TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2024/25

(Please refer to the Highlight Priority Actions Report for Full Details of the actions, budget and intended outcomes)

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024 (Q3)

OVERALL HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTION RAG STATUS	The Quarterly Milestones RAG Status uses the following:
Green – There is a LOW risk the Highlight Priority Action will not be delivered	Green – 66% or higher
Amber – There is a MEDIUM risk the Highlight Priority Action will not be delivered	Amber – 33% - 65%
Red - There is a HIGH risk the Highlight Priority Action will not be delivered	Red – 32% or less

Note: Where Milestone dates preceded the start of the financial year they have been included in Q1 for reporting purposes.

Likewise, milestones after the end of the financial year have been added into Q4.

Where circumstances now require realignment of milestones these are shown highlighted yellow in both the Milestones and the Commentary columns. Where the original milestone is to be deleted it is shown as 'struck through' and where it is inserted in its new realigned position it includes the word REALIGNED.

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority Theme - Pride in our area and services to residents (Theme A)

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority	Portfolio Holder	Highlight Actions to support the Corporate Plan Priority in 2024/25	Overall key Actions RAG Status	Quarter	Milestones	Quarterly Milestones RAG Status	Commentary
Getting the basics right.	CIIr Mark Stephenson	Extend a 'You said, we did' approach to all major services to the public across the Council	Green	Q1	 Identify ten Council services to implement "You Said, we did". Then approve and implement this approach in those service areas. The mechanism for "You Said, we did" to be determined by the relevant Portfolio Holder subject to approval by the Leader (including mechanisms for customer feedback, timetable for consideration and communication of response). (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) 	Amber	There is a need to realign the two A1 milestones to Q2 due to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Election that took place in May and the UK Parliamentary General Election that took place in July. However, the following actions have been taken in support of a "You Said, we did" approach. The areas we have implemented "You Said, we Did": You said, what has happened to the Tour de Tendring cycle race after the pandemic? We worked with the event organisers to bring the Tour de Tendring back in May 2024 You said, derelict sites in Dovercourt need to be cleared up and regenerated We bought the sites and changed the capital regeneration programme to put new homes on them You said that Dovercourt Town Centre was looking tired We have cleaned the shop fronts and made visual improvements to the empty shop windows and added hanging baskets in the town through the High Streets Accelerator programme. You said, the flume unavailable for duration of swim session at Waltonon-the-Naze Lifestyles. Now have a clearly defined opening timetable for the flume during Fun Float Splash & Swim for All sessions.

Q1	PEALIGNED - Identify ton Council		 You have said that the classes are oversubscribed, and people are joining that have not booked. We have introduced class registers to stop people joining the class who either haven't booked or people just walking in and being over attended. You have said that there was not enough changing room space at Clacton Leisure Centre since the closure of the gym changing rooms. We took the step of reopening the upstairs changing rooms for changing only. You said that the wet side changing room floor condition is poor at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles and in Jun 2023. We replaced the flooring along with new panelling in shower area and accessible change. You said that the waiting time in Essex Hall was too long during Theatre performance intervals. A kiosk was opened in the main foyer selling soft drinks, ice creams and snacks, which reduced the number of people in the bar area.
	- REALIGNED - Identify ten Council services to implement "You Said, we did". Then approve and implement this approach in those service areas. - REALIGNED - The mechanism for "You Said, we did" to be determined by the relevant Portfolio Holder subject to approval by the Leader (including mechanisms for customer feedback, timetable for consideration and communication of response). - NEW - Identify the opportunities for 'You said, we did' across the Council, review and support existing schemes for feedback (and extend those schemes) and pilot further areas for 'You said we did'. Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 1024 – Minute 63 refers)	Amber	As set out in Q1 and later in this Q2 commentary, the Council continues to listen to its customers and the wider public and respond positively to suggestions it receives. The need for the current milestones in the form in which they are written does not reflect that existing good work. As such, it is proposed that the milestones going forward seek to identify the opportunities for 'You said, we did' across the Council, review and support existing schemes for feedback (and extend those schemes) and pilot further areas for 'You said we did'. Examples from Q2 of You said, we did: We received requests around specifically consulting with older residents about the Dovercourt town centre regeneration schemes. In response to this, we are going to connect with U3A about proposals for developing Milton Road Car Park. Requests were made for us to provide grant application advice to business and community groups.' In response, a workshop under the Tendring 4 Growth banner was held which supported local businesses and organisations to complete grant funding applications. Improvements to disabled access to the swimming pool at Walton on the Naze Lifestyles were requested. In response, we have purchased a new pool hoist to further improve access to customers with disabilities' The Planning Agents Forum provided an opportunity for feedback on service delivery and capture experiences from agents. The Pre Application Service in Planning continues to evolve to assist those investigating development opportunities. In relation the Tendring-Colchester Borders Garden Community there is a Community Liaison Group (which has been utilised as a sounding board as the proposals and planning policies have been developed. The Council, as landlord, has been gathering a range of data around Tenant Satisfaction and this is informing delivery of services to tenants. Residents have told us they sometimes struggle to organise their

Q2	— Review implementation of "You		finances to keep up with rental payments. Our tenancy management team have introduced a new role dedicated to providing advice and support to our tenants. • The development and implementation of the Dog Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - residents have said they want more enforcement in respect of dog fouling. The PSPO has been implemented to address this request. Reviews are to be programmed to pilot feedback mechanisms for IT's internal customers and for Revenues and Benefits public customers. Likewise, Licensing will be looking to implement feedback arrangements for licensees/applicants. In this quarter, the 'You said, we did' approach was extended to all those where a licensing application was determined by the Governance
Q3	said, we did" schemes and refine as necessary. NEW - Identify the opportunities for 'You said, we did' across the Council, review and support existing schemes for feedback (and extend those schemes) and pilot further areas for 'You said we did'.	Green	Directorate's Licensing Team. The introduction of this survey approach of licensees etc as their applications are determined was reported to the Licensing and Registration Committee in Q4. Reporting on the findings of the ongoing survey will likewise be reported as statistically significant response levels occur. The basis of the survey questions was drawn from the previous Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys. Q3 also saw development of proposals to survey Councillors on their experience of using the Members Enquiry Service. This ongoing survey approach was launched in Q4 with an intention of reporting on findings and learning from views expressed by Councillors through the survey. This approach builds on the existing arrangements for seeking views of Councillors attending training sessions delivered by the Council for its Councillors. Cabinet approved its initial proposals for the 2025/26 Highlight Priorities at its meeting on 20 December 2024 and authorised consultation on the initial proposals. There is a commitment to consider views expressed in the consultation. The full list of highlight priorities was also submitted to the Resources & Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration at its meeting in Q4 (13 January 2025). A review of the Council's Complaints Policy commenced in Q3 and consultation with service departments and the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman was undertaken. This reflects the adoption of parallel codes for complaints handling by the LGSCO and the Housing Ombudsman. Consultation with the Housing Ombudsman on the draft new Complaints Policy is scheduled for Q4. The draft revised policy picks up learning from complaints handling at the Council and looks to deliver consistently high standards of complaints handling throughout the Council. In addition, in Q3:

Q3			 We started work on a questionnaire in relation to the Essex Procurement Partnership. We also worked on training for the Procurement Act 2023 before its implementation in Q4. Council adopted the new Social Value policy in November 2024. The Council undertook a consultation in relation to the Victoria Street and Milton Road, Dovercourt enhancement proposals under the Capital Regeneration Project for the Town. Based on feedback received during the consultation the proposals for the Victoria Street and Milton Road enhancements were amended prior to the submission of the Planning Applications. In Q3 it was confirmed that CVST would undertake the necessary consultation to inform the Clacton Town Board's Investment Plan as part of the Long Term Plan for Towns Scheme.
Q4	 Consideration of the schemes in the 10 Council services and proposal to extend the approach across the Council 2025/26. NEW – review the experience across 2024/25 and determine the approach to 'You said, we did' for 2025/26 (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) 		
	Theme A Priorities continue	d	

A2, A3(a) and A3(b) Supporting decent housing for residents	<u> </u>	Q1	A2: - Receive the stock condition survey of the first 300 Council properties and evaluate the necessary implications on the Housing Investment Programme (HIP).	Green	A2: Initial sample of surveys was received (representing 290 properties). The surveys highlighted a small number of urgent repairs which were ordered promptly. The survey results informed a minor refocussing of the HIP programme towards energy efficiency and anti-condensation measures which were adopted by the Portfolio Holder in setting the programme allocations.
	A3(b) Progress the review of the Local Plan to support sustainable development of quality housing for a range of tenures.	G1	A3(b): Issues and Options consultation for 'Local Plan' – Spring 2024 (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) A2: - Deploy four tenant engagement officers, following recruitment and training.	Green Amber	 A3(b): Due to the General election and the consequential implications on the Council during the pre-election period, there is now a need to realign all the A3(b) milestones: Q1: Issues and Options consultation for 'Local Plan' – Spring 2024 to be realigned to Q4. Q3: Preferred Options Consultation for 'Local Plan' – Autumn 2024 to be realigned to Q4. Q4: Submit Draft Consultation for Local Plan' – Spring 2025 to be realigned to Q1 2025/26 Q4: Seek Full Council approval of Local Plan to be realigned to Q3 2025/26 There is a need to amend the wording for the milestone A3(b) to reference the Local Plan as opposed to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) this is due to the LDS being a document that includes the timetable and programme for producing the Local Plan and other planning documents and this milestone is specifically for the Local Plan. A2: The recruitment of four tenant engagement officers has been completed with the most recent appointed in July 2024. One of the appointed tenant engagement officers has been supporting tenants with financial debt, providing them with advice and support and helping them to maximise their benefit income thereby reducing their chances of falling into rent

A2: No specific milestone for Q3.	A2: The Spendells House refurbishment has been completed and occupancy of the building commenced late November 2024.
A3(b) – No specific milestone for Q2.	A3(b): The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to Leaders and Chief Executives on 30 July 2024 in respect of Government intentions for building homes, housing targets and the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A briefing on the implications and options for this Council and the District was provided at the All Member Briefing on 4 September 2024.
	complete it will be completed in good time to meet the other targets throughout the year. The Housing Strategy will reflect the known direction of the new Government and also set out the Council's approach to housing need in the District, ongoing homelessness and temporary accommodation pressures, Council housing stock management and maintenance
Q2 A3(a): Housing Strategy review complete.	A3(a): Work has commenced on the writing of a new housing strategy that has four core areas. This process will include a review of the current strategy with that review built into the report accompanying the new strategy. Some strands from the current strategy will be carried across into the new one. Substantial progress has been taken on this milestone and whilst it is not
- Completion of Spendells refurbishment for temporary accommodation.	engagement with a rolling programme aiming to visit, in person, all of the Council's tenants over a rolling 3 – 4 year period. In relation to the Spendells House refurbishment, the current position is to achieve hand over on 1 November although this is dependent upon the building contractor completing in time. Some rooms / wings are likely to become available for final set up with furniture sooner than that. All of the furniture for Spendells House is on order for delivery. Commencing use is dependent on the establishment of key IT related connections, installation of furniture and a short period of staff familiarisation; all of which is being undertaken in overlap with the building contractor where safe and feasible.

A3(a): Draft Housing Strategy to Cabinet. A3(b): Preferred Options Consultation for 'Local Plan' Spring 2024 (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)	Red	A3(a) An outline housing strategy has been developed that is ready for input from the portfolio holder before a more detailed consultation draft is prepared in advance of approval by Cabinet in Q1 2025/26. This work has been delayed slightly by additional work taken on by the service in relation to the increased regulation of social housing providers by the Regulator for Social Housing. The service has also been cognizant of the fact that new government policies have been on the horizon, for example, in relation to Right to Buy and the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), all of which have a bearing on the Council's housing strategy. The service has also been awaiting the finalised Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the district that is due to be completed imminently and will provide up to date statistics and housing need data for inclusion in the Housing Strategy. As a result of this, the milestone to submit the draft Housing Strategy to Cabinet has been REALIGNED from Q3 to Q4 (while recognising that the intention is to submit the draft in Q1 of 2025/26). The NPPF and housing targets have been confirmed. The number has been confirmed as 1,034 homes per year – this will affect the District from 2026 when the current Local Plan reaches its fifth year. The review of the Local Plan will need to identify land to meet the new housing requirement for the period up to 2041 and possibly beyond. The aim is for the updated Local Plan to be ready for submission to the Secretary of State in early 2026. The Q3 milestone - Preferred options – will need to be REALIGNED to Q4 while recognising that it is likely to be submitted in Q2 of 2025/26 (removing the reference to spring 2024). The issues consultation milestone had already been REALIGNED from Q1 to Q4.
 A2: Completion of replacement kitchens as identified in Q1. A3(a): Public consultation on draft Housing Strategy. [Note: The intention is for the Housing Strategy to be submitted to Cabinet for approval in 2025/26] REALIGNED- Draft Housing Strategy to Cabinet. 		

Г	1						
					A3(b):		
					- Submit Draft Consultation for Local		
					Plan' Spring 2025		
					Tian Opining 2020		
					- Seek Full Council approval of Local		
					Plan		
					- REALIGNED - Issues and Options		
					consultation for 'Local Plan'		
					- REALIGNED - Preferred Options		
					Consultation for 'Local Plan'		
					(Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)		
					Theme A Priorities continue	ed	
A4	Cllr Adrian	Options appraisal			- Completion of soft market		In relation to the waste/street cleansing arrangements from 2027, the soft
	Smith	for waste & street			engagement and evaluation of		market engagement took place and was concluded, including an evaluation of
Promoting		cleaning strategy.			responses.		the responses, in May 2024.
clean and		Community					
tidy		leadership			- Cabinet decision to agree to	<u></u>	A report was considered by Cabinet on 26 th July when approval was given to
communities		promoting pride		Q1	undertaking tender exercise as	Amber	go out to tender. External consultants have been appointed to write the
		of place.			preferred option for delivery of	A	specification and a firm of lawyers engaged to write the contract. A draft
encouraging					service from 2026.		specification has been prepared and high-level requirements approved by the Waste Contract Board.
everyone to					- Preparation of waste contract		Waste Contract Board.
take					specification for consideration by		
responsibility					the Waste Contract Board.		
for keeping					- Subject to the necessary approval,		Cabinet gave approval for the commencement of the Tender exercise subject
their area a					commence tender exercise for		to a number of delegated decisions. It is anticipated that these decisions, to
pleasant					waste contract.		agree the service specification and aspects associated with it, will be taken
place.			_				early in October with a view to the tender process being launched during the
			99				week commencing 7th October. Substantial work has already been
			ອັ	Q2		<u></u>	undertaken, including by external consultants engaged to advise on and
				QZ		pe	prepare certain aspects of the tender documentation.
						Amber	
				Q2			
					review tender submissions		_
				03		þe	
				હ્યું	/	Ž.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	1	1			Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October		1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
					2024 – Minute 63 refers)		
				Q2 Q3	— Subject to the necessary approval, review tender submissions (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October	Red	Looking forward, the timetable for this project now envisages tender returns as being 8 January 2025 (Q4 rather than Q3 as originally envisaged). Dialogue with tenderers will then proceed in the remainder of the financial year. This will require realignment of the current Q3 target to Q4. Although recorded in Q4, the awarding of the contract is actually timed for July 2025 (as such the Q4 milestone is to be amended to indicate this timeframe. During Q3 bidders were taken through a prior qualifying stage before being invited to submit detailed solutions with the revised date for submission of those being 17 January 2025. As agreed by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 (Minute 63 refers) this milestone was REALIGNED from Q3 to Q4.

- REALIGNED - Subject to the necessary approval, review tender submissions (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)
- Subject to the timetable referred to, Cabinet & Full Council decisions to award contracts

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority Theme - Raising Aspirations and Creating Opportunities (Theme B) Quarterly Relevant Portfolio **Highlight Actions** Overall key Milestones Commentary Milestones Corporate Holder to support the **Actions RAG** Quarter **RAG Plan Priority Corporate Plan Status Status Priority in** 2024/25 B1 Develop a **B1**, **B2** and Cllr Ivan B1: Town Board established for Clacton-on-Sea. Meetings in February, March, Henderson long term plan for **Establish a Chair and Town Board** April, and July 2024. **B3** for Clacton-on-Sea. Clacton-on-Sea Review of previous consultations on Clacton-on-Sea completed and reported working with We will to the Town Board. Community Voluntary Services Tendring recruited to Consult on the Clacton-on-Sea longpartners in a celebrate completed further consultation. Direct consultation delayed by pre- General term plan for high level strategic **Town Board business** Election period. plan. success. encourage **B2** Implement B2: B2: Design team recruited for Levelling Up Fund Carnaryon Terrace scheme in cultural, Levelling Up Clacton-on-Sea and Capital Regeneration Project scheme in Harwich. Appoint full design team for tourism, Fund, Capital the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Project and Regeneration in Clacton-on-Sea and Capital Projects delivered for Dovercourt High Street as part of Accelerator, including Q1 economic **Partnership** Regeneration Projects (CRP) in hanging baskets, events, shop wrapping. growth. **Projects and High** Harwich. Vision for Dovercourt High Street and Funding Plan submitted to MHCLG (as Street **Deliver first projects for High** the new iteration of DLUHC). Milestone to be adjusted to reference MHCLG. Accelerator Street Accelerator fund for Schemes, taking **Dovercourt with funding allocated** Announcement of Government support for Levelling Up Partnership on 24 May these through 2024, subject to business cases. Partnership progress awaits announcement for year 1. design and by new Government. The milestone may need adjusting following the planning. announcement by Government if its intentions (once that announcement is Agree High Street Vision and **Funding Plan for Dovercourt with** received). **DLUHC/MHCLG for High Street B3** Manage the Accelerator project. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund Government completes** projects that **Levelling Up Partnership Business** Case for Clacton-on-Sea submitted. build pride in place, support B3: Open call for UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity training, **Open calls for UK Shared Prosperity Fund** Fund launched 15 April. economic and Rural England Prosperity Fund open growth, and for applications. improve life B1: Following the general election in July 2024, the Council is waiting for chances. B1: confirmation of the future direction of the Long Term Plan for Towns project. Submit the long terms plan for As such, the plan was not able to be submitted as originally planned, as the Clacton-on-Sea to DLUHC. process is currently on hold subject to direction by MHCLG. Q2 Review the consultation for the high Regardless of this, the Town Board is continuing to meet and is currently level strategic plan and agree focussed prioritising the capacity funding available and acting as a sounding project shortlist. board for Clacton issues. Capacity funded projects will include issues which

	Planning Permission lodged for LUF and CRP schemes in Clacton-on-Sea and Dovercourt respectively. (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)	Amber	have been raised through consultation processes such as deep cleaning and shop wrapping A Clacton Coastal Partnership has also been formed, which is chaired by a member of the Town Board. This will ensure the local tourism sector will have a direct link to the Clacton Town Board, for ideas and projects which will support the local visitor economy. B2: Planning Permission has not been lodged for the LUF and CRP projects for a number of reasons. This includes the procurement process taking longer than originally envisaged. Furthermore, there has also been the challenge around processing the number of contracts required to engage contractors and limitations to capacity within the corporate services. As such, the Project Delivery Unit agreed by Cabinet in July 2024, will respond to this, and increase capacity. As well as additional legal and finance support, the unit will also include bolstering the available procurement resources available through the agreement with ECC. The cross party Working Group set up for the Levelling Up Fund and Capital Regeneration Scheme projects have been consulted on the draft designs and their input has been considered in preparation for Planning Applications. In addition, a public consultation process was carried out in July and a subsequent engagement process was rolled out following updated designs in September 2024. The Council are awaiting any relevant updates from MHCLG on LUF/CRP following the election. There is a need to realign the B2 milestone from Q2 to Q3. Likewise the current Q3 milestone will need realignment to Q4.
	Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund sent to Government.	Green	B3: In September, decisions were published to allocate the following funding under the UKSPF and Rural England Prosperity Fund projects. The schemes were over subscribed and a detailed evaluation was undertaken to award the funding available. Following requests by local organisations, a launch event was held in Harwich to discuss the funds and how businesses and community organisation could apply for the funding available. Details of the number of businesses and community organisation who were awarded funding are set out below: Rural England Prosperity Fund Due to the criteria set by government, this funding was not available in Clacton on Sea and Holland on Sea Businesses granted funded: 20 Funding Awarded: £271,211.98 Community Organisations granted funded: 14 Funding Awarded: £185,046.50

	Q2		UK Shared Prosperity Fund This funding was available district wide Creative and Cultural Funding Organisations Funded: 2 Funding Awarded: £7,740.00 Town Centres Organisations Funded: 3 Funding Awarded: £18,095.00 Visitor Economy Organisations Funded: 3 Funding Awarded: £11,000 People and Skills Organisations Funded: 6 Funding Awarded: £65,335.00 Barriers to Education and Training Organisations Funded: 1 Funding Awarded: £16,402.40 Measures to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency & combat fuel poverty Organisations Funded: 1 Funding Awarded: £500
			Following a bid to MHCLG for £500k of Green Space Funding under the Dovercourt High Street Accelerator scheme, Government have confirmed the Council has been successful and this has been ratified following the election. The projects are now being drawn up with a view to commencing a procurement process in quarter 3.
	Planning determination for TDC LUF (in Clacton-on-Sea) and CRP (in Harwich) projects. (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) B2: REALIGNED - Planning Permission lodged for LUF and CRP schemes in Clacton-on- Sea and Dovercourt respectively.	Green	B2: Planning applications were submitted for Milton Road Car Park and, Victoria Street, Dovercourt and Carnarvon Terrace, Clacton-on-Sea within Q3. The application for Milton Road Car Park was approved by the Council's Planning Committee early in Q4 and prior to production of this report.

(Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)		
B3 – No specific milestones in Q3	Green	 B3: The Council worked with grant recipients to ensure allocated funding under the UKSPF 2024/25 is spent by the 31 March 2025 deadline. From the UKSPF 2024/25: the Council launched the revenue shop front grants; provided money to the Princes Theatre for its Access Fund to provide free places to schools for the Festive Season Pantomime; heating for the events space at the Sunspot to support future community events; provided funding to Volunteer It Yourself for 2 projects which support young people to gain qualifications in various aspects of retrofit; and continued to provide money for existing grants and projects. Central Government also confirmed allocations of UKSPF for 2025/26 based on the Council's previous utilisation of those funds.

					for Towns and complete investment plan for 2024/25. B2: LUE (in Clacton-on-Sea) and CRP (in		
				Q4	 LUF (in Clacton-on-Sea) and CRP (in Harwich) projects tendered. Complete spending plan for High Street Accelerator projects in Dovercourt and review progress. Spending decision made on Levelling Up Partnership projects for Clacton-on-Sea 		
					- All successful organisations who have received either UK Shared Prosperity Fund or Rural England Prosperity Fund funding to have spent grant awards. B2: - REALIGNED - Planning determination for TDC LUF (in Clacton-on-Sea) and CRP (in Harwich) projects. (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)		
					Theme B Priorities continue	ed	
B4 and B5 Tendring is ambitious, and our residents will be supported to reach their	B4 Clir Ivan Henderson B5 Clir Andy Baker	B4 Take the opportunities afforded by Freeport East and the development of Bathside Bay. B5 Progress the Tendring	Green	Q1	 Planning application for Bathside Bay determined. Annual Business Plan Sign Off 	Green	B4: Planning Application for Bathside Bay Temporary Change of Use approved in May 2024. Annual Business Plan approved by the Freeport East Board on 19 March 2024. The reference to "case" is to be updated to "plan" in the milestone. Annual Business Plan approved by Tendring District Council as Founding Member, at Cabinet, May 2024.

potential and realise their opportunities particularly taking the opportunities afforded by Freeport East and the Garden	Colchester Borders Garden Community DPD through the planning process to support opportunities for new jobs, housing and infrastructure.		B5: - Examination of the Garden Community DPD by Planning Inspector.	Green	B5: Planning Inspector has issued his proposed 'modifications' to the DPD and these are to be reported to the Joint Committee in September 2024. Consultation on the Inspector's modifications to take place in September/October 2024. None of the modifications are significant and there is a reasonable likelihood of a favourable final report from the inspector. Receipt of the first planning application outside of the Council's control. Preapplication discussions with the Lead Developer about a potential 'hybrid' application with full detail for first phase and outline for remainder of scheme. Submission likely in Spring 2025 which could go into Q1 of 2025/26.
Community			B4: No specific milestone for Q2	Green	B4: An independent report funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was commissioned by the Council in partnership with Freeport East and the University of Essex for a potential green energy cluster. The Council has brought together a partnership with University of Essex, Freeport East, Colchester Institute, Harwich Haven Authority and other partners to develop the report recommendations. A business engagement event was also organised to establish interest in the cluster proposal, which was well attended and the outcome of a survey is now being evaluated.
		Q2	B5: Report outcome of DPD examination to Joint Committee.	Green	B5: Outcome of the DPD examination in respect of the Inspector's proposed modifications was reported to the Joint Committee in September 2024 and consultation on those modifications was launched. Date for final adoption of the DPD will depend on the content of the Inspector's final report and the time the Inspector requires to produce that final report. Decision to adopt would require a recommendation from the Joint Committee to Full Council at both Tendring and Colchester Councils and for both authorities to agree adoption – this would be most likely in Q4. The Q3 milestone for adoption will therefore need to be realigned to Q4.
			B4: TDC to input into the Freeport East Business Case for Seed Capital Funding for the Harwich Tax site, prior to its submission to the Freeport East Board for approval.	Green	Proposals were discussed with Freeport East for the Seed Funding Schemes around electricity connection to the Bathside Bay site and cycle way connections between the site and Dovercourt railway station. The business case has subsequently been submitted to the January 2025 Freeport East Board.
		Q3	B5: - Consultation on any modifications required by the Planning Inspector. Full Council adoption of the DPD.	Green	B5: We have received the proposed modifications, and the consultation has been carried out. These consultation responses have been passed onto the Planning Inspector, and he will take those responses into account in producing his final report on the soundness and legal compliance of the DPD.
					The Q4 milestone is still likely to be achieved with the Inspector's report expected soon.

	(Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)	The Receipt of the first planning application for the Garden Community is now anticipated in Q2 of 2025/26. Q4 preparations are being undertaken in readiness for decision making by the joint committee on the Planning Application covering such matter as Planning Probity and Training.
Q4	 B4: Seed Capital Funding drawn down from DLUHC. B5: REALIGNED - Full Council adoption of the DPD. (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) Potential receipt of first planning application for Garden Community. 	

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority	Portfolio Holder	Highlight Actions to support the Corporate Plan Priority in 2024/25	Overall key Actions RAG Status	Quarter	e - Championing our Loc Milestones	Quarterly Milestones RAG Status	Commentary
Our environment deserves protection	Clir Peter Kotz	Action Measures from the new Climate Change Action Plan		Q1	- Cabinet approve Updated Action Plan 2024-2027. (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) - Explore funding opportunities for energy reduction plant at the Council's Sports Facilities.	Amber	Action Plan to go to Cabinet in September 2024. As such the Q1 milestone is to be realigned to Q2. Funding opportunities for energy reduction plant were explored and £150,000 was received from Government as part of the Swimming Pool Support Fund for an Air Handling Unit and Building Management System this was matched by £150,000 from Council funding. Officers have been working with Legal Team colleagues to finalise the grant agreements, both with Sport England as well as Brightlingsea Town Council and Brightlingsea Lido Trust. This is almost complete, and agreement will be shared with partners during the week commencing 5 th August. Once signed, a procurement process will follow to expend the grant and Council budget. It should be noted that a separate report and executive decision are required for the latter.
			Green	Q2	- Council approval to be sought for Action Plan 2024-27 (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) - Complete installation of LED project at the Council's Sports Facilities.	Green	A project to install LED lighting at all the Council's sports facilities has now been completed. Positive work continues across the Council towards development of the next action plan. Consultants have been commissioned to review cost of delivering various actions, which can form the basis of future funding bids. The Council has been successful in bidding for approximately £94,500 of funding from the Swimming Pool Support Fund, which will allow energy efficient technology to be installed in the Council's facilities. This includes a new Building Management System and Air Handling Unit at Walton on the Naze Lifestyles. With the amended timeframe for submission of the Strategy and Action Plan now programming these for Q3, there is a need to realign the milestones from Q2
				Q3	- Publish 2023/4 Carbon data. REALIGNED - Cabinet approve Updated Action Plan 2024-2027. REALIGNED - Council approval to be sought for Action Plan 2024-27 (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers)	Green	Council on 26 November 2024 (Minute 72 refers) approved a revised Climate Change Action Plan for 2024-2027 based upon a revised target of achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050. This followed a recommendation from Cabinet on 15 November 2024. The 2023/24 Carbon data wasn't published within the quarter as there is work underway from the North Essex Councils Climate Partnership, an officer level working group bringing together the North Essex council climate officers, to develop and adopt a unified reporting tool and mechanism. Based on this aspiration the decision was taken to await the

					- Publish annual update on		outcome of this workstrand, so as to avoid abortive work and adopt the unified tool once identified. The aim is to publish the 2023/24 Carbon Data within Q4 either through the unified mechanism or via other means therefore this milestone will need to be REALIGNED to Q4.
				Q4	implementation of Action Plan. - REALIGNED: Publish 2023/4 Carbon data		
		. L			Theme C Priorities continue	ed	
C2 We want to create and	Cllr Mick Barry	Implement the Sports and Activity Strategy for the District.		Q1	 Undertake consultation with stakeholders for the Sport and Activity Strategy 	Green	Following consideration of the draft Sport and Activity Strategy on 12 th April Cabinet agreed to a six week consultation process. Significant consultations have been completed and ended on 9 th June and the strategy will return to Cabinet for adoption in September.
maintain opportunities for leisure, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.			Green	02	 Present the final Sport and Activity Strategy to Cabinet for adoption, with consideration of the wider consultation. 	sen	Following a six week engaging consultation exercise with stakeholders and residents, the Sport and Activity Strategy was presented and considered by Cabinet in September. The strategy was formally adopted, and prioritisation of the action plan is now taking place.
				QZ		929	A project to install new multi-sport Playzone facilities around the district (as set out in the strategy) was granted capacity funding in Q2 and work is underway to plan, consult and submit a funding bid to carry out this significant installation.
					 Following adoption of the final strategy, develop a priority list from the approved action plan. Recruit a Community Sport and Activity Manager, to deliver the strategy's actions in the wider district. 	ne	An evaluation of the strategy action plan has taken place to determine which priorities can be taken forward over the next year, taking into account factors such as resources, availability of budget, feedback from the consultation and deliverability. The ambitious priority projects list includes the submission of a funding bid for three Playzones in the district, recruitment of a Community Sport and Activity Manager, delivering a Back to Health scheme in the community and a new free to use Cycling facility in the district.
				Q3		Green	The Council was part of a bid to Sport England for 'deepening' funding, which follows on from the Local Delivery Pilot scheme. As this included additional funding to support the Community Sport and Activity Manager post increasing from 2 to 3 years, the recruitment was postponed until a response from Sport England was received. As this bid was successful, the recruitment and appointment will now take place in quarter one of the new financial year. Therefore the milestone to recruit a Community Sport and Activity Manager will be REALIGNED to Q4 while recognising that it is likely to be delivered in Q1 of 2025/26.
				Q4	 Review progress with Sport and Activity Strategy Action Plan and develop a priority list for 2025/26. 		

- Together with partners, consider how Sport England Place Partnerships can support delivery of the Sport and Activity Strategy Action Plan in 2025/26 and beyond. - REALIGNED - Recruit a Community Sport and Activity Manager, to deliver the strategy's actions in the wider district.
--

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority Theme - Working with Partners to Improve Quality of Life (Theme D) **Quarterly** Commentary Relevant Portfolio **Highlight Actions** Overall key Milestones Milestones Corporate Holder to support the **Actions RAG** Quarter **RAG Plan Priority Corporate Plan Status Status Priority in** 2024/25 **CIIr Gina** D1, D2, D3, D1 To support D1: Fuel Poverty Officer in post and providing advice and guidance to those in projects to fuel poverty. Networking with partners such as Essex energy and CVST and **Placey Promotion of Fuel Poverty Advice** D4 and D5 reduce Health and "back to work" support being leaflets provided to all Council tenants to help address fuel poverty. One (D1,D2,D3, inequalities e.q. provided by dedicated officers. This individual was assisted to the value of £15,000. Attending events and and D5) We want to around Fuel includes promotion of insulation presentations with volunteer groups and working with Council tenants who promote **Clir Peter** have been gas capped (to examine options to reconnect the gas supply), Poverty and grants, alongside Disabled Facilities safer, Kotz (D4) access to the winter wellbeing signups have been undertaken and referrals have been Grants. undertaken. Winter wellbeing signups is led by CVST as part of their winter healthier, jobs market. warmers project and the Fuel Poverty Officer refers into that and attends the well D2 To expand the winter wellbeing events to provide support and advice. connected **Pupil Encounters**' and Project, to There is an officer leading the Energy Company Obligation grants from ECC Green inclusive provide all school and another leading the Home Upgrade Grant insulation grants schemes which communities children with will feed into the Jaywick Energy Hub. Q1 by working additional The Council website has information on accessing grants and this information encounters with with our is also provided in newsletters. In addition, some door knocking has taken businesses and partners place to raise awareness, and a letter has also been sent to some Jaywick emplovers across throughout their residents. government. Education. There is a video on the Council's website about Disabled Facilities Grants and public, the Essex Adaptations leaflet has been given out in tenant's newsletters and to private and D3 To deliver a sheltered housing. In addition, advice is given out at the CO15 meeting and at STEAM event for third the Older Person's Forum which are regularly attended. **Primary Schools** sectors. whereby pupils

are introduced to a range of Employers including Galloper, EDF, Dance East, Essex Police and Colchester Zoo. D4 To complete enhanced CCTV coverage in public areas. D5 Establishing the feasibility for a new wellbeing hub in the District	Q1	- Inform Tendring Future Skills Partnership on the programme of the offer to schools under the Greater Essex careers hub project.	Green	D2: The Tendring Future Skills Partnership (TFSP) is working with the Greater Essex Careers Hub. The Hub provides updates at the termly meetings of the TFSP. In response to inequality of access to digital skills and resources, Digital Harwich is being delivered to inspire young people and increase digital skills and confidence, raise aspiration and show potential career paths. This includes workshops for children and families as well as schools, delivering local events and creating digital mentors including local creative and technical businesses. Other programmes include immersive face to face engagement about workplace behaviours from tutors who have a wide range of work experience and talking through the young people's responses, so they are actively engaged.
		D5: Commission a feasibility study to consider viability for a new Health and Wellbeing Hub for the District.	Green	D5: Feasibility study commissioned, and tenders returned. The Council is in the process of appointing a consultant to deliver the scope of this project which is due to commence at the beginning of September. The project will be managed in two phases, with the first being engagement with partners in the health and education system followed production of the feasibility study. The final report is due to be complete early in 2025.

	D1 – No specific milestone in Q2		D1: Fuel Poverty Officer in post and providing advice and guidance to those in fuel poverty. Networking with partners such as Essex energy and CVST and leaflets provided to all Council tenants to help address fuel poverty. One individual was assisted to the value of £15,000. Attending events and presentations with volunteer groups and working with Council tenants who have been gas capped (to examine option to reconnect the gas supply), winter wellbeing signups have been undertaken and referrals have been undertaken. Winter wellbeing signups is led by CVST as part of their winter warmers project and the Fuel Poverty Officer refers into that and attends the winter wellbeing events to provide support and advice.
Q2			The Fuel Poverty Officer has provided advice and support in the recently opened Green Energy Hub in Jaywick helping those most in need to support around fuel poverty and is working alongside partners to help deliver holistic outcomes.
		Green	There is an officer leading the Energy Company Obligation grants from Essex County Council (ECC) and another leading the Home Upgrade Grant insulation grants schemes which will feed into the Jaywick Energy Hub. In addition, some door knocking has taken place to raise awareness, and a letter has also been sent to Jaywick residents who are eligible for these schemes.
			The Council website has information on accessing grants and this information is also provided in newsletters which go to Council tenants and sheltered residents.
			There is a video on the Council's website about Disabled Facilities Grants and the Essex Adaptations leaflet has been given out in tenant's newsletters and to sheltered housing. In addition, advice is given out at the CO15 meeting and at the Older Person's Forum which are regularly attended.
			Back to work support has been provided by 2 Community Support Employment Officers who help those furthest from the jobs market with holistic support and by helping people access wider services and this has directly led to 17 people obtaining work.

	equipment and cameras both for existing locations and new locations. - Determination of planning and other consents necessary for the erection of cameras and columns at new locations, where applicable. Installation of cameras and poles in locations where not regulatory consents are required.	Red	An external engineer has been appointed to assist with consents and technical details; utilities searches, planning consents and highways consents. ECC colleagues in the shared procurement service have been re-engaged to support the procurement process, which went live during the last week of August. Tenders were expected to be returned by 3 October 2024. A provisional programme for the project following the receipt of tenders is to complete the statutory and utility consent processes prior to the new year, and to appoint the contractor within that time, in order to allow adequate lead in time for the purchase of materials prior to a start on site in the calendar year. In addition to the upgrading exercise, some previously existing faults have been identified and have been included in the specification to be resolved simultaneously. D5: A consultant has been procured and commissioned to carry out a feasibility study into a new Active Wellbeing Centre in the district. This work is being undertaken with a wide range of partners, including the following: - East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust - Suffolk and North East Essex ICB - Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) - GP Primary Choice - University of Essex
	D1: No specific milestones in Q3.	Green	- Tendring District Council - Essex County Council - Department for Work and Pensions - Active Essex - Sport England D1:The Council has continued to promote insulation grants and access to benefits to increase income to support action to address fuel poverty.

			Workshops across the district have been undertaken to support energy advice and provide vouchers to help reduce fuel poverty.
			Ongoing benefits advice was provided, including food and shopping vouchers, travel support, food bank vouchers, Energy Debt Grant applications, maternity grant support, SureStart vouchers, signposting to other services and referrals for retrofit.
			There have been successful Energy Ombudsmen cases and successful benefit claims appeals which have supported people to get their energy supply reconnected where the energy company had been found to have disconnected it contrary to the required rules. Individuals have obtained compensation and increased benefits entitlement.
QS	D2: No specific milestones in Q3.	Green	D2: Working in partnerships with the University of Essex Outreach Team/ICB, as part of the ECC funded Tendring Future Skills programme, the "My Future My Tendring project" has to date reached 3,168 Tendring primary school children, featuring 18 employers, across 6 industry sectors.
	D3: STEAM event to be delivered in the Autumn term for primary schools (subject to funding/agreement across the Tendring Future Skills partnership).	Green	D3: Working in partnership with the ICB/ECC, the STEAM event held on 23 rd October 2024 was attended by 257 Year 6 students from nine Tendring Primary Schools. It featured an interactive STEAM fair and two hands-on workshops and there were 13 contributors who provided primary school pupils with examples of future careers in this area. By exposing students to various STEAM professions available locally, the event sought to positively impact their future career considerations and, by extensions, their long-term health outcomes.
	D4: If budgets permit, commission and complete further lighting work in the Memorial Gardens.	Amber	D4: Within Q3 the further procurement was successfully completed, and the Contractor OpenView Security Solutions Limited was duly appointed. The External consultant appointed has made the planning applications and requests for electrical connections. The materials have been ordered, and work is scheduled to be undertaken in Q4, subject to consents. In addition, in early Q4 the Planning Permissions for the erection/installation of CCTV columns, cameras and ancillary equipment in relation to the safer streets project were approved by the Council's Planning Committee.
	D5: Consider outcomes of the Active Wellbeing Centre feasibility study and set out options with partners for next steps.	Amber	D5: Under the Community Regeneration Partnership Scheme for Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands an award of £3m for the Clacton Leisure Centre site was received as part of the intended development of an active wellbeing centre. The timescales for completion of the Active Wellbeing Centre feasibility study have been delayed, due to a need to reconsider the input from partner organisations. The report will now be complete by the end of Q1 of 2025/26 and the outcome considered in Q2. As such the Q3 milestone is to be REALIGNED to Q4 while recognising that it will likely be delivered in Q1 of 2025/26.
Q4	D4: - Continue all CCTV etc work in advance of the funding deadline subject to planning permission.		

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority Theme - Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer (Theme E)

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority	Portfolio Holder	Highlight Actions to support the Corporate Plan Priority in 2024/25	Overall key Actions RAG Status	Quarter	Milestones	Quarterly Milestones RAG Status	Commentary
We will support our unique heritage, E2 Cllr	Henderson E3 Clir Gary Scott	E1 Fundraise to support heritage in Tendring, for example the Witches' Trail around Manningtree and the Leading Lights in Harwich E2 Re-introduce the Tour de Tendring cycling	Green		 Shared Prosperity Funding allocated to the Tendring District Council Heritage Witch Trail. Fundraise to procure final surveys for the Dovercourt Leading Lights. 	Green	The funding source actually used was the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Witch Heritage Trail – Project plan in development; four potential locations being explored in consultation with local community partners. The intention is to procure four personalised benches and four bespoke information boards using augmented reality technology and to be implemented. Historic England awarded the Council £47,440 to complete Dovercourt Leading Lighthouse and Causeway Structural and Condition final survey. The specification of the surveys focused on works to the lighthouse legs buried in the beach. Decision to accept the funding award published 3 July 2024.
		E3 Host the Clacton Air Show and draw in additional sponsorship funding		Q1	E2: - In conjunction with partners, run the Tour de Tendring mass participation cycle ride.	Green	E2: Tour de Tendring cycle ride delivered successfully on 19 May 2024. 273 riders in Dovercourt. Partners included: Essex Pedal Power, Wheels4All, Harwich Town Council and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles.
					- Consider and present sponsorship options for the Clacton Airshow - Procure services for the Clacton Airshow, considering further economies of scale to reduce the event subsidy. Consider and present additional income options for the Clacton Airshow.	Amber	Clacton Airshow 2024. Strong D-Day themed flight line up published post-General Election (Q2). However, sponsorship impacted by absence of Red Arrows and unforeseen grounding of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The procurement for the Airshow services has taken place and appointments have been made. Due to timescales and the length of time it has taken to organise and procure the air display, focus for sponsorship options have shifted to the 2025 event. Officers are focussed on managing effectively in 2025 and reducing costs wherever possible. The Events team have been working on a strategy for income generation for the 2025 Airshow and beyond, which includes additional sponsorship and increased secondary spend opportunities. Due to the timeframe for organising the 2024 event following publication of the Cabinet report, there was not sufficient time to procure and implement a plan in the current year.

	Q1	Towards the Corporate Plan theme generally - Work with partners to initiate a new Tourism Partnership Board in Clacton on Sea, to compliment the group in Harwich and Dovercourt.	Green	New Clacton Tourism Partnership inaugurated on Friday 22nd March 2024. There have been two subsequent meetings.
	Q2	E1: - Commission and complete final surveys on Dovercourt Leading Lights, in order to inform a wider funding bid for the refurbishment of the ancient monuments.	Green	E1: A contract to undertake final surveys of the Leading Lights has been commissioned and is due to be carried out in October. Although this is a few weeks into quarter 3, this was due to ensuring there would be limited disruption to beach users by commencing the project outside of the high season. The outcome of this survey and the comprehensive work which has already been undertaken, will inform future funding bids for the wider refurbishment project.
		E3: Successfully manage and operate the Clacton Airshow.	Green	E3: The Clacton Airshow was successfully run in August and attended by up to 250,000 visitors. Despite a disruption to the flight programme on Thursday due to the blustery conditions caused by Storm Lilian, the first days display still took place. The positive weather on day 2 lead to significant numbers of visitors gathering on the seafront to watch the spectacular displays. With the Red Arrows unavailable due to a North American tour, the decision was taken to stage a heritage themed display, which included aviation from 1930s biplanes as part of the Stampe Formation and the mighty Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress, the 'Sally B' – the last remaining airworthy B-17 in Europe. This was recognised in a review by 'Flightline' which included the following comment about the display: "Kudos also to Tendring District Council for taking the opportunity to create a very unique seafront air display that really stood out from the rest in 2024 and was very well received by spectators."
	Q3	E1: Work with external funding bodies to complete a funding bid for the refurbishment of the Dovercourt Leading Lights.	Amber	 To inform consideration of future restoration of the Dovercourt Leading Lights, the Council procured a structural and condition survey of the Dovercourt Leading Lights' unsighted legs from the Morton Partnership, which began in December 2024. A full communications strategy will include local regional press will commence in Q4.

Q3	E3: Complete Clacton Airshow Event Review 2024 highlighting financial and social impact.	Red	E3:	The review of the Clacton Airshow and its Sponsorship and financial/social value will be completed in Q4. As a consequence this milestone will be REALIGNED from Q3 to Q4.
Q4	 E1: Tendring Witch Heritage Trail launched. E3: Following an evaluation of the 2024 Clacton Airshow, prepare plans for subsidy reduction in 2025 and beyond. REALIGNED Complete Clacton Airshow Event Review 2024 highlighting financial and social impact. (Change approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2024 – Minute 63 refers) 			

Relevant Corporate Plan Priority Theme - Financial Sustainability and Openness (Theme F)							
Relevant Corporate Plan Priority	Portfolio Holder		Overall key Actions RAG Status	Quarter	Milestones		Commentary
F1 and F2 Tough Decisions will not be shied away from	Clir Mark Stephenson	F1 Carefully plan the Council's budget and taking appropriate action to respond to liabilities / costs pressures.	Green		F1: - Initiate the development of the Council's saving plan (and budget forecast) having due regard to the value for money guidance.	Green	F1: A number of potential / initial items have been identified which remain subject to review. It is important to establish a credible / validated list of deliverable items rather than being potentially speculative. Once finalised / verified via the currently on-going work, they will be reported to Members as timely as possible. At the current time it is planned to report the first iteration of the savings plan within the Financial Performance Report for Q1 later in the year.
		F2 Review its communication strategy.		Q1	Communication Strategy: Following approval of the new Communication Strategy with measures for success set out, corporate awareness of its existence and expectations.	Green	F2: Since formal adoption of the Communications Strategy, the team has been engaged with other relevant services and departments about delivery of the specific projects contained within it to ensure they remain on track. Wider corporate awareness of its existence and expectations has included references within wider Communications updates provided to the Senior Managers' Forum, where the strategy will also be raised at the next meeting by the Communications Manager.

	Q2	F1: - Refine the Council's savings (and budget forecast) and develop options appraisals to achieve the required savings in accordance with value for money guidance.	Green	F1: Following consideration of a number of options, the first iteration of the revised long-term forecast (2025/26 onwards) has been prepared and will be submitted to Cabinet on 21st October. This will include an associated savings plan. The successful delivery of the Savings Plan is a key element of securing the Council's financial sustainability in the longer term. The review undertaken in 2024/25 to date will be set out in the Financial Performance Report planned to be presented to Cabinet on 21 October which also includes the identification of liabilities/cost pressures which in turn will be managed on an on-going basis as necessary via the development of the long-term forecast to support the robustness of budgets going forward. The progress against value for money guidance will be considered alongside the External Auditors value for money commentary as part of developing the long-term financial plans for the Council.
--	----	---	-------	---

	F2 – No specific milestone in Q2		F2: By way of an update on the milestones for F2, both of Q3 milestones are still on track.
	Q2	Green	Work on the social media audit is progressing well; the audit of channels itself has been completed, and work is now beginning to implement the action plan which arises from it. This includes deleting defunct channels and updating social media guidance and delivering refresher staff training on it to improve quality of remaining channels. There is a clear timeline for this, for delivery by the end of Q3. Development of an AI framework by the end of 2024 is also well underway. Research has been completed and a second draft framework circulated for peer review by relevant services across the council. A timeline has been developed for adoption within the target deadline. More broadly the Council continues to deliver upon the wider principles of the Communications Strategy. This includes developing proactive work to highlight the delivery of other services, such as a video showcasing the Open Spaces team's varied role in grass cutting, tree maintenance and wildlife conservation. This meets the Our Vision themes of both 'Pride in our area and services to residents' and 'Championing our Local Environment' – alongside demonstrating 'Financial Sustainability and Openness'. Looking ahead to the Q4 milestone to 'Establish at least one email newsletter providing news and updates to residents by March 2025', this project is also on track to meet the deadline set. A procurement exercise has been completed following a period of research, and administrative work required to enact this is now being undertaken. A separate decision on finance for an appropriate solution is subject to a separate item elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.
	F1: Determine the savings options to be realised in 2025/26 (and the revised budget forecast) together with outline proposals for future years and reporting against the value for money guidance.	Green	The Savings Plan for 2025/26 and initial budget proposals for 2025/26 were approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 December 2024, which also recognised cost pressures, and other budgetary adjustment at that stage.
	F2: - Communication Strategy: Complete a social media audit of all Council channels by the end of 2024. Corporate Plan theme: Crosscutting all themes.	Green	The Social Media Audit was completed within this quarter. The purpose of the audit was to review the existing channels to ensure the best use of social media across the council by removing the defunct ones and reinvigorating ones that were still necessary. Nine channels were removed altogether, while refresher training on effective social media use has been delivered to more than 40 staff, with a mop-up session scheduled in January 2025.

	Q3	Support the development of an ethical framework for the use of Al by the end of 2024, and test Al tools within the Communications service in the following year. Work is underway with partners on this framework, which will need crossorganisational support. Internal use of Al tools is intended to support staff with capacity and efficiency. Corporate Plan theme: Pride in our area and services to residents	Green	An Artificial Intelligence Best Practise Approach for the Council was adopted by Cabinet in December 2024. This is being rolled-out within the authority during January 2025 to encourage use of and innovation with AI, within this ethical framework, to continue testing tools. At a wider level than the highlight priorities, delivery continues against the adopted Communication Strategy; proactive work highlighting the council's work has continued, along with promoting the community – such as celebrating local independent retailers as part of Small Business Saturday. As we enter Q4, progress is well underway now on the milestone to 'Establish at least one email newsletter providing news and updates to residents by March 2025'. Following successful procurement in Q3, the required governance has been completed and a contract signed with a supplier Onboarding commence this month.
	F1: Q4	 Submit for approval by Full Council the balanced budget proposals for 2025/26. Communication Strategy: Establish at least one email newsletter providing news and updates to residents by March 2025. This will be dependent upon approval of a business case and appropriate financial and governance processes. Corporate Plan theme: Financial sustainability and openness 		