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Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 17 December 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING REPORT – 2024/2025 MUNICIPAL YEAR

(Prepared by Ian Ford)

Recommendation(s) Including Date of Meeting and Minute Number	Actions Taken and Outcome	Completed, follow-up work required or added to Work Programme
<p><u>THE SPENDELLS PROJECT</u></p> <p>At the Committee's meeting on 22 July 2024 (minute 50 refers):-</p> <p>RECOMMENDED to CABINET:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That, once the Chief Executive's formal review (on how the issue of unauthorised expenditure arose and developed in respect of the Spendells project) has been completed, the Cabinet reports on its lessons learnt;2. that the report referred to in (1) above should articulate a robust response and action plan for going forward;3. that a more detailed financial breakdown of the seven items not included in the specification for the Spendells project be reported to Cabinet; and4. that Portfolio Holders review, with their Corporate Directors, the performance and project	<p>This item was reported to Cabinet on 20 September 2024.</p> <p>Having duly considered the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee together with the response of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning thereto, Cabinet:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that –</p> <p>(a) the Chief Executive's formal review, when completed, be reported to the Cabinet including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) a more detailed financial breakdown of the seven items not included in the original specification, of additional expense itemised in the previous report to Cabinet;ii) the lessons learnt;iii) articulating a robust response and action plan for going forward; <p>(b) Portfolio Holders should review, with their Corporate Directors, the</p>	<p>Completed</p>

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<p>management of all existing projects within their respective portfolios and report their findings to the Leader of the Council by the end of September 2024 (and that this also then be submitted to this Committee at its next programmed meeting).</p> <p>At the Committee's meeting on 23 September 2024 (minute 57 refers), it considered the Cabinet's response and decided, inter alia:-</p> <p><i>"Invite the Leader of the Council to its next meeting and receive a report outlining the progress with the Cabinet's decision as follows:-</i></p> <p><i>"Portfolio Holders should review, with their Corporate Directors, the performance and project management of all existing projects within their respective portfolios and report their findings to the Leader of the Council and the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with such additional actions as the Leader wishes to undertake.""</i></p>	<p>performance and project management of all existing projects within their respective portfolios and report their findings to the Leader of the Council and the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with such additional actions as the Leader wishes to undertake in response.</p> <p>This item was reported to Cabinet on 15 November 2024.</p> <p>The response of the Housing & Portfolio Holder had been:-</p> <p><i>"As I have stated on more than one occasion I meet weekly with the Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery) along with the Director for Planning and Communities, to discuss the situation, at that time, of ongoing projects within the Housing and Planning Portfolios, along with many other issues.</i></p> <p><i>Within the Housing Portfolio there are currently two major projects, one being the Honeycroft development of 13 bungalows in Lawford, and the other the refurbishment of Spendells House to temporary accommodation for families, which are both discussed at the weekly meetings, covering the progress, and finances of both. Having visited both sites recently, I can say that</i></p>	<p>Follow-up - Leader of the Council attended the meeting of the Committee held on 17 December 2024.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council (Councillor M Stephenson) addressed the Committee and stated that the Leader/Portfolio Holders' review of projects had focused on three key aspects i.e. capacity, governance and finance. He was broadly comfortable that Portfolio Holders were on top of their respective projects.</p> <p>Councillor Stephenson commended the Committee for their recommendation as this had proved to be a very useful exercise for both Officers and Portfolio Holders. He intended to pull together a comprehensive list of all of TDC's current projects which</p>
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	<p><i>work is progressing very well, and although I have been informed of potential dates of opening, I would not want to commit to those publicly until they are a certainty.</i></p> <p><i>As the Committee have been advised, there is a review of the Spendells project, which is still ongoing, and it would be wrong of me to comment on that process, which is being undertaken under the direction of the Chief Executive.</i></p> <p><i>Once the conclusions, and any recommendations, of the review have been made available to both myself and Cabinet, I will be in a better position to identify what actions must be taken in relation to any similar projects that come forward."</i></p> <p>The Leader of the Council had thanked the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee for all of their work on this matter.</p> <p>Having duly considered the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee together with the response of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning thereto, Cabinet had:-</p> <p><i>"RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Portfolio Holder</i></p>	<p>he would submit to a future meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council then responded to Members' questions as set out hereunder. The Chairman (Councillor P Honeywood) acknowledged that the Leader had not had sight of the questions before the meeting.</p> <p>The Committee, having discussed the review of performance and project management undertaken by Portfolio Holders with the Leader of the Council decided that it:-</p> <p>(a) <i>looks forward to receiving the further written answers in due course from the Leader of the Council and would welcome any further expanded responses to those already provided at the meeting; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>reserves the right to submit any comments or recommendations to Cabinet on this matter once it has considered the Executive's budget proposals and initial highlight priorities at its meeting due to be held on 13 January 2024.</i></p>
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<p><u>SCRUTINY OF FLY TIPPING AND MOBILE CCTV ENFORCEMENT</u></p> <p>At the Committee's meeting on 23 September 2024 (minute 59 refers), it considered the final second report from its Council's Enforcement Arrangements Task and Finish Group, which had been submitted following that Group's conclusion of its enquiry concerning fly tipping and mobile CCTV enforcement.</p> <p>The Committee had recommended to Cabinet that:-</p>	<p><i>responsible for Housing and Planning thereto be endorsed."</i></p> <p>This item was reported to Cabinet on 15 November 2024.</p> <p>Cabinet had before it the following response from the Portfolio Holder for the Environment:-</p> <p><i>"I note the recommendations of the Committee and thank them for work they have carried out.</i></p> <p><i>I have been in discussion with the relevant service to explore the feasibility and resource implications of adopting the Committee's recommendations."</i></p>	<p>The Leader of the Council has been invited to attend this meeting of the Committee to give an update on the progress with the Council's corporate projects. The Leader's report (A.2) can be found elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>Similarly, the Chief Executive has been invited to attend this meeting to present the outcome of the review of the unauthorised expenditure in relation to the Spendells House Capital Project. The Chief Executive's report (A.1) can be found elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.</p>
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<p><i>“(1) in order to develop a more holistic picture of the issues involved and the development of strategies to address them, in addition to highway fly-tipping incidents, records be kept and analysed for fly-tipping on other public land such as open spaces, public realm, Council assets, Beachfronts et cetera;</i></p> <p><i>(2) further steps be undertaken to engage with volunteer litter picking groups to ensure there is greater awareness of the issues around taking waste from private property and of the steps taken by Officers to identify perpetrators of fly-tipping (and the need to preserve that evidence to ensure it can be used in action against perpetrators);</i></p> <p><i>(3) it develop a similar approach to that of the London Borough of Redbridge with its online ‘Wall of Shame’ showing footage of fly-tipping with a view to encouraging understanding of the issue, the Council’s efforts to address fly-tipping and to receive information on perpetrators;</i></p> <p><i>(4) it encourage residents to supply their own footage, possibly through ‘RING’ (or other manufacturers) camera-door bells of fly-tipping captured by them;</i></p> <p><i>(5) it inform Councillors that if they notice dog fouling, un-retrieved dog waste, they should inform the Council’s Community Safety Team who can look at deployment of Ambassadors with a view to detecting the perpetrators and, in the issues</i></p>	<p>Cabinet had also before it the following response from the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships:-</p> <p><i>“I also note the recommendations and thank the Committee.</i></p> <p><i>I have raised the recommendations within the report with the relevant service. I am happy to explore the option to use AI functionality, where appropriate. I have asked the service to assess the impact of using AI on our existing policies and delivery of service.”</i></p> <p>Having duly considered the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee together with the responses of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships thereto, Cabinet had:-</p> <p><i>“RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the responses of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships thereto be endorsed.”</i></p>	
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<p><i>persist, to evidence a decision to deploy mobile CCTV cameras to address the problem;</i></p> <p><i>(6) consideration be given to the deployment of a mobile 'phone application for reporting incidents of fly-tipping and other crimes such as dog fouling and graffiti similar to that in place in Cheshire West and Chester Council;</i></p> <p><i>(7) consider how best to support members of the public to find details of licensed waste carriers (after the UK Government has concluded its review of the online access to that data);</i></p> <p><i>(8) details of fly-tipping hot spots on the highway/public land in the District be circulated to Councillors together with the stepped approach to enforcement relevant to that hot spot site and that this should be alongside summary details of the deployment of mobile CCTV cameras as part of addressing environmental crimes such as fly-tipping;</i></p> <p><i>(9) the reasons for the non-deployment of a mains powered or a battery powered CCTV camera in the High Street, Clacton-on-Sea with a view to deterring and/or detecting fly-tipping at the junction with Beach Road be set out and addressed with the relevant decision makers.</i></p> <p><i>(10) on the basis that the Council's policies, procedures and codes in respect of CCTV are reviewed in this current calendar year, they be amended to provide that as and when CCTV cameras</i></p>		
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<i>are to be purchased, or grant applications made to fund CCTV cameras, consideration be given to the relative benefit of those cameras having AI functionality that can be deployed and that for mobile CCTV cameras consideration should also be given to alternative acquisition options such as rental rather than purchase.”</i>		
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Recommendations monitoring for those recommendations from earlier meetings of the Committee have been previously reported to the Committee and, as such, are not repeated here as there is no further update to be provided on them.