

CABINET

7 OCTOBER 2022

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A.1 HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTIONS 2022/23 TOWARDS CORPORATE PLAN THEMES – MONITORING REPORT AT THE HALF YEAR POINT

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the positive progress with the Highlight Priority Actions adopted for 2022/23 towards the Council's Corporate Plan Themes for 2020/24.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Corporate Plan 2020/24, adopted by Council, sets out the strategic direction and policy objectives for the Council over that period. Taking the Corporate Plan Themes, Cabinet on 25 February 2022 adopted a series of highlight priority actions for 2022/23 with individual milestones for each of those actions. This meeting of Cabinet provides an opportunity to report on the six month position on each of those highlight priority actions and the specified milestones.

Circumstances generally, and with progressing individual highlight priority actions may impact on the individual milestones associated with those actions. This report invites Cabinet to realign certain milestones and approve new ones as set out in the Appendix to this report.

The adopted performance reporting arrangement for the highlight priority actions and the milestones associated with those priority actions were approved by Cabinet in February. In accordance with that arrangement, the detail of performance at the end of Quarter 1 (for April to June) was placed on the Council's website in the Transparency data section. All Councillors were advised by email of the data being placed there. The arrangement envisaged reporting on the six month position to this meeting of Cabinet. The Q3 position on the highlight priority actions for 2022/23 is to be reported to Cabinet on 27 January 2023 when it is intended it will finalise its proposals for highlight priority actions for 2023/24. This meeting will also recommend the Council's budget for 2023/24. The final position at the end of 2022/23 in respect of the highlight priority actions for that year will also be reported in Summer 2023/24 and it is hoped to align this with the budget outturn position.

In considering this report, it is also worth reflecting on the range of significant matters that the Council has delivered in these six months. It has been a busy six months and a range of the bids, and deliverables in that period are set out in the Background section of this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

That the contents of the report be noted together with the proposed realignment of particular milestones and adoption of new milestones, for particular highlight priority actions set out in the report.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Cabinet can consider the progress with the highlight priorities adopted for 2022/23 and accommodate the mechanism for determining whether to adjust certain milestones associated with particular highlight priorities referenced in the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not to submit the report to the formal meeting of Cabinet. This was discounted as it does not support the transparency commitments of the Council. It would also not facilitate the identified proposed adjustments to the milestones referenced in the report.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Council approved a Corporate Plan for 2020/24 and this established its strategic direction for those four years. That strategic direction itself seeks to reflect the issues that matter most to the local people, the national requirements from Government and the challenges that face the District over that time period. The Corporate Plan was adopted unanimously at the Council meeting on 21 January 2020 (Minute 78 refers).

The themes of the 2020/24 Corporate Plan are:

- Delivering High Quality Services
- Building Sustainable Communities for the Future
- Strong Finance and Governance
- Community Leadership through Partnerships
- A Growing and Inclusive Economy

The Corporate Plan shapes and directs the Council's work and an extensive range of actions have been, are being and will be undertaken across the 2020-24 life of the Plan to deliver against its themes and priorities.

The Highlight Priority Actions adopted by the Cabinet on 25 February 2022 seek to take forward the Corporate Plan. This meeting of Cabinet provides the opportunity to review progress with the Highlight Priority Actions adopted and realign the milestones for certain of those Highlight Priority Actions in view of the circumstances that now require this. In other cases new milestones are now proposed.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Prior consultation with individual Portfolio Holders has taken place on individual highlight priorities as relevant to responsibilities of those Portfolio Holders.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria	YES/NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income
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stated here)		<input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)

The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

The legal implications of individual actions are assessed when they are brought forward for formal decisions to be made. A number of these decisions will be designated 'Key' Decisions. Consideration of legal implications can then require additional steps to be undertaken which could impact on approved milestones and require them to be realigned.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The highlight actions set out at Appendix A includes the delivery of the financial savings target within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In considering all matters it is vital that the balance of resources can be accommodated by this Council and that it does not put further strain on the Council being able to balance its budget each year.

The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

No further comments to those set out in the Appendix in respect of the budget position.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The linkage between the approval regime for the highlight priorities and the budget for the same year ensures that sustainability is considered.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The consultation prior to adopting the highlight priorities seeks to ensure that Cabinet has the relevant information available to it when it makes decisions on these priorities.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	The focus of the organisation on its Corporate Plan and delivering highlight priorities each year seeks to embed learning within the organisation around the associated performance regime.

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

These are set out in the Appendix to this report for the individual highlight priorities.

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION	
The risks relevant to each of the highlight priorities is reflected in the decision making arrangements for those priorities together with mitigation measures.	
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
Due consideration of the public sector equality duty has been given in the preparation of this report. Equality Impact assessments will be undertaken in respect of each of the highlight priorities.	
SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS	
The Council will seek, within the legislative and policy frameworks that are relevant to the individual highlight priorities, to deliver positive social value to the District through the activities referenced in the highlight priorities.	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030	
The action plan of the Council towards being net zero is itself a specific highlight priority for 2022/23. As such, progress is reported in the Appendix to this report.	
OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS	
Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.	
Crime and Disorder	Such considerations and significant issues are addressed within the arrangements for the individual highlight priorities referenced in the Appendix to this report.
Health Inequalities	Such considerations and significant issues are addressed within the arrangements for the individual highlight priorities referenced in the Appendix to this report.
Area or Ward affected	Such considerations and significant issues are addressed within the arrangements for the individual highlight priorities referenced in the Appendix to this report.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND
The Highlight Priority Actions for 2022/23 (and the performance monitoring arrangements for these) were proposed in draft form by Cabinet at its 17 December 2021 meeting and, consultation with the public and stakeholders then took place. The outcome of the consultation was then submitted to the 25 February 2022 meeting of Cabinet when the finalised Highlight Priority Actions were approved for 2022/23 (and the performance reporting arrangements).

The half year position on the delivery of the highlight priority actions for 2022/23, and the related milestones, are set out at Appendix A to this report.

In considering this report, Cabinet is also reminded that this first half year of 2022/23 has seen the following significant matters:

FIFTEEN ADDITIONAL HOMES ACQUIRED INTO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT:

Thirteen of these properties are brand new and have been gifted to the Council on the back of section 106 planning obligations. Two properties have been directly purchased having been previously owned by the Council and then sold through the Right to Buy scheme.

POETRY AND HISTORY COMBINE AT JAYWICK SANDS WORKSPACE CONSTRUCTION SITE:

Poetry and local history were combined in a community initiative at the site of a construction project in Jaywick Sands. Work has begun on the new multi-million pound commercial workspace development, with wooden fencing going up at the start of construction around the site at the junction of Lotus Way, Tamarisk Way and Brooklands.

BIDS FOR £40MILLION FUNDING TO BE MADE FOR TENDRING TOWNS:

Two bids were made for government cash to regenerate Clacton-on-Sea and Harwich. Cabinet on Friday, 17 June agreed to submit proposals to the Government's Levelling Up Fund for the two towns, each of up to £20million.

CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGUN ON STARLINGS SITE IN DOVERCOURT:

Work began creating a new car park, events space and public toilets in Dovercourt. The Council is using the site of the former Starlings garage and Queens Head Hotel, which burnt down a number of years ago, to create a new public space in the town between Milton Road and Orwell Road.

SIX TENDRING CAR PARKS RECEIVED SAFETY AWARDS:

Six car parks in Tendring were awarded a top safety accreditation. The Council's facilities were awarded The Safer Parking Award Scheme Park Mark from the British Parking Association.

TOUR SERIES EVENT DREW CROWDS TO CLACTON:

A top cycle event drew crowds into Clacton-on-Sea town centre. Round five of the professional cycle race the Sportsbreaks.com Tour Series took place in the town on Thursday, 19 May.

TRANSFORMATION PROJECT COMPLETED AT TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL:

A multi-million pound project to improve the Council's office buildings and make them more environmentally friendly was completed.

CLACTON AIRSHOW BRINGS THE WOW FACTOR AS EVENT RETURNS AFTER TWO:

The full Clacton Air Show returned this year. Day two of the 2022 Airshow saw one of the events busiest-ever days as the event returned after its Covid-enforced absence. The event, now in its 29th year, saw a bumper programme of flights, from fast jets and aerobatics to historic aircraft, take to the skies above the town's seafront.

NEW GYM EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED IN TENDRING LEISURE CENTRES:

New gym equipment was installed in three leisure centres run by the Council. The state-of-the-art kit includes a new-look fitness area and track at Clacton Leisure Centre, and the introduction of dedicated free weights areas at Dovercourt Bay and Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles.

PROPOSAL TO GROW CARELINE SERVICE:

Proposals to grow the Tendring Careline service (which supports vulnerable residents) were agreed by Cabinet with the intention to increase the number of customers the service provides for over this year.

LANDLORD FINED £23K FOR POOR QUALITY HMOS:

A landlord who did not properly maintain two Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) was fined £23,000 for those failings. Ten penalty notices in relation to poor management of the HMOs in Hayes Road, Clacton-on-Sea were issued as the Council challenged that poor maintenance.

FOUR GREEN FLAGS KEPT BY PARKS AND GARDENS IN TENDRING AND TENDRING BEACHES AWARDED TWO BLUE FLAGS:

Gardens and parks across Tendring impressed judges of a prestigious award scheme. The district held on to all four of its Green Flag Awards for open spaces at Clacton-on-Sea Seafront Gardens, Weeley Crematorium and Gardens, Cliff Park in Dovercourt and Crescent Gardens in Frinton.

GOLD AWARD FOR COUNCIL IN RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT TO ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL:

A gold award was given to the Council as part of the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. The scheme publicly recognises employers' efforts to support defence personnel issues, such as employing reservists and veterans, while encouraging other organisations to do the same.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

Cabinet on 17 December 2021 (Minute 98) – considered draft highlight priorities for 2022/23
Cabinet on 25 February 2022 (Minute 132) – determined the highlight priorities for 2022/23 and the associated milestones for this year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

APPENDICES

A – Q2 Position on the Highlight Priority Actions approved by Cabinet February 25 2022

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