

# Council AGENDA

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.15 pm

Braintree Arts Theatre, Notley Road, Braintree, CM7 1WY

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Please note this meeting will be audio recorded. The audio recording will be made available after the meeting on the Council's website and on its YouTube channel.

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

---

**Members of the Council are requested to attend this meeting to discuss the business set out in the Agenda.**

**Membership:-**

Councillor J Abbott	Councillor H Johnson	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt
Councillor J Baugh	Councillor A Kilmartin	Councillor P Schwier
Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Councillor W Korsinah	Councillor Mrs G Spray
Councillor K Bowers	Councillor D Mann	Councillor P Tattersley
Councillor G Butland	Councillor T McArdle	Councillor P Thorogood
Councillor J Coleridge	Councillor J McKee	Councillor N Unsworth
Councillor G Courtauld	Councillor A Munday	Councillor R van Dulken
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	Councillor Mrs I Parker	Councillor D Wallace
Councillor T Cunningham	Councillor Mrs J Pell	Councillor T Walsh
Councillor C Dervish	Councillor I Pritchard	Councillor L Walters
Councillor P Euesden	Councillor M Radley	Councillor Miss M Weeks
Councillor T Everard	Councillor S Rehman	Councillor D White
Councillor Mrs D Garrod	Councillor F Ricci	Councillor Mrs S Wilson
Councillor A Hensman	Councillor B Rose	Councillor J Wrench
Councillor S Hicks	Councillor J Sandum	Councillor B Wright
Councillor P Horner	Councillor V Santomauro	
Councillor D Hume	Councillor Mrs W Scattergood	

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence to the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email [governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk) by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

A WRIGHT  
Chief Executive

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBER – DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

### **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Pecuniary Interests (OPI) or Non-Pecuniary Interests (NPI).**

Any Member with a DPI, OPI or NPI must declare the nature of their interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Members must not participate in any discussion of the matter in which they have declared a DPI or OPI or participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Member must withdraw from the Chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the Member has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.

### **Public Question Time – Registration and Speaking:**

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes for Public Question Time. Members of the public wishing to speak are requested to register by contacting the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email [governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk) by **midday on the second working day** before the day of the Committee meeting. For example, if the Committee meeting is due to be held on a Tuesday, the registration deadline is midday on Friday, (where there is a bank holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Thursday).

All registered speakers will have 3 minutes each to make a statement. The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register for Public Question Time if they are received after the registration deadline.

The Chairman of the Committee has discretion to extend the time allocated for public question time and to amend the order in which questions/statements are presented to the Committee.

**Public Attendance at Meeting:** Public attendance is welcomed but is subject to restrictions due to the Council's arrangements for keeping meeting venues COVID secure and safe for visitors.

Public attendance is limited and will be on first come first served basis with priority given to public registered speakers. In order to maintain safe distances, the Council may have to refuse entry to members of the public.

Public speakers and public attendees are required to attend on their own, and where possible only one representative of any community group, family household or Company should attend.

Members of the public intending to come to meeting venue to observe a meeting are recommended to watch the meeting via the webcast or to contact the Governance and Members team to reserve a seat within the public gallery.

### **Health and Safety**

Any persons attending meetings are requested to take a few moments to familiarise themselves with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an alarm you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by officers. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

**Mobile Phones:** Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent during the meeting in order to prevent disturbances.

**Webcast and Audio Recording:** Please note that this meeting will be audio recorded and will be available on the Council's website and YouTube channel. You can view webcasts for up to 6 months using this link: <http://braintree.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**Documents:** Agendas, Reports, Minutes and Public Question Time questions and statements can be accessed via [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

**Data Processing:** An audio recording will be made of this public meeting of Full Council and will be made available via the Council's website and YouTube Channel.

For further information on how the Council processes data, please see the Council's Privacy Policy. [https://braintree.gov.uk/info/200136/access\\_to\\_information/376/privacy\\_policy](https://braintree.gov.uk/info/200136/access_to_information/376/privacy_policy)

**Your Comments:** We welcome comments to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the meeting you have attended, you can send these to [governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk)

<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice where necessary before the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 7th June 2021 (copy previously circulated).	
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b> (See paragraph above)	
<b>5</b>	<b>To receive any announcements/statements from the Chairman and/or Leader of the Council.</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Customer Service Excellence</b> Councillor John McKee, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation will present to Full Council the Customer Service Excellence Award.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Motion - European Championship 2020 - Motion by Councillor Graham Butland</b>	<b>6 - 6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Motion - Targets for Tree Planting and Community Woodlands in Braintree District - Motion by Councillor James Abbott</b>	<b>7 - 8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Motion - Supporting Businesses and Jobs through the pandemic - Motion by Councillor Tom Cunningham</b>	<b>9 - 10</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan Adoption</b>	<b>11 - 16</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Revised Horizon120 Local Development Order (LDO) and Design Code and Proposed Wayfinding Strategy</b>	<b>17 - 50</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Changes to the Appointments Committee</b>	<b>51 - 54</b>

**13 Cabinet Report to Full Council**

**55 - 65**

Following the presentation of the Cabinet's report to Full Council, the Chairman will invite Councillors to ask questions of the Cabinet.

Any Councillor may ask up to two questions, the Leader of the Opposition may ask up to four questions which relate to the functions of the Leader or Cabinet Members, the powers and duties of the Council or matters pertaining to the District.

Questions are not restricted to the contents of the Cabinet's report.

Where a verbal response cannot be given at the meeting, a written response will be issued to all Members within 10 working days of the meeting.

A period of up to 1 hour is allowed for this item.  
(Council Procedure Rules 12.13 apply).

**14 Urgent Business - Public Session**

To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

**PRIVATE SESSION**

There is no business for private session.

<b>Report Title:</b> Motion by Councillor G Butland – European Championship 2020	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>For:</b> Debate
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> Not applicable
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Councillor Graham Butland
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Councillor T Cunningham
<b>Motion Support by:</b>	Councillors Mrs G Spray, F Ricci and P Tattersley
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

**1. Motion:**

This Council congratulates the England football team on reaching the Final of the European Championship 2020.

In addition to acknowledging their success on the field the Council believes that, under the leadership of Gareth Southgate, the team behaved in a way that lifted the spirits of the country and set an excellent example to young sportsperson.

**2. Constitution provisions:**

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.17 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Notice of Motion was received on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 23:23hrs giving 9 clear working days notice and contains the names of five Councillors supporting the Motion including the proposer and seconder

**3. Amendments to Motion on Notice:**

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, no amendments to the Motion shall be moved unless written notice has been given to the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon on the third working day before the meeting of Full Council, namely 12noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

<b>Report Title:</b> Motion by Councillor J Abbott - Targets for Tree Planting and Community Woodlands in Braintree District	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>For:</b> Debate
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> Not applicable
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Councillor J Abbott
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Councillor N Unsworth
<b>Motion Support by:</b>	Councillors Mrs J Beavis, S Hicks, Mrs J Sandum, P Thorogood, T Walsh, Ms M Weeks, B Wright
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

**1. Motion:**

**Targets for Tree Planting and Community Woodlands in Braintree District**

Council notes the multiple benefits of planting trees and public access woodlands - including improved health for residents, habitat and species gain, improved air quality, reduced flooding and combating climate change.

Council also notes the national tree planting project for The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) which is an initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Council recognises and welcomes the Essex Forest Initiative being led by Essex County Council which aims to plant 375,000 trees by 2024 with an ambition for a million new trees by 2030 across the county. The Essex Climate Action Commission Interim Report states that "The main driver behind the Initiative is to lock up carbon and offset the carbon produced which is contributing to ongoing climate change".

Council notes that as part of the county-wide tree planting Initiative, neighbouring authorities of Colchester and Chelmsford have set substantial tree planting targets.

Council therefore agrees that to demonstrate ambition in Braintree District and to support both national efforts and the wider Essex programme of aiming to plant a million new trees, this authority will set specific tree planting targets, which will include new community woodlands, and that these will be included in the final Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and other relevant documents.

Council invites the Climate Change Working Group to develop the details of the targets, to be later ratified by Full Council.

2. **Constitution provisions:**

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.17 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Notice of Motion was received on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 13:03hrs giving 9 clear working days notice and contains the names of five Councillors supporting the Motion including the proposer and seconder

3. **Amendments to Motion on Notice:**

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, no amendments to the Motion shall be moved unless written notice has been given to the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon on the third working day before the meeting of Full Council, namely 12noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

<b>Report Title:</b> Motion by Councillor T Cunningham – Supporting businesses and jobs through the pandemic	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>For:</b> Debate
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> Not applicable
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Councillor T Cunningham
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Councillor K Bowers
<b>Motion Support by:</b>	Councillors Mrs G Spray, Mrs I Parker, Mrs M Cunningham and J Wrench
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

**1. Motion:**

This Council acknowledges the support that businesses and their employees have received during the pandemic from the Government, enabling a ‘plan for jobs’ that has ensured:

- 11.6 million jobs supported through Furlough,
- 70,000 Apprentices hired,
- 40,000 kickstart jobs started by young people.

This Council also commends the work of both Essex County Council and Braintree District Council in supporting businesses and would continue to recommend all levels of Government, work together to support economic recovery and renewal, so our area can bounce back better.

**2. Constitution provisions:**

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.17 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Notice of Motion was received on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 14:12hrs giving 9 clear working days notice and contains the names of five Councillors supporting the Motion including the proposer and seconder

**3. Amendments to Motion on Notice:**

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, no amendments to the Motion shall be moved unless written notice has been given to the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer

by 12 noon on the third working day before the meeting of Full Council,  
namely 12noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

<b>Report Title:</b> Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan Adoption	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>For:</b> Decision
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> N/A
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Alan Massow, Principal Planning Policy Officer	

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 Coggeshall Parish Council have been working to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan, once agreed, can be used in the determination of planning applications within the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.2 Following a positive referendum result, Braintree District Council (the Council) is proposing to publish its decision to “make” the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Braintree District Council’s Development Plan in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This decision notice is at appendix 1 to this report.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Decision Statement attached at Appendix 1 is approved, and the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan made under section 38A(4) of the 2004 Act.

## **3. Summary of Issues**

- 3.1 Coggeshall Parish Council, as a qualifying body, applied for its parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area under part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Area was designated on the 14th August 2015.
- 3.2 Following the submission and consultation on the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the Council in agreement with the parish council appointed an independent examiner Tony Burton CBE BA MPhill (Town Planning) HonFRIBA FRSA, to review if the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions required in legislation, and whether or not it should proceed to referendum.

- 3.3 The examiner agreed that subject to modifications the Plan could proceed to referendum as it met the necessary “basic conditions” as set out in the Inspectors report of October 2020.
- 3.4 Unfortunately due to a processing error one representation was not put to the Examiner. Another representor asked for clarification as to whether their representation had been properly considered. To rectify this the Council asked the Examiner to produce a further report on these representations. This report is dated December 2020.
- 3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan (amended in line with the examiner’s proposed modifications) was the subject of a referendum held on Thursday 6th May 2021. 89.64% of those who voted, voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Paragraph 38(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (As amended) requires that the District Council must “make” the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have noted in favour of the Plan unless this would breach or would otherwise be incompatible with an EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.6 With the examiner’s proposed modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan is judged to have met the basic conditions laid down in paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the convention rights and complies with the relevant provisions made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.
- 3.7 The referendum held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the neighbourhood area of Coggeshall and posed the questions;

***‘Do you want Braintree District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Coggeshall Parish for to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’***

- 3.8 The result of the referendum was:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total votes cast
YES	1507	89.64%
NO	174	10.35%

- 3.9 The Council agrees that the Neighbourhood Plan, including its preparation, does not breach or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998) and has passed referendum.
- 3.10 Therefore, in accordance with the relevant Regulations, it is recommended that the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan is “made” and shall form part of the Development Plan for Braintree District Council.

## **4. Options**

- 4.1 The Council has two options, the first being to adopt the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan for the purposes of decision making within the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Area. This would be in line with the statutory provisions and for the reasons set out above, is the recommended option.
- 4.2 The Second option would be not to adopt the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan for the purposes of decision making within the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Area. This would mean that the Plan would be returned to the parish council. Therefore this is not the recommended option at this time.

## **5. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising out of the recommendations set out in this report.

## **6. Legal Implications**

The provisions of a neighbourhood plan are set out in the legislation provisions set out within this report. These provide a clear framework through which a Parish Council can seek to bring forward a neighbourhood plan, and the Council can adopt it. If the process is not followed correctly, it could be open to a legal challenge. However, the Council is satisfied that all appropriate steps have been adhered to throughout the process.

## **7. Other Implications**

There are no other implications arising out of the recommendations set out in this report.

## **8. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 8.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when the Council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

8.3 The Equality Impact Assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **9. List of Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1 - Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 19 Decision Statement.

## **10. Background Papers**

10.1 [Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan](#)

10.2 [Report to Braintree District Council of the Independent Examination](#)

10.3 [Report to Braintree District Council of the Independent Examination \(Addendum\)](#)

10.4 [Declaration of result – Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan](#)

**Braintree District Council**

**Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 19 Decision Statement**

**July 2021**

**Summary**

Following a positive referendum result, Braintree District Council is publishing its decision to “make” the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Braintree District Council’s Development Plan in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

**Background**

Coggeshall Parish Council as the qualifying body, applied for its parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area under part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Area was designated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

Following the submission of the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council, it was publicised and comments invited from the public and stakeholders.

Braintree District Council in agreement with the parish council appointed an independent examiner Tony Burton CBE BA MPhil (Town Planning) HonFRIBA FRSA , to review if the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions required in legislation and whether or not it should proceed to referendum.

The examiner’s report concluded that, subject to certain modifications proposed in his report of October 2020, the Plan met the basic conditions and could therefore proceed to a local referendum. An addendum report was published in December 2020 which also reached the same conclusion.

The Neighbourhood Plan (amended in line with the examiner’s proposed modifications) was the subject of a referendum held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. 89.64% of those who voted, voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Paragraph 38(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (As amended) requires that the District Council must “make” the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have noted in favour of the Plan unless this would breach or would otherwise be incompatible with an EU obligation or any any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

**Decision and Reasons**

With the examiner’s proposed modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan is judged to have met the basic conditions laid down in paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the convention rights and complies with the relevant provisions made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended. The referendum held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Coggeshall and posed the questions

***‘Do you want Braintree District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Coggeshall Parish for to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’***

The result of the referendum was:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total votes cast
YES	1507	89.64%
NO	174	10.35%

The District Council has assessed that the Neighbourhood Plan, including its preparation, and conclude that it does not breach or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

Therefore, in accordance with the relevant Regulations, the Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan is “made” and shall form part of the Development Plan for Braintree District Council.

## Agenda Item: 11

<b>Report Title:</b> Revised Horizon120 Local Development Order (LDO) and Design Code and Proposed Wayfinding Strategy	
<b>Report to:</b> Full Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26th July 2021	<b>For:</b> Recommendation
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> N/A
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Christopher Paggi, Planning Development Manager <a href="mailto:christopher.paggi@braintree.gov.uk">christopher.paggi@braintree.gov.uk</a> 01376 551414 EXT 2548	

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the revised Local Development Order (LDO) and accompanying Design Code and the proposed Wayfinding Strategy for the Horizon120 site in Great Notley.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Full Council approve the revised LDO and Design Code and the proposed Wayfinding Strategy for Horizon120; and
- 2.2 Subject to the approval of the above recommendation, that the existing LDO and Design Code in place for the Horizon 120 site is revoked.

### 3. Summary of Issues

#### Background

- 3.1 Braintree District Council (the Council) made a LDO in April 2020, in its capacity as the relevant Local Planning Authority pursuant to Section 61A (2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 3.2 The LDO granted planning permission for development for a range of employment generating Use Classes, as set out within Schedule A to D of the LDO, subject to conditions and limitations to enable the creation of a Business and Innovation Park.
- 3.3 The LDO is accompanied by a Design Code, which sets further parameters for the development of the site, including the design of the buildings, landscaping and parking standards.

- 3.4 Since making the LDO, the Local Planning Authority have approved three 'Compliance Checklist' applications for specific development plots within the site, including the detailed proposals for the new Enterprise Centre for the Horizon120 site.

#### Proposals

- 3.5 The Council proposes to make a new LDO for the Horizon120 site and to amend the accompanying Design Code. A Wayfinding Strategy, which was previously required by condition, is also now proposed as an approved document. The primary reason for this is that since the adoption of the original LDO, there have been changes in national policy and legislation, including amendments to the Use Class Order, which have necessitated amendments to the LDO to ensure it reflects current legislation. Other amendments are proposed which take account of feedback from applicants/agents and prospective occupiers, but also from Officers' based on their experience when assessing compliance checklist applications and working with the LDO and accompanying Design Code on a day-to-day basis.
- 3.6 The amended LDO is described as follows:

*Proposed Local Development Order for the creation of a Business and Innovation Park comprising E(g)(i) (Office); E(g)(ii) (Research and Development); E(g)(iii) (Industrial Process); B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage or Distribution) uses, and within Zone A of the proposed development a C1 (Hotel) (maximum 120 bed spaces); and buildings within the Horizon Hub area where the following uses will be permitted, subject to restrictions on internal floor area: E(a) (Shop; maximum 300sq.m); E(b) (Restaurant and Cafe; maximum 200sq.m); Gymnasium within Use Class E(d) (maximum 700sq.m.); E(e) (Medical or Health Services; maximum 150sq.m.); Early Years Childcare, Day Nursery or Preschool within Use Class E(f) (maximum 350sq.m); 250sq.m for Sui Generis Event Space (excluding such space within a building principally used as a C1 Hotel); Sui Generis Bus Depot including welfare facilities; and associated structural landscaping and infrastructure - Amendments to the Approved Local Development Order (LDO) and Proposed Horizon 120 Wayfinding Strategy*

- 3.7 Fundamentally, there are no changes proposed to the arrangement of the Zones across the Horizon120 site. These remain as:
- **Zone A:** Horizon Hub (C1 Hotel, E(g)(i) Office and the 'Horizon Hub Core' - a sub-zone within Zone A which includes the following uses: E(a) Shop, E(b) Restaurant and Café, E(d) Indoor sport, recreation or fitness, E(e) Medical or Health Services, E(f) Early Years Childcare, Day Nursery or Preschool, and Sui Generis Event Space for events).
  - **Zone B:** Office, R&D, Light Industrial
  - **Zone C:** Office, R&D, Light Industrial, Manufacturing, Storage and Distribution
  - **Zone D:** Park

3.8 As described above, the changes proposed to the LDO are relatively minor and can be summarised as follows:

- Use classes updated where necessary to reflect recent national changes
- Spine Road plan updated to remove the western spur of the southern roundabout to allow vehicular access off it for the electric minibus depot
- Safeguarded road areas removed as no longer needed due to progress with the side roads
- Clarification added that ancillary uses are permitted for the avoidance of doubt
- Event space permitted for the Enterprise Centre only
- Increase in overall floorspace limit to 75,000sq.m (from 65,000sq.m)
- Removal of mixed use in Zone B as replaced by clarification on ancillary uses
- Addition of bus depot in Zone C to allow for the electric minibuses. Restricted to one depot only
- Allowance for extensions and/or alterations to be made alongside a change of use, subject to a checklist being submitted prior to any works
- Assessment timeframe for a checklist extended slightly to 28 working days
- Amendment to wording of Condition G10 to reflect that the Signage and Wayfinding Strategy has now been produced and to require compliance with it
- Amendment to Condition P7 Noise to resolve some issues with the adopted wording from going through the checklist process
- Amendment to Condition P8 in relation to building use to clarify that changes of use can only be undertaken as expressly permitted by the LDO, notwithstanding the Use Class Order. Condition previously only expressed this notwithstanding the Permitted Development Rights Order, with the change required due to national changes in the Use Class Order
- Text added to encourage pre-application discussions with BDC planning prior to submission of a checklist where variations are allowed (in certain circumstances only as per the Design Code)
- Clarified that any ancillary buildings must meet the same standards as the main building

- Materials now required to be non-combustible, with evidence of this provided within the checklist
- Allowance for variations in species of landscape where agreed with the Council to reflect that species are not always readily available
- Additional fencing permitted in Zone B
- Palisade fencing allowed in certain circumstances
- Terminology of 'screening walls' amended to 'screening boundaries' for clarity
- Substations allowed to be accessed from the green links subject to specific requirements on screening and landscaping
- Lighting columns restricted to 6m high maximum
- Parking standards updated to reflected the new use classes (the parking standards do remain the same)
- Amendments to the Statement of Reasons to reflect that the LDO Review is being undertaken

#### Consultation

- 3.9 Public consultation on the revised LDO and Design Code and the proposed Wayfinding Strategy commenced on 3rd June 2021 and expired on 15th July 2021. In accordance with the Regulations and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the proposals have been advertised by way of site notices within the local area, neighbour notification letters and press advertisement.
- 3.10 The consultation responses and representations received are detailed within Appendix 1 and 2 respectively. In response to the consultation the Council has received 13 consultation responses, and 6 representations on the proposals, which include representations from both Great Notley Parish Council and Black Notley Parish Council. The tables contained within Appendix 1 and 2 sets out the Councils consideration and response to the consultation responses and representations.
- 3.11 Following the consultation, and in response to some of the consultation responses and representations, a number of amendments have been made to both the LDO and to the Design Code. These changes are summarised within Appendix 3.

#### Assessment

- 3.12 As highlighted above, many of the amendments are minor in nature. There are three amendments which are more significant and are explained in more detail below.

### **Use Class Changes**

- 3.13 The Government amended the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 on 1st September 2020. The changes were aimed to allow more flexible uses and enable buildings, particularly on high streets and in town centres, to change use more easily to respond to changing demand.
- 3.14 As part of the changes, Parts A and D of the original Use Classes were revoked and three new Use Classes were introduced: Use Class E (Commercial, business and service); Use Class F.1 (Learning and non-residential institutions); and Use Class F.2 (Local community). In addition, the changes also resulted in original Use Classes A4, A5 and D2 being classified as Sui Generis.
- 3.15 The revised LDO has been updated to ensure that the development within each Schedule refers to the up-to-date Use Classes. This ensures the LDO reflects current legislation and that users of the LDO are able to correctly interpret the planning regime in place for Horizon120 which provides greater certainty. The proposed changes in this regard are therefore considered to be acceptable.

### **Floorspace Cap**

- 3.16 The original LDO was subject to a restriction that the total gross internal floor area within the Horizon120 LDO area must not exceed 65,000sq.m. This restriction was imposed based on the transport assessment analysis undertaken at the time and the cap was imposed to ensure that the proposals would not have a detrimental impact on either the strategic or local highway network.
- 3.17 The revised LDO seeks to amend this condition to increase the floorspace cap from 65,000sq.m to 75,000sq.m. The revised LDO was accompanied by a Transport Assessment which assesses the impact of an increase in the level of light industrial floorspace from 31,900sq.m to 46,060sq.m and the corresponding increase in the overall floor area of development to 75,00sq.m.
- 3.18 As highlighted within Appendix 1, Highways England have raised no objections to the proposal subject to a condition for off-site mitigation, and ECC Highways have also raised no objections as they do not consider that the floorspace revisions would have a material impact on the operation of the local highway network.
- 3.19 The detailed wording of the condition recommended by Highways England has been reviewed and has been subject to further discussion. A revised condition has been agreed with Highways England, and subject to this condition, the proposals are considered to be acceptable in this regard. As set out within Appendix 3, the LDO has been updated with this revised condition (Condition G12)

## **Wayfinding Strategy**

- 3.20 Paragraph 127 of the NPPF states that developments should create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being. This is further supported by The National Design Guide which states that the design of public spaces should encompass its siting and integration into the wider network of routes as well as its various elements which include areas allocated to different users – cars, cyclists and pedestrians – for different purposes such as movement or parking, hard and soft surfaces, street furniture, lighting, signage and public art.
- 3.21 Condition 13, attached to the approved LDO 2020 required a Public Art Strategy to come forward for the LDO site prior to commencement of the Horizon Hub area. Since the LDO was approved in 2020, a Wayfinding Strategy for Horizon 120 has been presented to the Council and is included with this application for approval to sit alongside the revised LDO and Design Code.
- 3.22 The Wayfinding Strategy sets out the aspirations for the site to enhance and reflect the ethos that underpins Horizon 120 as a natural, healthy and innovative business park. It builds on how a series of connections through the site can be achieved and facilitated through the wayfinding strategy to create active, green and social connections. The Strategy concentrates on the 3 main types of wayfinding throughout the site, those being a) signage b) public art and c) furniture and exercise equipment.
- 3.23 The Strategy provides guidance for plot owners and lessees on their responsibilities regarding signage and art within each individual plot, as well as designers and artists who design and deliver the wayfinding on the site. These principles and designs have been carried forward to the proposed Design Code and will set the precedent for businesses to follow through the submission of a compliance checklist. This will ensure consistency and high quality throughout the business park.

### Signage

- 3.24 The Strategy sets out the location of the signage, along with a strategy for how this will work across the site. There are 41 locations identified within the site for signage. These are segregated into different types, that being entrance signs, gateway and navigation markers, route directions, map and information points and plot markers. Different options of signage design have been included within the Strategy to ensure that the detailed design can be developed and considered holistically. The location of these signs have been carefully considered to ensure a coherent but clutter free approach. The location of signage is identified on Plan 1 in Appendix 4.

### Public Art

- 3.25 The Strategy sets out how art within the public realm and individual plots shall encompass sculpture, pavilions, surface treatments and furniture and must

contribute to a cohesive visual identity for Horizon 120. The Strategy includes 4 locations for Public Art, those being at Horizon Hub, Horizon Park, Northern Roundabout and at the Entrance to the site, the locations of which are identified in Appendix 5. These locations have been selected for public art to create focal points, drawing people to these areas and encouraging social, green and active connections. The Strategy sets out the principles in which art work will be commissioned, particularly in relation to consultation with the local community and stakeholders and commissioning of artists, particularly local artists.

- 3.26 Whilst 4 locations for public art have been identified within the main focal areas, this doesn't preclude businesses of individual plots from coming forward for art and sculpture within their plot. However, to ensure consistency, the principles and guidance within the Strategy must be followed.

#### Furniture and Exercise Equipment

- 3.27 Furniture and exercise equipment form key parts of the Strategy, providing distinctive focal points whilst activating the public realm. By including furniture in the overall wayfinding strategy, a coherent and simple design language can be established. Key locations for furniture within the public realm are outlined in namely the Horizon Hub, Horizon Park, Horizon Walk and within the main footpath network. Furniture within the Horizon Hub area shall provide amenity within a larger communal setting/ informal square, and therefore must be aimed at socialising and interaction. The remaining locations shall provide opportunity and amenity to pause and either rest or exercise. The locations are identified in Appendix 6.
- 3.28 The key furniture typologies are benches, seats, tables and seating for socialising, pavilions, canopies, outdoor gym equipment, distance markers, table tennis tables, games areas such as boules, drinking water fountains, cycle parking and refuse/ recycling bins. The Strategy sets out the design consideration and materiality as key standards, for example furniture must be made from materials that support sustainability, and be UK and North European sourced, and should be visually in keeping with the natural setting.
- 3.29 In terms of delivery and implementation, the Strategy sets out the way in which the detailed design of the wayfinding will be progressed, along with draft condition G10 that requires the details to be submitted with the compliance checklist for each plot. Whilst the Strategy is to be considered as a whole, it will be delivered on site in a phased manner. In order to progress with the delivery, the Strategy identifies how a curator/ Art Advisor will be appointed to the role of overseeing the public art on the site. It also states the possibility of commissioning a steering group. At present 2 curators have been appointed to the role.
- 3.30 In terms of maintenance, the Statement of Reasons which accompanies this application outlines that the general ownership and maintenance of the site, namely public highway, building set back landscape, perimeter buffer

landscape, and parks and public spaces will fall under the remit of the Council as land owner. All other areas will be the responsibility of a developer and/or individual plot owners. The maintenance responsibilities of the plot owner/lessee are yet to be incorporated into draft condition G10. Further discussions are being undertaken in this regard.

- 3.31 In conclusion, the Wayfinding and Public Art Strategy submitted is considered high quality and well thought out, and will contribute to creating an inclusive, healthy and accessible place, in accordance with the aspirations of design quality embedded within the ethos of the Horizon 120 Business Park.

#### **4. Options**

4.1 There are two options:

4.1.1 Full Council approve the revised LDO and Design Code and the proposed Wayfinding Strategy and revoke the existing LDO and Design Code. This is the recommended option at this time on the basis that the proposed revisions to the LDO and Design Code, along with the proposed Wayfinding Strategy, are considered to be acceptable.

4.1.2 Full Council do not approve the revised LDO and Design Code and the proposed Wayfinding Strategy.

#### **5. Next Steps**

5.1 N/A

#### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The costs of producing the LDO and Design Code have been met from existing budgets.

#### **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 Local Planning Authorities are required to following the legislative framework in place in bringing forward and adopting an LDO. The proposals set out within this report are in line with that legislative framework.

#### **8. Other Implications**

##### Customer Impact

8.1 If approved, the revised LDO will continue allow significant new employment opportunities to be developed on the site which will have a positive economic impact on the District and provide new job opportunities. The LDO will enable proposals for specific developments which meet its terms to be approved through a fast-track compliance checklist process without the need for a full planning application process.

## Environment and Climate Change

- 8.2 Careful consideration of sustainability measures and the landscape opportunities on the site have been made and are reflected in the Design Code which accompanies the LDO.

## Safeguarding

- 8.3 No matters arising out of this report.

## Risks

- 8.4 It should be noted that as the LDO grants permission for development, the subsequent compliance checklist applications have no scope for public or statutory consultee engagement. However, this restriction in public access must be balanced with this process and the benefits accruing from the use of the LDO. Where an application meets the terms of the LDO this has to be approved, even if the application is not in accordance with the “intended way” that the LDO should operate. This means that there has to be significant care and attention paid to the detail of the LDO and the limitations within it to ensure that the future development accords with the planned desire for the site.
- 8.5 Whilst the LDO does not preclude bespoke planning applications on the site where a business wishes to develop in a way which is outside the terms of the LDO, there may be pressures not to do this. The LDO will become a material planning consideration for any other application on the site, accordingly any application would need to additionally justify why it does not accord to the framework, in addition there would be a commercial pressure to adopt a more compliant development to save time and cost in development. The LDO may therefore constrain some development.
- 8.6 These two factors operate against one another placing a pressure on the LDO to be restrictive and developed to ensure a desirable outcome, whilst remaining flexible enough to permit as wide a range of businesses and design parameters as needed.

## **9. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 9.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when the Council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

- 9.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 9.3 The Equality Impact Assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **10. List of Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix 1: Summary of Consultation Responses received to date
- 10.2 Appendix 2: Summary of Representations received to date
- 10.3 Appendix 3: Summary of Changes to LDO & Design Code following consultation
- 10.4 Appendix 4: Location of Signage
- 10.5 Appendix 5: Location of Public Art
- 10.6 Appendix 6: Location of Furniture and Exercise Equipment

## **11. Background Papers**

- 11.1 Local Plan Review (2005)
- 11.2 Core Strategy (2011)
- 11.3 Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan (2021)
- 11.4 Publication Draft Local Plan (2017)
- 11.5 Horizon120 Local Development Order (LDO), April 2020
- 11.6 Horizon120 Design Code, April 2020
- 11.7 Horizon120 Statement of Reasons, April 2020

(The above Horizon120 documents can be viewed online at [www.braintree.gov.uk/pa](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/pa) using application reference 19/00001/LDO)

- 11.8 Horizon120 Local Development Order (LDO), June 2021
- 11.9 Horizon120 Design Code, June 2021
- 11.10 Horizon120 Statement of Reasons, June 2021

(The above Horizon120 documents can be viewed online at [www.braintree.gov.uk/pa](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/pa) using application reference 21/01783/LDO)

## Appendix 1: Summary of Consultation Responses received to date

<b>1. Sport England – 03.06.2021</b>	
Response: The proposed development does not fall within either our statutory remit or non-statutory remit, therefore Sport England has not provided a detailed response in this case.	Officer Comment: Noted.
<b>2. Transport for London – 03.06.2021</b>	
Response: No comments to make on the proposed Local Development Order.	Officer Comment: Noted.
<b>3. Essex Swifts – 04.06.2021</b>	
Response: Consider that this project would be suitable for the installation of integral swift nest bricks in residential new build. Note that only a small number of external bird and bat boxes are proposed for the entire project.	Officer Comment: No residential development is proposed as part of the Horizon120 site and therefore there no opportunity to install swift nest boxes as part of new builds. The Design Code has however been updated at Para 6.3.5 where the following sentence has been added at the end: ' <i>Swift boxes are encouraged to be provided in liaison with Essex Swifts</i> '.  Comments noted in respect of bird and bat boxes, however no changes within the revised LDO are proposed in this regard.
<b>4. Natural England – 14.06.2021</b>	
Response: Natural England does not consider that this Draft Local Development Order poses any likely risk or opportunity in relation to our statutory purpose, and so does not wish to comment on this consultation.	Officer Comment: Noted.
<b>5. Essex Bridleways Association – 21.06.2021</b>	
Response:	Officer Comment:

<p>This proposal abuts an existing bridleway which runs north/south from the Discovery centre down to Blackley Lane. As far as we can tell from the documentation, the proposal should not directly affect this right of way, apart from the view which will change from an agricultural field to an industrial park with the associated noise etc which it will bring to the area.</p> <p>We ask therefore that the boundary treatment of the new park is strengthened with new hedge/tree planting to mitigate the impact of the new industrial park on this well-used leisure route.</p> <p>We trust these comments will be taken into account when this application is determined</p>	<p>Noted. Proposals would not affect the right of way and would comment that the proposals already provide for substantial landscaping across the site, including around the perimeter of the site.</p>
<p><b>6. The British Horse Society – 22.06.2021</b></p>	
<p>Response: This proposal abuts an existing bridleway which runs north/south from the Discovery centre down to Blackley Lane. As far as we can tell from the documentation, the proposal should not directly affect this right of way, apart from the amenity value as the view will change from an agricultural field to an industrial park with the associated noise etc which it will bring to the area.</p> <p>We ask therefore that the boundary treatment of the new park is strengthened with new hedge/tree planting to mitigate the impact of the new industrial park on this well-used leisure route.</p> <p>We trust these comments will be taken into account when this application is determined.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Noted. Proposals would not affect the right of way and would comment that the proposals already provide for substantial landscaping across the site, including around the perimeter of the site.</p>
<p><b>7. Highways England – 24.06.2021</b></p>	
<p>Response:</p>	<p>Officer Comment:</p>

<p>Recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted:</p> <p><i>No part of the proposed development shall be brought into beneficial use or occupation until the improvements to the white lining on A120 east bound off slip at Panners Roundabout slip road have been carried out in accordance with Intermodal Transportation Drawing number IT2021/HD/501 dated Jan 2021 subject to such design modifications as the appropriate Highway Authority may decide to make.</i></p>	<p>Noted that Highways England have no objections subject to a condition. Following receipt of the Consultation response from Highways England, further discussions have taken place and the following revised condition has been agreed with Highways England:</p> <p><i>“Prior to the occupation of any buildings approved as part of this LDO, a mitigation scheme, outlined for the A120 slip (West) at Panners Interchange for the road marking alterations and additional signage to facilitate the provision of an additional lane as shown in outline on Drawing IT2021/HD/501, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Highways England. The approved mitigation scheme, referred to above, shall be completed and open to traffic prior to the occupation of 20,000 sq.m of floor space within the Horizon 120 LDO area or the first occupation of any Primary E(g)(i) Office Development floor space within the Horizon 120 LDO area, whichever is earlier.”</i></p>
<p><b>8. Historic England – 30.06.2021</b></p>	
<p>Response: Wish to confirm that we have no further comments to make on this matter.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Noted.</p>
<p><b>9. Essex County Council Highways – 05.07.2021</b></p>	
<p>Response: The highway authority response to the original Horizon A120 consultation specifically indicated that ‘where the type and quantum of development to change significantly, the TA (Transport Assessment) should be amended accordingly to show the revised impact on the network and any other mitigation which may be required.’ A copy of the highway authority response dated 21 January 2020 is attached.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Noted.</p>

<p>A consultation has now been received which seeks to change the quantum of development and this is set out in a transport note prepared by Intermodal Transportation dated June 2021.</p> <p>The note indicates that the original junction capacity assessments for the scheme have been re-run to reflect the increase in light industrial use from 31,900sq.m to 46,060sq.m and decrease in in commercial floorspace from 25,800sq.m to 25,140sq.m and draws conclusions from this work.</p> <p>Trip generations, inputs, and full outputs for the revised junction assessments are not contained in the transport note and therefore the highway authority have not checked this information. However based on our own assessment the floorspace revisions are likely to give rise to an additional 52 two way trips during the AM peak and 47 two way trips during the PM peak.</p> <p>In conclusion and having regard to the highway mitigation already secured at Junction 3, the Panners Interchange and at Junction 4 London Road/A131 as set out in the transport note and requirements for active and sustainable travel measures To form an integral part of the Horizon 120 development the highway authority does not consider that the floorspace revisions would have a material impact on the operation of the local highway network.</p>	
<p><b>10. Essex Police – 06.07.2021</b></p>	
<p>Response: Raises a number of detailed matters:</p> <p><u>Footpaths roads and public spaces</u> “Healthy Working Lifestyle” “To promote activity, permeability and accessibility”. To enable confident movement and activity people need to be and feel safe within their environment without the fear</p>	<p>Officer Comment:</p> <p>It is considered that these principles are addressed within the Design Code which ensures that public spaces benefit from natural surveillance.</p>

of crime, especially in the current climate of creating safer streets and mitigating the risks to lone females. If people do not feel safe, they will not use the space. Inappropriate landscaping, future maintenance and poor lighting that provides areas for concealment, crime or the fear crime need to be avoided, these concerns need to be carefully balanced with those of integrating people with the natural environment. Such considerations and mitigation put in place need to be clearly identified in policy relating to such areas in the same way as those aspirations to embrace that natural environment.

Boundary Treatments

We welcome the desire ‘to achieve a balance between the needs for companies to create secure business premises with the need to establish a high-quality business park environment’. Whilst it is accepted that palisade fencing and such is not an appropriate boundary treatment in some locations fencing does need to be fit for purpose to the properties risk commensurate LPS1175 security rating. It has been found that wire mesh fencing and gates as used within educational establishments can provide security specification security whilst being aesthetically pleasing (especially green or black which from a distance are less apparent). We note secure boundaries must be screened by planting; where this is so it should not provide a climbing aid over the boundary treatment or be to the detriment of surveillance in or out of the premises or obstruct the field of view of a CCTV system.

Lighting (“Lighting fitting and location to create welcoming, attractive and safe places”)

We wish to draw attention and ask that the below except from the Police Crime Prevention Initiatives Safer Streets

Planting for screening boundaries can be on the inside or outside of the fence with a choice of planting available to ensure the most appropriate choice can be made depending on the fencing chosen, which will avoid it being a climbing aid.

Specifications of Street lighting and levels are included within the Design Code. Details of which are submitted

Crime Prevention Toolkit 2020 – Intervention: Street Lighting, is taken into consideration with the operation of lighting to both public and private space: The right street lighting in the right place deters crime by permitting greater surveillance during the hours of darkness creating a better opportunity of the offender and any activity being seen thus potentially putting an offender off committing a crime and allowing victims to identify a risk and take appropriate actions. Naturally should this lighting be turned off at a specified time then during these hours there will be a greater potential for such crime as this deterrence has been removed. The right street lighting does not need to be excessive especially with modern LED lighting allowing lighting to be directed and restricted to given areas.

Where bollard lighting is considered it should be noted that:

- Bollard lighting is not compliant with BS5489-1:2020 because it does not project sufficient light at the right height and distorts the available light due to the ‘up-lighting’ effect; making it difficult to recognise facial features and as a result causes an increase in the fear of crime (SBD:18:3).
- Can be subject of criminal damage or accidental damage.
- Can be blocked by nearby parked vehicles and other obstructions.
- Can be less efficient requiring a greater number of bollards than would be required if column lighting is used therefore equipment and running costs both financially and ecologically are increased.
- Contrary to popular belief can be more detrimental to wildlife such as bats due to the up-lighting effect, high light levels directly under the bollards and the increase in locations providing generally higher light levels.

That being said in the right place to provide ‘wayfinding’ it does serve a

with the Compliance Checklist. This is carefully considered and in accordance with Essex County Council standards.

This has been carefully considered, with lighting required to provide safety for pedestrians whilst needing to be carefully managed for ecology. Maintenance is included for the landscaping and paths.

Whilst some bollard lighting is permitted, this is limited to low level only and must meet dark sky principles with no upward light spill. Lighting to the main road network and footpaths must meet adoptable standards to ensure that safe spaces to walk or cycle are created.

purpose where British Standard compliance isn't required.

#### Public Art

Within the process of selection care needs to be taken, with considerations being made to include safety and the potential for crime with regards to the art and its location. In the past throughout the country public art has been the subject of theft and damage. With metal prices being at an all-time high the materials used within the art will affect the potential for theft, an expanse of surface or contentious item will provide a canvas for graffiti and of course the nature of some art may present a risk of injury by inadvertent or deliberate contact. Location considerations should include the lighting, the casual and formal surveillance over the art and method of fixing.

#### Lorry Parking

With an industrial development especially with elements of warehousing and distribution as can be seen elsewhere there is a need for secure ancillary parking nearby. Without such a facility lorries will be parked on roads outside premises awaiting entry or parked overnight awaiting opening time of the premises. Such parking causes safety risks to pedestrians especially with the desire for a number of paths and movements through the development, greater risk of theft from vehicles, congestion on the roads, damage to road and adjacent surfaces and stresses to businesses and those travelling within the development.

#### Cycle Parking

Essex Police support the promotion of green transport and use of cycles and it is good to find references to cycle security. We would request that you are mindful that when cycle storage is conveniently located adjacent to

Condition G10 has been updated to also require details of maintenance of public art to ensure it is managed adequately. More detailed matters are considered through the Horizon 120 Wayfinding Strategy.

Parking standards are set out within the Design Code and service yards permitted to encourage adequate parking within plots to discourage lorry drivers to park elsewhere. However, parking elsewhere cannot be controlled through the LDO.

With cycle parking required to be located within the plots themselves, this can be considered by individual occupiers.

<p>entrances that it does not provide a climbing aid to force entry into the building.</p> <p><u>Mitigating the risk</u> Further into the design and construction phase of this project we would welcome the opportunity to assist the developers in their demonstration of compliance with this policy by achieving Secured by Design Commercial awards. An SBD award is only achieved by compliance with the requirements of the relevant Design Guide ensuring that risk commensurate security is built into each property and the development as a whole.</p> <p><u>Industrial Watch</u> Building strong, cohesive, vibrant, and participatory communities; an excellent example is not far away within the Braintree District in the body of the Witham Industrial Watch (WIW). Built over the years WIW produces an efficient functional neighbourhood community not only focusing crime prevention but also the wellbeing of the estates generally. The success of the organisation is predominantly down to the committed volunteers and estate management, attempts in the past have been made without success to replicate it in other commercial areas. It is thought that consideration of such a scheme as WIW within the conception of Horizon120 may allow the same benefits to be embedded in this area for the future.</p>	<p>Design Code has been amended to encourage occupiers to work with the Police to achieve Secured by Design.</p> <p>There currently are no plans to create an Industrial Watch but there is management/maintenance of Horizon 120 as a whole, with many occupiers permitted to create secure boundaries. At the current time it is anticipated that these measures will be sufficient, but can be kept under review.</p>
<p><b>11. ECC Ecology – 08.07.2021</b></p>	
<p>Response: Ecology – Place Services are in support of the updated LDO for Horizon120 in principle.</p> <p>We are pleased the Design Code outlines measures to ensure that legally protected and priority species will be</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Noted. Detailed comment in respect of Rusa rugose has been reviewed and reference to this species has been removed from the Design Code.</p>

<p>conserved in line with previously approved reports, whilst also outlining best practice measures for biodiversity enhancements within the proposals which will secure measurable biodiversity net gains within the finalised scheme.</p> <p>The only comment we wish to make on the design code relates to the soft landscaping scheme for the road (Table 5: Soft Landscape Requirements – Road). This is because the ‘Planted Buffer – Plot Development’ section indicates the provision of Japanese Rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>), which and is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as a non-native invasive species.</p> <p>This species was removed from the Horizon Park Planting Schedule (Farrer Huxley, Revision C4), as submitted to meet the requirements of condition 4 (scheme of landscaping - 20/00901/DAC) of the associated approved application 19/01616/FUL.</p> <p>Therefore, we recommend that <i>Rosa rugosa</i> is removed from the design code, to ensure that the LDO does not support the use of Schedule 9 Invasive Species within the soft landscaping scheme. This will also ensure that the Horizon 120 design code is concurrent with the most up to date landscaping plans.</p>	
<p><b>12. Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) – 14.07.2021/15.07.2021</b></p>	
<p>Following some initial comments from the LLFA, subsequently confirmation of no objection has been received.</p> <p>ECC as LLFA confirm they are in support of the updated Local Development Order for Horizon 120 in Principle. The recommended updates complies with LDO conditions and Design Code to serve the development.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Comments noted.</p>

<b>13. Essex County Council - Green Infrastructure Team – 15.07.2021</b>	
<p>Having reviewed the LDO and Design Code, we advise the following recommendations are considered to improve the GI network and help achieve net environmental gains:</p> <p><u>Design Code</u> Welcome the focus of the Design Code to include delivery of green infrastructure, specifically nature-based solutions for SuDs, green links and corridors for roads and path networks and the buffer extension of enhancing habitats and recreation provision to Great Notley Country Park.</p> <p>Recommend the use of green roofs and bug hotels for bike and bus shelters, where appropriate.</p> <p>References GI principles and standards which should be considered as part of the Design Code.</p> <p><u>LDO</u> The Design Code mentions that one key focus is the delivery of integrated GI and needs to be reflected within the LDO to ensure GI is secured and designed from the outset of any new development proposal put forward. This should be secured by condition.</p> <p>With regards to the Construction Management Plan, the plan should include the landscaping and habitat creation, along with the planned delivery. It will need to incorporate the mitigating measures from the EIA and ecology assessments, including the provision to manage and mitigate impacts on retained trees and hedgerows during construction.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Comments noted.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Noted. The use of habitat walls, log piles, and green roofs are already promoted within the Design Code.</p> <p>Noted, however, it is considered that these are already incorporated within the Design Code.</p> <p>Noted, however it is considered that this is already incorporated. It should also be noted that some aspects of the infrastructure for the Horizon120 site came forward separately from the LDO pursuant to a planning application.</p> <p>Comments noted, however this is not considered to be necessary. The construction management plan has to be submitted with each compliance checklist application for each plot and ensures that adequate measures are in place to mitigate the impact of the development. In addition, Condition G3 (Tree Protection) already ensures any existing trees or hedgerows are protected during the construction process.</p>

Specific comments raised in relation to the Landscape Maintenance Strategy.

Noted, however no changes are proposed to Condition S3, which is considered to have sufficient scope for wide ranging maintenance principles to be taken into account.

The LDO should include a biodiversity enhancement strategy as a condition for building development and strategic infrastructure. The development will need to demonstrate measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Noted, however it is considered that there are already a number of site-wide biodiversity enhancement measures which will be secured through the LDO and the previously approved planning applications pertaining to the Horizon120 site.

**Appendix 2: Summary of Representations received to date**

<b>1. Chelmsford City Council – 15.06.2021</b>	
<p>Response: No comments, but supports the principle of the development of this site for employment/business uses. It will support the economy and offer jobs to new and existing residents expected through new housing developments both in Braintree and the surrounding Districts/Boroughs, including Chelmsford.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Noted.</p>
<b>2. Graeme Roe of Stanley Bragg Architects on behalf of Marshgate – 15.06.2021</b>	
<p>Response: <u>Architecture –General</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-combustible wall systems and cladding must be used. If the materials are compliant with the current Building Regulation standards, is this not sufficient to meet current legislation?</li>   <li>- Fixing details are now required for external cladding. What is the criteria for a fixing system to be approved?</li> </ul>	<p>Officer Comment:</p> <p>Since the adoption of the original LDO the Government has been reviewing fire safety standards and we have listened to feedback from potential occupiers. To ensure the buildings use appropriate materials for their lifetime, they must therefore be as safe as possible in terms of fire risk. The sustainability of the development and impact on climate change are also key considerations, with the use of combustible materials contrary to these given the fire risk, alongside the potential risk to the life and health of employees and visitors to the development. The wording has been amended since the consultation to ensure a choice of materials are available but the principle of providing non-combustible materials remains.</p> <p>This requirement is unchanged from the originally adopted LDO and no changes are proposed to be made to this. Occupiers must specify the details of the fixing system when the checklist is submitted but the LDO is not prescriptive in this regard to allow occupiers to utilise the most appropriate method and provide flexibility should</p>

<p><u>Boundaries (Page 94)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Palisade fencing is now permitted, but only to the back of a plot. There will be instances where sites are visible on 3 sides and so what defines the rear and can the palisade fence be placed on the remaining boundaries? Horizon 120 is defined by its landscape treatment and therefore green finish should be allowed so that it blends in with the landscape strip in front of it. The fences should be subservient to the landscape in front. Please can green powder coated be classified as acceptable.</li> <li>- Weld mesh is permitted, but only galvanised or stainless steel. Green powder coat is the industry standard and again the reasons for this are as above. Please can green powder coated be classified as acceptable.</li> <li>- Suggested clarification for the 6m rule for the location of gates. Is it 6m from the road side kerb edge.</li> <li>- Secure boundaries. This should be considered in relationship to the design of the adjoining buildings. Brick should not be the default material.</li> </ul>	<p>different methods become available over the lifetime of the LDO.</p> <p>The wording of the Design Code has been updated to clarify how back of plot is defined.</p> <p>The requirement for fencing to be black or dark grey is unchanged from the original adopted LDO and no changes are proposed in this regard to ensure the high quality appearance of the development is maintained.</p> <p>Clarity added that gates must be 6m back from the plot boundary to ensure there are no obstructions to the highway for any user.</p> <p>Wording was clarified from the originally adopted LDO to not restrict material to brick for secure boundaries. The Design Code does permit other materials, with different restrictions depending on which material is used to ensure a high quality development is created and maintained.</p>
<p><u>Parking standards (Page 104)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggest clarification that parking within service yards is permitted providing it meets the car parking standards.</li> </ul>	<p>The Design Code is clear on standards for parking in terms of space sizes, landscaping and so on. How an occupier wishes to demark their plot is their own choice and if they label parking to the rear as within a 'service yard', that is their own choice and not within the purview of the LDO. As long</p>

	as the car parking meets the other standards as set out it will be in compliance.
<b>3. Feering Parish Council – 15.06.2021</b>	
<p>Response: Feering Parish Council has no objection to this proposal. It seems to us to be a sensible place to put it with reasonable transport links and if the A120 development goes ahead it will be in an ideal location.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Noted.</p>
<b>4. Black Notley Parish Council – 16.06.2021</b>	
<p>Response: Black Notley Parish Council have sent in previous representations reference this matter so following up the amendments the Parish Council have nothing further to add and endorse their previous comments that this development will put further pressure of traffic on Bakers Lane already an overused rat-run.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Note the concerns in respect of impact upon the local road network, however the original proposals were deemed acceptable by the two statutory Highway Authorities (Highways England and ECC Highways). No objections have been raised by ECC Highways in relation to the proposed increase in the floorspace cap from 65,000sq.m to 75,000sq.m.</p>
<b>5. Great Notley Parish Council – 30.06.2021</b>	
<p>Response: Great Notley Parish Council wishes to make the following representations in relation to this application:</p> <p>It is noted that the use classes have been updated and one use now includes general industrial. It was previously understood that the use of the area would be for light industrial and distribution and there is a concern in relation to the impact more intensive industrial use would have upon the area and in particular upon the nearby residential areas of Great Notley. The Parish Council would wish any industrial use to be sympathetic to the local high density residential areas of Great Notley.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: The Use Classes have been updated however 'general industrial' (Use Class B2) was approved within the original LDO within Zone C. No changes are proposed in this regard.</p> <p>Officers note the concerns in relation to the boundary landscaping features and particularly those adjacent to the A131. Some of the tree belt was removed to facilitate the new vehicular access into the site.</p> <p>In respect of lighting, as part of the proposed revisions, the lighting columns would be restricted to 6 metres in height. Lighting, and specifically the specification for lighting, is addressed within the accompanying Design Code.</p>

The Parish Council is concerned regarding the landscaping of the area. It is noted that there are requirements to landscape within the development but is particularly concerned regarding the retention of a buffer area of vegetation between the business park and the A131. The contents of the arboriculture report are noted but it is also noted that some vegetation adjacent to the road has already been removed. For the visual amenity of the area and for biodiversity reasons the Parish Council considers that the existing vegetation adjacent to the A131 should be retained and careful consideration given as to the maintenance of trees, bushes and other landscaping on the site.

It is noted that there is limited reference to lighting in the documentation and to avoid light pollution, especially in view of the close proximity of residential houses, the Parish Council contends that there should be very clear guidelines as to lighting requirements in the LDO.

The Parish Council would wish the existing Bridleway to be safeguarded as it is a well-used resource by local residents.

It is noted there will no longer be a drive-through facility but that as well as the hotel it is proposed that there will be a café and a restaurant on site which will increase traffic accessing the site. There will therefore be a need for appropriate traffic management so as not to adversely impact upon local residential areas.

It is noted in the documentation that the request from this Parish for a section 106 payment is refuted and it is stated that a CIL payment will be made. At present Braintree District Council has not elected to use the CIL scheme and the Parish Council maintains that there

The existing bridleway would not be affected by the development on the Horizon120 site.

In respect of the Hotel, and the 'Horizon Hub Core', while these comments are noted, no changes are proposed to these as part of these revisions, save for updating the relevant Use Classes. Each of the development plots have to provide sufficient car parking, which will ensure that this will not adversely affect local residents.

While the Parish Council's Section 106 request is noted, no details are provided within the consultation response. Furthermore, no mitigation was secured in this regard within the original Local Development Order, and given the nature of the proposed revisions, it is not considered that there would be any basis to secure further mitigation.

<p>will be an impact upon the Parish which would justify a section 106 payment to be made.</p>	
<p><b>6. Mr Rob Lewis-Jones, 7 Wood Way, Great Notley, CM77 7JS – 11.07.2021</b></p>	
<p>It is not clear exactly what use all the units will have on the business Park and this is a concern given the very close proximity to houses in Great Notley.</p> <p>Concerned about increase in traffic on the A131 which will be significantly worse with lorries and buses using the entrance very close to our home at times of the day and night.</p> <p>We think that consideration should be given to slowing vehicles down who are travelling on the A131 which is related to the crossing point on the A131.</p> <p>The roundabout which links Cuckoo Way to the A131 is already fairly congested and this will increase hugely once the new businesses are in place – we live only a few hundred yards from this junction.</p> <p>We are concerned that developers have already requested to remove more trees and vegetation when it was originally proposed to be a very ‘green’ development with the tree boundary kept intact. We would like to see more information on the intentions of the developers as to this aspect and also ensuring that the development does include green verges and trees along the roads that it originally promised. This is an important factor in protecting the ecology of the area and the tree line will help reduce noise pollution.</p>	<p>Officer Comment: Comments noted, however the LDO sets out the development and specifically the Use Classes granted within each Zone, and no changes are proposed to these within the revised LDO.</p> <p>Concern is noted, however the transport and highway impacts arising from the LDO have been assessed by both Highways England and ECC Highways who have raised no objections.</p> <p>Comment noted, however this is a matter for ECC Highways. No such recommendation has been made by ECC in response to the consultation on the LDO.</p> <p>The impact upon the local road network has been assessed by ECC Highways and have raised no objections to the LDO on this basis.</p> <p>No additional tree removal is proposed as part of the LDO. Some tree/vegetation removal was required along the A131 to facilitate the new vehicular access and in order to ensure necessary visibility splays. Extensive tree planting is still proposed across the site and a substantial amount of new tree planting along the spine road has now been implemented. This is considered to be a very positive element of the scheme which will significantly enhance the appearance of the development, improve biodiversity and achieve wider sustainability and climate change objectives.</p>

**7. Emery Planning for Williams Group – 15.07.2021**

This response is submitted on behalf of the Williams Group who have significant current and long term investment interests in the Borough. These comments interrelate to representations made on behalf of our client to the Draft Part 2 Local Plan in respect of the same site, as the two matters should not be considered in isolation. We request that the updated LDO does not proceed to the next stage until the outcome of the Part 2 Examination is known and the Council is in a position to amend the document according to the Inspector's comments, leading to an adopted Part 2 Plan. Adoption of the updated LDO prior to this stage would be premature and could potentially lead to conflict with the emerging plan.

The long history of Horizon120 as an allocated employment site originally identified through earlier plan periods and only recently being the subject of an LDO to try and accelerate progress, indicates that there are major deliverability issues with the site. The continued allocation of this level of employment land within the LDO is likely to lead to an unrealistic reliance in the emerging development plan and the subsequent inability for the plan to deliver the level of employment land required during the plan period.

The draft updated LDO appears to indicate that up to 6ha will be given over to B1, R&D and hotel development hub with an allowance for retail floorspace. Zones A and B combined amount to a significant amount of floorspace and although the retail floorspace element appears to be restricted in the document, any provision of retail facilities on this site needs to be justified

Officer Comment:

Objection noted, however this overlooks the fact that there is already an adopted LDO and Design Code in place for Horizon120. Although the Council is seeking to make a new LDO for the Horizon120 site, it is effectively only seeking to make relatively minor amendments to the LDO and Design Code, when compared to the adopted versions. It is therefore not accepted, as suggested, that it would be premature to make a new LDO for the Horizon120 site and it is not considered that these proposals need to be held in abeyance to await the outcome of the emerging Local Plan. The proposals are not considered to conflict with the emerging plan.

Comment noted, however disagree with the suggestion that the level of employment land provision on the Horizon120 site is unrealistic and disagree that there are major deliverability issues with the site. Since the Council made the LDO last year, it has already approved three compliance checklist applications for specific plots on the site. This is in addition to the standalone infrastructure and levels planning applications which enabled preparatory works to commence on site. Development is commencing on site and this is considered to be indicative of the success of the LDO and Design Code in place for Horizon120.

No changes are proposed to the quantum of floorspace for specific uses within the Horizon Hub Core, as defined within Schedule A, Class 1 of the LDO. Furthermore, the LDO is also very explicit that development is not permitted if it would result in the total gross internal floor area within the Horizon 120 LDO area exceeding certain floorspace thresholds. These

with a suitable evidence base and subject to the impact assessment and sequential assessment policy tests. Any alternative approach will likely provide an elevated policy position for extensive retail development in an out-of-centre location which would be to the detriment of existing retail locations.

6ha is a significant area and does not appear to accord with the quantum of floorspace overall identified for delivery within the district of retail and leisure uses, nor our client's experience of seeking to provide improved and expanded retail and leisure provision within the context of longstanding and well-established retail and leisure destinations. Justification is required for this 6ha figure and for what appears to be a significant departure from the strategy being advanced within the Part 1 and Part 2 plans with regards the provision of retail and leisure spaces.

If the 6ha figure for Zone A is correct, and the Council are seeking to include this within the Part 2 Plan or this LDO process, our client objects in the strongest possible terms irrespective of the indicated floor area restrictions on the basis that this will provide an elevated policy position for extensive retail development significantly over the restricted figure. There is no justification in this location for this quantum of what can only be described as primary retail provision. Significant further work on the impacts on existing centres and destinations is required to justify this new figure which we consider is completely absent at present and at odds with the evidence that has been presented.

If the intention is for retail provision to be purely ancillary to the business floorspace provided then this needs to be made more explicit than is currently the case within the draft LDO

uses are proposed as complimentary uses to the wider employment generating uses across the Horizon120 site and the floorspace restrictions specified ensure that this is the case. As highlighted, no amendments are proposed to the floorspace thresholds and there are no changes proposed to the arrangement of the Zones across the Horizon120 site.

It is unclear from the representation from Emery Planning, how the restrictions could be made more explicit. As highlighted above, the LDO already clearly states that development is not permitted if it would result in the total gross internal floor area within the Horizon120 LDO area exceeding the specified floorspace thresholds. This is considered to be clear and unambiguous.

It is not considered as suggested that the proposals would conflict with the emerging Local Plan. The proposals instead are considered to accord with the Adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Part 2 Local Plan which allocate the site for employment generating uses.

<p>documents and the limiting parameters and form of retail that is considered acceptable should be explicitly set out. Any retail provision in this location should play a purely complimentary role to the employment objectives of the LDO site itself and should not be allocated to meet any needs beyond the boundaries of the site.</p>	
--	--

## Appendix 3: Summary of Changes to LDO & Design Code following consultation

### Design Code

- 2.3 both references changed from 'green links' to 'side roads'.
- 3.4.2 changed to *'These roads together form the main road network through the site'*.
- Clarified that gates are to be set back 6m from the plot boundary – considered that this would be the best approach to ensure the highway was not blocked and pedestrians could still cross.
- In all architecture sections under 'Design Guidance' add bullet point *'All plots are encouraged to achieve Secured by Design in consultation with Essex Police'*.
- All architecture sections non-combustible cladding sentence amended to: *'Wall systems and cladding must be designed to minimise the spread of fire and evidence of this must be provided with the compliance checklist through confirmation of compliance with classes A1, A2 or B of the Euroclass system (or compliance with equivalent classes as amended or superseded).'*
- 4.4.2 & 4.5.3 third bullet point amended to *'Yards to the side, shall have enclosures compatible to the appearance of the building, with guidance set out elsewhere in the Design Code'*.
- 4.4.2 & 4.5.3 fifth bullet point amended to *'Skips shall be concealed from public view'*.
- 4.6 table 1: 'screen walls' updated to 'screening enclosures'.
- 4.6.7 amended to: *'Perimeter railings/fencing forming secure boundaries are allowed to zones B and C. No railing or fence is allowed to face the entrance or secondary road, except if the secure boundary is set along the east-west arm of the secondary road as set out in plan: PL5. Railings and fencing (excluding palisade fencing) are also allowed if these are set back beyond the plot front boundary landscape forming a secure boundary in line with the building footprint.'*
- 6.3.5 add sentence at end: *'Swift boxes are encouraged to be provided in liaison with Essex Swifts'*.
- 6.5.5 to state: *'Palisade fencing is allowed. It must not face an entrance or secondary road as set out at PL5 and cannot form part of the plot front boundary landscape. It is only permitted facing green links, between plots (where there is no secondary or entrance road between as per PL5) or facing the boundaries of the Horizon 120 site.'*

*'If railings or fencing are sought facing an entrance or secondary road, this must be permitted by PL5 or must be square weld mesh fencing or vertical bar and grate railings (as set out above) set back beyond the plot front boundary landscaping forming a secure boundary in line with the building footprint.'*

- 6.10.2 reference to B1 to be changed to E(g)
- Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) to be removed from permitted species (as per ecology comments).

## **LDO**

- Changed wording of Condition G12 as agreed with Highways England on 1<sup>st</sup> July to:  
*'Prior to the occupation of any buildings approved as part of this LDO, a mitigation scheme, outlined for the A120 slip (West) at Pannors Interchange for the road marking alterations and additional signage to facilitate the provision of an additional lane as shown in outline on Drawing IT2021/HD/501, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Highways England. The approved mitigation scheme, referred to above, shall be completed and open to traffic prior to the occupation of 20,000 sq.m of floor space within the Horizon 120 LDO area or the first occupation of any Primary E(g)(i) Office Development floor space within the Horizon 120 LDO area, whichever is earlier.'*
- Changed Condition G10 to include maintenance:  
*'Details of signage, wayfinding and/or public art, and its maintenance, must be submitted with the Compliance Checklist and shall be implemented prior to occupation as approved. All signage, wayfinding and public art must accord with the approved Horizon 120 Wayfinding Strategy. The signage, wayfinding and/or public art must be maintained in accordance with the approved strategy.'*

## Appendix 4: Location of Signage

- Entrance Signs
- Gateway & Navigation Markers
- Route Directions
- Map/ Information Point
- Plot Markers



## Appendix 5: Location of Public Art

- Horizon Hub
- Horizon Park
- Northern Roundabout
- Entrance



## Appendix 6: Location of Furniture and Exercise Equipment

- Horizon Hub
- Infrastructure - Footpaths  
Rest Stops  
5no
- Horizon Park  
Rest Stops  
6no  
Entrances  
2no (a)
- Horizon Walk  
Rest stops  
5no



Plan 11: Furniture Location Plan

<b>Report Title:</b> Changes to the Appointments Committee	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>For:</b> Decision
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> N/A
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council ( <a href="mailto:cldr.gbutland.gov.uk">cldr.gbutland.gov.uk</a> )	

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Council has a number of Committees whose membership is determined to by the Council. This report outlines the update to the membership of the Appointments Committee and sets out the steps necessary to ensure that the Appointment Committee remains relevant to the recruitment being undertaken at any time.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council to agree:

- 2.1.1 The Membership of the Appointment Committee as set out in paragraph 3.7; and
- 2.1.2 To delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to make appointments to those three seats held by Cabinet Members, as necessary for the recruitment being undertaken at that time.

## 3. Summary of Issues

- 3.1 The Council is required to have an Appointments Committee as part of it recruitment process for its Statutory and Senior Officers as defined in the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2 The Appointments Committee are responsible for conducting the recruitment process, including interviews for these posts. Appointments of a Statutory Officer is made by Council, following a recommendation from the Appointments Committee at the conclusion of the recruitment process. Appointment of a Senior Officer is delegated to the Appointments Committee.
- 3.3 It is necessary to make some changes to the membership of the Appointments Committee since it was establish on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The Appointment Committee is made up of 6 Members. The Constitution sets out that three of

those seats must be allocated to the Leader, the Chairman of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee and at least 1 Cabinet Member.

3.4 All appointments to Council Committees are required to appoint in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to allocate seats to Political Groups on a politically proportionate basis for the 2021/22 Civic Year. However, Council agreed in the establishment of the Committee in 2019, that the requirements would not apply to this Committee. This provision was captured within the Constitution, which sets out the minimum requirements. In light of the wider membership of the Committee, it is proposed that the Committee remains exempt from the politically proportionate requirements.

3.5 The Current membership of the Appointments Committee is as follows:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| - Leader  | Cllr Graham Butland  |
| - Cabinet Member  | Cllr Tom Cunningham  |
| - Cabinet Member  | Cllr Gabrielle Spray |
| - Cabinet Member  | Cllr John McKee      |
| - Leader of HRA   | Cllr Jackie Pell     |
| - Chairman of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee | Cllr Mick Radley     |

3.6 It is important that the Appointments Committee is fit for purpose, and is able to undertake the recruitment process for any of the Statutory or Senior Officers. Accordingly, depending on the role subject to the recruitment, it is necessary to amend the named Cabinet Member, so that it ensures that the Cabinet member to which the role falls with their portfolio is in attendance, but also those that are most likely to engage with that particular role. With this in mind, it would be sensible to allow for changes to those identified within those seats to be made at the appropriate time and without the need for the appointments to be returned to Council for approval. Therefore it is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Leader to appoint to the seats held by Cabinet Members as necessary to the appointment being undertaken by the Appointments Committee.

3.7 Therefore the Membership of the Appointments Committee will be as follows:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| - Leader  | Cllr Graham Butland           |
| - Cabinet Member  | To be appointed by the Leader |
| - Cabinet Member  | To be appointed by the Leader |
| - Cabinet Member  | To be appointed by the Leader |
| - Leader of the Opposition                                  | Cllr James Abbott             |
| - Chairman of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee | Cllr Mick Radley              |

3.8 The recommendations set out in this report will help the Council to deliver the following Corporate Objectives:

- A high performing organisation that delivers excellent and value for money services.

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to make the appointments or approve the delegation to the Leader, as set out in this report. However that would mean that the Appointments Committee would not allow for flexibility going forward, and would require all future changes to be reported back to the Council, before any recruitment for a Statutory or Senior Officer could be undertaken. Accordingly, this is not the recommended option.
- 4.2 The recommended option is for the Council to agree the recommendations set out in this report, so as to ensure that the Appointment Committee is able to respond quickly to the relevant recruitment being undertaken.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the recommendations set out in this report.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Article 5 of the Council's Constitution provides that it is a function of Council to approve Council committees, their terms of reference and the appointments to them. The provisions set out in this report are in line with that requirement.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1 There are no other implications arising out of the recommendations set out in this report.

#### **8. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 8.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when the Council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 8.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out in this instance, as the provisions relating to the membership of the Appointments Committee are set out within the Councils Constitution. Any equality impact was assessed at that point.

**9. List of Appendices**

9.1 None

**10. Background Papers**

10.1 [Council meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.](#)

10.2 The Council's Constitution – Officer Employment Procedure Rules.

<b>Report Title:</b> Cabinet Report To Full Council	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>For:</b> N/A
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> N/A
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Councillor Graham Butland ( <a href="mailto:cllr.gbutland@braintree.gov.uk">cllr.gbutland@braintree.gov.uk</a> )	

1. **Introduction**

To facilitate the transaction of business at this virtual meeting of the Full Council this report covers the activities of all Cabinet Members. This follows the process used at previous meetings.

2. **Councillor Graham Butland - Leader of the Council**

2.1 **External Engagements**

Since the last meeting of the Council, I have attended the following external meetings: -

15 June	Covid-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board
16 June	Active Travel Fund Consultation Event
21 June	Success Essex Board Meeting
24 June	Braintree Local Highways Panel
24 June	Visit to Balfour Beattie at Horizon 120
25 June	SELECP Strategic Board
1 July	Covid-19 Local Outbreak Engagement Board
6-8 June	LGA Conference
9 July	East of England LGA AGM
12 July	DCN all members call on proposed waste reforms
16 July	Horizon 120 & Gridserve Site Visits

2.2 **Cabinet Strategy Workshop – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

The Cabinet met to progress work on the Forward Plan to March 2023 which will be presented to Full Council in October.

We were delighted to be joined for the opening session by the new Leader of Essex County Council (ECC), Councillor Kevin Bentley, and his Deputy, Councillor Louise McKinlay. They were accompanied by Richard Puleston, ECC Policy Unit Head. Discussions centred on the priorities of the two

authorities and joint working. This was a highly successful and productive exchange of ideas and is being taken forward by officers of both councils.

The Cabinet went on to consider the work that has been undertaken by the Investment & Development Group, chaired by myself. The Group is working on a programme which will pull together four core work streams to identify where the required savings of £1.6m will come from.

The work streams are: -

- **Strategic Investment** – capital build projects that can make revenue income.
- **Asset Management** – using our existing portfolio of assets, and potentially new ones, to make more income.
- **Commercial** – grow our income and identify any additional savings.
- **Treasury Management** – using our cash reserves to grow more income.

The Group will appear before the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee (PMSC) on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July to assist the Committee to determine how it may wish to monitor this extremely important piece of work.

Finally, Cabinet received an update on the progress of the Engagement Process on the Climate Change and Cycling Strategies.

### 2.3 **Portfolio Responsibilities – Performance Management and Marketing & Communications**

At the meeting of the PMSC I presented the Council's Fourth Quarter & Annual Performance Report for 2020/21. The detailed report is available to all Members of the [website](#).

As regards Marketing & Communications, we continue to share the government messages for the roadmap out of lockdown. We localise content where appropriate and inform the appropriate audiences on the information that is relevant to them throughout each of the 'Steps' as and when they are implemented.

We put information in the local media on the 'council page' every other week to reach people not online.

We continue to support businesses by providing a weekly update in our business newsletters which signposts businesses to financial support schemes and other forms of business support.

We continue to encourage residents to sign up to our e-newsletters (Sign up: [www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore)) and social media. The number of subscribers has gone up by 73.56% since 1st March 2020 (correct as 24<sup>th</sup> June 21). Total: 16,672. Most subscribers are signed up to more than one topic - subscriptions total: 50,029.

Our newsletters are subject specific and residents sign up to the subjects they are interested in, we have thirteen subject areas. Before the pandemic, on

average, we sent out each subject area newsletter once a month, with new government updates coming in regularly, the resident newsletters, business newsletters and parish council newsletters are now sent out once a week.

We had 172 new e-newsletters subscribers and sent out twenty newsletters during June.

Social media followers have increased by 39.67% since 1st March 2020 until May 2021. This month - 28,401 engagements across our social media channels and 541 posts were shared.

We send out one all staff e-mail each week to keep staff fully informed on all matters relating to COVID-19, the content of the e-mail has been expanded to include elements of business-as-usual communications.

### 3. **Councillor John McKee – Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation**

#### 3.1 **Collection of Council Tax and Business Rates as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021:**

Council Tax – 20.56% with £20.9million collected, this compares to 20.2% for May 2020, 21.32% for 2019 and 21.5% for 2018.

Business rates – 19.41% with £5.82million collected, this compares to 16.61% for May 2020, 20.5% for 2019 and 20.4% for 2018.

The net collectable business rates for the year includes Retail Relief granted of £16million (based on 100% relief for the year), which will be met by the Government. The actual amount of Retail Relief for the year will reduce as the 100% relief is for April to June before reducing to 66% for July to March, although this latter relief is also subject to a cap of either £105,000 or £2million per business.

#### 3.2 **NHS Test and Trace payments**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> May, the Benefits Team had received a total of 1,243 applications from residents, who had been told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate, for a payment of £500. Of these, 446 applicants received payments totalling £223,000, and 790 applications were rejected as they did not meet the eligibility criteria for either the standard or discretionary schemes. Seven applications were awaiting further information being submitted before determining the claims.

There were fourteen applications received in May: 5 approved, 6 rejected and 3 were subject to further information being supplied.

#### 3.3 **Business Support Grants**

Applications for Restart Grants closes on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The grant scheme was effective from 15<sup>th</sup> April and provided further support to non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses. Up to

25<sup>th</sup> June, the total value of Restart grants paid was £6.767m to 933 businesses.

A third phase of Additional Restrictions Grants was run during May, alongside an Additional Business Support scheme funded by Essex County Council, with a total value of £528,000 paid to businesses.

A further allocation of Additional Restrictions Grant funding of £1.146million was received from the Government on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. At the time of writing, the eligibility criteria, with reference to Government guidance, was being determined and an expectation that the scheme would be launched in the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> July.

### **3.4 Customer Services Centre**

The average call answering time for May was 33 seconds, with 69% of calls answered within 15 seconds. The number of calls received in the month was 8,158, the number of emails received was 953 and the number of online enquiries dealt with was 3,488. The percentage of calls resolved at first point of contact was 72%.

The average call answering time during May was impacted by increased calls at the beginning of the month relating to the impending Election and later in the month as Council Tax pre-summons notices were sent out.

### **3.5 Customer Services Excellence Standard**

The Corporate Customer Service Excellence Assessment took place virtually this year and included a focus on how the Council has been doing things differently during the pandemic.

This is the sixth annual assessment and the feedback from the assessor was extremely complimentary. The Council was praised for its insight into the commercial and business areas and approach to the pandemic. Partnership working, communications and the organisation's culture was also commended.

The outcome was that the Council retained compliance plus in three areas, gained compliance plus in a further four areas, making a total of compliance plus in seven areas of the assessment. In total, over the whole three-year rolling programme, the Council has recorded twenty-one areas of compliance plus.

This is a testament to the hard work of Staff, Management Team and Councillors during the pandemic that such a positive assessment was received and the Customer Service Excellence Standard achieved.

A copy of the Assessor's feedback full report was circulated to all Councillors on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 and Press Release issued.

### 3.6 ICT - Website

Following a question at Full Council on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from a Member and subsequent conversations with Members, the design and ease of use for Members searching for information, further work is underway to see what improvements could be made while maintaining the design features needed to meet the new demands on the website, such as: the visual quality of the site, bringing it in line with modern design standards and accessibility design requirements; the layout of the site for use on mobile phones, improving the experience on devices that make up more than 50% of the Councils website traffic.

The website has been designed with statistics in mind. The top four tasks that appear on the home page of the Councils Website are determined by either the statistics or by a high priority time sensitive task (e.g., Coronavirus and Climate Change engagement).

## 4. Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt – Cabinet Member for Environment

### Operations

#### 4.1 Transport

On 24 and 25 June the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) carried out an unannounced inspection of the Council's Transport Service to assess legal compliance with the Operator's Licence. The Council achieved a clean bill of health in all areas of the inspection and were deemed to be a satisfactory operator by the DSVSA with no recommendations or actions.

### Recycling and Waste Minimisation

#### 4.2 DEFRA Waste Consultations

The Government waste consultation on the consistency of household waste collections closed on 4 July, this was one of three waste consultations the council responded to this year, the others being Extended Producer Responsibility and Deposit Return Scheme that closed back in June.

#### 4.3 Trial Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Collections

Since the trial started approx. 4.5 tonne of small electronic and electrical items have been collected. The service is provided free of charge as part of the Council's Bulky Waste Service along with amenity collections at various location in the District.

#### 4.4 Food and Drink Carton Trial

Over the past 11 months we have collected approx. 7 tonnes of food and drinks cartons from various bring bank sites in the district. Those which have generated the most waste are Tesco Marks Farm, Morrisons Witham, old Depot at Great Yeldham and Earls Colne Village Hall. These 4 locations account for just under 4 tonnes (57%) of the total waste collected for recycling.

## **Cemeteries**

### **4.5 Memorial Testing**

Memorial testing (health & safety) has been completed at Braintree Cemetery and Halstead Cemetery is in progress. To date some 4,000 memorials have been tested of which just 168 (4.2%) failed to meet required standards. These have all been stabilised and where appropriate next of kin are being contacted regarding permanent repairs. Feedback from visitors to the cemeteries has been positive.

## **Street Scene**

### **4.6 Anti- Litter Signage Trial**

The year-long anti-litter sign trial began in November 2020 with the aim of reducing the amount of litter which is thrown onto highway verges from passing vehicles across the Braintree District. An interim report has showed promising results, where the anti-litter signs are located, a general reduction in the amount of litter has been observed.

### **4.7 New Inclusive Play Park in Halstead Public Gardens**

A new inclusive play area at Halstead Public Gardens was officially opened on 4 June 2021. The project was jointly funded by Braintree District Council and Halstead in Bloom. The play area has been well received by residents and visitors, together with positive comments on social media. It enables children of all abilities to play with a range of equipment focusing on the six senses of play including touch, smell, sound, and sight.

### **4.8 A120 Braintree Bypass Clean-Up**

The Council and many of its partners participated in the annual Great British Spring Clean organised by Keep Britain Tidy that took place from 28 May to 13 June. The Council worked in partnership with Eastlight Housing Association in supporting seven community litter picks.

A clean of A120 bypass was also completed, with 36 sacks of litter and approx. 29 tonnes of street waste removed. It is disappointing to see how much litter is still being discarded on the Braintree bypass, however, we were pleased to see a massive drop in the amount collected litter on this occasion (36 sacks compared with 83 in February 2021 and 89 back in October 2020).

## **Street Scene Protection**

### **4.9 Enforcement Activities**

The Street Scene Enforcement staff joined colleagues from Licensing, RSPCA, and Essex Police to execute a warrant at an illegal puppy farm in the south of the District. The person operating the farm was arrested. Sadly, one dog had to be euthanised by a vet on site for welfare reasons and 37 dogs and puppies were seized as well as 1 horse.

A joint operation to crackdown on commercial waste vehicles operating illegally in the District was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Essex Police. Roadside stops were undertaken and three people received a £300 fixed penalty notice for transporting waste without a Licence and one was also reported to Maldon District Council for operating as a scrap metal dealer in their District.

During the first quarter of the financial year the Council's Street Scene Team were directly involved in:

- 13 Dog fouling complaints
- 11 Stray dogs collected
- 26 Statutory Notices (Anti-Social Behaviour, Commercial Waste Littering, Abandoned Vehicle etc)
- 26 Fixed Penalty Notices (Unauthorised Waste Carrier, Littering, Fly Tipping, Smoking etc)
- 2 Prosecutions (Anti-Social Behaviour & Fly Tipping)

## **Environmental Services**

### **4.10 Covid**

Officers continue to team up with colleagues from Essex Police each weekend to conduct compliance inspections of hospitality businesses.

### **4.11 Licencing**

A wide-ranging review of taxi and private hire policy is set to commence.

### **4.12 Electric Car Charging points**

To add to our chargers in our leisure centres, Causeway House and George Yard car park, chargers have been commissioned in the White Horse Car Park and Newlands Drive car park, Witham.

## **5. Councillor Tom Cunningham – Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

I-Construct: Due to the main glazing and curtain wall sub-contractor going into administration, the project is currently subject to a 12 week delay and is likely now to complete in September 2021. The construction sector business support programme however continues to deliver and support businesses across Braintree and the South East LEP area.

The Council continues to work proactively with its partner local authorities across North Essex through the North Essex Economic Board. The Board will soon be procuring a series of business support packages to offer existing and new businesses across Tendring, Colchester, Uttlesford, Chelmsford, Maldon, and Braintree support as they recover from the economic impacts of Covid 19.

As the Covid restrictions continue to be lifted, officers are preparing to re-launch our successful Street Markets in Braintree and Witham. The return of the Street

Market in Braintree will combine with the completion and full opening of the town centre pedestrianisation project, which remains on programme to finish in August 2021.

The Council has submitted its bid to government for Welcome Back Funding. If approved the anticipated £134,418 funding will be used to support businesses to bounce back from Covid by promoting the opening up of town centres and visitor attractions across the district.

In support of the Spin e-scooter trial in Braintree, the Council has supported businesses in Braintree to hire 10 scooters in to offer their employees an alternative, sustainable means of transport. The e-scooters are now being fully used by businesses on the Springwood Drive industrial estate.

## **6. Councillor Kevin Bowers – Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Skills**

### **Assets**

#### **6.1 Horizon 120**

The delivery of the main facilitative infrastructure works for Horizon 120 remain on target to complete on budget in early July. Soft landscaping & planting will continue into planting season.

The sale of plots remains strong, with two plots having previously been sold and one plot now exchanged and due to complete in August 2021. Three further plots are under offer and expected to complete in September 2021.

Construction has started on the CareCo site, and on the Enterprise Centre site. By the end of the 2021 calendar year, we are anticipate having seven buildings under construction.

Work continues in partnership with Essex County Council to deliver a Digital Demand Responsive electric mini-bus fleet which is due to start operating in September 2021.

#### **6.2 Victoria Square Development**

The main works continue to progress well with phased completion of all works expected to complete in December 2021. In support of this, the Mid Essex CCG has begun an open call for new GPs to operate the Live-Well Hub based at the development.

#### **6.3 Sible Hedingham Medical Centre**

A specialist development partner, One Medical Group, have now been selected to develop the medical centre. Subject to agreement of the transfer of land to One Medical, they will now work with the relevant GP surgeries to progress the project, with work expected to begin on site in early 2022.

#### **6.4 Witham Enterprise Centre**

An architect and cost consultants have now been appointed to continue to progress the project to a business case. The land transfer has now also completed, and an internal project team is progressing an outline business case, which is expected in the autumn of 2021.

#### **6.5 Skills**

Officers are continuing to make referrals to national and localised skills support programmes developed to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The Braintree District Careers Fair is scheduled for September 2021, subject to restrictions, and will engage all year 11 pupils in all 8 secondary schools in the district to provide unbiased post 16 careers and skills information.

#### **6.6 Housing**

The Council are aware of the situation at Riverside Place and are working with the owners of the premises, Home Group Ltd, to support all residents as part of the Council's role as a Housing Authority.

### **7. Councillor Mrs Gabrielle Spray – Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure**

Section 2 of the Braintree Local Plan was taken through its Examination in Public between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July. If found sound by the two inspectors, the Plan will be taken through to final approval and adoption by Council towards the end of this year.

A consultation on suggested changes to the Local Development Order related to the Horizon 120 innovation and business park has been recently conducted. The proposed changes, to support the smooth process of development on the site, will be discussed at this full council meeting.

Braintree council has been working with Place Services at Essex County Council to determine a timetable for the review of the Sliver End Conservation Guide. To that end it is expected that work will begin on the review later this Summer.

### **8. Councillor Peter Tattersley – Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing and Councillor Frankie Ricci – Cabinet Member for Communities**

#### **8.1 Community Engagement Events – Getting Back into the Community**

Officers from across the council have been out in the community with a range of partners including Essex Police, Essex Fire Service, Community360, Eastlight Community Homes and United in Kind to engage with residents. The aim of the engagement events is to understand local issues & what impact covid has had on them and the community they live in. The events to date have taken place in Castle Hedingham, Cressing, Witham, Hatfield Peverel, Halstead and Feering. The events have also enabled individuals to be identified for support and advice services including carers, dementia support and slipper exchanges as well as

with referrals for the checking and installation of fire alarms and information about scams.

## **8.2 Domestic Abuse Campaign**

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership has a social media campaign going on throughout the European Football Championships 'Show Domestic Abuse the red card' with the aim of raising awareness and highlighting where abuse victims can go for support.

## **8.3 Members Development Evening – Community Recovery**

I am grateful to all those members that attended the community recovery session which provided an interesting and informative overview of the support the council has been able to provide to those most in need within our communities, it also highlighted the quick and efficient response provided by the communities themselves. The breakout groups provided interesting discussion and thoughts as to how we can continue to engage with our communities moving forward.

## **8.4 Councillors Community Grants Scheme**

The grants scheme continues to provide much needed funding to a range of groups and projects and members have already been proactive in allocating some or all of their annual funding allocation. A reminder that the fund was amended last year to support communities to respond to issues arising from the coronavirus pandemic and to harness the community spirit and enthusiasm being displayed across the district into long term volunteering opportunities.

## **8.5 National support for more AED**

The near tragic events in the football match between Denmark and Finland at the Euro's tournament highlighted in the national media the quick application of an AED device to Cristian Eriksen when he suffered a cardiac arrest after 41minutes of the match. I can confirm that each of the Fusion operated Leisure facilities has both an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) located inside the building for staff trained use and a publicly accessible AED one on the outside of the buildings available 24hours.

Gt Notley Parkrun has a mobile unit available outside for all events as well as one located at the café. Braintree Town Hall has one located within the building and Causeway house now has one that can be publicly accessed 24/7

## **8.6 Tourism**

22-31 May marked English Tourism Week, officers supported and promoted national, county, and local campaigns to encourage safe tourism. The Visit Braintree District website has seen an increase in traffic of 33% over the month of May which is a positive sign residents and visitors are taking the tentative steps to begin enjoying our district again. We have recently launched a Blog section on the website and are working with local businesses and residents to provide editorial to support the feature. Officers continue to update business

listings, add to our events section, and promote businesses/events using our social media channels.

## **8.7 Cycling Strategy**

The public engagement period for the Cycling Strategy closed on the 4th July with a total of 686 representations received. Officers are now working through the responses to reflect on how the submissions may impact on the draft strategy and to absorb any other comments within a draft action plan. These documents will then be discussed via the Cycling Steering Group before being brought to Full Council in September.