

Council AGENDA

Monday, 22nd July 2019 at 7:15pm

Council Chamber, Braintree District Council, Causeway House,
Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9HB

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(Please note this meeting will be webcast and audio recorded)

www.braintree.gov.uk

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

Membership:-

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

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 by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

A WRIGHT
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest

Any member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest 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 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other Pecuniary Interest 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.

Question Time

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes when members of the public can speak. 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 by midday on the 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 Monday, (where there is a bank holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Friday).

The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register to speak if they are received after this time. Members of the public can remain to observe the public session of the meeting.

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Documents

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1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Council AGM held on 21st May 2019 (copy previously circulated).	
3	Declarations of Interest 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.	
4	Public Question Time (See paragraph above)	
5	To receive any announcements/statements from the Chairman and/or Leader of the Council.	
6	Long Service Award – Philip Kelly To present Philip Kelly with a Long Service Award in recognition of 30 years service.	
7	PFCC Community Safety Hero Awards Finalists To acknowledge the finalists of the PFCC Community Safety Hero Awards.	
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	To receive the following reports from each Portfolio Holder.	
	Oral Questions to the Cabinet: Members are reminded that following the presentation of each Cabinet Member’s report, Members may put questions to the Cabinet Member on matters relating to their portfolio, the powers and duties of the Council or the District. Questions are not restricted to the contents of the Cabinet Member's report.	
	Where a verbal response cannot be given, a written response will be issued to all Members. (Council Procedure Rules 29.1 to 29.4 apply).	
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Petition for a Statue of the Late Keith Flint of The Prodigy

Agenda No: 8

Petition presented by Saphya Gower, Member of the Public
Lead Petitioner:
Petition size: 10,162 signatures (as of 9/7/19)

Petition:

“Put a statue of Keith Flint in The Prodigy’s hometown of Braintree, Essex preferably in the town centre or somewhere prominent.”

The petition is hosted on an external website (www.you.38degrees.org.uk) and can be accessed via the link below:

http://www.braintree.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8547/petition_-_statue_of_the_late_keith_flint_in_braintree_town_centre_-_7th_july_2019.pdf

The Petition is seeking for the Council to place a statue of the Late Keith Flint in Braintree Town Centre or in another prominent location. The Petition also sets out an explanations for the purpose of the Statue.

The Petition meets the requirement of the Council’s Petition Scheme as set out in Chapter Two of the Constitution to trigger a debated by Full Council.

Whilst the petition has attracted national attention and signatures, there are at least 1,000 signatories whose postcodes relate to areas in or close to the District.

The Lead Petitioner is invited to present the Petition to Full Council. A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the presentation of the Petition. Full Council has a maximum of thirty minutes to discuss the Petition before moving one of the following options:

Options:

1. To move a motion that no further action is required.
2. To Move a motion that the petition is referred to Cabinet or an appropriate Committee.
3. To move a motion that some other action be taken in response to the Petition.

**Motion by Councillor Mrs W Schmitt – Climate
Emergency**

Agenda No: 9

Motion presented by: Councillor Mrs W Schmitt
Motion seconded by: Councillor Mrs G Spray
Motion supported by: Councillor J McKee
Councillor P Tattersley
Councillor G Butland

Motion:

This Council declares a “Climate Emergency” with an aim to make Braintree District Council activities, as far as practical, carbon neutral by 2030.

It calls for a Climate Change working group to be established to develop an action plan to ensure all Council functions and decision making is in line with the shift to carbon neutral by 2030.

The action plan is to be brought back to Council within 12 months for approval and implementation.

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Motion by Councillor R van Dulken - The Environmental and Sustainable Management of Road Side Verges

Agenda No: 10

Motion presented by: Councillor R van Dulken
Motion seconded by: Councillor J Wrench
Motion supported by: Councillor L Walters
Councillor I Parker
Councillor B Rose

Motion:

Roadside verges are recognised as being increasingly important as havens for wildlife, supporting many common and rare species of wildflowers and animals, such as bumblebees, butterflies and other invertebrates, as well as lizards, amphibians, small mammals and a variety of birds. They act as ecological corridors along which wildlife can move, linking habitats and allowing wildlife to re-colonise landscapes fragmented by modern agriculture. The wildflowers that grow form an attractive feature of the local landscape. The verges make a significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and the local environment across the Braintree District.

Cllr Mrs Wendy Schmitt, in her capacity as the Essex County Council Member for Braintree Town has asked the County Council to undertake a review of the management of roadside verges, as part of its Scrutiny function. This is with a view to a more sustainable way of managing and maintaining the verges being developed that protects their value for biodiversity and conservation without compromising road/public safety.

This Council acknowledge and fully endorses Cllr. Mrs Schmitt's request to Essex County Council and eagerly awaits the outcome of their review.

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Motion by Councillor J Abbott – Libraries

Agenda No: 11

Motion presented by: Councillor J Abbott
Motion seconded by: Councillor Mrs J Sandum
Motion supported by: Councillor S Hicks
Councillor Miss M Weeks
Councillor P Thorogood
Councillor B Wright
Councillor N Unsworth
Councillor T Walsh
Councillor Mrs J Beavis

Motion:

This Council notes that the stated purpose of this Motion is to support all existing libraries in Braintree District remaining open, supported as a comprehensive public service.

Council recognises the important role that libraries have in supporting learning, wellbeing and in combating social isolation, and where relevant, rural isolation and that these roles fit well with the objectives in the BDC Corporate Strategy for 2016-2020, particularly the section on Health and Communities.

Council notes that in the Essex County Council Draft Essex Future Library Services Strategy 2019 – 2024, smaller libraries are deemed not required for a legally compliant library service and that unless volunteer and community offers are made to run them, they may close. So called “Tier 4” libraries are particularly vulnerable and in Braintree District these are listed in the Draft Strategy as being at Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Sible Hedingham and Silver End. So called “Tier 3” libraries are also deemed by ECC to not be required for a legally compliant service and in Braintree District these are listed in the Draft Strategy as being at Coggeshall and Earls Colne

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/media/1015668/draft-essex-library-services-strategy.pdf>

[Essex Future Library Services Strategy 2019 - 2024](#)

libraries.essex.gov.uk

2 Draft Essex Future Library Services Strategy 2019 - 2024 This is a strategy for the provision of library services in Essex over the next five years, from 2019/20 to 2023/24.

Council notes that the public response to the Draft Strategy was very significant with tens of thousands of formal representations, many petitions and many local community campaigns all calling for local libraries to remain open.

Council notes that recommendations on the County Council's response to the consultation are due to be published in mid-July ahead of the expected ECC decision making Cabinet meeting of 23rd July.

Given that Council recognises the alignment between the roles of libraries and Braintree District Council's policies and strategies and also the high level of community concern about potential library closures;

Council therefore agrees that, taking into account any local community arrangements that ECC may make public ahead of their July Cabinet meeting, a representation on behalf of Braintree District Council will be sent to the Leader of ECC and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for libraries before 10am on 23rd July 2019 calling for any libraries in Braintree District that face closure to remain open and to urge that a dialogue with BDC, parish councils and local communities is established such that all libraries in the district can be enhanced as to the services they offer and to explore opportunities for better use of library buildings and spaces."

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Motion by Councillor J Abbott – Local Plan

Agenda No: 12

Motion presented by: Councillor J Abbott
Motion seconded by: Councillor N Unsworth
Motion supported by: Councillor S Hicks
Councillor Miss M Weeks
Councillor Mrs J Sandum
Councillor P Thorogood
Councillor B Wright
Councillor T Walsh
Councillor Mrs J Beavis

Motion:

This Council agrees to revert to the Local Plan Inspector's Independent expert recommendation of 'Option 1' as set out in his June 2018 letter, which is to secure acceptance of Part 2 of the Local Plan as soon as possible and that work on Part 1 (Garden Communities) be halted for the time being.

Council recognises the significant financial and planning risks should the revised material on Part 1 be found still unsatisfactory, resulting in the Inspector again not being able to agree to the Plan being Sound.

Council recognises that as of 31st March 2019 the housing sites allocated in Part 2 already amount to some 13,993 (*) dwellings which is 98% of the total minimum requirement of 14,320 in the Local Plan to the year 2033.

Council also recognises that updated development management policies are vital to ensuring the delivery of sustainable development and that these are contained within Part 2.

Council agrees that by securing an Adopted Plan which has up to date policies and the required housing numbers, it has the best defence against the on-going speculative development proposals being submitted on greenfield sites around towns and villages in the district.

(*) Estimated 5,938 in submitted Part 2 plus actual 8,055 with planning permission and/or built.

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Motion by Councillor J Abbott – Climate and Species

Agenda No: 13

Motion presented by: Councillor J Abbott
Motion seconded by: Councillor P Thorogood
Motion supported by: Councillor S Hicks
Councillor Miss M Weeks
Councillor Mrs J Sandum
Councillor B Wright
Councillor N Unsworth
Councillor T Walsh
Councillor Mrs J Beavis

Motion:

This Council notes the clear scientific evidence about human-induced climate change and species extinction. The 20 warmest years on record have occurred in the past 22 years. Failure to curb greenhouse gas emissions will very likely lead to further global warming, rising sea levels and local flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, impacts on crops and further extinctions of plant, insect and animal species.

Council notes that to avoid the worst of potential climate impacts, the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stated that mean global temperatures will need to be restricted to no more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels but that 1C of that warming has already taken place. Climate change and habitat loss together have already contributed to a 60% decline in the size of populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians since 1970.

Council notes that many local authorities have passed Climate Emergency motions in a bid to reduce their own carbon footprint, to help protect their local environment and to promote sustainable local economies in partnership with communities.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Align with the Climate Emergency initiatives that are being supported in many parts of the UK and publicise this to residents in Braintree District in order to raise awareness and to support local effective action.
2. Establish a remit within the new Scrutiny arrangements to work on the topics of climate change (including a new Climate Local Strategy & Action Plan), air quality and biodiversity including monitoring and policy development.
3. Co-operate with neighbouring local authorities, as well as communities, to encourage practical measures to reduce local authority emissions.

4. Encourage all sectors of the local economy to take steps to reduce waste generation and to develop a new strategy with the aim of achieving a Braintree District recycling/composting target of 60% by the year 2025.
5. Set annual targets to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and explore ways of substantially increasing renewable energy generation on the Council's estate with a target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
6. Use the planning functions of the Council to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in new development, sustainable modes of travel and retention and enhancement of biodiversity and habitats on development sites.
7. Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport above road building. Work with Essex County Council to establish a network of off-road cycling routes between towns in the district, connected to railway stations and larger villages.
8. Support and promote decarbonisation of energy across Braintree District and help promote community initiatives to develop renewable energy projects.
9. Continue to support and promote hedge and tree planting, especially with native species, and to explore opportunities for new Community Woodlands in the district.
10. Work with parish councils and Essex County Council to establish a substantial network of rural verges managed for biodiversity benefit on an environmentally sympathetic and ecological basis without use of chemicals and using a 'cut less, cut later' basis as recommended by Plantlife.
11. Use its powers, policies and influence to reduce light pollution which as well as being a contributor to energy wastage, can harm human health and is a direct threat to sensitive nocturnal species.
12. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth asking what support local authorities will be given to assist them contributing to the recently agreed UK target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (with the local target for BDC being 2030).

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Update to Appointments to Committees of Council		Agenda No: 15
Portfolio Overall Corporate Strategy and Direction		
Corporate Outcome: A high performing organisation that delivers excellent and value for money services		
Report presented by: Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council		
Report prepared by: Ian Hunt Head of Governance		
Background Papers:		Public Report
Constitution		Key Decision: No
Executive Summary:		
<p>At the Annual General Meeting of the 21st May 2019 the Council appointed seats to committees in accordance with the proportions of Councillors in political groups at that time.</p> <p>Since the Annual General Meeting Councillor Mrs J Beavis has joined the Green and Independent group.</p> <p>This change in proportion required a reconsideration of the balance of the various groups and the allocations of seats.</p> <p>Following discussions it is proposed to increase the membership of the Licensing Committee by 1, this enables all Members to remain on the Committees as appointed whilst reflecting the change in group sizes. The additional seat is allocated to the Green and Independent Group.</p> <p>No other appointments to committees as made at the Annual General Meeting are altered.</p>		
Recommended Decision:		
<p>That the Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the political balance requirements; 2. To approve the increase by one in the size of the Licensing Committee. 3. To Authorise the Head of Governance to amend the Councils constitution to reflect the changes detailed in this report. 4. Agrees the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with this report; 		

Purpose of Decision:

To comply with legislation and to enable the Council to discharge its functions through Committees and Sub-Committees.

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail.

Financial:	There are no material financial implications to this decision. Any marginal costs associated by an increase in the size of the Licensing committee can be met from existing budgets.
Legal:	Article 4 Section 1.1.6 of the Constitution states that it is a function of Council to make appointments to Committees unless the appointment is a Cabinet function or has been delegated by Council to a Committee or Officer. Other matters are addressed within the body of the report.
Safeguarding:	No matters arising out of this report.
Equalities/Diversity:	The determination of the political proportionality on committees is determined in accordance with the statutory provisions. Formally it is a matter for political groups to determine the membership of individual committees within the proportionate allocation to the groups.
Customer Impact:	No matters arising out of this report.
Environment and Climate Change:	No matters arising out of this report.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The Council undertakes consultation with the relevant groups in order to finalise the allocation of seats and the Membership of Committees.
Risks:	The political balance rules can only be departed from if there is no dissenting vote at Council. Failure to comply would result in a breach of statutory duty which could be the subject of judicial review proceedings.
Officer Contact:	Ian Hunt
Designation:	Head of Governance
Ext. No:	2629
E-mail:	ian.hunt@braintree.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report outlines the requirements set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to allocate seats on Council Committees and Sub-Committees to Political Groups on a politically proportionate basis. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 apply with some exceptions to any Committees established under the Constitution.
- 1.2. Since the Annual General Meeting Councillor Mrs J Beavis has joined the Green and Independent group, having at the time of the Annual General Meeting been unaligned. This therefore requires the Council to reconsider the proportions on committees.
- 1.3. The revised membership of the Council for the purpose of the allocation of seats is broken down as follows:-
 - 34 - Conservative Group
 - 9 - Green and Independent Group
 - 4 - Halstead Residents Association
 - 2 - Labour Group

2. Political balance requirements

- 2.1. The allocation of seats on ordinary Committees must be in the same proportion as the number of Members of the Group bears to the membership of the Authority as a whole.
- 2.2. The Council has a duty when allocating or reviewing the allocation of seats on Committees to give effect so far as is reasonably practicable to the following four principles:-
 - (i) all the seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - (ii) the majority of the seats go to the political group in the majority on the full Council;
 - (iii) subject to the above two principles, the total number of seats on the ordinary Committees of the Authority are allocated to each Political Group in the same proportion as the Group's representation on the full Council; and
 - (iv) subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each Committee are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the Group's representation on the Council.

3. Committee and Sub-Committee allocations

- 2.3. With the revised proportions the existing arrangements of committees would have required one additional seat to be given to the Green and Independent Group, in order to do this and maintain an appropriate balance there would have needed to be a further transfer of one seat from the Halstead Residents Association to the Conservative group. This would have reduced the representation on at least one Scrutiny panel to the main group and only one opposition group.

- 2.4. In order to preserve the overall pattern of seats across the Council, ensuring the maximum representation of groups and Membership. It is recommended that the size of the Licensing Committee be increased from 13 to 14 Members. This would enable an additional seat to be introduced which can then allow greater balancing of the seats across the groups.
- 2.5. The Licensing Committee would therefore be:
- Licensing Committee - 13 Members:
Conservative: 10
Green and Independent: 3
Halstead Residents Association: 1
Labour: 0
- 2.6. Vacancies are able to be filled by the relevant Group at any time upon written notice to the Chief Executive. However the Green and Independent Group has advised that their additional appointment is Councillor Mrs J Beavis. The other Members as appointed at the Annual General Meeting are unaffected.
- 2.7. Following a Council decision on 19th February 2007 all Members who sit on the Licensing Committee (including Hearing Panels) are appointed on the basis that all Members shall participate in appropriate training before undertaking their duties and continue to participate in ongoing training. This will be facilitated to ensure that the new appointment is able to attend meetings.
- 2.8. No other sizes of committees, the appointments of Members or the appointments of Chairman or Vice Chairman are impacted.

Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan - Adoption		Agenda No: 16
Portfolio	Planning and Housing	
Corporate Outcome:	A sustainable environment and a great place to live, work and play A well connected and growing district with high quality homes and infrastructure A prosperous district that attracts business growth and provides high quality employment opportunities	
Report presented by:	Cllr Gabrielle Spray – Portfolio Holder Planning	
Report prepared by:	Alan Massow – Principal Planning Policy Officer	
Background Papers:	Public Report	
Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan (2019) Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan - Decision Statement (2019) Report to Braintree District Council of the Independent Examination (2019) Localism Act (2011) The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)	Key Decision: Yes	
Executive Summary:		
<p>Bradwell with Pattiswick 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 Bradwell with Pattiswick parish area.</p> <p>The Plan has been subject to two rounds of public consultation, an independent examination, and a referendum which took place on the 27th June 2019.</p> <p>Following a positive referendum result, Braintree District Council is proposing to publish its decision to “make” the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan (2017-2033) as part of the Braintree District Council’s Development Plan in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.</p>		
Recommended Decision:		
<p>That the Decision Statement attached at Appendix 1 is approved, and the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan “made” under section 38A(4) of the 2004 Act.</p>		

Purpose of Decision:

To enable the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan to be used in the determination of planning applications within Bradwell with Pattiswick parish area.

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail.

Financial:	No matters arising out of this report.
Legal:	The adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan could be subjected to legal challenge.
Safeguarding:	No matters arising out of this report.
Equalities/Diversity:	No impacts identified.
Customer Impact:	Once adopted the policies contained in the Plan will be used to determine planning applications within the parish.
Environment and Climate Change:	This has been considered throughout the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to public consultation and referendum.
Risks:	The adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan could be subject to legal challenge. If a decision is not made within 8 weeks of the referendum, the decision could be called in by the Secretary of State.
Officer Contact:	Alan Massow
Designation:	Principal Planning Policy Officer
Ext. No:	2577
E-mail:	almas@braintree.gov.uk

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Bradwell with Pattiswick 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 on the 14th September 2016.
- 1.2 Following the submission of the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council, it was publicised and comments invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period finished on the 17th December 2018.
- 1.3 Braintree District Council in agreement with the parish council appointed an independent examiner Tony Burton CBE BA MPhil (Town Planning) Hon FRIBA FRSA, to review if the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions required in legislation and whether or not it should proceed to referendum.
- 1.4 The examiner's report concluded that, subject to certain modifications proposed in his report of February 2019, the Plan met the basic conditions and could therefore proceed to a local referendum.
- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan (amended in line with the examiner's proposed modifications) was the subject of a referendum held on Thursday 27th June 2019. 92.7% 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 voted 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).

2 Decision and Reasons

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The referendum held on Thursday 27th June 2019 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Bradwell with Pattiswick and posed the questions;

"Do you want Braintree District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bradwell with Pattiswick to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

2.3 The result of the referendum was:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total votes cast
YES	77	92.77%
NO	6	7.23%

2.4 The District Council agrees 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) and has passed referendum.

2.5 Therefore, in accordance with the relevant Regulations, it is recommended that the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan is “made” and shall form part of the Development Plan for Braintree District Council.

3 Further Steps

3.1 Under Regulation 19 once the Decision Statement has been agreed, the Council must publish it, and publish details of where it may be inspected, as well as send a copy of it to the qualifying body, and notify anyone who asked to be notified of the decision. It must also publish the Neighbourhood Development Plan in a similar fashion under Regulation 20. This notification will be carried out through the Council page in the local press.

4 Recommendation

4.1 That the Decision Statement attached at Appendix 1 is approved, and the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan “made” under section 38A(4) of the 2004 Act.

Appendix 1 – Decision Statement

Braintree District Council

Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan 2017-33 – Regulation 19 Decision Statement

July 2019

Summary

Following a positive referendum result, Braintree District Council is publishing its decision to “make” the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan (2017-2033) as part of the Braintree District Council’s Development Plan in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Background

Bradwell with Pattiswick 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 on the 14th September 2016.

Following the submission of the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council, it was publicised and comments invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period finished on the 17th December 2018.

Braintree District Council in agreement with the parish council appointed an independent examiner Tony Burton CBE BA MPhil (Town Planning) Hon FRIBA 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 February 2019, the Plan met the basic conditions and could therefore proceed to a local referendum.

The Neighbourhood Plan (amended in line with the examiner’s proposed modifications) was the subject of a referendum held on Thursday 27th June 2019. 92.7% 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 27th June 2019 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Bradwell with Pattiswick and posed the questions;

“Do you want Braintree District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bradwell with Pattiswick 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	77	92.77%
NO	6	7.23%

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 Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan is “made” and shall form part of the Development Plan for Braintree District Council.

Recommendation from Cabinet – 8th July 2019 – Disposal of Land at Horizon 120, Great Notley	Agenda No: 17
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Portfolio	Corporate Transformation Economic Development
Corporate Outcome:	A sustainable environment and a great place to live, work and play A prosperous district that attracts business growth and provides high quality employment opportunities
Report presented by:	Councillor John McKee, Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation
Report prepared by:	Aidan Kelly, Interim Head of Strategic Investment

Background Papers:	Public Report
<u>Cabinet Report and Minutes of 11th February 2019 and 8th July 2019</u>	Key Decision: Yes

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET – 8th July 2019

12 ****DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HORIZON 120, GREAT NOTLEY**

Minutes Published: 15 th July 2019 Call-in Expires: 23 rd July 2019

INFORMATION: Members were reminded that this Item was linked to Item 11a in the Private Session of the Agenda, and that if any Member wished to refer to the private information contained within the report for that Item, it would be necessary for the meeting to be moved into Private Session.

DECISION: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting if it is necessary to discuss Item 11a of the Agenda and the Private Report, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

Both Agenda Items were taken together to enable consideration of all issues. It was not necessary for the debate to be moved into Private Session.

INFORMATION: In February 2019, Cabinet approved a budget, to deliver services and infrastructure to facilitate the release of an initial 20 developable

acres at Horizon 120, the 65 acre (gross) area of employment land, in Great Notley, acquired in December 2018.

This approval was informed by a vision to create an exemplar business and innovation park attractive to a number of sectors including professional services, research and development, digital and advanced manufacturing, particularly linked to Stansted Airport. At that time, it was also assumed that the Council would act as lead developer, selling or leasing plots to individual companies.

Subsequently, significant progress had been made and the proposals were consistent with the agreed vision but required decisions which lay beyond the delegated authorities approved by Cabinet in February 2019.

Cabinet had been asked to consider the heads of terms with Marshgate Developments Limited, an established and reputable commercial developer based in Bishops Stortford, who had offered to purchase up to 20 net developable acres at market value; and Gridserve Limited, a specialist sustainable energy company based in Buckinghamshire, who proposed to develop their site as the UK's first fully electric vehicle charging forecourt.

Cabinet were asked to make specific recommendations, and to seek further delegated authority, in order to expedite effective governance and decision making, whilst minimising delay.

Members were advised that there was an amendment to recommendation 3 to read 'Cabinet approves a recommendation to Council for an increase in the approved capital budget'.

DECISION (PUBLIC REPORT): That Cabinet approved:

1. The Heads of Terms with Horizon (Braintree) Limited;
2. The Heads of Terms with Gridserve Limited;
3. A recommendation to Council for an increase in the approved capital budget;
4. A good faith commitment, to Great Notley Parish Council, to seek a suitable allotment provision in or near Great Notley but not within the Horizon 120 development;
5. The disposal of the freehold interest in land, subject to positive covenants to ensure that the Council is able to effectively manage and maintain the Horizon 120 Business Park in accordance with the standards set out in the Local Development Order, to be approved;
6. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to enter into contract, with Horizon (Braintree) Limited, on terms consistent with the Heads of Terms subject to disposals of land at market value and confirmatory legal advice that there are no reasonable grounds for challenge on State Aid or public sector procurement regulations;

7. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to enter into contact, with Gridserve Limited, on terms consistent with the Heads of Terms;
8. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to dispose of an area, of soft landscaping, to Gridserve, at market value subject to approval of the Gridserve planning application;
9. The Corporate Director (Finance) to extend the current exclusivity agreement, with Horizon (Braintree) Limited for a reasonable and sufficient period beyond 30th September 2019, subject to confirmation that due diligence is proceeding in good faith and without unnecessary delay;
10. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to authorise acceptance of tenders, for capital works, which would exceed the approved budget by up to 10%;
11. The Corporate Director (Finance) to authorise public consultation on the draft Local Development Order;
12. The Corporate Director (Finance) to authorise appointment of Essex County Council as contracts manager for the procurement of infrastructure works utilising the Essex County Council framework of contractors.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to conclude negotiations in relation to the disposal of land, on satisfactory terms, at the Horizon 120 employment site in Great Notley and to expedite procurement of infrastructure works and proper consideration of the draft Local Development Order.

DECISION (PRIVATE REPORT): That Cabinet approved:

1. The Heads of Terms with Horizon (Braintree) Limited;
2. The Heads of Terms with Gridserve Limited;
3. A recommendation to Council for an increase in the approved capital budget;
4. A good faith commitment, to Great Notley Parish Council, to seek a suitable allotment provision in or near Great Notley but not within the Horizon 120 development;
5. The disposal of the freehold interest in land, subject to positive covenants to ensure that the Council is able to effectively manage and maintain the Horizon 120 Business Park in accordance with the standards set out in the Local Development Order, to be approved;
6. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to enter into contract, with Horizon (Braintree) Limited, on terms consistent with the Heads of Terms subject to disposals of land at market value and confirmatory legal advice that there are no reasonable grounds for challenge on State Aid or public sector procurement regulations;

7. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to enter into contact, with Gridserve Limited, on terms consistent with the Heads of Terms;
8. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to dispose of an area, of soft landscaping, to Gridserve, at market value subject to approval of the Gridserve planning application;
9. The Corporate Director (Finance) to extend the current exclusivity agreement, with Horizon (Braintree) Limited for a reasonable and sufficient period beyond 30th September 2019, subject to confirmation that due diligence is proceeding in good faith and without unnecessary delay;
10. The Corporate Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation, to authorise acceptance of tenders, for capital works, which would exceed the approved budget by up to 10%;
11. The Corporate Director (Finance) to authorise public consultation on the draft Local Development Order;
12. The Corporate Director (Finance) to authorise appointment of Essex County Council as contracts manager for the procurement of infrastructure works utilising the Essex County Council framework of contractors.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Council to conclude negotiations in relation to the disposal of land, on satisfactory terms, at the Horizon 120 employment site in Great Notley and to expedite procurement of infrastructure works and proper consideration of the draft Local Development Order.

Recommended Decision:

That Council agrees increase in the approved capital budget

*Members are advised that Recommendations 1,2 and 4 to 12 set out in the Minute extract above were matters for Cabinet and do not require the approval by Full Council.

Purpose of Decision:

To enable the Council to conclude negotiations in relation to the disposal of land, on satisfactory terms, at the Horizon 120 employment site in Great Notley and to expedite procurement of infrastructure works and proper consideration of the draft Local Development Order.

**LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – OVERALL
STRATEGY AND DIRECTION**

Agenda No: 18a

1. Meeting with Cllr Andy Munday and Cllr Mick Radley, Halstead TC - 3rd April 2019

Together with the Chief Executive, I met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Halstead to discuss a range of issues affecting the town. As a result of the meeting the District Council has made a grant of £6k to the Town Council to enable exploratory work to be carried out on the Portway footbridge.

2. Roger Hirst – 1st May 2019

I met with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner at Kelvedon. We discussed a number of issues including policing in the District and progress with reforming the Fire and Emergency Services

3. SELEP Board – 28th June 2019

I attended, as a representative of City, Borough and District Councils in Essex. The meeting papers and draft minutes can be viewed at www.southeastlep.com.

In addition to the above I have also attended meetings of the Essex Leaders Forum, Transport East, the District Councils Network and the Local Government Association annual conference at Bournemouth.

I also accompanied the Chairman of the Council when she entertained the Mayor of Braintree, Massachusetts on his recent visit to the District.

Councillor Graham Butland
Leader of the Council

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

Agenda No: 18b

Council Tax and Business Rates

Tax Collection rates

- **Council Tax** collected in 2018/19 was 98.22% compared to a target of 98.3%, with an amount collected of £86.9million.
- In the current year to end of June the collection rate was 30.46% compared to 31.06% for the previous year. The target for the year is 98.3%. Amount collected was £28.498million.
- **Business Rates** collected in 2018/19 was 99.05% compared to a target of 98.6%, with an amount collected of £43.0million
- In the current year to end of June the collection rate was 31.13% compared to 31.46% for the previous year. The target for the year is 98.6%. Amount collected was £13.562million.

The number of dwellings charged 100% council tax premium (empty for two years+) is 198.

Performance against the 2018/19 Annual Plan

Projects

The Council has performed well throughout the year with 44 projects completed and a further 19 on track and progressing well. Two projects have an amber status and one project was cancelled during the year.

Performance Indicators

Twelve performance indicators have met or exceeded their target and five performance indicators have missed their target, two only very marginally.

Finance

Budget Carry Forwards

On 1st May, under delegated authority, I considered and approved a number of requests to carry forward unspent 2018/19 budgets to 2019/20 (value of £650,000) and also a number of transfers to earmarked reserves. This was to enable the approvals to be incorporated in the draft 2018/19 Statement of Accounts.

Financial Performance 2018/19

The actual net expenditure for the last financial year was a significant positive variance of £1.54million against budget. This resulted primarily from additional income of nearly £1million, of which the main sources were planning application fees and returns from the Council's properties and investments.

Positive variations were also recorded on expenditure budgets; salaries of £350,000 and

other expenditure of nearly £220,000.

The budgets carried forward to the current financial year in effect reduces the net positive variance from £1.54million down to £894,000.

It should be noted that a number of the underspends and additional income sources were anticipated at the time that this year's budget was agreed by Full Council in February and were therefore incorporated in the Budget.

An assessment is, however, currently being undertaken as part of the first quarter financial performance to determine whether any of the variances which were not anticipated are ongoing and should therefore be taken into account in both the current year and more importantly the next financial year as we aim to address an anticipated shortfall which was assessed to be in excess of £500,000 in the current Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

External Audit

The Council's draft statement of accounts for 2018/19 were produced and ready for external audit on 31st May. The external auditors, BDO LLP, commenced their audit on 3rd June. The external auditor's Audit Completion Report will be presented to the Governance Committee on 25th July.

Human Resources

Payroll

A Shared Payroll Service was implemented between Braintree, Epping and Colchester from June 1st managed and operated from Causeway House by BDC.

Employee of the Month:

May winner – Kathy Carpenter in Planning Policy

"Kathy Carpenter was invited to speak at the National Planning Summit taking place at the Hallam Conference Centre in Central London on the 14th May. For those of you who don't know, Kathy is a nationally recognised expert on housing supply and her work is of significant importance to the Council as it demonstrates how well development is being delivered in the district, both now and in the future. This work is vital for the Council to defend against speculative planning applications, and to ensure that enough homes are being built to meet the needs of the district. This is not an easy task as our housing targets frequently change as a result of government policy shifts, changes to data and the outcomes of planning appeals, and having robust defensible figures often means late evenings long after everyone else has gone home.

To be invited to take part in an event attended by hundreds of planners from both the public and private sector, as well as current government ministers, including the Minister for Housing and Planning, shows how well respected Kathy is in the field of housing monitoring, and gives public sector planners and the Council a much needed national platform to debate the pros and cons of the governments housing policies."

"We would like to nominate Kathy Carpenter who works in our Planning Policy Department because of the dedication and passion that she shows towards her role as a Senior Planning Policy Officer. Recently, Development Management has experienced a high level of Public Inquiries, as a result of speculative developers trying to gain planning permission for housing on sites which are not allocated for development within our emerging local plan. Kathy, works incredibly long hours prior to an Inquiry to collate and prepare evidence in relation to the Councils 5 year Housing Supply which she then presents verbally to the

Planning Inspector at the Public Inquiry. Her knowledge of this subject is outstanding and when presenting evidence at a Public Inquiry she is articulate, educated and credible. We therefore consider that she is an asset to the department and to the Authority and this should be formally recognised.”

June winner – Nicola Nicholson in Marketing & Communications team

Following the news story that broke in the Mail on Sunday on 27 May 2019 about plastic waste in Malaysia, in which the Council was named, Nicola went the extra mile in taking a proactive response to monitoring the various stories that appeared locally and nationally in the press and on social media, over the Bank Holiday weekend (Friday 24 to Monday 27 May 2019). Nicola liaised with Members, Officers and our Contractor, provided updates, a press statement and a member briefing note for a live radio interview in her own time at the weekend and on Bank Holiday Monday. The quality, content and quantity of information was just right and enabled Members and Officers to be kept fully updated and briefed on this topical subject and the level of interest shown by the press and public on social media. Nicola handled this work in a professional way and her hard work and commitment was exemplary.

Nomination made by Paul Partridge.

Governance

District and Parish Council elections were delivered on May 2nd and European Elections on May 23rd.

The Governance team also coordinated the Member Induction programme from May 9th to June 4th.

Councillor David Bebb
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

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HOUSING

New Affordable Housing

There were 165 new affordable homes completed in the last financial year. 130 were built for rented housing and 35 for shared ownership sale. This year's development programme includes new homes in Braintree, Witham, Halstead, Silver End, Kelvedon and Sible Hedingham. We are currently predicting completions of 150 homes. The total may be higher if some of the larger schemes under way make better progress than we are predicting.

Housing Register and the 'Gateway to Homechoice' system

Around 25% of our current development programme is for shared ownership homes. Currently these are marketed by housing associations through the 'Help to Buy' website, as well as generic advertising on sites such as Right Move.

We would like to do more to promote shared ownership and we are working on a project to add these homes to the 'Gateway to Homechoice' website that is used for the lettings of social housing. We are planning that this will be accessible without the need to apply or log in, so that anyone can see what is available. We will be devising plans to promote this aspect of the scheme and work closely with housing associations to make sure that it complements the other promotional activities they undertake. This may be particularly timely as the 'Help to Buy' scheme is becoming more restrictive from April 2021 coming to an end two years later. We hope the IT changes will be completed during 2019.

Housing Options and Temporary Accommodation

We have now completed our first year working under the new legislation (Homelessness Reduction Act). Our performance over the course of the year was consistent with previous years, preventing or relieving homelessness for around 300 households; a real achievement given the complexity of the legislation, the short timescale within which it was introduced and the new database we had to familiarise ourselves with (also at very short notice). We have made a couple of changes to the structure of the team as we have identified where resources can be deployed to best effect. This has been made possible, in part, by 4 members of the team deciding to move to alternative employment within quite a short period of time but this does also mean that a significant part of the current team is new to the organisation. We are, however, very positive about the future, with great enthusiasm and energy being demonstrated by our new recruits.

As the team becomes established we aim to develop how we conduct our assessments of need, how we then support people to become more resilient in respect

of their housing and how we work in partnership with other agencies to achieve this.

Numbers of households in temporary accommodation have increased slightly over the last couple of months: whilst numbers do fluctuate we are monitoring the situation to enable us to respond appropriately as required. Our use of temporary accommodation remains low compared to that of neighbouring authorities (according to the experimental statistics compiled by MHCLG for the end of December 2018 we had 34 households in TA compared to 169 and 275 for two of our immediate neighbours).

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Braintree District Council Sites

The Housing Development Company Reference Group has reconvened post-elections and new members have been briefed on the work completed to date.

2 sites have been identified for recommendation for sale (these will provide circa 3 new homes).

5 sites are being surveyed and plans produced so options for their sale or development and sale can be recommended, along with their use as owner occupied, private rent or affordable rent (these sites will produce circa 52 new homes).

The best solutions for the sites and longer term investment strategy will affect how a Development Company is set up.

A paper is planned to be presented to Cabinet in September 2019.

Chapel Hill

The additional piece of land at the front of the site in between the vets surgery and roundabout has now been purchased by Braintree District Council. Discussions for the relocation of the Tennis Club are progressing well and an external consultancy team is being put together to carry out surveys and work up a planning application (the BDC site could provide circa 80 new homes).

Progressing survey, design and planning work and agreeing plans to re-locate the Tennis Club will take circa 6–12 months.

Councillor Kevin Bowers
Cabinet Member for Homes

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Skills

To celebrate International Women in Engineering Day we arranged for Alec Hunter and Maltings Academy's female students to visit Stansted Airport. In total 40 girls attended the event where they met women working in STEM-related roles at the airport. The interactive event was held at the Aerozone and created to celebrate women who work in engineering careers and inspire more young women to consider a future in the sector. The team included two easyJet captains and colleagues from across security, finance, IT, engineering and more departments at the airport. Each colleague hosted a table and groups of students rotated around the room to ask questions and find out more about the colleague's job and how they got there. The girls also visited the new on site Stansted Airport College. The event has been supported by Aviation Minister Baroness Vere who sent a video message of support for the students attending.



From the Apprenticeship Fair in March 2019 one of our local employers confirmed they had recruited a young person they met thanks to the event. This shows how by joining employers and young people together at critical decision making times can be of great benefit to both parties.

Three of our District schools have received in-school support from Colchester Institute and taken part in a STEM Roadshow which showcases the learning and career opportunities available in the District; these have been very well received.

Year 7 students from Notley High School took part in an early careers day held at the STEM Innovation Centre. There were four interactive sessions for students to take part in and an employer marketplace supported by such businesses as Marfleet Building Contractors, EDF Energy and North East Essex CCG.

Infrastructure

A120 Millennium Way slip roads

We are continuing our partnership working with Essex County Council and Highways England as the project moves forward. A planning application was submitted to Essex County Council on 24th May 2019. Main construction of the scheme should start Spring/Summer 2020 but Essex County Council may proceed with some utility diversion works later this year. A build of 18 months is anticipated.

A131

We understand that Essex County Council remain in discussions with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Highways England to agree a way forward, and the timing of improvements to the Marks Farm Roundabout. Meanwhile we are seeking S106 funding from nearby planning applications to help meet the costs of this scheme.

Springwood Drive Roundabout

Essex County Council is looking at different options and working with our Planning Department on the works required to the roundabout as part of the S106 for land West of Panfield Lane, which was granted planning approval subject to S106 on 2nd July 2019. In the interim they have relined the 'keep clear' markings on the roundabout which had been requested by the businesses based on the estate.

A12

An A12 Members Forum is to be held on 12th July 2019 and a Community Forum on Wednesday 24th July 2019 at Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham. The purpose of the forums is to provide an overview of the A12 scheme, including work that has taken place to date and provide an update on the way forward for the scheme. There will be further public consultation events in the Autumn.

Braintree Transport Strategy

I am delighted to announce that Essex County Council is developing a transport vision for Braintree to provide a strategic approach to help solve the current issues in the transport network. The first step is to pull together information already gathered, and

then hold a Member workshop at the end of 2019 with public consultations early 2020. The vision will help develop a prioritised list of schemes to bring forward.

Street Markets

The Braintree Street Market is a destination that BDC developed with an initial set of traders at the start of 2018 to support positive change in Braintree town centre. They provide an additional 30-40 stalls to the regular market and are held once a month, placing a firm emphasis on giving the public great quality, great choice and a great time. The high street is closed to traffic, there is live music and tables and chairs are provided for visitors. Collectively this provides a significant boost to the town's offering for visitors and residents.

Prior to the introduction of the street markets the Council had received a great deal of negativity in the media and from regular traders. Comments on social media concentrated on the lack of investment in the town centre and the lack of variety and number of stalls at the market. Media coverage centred around the closure of shops and empty shops in the town centre.

The first street market had eight traders and an aim to create a positive experience for residents and visitors. The introduction of the street markets was to help counteract increasing competition from internet commerce and the strengthening offer of supermarkets and discounters, which led to shopping habits moving away from the 'high street'.

The first street market took place in March 2018 and was an unprecedented success with the public. 16 street markets have now been held with, on average, 40 additional stalls. There has been an increase in town centre footfall on street market days, shops are trading better on these days and people in the town now believe that positive change is possible. Promotion has been a huge factor in the popularity of the street markets and as more people have visited, the traders have performed well. There are now over 170 traders registered and there is great interest from other potential traders. The Council is now in a promising place to deliver enhancements to Braintree and bring the street markets to Witham.

The street markets have resulted in the Council receiving a highly positive reaction on social media, with people commenting that it is a great addition to the town which brings people in, has a fantastic atmosphere, encourages people to visit and has made a difference to the town. Some say it is 'just what Braintree needs' and that there is 'something for everyone'. People have commented that it is one of the better markets they have visited, with a good mixture of old fashioned market stalls combined with modern, quirky stalls. The regular traders are very positive as they too experience greater footfall, and the Council often receives requests from them to hold street markets on a more regular basis.

The street market was very recently listed on Trip Advisor – search Braintree Street Market – and currently (2nd July 2019) has a rating of 5.0 from its 7 reviews.

The street market takes place on the last Saturday of each month in Braintree with additional markets at Christmas. The street market in Witham will be held on three occasions (two more than last year) – 13th July 2019, 17th August 2019 and 14th September 2019. It is hoped that the street market will help Witham to meet its high

street challenges.

The Council will continue to give support to the regular markets in Witham and Braintree and explore an expansion into the National Market Trader Federation's Young Trader Programme, which aims to support young people in choosing market trading as a career. In addition, other areas of market evolution will be explored, such as a lunchtime weekday market.

I am delighted with the positive impact of the street market in Braintree and how this has further galvanised local retailers and the local community as we look to progress significant physical improvements. It clearly demonstrates what can be achieved when all parties with a collective interest in their own town centre work together.





Councillor Tom Cunningham
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION**

Agenda No: 18e

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Manor Street Regeneration

The three responses from companies who bid in response to the BDC tender document for the build contract, are under review and detailed discussions and clarifications are under way on scope and specification in order that the business case can be presented to cabinet and council for approval. Detailed Planning Consent has been granted on the scheme.

Horizon 120 Business Innovation Park

BDC has entered into an exclusivity agreement with commercial developer Marshgate Developments Limited to deliver our vision for Horizon 120, the Business and Innovation Park planned for Great Notley.

The 65 acre site was purchased in December 2018 with the vision of creating an employment site for the future which attracts new firms into the district and offers residents high calibre job opportunities.

Strategic Investment team are negotiating terms on the sale of plots, covering up to 20 acres, which will be developed by Marshgate on behalf of businesses relocating to the site.

Strutt & Parker (Planning) have been commissioned to draft the Local Development Order (LDO) and to work with the appointed architects and landscape consultants to draft a Design Code and a revised masterplan. The LDO will provide the framework for delivery of the vision, crafted by the Member's Reference Group.

GRIDSERVE

Braintree Electric Forecourt® will be 1 of more than 100 sites across the UK which will deliver convenient, ultra-fast and low cost charging for all types of electric vehicles. The forecourt will have dedicated zones for private and fleet vehicles, such as taxis, buses, vans and lorries, and will offer sub 30-minute charging times. It will also feature a range of facilities including a coffee shop, convenience store and airport style lounge with high speed internet, which will also serve as an education centre and hub to explore a broad range of EV solutions.

This forecourt will be located adjacent to Horizon 120 and will complement the other modern-day amenities planned - such as best in class fibre-optic connectivity, Wi-Fi hotspots and state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly and flexible accommodation.

The Council is talking to GRIDSERVE about the possibility of sharing an entrance which will provide the business park with a second access road specifically for larger vehicles. The entry could also facilitate a through way for a future bus route.

COMMERCIALISATION, INCOME GENERATION & EFFICIENCY

Getting Maximum value from third party spend

Review undertaken of all third party spend – Productivity Experts presentation to Heads of Service, who agreed to progress key areas that are being detailed in a formal proposal to be taken to management board. This will focus on three category areas:

- Asset and Facilities Management,
- Resourcing
- Leisure

Collaborative Procurement – Agreement with Essex Commercial Network to share procurement forward plans and undertake a category review across districts for indirect spend to benchmark our spend against each other.

Social Value - Proposal model for considering social value as part of commissioning activity created for consideration at Essex Strategic Coordination Group in July. If approved group to be formed to progress.

Increasing Income

- Advertising and Sponsorship – Delivery of a net income of £35,128. Benchmarked pricing against Essex Commercial Network demonstrates BDC getting optimal value against peers. Trial of shared resource approach with Basildon DC.
- Print –Significantly exceeded income target of £10,000 in 2018/19 and looking to increase on that this year through increased local sales campaigns, bidding to local authorities and BDC references
- Enterprise Centre - Currently on track to deliver against increased income target of £25k, with increased usage by existing customers and new customers such as Essex County Council. Additional income sought through Introduction of catering offer and increase in upselling of teas and coffees and current Fresh sales campaign to 150 business on Springwood Industrial Estate to encourage usage.
- Trade Waste under review
- New Opportunities - Communications to publicise a monthly drop in session for BDC staff to bring and be supported in developing ideas for income generation
- Essex Commercial Network – Agreement to benchmark a range of traded services between 8 Authorities (some of which BDC do not currently trade), to assess competitiveness and identify opportunities for efficiency.

Service Efficiency

- Payroll –Shared payroll between Braintree, Colchester and Epping Forest has now gone live. Once this has bedded in, we will look at opportunities to trade this service.
- Community Transport – The opportunity to join with Community 360 to provide community transport was captured in a high level paper. Review underway

- Project 2020 - Continuing the work from Roadmap 2020, the project seeks to support heads of service in reviewing their services in preparation for the future budget pressures.
- Customer Service Centre Process Review – Spare capacity identified will feed in to project 2020, with the objective to centralise admin tasks where possible to the CSC

ICT & DIGITAL SERVICES

Work continues on implementing the Digital Strategy projects for 2018/19 including: customer on-line booking systems, on-line payment system, Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery procedures, improved on-line services for staff including collaboration on-line and enhancements to the phone system.

The first On Line Booking service is the Pest Control Service which is currently live in CSC and will be a fully online service for customer access by end of summer 2019. This will then be rolled out to other services progressively.

Cyber Security

The ICT team continues to maintain its vigilance on all aspects of Cyber security Hytec, an external company, have produced a report following their assessment of our cyber security arrangements. They have identified a couple of areas that require tighter procedures. This will be implemented over the next month and follow-up discussed with Hytec.

The ICT team continue with “metaphishing” to test the user community’s response to rogue emails with potential virus or malware

WiFi4EU - Free Wi-Fi for Europeans

The WiFi4EU initiative aims to provide free public Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens and visitors networks in 6,000 to 8,000 communities by 2020 across the EU. An indicative of €120 million coming mainly from the Connecting Europe Facility CEF Telecom - has been earmarked for this initiative. It is open to public sector bodies from all EU Member States and participating EEA countries (Norway and Iceland). The selected municipalities will get a voucher of €15,000 to be used to install a functioning Wi-Fi hotspot within 1.5 years after being awarded the voucher.

Requests for bids was released in October 2018. Braintree District Council applied then but was unsuccessful. An automatic re-opening of the bids was carried out in April 2019 and BDC were successful in their bid (one of fourteen successful bidders).

The bid is still being processed and the €15,000 voucher has not yet been released to BDC. This paper is to prepare the council for wi-fi provision once the voucher has been released.

It is worth noting that, apart from checking that the equipment meets the requirements, there is minimal involvement from the WiFi4EU programme. Once the voucher has been handed over and the kit installed the EU are no longer involved. Membership or not of the EU will not impact on the equipment’s installation.

Further investigations were made with a local telecom equipment provider on what was feasible for the provision of the wi-fi access points in Halstead, Witham and Braintree. They have said that it is feasible for the voucher to be split 3 ways so that wi-fi access could be provided in all 3 town centres. Coverage would not be as extensive as if the full €15k was spend in one centre but the 3 towns do not have large town centres and there would still be good coverage. It would therefore be feasible to split the funding 3 ways for the 3 towns.

It is estimated that a broadband line would cost the Authority £30/month/line. This equates to £90 monthly/£1080 yearly to cover all 3 town centres.

Four Options were considered :

Option 1 – Do nothing.

Option 2 – Install free wi-fi access to town centre residents, businesses and visitors to Braintree.

Option 3 – Install free wi-fi access to 2 town centres' residents, businesses and visitors to Braintree/Halstead or Halstead/Witham or Witham/Braintree

Option 4 – Install free wi-fi access to all 3 town centres' residents, businesses and visitors.

Recommended Decision:

Option 4 is the recommended option: Install free wi-fi access to Braintree, Halstead and Witham for residents, businesses and visitors. The cost would be £1080 p.a. for the Authority for the provision of 3 broadband lines. After year 3, the authority would have to take responsibility for the maintenance of the wi-fi equipment. This is estimated to be £2.2500 per annum The overall commitment from then would be £3.100 per annum

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Asset Management continued to be very active and have made significant progress with many investments that form part of our overall investment strategy and recent approved schemes are all on track:

Premdor Healthcare Land

The Council was waiting for Bloor Homes to provide a full contamination report to establish whether there are any contamination issues associated with this site. This has not been forthcoming and in order to keep to the project schedule, the Strategic Development Team have commissioned a contamination report to allow transfer to take place as early as possible. Consultants have been engaged to allow fixed design costs to be prepared to allow detailed planning consent to be achieved as soon as possible, thus allowing the S106 agreement terms to be met.

Disposal of the Bramston Sports Centre Site, Witham

The Asset Management team have been working with two interested parties to dispose of the Bramston Sports Centre site since May 2016 the first disposal contract completed with the sale of part of the Bramston Site in Witham to Lidl on 7th March 2019 and this site is rapidly nearing completion with expected completion in October 2019

The second interested party that the Asset Management team are in negotiations with for the disposal of the other part of the site is to Churchill Retirement Living and this sale has now completed with a receipt to BDC of net £1,317,315 ex VAT. This includes an RPI increase of £63,300 allowed for under the contract.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Due to heightened commercial activity, the Marketing Team has been busy with a significant increase in press releases and social media campaigns across the full range of BDC activities including Manor Street Regeneration, Horizon 120, Gridserve E Charging Station.

Councillor John McKee
Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation

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TOURISM

Launch of Tourism Partnership and Cake Escape – Leanda Cable

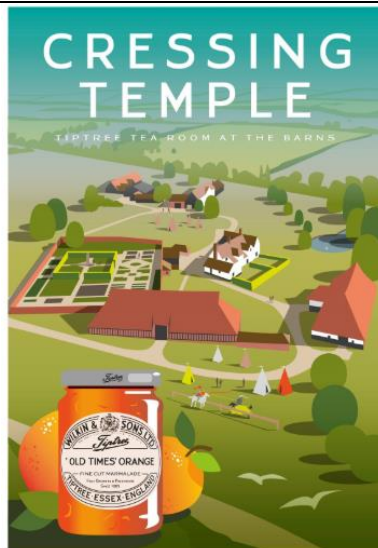
In February 2019 Members approved The Tourism Plan for the Braintree District which will focus the tourism efforts of the Council, its partners and associated businesses on actions which are likely to have the most benefit for the visitor economy. Since its approval Officers have been working to deliver the associated Action Plan.

I was delighted to attend the official launch of the Braintree District Tourism Partnership at West Street Vineyard on Thursday 20th June with a range of public and private tourism stakeholders attending. The Partnership's next meeting will be in September this year once the busy summer period has come to a close.



Tourism Partnership Launch

For our 2019 Trail we are partnering with Essex County Council to further develop an initiative called The Cake Escape to promote cycling, small businesses and our beautiful rural landscape, with the offer of a free slice of cake. The revitalised trail was launched during Bike Week 8-16th June with promotional videos on social media and has been well received.



Some of the businesses signed up to The Cake Escape

Bocking Windmill

Bocking Windmill has been open again this summer for visits from the public.

So far we have had 509 visits since May 2019, including the Braintree & Bocking Beavers and the Bocking May Fair open day.

On 16th June 2019, the mill was also used by a local running company who organised a 6 mile self-navigation race and used the mill as a water stop half way round. There was also an opportunity for competitors to visit the mill.

In late June 2019 the external redecoration works of the mill were completed by local Millwright Bill Griffiths.



Before and after Decoration works Spring 2019



Friends of Bocking Windmill receiving a cheque from Company of runners



Company of Runners windmill stop on the Revelry Riot Self Navigation race June 2019

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Braintree District and Greenfields Community Fund

This Fund was set up by Braintree District Council and Greenfields Community Housing in 2016 and provides local voluntary organisations and charities with the opportunity to apply for funding.

Grants are available to support work in the Braintree District that either help to improve health and wellbeing, increase aspirations and opportunities, or develop skills through training.

In December 2018 grants totalling over £135,000 were awarded to six organisations. The Fund, which is managed by Essex Community Foundation, is now open for bids. It is a two-stage application process, with expressions of interest in the first instance. Selected applicants will then be asked for further information. The Expression of Interest Application form must be submitted by 5pm on 30th August 2019.

This is a link to Essex Community Foundation website with further information.

<https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/grants/braintree-district-and-greenfields-community-fund2>

Councillors Community Grant Scheme

The Councillors Community Grant Scheme provides each Member with an annual allocation of £1,500 to support local projects and initiatives that will benefit the residents of Braintree District. The scheme, now in its fourth year, has funded a wide range of projects from the funding of equipment to renovation costs to IT and leases. Councillors can fund projects individually or pool funding in a joint bid with other Ward Members; the application process is simple and has a quick turnaround period. All Members should look out for information packs being distributed in their pigeon holes over the next week or so.

Volunteer Awards

The third Volunteer Awards took place on Thursday 6th June 2019. The awards recognise and reward the extraordinary individuals and groups who are making a positive difference in their community and inspiring others. 104 nominations were received this year showing the huge volunteering efforts taking place across the District.

Young People

Category	Winner	Highly Commended
Inspirational Role Model	Daniel Walker	Max Davies
Long Service	Haydn Hawkins	Bobbi Field-Mullins
Going the Extra Mile	Hannah Birch	Joshua Malcolm

Adult

Category	Winner
Inspirational Role Model	Dorothy Lodge
Long Service	Margaret Surry
Going the Extra Mile	Jack Deer
Group	The Big Sing Soul

The overall Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Dorothy Lodge who volunteers for a number of clubs and organisations including Christchurch, Lunch Club, Craft Club and Braintree Area Foodbank.

Halstead Footbridge

The Council has offered to contribute £6,000 to pay for a structural survey of the Riverside Footbridge in Halstead which was closed by Essex County Council on safety grounds. The footbridge is owned by Crown Estates but Halstead Town Council have committed to take on maintenance responsibility of the footbridge once repairs have been completed.

Councillor Frankie Ricci
Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Tourism

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE**

Agenda Item: 18g

WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Government Resources and Waste Strategy for England

The Government has recently launched a new 25-year Waste Strategy (Resources and Waste Strategy for England) that sets ambitious plans on how the Country can preserve its stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy, as well as minimising the damage to our natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and tackling waste crime.

The Government recognises the need for a more innovative and creative way of managing waste and improving infrastructure within the UK, as well as placing a greater responsibility on manufacturers and producers to reduce the amount of waste they produce (and pay for it to be reprocessed) especially plastic waste.

The Council has recently responded to consultation on the following 4 elements of the Strategy:-

- Deposit Return Scheme
- Plastic Tax (on producers)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (reform of UK packaging system)
- Consistency (collection methodology)

The Strategy is likely to have implications for the District Council in how it collects household waste and we eagerly await the outcome of the first stage of consultation and any proposed changes arising from the feedback received. A second round of consultation will take place before any legislative changes are introduced.

Malaysia – Recycling

In preparation for the BBC1 War on Plastic programme on Monday, 10 June 2019, the Council prepared a Q&A sheet which was posted on its website in advance of the programme being aired. In addition, I was interviewed on BBC Essex, and BBC Look East requested an interview with me on two occasions, both of which they subsequently withdrew. I am grateful for the professional support from the Council's Communications Team in raising this matter with me and assisting me with the Council's response.

Overall, the programme itself and feedback received via social media in response to the information we put out focused more on the bigger picture and the need to reduce reliance on single use plastics and was not solely directed at the Council bag that was found in Malaysia.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Good progress continues to be made with the in-house vehicle maintenance service and I am pleased to report that the Council has already seen an improvement in its OCRS (Operator Compliance Risk Score) which is managed and controlled by the Traffic Commissioner's Office and is critical to the Council retaining its Operator's Licence. This score is based on a range of criteria that are measured over a 12-month rolling period and so it takes time for improvements to be reflected in the score, albeit it is heading in the right direction.

Vehicle Replacement Programme

As part of its planned Vehicle Replacement Programme, the Council has six new waste collection vehicles on order which are expected to be delivered in the Autumn. The new vehicles will improve reliability of the fleet and reduce ongoing vehicle maintenance costs.

STREET SCENE & PARKS

Reinstatement of Public Open Space in Levens Way, Gt Notley

Reinstatement works to public open space in and around Levens Way, Gt. Notley have been carried out following installation of a new water mains supply. The works in general have been carried out to a good standard, although the Contractor (Balfour Beatty) will be returning in September 2019 to carry out further top dressing, de-compaction and grass seeding. A final site inspection will be undertaken by the Council in October 2019.

Drainage Schemes

The Council has invested c. £90k on two drainage schemes to alleviate flooding on sports pitches at Deanery Hill and King George Playing Fields, Braintree. The work was completed in May and will improve the quality of the playing surface for customers, as well as increasing income as there will be fewer cancelled bookings during inclement weather.

Protection of Open Spaces from Illegal Encampments

Following an enquiry from a local ward member, a site in Bramble Road, Witham, was inspected and it was agreed to carry out works to protect this stretch of public open space from illegal encampments. The work has been completed.

In addition, a meeting has taken place between ECC's Travellers Unit, the Police, and the Council's Operations and Environmental Protection staff to review the sites that have already been protected and, as a result, further works are planned in the following areas:-

- Rickstones Recreation Ground, Witham
- Marshalls Park, Braintree
- Millennium Way, Braintree

KBT Roadside Beautification Project

Work has been completed on cultivating/planting sections of the verge on the A131 between Marks Farm and Broad Road roundabouts. KBT opted to use their own resources to carry out the work, hence the planting of wild flowers was later than we would have liked. The aim of the project is to assess what, if any, impact this has on reducing roadside litter; further updates will be provided on a quarterly basis.



Fields in Trust – UK Best Park 2019

Halstead Public Gardens and Great Notley Country Park have been nominated for this year's **UK Best Park** competition organised by the Fields in Trust. Public voting opens on Friday, 5 July and will run until Monday, 19 August 2019 and I would encourage all Members to vote.

STREET SCENE ENFORCEMENT

I have set out below some of the work undertaken by the Council's Street Scene Protection Team during April and May 2019.

- 36 Dog barking complaints investigated
- 13 Stray dogs detained
- 29 Statutory notices served
- 1 Prosecution taken (found in Council's favour)
- 16 Fixed penalty notices served (1 for dog fouling & 15 for litter)

In early June the Council successfully prosecuted a female resident of Witham who was prosecuted for fly-tipping. The defendant was found guilty of failing to meet her waste duty of care, having paid an unknown person to take waste from her property which was later found fly tipped in a lay-by between Coggeshall and Feering. She was fined and made to pay a victim surcharge as well as costs to Braintree District Council - a total of £758. This

clearly shows the importance of checking that anyone you give your waste to is a licensed waste carrier.

STREET CLEANSING

Littering from vehicles

Last year, the Council adopted new powers to issue a Penalty Charge Notice for littering to the registered keeper of a vehicle where it is not possible to establish who within the vehicle committed the offence. The recipients may appeal to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT) – an independent adjudicating body – who will consider appeals rejected by the Council in much the same way as it does for parking offences.

CAR PARKING

On Sunday, 23 June 2019, a 3-month trial commenced of reopening the upper floors of George Yard Multi-storey car park on a Sunday to meet increased demand.

The trial does not include use of the lifts as it would be necessary to maintain a physical presence at the car park in case of a breakdown. However, officers are in discussions with George Yard Management Company to see if they would be willing, via a Service Level Agreement, to deal with any issues arising from the lifts being in operation should the trial prove successful. Motorists with disabilities can park on the ground floor and there will be ample signage to inform customers that the lifts are not in operation.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

I attended the Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioners conference on 7th June it was pleasing to note that one of the Intervention Experiences was the performance by AlterEgo on the dangers of gang exploitation as the Braintree Community Safety Partnership had this group at our Conference in March. As Chairman of the Essex Police Fire and Crime Panel I was a member of the question and answer panel.

I was delighted to see that amongst the finalists of the Commissioners Community Safety Hero Awards were Ryan Watkins from Braintree Mencap for his part in the Keep safe Scheme and Connie Lunn a volunteer with the Halstead Youth Club. Their work is invaluable in their community and Connie won an award in her category, our congratulations to them both.

Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt
Cabinet Member for Environment and Place

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Neighbourhood Planning

I am delighted to announce that the Bradwell with Pattiswick Neighbourhood Plan has successfully passed its referendum stage, with 90% of those voting in the Parish being in favour of approving the Neighbourhood Plan. This is the first Neighbourhood Plan to reach this stage in the District and I pass my congratulations to the Parish and in particular the Neighbourhood Plan group for their hard work in bringing this Plan forward.

The Council will now be acting swiftly to ensure the plan is made and becomes an adopted part of the development plan for the District.

The other 11 Neighbourhood Plans currently underway in the District continue to make good progress with local communities working towards producing a Plan which allows them to have a greater say over how their area develops in the future. The final consultation on the Crossing Neighbourhood Plan concludes on 15th July 2019 and will be submitted to an independent examiner shortly thereafter. Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan examination is still underway with the final Inspectors report expected imminently.

Any other Parishes considering a Neighbourhood Plan are urged to contact officers in the Planning Policy team who will be able to provide bespoke advice and support to each group, including specialist advice from the Rural Community Council of Essex which is paid for by Braintree District Council.

The Local Plan

Following the pause of the joint examination on the North Essex Authorities (Braintree, Tendring and Colchester) section 1 Local Plan, the work undertaken by the authorities during the pause has been published on the website in advance of it being considered by the three authorities committees in July and August 2019.

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200643/section_1/1065/section_1_examination_publication_local_plan/9

The documents are available on the link above and include further detailed work on viability, the rapid transit system and employment land to answer queries raised by the Independent Planning Inspector in his post examination letter. A special Council meeting is being held on 1st August 2019 to consider this and to recommend to the Inspector modifications to the Local Plan section 1 as a result of it. A full six week public consultation period will follow in August and September if the documents have the approval of all three authorities, before being submitted back to the Inspector for his consideration.

Conservation Area Appraisals

A workshop and public exhibition was held in Great Bardfield on 27th June 2019 to share the provisional results of the Conservation Area Appraisal with the Parish, following an earlier presentation to the Parish Council on 12th June 2019. Following the conclusion of the public consultation process on 19th July 2019, any necessary amendments will be made to the Appraisal document before it being approved by Planning Committee. There was a good level of attendance at the workshop.

Consultation on the Conservation Area Appraisals for Wethersfield and Kelvedon and Feering will follow a similar model to that for Great Bardfield and is expected to begin shortly.

Development Management

The Council received the Secretary of State's decision on the application for "*Up to 1500 residential dwellings, a local centre; a primary school site; employment land; public open space; and associated highway works with new accesses via Pods Brook Road and Rayne Road and demolition of nos 27 & 29 Gilda Terrace, Rayne Road*" (otherwise known as the Brook Green application) on 13th June 2019. The application had previously been refused by the Planning Committee and I am delighted to report that the appeal against that decision has been turned down by the Secretary of State meaning that planning permission has been refused. The work required by officers in Development Management to defend an appeal of this size should not be underestimated and their hard work and dedication should be commended.

Planning Permissions for New Residential Development

The Quarter 4 2018/19 position (January to March) is that planning permissions (this includes outline and full planning applications, but excludes reserved matters approvals and variation applications) have been granted for a total of 209 dwellings which can be summarised as follows:

	Market Housing	Affordable Housing	TOTAL
Granted by BDC on Allocated site and/or within Development Boundary	19	0	19
Granted by BDC on Unallocated site and/or outside Development Boundary	119	67	186
Allowed at Appeal on Allocated site / within Development Boundary	1	0	1
Allowed at Appeal on Unallocated site / outside Development	3	0	3

Boundary			
TOTAL	142	67	209

The Quarter 1 2019/20 position (April to June) is that planning permissions (this includes outline and full planning applications, but excludes reserved matters approvals and variation applications) have been granted for a total of 661 dwellings which can be summarised as follows:

	Market Housing	Affordable Housing	TOTAL
Granted by BDC on Allocated site and/or within Development Boundary	67	12	79
Granted by BDC on Unallocated site and/or outside Development Boundary	359	194	553
Allowed at Appeal on Allocated site / within Development Boundary	4	0	4
Allowed at Appeal on Unallocated site / outside Development Boundary	25	0	25
TOTAL	455	206	661

Councillor Gabrielle Spray
Cabinet Member for Planning

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REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Agenda No: 18i

In my first report to the new Council I thought it might be useful to outline a few key initiatives from my portfolio which are ongoing and should provide helpful background information.

Livewell

Background

In 2012 there was a major change in the approach towards Health by the Government. The Government moved the responsibility for Public Health from the NHS to Local authorities. Local authorities were tasked in taking the lead for improving health and coordinating local efforts to protect the public's health and wellbeing.

Whilst many functions are vested with the County Council, Braintree District Council provides many services which directly affect the health of residents. The changes allow a more co-ordinated approach to service delivery, partnership working and a holistic understanding of the health issues facing our residents.

Braintree District Health & Wellbeing Panel

To co-ordinate activities across the various agencies the Council set up the Braintree Health & Wellbeing Panel.

The Panel partners include: NHS England, Mid Essex CCG, the Active Braintree Network – the local active network, Age UK, Greenfields Housing Association, Essex County Council Public Health, Fusion Lifestyle, Health Watch England and the local voluntary sector organisation Community 360.

The key objective of the Panel was to put the various activities under one recognised campaign and work together to target certain priority areas, to inform target audiences about support available to help them to lead healthier lives. This led to the creation of the *Livewell Campaign*.

Livewell Campaign

Braintree District Council took the lead role in developing the Livewell brand and a website for the partnership.

In July 2014 the Council launched the Livewell brand. The brand was developed around 6 themes:-

- **Startwell** (each child is given the best start in life)

- **Bewell** (being active)
- **Staywell** (medical interventions)
- **Feelwell** (mental wellbeing)
- **Eatwell** (correct nutrition)
- **Agewell** (staying healthy for longer)

The Campaign was designed to “nudge” our residents towards healthier lifestyles. The brand is used heavily in all communications about Health & Wellbeing so it becomes synonymous with the Council’s intervention and actions which promote a healthy lifestyle.

The Livewell symbol was chosen as the brand, it was an easily identifiable symbol for residents to associate with everything to do with health and wellbeing.



A dedicated website was developed with the aim to provide a one-stop information and services platform for our residents, to encourage them to be more active by making healthy lifestyle choices. The website provides local, relevant, easily accessible information and can be accessed via this link: <https://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk/>.

Beyond the Braintree District

The brand and concept that was developed has been so successful that it has now been rolled out across the whole of Essex including Essex County Council and the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group. All partner health and wellbeing initiatives sit under the Livewell brand providing one unified visual identity across Essex.

Through working with our partners we have established a link between health and wellbeing priorities. For example, the Agewell programme not only provides accessible physical activity for older residents, but it helps tackle social isolation and loneliness. Sport for Confidence sessions in our leisure centres provide physical activity programme for disabled residents, which is also helping to improve their mental health.

Leisure Contract

Background

In 2011 Braintree District Council (BDC) embarked on a competitive tendering process for private delivery of their leisure services. There had been significant overspend with the Council’s previous provider and the facilities had fallen into poor condition. The existing contract required the Council to pay significant running costs to the contractor. However, under the new contract, this has reduced substantially with the new contractor making profit-related payments to the Council.

In preparing the tender process the Council took the opportunity to re-evaluate the leisure service requirements as it was clear that demands of specific facilities had changed over recent years. Part of the renewal of the contract led to a change in the range of facilities that BDC was able to provide.

Impact

The new Contract was designed and managed around the Public Health Strategy. For example, outcomes specified in the contract agreement included a clear requirement around on health outcomes and community impact rather than one based simply on the management of the facilities. Fusion Lifestyle commenced the operation of the facilities in September 2012. The New Witham Leisure Centre build was complete by July 2014.

The Fusion portfolio consisted of the following facilities:-

Witham Leisure Centre and Sport Ground
Braintree Swimming & Fitness
Braintree Sport & Health Club
Halstead Leisure Centre

The initial 10 year contract expires in 2022, however there is a clause for a 5 year extension if mutually agreed.

The contract is outcome based with many of the key performance indicator targets set around increasing participation for the hard to reach groups such as disabled users, over 60's, under 16's and BME groups.

Further work is being carried out around the ageing athletics track facilities at Braintree Sport & Health and the installation of a brand new full size artificial grass pitch at Halstead Leisure Centre.

Active Braintree Foundation

The Active Braintree Foundation (ABF) is a charitable incorporated organisation and was established in 2018. It was primarily set up to promote sport and physical activity for the benefit of health and to engage and support communities across the Braintree District, especially harder to reach communities and under-represented groups in sport and physical activity.

Mission

The Foundation's mission is that everyone in Braintree District has the opportunity to engage in sport and/or physical activity in order to improve their health, live life to its full potential, compete and have fun.

Key Aims

- Partner with local clubs/agencies to increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity
- Inspire communities to become more active to improve their health and wellbeing, therefore leading to happier and more positive lives

- Raise aspirations, confidence, skills and knowledge to enable individuals to reach their full potential
- Strengthen community cohesion and break down barriers to participation thereby addressing inequalities
- Improve both physical and mental health wellbeing

The foundation is also supporting the Council in addressing a number of issues including:-

- An ageing population with increasing levels of dementia and age related health problems
- Increasing rates of over-weight and obese people of all ages
- Increasing number of high risk groups with preventable lifestyle health conditions e.g. type 2 diabetes, hip fractures
- Increasing concerns over mental health
- The need to reduce inactivity
- Pockets of deprivation and children living in poverty
- The difference in life expectancy between the most and least affluent
- People from lower social-economic groups, those with disabilities or a life-limiting illness, the unemployed and women/girls all less likely to lead an active life

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mental Health

The Council has recognised the problems of those living with mental health and organised a number of workshops over the last year with a range of partners including Commissioners, service providers and other relevant organisations, both statutory and voluntary, who work with those that may have a mental health issue. The aim is to work together to improve the support given around mental health for local residents.

The group have agreed five priorities to initially focus on:-

- Referral pathway and criteria
- Awareness Raising
- Children and Young People
- Data Mapping
- Livewell Website

Work is now underway to develop actions against these priorities and I will provide regular updates as progress is being made.

Dementia

The range of activities for those living with or caring for someone with dementia continues to develop with the introduction of a seated exercise session at Witham Leisure Centre.

The dementia cinema held monthly at the Halstead Empire has seen 70+ people attending over the last couple of months and recently secured funding for the next year; they are also looking for funding to establish a dementia choir.

The Walk & Talk sessions in the three towns have seen an increase in numbers and both the Cream Tea at Braintree Town Hall and the Social & Tea Dance at the Archer Centre continue to be popular.

The Council will be hosting a family friendly dementia afternoon tea on Thursday 29th August and a dementia fayre on Thursday 28th November at Braintree Museum from 10.30 – 2.30p.m.

Publicity material will be available nearer the dates of the events.

Councillor P Tattersley
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

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List of Public Meetings Held Since Last Council Meeting	Agenda No: 19
<p>Portfolio Not applicable Corporate Outcome: Not applicable Report presented by: Not applicable Report prepared by: Chloe Waight, Governance Business Officer</p>	
Background Papers:	Public Report
Published Minutes of the meetings listed within the report below.	Key Decision: No
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>Since the last Council meeting held on 25th February 2019, the following Minutes have been published for meetings held in public session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Planning Committee – 23rd April 2019 (2) Council AGM – 21st May 2019 (3) *Planning Committee – 2nd July 2019 (4) Cabinet – 8th July 2019 (5) *Licensing Committee – 10th July 2019 (6) Local Plan Sub-Committee – 11th July 2019 (7) Local Plan Sub-Committee – 18th July 2019 (8) *Planning Committee – 16th July 2019 <p>*Those minutes identified by the prefix * were not available at the time of publishing the Agenda, but are intended to be available to view on the Council's website prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>Recommended Decision:</p> <p>Members are invited to note the Minutes published.</p>	
<p>Purpose of Decision: Not applicable.</p>	