

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT OF LEE HELEY, CORPORATE DIRECTOR PROJECT DELIVERY

A.4 CELEBRATING THE AREAS HERITAGE

(Report prepared by Lee Heley, Corporate Director, Gary Guiver, Planning Director, Ashleigh Stimpson, Economic Development Officer, Will Fuller, Planning Officer)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report on what is being done, how much money the Council is investing, and what the outcomes of that investment are, in celebrating the District's heritage.

INVITEES

- Cllr. Alex Porter, Portfolio Holder
- Mike Carran, Assistant Director
- Gary Guiver, Director

BACKGROUND

Cllr Mark Stephenson requested that the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the Council's Heritage Strategy, adopted by decision of the Leader on 24 April 2020, and related action plans. The Heritage Strategy was commissioned by the Planning and Forward Planning departments and completed by Essex Place Services following public consultation.

The report includes details of budgets over the last five years, and performance and output indicators detailed in the annex. In addition, information on the Heritage and Conservation Area Planning Guidance and its application for traditional farm buildings, conservation areas and listed buildings is included.

The purpose of this scrutiny process is to examine the Strategy and how it has been implemented since its adoption through local identified projects. It is expected that this report should inform the Committee whether recommendations need to be submitted to Cabinet on the Strategy and / or its implementation.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Tendring has a rich history celebrated across Essex by residents and visitors alike. Its coastal location has provided it with a unique and varied heritage, from prehistoric artefacts including the 420,000 year old 'Clacton Spear' fashioned before modern humans walked the earth, to medieval buildings and Victorian villas, with many nationally significant sites. The seaside resorts in Tendring make tourism a major component of its economy and give the coastline its distinctive character and charm. There are 52 areas of ancient

woodland within Tendring with a particularly important cluster along the edge of the Stour Estuary in the north east corner of the District. And at Harwich, The Mayflower heritage is still visible today, as are the 19th century brick lighthouses, and the Leading Lights.

The Council's Heritage Strategy was adopted by decision of the Leader on 24 April 2020.

The draft Heritage Strategy was published for a seven week period of consultation and ran from November 2019 to January 2020. Statutory bodies, national and local amenity societies, including town and parish councils were consulted. Communication included posters, social media, surveys and a drop-in exhibition on the afternoon and evening of the 3rd December 2019 at the Council offices in Weeley. It was attended by members of Tendring's local history groups, residents and professionals. The draft Heritage Strategy for Tendring was considered by the Local Plan and Planning Policy Committee on 29th October 2019.

The Heritage Strategy aims to promote the protection and celebration of the area's rich history, predominantly contained within its historic environment, and enhance the positive contribution it makes to the lives of those people living in and visiting the District. This is reflected in the vision on which the Strategy has been developed: 'The unique heritage of our district provides a rich, often hidden landscape that informs what it is to live here in the 21st century. This strategy identifies those historic features and aims to celebrate and enhance the heritage of Tendring'.

The strategy is organised into two parts: Part One: The Baseline explores the historic development of Tendring, and identifies existing heritage assets, sites and resources. It covers the physical heritage of Tendring in the form of the historic environment, and includes archaeology, buildings, settlements, landscapes, archives and artefacts. It also creates a comprehensive list of the people who are involved in looking after the historic environment today.

Part Two: Assessment and Strategy, draws on the findings of Part One to identify key issues and opportunities within Tendring. It addresses key issues facing Tendring's heritage, and propose actions to preserve and protect it for the future.

The Heritage Strategy has six objectives: Conservation, Collaboration, Knowledge, Character, Interpretation and Accessibility. Some actions span one or more of objectives. Each action was assigned a priority of High, Medium, Low and Ongoing. See appendix for a list of the actions from the strategy.

There was no time period specified for the Heritage Strategy and therefore actions have been progressed based on priority. While we have been able to progress a significant number of the high priority actions, the Council has not had the resources to progress most of the lower priority actions to date.

Conservation, Collaboration & Interpretation

Progress on high priority actions has been significant. (9 out of 10 in progress)

Cllr Bray was appointed Heritage Champion in July 2018 to promote and raise awareness of Heritage Assets, protection and importance. Officers within the Planning Policy and Assets team monitors Heritage and champions the issue internally.

Conservation Area Appraisals (CAA) and Management Plans for five out of the District's 20 areas have been considered by the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee and agreed by Cabinet-to go out for public consultation. The remaining 15 are

to be presented to the Committee and Cabinet within 12 months, and this work is on schedule. The Council has decided to make steady progress with its Conservation Area Appraisals so that each can be completed effectively with the resources available. The final outcome of this work will be a full set of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans which will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, the basis for potential pro-active work (including public realm works and, where appropriate, the making of Article 4 Directions) and formal changes to the boundaries of certain Conservation Areas.

Alongside the CAA's, the Committee and Cabinet were also presented with a report on the formulation of a **non-designated local heritage list** and the criteria to be met for a local building to be included on such a list. The criteria will be published for public consultation and once decided, further public consultation will be held to invite nominations of local buildings to be submitted for consideration and potential inclusion on the list. Through the Neighbourhood Planning process, town and parish councils (including Alresford, Ardleigh, Elmstead and Brightlingsea to date) have already been identifying locally important but non-designated buildings for inclusion on a list. Inclusion of buildings on a local list does not give them the full protection of a statutory listing, but it will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications that affect those buildings, and their settings.

High, Medium and Low Priority Actions regarding **planning powers, design guides, Conservation booklets and signage audits** are dependent on, and will be completed after the adoption of the CAA and Management Plans and following consultation. However, Essex Place Services is already engaged to provide information, advice and guidance in the district as well as comment on planning applications, and the Planning Team already give regard to heritage matters through the planning process.

Knowledge, Character & Accessibility

High and Medium priority progress has been significant (4 out of 5 in progress)

Work has begun in the Economic Growth and Leisure team to source funding for the **Heritage Lights on Clacton Seafront and the Leading Lights in Dovercourt**, to safeguard and protect our assets, following on from the cost exercises undertaken in 2020, although we cannot guarantee bids will be successful, so progress will depend on external investment.

Assets continue to investigate options for other listed properties in the Council portfolio and currently have restoration works underway on the **Treadwell Crane**. Emergency repairs to **Martello Tower E** are complete and **Tower D** has been identified for further action. Promotion of events and heritage is integral to Tourism and Events delivery plans, and the Jaywick Neighbourhood Team Manager supports local groups to engage with the **Jaywick Martello Tower** and host activities there and in the surround area.

Tourism and Assets teams work proactively to support destinations with advice to improve site accessibility and consider alternatives such as VR, virtual access and audio guides, as well as signposting to Historic England for further support.

Tending Cultural Education Partnership

Progress has been made on actions with young people and schools. Training and development, collaboration with schools, aspirations of young people, encouraging school trips and the establishment of a Cultural Partnership have been progressed by the Tending Cultural Education Partnership (TCEP) working with the Partnerships team.

Covid has stretched school resources and a light touch has been required, however there has been positive engagements with young people, within and outside of school through the **TCEP support of Theatre Timoin's 'FLOOD'**, including winning a Galloper Wind Farm grant; supporting the Theatre of Lemmings with a project to deliver '**George the Bookworm**' to six Tendring primary schools in Summer 2022, Snapping the Stiletto's **Art Award**, and, working with Clacton150, the delivery of the **Coat of Arms design competition** for which 42 schools were invited to take part, 11 participated and 200 entries were received from children.

Events

The heritage strategy was agreed at the same time as the first Covid lockdown. As such, the scope of the events which have been possible to run to date is narrower than hoped when the strategy was developed. Despite Covid, the Council has continued to promote active engagement of audiences in heritage that also support take up of healthy lifestyles. Projects in the last year include **Octopus Ahoy!** (22,776,678 steps recorded), Street Tag, the **Heritage Trail** consisting of 19 information boards, four with augmented reality, two audio posts and one listening bench. The **Listening bench** has been played 2772 times, the railway audio post played 375 times and the Jaywick audio post played 604 times.

Street Tag is a community and schools (separate leader boards) based virtual tag activity with multiple trails, including a bespoke Monument Trail, which uses augmented reality to show key historic buildings. Teams have been competing for prizes. During Phase 1 from 16 July to 30 September 11 schools and 51 community teams logged a total of 26,187 miles, and 17,789,805 steps across walking, running and cycling. Street Tag is currently in its second phase and still very popular for schools and the community.

We have not yet had the capacity to develop the unified narrative or 'brand' for all local historic properties and heritage assets, including hidden heritage and healthy heritage as they require significant engagement with external partners which is resource intensive. We have the potential with the developments to the Love Tendring App to promote Tendring heritage within the district and to a wider regional and national audience.

Low and medium priorities that are not yet started are contingent on completion of high priority actions.

Local projects

Heritage Lights in Clacton: having completed a cost exercise on the refurbishment of the lights the Council is pursuing external funding, the success of which will determine whether it is possible to take the project forward.

Walton Maritime Museum have vacated their Council premises and are looking for premises closer to the town centre to increase footfall.

Brightlingsea Lido has been transferred to Brightlingsea Town Council, who have the lido to a Charitable Trust. The Trust have undertaken significant works, including following the 2020 storm flooding damage and continue to work with the Town Council to develop proposals and initiatives for the site.

Outcomes

- Five **conservation area appraisals** are near completion, with 15 expected to complete over the next 12 months.

- A **local non-designated heritage list** is being prepared and expected in place by the end of 2022.
- **Martello Tower E** has had emergency repairs completed, a VLOG ([link](#)) was posted of progress. The two videos have received over 300 views combined.
- **Treadwell Crane** conservation is underway following a successful grant from Historic England.
- The **Tendring Cultural Education Partnership** is supporting schools and young people to access arts and heritage at home, school and in their local areas.
- **Octopus Ahoy!** ran for 10 weeks over Summer 2021 featuring 30 Octopuses, sponsored by local business and schools. 10,003 participants downloaded the app and logged 103,00 'finds' and 22,776,678 steps across the event.
- The **Heritage Trail** was installed in July 2021 between Jaywick and Holland-on-Sea, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Clacton. There are 19 information boards featuring historic images and facts, included four boards with augmented reality, two listening posts and a listening bench. The train station listening post has been played 375 times, the Jaywick audio post 604 times and the Listening Bench played 2772 times.
- The **Street Tag** virtual activity launched on the 16 July. Participants can walk, run or cycle to virtual tag locations and gain points. This featured a bespoke **Monument Trail** that when beacons were reached, uses augmented reality to show historic images of key locations. During phase one, 703 participants across 11 schools and 51 community teams logged 26,187 miles, and 17,789,805 steps. Phase 2 is underway.
- **Heritage Open Days** and **International Day of Monuments** programmes are planned for 2022.
- **Brightlingsea Lido** has been transferred to the community with a supported five year management plan.
- **Jaywick Managed Workspace** will featuring hoardings created by local creative teams to showcase the area's history.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

Annex 1:

Expenditure on heritage

It should be noted that the budgets highlighted below focuses on specific heritage projects and a relevant apportionment of horticultural and planning costs. There are other budgets with significant spend which will benefit heritage in a secondary manner that are not included here, for example developing the Local Plan, and cliff stabilisation investments that provide wider protection to the seafront.

<u>Asset/Event Name</u>	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (To Date)	Funded By
	£	£	£	£	£	
Christopher Jones House			33,850	12,248	9,809	TDC
Mayflower Events, Tourist Trail & Sculpture			218,293			Sponsorship/TDC
Harwich Treadwheel Crane*				4,358	90,188	Historic England
Clacton 150				4,569	143,280	Heritage Lottery Fund
Martello Towers			4,906	127,689	9,517	Historic England
Venetian Bridge**	246,853	148,159	9,620			TDC
Conservation Areas Garden Maintenance:						
Harwich	3,893	3,893	3,893	3,893	3,893	TDC – for horticultural services
Frinton & Walton	3,847	3,847	3,847	3,847	3,847	TDC – for horticultural services
Clacton	16,551	16,551	16,551	16,551	19,101	TDC – for horticultural services
Conservation Areas - Management Plan & AONB Contribution	9,228	15,428	23,011	21,815	7,315	TDC – for planning services
TOTAL FOR YEAR	280,372	187,878	313,970	194,970	286,949	

* This includes capital and revenue expenditure

** This was a capital scheme