

A.1 APPENDIX B

Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 March 2024

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>This Committees Budget meeting on 10 January 2024</u></p> <p><u>Budget Scrutiny</u></p> <p>Recommended that:-</p> <p>(a) Portfolio Holders review the individual cost pressures and cost savings across their respective service areas and explain how they are managing that process;</p> <p>(b) this Committee must be consulted on both the review of the Housing Strategy and on any revised Strategy proposals that come forward before the Cabinet makes any decisions on this matter;</p> <p>(c) a longer term Savings Plan be produced to ensure longer term financial sustainability and that it be</p>	<p><u>The Leaders response:</u></p> <p><i>“Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee for the work they undertook on the budget and for the opportunity to submit answers to the questions raised both in writing ahead of their formal budget meeting and verbally directly at the meeting. In terms of the 5 points raised my comments are as follows:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Cost pressures and savings are being reviewed by Portfolio Holders, and this work will continue throughout the year. Updates will be provided either via separate reports or via the regular financial performance reports that also form part of the Committee’s work during the year.</i></p> <p><i>(b) As part of the Council’s existing policy development framework, the</i></p>	

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<p>submitted to this Committee for scrutiny in the first quarter of 2024/2025;</p> <p>(d) a review be carried out of the Council's preferred service providers/contractors to ensure compliance with the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules; and</p> <p>(e) a review be carried out on whether to introduce a "traffic light" risk management system to manage cost pressures.</p>	<p><i>Committee will be consulted on any revised Strategy proposals which will include the outcome from any review process.</i></p> <p><i>(c) Similarly to the point made in (a) above, this essential piece of work will continue during the year which will be made available to the Committee as part of its review of in-year financial performance alongside the development of the long term forecast.</i></p> <p><i>(d) It is important to highlight that the engagement of any contractor / provider by the Council is expected to be done so in accordance with the procurement rules set out within the Council's Constitution. However, the point raised by the Committee will be picked up via existing internal control arrangements in consultation with Services.</i></p> <p><i>(e) As part of the work set out in point (a) above, the introduction of a 'traffic light' approach to prioritising cost pressure items will be considered".</i></p>	
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<p><u>This Committees meeting on 19 September 2023 (Minute 29 refers)</u></p> <p><u>SUNSPOTS JAYWICK</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) That the positive news about occupancy rates for the Sunspot Centre, Jaywick Sands and the intentions around the on-site market be noted; andb) that the capacity and expertise of the Council in costing and programme managing major capital schemes of the Council be strengthened to avoid or minimise unforeseen “mission creep” in schemes and unrealistic cost assessments being presented as part of approval mechanisms (that then needing to be repeated when true market costings are subsequently identified). <p>It was further RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">c) That delivery against the business plan compared with the experience in the first six months operation of the Sunspot Centre, Jaywick Sands be	<p><u>These recommendations were submitted to Cabinet on 15 December 2023.</u></p> <p><u>The Cabinet report included the proposed response of the Portfolio Holder as follows:</u></p> <p><i>“The Sunspot is a great success for Jaywick, for the Tendring District and the Council. The building is already occupied with 15 of the 24 business units with a tenant in place. Another four units will be occupied in January 2024. That will leave 5 units vacant and just under 80 percent occupancy. Officers are going to start advertising one of the empty units as a ‘rent a desk space’ in the new year. The café is busy, and the market is popular. While capital costs rose across the World during the period the Council completed the Sunspot, the Council worked closely with partners including Essex County Council to ensure the project had sufficient funds to complete. The success of the project has received positive reviews in the local and national press, and has been used as an exemplar of good practice as far afield as Stockton. As with any major project, the Council has learnt during the process of completing the Sunspot, and</i></p>	
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confirmed in the Committee's Work Programme for April 2024.	<i>will be able to apply those lessons to future capital schemes. We have increased the capital delivery capacity of the organisation with the appointment of an expert contractor in support of the levelling up schemes."</i> RESOLVED that the recommendation made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism thereto be endorsed.	
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Recommendations monitoring for those recommendations from earlier meetings of the Committee have been previously reported to the Committee and, as such, are not repeated here as there is no further update to be provided on them.