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RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ENQUIRIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 2025/26

Item	Date of Enquiry	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
TO BE UNDERTAKEN					
To examine the Asset management arrangements of the Council and consider the extent to which asset acquisition and disposal is strongly linked to the ambitions of the corporate plan. The enquiry will look at land assets and their use/value to the Council and community properties, investment in them and the use to which they are put, and Beach Hut (bases). [This matter will not look at Human Resources or matters in the Housing Revenue Account].	Through A Task and Finish Group A meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held on 3 September 2025 to consider property matters. The T&F Group was authorised to be reconstituted by the Committee at its meeting held on 4 November 2025. The membership was formally appointed on 4 February 2026 via a decision made by the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support), in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee. The Group's first reconvened meeting is due to be held in mid-June.	- Championing our local environment - Pride in our area and services to residents - Working with Partners to improve quality of life - Raising aspirations and creating opportunities - Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer - Financial sustainability and openness	A complete list of TDC assets (specifically property & land) and the ward they are located in. Repairing obligations (for this Council) costings in relation to maintenance for land & property asset. The enquiry will look at unused assets (e.g. toilet block at the junction of Coppins Road and Old Road, Clacton).	Portfolio Holder Assets Corporate Director Finance & IT Appropriate other Portfolio Holders and Officers Corporate Director Planning & Community Property & Projects Manager	The enable the examination of asset management and utilisation with a view to supporting delivery of the corporate plan 2024 and recommendations to release assets that do not contribute to that plan or otherwise rationalise assets to improve effectiveness and efficiency of those assets.
Council Enforcement arrangements including the extent to which enforcement powers are looked at in a silo or corporate way to ensure that (with in the purposes of particular enforcement powers) the Council considers the ability to address non-compliances robustly.	Through Task and Finish Group. [This continues the work in 2023/24 where enforcement arrangements around planning, fly tipping and use of mobile CCTV was examined]. The work of the Group has reached the point whereby flowcharts for enforcement activities are to be prepared to avoid issues of silo working and ensure there is an understanding of relevant issues for multiple service areas arising from enforcement activity (e.g. a business about to go into administration or	- Championing our local environment - Pride in our area and services to residents - Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer - Financial sustainability and openness	The detail to the extent to which the Corporate Enforcement Group has provided the route to ensuring a corporate consideration to utilising a range of enforcement powers to address problem premises. An update on the implementation of recommendation s made in 2023/24 around planning, fly tipping and the use of mobile CCTV as part of enforcement.	Leader of the Council Corporate Director for Operations and Delivery Assistant Director, Partnerships Appropriate Portfolio Holders and Officers	To identify any possible areas for improved enforcement arrangements and to make recommendation s there on.

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	claims that a building is unoccupied). The Task and Finish Group, subject to the work programme for 2025/26, could be reconvened to review progress with its previously submitted recommendations around Planning Enforcement and fly tipping/mobile CCTV provision. The T&F Group was authorised to be reconstituted by the Committee at its meeting held on 4 November 2025. The membership was formally appointed on 4 February 2026 via a decision made by the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support), in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.				
To explore joint working with Braintree and Colchester Scrutiny Panels/Committees	Initially, to be the subject of an off-agenda Briefing Note following meetings of the relevant Committee Chairmen from the three Councils. A meeting was held with Officers and Councillors from the three Authorities on 23 April 2026. Further work is being done to uphold consistent communication in relation to scrutiny. The next meeting is due to be held within the next few months where Braintree District Council will take the administrative lead.	- Pride in our area and services to residents - Working with Partners to improve quality of life	*Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2025/26 for the three Councils. (*Text added following Committee meeting on 30 July 2025).	* Initially, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of the three Councils, accompanied by appropriate Officers nominated by those Councils. (*Text added following Committee meeting on 30 July 2025).	To develop a joined-up system of scrutiny in preparation for LGR.
To have a review of the Work Programme following the expected Ministerial announcement on the next steps towards Local Government Re-organisation. This will be programmed for the Committee meeting to be held on 16 June 2026 .					
TO BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS MEETING					
Capital & Treasury Strategy for 2026/27	At a meeting of the Committee to be held on <u>10 March 2026</u> .	- Financial sustainability and openness	The Capital & Treasury Strategy for 2026/27	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance	To identify any possible areas for improvement and to make

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				Corporate Director (Finance & IT)	recommendation s thereon.
COMPLETED					
Pre-Budget Scrutiny Consider long-term forecasts. Challenging assumptions/testing zero base budgeting. Consider repeated overspends/underspends Addressing performance/budget requirements.	At Committee on 14 January 2026 [Pre-meeting 7 January 2026]	- Championing our local environment - Pride in our area and services to residents - Working with Partners to improve quality of life - Raising aspirations and creating opportunities - Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer - Financial sustainability and openness	The 2025/26 Budget and update the end of Q3, draft budget for 2026/27 and the financial strategy plus details of significant overspend and underspend over the last five financial years. Consideration will be given to providing some additional local government finances training ahead of the Pre-Budget Scrutiny.	All Portfolio Holders All Members of Management Team	
Carnarvon Terrace	Will remain a possibility to be considered by the Committee on a date to be agreed with the Chairman of the Committee only if the Council's own funds are used in the project. This item was transferred to the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CLOSC) as it more properly fell within that Committee's term of reference. Exercising powers previously delegated to him by that Committee, the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support), in consultation with the Chairman of CLOSC, formally constituted the Carnarvon	- Financial sustainability and openness	[Only if considered by the Committee] Officer report to outline what funds were used and why.	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism Corporate Director (Finance & IT) Corporate Director (Place and Wellbeing) Interim Assistant Director (Project Delivery Unit)	To examine where the additional funds had been secured from and the effect that this may have on other projects/departments.

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	Terrace Regeneration Project Task & Finish Group. That Group met on 10 February 2026 and made comments to the Cabinet. Those comments are due to be considered by Cabinet at its formal meeting due to be held on 20 March 2026.				
Quarter 2 2025/26 Financial Performance Update	This was duly considered by the Committee at its meeting held on 14 January 2026.	- Financial sustainability and openness	Financial Outturn Report 2024/25 and In-Year Budget Adjustments 2025/26	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance Corporate Director (Finance & IT)	Provide reassurance and challenge the financial arrangements of the Council.
Housing Strategy Development and Infrastructure and Temporary Accommodation. The enquiry will include a look at how the Council maintain its list of private landlords and if the Council quality check those properties as suitable.	Through Task and Finish Group A Task and Finish Group meeting is to be held by the end of August 2025. EELGA is acting as a consultant with the Council on the preparation of the Housing Strategy. The latest position for the Task and Finish Group as of 30/07/25: -Completed consultation and findings to be reviewed within 2025/26 -Review of the following policies; Housing Allocations Policy, Alterations and Improvements Policy, Decant Policy, Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, Housing Complaints Policy in addition to others that were also reviewed. -Introduction and implementation of a newsletter to tenants. Final report of the Working Group was considered by the Committee at its meeting held on 14 January 2026. On 4 February 2026 via a decision made by the Assistant Director (Corporate	- Working with Partners to improve quality of life - Financial sustainability and openness	Policies and Practice documents of the Council in respect of the use of private rented accommodation for those needing housing. The average time people are placed in temporary rented housing accommodation. Details of complaints by those people in rental accommodation. Numbers of HRA properties over the last five years including acquisitions and disposals. The current housing strategy and any development draft of a new strategy as well as an assessment as to how the current strategy has been delivered.	Portfolio Holder, Housing and Planning. Assistant Director, Housing and Environment A representation of private landlords	To look at possible improvements to temporary accommodation provision and make recommendations thereon. To determine the strategic direction of the Council in respect of Housing and the extent to which this has been delivered.

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	Policy & Support), in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, it was agreed not to reconstitute the working group at this time.				
Overview of The Financial Outturn 2024/25 and Proposed Allocation of the General Fund Variance For The Year and Other In-Year Budget Adjustments 2025/26	At Committee on 4 November 2025	- Financial sustainability and openness	Financial Outturn Report 2024/25 and In-Year Budget Adjustments 2025/26	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance Corporate Director (Finance & IT)	Provide reassurance and challenge the financial arrangements of the Council.
Waste and street cleaning contract progress/implementation	Consideration was given by the Committee to this matter at its meeting on 4 November 2025 and recommendations were made to the Cabinet.	- Pride in our area and services to residents - Championing our local environment - Financial sustainability and openness	Work Programme suggestion put forward by Councillor Bush. Tenders submitted.	Portfolio Holder for Environment & ICT Corporate Director for Operations and Delivery Assistant Director for Housing and Environment	To identify any possible areas for improvement and to make recommendations thereon. If Tenders are higher than expected then examine where the additional funds would be secured from and the effect that this might have on other projects / departments.
To have a review of the Work Programme following 26 September 2025 submission date for proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. This will be programmed for the Committee meeting to be held on 4 November 2025.					