education

Working with Education partners including ECC, local schools, universities and business to address the four key work streams – teacher recruitment, retention, school attendance and Post 16 opportunities. This work is in line with the Council's Children and Young Person's Strategy.