MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2022 AT 9.30 AM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM - TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA, CO15 1SE

Present:	Councillors M Stephenson (Chairman), Scott (Vice-Chairman), Barry, Griffiths, Harris, Morrison and Placey
Also Present:	Councillor Neil Stock OBE (Leader of the Council; Leader of the Conservatives Group), Councillor Carlo Guglielmi (Deputy Leader of Council; Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance; Deputy Leader of Conservatives Group), Councillor Paul Honeywood (Portfolio Holder for Housing), Councillor Lynda McWilliams (Portfolio Holder for Partnerships), Councillor Mary Newton (Portfolio Holder for Business & Economic Growth), Councillor Alex Porter (Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Tourism), Councillor Michael Talbot (Portfolio Holder for Environment & Public Space) and Councillor Andrew Baker
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Lisa Hastings (Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer), Damian Williams (Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery)), Lee Heley (Interim Corporate Director (Projects Delivery)), Richard Barrett (Assistant Director (Finance and IT) & Section 151 Officer), Tim Clarke (Assistant Director (Housing and Environment)), Andy White (Assistant Director (Building and Public Realm)), Keith Simmons (Head of Democratic Services and Elections), Keith Durran (Committee Services Officer), Matt Cattermole (Communications Assistant) and Hattie Dawson-Dragisic (Performance and Business Support Officer)

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Amos (no substitution) and Councillor Allen (Councillor Placey substituting).

47. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday 13 December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

48. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

There were no declarations of interest by Councillors in relation to any on the agenda for this meeting. Several Members of the Committee were associated with organisations that had received financial support through the Council in respect of the covid-19 pandemic and supporting local communities. On the face of it, there was no interest that was disclosable by individual Members arising from such associations.

49. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 38

On this occasion no Councillor had submitted notice of a question.

50. BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23

The Committee had before it a report that set out a number of key financial reports for consideration, including the budget proposals for 2022/23 in respect of both the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The Members heard how a number of key financial reports were considered by Cabinet earlier in the year, with the comments of the Committee now requested. The various reports form part of the Committee's work programme and the timely opportunity had been taken to bring those together within this report as part of the Committee's wider budget consultation activities for 2022/23.

The following set out each report in turn:

1) Treasury Outturn 2022

On 17 September 2021, Cabinet considered the *Treasury Outturn 2020/21*.

At the above meeting, Cabinet resolved that the Treasury Management performance position for 2020/21 be noted and that the Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2020/21 be approved.

2) Financial Performance Report at the end of Quarter 2 (2021/22)

On 12 November 2021 Cabinet considered the *Financial Performance Report – In-Year Performance against the Budget at the end of the Second Quarter 2021/22 and Long Term Financial Forecast Update.*

At the above meeting, Cabinet resolved:

"That, in respect of the financial performance against the budget at the end of September 2021:-

- (a) the current position be noted;
- (b) the proposed in-year adjustments to the budget, as set out in Appendix H to item A.8 of the Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance, be approved;
- (c) in respect of the Council's Treasury Management Practices, the aggregate amount of money that can be placed overnight with the Council's bankers be increased temporarily from £1.000m to £1.500m for each day the offices are closed over the Christmas 2021 break;
- (d) the Council continues to be a member of the Essex Business Rates Pool in 2022/23 if it remains financially advantageous to do so; and
- (e) the closing date for Members to submit claims under the Members' COVID-19 small grant scheme be set as 31 March 2022.

2. That, in respect of the Updated Long Term Forecast:-

the updated forecast be approved and that the Resources and Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the latest position".

3) <u>Updated Financial Forecast and Budget Proposals 2022/23 (GENERAL FUND)</u>
On 17 December 2021, Cabinet considered the *Updated Financial Forecast and Initial Budget Proposals 2022/23*.

At the above meeting it was resolved that Cabinet:

- (a) "approves the updated Financial Forecast and proposed position for 2022/23 as set out in the Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder's report and the appendices thereto; and
- (b) requests the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments on this latest financial forecast and proposed position for 2022/23".

4) Housing Revenue Estimates 2022/23

On 17 December 2021, Cabinet considered the *Housing Revenue Account Estimates* 2022/23.

At the above meeting it was resolved that Cabinet:

- (a) "approves the updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 year Business Plan and proposed position for 2022/23, as set out in the Portfolio Holders' joint report and Appendix thereto; and
- b) requests the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments on this latest HRA financial forecast and proposed position for 2022/23".

The Committee thereupon undertook its scrutiny of the key financial reports including budget proposals for 2022/23

Prior to the meeting, questions that the Committee Members had raised had been circulated to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers in order to enable responses to be provided. Those questions and responses form the Appendix to these Minutes.

Members of the Cabinet, accompanied by the appropriate Management Team Member or other Senior Officer, attended the meeting in turn and assisted the Committee in its enquiry of the matters put to them in respect of the budget position and allocation of funds. The questions that Members asked to Cabinet Members and Officers (together with the responses received from those Cabinet Members and Officers) form the Appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting adjourned briefly for lunch.

During his time with the Committee, the Leader of the Council praised its hard work and said:

"I genuinely do thank you, I have done the scrutiny role myself, so I do appreciate the value, significance and the key role that it plays in a democratic system, I often joke, if I was king of the world, that would be great for me, until it wasn't great anymore, I could make all sorts of crazy decisions on my own, some of them would have been fantastic, some others wouldn't have been so good. Even with in the grouping of Cabinet there will be differences of opinion which are right and proper and they're good, because you need someone to point out other views and opinions.

We need Overview and Scurtiny, even if we don't always necessarily like it or do what is recommended, but we need that challenge and the committee are giving us a challenge and leads for a better decision making process and makes for a better Local Authority which makes us a better Council and District".

Having considered all of the information that had been provided, including the responses to the questions posed to Cabinet Members and Officers referred to in the Appendix, it was **RESOLVED** that the **CABINET** be **RECOMMENDED** that:

In respect of the financial forecast and proposed General Fund budget position for 2022/23

- That the issue of the level of carry forward amounts each year, as highlighted several times by the external auditors in their annual audit letters to the Council in recent years, be addressed urgently by the Cabinet.
- 2. That the intentions for developing a Corporate Investment Plan in order to establish a process for considering proposals for investment against the Corporate Plan Priorities and developing a prioritisation framework for investment over the coming year and into the medium term be welcomed and:
 - a. That the schemes set out in the current reserves, provisions and one-off sums be reassessed as part of that Corporate Investment Plan process in order to avoid sums of money being allocated for schemes that are no longer to be pursued and thereby hampering investment in schemes that can deliver real benefit to the District;
 - b. That, further to (a) above, the approvals to establish a reserve for a Residents Free Parking Scheme (£221K in reserves) and to allocate funds for a Clacton Town Centre Fountain (£159K as a one-off sum) be reversed immediately (as they are not required/being pursued) and the sums reallocated to fund the posts of 6 Community Ambassadors, 4 Street Rangers and 1 Technical/Administration (at a total cost of £352K) for 2022/23 with the remaining £28K from the released funds being ring-fenced to support training, equipment and supplies costs associated with those posts in 2022/23.

- c. That the Plan should identify a range of seafront enhancements, developed in conjunction with seaside communities (including where relevant Town/Parish Councils) on the basis that these are funded by an expansion of beach huts in those communities.
- d. That the Plan should deliver on the intentions of the Public Conveniences Strategy by improvements in those continuing facilities (particularly in view of the saving of £72,200 from the Government's backdating of business rate relief to the start of 2020/21 and the absence of business rates on those facilities since the Strategy was adopted).
- e. That the Plan clearly identifies how it will integrate with the priorities for investment through funding secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the monitoring of the investment through that funding route.
- 3. That progress with the procurement of the new cremators for the Weeley crematorium and the significant loss of income in 2021/22 and 2023 while the cremators are out of action, be monitored, very closely, and councillors and the public be kept informed about the process.
- 4. That internal procurement processes be re-examined with a view to strengthen those processes and addressing the risk of failure by companies who are major suppliers to the Council (given recent example of the company maintaining the cremators and other examples in recent years).
- 5. That the planned events for the platinum Jubilee and associated funding for them, be approved as a matter of urgency.
- 6. That the problem of littering along the A120 be highlighted and the Council pursues with Essex County Council and Highways England, frequent cleaning of the road, and verges next to it, with waste bins that are suitable for the level of use be installed and maintained in the laybys between Ardleigh Crown and Harwich, so that this major route through the District is kept clean.

In respect of the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23

- That, in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, stretch targets be introduced for void levels given the impact on the budget in lost rental income and Council Tax (including the proposed surcharge for empty homes being introduced for 2022/23) and the demand for housing that could be met by bringing void homes back into rental.
- 2. That the Council commences setting aside funds to meet the costs that will arise from the housing stock condition survey (albeit that the full extent of those sums is not yet known).

In respect of the proposed highlight priorities for 2022/23

- That the Cabinet reassess its highlight priorities for 2022/23 and include in them, with appropriate budget and milestones or otherwise implement the following:
 - a. Progress with the various steps that will be part of the Stock Condition Survey to be undertaken in 2022/23 in view of the important role the Council has as a major local landlord and the need to prepare for the implications of the Hackett review and revisions to the Decent Homes Standard.
 - b. Delivery of key elements of the emerging Sports and Leisure Strategy – given the need to take forward the range of actions to improve activity levels not just among those who are currently not active but also among those who are moderately active and across all parts of the District.
 - c. As part of the growing and Inclusive Economy Theme, Tourism Officers/ events proposed priority, include measures to increase the numbers and extend the percentage of visitors to the area that can (and do) stay overnight and thereby increase dramatically the spend locally by visitors.
 - d. In respect of the proposed priority of carbon reduction/climate action:
 - i. as and when initiatives are brought forward, details should be provided as to how the relevant carbon reduction measures affect the Council and its partners financially (and is there a consequence for job numbers/skills of the individual measures).
 - ii. the proposals for Electric Vehicle charging points across the District be worked up and the consequential budgetary issues for the Council be established and shared widely.

NOTE in accordance with procured rule 19.5 Councillors Griffiths and Placey requested that their names be recorded in the minutes as having voted against recommendation 2(b) above.

The meeting was declared closed at 3.28 pm

Chairman

RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022/23 BUDGET AND INITIAL PRIORITIES QUESTIONS OF CABINET MEMBERS

Cabinet Member to be asked the question	Question to be asked	Responses
All Portfolio Holders	How many projects that are in the highlight priorities for 2021/22 will not be completed in the year and will be added to the workload for 2022/23 or dropped altogether?	Portfolio Holders will report to Cabinet this month on the highlight priorities, which will provide the committee with detailed information on progress against projects for 2021/22.
Cllr. Porter	"Can the portfolio holder give an update on the position of Brightlingsea and Harwich Sports Centres, (given that they have had funding extended for three months by Cabinet in December 2021), in respect of their inclusion in the District's Sports facilities Strategy which is due to be published in March 2022"?	The joint use agreements have come to an end for the Harwich and Brightlingsea facilities. The Council is working with the Sigma Trust – and the Town Councils - with the aim of enabling as much community use as a possible of the facilities. We expect the future sports strategy to be much more broadly scoped than just the use of the Councils' own facilities, and so it may reference facilities available from the Sigma Trust. The RSOS committee will have the opportunity to input to the sports strategy.
	"Can the portfolio holder explain why Sports and Leisure Facilities are not included in highlight priorities for 2022 given the importance of these within the about to be adopted S2 of the Local Plan and the development of Local Delivery Pilot".	Sports and leisure remains important for the Council, and is a focus for me as the Portfolio Holder, which is why we are bringing forward the strategy. The Council is not able to include everything that is important within in the priorities for 2022/3. I look forward to discussing the strategy with the chair of the committee.
	Tourism Offer/Events	
	"What plans have we in the pipeline for the Queen's	I am considering options for the jubilee celebrations in the coming

Platinum Jubilee? It's not that far away".

up to national events. These include more than 1,500 beacons lit throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. There is also a Beacon Trail in the four weeks ahead of the Jubilee with seven venues chosen around a local area, to learn about a different decade in the Queen's reign. I am also considering local events, such as a jubilee tea parties, leisure open days, and themed planting.

months - we have until April to sign

"Any plans to use one of the empty shops in Clacton as a "proper" tourist information point open 7 days a week"?

We have a tourist information service that answers queries online, by email and telephone and in person in the Town Hall five days a week, and our What's on page and the Visit Essex website is available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

"What is your assessment of the overall level of projects and schemes that comprised the Clacton 150 celebrations"? Despite lock downs, we celebrated Clacton's 150 years. The 23 bays from Holland Haven to Clacton Pier have been named as part of 150th Clacton-on-Sea's anniversary celebrations. Clacton has a new Heritage Trail that starts at Jaywick Sands, goes along the promenade up into the town centre, railway station and then follows back down to the named beaches. A Dinner Dance was held at The Princes Theatre as well as a celebration day for Clacton 150 and the theatre's birthday, a sell-out event.

Street Tag continues to have a positive impact within the community and schools, with Season Two concluding in February. This encourages people of all ages to learn local history and be active.

"Did they achieve your ambition for the 150th year

Yes, given the global situation we have been in. We were able to hold

celebrations"?

"What schemes are in place and funded to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations locally"?

"The summer plan ended up addressing issues of increased litter along the coast line and I would like to know whether these will now be introduced as the summer season starts in 2022/23 rather than having to see a repeat of the problems from the start of the summer season 2021/22"?

"Is there an update on the Council's liabilities in respect of cliff slippages at the sea front? You said to Cabinet on 12 November last year this matter was being explored".

several very successful events in 2021 that adhered to the national guidelines and were popular with the public, including the heritage trail, the Clacton Anniversary Flights, and the new Clacton 150 Coat Of Arms designed as part of a primary school initiative.

I am considering options for the jubilee celebrations in the coming months as we have until April to sign up to national events. These include more than 1,500 beacons lit throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. As the sun sets at 9:09 pm on 2nd June, individual pipers and pipe bands are being asked to play "Diu Regnare". There is also a Beacon Trail in the four weeks ahead of the Jubilee with seven venues chosen around a local area, to learn about a different decade in the Queen's reign. I am also considering local events, such as a jubilee tea parties, leisure open days, and themed planting.

Various additional measures including increased bin number, bin sizes and additional collections were introduced proportionately during the 2021 summer season. It is proposed to include all of these measures during the 2022 season. The exact starting point of enhanced measures will be judged by officers and will depend to a large degree on weather and covid conditions.

Officers from the Engineering team have obtained proposal from a specialist engineer for a high-level survey and assessment of conditions and identification of areas of risk. This will be rolled out over the course of the coming year

"The Queen's platinum Jubilee – is there a budget line that is going to be rolled out to the different Wards"?

Is it your intent to provide funding with the Jubilee Parties across Tendring?

Have we applied for some of the grant funding by the Government for the Jubilee? 4.

Is there any reason why we haven't applied for that?

Could we looking to find the funding by the end of January?

Can you confirm whether TDC have actually allocated its own budget set aside for the Jubilee celebration?

Is there any plans to have an astoturf pitch installed in the

and additionally mapped against adjoining public and private sector properties that derive risk or benefit from slopes in different locations. addition, initial discussions around legal issues have highlighted areas of law that include different principles depending on the exact nature and root causes of issues that make potential responses guite nuanced. It is likely that specific Counsel's advice will be necessary establishing the position in relation to scenarios that relate to the physical and geographical work as above.

Work and research is ongoing.

April is the final deadline that you have to respond to national events but, we may have done this before.

I am not sure yet. Of course we have the events grants where lots of events have had money put toward them so hopefully we can do something similar with this. However it is something I would approve if the budget was there.

Not yet. We have got the Clacton 150 funding from Government which is a 2 year set of funding. So this actually cover the Jubilee year.

We haven't yet, I am not saying we won't but we have not made that decision yet.

Yes.

No we have not got a specific Jubilee celebrations budget.

If the pitches you are referring to are ordinary grass pitches they

Frinton and Walton area?

wouldn't come under me, it would be open spaces not leisure. In terms of second question, yes if we can get funding to do that sort of thing. Like the one with Clacton and we are looking are other option football elsewhere. As the association want to see more of this, and they have their own plan in place. At this moment in time no there isn't any plans for a pitch in Frinton. There has been talk about it, possibly joint use with the school however there isn't any funding for

Reference to your answer about the second written question with regards to sports and leisure facility not been highlighted in highlight priorities. Concerned that you stated we cannot include everything that is important within the priorities. How do you grade importance because sports and leisure is an important key feature of our local plan? In terms of corporate investment plan can you say what would be being looked at for sports and leisure facilities? If it is not included in highlight priorities would it be included in the corporate investment plan?

Sports and Leisure facilities are not a statutory requirement and it is something we should do for the people that live in Tendring. In terms of future investment we are already there with what is going on in Clacton which is still in the future. Still waiting for this to happen as Covid has caused it to move slowly. Similar to the Skate park and the potential in Harwich as well. We don't know what will happen in places like Brightlingsea in terms of what funding may become available. At this point in time we don't know but we are always working towards funding getting more things built and more things done.

Cllr. Newton 10.20am-10.35am

Town Centre Renewal/Improvement "Is there a long term plan for our town centres? i.e. Clacton, Harwich, Brightlingsea, Frinton, Manningtree How long are we going to hold on to monies that have been identified for match/contribution to any funding applications instead of going ahead with specific

Our Levelling Up Fund bid put forward improvements to Clacton town centre. Funding running into the tens of millions is of course highly competitive and while the bid was not ultimately successful, it was strong enough to reach the short list that went before ministers. We are awaiting the delayed publication of the Levelling Up White Paper to see the timeline for any application to future rounds of funding.

parts of said projects that will make a difference"?

"How many more failed bids would it take to trigger this"?

With regards to the Freeport East, are there any priority plans in place and whether there is any budget or any funding that needs to be allocated to that project?

Do the officers have enough resource on this project?

We have also made good progress with our Local Plan which allows more flexibility for businesses and changes of use in all of our Town Centres to help keep them vibrant and to help tackle issues around vacant property.

The next levelling up fund has to go in, in March. We are just waiting for them to tell us. Everything we do really depends on what the port Felixstowe do with their section and what they are deciding to do with Bathside Bay. When we get the next paper that goes in for the funding we also need to work out where they are going. They are talking to various green projects and that will possibly be the first thing that will go into Bathside Bay.

There is resource to get the project up and running and there has been resource to the lead authority where their project coordinator is pulling that together. There is resource coming from Government to support this project and we are putting into that from the economic growth team under Cllr Mary Newton. When the project is able to come forward and the project is successful it will then itself generate income back to then put into the regeneration projects itself. So the key thing is to get the final business case through and to get that agreed by Government for the port to bring forward the clean energy hub. So the focus for the next 3 months is working with those We have partners. got programme of activity underway and resources behind it.

Can you confirm that currently

Yes.

you have enough officer support right now to work on that project?

Explain exactly what the levelling up programme is, currently how much money is in the budget external of bids being put forward and whether or not we have a business case and costings for other areas we have outside the free port?

Do we have a programme aimed at levelling up outside of Government bids?

To clarify, we are waiting in the white paper, then we can add our localised initiatives to that white paper?

Are we not making a decision on the budget that we have for other projects until we know exactly where we stand again with the levelling up project?

Why are we letting the Town Centre be left with no maintenance?

Our levelling up fund bid that we put forward unfortunately there was just not sufficient money, we did not succeed in our bid so we had to relook at what we had done and submit it again.

Levelling up is a broad concept, so it doesn't just sit in one line it relies on a whole bunch of council activity. The council has put aside along with the county money to support external bids because there has significant money on the table. Until the levelling up white paper comes forward it's hard to know whether it is worth going forward just with ones own initiatives or external ones.

Yes

Yes. Unfortunately I would say all of the costings we have for various projects have all come back and are virtually double.

The issue for the levelling up fund is that we weren't successful with it. I would say it's as much to do with the cost and more to do with the unsuccessful bid.

There are changes going on within the town for example the closure of mothercare and savers moving to that building. As for the lights and the other parts some of it is down to us and some of it is down to County and I think again people are making strides and we are aware of

it. It is just finding the finances to be able to make the changes. I was talking about the I will do my best to speak to those and ask them if we can get lampposts that do not work and the trees light are something done as a matter of working. urgency. Mentioned new local plan I know that the regen department which will hopefully be fully are working very hard with local adopted by the end of this business and with the month. Contained within the developments going forward new local plan there are great hopefully we will be able to get further employment into the Town opportunities for local business, jobs and improved and into the district. local economy. To maximise these great new opportunities are there plans to market these and do we have enough resource and budget set aside? Cllr. "I seem to recall that 200 new The aspiration is for 100 homes in Honeywood homes were going to be built the Jaywick Sands Area and 100 10.40amin this administration - how is elsewhere. It is not specifically to 10.55am build such homes within this that going"? administration. In our Housing Strategy adopted in 2020 we indicated an aspiration to deliver 200 additional homes within the lifetime of the strategy. Since the Council's Housing Strategy was adopted in 2020 a total of 29 new homes have so far been added to the Council's stock by way of gifting, acquisition or new build. The Cabinet appropriated the disused Weelev office site for housing purposes, the delivery model and number of homes is yet to be formally decided. The Council's property team has identified a further thirty potential sites for detailed consideration of development potential. The potential capacity of those sites ranges from single plots

to up to ten homes.

"Are the 20 bungalows due to be built on the Honeycroft site all for council tenants or is this going to be run by a Housing Association and can we be assured that the development will be completed before the end of the year"? Dwellings on the Honeycroft site will be Council owned managed. Typically а new development can take three years or more to complete from the initial planning stage and it was never the intention that this development would be completed within this year. The aspiration is to complete the design and build tender and planning processes in order that commencement of the development will occur during the vear.

"Where are the other two sites mentioned"?

The two sites that are under consideration are:

Redundant land North of Seaview Avenue Little Oakley with an initially assessed capacity of twelve units (subject to detail design and planning)

Redundant Garage site at Fernlea Road Harwich with an initially assessed capacity of five units (subject to detail design and planning)

"How many properties will be will be delivered on them – given 10 will be council homes we are looking circa 30....."?

In total these sites could deliver 17 new homes.

Jaywick Sands Place Plan

"Long term strategic plan??? Wasn't this already done when various funding was applied for or was it a short term strategy, I seem to remember pictures of Miamistyle developments along the front"?

There has not yet been, certainly in recent years, a long term strategic plan for Jaywick Sands. There have been previous planning applications for small scale development which is possibly where you have seen pictures or artists impressions of alternative types of housing.

"Will the building of 100 (of the 200) new homes still be included and who will be delivering them"? The plan will include references to the development of land in Jaywick Sands. It will not specify who will be delivering them but will provide a "Whilst I understand the concept of building and selling new homes in Jaywick Sands to encourage investment, it seems that the concept in this case is failing so how long before the unsold new homes are considered for rent"?

"Improving housing conditions

– are you compiling a register
of private landlords?

(Something that should be Tendring wide and could contribute in a small way if such landlords were charged a small fee)".

previous this years Committee has argued that monies be retained in the HRA for capital investment in the Council's existing stock. Do you feel the level of maintenance in the proposed budget is sufficient given that in 2020/21 and in 2021/22 we had to pause or curtail works on the stock due to the rising cost of those works in those years compared with the budget"?

mechanism for potential developers to present proposals.

The new homes in Jaywick Sands were built with the benefit of a starter homes grant from Homes England. We are currently in dialogue with Homes England around alternative options for the five starter homes that have not yet been sold. I am open to the possibility of renting the homes in some way and once a preferred option has been found will bring a report to Cabinet for discussion and approval.

We are not compiling a register of private landlords beyond the details that are already used by our homelessness service. I do not believe that a register of landlords on its own is likely to improve housing conditions. We have a very effective Private Sector Housing service who work to improve poor housing in the private rented sector through both informal and formal engagement with landlords.

We have increased the budget for 2022/23 by £222k to reflect rising prices and demands on the service. Whilst it is difficult to accurately project likely spend during the year the revised budget is considered sufficient. A budget has also been included for a Stock Condition Survey, with a budget of £100k, the results of which will assist in setting future budgets. These proposals will be presented to the Chair of the Council's Tenants' Panel on 19th January for consultation with the Tenant's panel for their approval. Our housing repairs team have been taking action to reduce voids costs and times with the objective of minimising the overall impact on Specifically looking at the 20 bungalows in Honeycroft that are planned. Would these be subject to right to buy and does that move the goalpost in terms of how many homes the council is building?

What is the timescale on right to buy? (Do you have to be there for a certain amount of years before) and in terms of right to buy holiday, is this council talking to the relevant Government department to possibly bring this forward?

the HRA budget.

Honeycroft did have a sheltered housing scheme on the side and what we're looking at is a sheltered housing scheme in name but not as you know it. Looking at the possibility of а series independent bungalows with the possibility of a separate building that looks like a bungalow that is used for administration, visits by nurses, etc. But it will blend in with the rest of the site. I don't know if it will be subject to right to buy, there is a possibility it wouldn't. We cannot deliberately avoid the right to buy.

For the second question, we did have Cabinet officials from London down and talked about a white paper for this that is due out this year on housing. So what we tried to do was put forward suggestions rather than just asking for money. One of those was a suspension of right to buy for an extended period.

The timescale to focus on is the cost flaws. So if we build a property, the tenant meeting the criteria can buy that house from the day that it's built. The cost flaw means that they would want to discounts applied and then add on the cost it has taken to build it, it means it would cost more than they would want to pay for it in year 1. That cost flaw diminishes over the course of 15 years. So what we have spoken to government about is extending that cost flaw to over 30 years which is the length of the HRA business plan. So the idea is the rental costs of 30 years mean the house will have then paid for itself.

What sort of time period then for this holiday period?

Weeley is now vacant, what reassurances have we got that this is either going to be sold on as a private deal, or the demolition of it?

Cllr. Talbot

"Under the Climate Change Action Plans for 2022/23 it is 'In particular, the stated Council will focus on electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and consideration of the opportunities for solar,...'Can the portfolio holder expand on the proposals for extending ΕV charging infrastructure across Tendring in terms of numbers and locations of charging points, resources timescales. required, and Could a specific reference be made to proposals for the ward of Brightlingsea which at the moment has zero public charging points available"?

"Could he also expand on what is meant by consideration of the opportunities for solar in terms of application to council properties, power generation and support for residents across Tendring"?

I haven't put a timescale on it, it is an extended period of time.

I believe this will either come under Cllr Guglielmi or Cllr Stock. I do know Cllr Stock would like the building demolished as soon as possible.

The Council proposes to focus initially on Council owned car parks where it has control and the ability to carry out installations. It is proposed initially to focus initially on areas where demand supports shorter term activity and to install technology over time and to match evolution in the methods available. can't comment directly on Brightlingsea at present but it is the intention of the officer team to install according to needs and that does suggest that provision in all parts of the district will be made. Additionally market technological evolution will evolve solutions for denser residential and on street settings. The Council will seek to deploy such solutions when appropriate.

There is potential to deliver photovoltaic microgeneration on Council owned housing. A number of delivery models are available ranging from no capital investment where a funder and installer partnership install equipment free initially but in expectation of selling electricity to tenants and any surplus to the grid. At the other extreme. the Council could purchase and install the equipment itself and benefit from revenues. In either case Council and environment would emissions benefit from the reduction. It is proposed to carry out a detailed analysis of the options in order to ensure that a delivery model that benefits tenants as well as the Council and "Are we prioritising vehicle charging over solar panels on the council's buildings"?

"What electric vehicle charging are we looking at – i.e. rapid, standard and where? Do we have an estimate of costs? How many and where? How far along are we with using electric vehicles for our services"?

"Given the soaring costs of gas and electricity are we looking to install solar panels on all/ay of the council's buildings? Has there been any research into how much this would be likely to cost and how long it would take"?

"Commitments about Environmental service delivery:-

Given there are new regulations (coming) from

environment are optimal.

Yes. There is growing demand for electric vehicle charging as I have mentioned whereas the advice following detailed survey and external advice is to focus initially on reduction in demand in relation to Council buildings with potential generation options to be considered at a later stage.

I've mentioned already that the initial focus will be on car parks. It is likely that practical and economic factors tend towards the larger car parks in town locations, with options on precise location, number and capacity yet to be determined The officer team is working closely with an external advisor in order to optimise equipment. location. charging and funding decisions will be optimised. The Council currently operates electric one Technology does not presently lend itself to plant or lorries such as refuse collection vehicles. The of greener wider roll out technologies to the owned and contracted fleet is identified for later stages in the delivery programme.

I've mentioned that the advice is to begin by reducing energy use and demand, a Fabric First approach. Generation options naturally fall for consideration once demand is reduced and technology and delivery options further mature.

Waste handling and reduction are key parts of any environmental strategy. The team is fully aware of government policy changes, County-wide strategy and issues arising from the circumstances

government with regard to waste and recycling collection together with the developing County Municipal Waste Strategy, why is this a priority when much of it is outside our control OR Is there scope for us to bring the service inhouse"?

Poor state of repair of our football pitches over in Frinton and Walton, as referred from Councillor Porter earlier.

Given the recent problems we've had with energy providers going to the wall, could the PFH give any assurances that in the event private companies providing energy to council tenants the relevant safeguards would be in place to protect those tenants, and the relevant clauses will be inserted to ensure the tenants aren't held hostage to the high charges that private companies inflict? With regards to green technology being introduced would it be possible for PFH to give some idea of costings and effects?

Can we have some sort of costings for the green policy?

Can you ask if we are going

around the Mechanical and Biological Treatment plant. A key plank of proposed activity is to react to these changes, to take forward the service but also having regard to the financial costs to the district and its residents.

Bringing the service in-house would require a large investment in equipment, staff and facilities. It is not currently proposed.

I am not aware of anything.

After my last statement of the council meeting I was asked questions similar to that and I did make enquiries to the answers to that and there is still discussion going on, there are such a variety of ways. Reports of alternatives are being considered, discussions with contractors offering various things such as free installation with guid pro quos. There isn't a firm policy on the issue at the moment, rest assured the matter will be taken account of and directly arising from your comment today I will have a conversation with Tim R Clarke who deals with most of this in our housing area and seek some assurance that any policy that is eventually put to us does include some kind of control for the tenant.

The cost was published in the original report but it was estimated that by consultants that it would cost us £7.5million to do what was in the report that was made to council. There has not been another figure quoted since then.

I don't know the detail but in

to receive any revenue back from that figure?

achieving climate change objectives is going to cost money. There will be some savings, for example it's unlikely the electric charge for cars will be high as fuel.

Ground staff, mostly the conditions of pitches is good but there has been a few comments about staff numbers being reduced. Is the budget satisfactory to provide us s with the resources that we require to on top of keep the maintenance of these pitches?

The maintenance of the pitches would not be in my Portfolio however the vehicles would be. I have had no comment that the provision is inadequate. I have insisted when we replace any vehicle we talk to either the company we are purchasing them from or the person we are hiring them from that we will be looking for electrical alternatives.

Clarity of which Portfolio football pitches will fall under?

It does fall under open spaces but I haven't had any reports back from the head of service that there are any issues with staffing in relation to pitches or open space maintenance.

Have we got a plan for electrical vehicle infrastructure in the next 12 months and will that be allocated resources within the corporate investment plan?

Consultants are being engaged to look at our area. We need to know sort of charging we want, what the availability is of power, so all of these are under consideration. There is a government scheme that makes grants to authorities for building car parks in places, it's not enormous amounts of money but in total you can have a maximum of 40 places in your location. There is no specific answer at the moment.

Is there any considerations in the budget for another dog warden? No there isn't any intentions that I am aware of.

We have 2 substantive Dog Warden posts, of which 1 Dog Warden is seconded to the Community Ambassadors, we are now looking at funding to lengthen the duration of the Community

		Ambassadors posts which should in turn allow us to back fill the vacant Dog Warden Post.
Cllr Guglielmi	"Given that there are funded projects and Initiatives with allocated budgets of £12,221,640, some of whom have been carried over for years without implementation or development, is it possible that some of this unused resources could be redirected to protect service delivery. For example there is a Town Centre Fountain budget of £159,080 on the list which is clearly not going to be used, which has been carried over for years. Can this money be re-allocated to protect front line services?"	The short answer is that the money that has been set aside for the fountain has always been earmarked to replace the attraction in the town centre.
	Weeley Crematorium with regards to it being non-operational — What impact has that had on us and is there lessons to be learnt?	There are very few specialist firms that supply that kind of equipment. As it is such a bespoke piece of equipment it very limited as to where you can go and purchase them. So when it was bought the procurement rules had all been observed. The report that Cabinet considered in December it went into details of where this can be purchased from and there is only 2 sources. Unfortunately the place we originally bought from are no longer trading, we haven't managed to keep it going for as long as it did but as soon as that became an issue we had begun discussions on potential replacements. We have identified funding for a replacement. We hope to have it replaced as soon as possible the impact it has had on our budget is £300,000 loss which was reported at the Cabinet meeting in December.
	Bearing in mind we are planning to replace it, are you	Yes, the situation is Cabinet formally agreed the funding and

going to issue a statement to residents to keep them updated?

Queen's Jubilee – Is there any chance that we can identify something from underspend or what did I need to do to fund this celebration?

As this is the first year we have gone with net zero budgeting, could you provide your thoughts on what you hope this will achieve?

Is the corporate investment plan hopefully going to help with delivering on some of these projects? approved the report in December as you are well aware a process in place with local government purchases of stationary items not on the shelf and we hope to replace it in the very near future, as soon as there is some information we will be happy to share it with residents.

This is something I would rather you raised with Cllr Porter as it is his areas of expertise and I am sure we will be discussing it going forward.

To reflect this event of budget scrutiny has taken place due to the circumstances of the last year. The financial position of the council is still be affected by Covid-19. We always try to look at alternative ways to Manage our finances. We are in a very strong financial position compared to authorities throughout Essex. We have delivered an excess of 900 new homes this year. Another growth is business rates in which our financial strategies are very much underpinned and therefore we are confident going forward.

Absolutely and the corporate investment plan hopes to formalise the delivery of projects. One example is Honeycroft, which is part of our focus priorities in November I signed off a sum of money to put in place a project manager which would give a very clear timescale on what needs to be done and the corporate investment plan will guide officers now to be as comprehensive as it possibly can. For example the Starlings in Dovercourt Town centre that is money that we have

Lee Heley (Interim Corporate Director, Projects & Delivery) stated this would be up and running by March, do you think this will be achievable?

Would you say Back to Business (B2B) has been successful and is there any plans to extend this and continue to support small businesses?

The relationship between the corporate investment plan and the current budget priorities? And how are you going to deliver?

chosen to invest there to improve the public realm, to give more confidant to already existing businesses. The corporate investment plan will focus officers and members. Another example is services providing reasons before gaining top up on budget.

Yes as this will be a focus.

Yes it has. Covid is still here and we have just taken a new business support grant. 2.20.40. We have got a number of businesses which applied and the money ran out. The intention is to redirect those businesses to the new grant. With the limited amount of workforce that we have we have already given out in excess of £50 million pounds worth of grants. There is a piece of work going on to evaluate just how good B2B has been and then see if we are able to keep it going.

We recently introduced the performance report, and we are happy to include the corporate investment plan to performance report. We mustn't lose sight that the £12 million sitting in reserves are for projects that approved and are waiting to be delivered so that money is there for a purpose. Goina forward the corporate investment plan will formalise the process. We still need to achieve savings and for the last 2 years officers have been diverted to do other things.

In terms of the accountability as the B"B plan and the list you have referred to as well, these will almost morph into a physical thing as a

		part of the corporate investment plan that will go to Cabinet in
The Leader	What you think the purpose of the highlight priorities is?	We are trying to now bring together the budget setting process with the priority setting process. We can set the priorities but if there is no funding for it, it won't happen. Likewise for the budget. So this will ensure we are spending our money and trying to achieve the priorities.
	Tourism – Talk of acute shortage of places to stay in district, is there a way to promote more places for people to stay in the area to support economy?	We want to support businesses, employment, wealth creation and job creation across the district and tourism is a major way of doing that, but it relies on the fundamental infrastructure of the place. One of the ways we can do that is through planning, we have quite advantageous planning policies for the creation of tourist accommodation. An example is Clacton Town Centre struggling and say you suggest that we need more Café's and less mobile phone shops but we cannot tell business owners to shut their shops down. Also if there are empty shops and we want to put a café there we can't just do that, what we can do is create an environment that we are open for business and want people to invest in Tendring.
	Garden Communities – One of the stand out amounts is for Garden Communities which is £1.3million. How do you see the Garden Communities in terms of their physical development in the next 2-3 years? How do you see it in budgetary terms?	Within our corporate plan we talk about community leadership so some of things as Cllr Stock mentioned we can deliver, some of the things we facilitate, and some of them is about influencing things. Around facility, looking at the airs how (pre-pandemic) we began having night-time shows. So rather than the airs how finishing at 4pm, it went on later and it pushed people into staying until the evening and some stayed longer, resulted in seeing the Town much more vibrant. Another part is

Garden Communities – What assurances can you give that while we are doing all of this we are not left open to years of additional costs, caused by e.g. running leisure centres. In regards to new Freeports, what assurances can you give in our haste to declare a climate emergency the green agenda isn't going to a cause a barrier to expansion we are doing in Harwich?

What assurances can you give that this council will have sight of the document before the board signs it so it can be scrutinised here?

actually just telling people about it. The final part is our leisure parks and the hard part is convincing them to go to the Towns and using the area around.

The cost to this council in terms of the communities is to the Planning functions, we are not going to be building house. In terms of when things will start happening, I think the link road is a key thing and we will see the link road begin as the first part of the development, I am optimistic that this will happening in the next 18 months but I can't quarantee this. From that I don't know as it's up to the developers but from first house to last house it could take 50-60 years. Hopefully it will be developed in a constant manner, maintaining the integrity of the attractiveness of the place. I think there are bigger and more exciting things that could come out of the garden community, for example is this the kind of place we could get a sport facility put in.

I have been clear that we need to do everything we can without stopping us providing our services to resident. An example of this is when people ask how can you declare a climate emergency but still run the airs how, but that is key part of our industry. The stronger we are economical the easier it is to help with climate. Unfortunately I cannot guarantee that costs won't emerge later on down the line with regards to the garden communities. Ian Davidson - With that number of house there will be an increase in Council tax base. We are not the developer and it's about what they put in place and how they fund it. That stewardship will be important.

It's my understanding that the joint

		committee doesn't have any powers to it and any future funding obligation would be made by this authority.
Cllr McWilliams	"In the proposed highlight priorities for 2022/23 you say that the three key offences that will be concentrated on are dog fouling, littering and fly tipping. I wonder whether you have a figure in your head for the number of Fixed Penalty Notices that will be issued over the 12 months the priority relates to in respect of each of those three priority areas".	Whilst focussing on the three offences of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping Officers will be using a range of engagement / enforcement methods to address these issues, including issuing Fixed Penalty Notices when and where appropriate. However it is imperative that Officers use the 4 E's approach to Enforcement and it is impossible therefore to have a suggested figure of Fixed Penalty Notices issued in the 12 month period. We will be logging all engagement activity and will be able to advise where the Council has been successful in preventing dog fouling, fly tipping and Littering, with and without having to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.
	"I was also interested that Anti-Social Behaviour, where the public had a reasonable sense of fear for their safety, was not itself identified as a priority given the concerns raised by residents".	The Committee received a detailed report on 1 November 2021 regarding all Enforcement activities across the Council. Enforcement activities are reviewed on a monthly basis at the Corporate Enforcement Board and the number of FPNs that are issued during 2022 will be reported back to the Corporate Enforcement Board and O&S.
	"Is Dog poo is more of a priority than ASB"? "Are the Ambassadors STILL being trained"?	The Fear of Crime / safety is reflected in the Council's Community Safety Partnership plans and is therefore dealt with by using a partnership approach to tackle some of these fears and by getting to the root causes of what is making the public fearful.
	"How many fixed penalty	This matter is also addressed in the

notices have been handed out for the 3 areas mentioned"?

Essex Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025. This document provides high level priorities and is a joint document produced by Essex Police, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Voluntary Services and Safer Essex (Tendring District Council is a partner of Safer Essex).

"How do the Ambassadors trace fly-tippers"?

No, one type of Anti-Social behaviour is not more or less of a priority than any other. However there are more serious ASB offences than dog fouling. Each ASB is dealt with accordingly.

The Ambassadors have received all the necessary training to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

A detailed report regarding all Enforcement activities across the Council was provided to the Committee on 1 November 2021 and further updates will be provided the Corporate to Enforcement Group and O&S. The FPN booklets and notepads have been issued to the Ambassadors in post (Jan 2022) and penalty notices will be issued when other types of Enforcement activity have been unsuccessful. No FPNs have been issued to date, but there a vast number of examples of Enforcement activities across the Council as detailed in November report.

Any of the staff involved in fly tipping have recourse to a range of investigation techniques, including:

- Witness testimony
- CCTV (where applicable
- Searching waste for identifying material

Health inequalities

Conversations are currently

"When will the new Family Solutions worker be in post"?
"Given the rise in gas and electricity prices are there any plans in place for the likely increase in health inequalities"?

ongoing in terms of employing an individual to undertake this work. This is funded through North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance money and needs to be spent by March 2023 and therefore it is proposed to recruit as soon as is practicable. (Discussions are already occurring as to whether the March 2023 timescale can be extended).

The Alliance funding will also be utilised to fund a Fuel Poverty Officer who will focus on the deprived areas in our area to help access opportunities to keep their homes warm. Following determination of the exact outcomes to be achieved this post will be advertised shortly.

Details about the funding and posts are on the Community Leadership O&S agenda on 31st January 2022.

Education

"Youth provision seems to be limited to early evening hours, are there any plans to extend hours to provide activities to those that are at a loss end a bit later"?

The Youth Service is part of Essex County Council and they have previously given updates at various Council meetings including CLOS. I am sure they would provide members with an update regarding provision across the District.

This query was raised with Essex County Council and local provision is as follows in Clacton (Green Lodge):

Monday – Simply the best – SEND club 6-8pm

Tuesday – Generic Youth Club 5-7pm and then the building is used for the RESPECT project until 9:30pm

Wednesday – INTERACT use the building for a SEND activities club until 9pm

Thursday – Drama club 4:30-6:30pm and then Police Cadets

"In the top 5 for obesity and inactivity so where is the priority to address this"?

use the building until 9pm Friday – Lads need Dads use the building until 9pm

"As you can see we haven't got any capacity to increase our hours in this centre, however we do complete some detached work too. We have been completing some work in Walton along with the Cllrs and Police and have a meeting with the YMCA building to create a new youth club there. This service can be replicated anywhere, so for if Cann Hall have a example. building and some willing volunteers to work alongside us we can look at creating something on the estate if they feel it is needed" Daniel, Essex (Nikki County Council)

The Council is a pilot area for the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot which seeks to support inactive people to become more active which will also assist in the reduction in obesity. This has for example helped support delivery of the Essex Pedal Power project in Jaywick Sands and West Clacton with up to 1200 bikes being given out and the Beat the Streets game in Harwich which saw 15% of the population of Harwich clock up in excess of 35 000 miles walking, jogging and cycling in Harwich and Dovercourt.

This work is also being addressed through a number of initiatives across partnerships including the work of Active Essex, Alliance Board, CVST and of course the Council and it's leisure facilities. Details of the projects and work in this area are within the remit of the Community Leadership O&S Committee.

"Where are the adult gyms

An older persons gym has had

along the seafronts- must we wait till end of June? Where are the play areas for young children whose parents don't have cars to travel to decent ones"?

funding approved from the Local Delivery Pilot to be delivered on Holland on Sea although is awaiting legal agreement for how to exactly drawdown the capital funding as there are no existing examples of capital spend. Further progress we made once legal agreement has occurred.

"Isn't completion of the skatepark in Clacton a priority? - a failed priority from last year". In Cllr Placey's own ward discussions are under way with a new developer and owner of a significant residential site. It is the ambition of the officer team that the proposals be delivered quickly after agreement.

"The Tendring Community Fund was approved by Council on 11 February 2020 and the Leader said he wanted to get the £500k of funds allocated to Community Groups early in 2020/21. Where are we with this allocation"?

The Skate park is an important investment in Clacton and will offer a new facility for the district. The Council has commissioned the contractor to create a detailed masterplan and proposals for the wider site, next to the Leisure Centre, and following this work will contract for the build.

The work of the Tendring Community Fund Working Party was delayed due to the Council's response to the pandemic and also external funds were secured early 2021 from the DHCLG in (Community Champions Fund) which allowed the Council to use external funds support to groups across the community District. The Tendring Community Fund Working Party also had to review membership via Group Leaders due to the death of Cllr Joy Broderick. The Working Party held two meetings in 2021. The first was not quorate so the meeting was re-scheduled and at the second meeting the Working Party discussed initial ideas in relation to the terms of reference for the group and application processes for the "I have read what you have said about the highlight priorities for 2022/23 and I was surprised not to see any mention of measures to the scourge address suicide locally that takes so many lives and for which Clacton is regrettably renowned nationally. Should these measures not be the focus for highlight priorities going into 2022/23"?

"Can you let me know what the position is in relation to the Sports England/Active Essex Pilot and what lessons have been learned and are informing next year's priorities for encouraging activity levels among all sections of the community"? distribution of funds. Officers are currently drafting terms of reference and a draft application process which will be discussed by the Working Party and following this meeting an update report will be submitted to the Cabinet meeting in March.

The lead partner for suicide which was the Public Health team at Essex County Council has now moved to the North East Essex Health and Well-being Alliance (Alliance). It is currently proposed to follow national practice in relation to addressing issues around suicide which requires a system wide approach focusing on seven key areas to address the multiple risk factors. The council is part of the Alliance which is likely to be the most appropriate way of helping to tackle suicide in the longer term.

The Sport England Local Delivery Pilot has seen the allocation of £850,000 at a total of 1.6 million for the Tendring area and has seen the delivery of projects such as Essex Pedal Power which will provide up to 1200 bikes to people Jaywick Sands and West in Clacton, Beat the Streets in Harwich and Dovercourt which got 2800 people active. over supporting the octopus sculpture trail, delivery of a number of microsuch as community grants drumming or activity through mini trampolines and approval of capital projects around an older persons gym, wheelie strip and a bike kitchen. All projects are evaluated by the evaluation partner of the LDP which helps to show increases in activity across the area.

The AMB on 7 September 2021

included an update on the work
related to suicide prevention and
Telated to Suicide prevention and
the Community Leadership O&S
also received an update paper on
work relating to suicide prevention
in November 2021.