

CABINET

20 DECEMBER 2024

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS

A.10 COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update and seek Cabinet endorsement for an extensive range of community projects which support the Council's key priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A community projects update report was last provided to Cabinet in October 2022. This report, with a supporting e-brochure provides Cabinet with an update on the community project work that has been delivered by a number of teams over the past year, in many cases working with partner organisations. It also highlights projects that are currently being worked on, as well as setting out aspirations for the future.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028 places a strong emphasis on working positively with partners to improve quality of life, as well as raising aspirations and creating opportunities for adults, children and young people across the district.

To deliver this aspiration, a variety of community projects are currently, or have been undertaken under the following themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education
- Community Safety
- Economic Growth, Culture & Leisure

In many of these projects, Officers have been instrumental in sourcing external funding, and the delivery of projects, whilst others have collaborated with a range of partners.

This report provides an overview of the projects which have been identified in accordance with the role of the Council, as a Community Leader. The Council is not the statutory provider for Education, Health and Wellbeing. However, through influence, bringing stakeholders and partners together to share and improve practices, there are a number of areas where the Council can offer support to Education and Health providers, and ultimately children, learners, patients and residents across the District.

With reference to the above themes, notable highlights include:

- **Community Safety** team in partnership with Essex Police; Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents; between 1 July 2023 and 5 September 2023, there were 72 ASB incidents in the Clacton town centre area. Between 1 July 2024 and 5 September 2024 there have been 60 ASB incidents. This is a 20% reduction compared to last year.

- **Crime & Disorder Strategy** to comply with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is required to develop and deliver a Crime and Disorder Strategy. Work commenced in November 2024 with the Strategic assessment workshop to inform the development of the strategy. The associated report will be submitted to both Cabinet and Council by March 2025.
- **Health** – The 2021 Health Index Score for Tendring is 93, which shows a positive improvement when compared to the 2015 score of 88, and the figure is improving yearly, and this in a period when neighbouring areas are seeing declines. There have been notable increases in the three domain areas which the Health Index Score covers, healthy lives, healthy people and healthy places.
- **Education** – Tendring Future Skills Partnership (part of the Tendring Education Strategic Board):
Working in partnership with the University of Essex Outreach team/NEE Integrated Care Board (ICB) and ECC’s Tendring Future Skills programme, the delivery of the **My Future, My Tendring** programme in primary schools, reached 3,168 children in 20 schools, featuring 18 employees, across 6 industry sectors. This project continues into the 2024/25 academic year.
- Working in partnership with the ICB and ECC, held two “**Step into STEAM events**” at the Town Hall in January & October 2024. Sixteen primary schools attended across these events, with workshops and interactive stalls on offer. Activities were themed around science, technology, engineering, arts and maths and twenty local organisations supported the event. With the aim of raising aspirations of Year 6 children in respect of future job roles and opportunities locally.
- **Wellbeing Hubs in primary schools** – a recent survey of current Hub schools (32 across Tendring & Colchester) showed that the number of ‘onward’ referrals to health services has significantly reduced for children who have attended the Hubs: -
 - 76% reduction of referrals to mental health provision
 - 54% reduction to paediatric referrals
 - 82% reduction of onward therapy e.g. ‘art therapy,’ and
 - 69% of children have shown improved attendance
 - 72% shown improved learning behaviours

The projects below will continue to form the subject of regular updates to the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships as well as the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) notes and commends the ‘Community Projects e-brochure’ and the work within it, delivered by the Council or working in partnership, demonstrating community leadership across the District; and
- b) endorses the ‘further aspirations’ work within the ‘Community Projects e-

brochure’, noting that any financial commitment to progress these projects and programmes will be subject to future decisions.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

Within the Council’s Corporate Plan Community Leadership cuts across all the priorities. This report provides an overview of the range of projects being undertaken across the Council to support these in the period 2024/25.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As part of its community leadership role the Council has delivered a number of projects as detailed in this report and supporting e-brochure. An alternative option which would not have seen this work undertaken was not considered as this would not so effectively have delivered the community leadership role.

However, in terms of individual items of work different options have been considered for example some of the decision making around the work undertaken has included Member working groups, or Portfolio Holder approval or approval from partners such as the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Within the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities for 2024 – 2028, there is a strong focus on education, health, community safety, economic growth, culture and leisure: -

- Pride in our area and services to residents
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities
- Championing our local environment
- Working with partners to improve quality of life
- Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer
- Financial sustainability and openness

Projects undertaken are assessed to ensure they align with the Corporate Plan for example the Tendring Education Strategic Board has aims which include improving education and supporting children and families which will help raise aspiration, create opportunities and uses a partnership approach to improve quality of life. The Wellbeing Hubs project has similar outcomes as well.

Economic growth work seeks to deliver some of those opportunities which our young people and those looking for work can aspire to, helps develop our environment and attracts more people to our area.

Similarly funding received from the Alliance has been used to for example support family solutions work, a fuel poverty officer and a housing benefits and early intervention officer which is also effective in working with partners to improve the quality of life and also creating

opportunity and raising aspiration. Community safety work also meets these priorities, and also provides an opportunity to make a safer environment to deliver greater pride in our area where people feel more secure and therefore able to access their place.

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)

Each project requires different consultation and engagement depending on the stakeholders.

For example, health inequalities funding is approved at an Alliance Board level which has a wide variety of local partners and stakeholders involved to ensure effective use of resources to meet Council and wider partner objectives.

Tending Community Fund investments were also approved by a member group overseen by the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships so a wider view could be obtained to support the needs of the community.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	No	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <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)	

Much of the project work undertaken involves the allocation or receipt of funding. It is important therefore that good governance procedures and formal decision-making requirements are followed to ensure effective use of public money and that external funding meets grant requirements.

In addition, the Council, in giving financial assistance, directly or indirectly, from public resources, which includes funds, must satisfy itself whether the support they are proposing to provide amounts to a subsidy under the UK subsidy control rules established under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (“the Act”). A ‘subsidy’ is where a public authority provides support to an enterprise that gives them an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms. This could include, for example, a cash payment, a grant, a loan with interest below the market rate or the free use of equipment or office space.

To enable the Council to assess whether the support they are proposing is a ‘subsidy’, as defined in the Act, it must apply a four limbed test. Financial assistance will be considered a subsidy where it satisfies all four of the ‘limbs’ of the test. Limb A is satisfied because the Council is a public authority providing financial assistance to external bodies.

The remaining limbs are as follows:-

- Does the financial assistance confer an economic advantage on one or more enterprises.
- Is the financial assistance specific, so provided to one or more, but not others.
- Whether the financial assistance is capable of having an effect on competition or investment.

The Council must have regard to the Statutory Guidance issued in November 2022, and updated in June 2023, by the former Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy under section 79 of the Act. Recent case law has also confirmed that care should be given to the receipt of external funding into an organisation and how it wishes to use those funds, so as not to subsidise itself, to confer an economic advantage if delivering an enterprise (as defined in the Act).

All allocations of funding are therefore considered in relation to whether the Act applies. If funding does constitute a subsidy, then a subsidy scheme will usually be required to allow any payment unless exemptions apply.

How funding is allocated must be assessed against the requirements of the Act and whether it is subject to its provisions. For example, if a procurement exercise is undertaken through the market, because the Council is requiring the provision of services to be delivered, or there is an open call for bids to a fund, there is no distortive effect on competition as it is free for a wide range of organisations to apply. This will be the default position for the allocation of all external funding, this enables openness and fair opportunities, if a direct award is necessary an exemption with justification must be sought and documented.

External funding received will have overarching or detailed provisions for how the money is spent, either as detailed grant conditions in a funding agreement or, for example, via a Memorandum of Understanding and all spending must be in accordance with these provisions. Any external funding arrangements must be undertaken with proper record keeping as determined by the relevant scheme.

The Council's Constitution contains several rules and requirements to be complied with in respect of External Funding and associated decision making. For example, if the Council receives external funding, formal recorded decisions are required to formally accept the same, highlight the relevant Corporate Plan priorities, the conditions of doing so, and the implications on the Council with regards to governance and delivery.

Appropriate approval routes for spending must be obtained, if necessary, at an executive level, for example, via a Portfolio Holder decision, or consultation, and spending must also be supported by the relevant Officer decision(s).

The External Funding Review approved by Cabinet in September 2024 ([Public Pack](#)) [Agenda Document for Cabinet, 20/09/2024 10:30](#) approved a high level approach and checklists for allocation of all external funding in future.

In terms of legal powers to receive and provide external funding this will depend on the service, scheme or grant being considered. In each instance, different legislation, guidance and requirements may apply and decisions associated with this must record these.

The overarching power to do some of this work where there is no other specific power is provided under the general power of competence within the Localism Act 2011 which give local authorities powers to do anything that individuals can generally do.

Reference must also be made to the most recent Best Value Guidance issued by the former Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in May 2024 which refers to 2015 guidance which sets out clear expectations for Councils considering changing funding to local voluntary and community groups and small businesses.

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

Partnership and Community Engagement is one of the seven Best Value themes, as referenced in the Best Value standards and intervention: a statutory guide for best value authorities issued in May 2024, and described as follows:

“Driving local economic growth, promoting social cohesion and pride in place is increasingly dependent on the effectiveness of partnerships and collaborative working arrangements with a range of local stakeholders and service users.

Authorities should have a clear understanding of and focus on the benefits that can be gained by effective collaborative working with local partners and community engagement. Partnerships can maximise opportunities for sharing resources, achieving outcomes and creating a more joined-up offer that meets the needs of residents and local service users. Stronger and more effective partnerships can also lead to better community engagement, for example working through partners to engage more effectively.

Appropriate governance structures should be in place to oversee these arrangements, and the process of consultation and engagement should be inclusive, open and fair. There are statutory requirements on local authorities to engage with Integrated Care Partnerships, Integrated Care Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, safeguarding adults and children’s boards, Youth Offending Management Boards and many others. There are also statutory best value requirements around consultation and on considering the social value of services when reviewing service provision. An inclusive approach that accepts challenge is an indicator of a confident organisation.”

The statutory guidance, under each theme, refers to characteristics of a well-function authority and indicators of potential failure and as described above, ensuring the appropriate governance in partnership arrangements exists is key to successes. These governance considerations must also take into account those within the Council and its statutory duties with regards to decision making.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Other Resources

The Council’s role in Partnerships is to influence, facilitate and in some cases deliver through partners. Each project is assessed on an individual basis to determine the role of the Council and what will have the most beneficial impact for residents. In some cases, funding opportunities are turned down because they are beyond the capacity within the Council, are not aligned to the Council priorities, or it is decided there are other partners that could deliver a more impactful delivery for residents.

The majority of the projects identified require partnership working (including officer time) to deliver. As well as lead officers, support will also be provided by key support teams within the Council including HR, Finance and Legal where required. Some projects are subject to external funding or partners' financial support. It is important therefore to ensure the Council is managing the financial risks, procurement processes, compliance as well as meeting any funding conditions for each project.

The Council has a statutory requirement to deliver against agreed priorities for its Community Safety work programme. (The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on a number of responsible authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder).

It is recognised that the Council does not have a specific statutory obligation in relation to Education, Health and Wellbeing. However, through its Community Leadership role, it does engage with partners in supporting and influencing improvements in these areas, as these are shared priorities between the Council as made explicit in its Corporate Plan and wider partners such as the Alliance which can only be effectively influenced by a wider partnership approach.

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

There are no further comments over and above those set out elsewhere within this report.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

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

<p>A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;</p>	<p>Appropriate approval is obtained before undertaking projects including the available resources to undertake the work and any wider resource implications on the Council. This includes individual costed projects plans with key milestones and outcomes are agreed, reviewed, monitored, and reported on as required.</p>
<p>B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and</p>	<p>Executive Decisions and Officer Decisions enable the service to ensure that the correct governance is in place. Allocation of funding will also be in accordance with the high-level framework and checklists within the External Funding Review approved by Cabinet in September 2024.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>This report is far reaching and identifies the linkages between a number of projects that support residents in Tendring and meets the requirements of the Corporate Plan. Feedback is provided on projects and evaluation undertaken where necessary.</p>

MILESTONES AND DELIVERY

Each project will work to specific delivery plan/milestones which may be set out as part of the approval process or allocation of funding.

Allocation of funding will be within a specific time period and therefore generates its own milestones for effective allocation. Delivery of all funding should also include a review to ensure the resources have achieved the aim of the funding or to understand what improvements could be made.

ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

There is a risk if funding is allocated without reference to the Council's objectives in the Corporate Plan, it may not meet the Council's aims, and similarly, funding needs to be allocated in a coordinated way to ensure it is consistent across the Council.

Other potential risks/key considerations are the Council's capacity to be able to deliver the project, as well as the sustainability of projects once funding ends.

Robust project management and effective partnership working to meet shared objectives will mitigate the risk of failure in terms of achieving a shared agenda and delivering against key milestones.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies such as the Council must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

An equality impact assessment may be considered for funding allocations to ensure that the proposals do not have a negative impact on the protected characteristics.

SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

The community projects undertaken provide an opportunity to address wider social value considerations and when assessing what work or projects are to be undertaken reference is made to those items which will deliver on broader social value. Although projects already deliver on some social value matters such as local employment for some of the posts such as family solutions officers or through the Essex Pedal Power scheme it is also important to consider what wider social value can be delivered beyond the core attributes of the project.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO

Not all community project work will have an impact on the net zero goal however many of the projects are delivered at a very local level which can help address local concerns around a net zero approach for example, in providing support locally for people such as family solutions or around fuel poverty so people do not need to travel to obtain support, which may also be unaffordable.

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

Depending on the type of project delivered this may have an impact on crime and disorder so for example community safety initiatives seek to deliver improvements around crime and disorder in line with the priorities developed by the Tendring Community Safety Partnership.

Health Inequalities

Some of the work delivered is specifically addressed at responding to health inequality for example under Alliance funding which has a

	Memorandum of Understanding requiring that projects deliver around this. Wider projects which support the community and especially in deprived areas for example under community safety or economic development will also therefore address health inequality.
Subsidy Control (the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the related Statutory Guidance)	All allocations of funding must comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, either by being outside the Act, for example, via an open call process to allocate funding or if it constitutes a subsidy, it must be in accordance with a subsidy control regime.
Area or Ward affected	This will vary for each project and subject to agreed project outcomes.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Education

The ongoing work to support the Education agenda aligns and supports both the Essex and the Tendring Children & Young People's Strategies. Tendring's priorities include ensuring children are safe, emotionally healthy, have positive futures and have access to good quality education, training and work opportunities.

Tendring's Children & Young People Strategy 2021 – 2024 identifies priorities for the children and young people of Tendring as follows: -

- **Feeling safe & connected to place**
supporting young people to make the right choices and minimise risk taking behaviours
- **Improving attainment levels, enhancing skills, learning and career opportunities**
creating opportunities for C&YP to learn and develop new skills and, improved educational outcomes
- **Enjoying active healthy lifestyles and good mental health**
- **Working to encourage active young citizens who have a voice**

A key priority has been to ensure effective partnership working, and that the Council continues to provide support, encouragement and commitment to working collaboratively with schools to improve school attainment levels, raise aspirations and opportunities for children and young people across the District.

Health

The Council has operated a Health and Wellbeing Board since 2013 to bring key partners together to work more effectively as a system to deal with the wider determinants of health that impact on residents.

In 2020, the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board merged due to

the joint agenda they both were seeking to address, such as mental health, anti-social behaviour and violence. This was also in recognition of how the wider determinants of health impact on our population in a broad way encompassing community safety issues as well as health. Merging the Boards has further developed partnership working by expanding the breadth of partners working for a common goal.

The collaborative approach has seen partners providing funding to help address some of these wider determinants for example from the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance (the Alliance) and also from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. This has allowed investment in projects around housing, physical activity, mental health and safety in our communities.

The Alliance is developing a place based agenda which will focus on the wider determinants as a key area to support residents which will deliver outcomes and improvements for our communities and support the work of partners.

The Council has a key role to play in respect of the wider determinants of health and the developing place based approach. This recognises the importance of housing, physical activity, skills and employment and social isolation/loneliness as drivers of some of the poor health in our area, such as childhood asthma, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), frailty and suicide and the importance of the system working together in a co-ordinated way to address these.

The ongoing success of work with Family Solutions, addressing housing issues in Jaywick and improvements in physical activity for example, Essex Pedal Power and Beat the Street demonstrates the value of joint working with partners to deliver effective outcomes.

In particular this has led to an improvement in the Health Index score for Tendring. The Health Index provides a single value for health that can show how health changes over time. A score of over 100 indicates better performance when compared to the England 2015 position. A score below 100 indicates a worse performance.

The 2021 Health Index Score for Tendring is 93, this shows a good improvement when compared to the 2015 score of 88, and the figure is improving yearly and this in a period when neighbouring areas are seeing declines. There have been notable increases in the three domain areas which the Health Index Score covers, healthy lives, healthy people and healthy places.

Community Safety

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour prevention is not the sole responsibility of any one public service but of all agencies and communities. The success of dealing with the complex challenges faced in Tendring needed innovative solutions. Essex Police and Tendring District Council worked together to develop a Hub approach where partners could be co-located to share formal and informal information, this Hub is now located within Tendring District Council Offices. An analysis review of overall recorded crime, together with an evaluation of responses from public engagement, identifies the key priorities for the Tendring Community Safety Partnership 2024/25. Key priorities were identified as follows: -

Tackling ASB and The Root Causes including Hate Crime:

Identifying and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims. Identify hotspot locations and / or increases in ASB trends. Anti-Social Behaviour affects families and communities and by

addressing these activities we can help improve the quality of life in the community. Improve perceptions and facilitate local problem solving to address issues.

High Harm Violence:

Domestic Abuse, Sexual Offences including Rape, CSE, Gang related violence, Hate Crime, Cyber bullying / grooming, Serious Organised Crime to include Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking and Violent Extremism, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Drug Driving Violence.

Emerging Threats and Trends:

Identifying hotspot locations, and / or increases in crime trends. Work with partner agencies to raise awareness of Knife Crime, Speeding, Possession and Trafficking of Drugs across the district. The fear of crime, whether real or perceived, can also have a very serious impact upon people and communities.

Reduce youth offending and re-offending of adults and young people

Reduce youth offending and reoffending of adults and young people, thereby reducing instances of residential (dwelling) burglary, most serious violence, personal robbery and drug offences.

Reoffending affects families and communities and by reducing it we can help increase community cohesion and improve their quality of life. The fear of crime, whether real or perceived, can also have a very serious impact upon people and communities. Reducing reoffending can help build safer communities and increase public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Underpinning the above strategic priorities will be effective partnership working, the partnership will also work together to meet emerging local threats and trends.

This will be achieved by sharing information and data to identify emerging issues, working together to devise and deliver local solutions and targeting resources accordingly.

Crime & Disorder Strategy

In order to comply with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, (section 5 & 6), the Council is required to formulate and implement a Crime and Disorder Strategy. Work commenced in November 2024, with the Strategic assessment workshop, which informs the development of the strategy. The associated report will be submitted to both Cabinet and Council by April 2025.

Economic Growth & Leisure

Community projects undertaken by the team tend to have an economic focus, for example the emerging Creative & Cultural Strategy, which highlights the opportunities for job creation and business growth in this sector across the district.

The Tendring Cultural Education Partnership (TendringCEP) is an exciting partnership that supports children and young people to fulfil their creative potential and access high-quality cultural experiences where they live, where they go to school, and where they spend their free time.

Working in partnership with Tendring District Council, Royal Opera House Bridge and Arts Council, TendringCEP is a growing group of organisations that work together in partnership to nurture creative and cultural education for all communities in Tendring.

PROJECTS

The Community Projects e-brochure (attached) provides details of specific projects which have/are currently being undertaken across the Health & Community, Economic Growth, Culture and Leisure and Community Safety teams. All projects support the corporate priorities, and a commitment to working together to ensure the best possible sustainable outcomes for our residents.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

[Issue details - Cabinet Members' Items - Report of the Partnerships Portfolio Holder - A.2 - Update on Community Projects](#)

The External Funding Review approved by Cabinet in September 2024 ([Public Pack](#)) [Agenda Document for Cabinet, 20/09/2024 10:30](#) approved a high level approach and checklists for allocation of all external funding in future.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Community Projects E-brochure – Dec 2024

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