

Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 March 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING REPORT

(Prepared by Keith Durran)

Recommendation(s) Including Date of Meeting and Minute Number	Actions Taken and Outcome	Completed, follow-up work required or added to Work Programme
<p><u>SCRUTINY OF THE BUDGET</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 12 January 2022 Minute 50 refers</u></p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:</p> <p><u>In respect of the financial forecast and proposed General Fund budget position for 2022/23</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 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	<p><u>Cabinet 28 January 2022 minute 116 refers</u></p> <p><i>“Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee for the really positive and constructive approach they took to the scrutiny of the budgets. There was some challenging questions along with some really helpful discussions that support the development of the budgets.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the issues raised by the Committee, comments are set out as follows taking each point in turn:</i></p> <p><i>In respect of the financial forecast and proposed General Fund budget position for 2022/23</i></p> <p>1) & 2) As mentioned directly at the Committee’s meeting, this will form part of the emerging Corporate Investment Plan, which in turn will be supported by an existing budget to provide increased capacity in the right places to deliver against the Council’s ambitious agenda. Although the Corporate Investment Plan will be a ‘live’ and on-going process, the</p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 28 January to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p><i>“The response from Cabinet is very much welcomed and the positive acceptance of the recommendations is appreciated. To assist the Committee, it would be helpful to record against the numbered points used in the original recommendations and the reply to them:</i></p> <p><u>General Fund</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>The Committee will watch with interest to see that the Corporate Investment Plan proposed does indeed address the level of carry forward items highlighted by the external auditors.</i>2. <i>(a) It really is important that reserves and provisions for projects/schemes that are not to be pursued at all (or in the</i>

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.

first phase is planned to be presented to Cabinet in February.

- a. The Committee's support for the Corporate Investment Plan is welcomed and I can confirm that it will take into account the current level of reserves and one-off amounts as highlighted by the Committee. In terms of the Committee's proposals for what the plan should include, additional comments against each further point raised are as follows:
- b. The Resident's Free Parking Reserve referred to by the Committee is no longer available as this was committed to the current cliff stabilisation works along Clacton and Holland that was agreed by Cabinet back in March 2021. However, the one-off funding for the posts referred to by the Committee has been identified within the overall GF budget presented later on the agenda.
- c. This commitment is already set out within the Council's Tourism Strategy and would therefore naturally form part of the Corporate Investment Plan approach going forward.
- d. As an existing strategy, actions to enhance / improve public conveniences would naturally form part of the Corporate Investment Plan. Funding would need to be considered within the Council's wider financial position as the business rates relief referred to has already been built into the base budget as part of delivering a sustainable budget and forecast going forward.

medium term) are replaced with schemes that will deliver real benefit against the Corporate Plan adopted by Full Council up to 2024.

(b) The decision to fund the posts identified by the Committee is very positive.

(c) and (d) The Committee will watch with interest the Corporate Investment Plan as it is produced to deliver against the commitments for a range of seafront enhancements, improvements to public conveniences and the overlap with the CIL process.

3. *The need to keep the public aware of the efforts to achieve new cremators at the District's crematorium is seen as important by the Committee. Something it will no doubt return to when it looks at the Council's Communication Strategy in March 2021.*
4. *Procurement and contract management is a matter that is being placed on the prospective work programme of the Committee for 2022/23 and so the intended actions to improve matters can be monitored and issues addressed.*
5. *And 6. - These matters did not appear to have been responded to and so replies are respectfully requested if this could be arranged.*

Housing Revenue Account

<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>e. Although subject to a future decision, a Corporate Investment Plan would be expected to be an important and overlapping element of a Community Infrastructure Levy approach and would therefore be developed on that basis.</p> <p>Agreed, and as set out within the GF budget report later on in the agenda, the cost of the cremators is expected to be lower than initially expected which can provide a financial 'offset' against the loss of income.</p> <p>This echoes the similar comment that was raised when the Council's housing maintenance provider fell into administration several years ago. It was highlighted at the time that existing procurement processes do address this issue through a number of checks, such as the economic / financial standing of potential contractors, but it was recognised that it is impossible to completely remove this risk. However, as part of the new collaborative procurement arrangements with ECC, the issue will be revisited to identify if there are any changes that can be made to existing processes that add additional resilience against this risk.</p> <p>This will from part of the Corporate Investment Plan mentioned above, that is planned to be presented to Cabinet in February.</p> <p>The matter highlighted by the Committee will be raised with ECC.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The Committee considers stretch targets as helpful to keep everyone focussed to deliver the improvements that clearly have occurred in 2021/22 since the Committee began looking at this matter. This, no doubt, will be something the Committee will want to return to in 2022/23.</i> 2. <i>The identification of £0.333M to address the issues likely to come from the stock condition survey is a very welcome response to the recommendation."</i>
---	--	--

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

1. 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

In respect of the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23

As previously highlighted, it is good to see void rates returning to more historic levels following a number of interventions and managed responses. In terms of a stretched target, we aim to reduce void rates to a minimum whilst recognising the need to undertake remedial work etc. before properties are relet. With that in mind, it would not necessarily be right to work towards an absolute target but more about keep driving the number down to a level that is both achievable and sustainable as measured against the current historic level of 2%.

As set out later on in the agenda, the HRA 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.

In respect of the proposed highlight priorities for 2022/23

I want to welcome the feedback from the Committee on the initial proposals for highlight priorities from 1 April 2022 and thank them for the time taken to consider those initial proposals. The feedback will be considered by Cabinet on 25 February alongside feedback from the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the submitted views from the public and partners. I am aware that we have had over 160 responses to the online survey on this subject. It is only right and proper

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

1. 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

that we look at priorities to highlight for 2022/23 on 25 February having considered all those responses and the feedback from the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

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.

<p><u>SCRUTINY OF JOINT USE FACILITIES OPTIONS</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 13 December 2021 Minute 45 refers</u></p> <p>After an in-depth discussion it was RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:</p> <p>a) the proposal to cabinet in the report to it on the joint use sports facilities at Brightlingsea and Harwich is placed on hold (and appropriate steps taken to facilitate this status quo continuing), to allow the proposal to be considered:</p> <p>(i) within the context of the councils emerging Sports Facility Strategy (due to be published in March 2022); and</p> <p>(ii) in conjunction with the future intentions of the Sigma Trust (which are, as yet, unknown).</p> <p>b) It adopts the above as it will allow an all encompassing scrutiny of the future provision of Council sports facility provision and, as the Joint Use Facilities Budget is not to be immediately reallocated, there is no immediate need for this decision to be implemented.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet 17 December 2021 (Minute 100 refers)</u></p> <p>It was moved by Councillor Porter, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and:- RESOLVED that Cabinet –</p> <p>(a) notes that the Joint Use Agreements between the Council and the Sigma Trust for the Harwich and Brightlingsea Sports Centres end on 31 December 2021;</p> <p>(b) agrees to the provision of transitional support from existing resources, for up to three months, to extend the community use of the facilities where possible;</p> <p>(c) invites representatives from the relevant Town Councils and the Sigma Trust to join an engagement group to meet during the transition period to work through the operations of providing community use from the facilities;</p> <p>(d) considers the development of the leisure and sports offer across the District through the Corporate Plan and emerging strategies; and</p> <p>(e) welcomes the opportunity for the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide an input into the work identified in (d) above over the coming weeks with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism and officers.</p>	

<p>[Note: In respect of appropriate steps in the above recommendation it was agreed that this shall include approaching the Sigma Trust on the issue, discussing the proposal and agreeing the extension of the agreement should the Sigma Trust agree to this.]</p>		
<p><u>SCRUTINY OF ENFORCEMENT</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 1 November 2021 Minute 33 refers</u></p> <p>After a short discussion it was RESOLVED TO RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the protection of trees on land to be developed be considered with the view to seeking to prevent a loss of trees in sites that are approved for development, 2. Essex County Council be requested to plant a tree for each highway or other tree removed by it as close as possible to the site of the removed tree, 3. the Council looks at, in conjunction with Ward Councillors, the reintroduction of Perspex lamp post signs to reinforce the message about not dog fouling and the penalty for those that allow their dogs to foul, 4. the Council discuss again the relative advantage of deploying covert cameras as part of enforcement, particularly for those specific areas where there is reoffending, in order to identify those offenders, 	<p><u>Cabinet 17 December 2021 (Minute 96 refers)</u></p> <p>The Cabinet had before it the response of the Environment & Public Space Portfolio Holder thereto as follows:-</p> <p>“As the portfolio holder under whose remit most of the recommendations fall I acknowledge that they are all issues that contribute to the corporate plan priority of Effective Enforcement and Regulation. I shall therefore be discussing the recommendations with the relevant officers such that should they be accepted by Cabinet we can either implement or explore further with other agencies as appropriate.”</p> <p>Having considered the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, together with the response of the Environment & Public Space Portfolio Holder thereto:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Environment & Public Space Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.</p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 17 December to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p><i>“That a brief note be requested on the progress with the discussions that were agreed to in respect of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Further measures to protect of trees on land approved for development.</i> 2. <i>The request to ECC to plant trees nearby when removing mature ones</i> 3. <i>Providing more ‘no dog fouling’ signage in conjunction with local Ward Councillors</i> 4. <i>The deployment of covert CCTV</i> 5. <i>The legal responsibility of fast food outlets for discarded food packaging near their outlets</i> 6. <i>Why no FPNs had been issued.</i> 7. <i>The use of social media to share the Council’s resourcing of enforcement through Community</i>

<p>5. the legal position be considered on the responsibility of those who sell fast food for litter that comes from the packaging provided by those who sell fast food,</p> <p>6. the reasoning why there have been no FPN's issued in respect of breaches of the PSPO, dog fouling, fly-tipping and littering be shared with the Committee,</p> <p>7. the Council uses social media and the press to make a push to highlight our Community Ambassadors, ASB case officer and Town Centre Officer, the powers they have and the tickets, fines they can issue.</p>		<p><i>Ambassadors etc and their powers to issue FPNs."</i></p>
<p><u>SCRUTINY OF VOIDS</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 15 July 2021 Minute 15 refers</u></p> <p>The Committee Recommended to Cabinet that:</p> <p>(1) the resources available for the Housing Allocations Service of the Council be reviewed in order to ensure that it is able to deliver the rapid response and excellent customer service to those on the Housing Register, and those applying, and thereby contribute further to reducing the average time Council Homes remain untenanted by moving all paper work to a digital format.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet 12 November 2021 (Minute 74 refers)</u></p> <p>The Cabinet had before it the response of the Housing Portfolio Holder thereto as follows:-</p> <p><i>"I would like to thank the Committee for their comments. To reply specifically to the points made:</i></p> <p><i>1. Since the last meeting of the Committee the allocations team has been working hard to allocate available properties and I am pleased to be able to advise that at the time of writing there are no general purpose properties available to let that are not allocated or subject to offer to prospective tenants. I would like to particularly mention the Housing Solutions and Allocations Manager, the Senior Housing Solutions and Allocations Officer</i></p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 12 November to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p>1. The addressing of the housing voids allocation delays is welcome and the Portfolio Holder's expectations that the position on turnaround of general purpose properties will be maintained is noted with pleasure.</p>

<p>(2) while a selection of individuals on the Housing Register are waiting for adapted homes and we should rightly seek to achieve the best match, where possible, this should not be pursued to the extent that individual properties remain untenanted for long periods of time due to infrequent offers to those on the Register and in need of housing.</p> <p>(3) the temporary measures introduced in 2021 to control expenditure in year on improvements to void Council Homes be continued going forward (as such if the kitchen is functional and efficient to maintain it will not be replaced only for the reason of upgrading it).</p>	<p><i>and the team's apprentice and thank them for the work that has been done to achieve this. Looking into the future the team is presently implementing a new software package which will make the process easier for the team and I hope and expect that this will allow the team to maintain the position that has been achieved.</i></p> <p><i>2. The team have reviewed processes internally as mentioned and rebalanced the allocations process to give a stronger emphasis on allocating properties at a higher frequency than on perfectly matching any adaptations present to prospective tenants.</i></p> <p><i>3. The nature of works carried out at properties has been severely cut back for timing and financial reasons. It may be advantageous to review that as the position is regularised into the future, time and financial constraints may allow a winding back of some of the control measures.</i></p>	<p>2. The adoption of this rebalanced approach is much appreciated and positive step.</p> <p>3. The continuation, longer term, of measures that mean more work is undertaken in occupied properties rather than delaying re-occupation is still something the Committee urges as part of the strategic approach to maximizing occupancy rates and minimizing void periods. This approach should also mean those properties most in need of improvements eg to kitchens are addressed first rather than those which happen to become void.</p>
---	--	---

<p>(4) the IT solutions for the separate sections of the Council dealing with Housing Allocations and Council Home repairs and maintenance be enhanced so that there is a shared resource that can support the council with a range of data that the current separate systems were unable assist efficiency of the Council as a whole.</p> <p>(5) a more active and purposeful approach be undertaken than at present in respect of the recharging of former tenants who had left items to be removed or otherwise in a condition requiring remedial/repair works and that these charges be linked from commencement with any debts for unpaid rents by those tenants in order to assist an efficient recovery process.</p> <p>(6) the current 14 month trial in respect of an in house team to undertake Council House repairs, be actively reviewed to ensure opportunities are taken during that trial, to support skills development and recruitment and retention measures enhancement (including if appropriate market forces enhancements for certain specialist skills and attraction of those with relevant accreditation to work for the Council; maybe part-time).</p> <p>(7) the Portfolio Holder for Housing be encouraged to establish a Housing</p>	<p><i>4. The teams are working with a shared spreadsheet at present. They also have separate specialist software for each. I agree that a link between the two packages would be a useful area for future development.</i></p> <p><i>5. I agree that once the position on void properties overall is dealt with a greater emphasis on recovery of costs would be appropriate, potentially including external debt recovery services. I think however that it is important to remember that former tenants can sometimes be untraceable or unable to pay any debts. A proportionate response will be required.</i></p> <p><i>6. I understand that Mr White's comments at the Committee's meeting were intended to highlight the potential issues with the recruitment of specialist tradespeople such as electricians and gas fitters. The limited duration of the trial period is also a consideration in the attractiveness of the team to potential tradespeople. The team is recruiting at the moment and depending on the outcome measures such as market forces could be applied.</i></p> <p><i>7. I have established a pattern of fortnightly meetings with my colleague the Portfolio</i></p>	<p>4. It is great to hear that the various service areas are sharing data to improve service delivery. Whether a spreadsheet is the best IT solution is something the Committee would ask is reviewed to ensure this information can continue the current improvements.</p> <p>5. The Committee believes that tough measures need to be taken with problem tenants and former tenants and pursuing those who damage properties should be pursued; otherwise the associated costs fall on good honest tenants who abide by the rules.</p> <p>6. The inclusion in the trial, and for the future, of measures to secure specialist tradespeople is great news.</p> <p>7. The formalization of the meetings to which the Portfolio</p>
--	--	--

<p>Working Party to continue the focus on Housing Voids and the issues considered in the enquiry by this Committee (including those reflected in these recommendations).</p> <p>(8) an appropriate Key Performance Indicators be developed around timescales for untenanted Council Homes to be offered and re-tenanted, the undertaking of repair/ refurbishment of Council Homes and recovery of costs incurred due to the condition of properties once vacated by former tenants etc and shared with Councillors together with periodic detail of achievement against those Indicators.</p> <p>(9) proposals for a stock condition survey be drawn up and consider the benefits to the Council in identifying issues with the Council's Housing Stock and thereby assist it to improve its plan for expenditure through the Housing Revenue Account in the short, medium and longer term.</p>	<p><i>Holder for Finance and Governance, Chief Executive, Corporate Director and Assistant Directors to monitor progress.</i></p> <p>8. <i>The group above has established performance measures. The teams are currently adapting the spreadsheet and records seeking to calculate them efficiently:</i></p> <p><i>For publication:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quarterly financial void position – income lost and %</i> • <i>Quarterly void average time from date void to date re-let</i> <p><i>For internal monitoring only: the group has requested a small number of indicators focussing on monthly turnover of properties, number of long term voids, turn-around times and costs.</i></p> <p>9. <i>I have asked the teams to investigate the feasibility of a stock condition survey. I am aware of overspends on repairs in the last two years and the need for investment in energy efficiency and other programme items. The potential for expenditure on surveys needs to be considered against the need for direct investment in the stock. A balance has to be struck and I propose to make a decision on a stock survey when the pros and cons are reported.”</i></p>	<p>Holder refers into a Working party and inclusion of additional Members of the Council in these meetings, remain something the Committee encourages.</p> <p>8. The Committee looks forward to receiving the wider group of performance indicators referred to together with the underpinning actual numbers that generate those indicators. It will be good to know when these will be available for the year 2021/22 to date. To facilitate this process, the Committee does not need to receive these at a formal meeting; instead a briefing paper with the indicators and underpinning actual numbers.</p> <p>9. A housing stock condition survey is something the Committee encourages the Portfolio Holder to adopt within a strategic approach to the Council's Housing Stock. The Government's Charter for social housing will add to the Council's obligations to its tenants and a stock survey will prepare the</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Having considered the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, together with the response of the Housing Portfolio Holder thereto:-</p> <p>It was moved by Councillor P B Honeywood, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Housing Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.</p>	<p>Council for the introduction of those further obligations.</p>
<p><u>SCRUTINY OF THE SEAFRONT SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 20 September 2021 Minute 23 refers</u></p> <p>The Committee Recommended to Cabinet that:</p> <p>a) where observation reveals cliff slippages, all communication with Beach Hut Licensees in respect of Cliff Stabilisation and safety, is consistently shared with the relevant District Ward Councillors; and</p>	<p><u>Cabinet 12 November 2021 (Minute 72 refers)</u></p> <p>The Cabinet had before it the response of the Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto as follows:-</p> <p><i>“I would like to thank the Committee for their comments. To reply specifically to the points made:</i></p> <p>1. <i>I entirely agree with the idea of keeping ward councillors fully involved. I know that the officers involved in the beach huts service specifically already seek to keep ward councillors involved in decisions. I have asked that they redouble their efforts in this regard and hope that there are even fewer exceptions to this good practice in the future.</i></p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 12 November to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p>a) The action of the Portfolio Holder to encourage greater consistency in delivery is appreciated.</p>

<p>b) the undertaking of a survey of cliff vulnerability across the 26 kilometres of coast line for which this is responsible and beach levels in the 23 bays created in 2013/14 in the Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea areas be undertaken as an imperative piece of work in the next few months and thereby address the concerns raised by the Committee on 22 June 2020 (Minute 62 refers) and on 21 September 2020 (Minute 85 refers).</p>	<p>2. <i>Past studies on the Holland-on-Sea cliffs have been carried out at some expense by a large engineering company. It's unrealistic to expect to be able to completely predict the location and extent of future cliff failures. That's because the cliffs tend to have naturally formed with a limited factor of safety and failures caused by changing factors outside of the Council's, or anyone's, control. I don't think that it is viable to commission further surveys of this kind. However, the Coastal Manager is working with a local engineer with regard to the conduct of a series of visual inspections and some analysis that will give us greater insight into the stability of the main cliffs in the District, at a cost that can be accommodated. I have asked that the findings are reported back to me when completed.</i></p> <p>3. <i>The District Council has funded and begun a significant cliff stabilisation project at Holland-on-Sea this year. The work will be completed during the winter, in time for next year's season. This project has significantly affected the Council's reserves. It is my view that the Council cannot itself afford to address future cliff issues in isolation. I have requested further investigations and advice on the Council's liability for cliff work and the extent to which external funding can be called upon to assist."</i></p>	<p>b) The Committee was not suggesting an expensive survey but seeking to take forward the suggestion made to the meeting that a visual survey by officers of the Council could be possible. On this basis the Committee welcomes fully the intention of such a visual survey as part of the Council's consideration of risks going forward and its implications for budgets in the short, medium and longer term.</p> <p>c) The Committee would welcome receiving a briefing on the further investigations and advice on the Council's liability for cliff work and the extent to which external funding can be called upon referenced by the Portfolio Holder. Is there a timetable for these investigations/advice to be undertaken/received?</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Having considered the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, together with the response of the Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto:-</p> <p>It was moved by Councillor Porter, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.</p>	
<p><u>SCRUTINY OF THE SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICE</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 20 September 2021 Minute 22 refers</u></p> <p>The Committee Recommend to Cabinet:</p> <p>to restate the Committee’s request that an updated draft District-wide Leisure Strategy be brought forward as speedily as possible for consultation and that the Strategy should seek to enable a fresh direction to the delivery of leisure facilities and address the issues facing the District; including encouraging people to progress from being fairly active to active and from inactive to fairly active and the provision for those with disabilities.</p>	<p>Cabinet 12 November 2021 (Minute 73 refers)</p> <p>The Cabinet had before it the response of the Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto as follows:-</p> <p><i>“I would like to thank the Committee for proposing a fresh approach, and to commend staff for implementing it in a way that encourages more activity, including:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>£617,000 invested in Clacton Leisure Centre, upgrading changing rooms, sauna, LED lighting and the air handling unit in the health suite, and new wetside changing rooms, to complete by Christmas;</i> • <i>£250,000 allocated to a new Clacton Skatepark to be completed next Summer;</i> 	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 12 November to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p>The response does not discount the value of an updated strategy or suggest that it is being prepared. Could this be clarified for the Committee as the Committee believes a strategic approach is needed o leisure and sport provision locally.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £670,000 from ECC and the Football Foundation to fund and install a 3G football pitch at Clacton; and • £30,000 to support up to 120 people on a 12 week GP referral scheme to TDC leisure facilities.” <p>Having considered the recommendation of the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, together with the response of the Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto:-</p> <p>It was moved by Councillor Porter, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.</p>	
<p><u>USE OF SECTION 106 MONIES</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 15 July 2021 Minute 16 refers</u></p> <p>After a detailed discussion the Committee RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. To the extent that it is not happening at present, details of the proposed</p>	<p><u>Cabinet on 8 October 2021 (Minutes 61 refers)</u></p> <p>“Cabinet had before it the response of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance thereto which was as follows:-</p> <p><i>“Taking each point in turn, my comments are as follows:</i></p> <p>1) <i>Agreed - This will be reflected in future decision making processes, where the</i></p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 12 November to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p>1. The action of the Portfolio Holder in ensuring Ward Councillors are consulted is appreciated.</p>

<p>schemes using S106 funds in a particular ward be advised as a routine to the local Ward Councillor(s) and consideration be given to the views expressed by the Ward Councillor(s) on the proposed scheme before and decisions are taken to implement the scheme.</p> <p>2. That, for those parts of the District that are parished, the relevant Town or Parish Council be advised about S106 funds that had been secured and whether they could bid for schemes to be funded or identify schemes for officers to consider.</p> <p>3. That, for those parts of the District that are un-parished, the locality descriptor should be the relevant District Ward rather than ‘Clacton’ so as to improve the understanding of the figures shown for that area.</p> <p>4. That an annual statement be made on the amounts of monies received in S106 funds, the total sum held by the Council in S106 funds and the sums spent on schemes in that year against the common obligations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public open space • Affordable Housing 	<p><i>views of the ward councillor will be required before the associated decision can be finalised and published.</i></p> <p><i>2) Existing processes already provide a proportionate response to the issue raised, as the information is published on the Council’s website where Town and Parish Council can access it on a self-service basis rather than having to introduce a further layer of unnecessary administration. However we can consider further sign-posting support / opportunities in future.</i></p> <p><i>3) & 5) Agreed – both points raised will be addressed via the associated review by the S151 officer.</i></p> <p><i>4) Similar to the response to point 2) above, existing processes already provide this information which will be enhanced in future years by the commitments made above.”</i></p> <p>Having considered the recommendations submitted by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, together</p>	<p>2. The Committee would welcome know what additional support/opportunities for sign posting will be introduced so that it can consider the effectiveness of these and support proportionate responses to this issue.</p> <p>3. The commitments here are very much appreciated and the Committee would appreciate understanding further the timescales that apply to the review to improve the information and its usability.</p> <p>4. As part of the review by the S151 Officer the Committee would encourage an opportunity to look again at providing the summaries requested for Councillors rather than having to produce such summaries in a reactive way to requests from this Committee.</p>
--	---	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Highways • Town centre Improvements • Health <p>5. To note the commitment if the Council's Assistant Director for Finance and IT that the S106 spreadsheet publicly available on the Council's website would be amended to include commitments so that the sums shown are clear and complete.</p>	<p>with the response thereto of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance:-</p> <p>It was moved by Councillor G V Guglielmi, seconded by Councillor McWilliams and:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources & Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder in response thereto be endorsed”.</p>	
<p><u>TOURISM STRATEGY FOR TENDRING</u></p> <p><u>RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on 24 May 2021 Minute 6 refers</u></p> <p>The Committee RESOLVED to Recommend Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the opportunities for working in partnership with local businesses prioritising such services as hotels/bed and breakfast operators to encourage visitors participating/attending or visiting events in the District to stay locally and use the services of those local businesses (Potentially with discounts offered by those businesses). • To harness opportunities to those attracted to specific places/events 	<p><u>Cabinet on 17 September 2021 (Minutes 38 refers)</u></p> <p>“Cabinet had before it the response of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Tourism thereto which was as follows:-</p> <p><i>“I would like to thank the Committee for its views and where possible, suggestions will be built into the work programme for the delivery of the strategy. Further to this, I would suggest the Committee set up task and finish groups to look in detail at how some of the suggestions could be delivered in practice. In particular, the carbon offsetting of the Clacton Airshow and how further improvements can be made to improve cleanliness. I look forward to seeing the results of the in-depth scrutiny by the Committee in these areas and welcome further</i></p>	<p>The Chairman of the Committee followed up the decision of Cabinet on 12 November to commented/asked as follows:</p> <p>The commitment to look to adopting the recommendations from the Committee is appreciated. The Committee will seek an update on progress with them in its work programme for 2022/23 on the basis that a review of delivery against the strategy is an enquiry for the Committee.</p>

locally to be supported to revisit by sharing other places/events locally including those using the book of Holland Ferry, creating a dedicated visit Tending website with the separate charms of the District can be brought together, using QR codes to encourage visits to such a website and to local heritage sites.

- To take additional measures to improve the cleanliness of the District including messaging around “Respecting the district by using the area responsibly” through education encouragement and enforcement to ensure visitors are encouraged back rather than being putt-off by unsightly rubbish and over full bins.
- To consider again the previous recommendation (minute 87 of 21 September 2020 refers) for consistent and common, highly visible branding of events and facilities provided/supported by the council to ensure that those attending those events/facilities are made aware of the Councils role in producing/supporting the same.
- To examine measures to offset the carbon footprint of the Clacton Air Show, which uses over 100,000 litres of Jet Fuel and generates 275 tonnes of CO2, including the options perused by the Bournemouth Air Festival

thorough scrutiny that results in an improved strategy.”

Having considered the recommendations submitted by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, together with the response thereto of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Tourism:-

It was moved by Councillor Porter, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:-

RESOLVED that the Resources & Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be thanked for the views submitted and that the comments of the Portfolio Holder in response thereto be endorsed”.

whereby trees were planted for each tonne of carbon used at the Air Show.

- To note the intention of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Leisure to consider promoting details of bridleways that traverse the District.

--

--