

Consultation on Initial Highlight Priorities for 2022/23

The comments received from consultees is set out below and has been grouped by the relevant Corporate Plan Theme.

Delivering high quality services

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs):

Community Leadership OSC – 10 January 2022 - Include a further priority around enhancing the public realm by investing in such areas as weed control and measures to improve public open space.

Resources & Services OSC – 12 January 2022 - 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). 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.

Feedback from Members of the Public

The following represents a summary of the views expressed where multiple comments were made. Obviously, it is not possible to reflect the views of all 160 respondents.

| Comments confirming the direction of the priorities | Comments seeking alternative approaches |
|---|--|
| Climate change/Carbon Neutral is important and we should improve public transport to stop people using cars. | Climate change/Carbon Neutral shouldn't be a main point of focus for this council. |
| Investment in electrical Vehicle charging infrastructure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of recycling services. • Longer opening hours at local recycling depots • More provision for kerbside recycling • More should be done to collect a wider range of plastics as most other councils do Bigger recycling boxes • Reducing or eliminating single use plastics, and incentivising where possible, increase recycling types available with kerbside collections, introduce recycling bins in all town centres • Glass collection along with waste collection service. |
| TDC should also be impressing on any potential Company putting themselves forward for a recycling contract, that all their vehicles should be environmentally friendly as | |

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| possible, be that electrically powered by Bio-Fuel. | |
| More needs to be done on Dog fouling, fly tipping and littering, including more enforcement | |
| Keep leisure facilities open. | Try to keep leisure facilities open - Particularly in Harwich and Brightlingsea. |
| | Public convenience reinstatement and expansion. |
| | Not sufficient toilets, bins and car parks |

Comments from Others

St Osyth Parish Council's comments centered on the importance of enforcement in the three proposed priority offence areas of dog fouling, fly tipping and littering. Tendring Together emphasised the partnership working on climate change to achieve reductions in carbon emissions beyond the Council. Tendring Together also referenced other areas where working with community and business organisations could achieve benefits.

Consideration of the comments received

The supportive comments for the initial highlight priorities is noted. It is clear that among a section of the community locally there is a view that recycling opportunities should be a particular highlight in 2022/23, the proposals have been revisited, and a specific priority included in recognition of those views. The work on the implementation of the Environment Act 2021 will still be important for the Council. However, the Council can still look at opportunities locally itself while the discussions with the Waste Disposal Authority continues in 2022/23. The Portfolio Holder will keep cabinet updated with those discussions.

The divergence of opinion from the public who responded on Climate Change measures is noted. Likewise, it is not surprising to see some comments about leisure facilities in Harwich and Brightlingsea. The transitional measures for those previously joint use facilities continues and the engagement group with local representatives will inform that transition.

The suggestions from the Community Leadership OSC around enhancing the public realm is noted and, no doubt, will inform the review of the service following the summer plan 2023. The Council is rightly proud of the District's public realm and it has been great to see the recognition of those spaces with awards and comments from the public.

The helpful comments from the Resources and Services OSC are likewise welcomed and the Cabinet looks forward to working with the Task and Finish Group it has established to look at these matters.

Building Sustainable Communities

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs):

Community Leadership OSC – 10 January 2022 - To include a priority for tackling homelessness within the measures discussed at the meeting (Minute 32 above refers) with the relevant milestones.

Resources & Services OSC – 12 January 2022 - 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.

Feedback from Members of the Public

The following represents a summary of the views expressed where multiple comments were made. Obviously, it is not possible to reflect the views of all 160 respondents.

| Comments confirming the direction of the priorities | Comments seeking alternative approaches |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Clacton Town centre being revived. • Making the Town Centre more vibrant. • Town Centre renewal/improvement • Investigation of long term empty and derelict properties | |
| Focus for Jaywick Sands plans. | There is too much focus on Jaywick and lots of money is spent with no real change to the area. |
| Investment in deprived areas of the District. | |
| | The Garden Communities is negative and shouldn't be a focus. |

Comments from Others

St Osyth Parish Council supported measures for future social housing to provide a secure yet welcoming micro community that supports independent living and quality lifestyle.

Consideration of the comments received

The comments from the public overall echo the priorities of the Council to address need and to stimulate change and improvement where this is possible. It is right that spending decisions, for instance, in respect of Jaywick Sands, is explained adequately so that the public understand what the Council is seeking to achieve and how it is able to leverage in funds to supplement the Council's own commitments. The development of the Place Plan will help communicate that message.

The comments from the OSCs on homelessness and the Council's role as a landlord are much appreciated. Cabinet shares the views expressed that the Council needs to do all that it reasonably can (with its partners) to address homelessness and those at risk of becoming homeless and to approach its own housing provision such that it looks forward and is well placed to deal with the challenges it will face. On this last point, the Housing Revenue Account surplus for 2022/23 of £0.333m has been set aside within the capital programme to support the investment in existing tenant's homes, which will reflect the outcome of the proposed stock condition survey.

Strong Finances and Governance

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs):

There were no specific submissions in respect of this theme from the two OSCs.

Feedback from Members of the Public

The following represents a summary of the views expressed where multiple comments were made. Obviously, it is not possible to reflect the views of all 160 respondents.

| Comments confirming the direction of the priorities | Comments seeking alternative approaches |
|--|--|
| Dealing with land of old Weeley office. | |
| Council assets need to be used not left vacant, these are a drain on resources | |
| Dispose of assets but use money to regenerate district. | |
| | Inclusion and equality should not be a focus. |
| | Savings shouldn't be made as a result of cutting services e.g. Harwich Sports Centre |
| The council needs to adopt a policy of transparency so that the people who put them into administration are treated in an open and honest manner | |

Comments from Others

The financial issues facing the Council were commented upon by both Tendring Together and St Osyth Parish Council

Consideration of the comments received

The approach of the Council to budget setting has helped it to weather the storms of annual changes in income and expenditure over the past few years. This in turn has assisted it as it faces the coming years. This should not be read as reducing the need to find savings for the Council to balance its books. These savings may be unpalatable to the most affected and the Council will do all it can to mitigate the effects. This use of assets will mean disposal of certain assets and the opportunity disposal gives us to see positive investment in the District; through the Council or other development.

In relation to inclusion and equality, the Council wants to ensure the skills and talents locally are harnessed; through service delivery and in the Council's role as an employer. Recommitting to those principles is good governance, demonstrating the Council is behaving with integrity, has a strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law. Refreshing the Strategy has been highlighted in the Council's Annual Governance Statement together with its underpinning policies and procedures.

The Council is committed to transparency and regularly reports extensively in relation to what it spends money on. The Strategies, Policies and Plans of the Council that guide individual decisions are already in the public domain. Advance Notice of individual Executive decisions are given in public and these are then followed by the decisions themselves. Within the Council there are rights of every Council to access information and to shape and influence decisions through questions, submissions and addressing Cabinet, Council and Planning Committee. The public too may request information, including under the Freedom of Information or Data Protection Acts, and only in limited cases will the information not be provided based on the legal limits enshrined by Parliament.

A Growing and Inclusive Economy

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs):

Community Leadership OSC – 10 January 2022 - Within the existing proposed highlight priority for Town Centres in the District that the role of towns such as Brightlingsea, Frinton-Walton, Harwich and Manningtree in supporting the economic wellbeing of the District be recognised and measures to enhance those Town Centres and further improve their role in generating a vibrant local Town Centre experience be included for 2022/23.

Resources & Services OSC – 12 January 2022 - 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.

Feedback from Members of the Public

The following represents a summary of the views expressed where multiple comments were made. Obviously, it is not possible to reflect the views of all 160 respondents.

| Comments confirming the direction of the priorities | Comments seeking alternative approaches |
|--|---|
| Boost tourism. | |
| Tall ship festival in Harwich to compliment Air show. | |
| Freeport east is a great opportunity providing A120 is improved. | |
| Investment on local independent businesses. | |
| Develop facilities and shops in Clacton | |

Comments from Others

The means by which those who make investment decisions to locate major quality retail outlets was commented upon by St Osyth Parish Council. Issues around parking for visitors and provision of events was seen as issues that can support visitor numbers to Clacton-on-Sea. Tending Together emphasised the role of the community and voluntary sector can play in a vibrant local economy.

Consideration of the comments received

The comments from the public express the wish of the Council and explain why the Council has set its highlight priorities it has within this Corporate Plan Theme. The Resources and Services OSC also echoes the ambition of the Council's Tourism Strategy and, no doubt, the

Committee will play its usual critical friend role in monitoring how the Strategy’s ambition is being delivered. In the same way, the Community Leadership OSC’s recommendation reminds us all that we have very successful towns in the District and these have a charm and attraction we can work with the relevant Town and Parish Councils to maintain and enhance as opportunities arise.

Community Leadership Through Partnerships

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs):

Community Leadership OSC – 10 January 2022 - Measures to support the Sport and Leisure activities across the district and to encourage increased activity levels across a range of the population district wide.

Resources & Services OSC – 12 January 2022 - 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.

Feedback from Members of the Public

The following represents a summary of the views expressed where multiple comments were made. Obviously, it is not possible to reflect the views of all 160 respondents.

| Comments confirming the direction of the priorities | Comments seeking alternative approaches |
|---|--|
| Health and education are key areas. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education must take priority. • Focus on education and post 16 opportunities. • Improved teen activity areas like skate parks, youth clubs, drama and dance schools • After school activities, especially sports need more funding | Leave education to Essex County Council |
| | Needs to be groups or organisations for the older generation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of adequate health care should be a priority. • Health and medical services should be a priority | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of exercise facilities • More provision of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure | |
| Secure more funding is essential. | |
| Give/plan something for the younger generation. | |

Comments from Others

The proposed priority around addressing health inequalities was access to health services were issues raised by Tendring Together and St Osyth Parish Council.

Consideration of the comments received

The overlapping comments from the two OSC, and from the public, on supporting the development of sport and leisure opportunities is welcome. This impetus will assist the Council as it looks to develop the District-wide Sports and Leisure Strategy. Future highlight priorities may well then suggest themselves to be included in 2022/23 or subsequent years.

The comments on health and education will likewise support our role with partners such as Essex County Council, local Academy Trusts, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Integrated Care Service on the needs.