

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & ELECTIONS

A.1 WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/23 AND REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021-2022 FOR THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Report prepared by Keith Simmons and Hattie Dawson-Dragsic)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To review the Committee's work undertaken during the year 2021/22 and to seek the Committee's approval to its draft programme of work for the 2022/23 year for recommendation to the Council meeting on 12 July 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee is one of two overview and scrutiny committees established by the Council to specifically focus on the following areas of Council work (as detailed in Article 6.02(i) of the Council's Constitution):

"To perform the role of Overview and Scrutiny and its functions in relation to:

- *Community Leadership developing the external focus of overview and scrutiny on "district-wide" issues (and where appropriate sub-regional, regional and national issues), in particular, through collaborative work with local partner authorities, providers, stakeholders and members of the public.*
- *Approval of discrete researched and evidenced reviews on the effectiveness of partnership operating in the area with particular focus on:*
 - *Community Safety*
 - *Health and Well-being*
 - *Economy, Skills and Educational Attainment*
- *Community engagement, development and empowerment*
- *Leisure and Tourism (except matters relating to budgets)*
- *Housing strategy and Homeless Service (except the Housing Revenue Account)*
- *Emergency Planning"*

The Constitution provides for the two overview and scrutiny committees to submit a work programme to full Council for approval. Rule 7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules sets out the position as follows:

"Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will submit a work programme for the year ahead and a review of the previous year's activities to the full Council for approval. In addition it will be responsible for co-ordinating and prioritising its work programme on an ongoing basis.

In preparing, co-ordinating and prioritising its programme, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will take into account:-

- *The General Role and Principles of undertaking its functions, as set out in Part 2 Article 6;*
- *The planned work on the preparation of elements of the Budget and Policy Framework, as set out in the Council's Business Plan;*
- *The need for statutory timetables to be met;*
- *The wishes of all members of the committee;*
- *Requests from the Cabinet to carry out reviews; and*
- *Requests from Group Leaders in accordance with Rule 8."*

In considering the Work Programme of enquiries, the Committee must have regard to the Corporate Plan 2020-24 and the themes of that Corporate Plan are:

- Delivering High Quality Services
- Building Sustainable Communities
- Strong Finances and Governance
- A Growing and Inclusive Economy
- Community Leadership through Partnerships

WORK CARRIED OUT TO DATE

In developing a draft Work Programme for 2022/23 the timetable below sets out the process undertaken. Work still to be undertaken is also set out below.

Action	Start Date	End Date	Proposal
Invite Officer ideas	25/04	06/05	Management Team, email to Directors and TDC user email.
Invite Councillor ideas	25/04	06/05	Email to Members (with reminder day before end date.
Invite Cabinet/Portfolio Holder ideas	25/04	06/05	
Invite Parish Council ideas	25/04	06/05	Email to Parish Council Clerks
Invite the public's ideas	25/04	06/05	Smart Survey, Press Release, Social media post
Invite other partner ideas	25/04	06/05	Partnerships communicated with others asking for ideas
Hold Cabinet (Leader/Deputy) –OSC	09/05	13/05	Meeting held on 17/05

Chairmen meeting			
Training on Task and Finish Groups etc.	25/05		Using the first of the Councillor Development Sessions in the schedule of meetings
Submit proposals to the OSC's	27/06	01/07	Community Leadership OSC is scheduled for 28/06. A special Resources and Services OSC has been arranged for 30/06.
Determine Memberships of Task and Finish Groups etc	TBC	TBC	To be determined. Some work could be undertaken prior to Council on a provisional basis only.
Submit proposals to Council for approval	12/7		Council meeting that evening
Programming of Task and Finish Groups and them starting their work	N/A	N/A	Throughout the year – hopefully taking account of the advice from Management Team about capacity and programming.

The above shows that a consultation took place to invite the various stakeholders to give their ideas for items to be added to the work programme. 22 responses were received, 1 of these were a Parish Council, 3 were from this Council's own staff, 5 were TDC Councillors and 13 were from the public. These responses have been assigned to the two OSCs based on their respective terms of reference and those for this Committee are set out at Appendix A to this report.

A meeting was also held on 17 May including the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the OSC Chairmen, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive. The purpose was to provide the forum envisaged in paragraph 9.2 of the Council's Cabinet-Overview & Scrutiny Protocol. That paragraph highlighted the advantage of such meetings in building on the positive working relationship between representatives of the two elements of the governance structures of the Council. It also referenced the opportunity such meetings provided for Cabinet to input into developing Work

Programmes for the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The following suggestions were made as a result of this meeting:

- *The future viability of leisure centres - given fuel price increases, inflation generally and wage inflation.*
- *Beach Huts – the current strategy, commercial rental of the Huts, storing of inflammable materials in them and the future strategy for the Huts.*
- *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and levels of enduring depression – picking up the Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot Scheme locally and the work of Family Solutions*
- *Freeport East – including the transport infrastructure around the District to maximise the benefit of the Freeport, looking at development investment into Harwich and the skilling of local people for the jobs at the Freeport.*
- *Tendring-Colchester Border Garden Community*
- *The £1.5m of funds transferred from the Health Service to the Council and the Council delivering schemes for those Health bodies.*
- *Examining the delivery of projects to tackle alcohol and drug misuse and violence against women and girls (Essex County Council had put funding into a Multi-Disciplinary Teams to tackle these issues).*
- *Tackling low aspirations of the local population – including looking at the INTU programme and accessing Adult Education (picking up on the work by Essex County Council on its ambition for the Adult and Community Learning).*

The Leader and Deputy Leader identified the following two subjects as ones that thought would most warrant prioritisation for scrutiny enquiries in 2022/23:

- *Planning Enforcement for the Council. The review would look at the Council's powers, policies, procedures, data on use of those powers and the effectiveness of the approach.*
- *Cyber Security for the Council. Looking at the threats, our approach to those threats and the future vulnerabilities.*

The proposals would be considered and fed into the process of determining the proposed Work Programmes.

Proposed Work Programme

The Committee is further invited to identify the intended progress with the relevant enquiries in respect of the programmed meetings of the Committee (as below):

4 October 2022
13 December 2022
7 March 2023

Following on from the Councillor Development Session on 25/05/22, the Committee is invited to draft a Work Programme seeking to make appropriate use of the following approaches to enquiries:

- Overview and Scrutiny Workshops

- Task and Finish Groups
- Standing Panels
- Enquiry Days
- Off Agenda briefings
- Site Visits
- Consultation

To assist the Committee a pro-forma scoping document for any proposed Work Programme items is set out at Appendix B. In addition at Appendix C to this report is a draft scoping document picking up the issue of “Jaywick Sands” which is an item from 2021/22’s Work Programme that was not undertaken in view of the published intention to develop a Place Plan for Jaywick. Appendix C also includes a proposed scope for an enquiry into the Tendring-Colchester Border Garden Community.

Review of the Year 2021/22

The review of the work undertaken by the Committee during the year 2021-22 is being prepared in conjunction with the Chairman of the Committee and will be provided prior to the meeting for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the Committee receives and considers the range of proposals for work programme items from stakeholders as set out at Appendix A to this report.**
- (b) That the Committee agrees draft 2022/23 Work Programme for enquiries for the Committee, utilising the pro-forma scoping document set out in Appendix B, for submission to Full Council; and**
- (c) to note that a review of the year 2021 – 2022 is being prepared in conjunction with the Committee’s Chairman and will be circulated prior to this meeting of the Committee for consideration of it.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

There are none.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Submitted ideas for scrutiny from Councillors, the public, Parish Councils and Stakeholders.
- Appendix B – Pro-forma Scrutiny Scoping Document.
- Appendix C – Draft Scrutiny Scoping Document for two possible enquiries

Work Programme 2022/23 – Ideas from Stakeholders

Officers:

Thoughts

Sport and leisure

- Sports and Activity strategy, including any project deliverable that are adopted from the strategy
- Activity levels for Tendring (if new data is readily available) and how to increase activity levels using TDC land, including the seafront
- Seafront heritage projects
- Beach hut strategy
- Activity space outside the district leisure centres, a sports / activity hubs

Economic Growth

- A focus on the skills gaps within Tendring and in particular for green energy linked to Freeport.
- Transportation and how we can support low income families to access all areas within Tendring especially in relation to jobs and education.
- Repurposing the high streets and providing a sense of place.
- Supporting new and existing businesses to thrive in the area.
- Jaywick Business Units and Covered Market, and how it will supports businesses, jobs and the community.

Councillors:

Cllr C Griffiths	<p>I read your report on children missing school with interest. One group of children that the report has missed is those being home schooled, with an Education Health Action Plan because the local authority is not able to meet their needs in the local schools and there are no places available at other more specialized schools like Market Fields, so the local authority funds tutors to come to the child's home on a daily basis.</p> <p>I know that the local authorities do not like to focus on this particular group, as they claim that as the child is being educated at home and on the role of a school so they are not missing education and being educated, and fall into the home school category. The fact is that the child is being home schooled because mainstream education is unable to meet their needs, and there are no places available anywhere else.</p> <p>My daughter, who is on the autistic spectrum, has been in this situation for the last eighteen months and while her academic levels have drastically improved, she has had rather limited interactions with anyone outside of the household, which has not helped her social skills and has led to isolation from her peers.</p> <p>I know from personal experience, that there is a significant number of children who fall into this category but show up as home schooled.</p> <p>One question to ask, may be how many children are home schooled and fully funded by the state, because mainstream education cannot meet their needs, and there are no places available in other education facilities. This often means that mainstream schools are trying to support children and parents at home, using the schools SEND team, which very often is not geared up to deal with some children's very complex needs.</p>
Cllr D Miles	<p>The following are key areas I consider to be of real importance to continue to scrutinise:</p> <p>Education - attendance (including unauthorised absenteeism), performance, adequate provision especially for SEN pupils etc.</p> <p>Police - their priorities vs the priorities of the public ie Tendring residents. There may be specific areas that need scrutinising such as the e-scooters etc on our programme last year. Increase in anti social behaviour by young adolescents and what action the Police are taking to tackle this (especially with those parents who fail to supervise their children) is becoming a very serious issue in some areas of the District.</p> <p>Social Services - both Adult and Child and Adolescent Services. There seems to be a dearth of qualified Social Workers in Essex and the effects on our residents is quite profound.</p> <p>Health - lack of GPs and how difficult it is in some of the areas within Tendring for patients to have face-to-face appointments. How can this be resolved?</p> <p>Housing - in particular social housing and private lets - shortages/cost of rentals etc.</p>

Public:

As both historically and to a lesser extent today a holiday destination, please can you investigate etc the attractiveness of Clacton town, especially the centre.

So ideas such as more flower planting, hanging baskets, tree planting etc in the town centre. And alongside this can the issue of public drinking by a fairly small group, perhaps a total of 30, usually a group of 10ish at any one time, of people who spend much of the day drinking alcohol in the town square, opposite McDonalds.

I would argue this is the central area of Clacton that many, if not all visitors pass through, and through the provision of benches and takeaways outlets, visitors stay in the square.

Currently though the sight and sound of many public drinkers in the square I expect is having a negative effect on the town's visitors, and I presume most residents of the town.

Maybe carry out a survey, and talk to visitors and residents as to possible proposals to ban public street drinking from the town centre, as is actually suggested by the blue signs in the square and around town.

State of the roads in and around Brightlingsea

Yes, I fully understand that this is an issue for Essex Highways, but please exert some pressure on them to replace (not patch) the roadways in our vicinity. We live on the Manor estate in Brightlingsea, which was constructed in the early 70s with roads constructed of concrete topped with a layer of tarmac. They are now over 50 years old and are disintegrating in many places. The roads are sinking, the blacktop is coming away, there are potholes, manhole covers are proud and much more. My wife has MS and the pathways are appalling; rutted, patched, uneven – I challenge any of you reading this to push my wife in her wheelchair around the estate; it is not pleasant for her or the person pushing the chair. The same issues are there for young mothers with prams and pushchairs.

As I see it, these issues will NEVER be rectified. Essex Highways will keep restating that they do not have the finance to do anything apart from urgent repairs – and that's the issue. As the money has dwindled, they have taken to short-term fixes, ignoring the long-term effects of this policy. In another 10 years the roads and pathways on the estate will have disintegrated. Perhaps additional wording could be added beneath the Brightlingsea sign on the B1029 stating – Welcome to Brightlingsea, road system twinned with Mariupol, Ukraine.

Also, the B1029 road from Frating crossroads through Thorrington to Brightlingsea is in a dreadful state. Virtually all of the kerbside drain gratings have sunk or have seriously eroded edges. This is a result of the heavy lorries using this road to access Eastern Waste Disposal, the various gravel workings in the area and the shipyard. These vehicles often loaded with heavy scrap metal, aggregates and waste and due to the limited width of the road they have

to travel close to the kerb, especially when two similar vehicles are passing in opposite directions. Their weight is the issue as the drain surroundings have not been constructed to withstand these forces.

Another challenge for you is to ride this route on a bicycle – you will be constantly swerving to avoid the hazards; a danger to yourself and other road users.

I could go on and on but, hopefully, you get my drift. As I stated earlier, my biggest fear is that these issues will NEVER be addressed, at local, regional and national government level.

Parity with Frinton seafront

We all know that Frinton is TDC's jewel-in-the-crown, despite your protests that this is not the case. The closure of the Sports Centre here, while spending £100,000s in Clacton is testament to the second-class nature of our town. Dogs on the beach by the childrens' paddling pool are an issue during summer months and the signage here is woeful! If you walk the promenade in Frinton, at every access to the beach there is a prominent sign stating that dogs are banned from 1 May – 30 September. There are three main entrances to the paddling pool area – at Splash Point, at the accessible ramp by the Beach Patrol hut and the ramp by the partially completed café. There is now a sign near the Beach Patrol hut and others on the sea wall surrounding the promenade, but the sea wall signs are virtually useless as they are low down and not easily seen. There needs to be large 'in-your-face' signage at each entrance to the area, to ensure clarity. Those of us that use the area on a regular basis have become unofficial and unpaid dog wardens, often attracting abuse when we point out the seasonal regulations to owners. We should not be put in this position when adequate signage would provide the necessary information. Providing the Beach Wardens with more powers would also go some way to alleviating the problem. At one meeting last year with the Beach supervisor the reason given for lack of signage was 'overload' – too much signage! This does not appear to be the case in Frinton, where there is a sign at EVERY entrance.

I also understand that TDC is responsible for the paddling pool area, but Brightlingsea Town Council keeps it looking good for residents and visitors, but you don't support them financially to do so. This does not appear democratic to me. Why should the council tax payers of Brightlingsea fund the maintenance of this area for TDC.

PRO-FORMA SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR ENQUIRIES BY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS PART OF ITS WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
<i>[Broad description of the subject of the enquiry]</i>	<i>[Set out whether there is a specific time frame for this enquiry]</i>	Which Theme does it relate to: <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering High Quality Services <input type="checkbox"/> Building Sustainable Communities for the Future <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Finances and Governance <input type="checkbox"/> A Growing and Inclusive Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Community Leadership Through Partnerships	<i>[Outline what information is critical to the success of the enquiry. Also identify whether site visits and consultation are envisaged]</i>	<i>[Who should attend to answer questions based on the key lines of enquiry:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Councillors <input type="checkbox"/> Officers <input type="checkbox"/> Outside representatives	<i>[Set out what the outcome of the enquiry is proposed to achieve]</i>

**SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR ENQUIRIES BY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS PART OF ITS WORK
PROGRAMME 2022/23**

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
<p>Jaywick, social issues, crime and deprivation, housing.</p> <p>Private Sector Housing and rental build quality. Plus a look at the action to address health inequality through addressing housing conditions.</p>	<p>To be Allocated</p>	<p>Community Leadership Through Partnerships/Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses</p> <p>Building Sustainable Communities for the Future/B2 Jaywick Sands - more and better housing; supporting the community, B5 - Building and managing our own homes and Effective planning policies</p> <p>Delivering High Quality Services/A6 - Effective Regulation and Enforcement</p>	<p>The emerging Place Plan for Jaywick.</p> <p>Data around the current position as it relates to Jaywick by way of demographics, health inequalities, recorded crime, service provision and plans for the area.</p> <p>The Essex Levelling Up proposals for the area and how they seek to address issues in the locality</p>	<p>Cllr P Honeywood as Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Jaywick Corporate Director, Operations and Delivery, Interim Director for Planning and Assistant Director, Housing and Environment Representatives from Essex County Council, the Environment Agency, the Clinical Commissioning Group/Primary Care Network/ICP Representatives from Community Groups in Jaywick</p>	<p>To look holistically at the issues as they relate to Jaywick Sands and the measures in place to address those issues and encourage further working between partners to collaboratively take opportunities to improve the area for its residents.</p> <p>The enquiry may also be able to inform the emerging Place Plan for Jaywick</p>
<p>Progressing the proposals for development as part of Tendring-Colchester Border Garden Community</p> <p>Considering the emerging Development Plan</p>	<p>September-November 2022</p>	<p>Community Leadership Through Partnerships</p>	<p>The emerging Development Plan Document for the Garden Community.</p> <p>Responses to consultation with the</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance</p> <p>The Chairman of the Tendring Colchester Borders</p>	<p>Reassurance that the Development Plan Document for the Garden Community (and related plans for the Garden Community)</p>

<p>Document for the Garden Community</p> <p>Opportunities for enhancing the Garden Community through links to the Freeport East project.</p> <p>Examining stewardship/governance of the Garden Community.</p> <p>Assessing risk and challenges for the District as a whole.</p>			<p>public/stakeholders on the Development Plan Document.</p> <p>The plans of Essex County Council for roads and for the rapid transit arrangements.</p> <p>Relevant plans of the University of Essex.</p> <p>Plans of public service providers such as health, fire and police for provision in respect of the Garden Community.</p>	<p>Joint Committee and the other Members of the Committee.</p> <p>The Planning Portfolio Holder</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Executive, Interim Director for Planning and the Corporate Director for Project Delivery</p> <p>Representatives from Essex County Council (Highways), North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance</p>	<p>are robust and address the needs for that community.</p> <p>This process can itself inform the full Council's consideration of the Development Plan Document for the Garden Community – scheduled to be considered in January 2023.</p>
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