

# CABINET

21 OCTOBER 2024

## JOINT REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL & THE MONITORING OFFICER

### **A.1 HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTIONS 2024/25 TOWARDS THE CORPORATE PLAN THEMES – MONITORING REPORT AT THE HALF YEAR POINT AND REFERENCE UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989**

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the positive progress with Highlight Priority Actions adopted for 2024/25 towards the Council's Corporate Plan Themes 2024/28.

To inform Members of a breach of the Council's Policy Framework and legal decision making requirements with regards to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Corporate Plan 2024/28, adopted by Council, sets out the strategic direction and policy objectives for the Council over that period. Taking the Corporate Plan Themes, Cabinet on 12 March 2024 adopted a series of highlight priority actions for 2024/25. This was followed, on 14 June 2024 with individual milestones for each of those actions being determined by the Leader. 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 key priority actions may impact on the individual milestones associated with those actions. This report invites Cabinet to realign those milestones as set out in the Appendix to this report.

In addition to the highlight priority actions, Cabinet also approved a performance reporting arrangement for those actions and the milestones associated with those priority actions. 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 key priority actions for 2024/25 is to be reported to Cabinet on 31 January 2025 when it is intended it will finalise its proposals for highlight priority actions for 2025/26. This meeting will also recommend the Council's budget for 2025/26. The final position at the end of 2024/25 in respect of the highlight priority actions for that year will also be reported in 2025/26 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.

The Monitoring Officer is a co-author of the Report, only in so far referencing the Section 5A of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 obligations. It has recently come to the

Monitoring Officer's attention that the Council has not approved and adopted the priorities presented to the Crime and Safety Partnership, which is an omission. Further information is contained within the Legal Requirements and Monitoring Officer comments sections of the Report below.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**It is recommended that Cabinet:**

- (a) notes the contents of the report together with the highlighted realignment of particular milestones for particular highlight priority actions, as set out in Appendix A;**
- (b) receives and considers the Monitoring Officer's report in respect of the position in relation to the formulation and implementation of a Crime and Disorder Strategy for the Council as required under Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; and**
- (c) subject to (b) in response, requests an update from the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships on the proposed form of action to resolve the historical omission at the next meeting of Cabinet complete with timescales.**

### **REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Through this report, the progress with the approved specific highlight priorities to deliver against the Corporate Plan 2024-28 Themes are set out for the public record. Accordingly, the report provides the opportunity to review progress with a number of initiatives and projects specifically identified for 2024/25 towards the ambitions in the 2024/28 Corporate Plan.

In order to formally receive the Section 5 report from the Council's Monitoring Officer and to consider its contents and Cabinet's response thereto.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Consideration was given to not submitting this report. However, that would be contrary to the approach adopted by the Council for monitoring and reporting on performance against the milestones for the highlight priorities for the year. This information rightly should be in the public domain.

## **PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

The Council approved a Corporate Plan for 2024/28 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 28 November 2023 (Minute 76 refers).

The themes of the 2024/28 Corporate Plan are:

- Championing Our Local Environment
- Pride in Our Area and Services to Residents

- Working with Partners to Improve Quality of Life
- Raising Aspirations and Creating Opportunities
- Promoting Our Heritage Offer, Attracting Visitors and Encouraging Them to Stay Longer
- Financial Sustainability and Openness

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 2024-28 life of the Plan to deliver against its themes and priorities.

The Highlight Priority Actions adopted by Cabinet on 12 March 2024 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. This detail is set out at Appendix A to this report.

Within Appendix A, the opportunity has been taken to update Cabinet as a whole on delivery of five highlight priorities for which there was no specific milestone for Q2. These highlight priorities are:

- A3(b) - Progress the review of the Local Plan to support sustainable development of quality housing for a range of tenures.
- B4 - Take the opportunities afforded by Freeport East and the development of Bathside Bay.
- D1 - To support projects to reduce Health inequalities e.g. around Fuel Poverty and access to the jobs market.
- D2 - To expand the Pupil Encounters' Project, to provide all school children with additional encounters with businesses and employers throughout their Education.
- D5 - Establishing the feasibility for a new wellbeing hub in the District
- F2 - Review its communication strategy.

In all of the above cases, the progress shown in Q2 demonstrates the delivery of the priorities is progressing as envisaged with the intended outputs/outcomes.

In respect of the position set out in Appendix A, all highlight priorities are at low risk of not being delivered. As such, the overall rating for each of the highlight priorities is 'Green'. The Appendix then sets out the position for performance in Quarter 1 (Q1 – April to June) and Quarter 2 (Q2 – July to September) of 2024/25 against the approved milestones for each of those highlight priorities. The Q1 position was discussed with Portfolio Holders and then published in the summer following the end of that Quarter.

The Q2 position is now presented to Cabinet and represents performance to the half year point. Appendix A shows that against eight of the milestones scheduled for Q2, they have either been completed fully or substantially within the quarter (and are therefore shown as Green). A further four milestones have seen good progress within the quarter and are shown as Amber with one highlight priority Q2 milestones showing as 'Red' as progress has not been achieved as originally envisaged.

The one 'Red' milestone concerns the safer streets funded project to improve lighting and extend CCTV coverage in Clacton on Sea's Town Centre. The commentary in Appendix A against that highlight shows the position that has been achieved with a view, and a

commitment, to deliver the scheme (albeit it to a different timeline than was originally envisaged).

**OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT** (including with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders where the item concerns proposals relating to the Budget and Policy Framework)

The Portfolio Holders concerned have been consulted by the relevant lead officers in respect of the relevant highlight priorities before finalisation of the detail set out in this report and its Appendix.

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)**

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	YES/NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> <del>Significant effect on two or more wards</del> <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Involves £100,000 expenditure/income</del> <input type="checkbox"/> <del>Is otherwise significant for the service budget</del>
		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)	Not applicable.

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.

**Section 6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - formulation and implementation of strategies**

(1) The responsible authorities for a local government area shall, in accordance with section 5 [with subsection (1A)] and with regulations (\*) made under subsection

(2), formulate and implement—

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area; and
- (d) a strategy for—
  - (i) preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area, and
  - (ii) reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

(\*) The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, Regulation 3.— Functions in respect of the formulation and implementation of a strategy -

(1) For each area there shall be a strategy group whose functions shall be to

- (a) prepare strategic assessments; and
- (b) prepare and implement a partnership plan, for that area on behalf of the responsible authorities.

Regulation 5.—

- (1) During each year the strategy group shall prepare a strategic assessment on behalf of the responsible authorities.
- (2) The purpose of the strategic assessment is to assist the strategy group in revising the partnership plan.

The approval of the Strategy/Partnership Plan is a function which must go to Full Council for approval, and whilst this is set out in our Constitution, as part of the Council's Policy Framework, this is because it's a statutory requirement under Regulation 4(1) and Schedule 3 (Functions not to be the Sole Responsibility of an Authorities Executive) under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. Schedule 3 specifically refers to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy under Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 and remains current law and in force.

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

I have made enquiries with the relevant department in respect of the current position with regards to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy required un the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and to date have been informed the Council does not have an up to date approved Strategy or Partnership Plan approved. Reference has been made to the Crime and Safety Partnerships Strategic Assessment however, as the legislation as set out above confirms, the purpose of this assessment is to assist the strategy group in revising the partnership plan. Further information is required to determine how this omission will be resolved.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposed a duty on certain key public sector organisations to work together to make places safer. The Act created Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now known as Community Safety Partnerships or CSPs), which brought together the police, local authority, fire and rescue services, health, and probation to formulate strategies for the reduction of crime & disorder. Tendring has a CSP and may have produced a strategy or priorities setting out an overarching framework for the Tendring CSP to reduce crime & disorder in the coming years, however this must be approved and adopted by the Council, following a recommendation from Cabinet. Upon approval of the strategy, an annual Strategic Assessment would inform the Partnership action plan and overseen by the partnership to drive focussed action and resource deployment for the coming year.

This is a report issued under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to inform Members that Tendring District Council, has omitted to comply with the legal requirement to approve and adopt a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. The Council is required by law to consider this report and decide what action (if any) to take in response.

The Chief Executive and the Assistant Director (Finance & IT) & Section 151 Officer have both been consulted on this report, as required by the legislation.

**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 place further strain on the Council being able to balance its budget each year.

✓	<b>The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:</b>
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Although there are no significant comments over and above those set out elsewhere in the report it is worth repeating the point above relating to how essential it is to balance resources. This can be done through careful planning and prioritising resources to meet competing issues such as funding existing services / business as usual functions, 'spend to save' initiatives along with delivering the Council's objectives.

**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 development of the annual highlight priorities alongside the preparation of the budget for the following financial year provides for both processes to take account of each other and support good resource allocation.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The identification of key milestones associated with the highlight priorities ensures that the Council is able to check, reconsider and respond to situations that arise in the implementation of the annual priorities. It further assists in keeping the focus of the Council on its multi-year Corporate Plan objectives.
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 identification of highlight priorities each year is intended to specifically assist the Council to concentrate on those priorities and provides a rationale for resource allocation towards delivery. The golden thread from the Corporate Plan, to the Highlight priorities, through to their milestones for delivery and the reporting on progress is designed to support good performance management in resource allocation.

**MILESTONES AND DELIVERY**

This report is programmed for the first meeting of Cabinet following the end of Q2. As such, by collating and presenting this report, Cabinet is supported to receive timely information on all of the highlight priorities for 2024/25.

**ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION**

Through this report Cabinet is able to review performance and project management of key highlighted priorities across the various Portfolio Holder responsibilities. As such, it can consider risk associated with those highlight priorities and determine appropriate action.

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Due consideration has been given to the public sector equalities duty in the preparation of this report. Decisions on individual priorities will be subject to equalities assessments.

**SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

The content of this report does not, of itself, involve social value considerations. The

development of a social value policy by the Council is underway and will guide procurement decisions going forward.	
<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030</b>	
The report has also had regard to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as adopted by the Council. A key action proposed in Appendix A is to take forward the delivery of the actions under that Strategy/Action Plan and thereby achieve its objectives as approved by Council.	
<b>OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.</b>	
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	In preparing this report, due regard has been given to the likely effect of the exercise of the Council's functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.
<b>Health Inequalities</b>	Through the Appendix some specific steps the Cabinet has highlighted to address health inequalities are set out.
<b>Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance)</b>	Not applicable to this report.
<b>Area or Ward affected</b>	All Wards

### **PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<p>The Highlight Priority Actions for 2024/25 (and the performance monitoring arrangements for these) were proposed in draft form by Cabinet at its 15 December 2023 meeting and, with the agreement of the Chairmen on the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered the proposals and submitted comments on them. The outcome of the consultation was then submitted to the 12 March 2024 meeting of Cabinet when the finalised Highlight Priority Actions were approved for 2024/25 (and the performance reporting arrangements).</p> <p>The half year position on the delivery of the Highlight Priority Actions for 2024/25, and the related milestones are set out at Appendix A to this report.</p> <p>In considering this report, Cabinet is also reminded that this first half year of 2024/25 has seen the following significant matters:</p> <p><b>High Street Animated with Transformation and Fun Event</b> – a free Easter event was held in Dovercourt with around 3,000 people that attended. It included a climbing wall, trampolines, teacups ride and fairground stalls hosted on Orwell Place – the former derelict Starlings site that was transformed by Tendring District Council (TDC) into a car park and used for public events. The Easter event was a chance to demonstrate a fragment of the work delivered so far through the government's national High Street Accelerator Pilot Programme.</p>

**Advice and Information on Applying for Grant Opportunities Available at Event** - Details on a wide-range of grants – and how to apply for them – were given alongside top tips at a Tendring4Growth event on 15 April 2024. The free open call event launched numerous grant schemes funded from Tendring District Council's (TDC) UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund allocations from the government.

**Find a New Role of Career at Jobs and Skills Fair in Jaywick Sands** – A jobs and skills fairs was held at the Sunspot in Jaywick Sands on 14 May 2024 and featured a variety of employers, training providers and organisations from across Tendring. The event was been organised by the Department for Work and Pensions (Jobcentre Plus) in partnership with Tendring District Council (TDC).

**Essex Sunshine Coast picks up three prestigious Blue Flag Awards** - Seven beaches in Tendring have been handed prestigious awards by Keep Britain Tidy – including three Blue Flags. Beaches along the Essex Sunshine Coast have today (Wednesday, 15 May) been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag for 2024, including Frinton, Brightlingsea and Dovercourt Bay. In addition, Harwich, Walton-on-the-Naze's Albion and Naze beaches, and Martello Bay in Clacton, have all been given Seaside Awards in recognition of their quality.

**Mental Health Hub in Clacton gets £28k boost** - A unique mental health hub in Clacton has been given a £28,000 boost thanks to Tendring District Council (TDC). The Mental Health Hub, run by Citizen's Advice Tendring, is a one-stop shop to provide assessment and intervention for vulnerable residents with poor mental health. The hub, in High Street, provides a broad range of support, including an opportunity for volunteering which may help to lead to employment. The hub, which was set up nine years ago, is funded by TDC, Essex County Council, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board. TDC's Cabinet on Friday, 24 May allocated £28,000 to the hub after hearing that without the funding provided by the council it may not be able to continue.

**Essex Textiles Service Rolled Out In Tendring** - Tendring District Council (TDC), in partnership with Essex Textiles, introduced a new service, which runs separately to the regular waste and recycling collection. It means households will be able to put out unwanted textiles, such as clothing and shoes. At no cost and self-funded, the Essex Textiles service also rolled out in other neighbouring areas such as Colchester.

**Princes Theatre Named Among Top Ten Percent Of Attractions Worldwide** - Clacton's historic Princes Theatre was handed a prestigious Travellers' Choice award by Tripadvisor for the ninth year running. It was the theatres ninth consecutive Travellers' Choice award.

**Four Parks And Garden In Tendring Recognised As Some Of The Best In The Country** - Clacton Seafront Gardens, Weeley Crematorium and Gardens, Cliff Park in Dovercourt and Crescent Gardens in Frinton were awarded the accolade - the international quality mark for parks and green spaces. Awarded by Keep Britain Tidy, the Green Flag scheme assessed the visual aspects of each site, such as its beauty, horticulture and cleanliness, and community involvement, access and management.

**Beachgoer And Beach Patrol Praised After Women Rescued From The Sea In Clacton** - A beachgoer and members of Beach Patrol were praised after a woman was rescued from the sea after getting into difficulty. The Beach Patrol Team was alerted to the incident



following a report to Dover Coastguard on Monday, 29 July, at about 2.05pm. The Beach Patrol team was quickly on the scene, close to St Paul's Road, alongside paramedics from the East of England Ambulance Service.

**Car parks across Tendring handed top safety awards** - A total of 15 Tendring District Council (TDC) facilities have been awarded The Safer Parking Award Scheme Park Mark from the British Parking Association this summer. Each car park has passed an assessment relating to the quality of lighting, cleanliness, security measures and quality management.

**Sea defence works begin at Walton's Naze** - Sea defence works have got underway at the Naze in Walton as part of a scheme to protect the natural environment from long-term damage. The Tamarisk clay sea wall – the result of previous sea defence works – is being extended to provide protection for Hamford Water, a Site of Special Scientific Interest. In addition a new access ramp will be installed – serving both these works, and any future sea defences or maintenance needed in the area. This scheme, drawn up in partnership with the Environment Agency and Natural England, aims to protect Cormorant Creek from being overwhelmed by the sea and wiping out significant natural habitat – which would also put homes and businesses around Hamford Water at risk.

**Leisure Centre Income** - The income from leisure centres continues to remain buoyant with increased demand / users. This is reflected in the financial update report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting of Cabinet. As that report sets out, the leisure centre income adjustment reflects the estimated annual position for 2024/25 which will be subject to review as part of developing the long- term forecast in terms of the on-going impact and investment opportunities such as those set out within the Sports and Activity Strategy.

**Treasury Income** - Although the base budget was increased by £975k in 2024/25, cash balances and interest rates remain more favourable than originally expected at the end of July 2024. This item is also reflected in the Savings Plan reported elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting of Cabinet.

**Council Tax** - the collection performance at the end of Q1 2024 is 29.37%, an increase compared with the 27.78% reported at the end of the same period last year.

**Increasing attendance at the Princes Theatre** – At the end of Q2 2024 the number of attendees at the theatre was 20,638, an increase of 760 compared to the figure of 19,878 at the end of the same period last year.

#### **PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS**

Cabinet of 12 March 2024 (Minute 101 refers).

Leader of the Council on 14 June 2024 (Highlight Priorities for 2024/25 Quarterly Milestones)

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None.

#### **APPENDICES**

**A – Q2 Position for Council's Highlight Priorities**

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