

Council AGENDA

Monday, 17th February 2020 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)
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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.

Please note that there is public Wi-Fi in the Council Chamber, users are required to register in order to access this. There is limited availability of printed agendas.

Health and Safety

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Documents

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We welcome comments from members of the public to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the meeting you have attended, you can send these via governance@braintree.gov.uk

1 Apologies for Absence**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 16th December 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 Motion by Councillor Frankie Ricci 5 - 5

7 Motion by Councillor James Abbott 6 - 6

8 Motion by Councillor James Abbott 7 - 7

9 Council Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24

(1) Recommendation from Cabinet – 10th February 2019 – Council Budget and Council Tax 2019-20 and Medium- Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24

(2) Council Tax Resolution 2020-21

Members are requested to bring to this meeting the Cabinet Report Agenda Item 5a Council Budget and Council Tax 2020-21 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24 previously circulated.

10	Cressing Neighbourhood Plan - Adoption	8 - 13
11	Appointment of Monitoring Officer <i>Report to follow.</i>	
12	Reports from the Leader and Cabinet Members 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). A period of up to 1 hour is allowed for this item.	
12a	Councillor Butland - Leader of the Council	
12b	Councillor D Bebb - Finance and Performance	14 - 16
12c	Councillor K Bowers - Homes	17 - 18
12d	Councillor T Cunningham - Economic Development and Infrastructure	19 - 20
12e	Councillor J McKee - Corporate Transformation	21 - 24
12f	Councillor F Ricci - Communities, Culture and Tourism	25 - 28
12g	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt - Environment and Place	29 - 33
12h	Councillor Mrs G Spray - Planning	34 - 36
12i	Councillor P Tattersley - Health and Wellbeing	37 - 39
13	List of public meetings held since last meeting	40 - 40

Motion by Councillor Frankie Ricci

Agenda No: 6

Motion presented by: Councillor F Ricci
Motion seconded by: Councillor J Wrench
Motion supported by: Councillor S Rehman
Councillor D Wallace
Councillor J McKee

Motion:

This Council reaffirms its commitment to all our Communities in the Braintree District and acknowledges the tremendous contribution Community initiatives and the voluntary sector make to the lives of local residents. This Council will continue to endeavour to work in partnership with other agencies or on its own, to champion and support such initiatives.

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Motion by Councillor James Abbott

Agenda No: 7

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

Motion:

This council agrees that no further taxpayer's money, other than the £350,000 already committed in the 2019/2020 budget, shall be made available to NEGC by Braintree District Council, unless and until the Local Plan Inspector has written to the Council with an Interim Letter stating that the joint NEAs Local Plan Section 1 is Sound (accepting that there may be a need for Modifications).

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Motion by Councillor James Abbott

Agenda No: 8

Motion presented by: Councillor J Abbott
Motion seconded by: Councillor G Butland
Motion supported by: Councillor Mrs G Spray
Councillor Mrs Pell
Councillor D Mann

Motion:

This Council acknowledges and reaffirms its previous opposition to the proposed Rivenhall Airfield major waste facility. The Council is committed to doing all it can to ensure that concerns of local residents continue to be raised.

The Council acknowledges that the challenges of Waste Management are becoming ever greater and acknowledges the changing methods of treatment and management, the functionality of which is greatly enhanced by ever evolving technology. To this end the Rivenhall Airfield proposal is unacceptable as it would lower local air quality and would increase greenhouse gas emissions by relying substantially on waste incineration and the importation of waste by road from outside of Essex. Furthermore, the level of recycling proposed at the facility has been substantially reduced compared with earlier versions of this proposal.

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 18 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Crossing Neighbourhood Plan - Adoption		Agenda No:10
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:	Councillor Mrs Gabrielle Spray – Portfolio Holder	
Report prepared by:	Alan Massow – Principal Planning Policy Officer	
Background Papers:	Public Report	
Crossing Neighbourhood Plan (2019) Crossing Neighbourhood Plan - Decision Statement (2019) Report to Braintree District Council of the Independent Examination (2019) Declaration of result – Crossing Neighbourhood Plan (6 th February 2020) Localism Act (2011) The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)	Key Decision: Yes	
Executive Summary:		
<p>Crossing 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 Crossing Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>Following a positive referendum result, Braintree District Council is proposing to publish its decision to “make” the Crossing Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Braintree District Council’s Development Plan in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This decision notice is at appendix 1 to this report.</p>		
Recommended Decision:		
<p>That the Decision Statement attached at Appendix 1 is approved, and the Crossing Neighbourhood Plan “made” under section 38A(4) of the 2004 Act.</p>		

Purpose of Decision:

To enable the Cressing Neighbourhood Plan to be used in the determination of planning applications within Cressing Neighbourhood 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 Cressing 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
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Cressing 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 first designated in 2013 then re-designated on the 14/09/18.
- 1.2 Following the submission and consultation on the Cressing Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council, 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.
- 1.3 The examiner agreed that subject to modifications the Plan could proceed to referendum as it met the necessary “basic conditions” as set out in his report of September 2019.
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan (amended in line with the examiner’s proposed modifications) was the subject of a referendum held on Thursday 6th February 2020 94.5% 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).

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 6th February 2020 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the neighbourhood area of Cressing and posed the questions;

“Do you want Braintree District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cressing 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
NO	30	5.5
YES	513	94.5

- 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 Crossing 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 Crossing Neighbourhood Plan “made” under section 38A(4) of the 2004 Act.

Appendix 1 – Decision Statement

Braintree District Council

Cressing Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 19 Decision Statement

February 2020

Summary

Following a positive referendum result, Braintree District Council is publishing its decision to “make” the Cressing 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

Cressing 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 first designated on the 6th August 2013, then re-designated on the 14th September 2018.

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

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

The examiner’s report concluded that, subject to certain modifications proposed in his report of September 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 6th February 2020. 94.5% 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 6th February 2020 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Cressing and posed the question;

“Do you want Braintree District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cressing to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The result of the referendum was:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total votes cast
NO	30	5.5
YES	513	94.5

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

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

Agenda No: 12b

Council Tax and Business Rates:

Tax Collection rates

- **Council Tax** collected to end of January was 95.19% compared to 95.77% for the previous year. The target for the year is 98.3%. Amount collected was £89.80million.
- **Business Rates** up to the end of January the collection rate was 93.60% compared to 93.69% for the previous year. The target for the year is 98.6%. Amount collected was £40.69 million.

The number of dwellings charged 100% council tax premium (empty for two years+) is 216.

Local Government Finance Settlement

The delayed Provisional Financial Settlement was published on 20th December. As Cabinet Member I responded to the Technical Consultation from MHCLG on the Provisional Settlement by the deadline of 17th January, which included aspects such as council tax increase referendum principles, potential changes to New Homes Bonus, and the Rural Services Delivery Grant.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2020/21 budget formulation

Budget proposals were shared with the Performance Management Board on 29th January 2020.

Business Rate Pool

We have agreed to join with the 14 other county authorities in the Essex Business rates scheme to continue for 2020/21. The estimated share for Braintree is £634,000.

Treasury Management

Following our meetings with our financial advisors we assessed the current status of our investments and have confirmed commitment of a further £1million into pooled funds, which will take our total in pooled funds to £20million.

Corporate Strategy

The Council's Corporate Strategy priorities were out for consultation in January and will be going to Cabinet in March.

Human Resources

Senior Appointments

Senior Management recruitment for Corporate Director has been successful with the appointment of Dominic Collins, who will start with us on 2nd March. Recruitment for the Head of Strategic Investment and Head of Governance posts are in progress.

Employee of the Month

Our employee of the month for November was Salvatore Marsala from Town Hall. "Salv joined the Town Hall team a year ago after a brief retirement from BDC as a Revenues officer. He has fitted in so well and displays excellent customer service in everything he does. He maintains the building to a high standard and recently built us a custom made bar, even in his own time which gets used at all functions. It went down a storm at the Christmas event at our 1920's bar."

Our employee of the month for December is Simon Agra of the Housing Options Team, receiving two nominations:

"I had my first out of hours shift this week (6-13th December) as a relatively new housing options officer this role can be quite daunting. I received my second call of the week, the evening of the 12th and it was an incredibly vulnerable individual with high support needs who had been made homeless. Instinctively I called Simon for support as I knew we needed to accommodate as soon as possible, Simon who wasn't on out of hours and really didn't have to pick up the phone or work outside of his hours but being the colleague he is, did so without hesitation. As the situation developed, I became increasingly concerned for the person's welfare and called emergency services. Simon's support throughout was invaluable, picking up every call and answering any question I had, he assisted me to accommodate the individual as well as have his welfare checked by police. They then attended BDC in the morning for an emergency appointment and have been assisted brilliantly by the team. I'm very thankful for having a team and specifically for this situation, this colleague who would go above and beyond, to not only support myself through a challenging situation, but ultimately the people who need it most, our applicants."

"I am nominating Simon for his work with single homeless people. There was a man sleeping rough in Braintree for some time. Simon worked with him over a long period of time. Just before Christmas the man was housed in a flat. Simon was key in making this happen. A lot of work behind the scenes happens to gain a level of trust with rough sleepers and also with housing partners to get people housed.

We have been part of a rough sleeper initiative project this year with 5 other partners. Simon has been a very proactive member of the partnership and has formed some excellent working relationships."

Governance

The 12th December General Election was delivered by the Council in both the Braintree and Witham parliamentary constituencies. This embraced, inter alia, sending out circa 149,000 polling cards, circa 24,500 postal votes, with arrangements for 140 polling stations and involving over 500 staff, plus management of 10 candidates and their agents, all without challenge.

Councillor David Bebb
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

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REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF HOMES

Agenda No: 12c

HOUSING

New Affordable Housing

The programme of affordable housing has been greatly helped by the scale of development being undertaken across the District. There have been 169 new affordable homes completed to the end of December 2019, with a further 44 completions expected during January. Even allowing for completion dates slipping, we expect more than 200 affordable homes to be added to the local stock in this financial year. We expect around 55 to 60 of the completed homes to be for shared ownership, with the balance for affordable rent.

Almost all of the completions during this year have been on mainstream development sites, provided through our negotiations as a condition of planning approval. In previous years, we have relied heavily on Greenfields developing sites on its land but as the housing market has improved, so we reap the benefits for people needing affordable housing.

One exceptional site this year was the ‘Rockways’ development in Station Road, Sible Hedingham. The site was purchased by CHP (the stock transfer association from Chelmsford) and provided all 37 homes for affordable rent.

All of the new rented homes are let to applicants to the Council’s Housing Register with a local connection to the Braintree District and are advertised on the ‘Gateway to Homechoice’ website. We normally secure 100% nomination rights to the properties on first letting and to 75% of re-lets but in practice, almost all re-lets are advertised by providers through the Gateway to Homechoice system as well.

This year for the first time, we have rented completions by a for-profit provider, Sage Housing, as part of our affordable housing programme in Witham. Sage is registered as a provider with Homes England and the Regulator of Social Housing. Homes are managed by a housing association and tenants retain the same rights as with not-for-profit providers but ownership of the homes is retained by the private company. This trend is likely to continue as other similar models are being discussed in other District locations.

Housing Options

Officers continue to work with customers to achieve good outcomes and are on course to exceed the 2018-19 performance: between April and the end of December 2019, the team prevented or relieved homelessness for 292 households.

There have been some significant achievements where the team have worked in partnership with other agencies to help entrenched rough sleepers: one individual accessed an emergency bed at CHES (Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme) via the rough sleeping initiative and has since moved to the main part of that project; another has moved into a tenancy with a social landlord. The latter was the culmination of a considerable amount of work by a number of people over a number of years and continuing support will be required for the foreseeable future.

We have seen a reduction in the numbers of people sleeping rough in the Braintree District. On the nights chosen for our evidence based rough sleeper estimates, there were five people in November 2019 sleeping rough and in January 2020 there was one person known to be sleeping rough. An evidence based estimate uses evidence from different agencies and partners.

I am very pleased to advise that our bid for Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding with other partners has been successful. For 2020/21 our partnership has been awarded funding of £460,459. We are working with Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council, Epping District Council, Maldon District Council, Rochford District Council and the homeless charity CHESS. This second year of funding will allow us to continue to develop the work of the partnership that we began in 2019/20 with a range of support services and accommodation across the five Council areas.

Officers are participating in the work being carried out by Essex County Council to re-procure supported accommodation contracts (one includes housing schemes used to meet interim/temporary accommodation duties, the other includes schemes which accommodate young people, including care leavers and 16-17 year olds).

Housing Development Sites

Due diligence continues, with Chelmer Housing Partnership with the intention of an exchange of contracts, subject to planning permission, early in 2020. A meeting has been arranged, for next week, to review progress and to agree a programme.

Chapel Hill

The Council is exploring Heads of Terms proposed by a residential developer. The terms include but do not require a joint venture with the Council. Essex Housing are proposing to offer a range of services to support the Council, in these negotiations and to ensure that the Council can enter a joint venture in confidence. It is proposed to present the final terms to a joint briefing with the Homes and the Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder in due course.

Braintree Town Centre – Manor Street Project

As previously reported, Heads of Terms have been agreed with Greenfields Community Housing (GCH), for the acquisition of all 35 residential units. This proposal has now received GCH Board approval. As a result, solicitors have been instructed and due diligence commenced. The agreed target is to achieve exchange of contracts before the end of March 2020, when main construction works are due to start.

GCH intend to make the 23 units in the main building available to local first-time buyers, on a shared ownership basis. Subject to confirmation of Homes England grant, the 12 units in the east-block will be available for letting at social or target rents, i.e. substantially below the more usual affordable rents (up to 80% of market rent).

Councillor Kevin Bowers
Cabinet Member for Homes

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REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Agenda No:12d

Skills

On 17th December 2019 we were extremely pleased to deliver three Google Digital Garage workshops; Writing for Social Media; Scale Your Brand and Advertise Across Borders; and Build A CV. 37 people attended this free event.

Monday 3rd February 2020 marked the start of National Apprenticeship Week; this year's theme was 'Look Beyond'. In 2018/2019, 1,050 people started an apprenticeship in the Braintree District, compared to 620 in 2017/2018 which is a phenomenal increase.

Our own apprentices held a bake sale to raise money to support the Braintree District Volunteer Awards which the group are working on as a team in addition to their substantive roles. We were also pleased to announce a partnership event with Colchester Institute to raise awareness of apprenticeships among local businesses which will take place on Wednesday 25th March 2020.

Following National Apprenticeship Week, on Thursday 13th February 2020 the Braintree District Education and Skills Board supported the delivery of the Braintree Apprenticeship Information Event which all 1,500 year 10 students in the District were invited to. This annual event highlights the benefits of apprenticeships as a post-16 option at all levels including higher and degree.

Superfast Broadband

Phase 2 is one quarter ahead of schedule (Braintree District Council funded). Phase 3 is on schedule (December 2021) and delivery is underway. Phase 4 (Braintree District Council funded) is on schedule and delivery is underway, expected to complete on schedule in September 2020. 85% of the District can now access superfast broadband, an increase of 774 premises since last reported. It is estimated that the District will achieve a coverage of 95.7% at the end of 2021, which has now fallen below the County's average of 96.1% coverage. It is estimated that 2,947 premises within the Braintree District will not receive superfast broadband.

Nonetheless, following feedback from Superfast Essex regarding the discrepancies within the Coggeshall data, more premises within the District may be connected than currently being reported. There will also be providers who will install infrastructure commercially outside of the work with Superfast Essex programme, and we have received reports that some providers are conducting work in Shalford and Panfield to install infrastructure. This will help increase connectivity figures.

Business Engagement and Support

Following on from the results of the Business Engagement and Support Survey, as well as a 10 year analysis of economic growth within the District, there is a negative downturn of employment opportunities within the Witham area. This analysis was conducted to assess risks that could be associated with exiting the EU. As a result we are currently exploring with partners the possibility of running a Witham-focussed Jobs Fair. We are also writing to the businesses in the area who are reporting a 5% or more loss in turnover/employees to offer a business support appointment.

To support small and independent businesses for Small Business Saturday, a competition was funded to give one District business a marketing video, which would also showcase why it is great to start a business here in the District. As a result of the campaign, communications reached 13,927 people, engaged with 656 people and had 44 businesses enter. A winner has been announced and dates for the filming are being planned.

With 934 new businesses that moved or started within the District in 2018/19 and feedback from the business engagement and support survey that more engagement with businesses could be beneficial, a welcome email is sent to new businesses in the District on a weekly basis. This covers an introduction to the Economic Development Team and an invitation to take up offers of business support.

Pedestrianisation

A consultation was carried out to identify what residents and business would like to see as part of the Braintree Town Centre pedestrianisation scheme. This consultation closed on Thursday 6th February 2020 following promotion via our usual communication channels; social media, digital newsletter, town centre noticeboards, posters, flyers, website and press. We also held two drop in sessions in the town centre where attendees could find out more about the project and ask questions. Separate stakeholder events/meetings were also held. The responses are currently being analysed and will be shared via our usual methods.

Councillor Tom Cunningham
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure

Contact:	Councillor Tom Cunningham
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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION**

Agenda No: 12e

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Manor Street Regeneration Project

Significant progress continues on various work-streams connected to the delivery of the Manor Street project including a public engagement event in the Town Hall Centre that was well attended and local residents were informed on the relocation of bus stops and parking locations to be used during the construction phase. (see Communications and Marketing below).

Enabling works have commenced to divert gas mains and UKPN high voltage cables. Kier Construction will take full possession of the site on 29th March 2020, by which time the Manor Street car park and bus station will close and part of the taxi rank will be re-located to the Town Hall car park.

Horizon 120 Business Innovation Park

Significant progress continues to be made on various workstreams connected to the delivery of Horizon 120.

- It is now intended that the Infrastructure Planning Application and the draft Local Development Order (LDO) will be on the Council Agenda on 23rd March 2020.
- A pre-contract services agreement has been signed with Balfour Beatty to provide for detailed design and for enabling works. These works will include initial earthworks.
- Gridserve have commenced construction of the new electric vehicle charging forecourt, with access via a temporary construction access road from Blackley's Lane. The proposed Balfour Beatty programme provides that Gridserve will benefit from full vehicular access from the A131, by the 26th May 2020 and open for business at the end of June 2020.
- The option agreement, with Marshgate Developments, has now been executed enabling Marshgate to firm up negotiations with intended occupiers and plan to be on site by July 2020.

Enterprise Centres

Witham Enterprise Centre

The Land transfer of the site from the developer, who is now significantly in breach of the S106 agreement is being expedited and planned to complete by end February. A business case is being developed in parallel with the land transfer, with the objective of considering the matter through Cabinet and Council in June or July 2020 and submitting a planning application in September.

Horizon 120 Enterprise Centre

A technical team is being selected and appointed with a view to a committed programme of design development for consideration at Cabinet during summer 2020 and with a planning application being submitted in the Autumn.

I-Construct, Construction Innovation Hub

Due diligence is continuing to finalise the specification of works and the construction contract sum, in anticipation of a start on site early 2020.

At the time of writing, the Council has still not received confirmation of the terms of the ERDF grant finance, however we continue to be confident that this will be forthcoming and Officers are using all possible channels with ECC to expedite.

Housing Development Sites

Due diligence continues, with Chelmer Housing Partnership with the intention of an exchange of contracts, subject to planning permission, early in 2020. A meeting has been arranged, for next week, to review progress and to agree a programme.

Chapel Hill

The Council is exploring Heads of Terms proposed by a housing developer. The terms include, but do not require a joint venture with the Council. Essex Housing are proposing to offer a range of services to support the Council in these negotiations and to ensure that the Council can enter a joint venture in confidence. It is proposed to present the final terms to a joint briefing with the Homes and the Corporate Transformation portfolio holder in due course.

Sible Hedingham Medical Centre

Following feedback from planners, the Architect is now formally instructed and is discussing a programme, with a view to a planning application in end February or March 2020. RLF, the Council's employer's agent, has been instructed to develop a shortlist of ideally local contractors with appropriate expertise and experience with a view to an invitation to tender in parallel to the planning application. The tender process will be compliant with the Council's requirements but does not need a full OJEU tender process.

COMMERCIALISATION, INCOME GENERATION, & EFFICIENCY

Commercial activity supports delivery of the **Delivering and Innovating** Corporate Priority, specifically

- Consider new ways to generate income achieving financial self-sufficiency
- Modernise the way we work to ensure we continue to deliver high quality and value for money services
- Build strong, effective partnerships across the public, private, voluntary and community sector taking a place-based approach to achieve more for the district.

The 2019/20 Net income projected across Traded Services is circa £179,000.

ICT & DIGITAL SERVICES

The ICT Team have been busy during December and early January with the following highlighted activities:

- A contract signed with Arcserve/Softcat for the provision of a Disaster Recovery and Fall-back facility. This will enhance security and robustness of the services and provide business continuity in the event of an ICT failure.

- ONI have been assigned to the migration of the telephone system from ISDN (telephone landlines) to SIP (internet network) which will add flexibility to the service and lower costs for our telephone calls to landlines and UK mobiles.
- Sharepoint services allows our Officers to securely access work-related files and information from anywhere in the UK. The plan is to roll out its use across the Council. ICT are leading on this and are training the teams in the use and set up of their individual Sharepoint sites. This has been initiated with the Internal Audit and Planning teams.
- Preparatory work for the installation of WiFi4EU in the 3 town centres has commenced. The locations of the WiFi points have been identified in each of Halstead, Braintree and Witham (up to 4 are required in each town centre). Owners will be approached to obtain permission to use the locations. The next steps leading to the installations can then be taken.
- Online booking for Pest Control services and Business Enterprise Centre accommodation are in development. This will allow the public to make their own appointments and to request bookings directly. Similar options for Print & Reprographics are under consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Local Plan

Local Plan press release to highlight the opening of the Section 1 Examination Publication Local Plan. Social media used to highlight details of the hearings, agendas and the audio (live and on playback). Use of the BDC planning enewsletter and the BDC email for Parish Councils to make stakeholders/residents aware of the hearings.

Consultations

- Residents, businesses and visitors are invited to have their say on the Braintree Town Centre improvement plans. Two drop-in events were held Saturday 1st February from 10am – 3pm and Wednesday 5th February from 10am – 3pm in Kaspas, High Street, Braintree, and these were advertised in the Braintree and Witham Times
- Our [Corporate Priorities 2020 - 2024](#) consultation closed 17th January
- Council's 2020/21 Budget proposals and Medium Term Financial Strategy – business consultation was included in business bulletin.

Manor Street Regeneration Marketing

Kier Regional Eastern hosted a community engagement event for the Manor Street regeneration on Thursday, 16th January (see above).

Kier took the lead on the displays which showed an outline of what the scheme will look like and a schedule of preliminary and major building works. BDC supported the event with marketing materials and leaflets for public guidance that covered:

- alternative car parking recommendations
- temporary bus and bus stop arrangements

- any changes to the flow of traffic.

Councillor John McKee
Cabinet Member for Corporate Transformation

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND TOURISM**

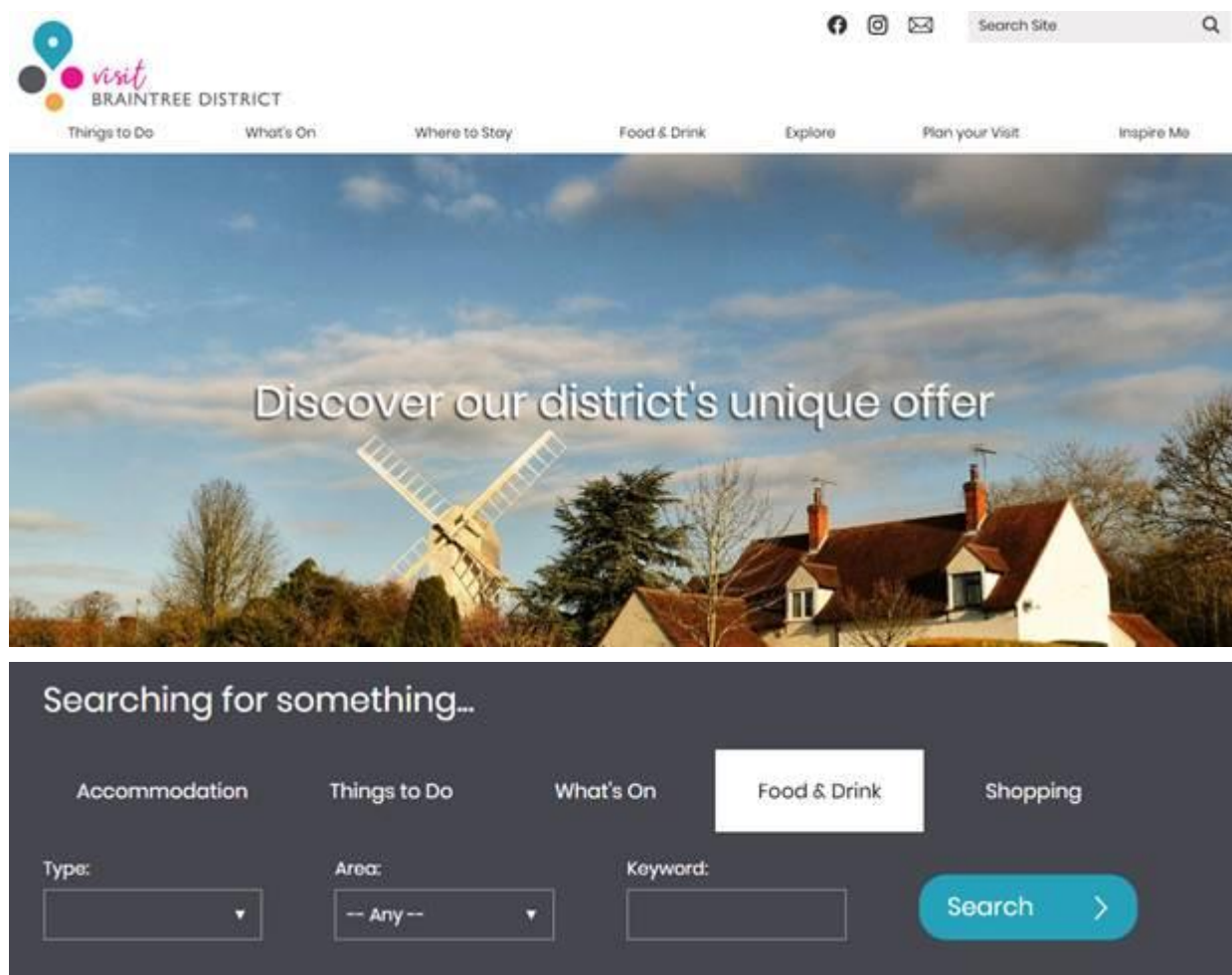
Agenda No: 12f

TOURISM

Our Tourism Partnership met for the third time on 21st January 2020, hosted by Tiptree Tea Rooms, The Barn Tea Room, Crossing Temple Barn. Attendees were given an exclusive look at the new Visit Braintree District Tourism website which was well received. The website formally launched to the public today (17th February 2020) and I would recommend taking some time to look at it via the following link www.visitbraintreedistrict.co.uk.

Please do encourage residents to make use of the website, whether to list community events on the 'What's On' page or advertise their business. It is an excellent website to showcase the diverse and attractive nature of the District.

Officers have also worked on a Partnership Toolkit to encourage businesses to adopt and include the tourism branding alongside their own.



Welcome To Braintree District

A warm welcome to the Braintree District, based in the heart of rural Essex offering a wonderful mix of the traditional and the new.

A rich history echoes through our wealth of historic landmarks telling our unique story, from Braintree museum celebrating our industrial and cultural achievements, the medieval barns of Crossing Temple, Hedingham Castle events including jousting knights, to a textile archive that houses original artwork by leading 20th century designers.

Essex Live have quoted us one of the "foodie capitals of Essex" for our renowned street market. You can seek out hidden gems in our market towns and villages and discover a host of independent shops and boutiques, cafes and tea rooms, farmers' markets and award-winning independent vineyards, breweries and distilleries.

So what's unique about us? We host a designer shopping village offering over 70 brands, visit Thomas the Tank Engine at our Colne Valley steamed railway and there's something for the children at Essex's biggest climbing frame at Great Notley Country Park.

The district's location means we are surrounded by breath-taking scenery and idyllic villages with many cycling and walking routes.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Christmas Day Meals

Various organisations across the District provided a free meal on Christmas Day to individuals or families that are homeless, living in poverty or lonely. Venues were provided with bags from Community Services with information on activities relating to communities, health and wellbeing.

The venues were:-

- Pascha Café, Braintree – approx. 20 attendees
- Witham United Reformed Church/Home & Alone 2019: 70–75 people attended with more volunteers than they had jobs for!
- Halstead – this is organised by a lady called Vera Mitchell and hosted at St Andrews Church.
- Braintree Salvation Army – 66 people attended and 59 meals were delivered to people within their homes. 40 volunteers assisted on the day.

Maltings Lane Steering Group

The second steering group meeting has taken place where initial plans for the community facility were presented and discussed along with ideas for the development of the outdoor space. Members agreed to establish a sub-group to look specifically at the design of the outdoor space.

Community Transport Re-branding

Whilst out and about in the community Members may have seen our newly branded Community Transport fleet. The team has also introduced new routes where passengers can use their bus passes for payment. These are primarily for shopping trips as follows:-

- Tabor Place to Braintree Shopping Village – fortnightly on Thursday
- Victoria Court, Braintree to Morrison’s in Witham – fortnightly on Tuesday
- Riverside Court Halstead to Braintree Town Centre – fortnightly on Monday
- Abbeyfields, Braintree to Braintree Shopping Village – monthly on Tuesday

A further three routes are due to commence next month.

Social Isolation and Loneliness

The Bell at Great Bardfield has become our newest “Meet up Monday” venue, however they have decided to hold sessions on Thursday with effect from 6th February 2020.

I would like to thank those Members who have responded to the Community Asset survey along with the 26 Town and Parish Councils who have responded to the Community Cohesion survey and provided the team with invaluable information to take forward into future delivery.

Officers have been working with the United in Kind coach to pull together a list of activities for the “learn together” phase of this social movement campaign. This will provide a list of activities across the District that local residents can participate in. Whilst some of these are ongoing there will be a selection of new activities available for people to try. Promotion of these is imminent and will include a “Using your Voice” workshop, stargazing with the North Essex Astronomical Society and a card making workshop in Sible Hedingham.

HERITAGE

Braintree Museum Trust

Following a performance meeting with Braintree Museum Trust I am pleased to report that attendance at both the Museum and Warner Archive has increased throughout the year. I would encourage Members to visit the Museum to view the Courtauld Exhibition which runs from 1st February 2020 to 30th May 2020. The exhibition reveals the story of the development of artificial silk, the influence of the Courtauld family and their rich local legacy including some of the art collection owned by the family.

Town Hall

Several successful Christmas events took place at the Town Hall in December 2019. Two candle making workshops were held which sold out completely and have been booked again for this year. In addition, the Community Transport thank you event and a dementia friendly Christmas tea were hosted. The Town Hall was an integral part of the successful Christmas light switch-on event and street market in November 2019. I would like to personally thank the staff at the Town Hall for their contribution.

Bocking Windmill

The carol service which took place on 14th December 2019 had a rolling attendance over 2 hours with 55 people at the height of the afternoon. Over £100 was raised towards the Friends of Bocking Windmill.

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:12g

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A new Electric Car charging point has been installed at the Braintree Leisure Pool.

OPERATIONS

Waste Minimisation Initiatives

- The Recycling and Waste Minimisation Education Team met with the 'Eco Colnes & Halstead Group' on Saturday, 7th December 2019. This is a group of residents who have come together to share experiences and information with one another to try and reduce their impact on the environment. This was an interesting and informative session for all involved, with many ideas shared and advice given, as well as comments from the Group which are being further considered by officers.
- Officers are focusing on reducing contamination of recyclable waste from flats which have communal waste facilities. Letters have been sent out to all relevant households and these will be followed up by visits where necessary.
- Staff have been working in partnership with Greenfields CH and housing developers to suggest the most suitable bins and bin stores for collections for the flats in Oak Road, Halstead and Lister Road, Braintree, as well as visiting flats with limited space for waste storage in Braintree and Halstead town centres. By working with the landlords, solutions are being found to enable residents to recycle and dispose of their waste correctly.
- A Christmas e-newsletter with advice on a 'greener' Christmas was sent to all residents (who signed up to receive them) at the beginning of December, together with a note of the revised collection dates and ideas on how to dispose of real Christmas trees.

Sports Pitches

Consultants have been appointed to oversee tenders for the renewal of the floodlights at the Artificial Grass Pitch at Gt Notley Country Park. This work will further enhance the facility following the play surface renewal in August 2019. The contract is expected to be awarded mid-February, with works completed by the end of this financial year.

Cemeteries Service

- 8 members of staff have received training from the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management on memorial testing which will enable them to carry out a memorial safety inspection regime. A Memorial Testing Protocol is being drafted which will be used in conjunction with an in-house 5 year rolling inspection programme to ensure the safety of memorials in the Council's cemeteries.
- Staff are in the process of arranging Commonwealth War Grave signs in all 4 of the Council's cemeteries to make visitors aware that there are war graves at these locations. This is in preparation for the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2020.

Car Parking

- Following the Transport Select Committee's report on its investigation into pavement parking, a draft Obstructive and Footway Parking Policy covering the North Essex Parking Partnership's area was discussed at the October Joint Parking Committee (JPC) Meeting, where the timescales and potential issues and ideas were discussed. The Government has been asked by the Transport Select Committee to progress this by Summer 2020. A further report will be considered by the NEPP JPC on 9 January 2020.
- The NEPP's website now includes an online tool which enables motorists who wish to appeal a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) to see the likely outcome of their appeal before they submit it. When customers visit the website and enter their PCN details and information, they will be able to select the reasons why they are challenging their PCN and the system will let them know the likely outcome of their appeal based on the information they've provided at that stage.

Enforcement

- The information below shows the work undertaken by the enforcement team from 1 November to 31 December 2019.
 - 21 Dog barking complaints investigated
 - 3 Dog fouling complaints investigated
 - 16 Stray dogs detained (11 BDC / 5 UDC)
 - 14 Statutory Notices served (Includes fly-tipping, failure to micro-chip, Anti-social Behaviour, accumulations of waste, Waste Duty of Care, vehicle on private land, noise/odour nuisance, excessive dog barking, dangerous dogs and S.108 Notices (Requisitions for Information))
 - 31 Fixed Penalty Notices served (Includes general litter, cigarette litter, Duty of Care, fly- tipping & smoking in a smoke free vehicle)
- CCTV has been used in various areas around the District identified as hot spots for waste offences and this has provided evidence to enable Fixed Penalty Notices to be served in these areas.
- A large fly-tip was found on 3 December 2019 in Bumfords Lane, Hatfield Peverel. I am pleased to report that the origin of the waste was identified and the person

who took the waste from the property for payment has been interviewed under caution. The Council will be seeking a prosecution for this offence. The offender lives outside of the Braintree District.



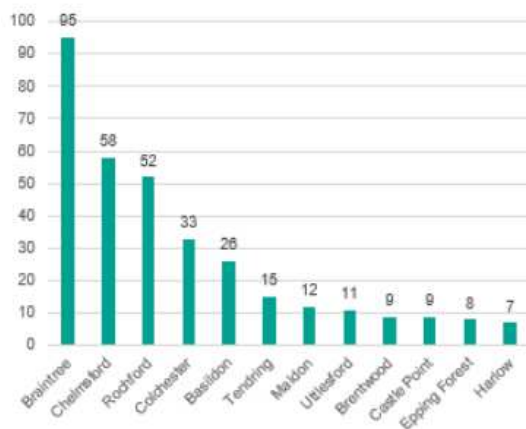
GREEN HEART OF ESSEX/LOVE ESSEX

'Say no to plastic' campaign

- This is a partnership initiative involving Essex County Council and other Essex local authorities (excluding Colchester and Tendring) aimed at encouraging everyone to use reusable products in place of single-use plastics. The campaign is due to last 12 months, with a different reusable alternative product being promoted every 4-6 weeks. Anyone wishing to make a pledge or to sign up to the mailing list should visit www.loveessex.org/plasticpledge. They will receive a monthly e-newsletter packed full of hints and tips and be entered into prize draws to win items that will help them reduce their use of plastics still further.

I am delighted to see that Braintree District has the most pledges. This could well be due to our Green Heart of Essex Campaigns which keeps such matters in the public arena.

Pledges by District



The promotion/advertising panels on the Council's waste collection vehicles feature further statistics such as 7.7 billion plastic water bottles; 2.5 billion coffee cups; excessive food packaging; billions of plastic cutlery; plastic film including cling film, 8.5 billion plastic straws and encouraging people to make the switch.

We are now pushing forward with our young environmentalist named Ollie who is fronting the campaign and starring in our videos #JoinOllie. We have launched the first #JoinOllie video on social media about reusable straws. Statistics so far:

- Impressions: 16,807
- Engagements: 1,035
- Video views: 5,984

Some comments from social media so far:

- Go Ollie! We love you and what you are doing. Keep up the good work.
- Amazing Ollie! Your enthusiasm and passion shines through ☐ - we have reusable straws on our Christmas wish list x
- Well done Ollie! So great of the council to help spread your message :)

We launched Ollie's reusable bottle video on 13 January and his reusable cutlery video w/c 3 February 2020.

Essex wide campaign – 'Love Essex not plastic'

Introduction email sent to schools to encourage them to join the campaign this year, Social media activity – sharing posts and video on BDC pages generated from Love Essex group account Facebook & Twitter

An email has been sent to all Councillors advising them of the campaign and encouraging them to take the pledge

Media: The press release to local papers, picked up by BWT & HG. Radio advertising on Heart

January – focus on encouraging people to sign the pledge

February – focus on encouraging residents to use re-useable cups

March – focus on ditch the disposable wipes

LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Tree planting on BDC land

- Braintree and Bocking Rotary Club has planted 30 young trees from the Woodlands Trust in Hoppit Mead Nature Reserve
- The Friends of Hoppit Mead will plant up to 50 Beech hedging plants in the Reserve.
- Witham Tree Group in conjunction with volunteers from local schools and local employer Aegon, have planted 52 standard trees in the open space on Bramble Road, Witham as the major part of the planting for the WW1 commemorative wood following the spine of the existing boundary hedge replacement trees will be planted in Rivenhall and Great Notley.

MILITARY COVENANT

At a meeting of the Civilian Military Partnership Board for Essex held on 23 January 2020, a paper that had been produced by Tim Lucas, BDC's Housing Research and Development Manager, regarding Armed Forces Local Connection and Priority Housing in Essex showed that only 5 of the Essex Councils were exactly following the Housing Act regarding the homing of current or ex members of the Armed Forces. Needless to say BDC is one of those 5.

ESSEX POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is proposing a precept increase of 2.94% equal to an increase of £5.67 per annum, band D property £198.63. This will be presented to the Panel on 6th February for their consideration.

Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt
Cabinet Member for Environment and Place

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Part 1 Local Plan Examination

The re-opened Part 1 examination started on 14th January 2020 at Colchester Football Stadium. The full timetable was available on the Council's website, and those who were unable to attend could listen to a live audio recording of proceedings. The sessions were on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm, with the last session on 30th January 2020.

Neighbourhood Plans

Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan has now been adopted as part of the Development Plan for the District.

Cressing Neighbourhood Plan - a referendum on the Cressing Neighbourhood Plan took place on 6th February 2020 and the results will be presented to Council on 17th February 2020.

Neighbourhood Plans for Coggeshall and Great Saling Neighbourhood are expected to be submitted to the Council shortly.

Neighbourhood Plan Procedures

A report was considered at Cabinet on 10th February 2020 to speed up the process of sending Neighbourhood Plans to referendum.

Conservation Area Appraisals

Three conservation area appraisals are to be considered by Planning Committee in February (subject to confirmation).

A further appraisal is being commissioned for Braintree Town Centre and Bradford Street.

Statement of Community Involvement

The revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document, which contains several amendments, is due to be considered by the Planning Committee on 4th February 2020 with a recommendation for the Local Plan Sub Committee to be held on 11th February 2020.

RAMS

Twelve Local Authorities in Essex (Basildon Borough Council, Braintree District Council, Brentwood Borough Council, Castle Point District Council, Chelmsford City

Council, Colchester Borough Council, Maldon District Council, Rochford District Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Tendring District Council, Thurrock Council and Uttlesford District Council) are currently working together to produce an Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). An Essex Coast RAMS Strategy Document has been prepared and this includes a technical report and mitigation strategy for how the Essex local authorities will avoid and mitigate the in-combination effects of increased recreational disturbance on Essex coast Habitats sites.

Consultation on the Essex Coast RAMS SPD commenced on 10th January 2020 for six weeks. Further information is available on the following website:- <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/place-services/the-essex-coast-rams-spd/>. If you have any comments please send them to ecology.placeservices@essex.gov.uk by 5pm on 21st February 2020.

Planning Permissions for New Residential Development

The Quarter 3 2019/20 position (October to December 2019) 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 215 dwellings which can be summarised as follows:-

	Market Housing	Affordable Housing	TOTAL
Granted by BDC on Allocated site and/or within Development Boundary	76	23	99
Granted by BDC on Unallocated site and/or outside Development Boundary	61	28*	89
Allowed at Appeal on Allocated site / within Development Boundary	3	17	20
Allowed at Appeal on Unallocated site / outside Development Boundary	7	0	7
TOTAL	147	68	215

**Financial contribution towards provision of off-site Affordable Housing secured (18/01673/FUL – Site at Tey Road, Coggeshall)*

Development Management Performance

Indicator	GOV Target for 2019/20	BDC Target for 2019/20	Q1 %	Q2 %	Q3 %
Majors	60%	70%	64.71%	92.86%	86.36%
Minors	70%	70%	71.59%	76.74%	81.08%
Others	70%	85%	78.38%	86.54%	89.50%

The above performance for Q1, Q2 and Q3 means that Development Management have met the minimum Government Targets for the last three consecutive quarters, and have met the BDC Targets for the last two consecutive quarters. The above represents the best sustained level of performance for several years and demonstrates that the service is continuing to improve and that the benefits from additional resources are being realised.

Councillor Mrs Gabrielle Spray
Cabinet Member for Planning

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REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Agenda No: 12i

LEISURE

Fusion

The Council's leisure provider, Fusion, gave a presentation to Cabinet at the meeting on 18th December 2019. Following on from this, new initiatives around the online booking system and a move to cashless payments at our leisure centre receptions have been put in place. The potential impact on younger and older users who may not have access to contactless bank cards has been considered. The likely solution will be to pre-load a reward card with credit for individuals to use. It is anticipated that this initiative will commence in April 2020, however extensive consultation and communication will be carried out in advance.

Artificial Football Pitch

Following a successful budget bid and securing funding from the Football Foundation, tenders have been sought to replace the artificial training pitch at Halstead. We expect the pitch to be installed later in the year.



The existing artificial football pitch at Halstead

Livewell Child

New initiatives continue to be introduced under the Livewell Child pilot, for example consideration is being given to developing a new dental hygiene project in both Lyons Hall and Beckers Green schools. If successful, this could potentially save the NHS £5k for each child who previously required dental extractions.

The Livewell Child project itself is moving into its third and final year. Discussions are taking place with partners to consider maintaining the pilot in the ten schools and introducing additional initiatives to tackle issues such as aspiration and emotional wellbeing.

Active Essex Sports Awards

Whilst we had no outright winners at the Active Essex Sports Awards, all our shortlisted clubs and individuals were highly commended. The Braintree Martial Arts Centre held an open evening on 1st February 2020 which highlighted a number of World, European and National karate champions.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Livewell Partnership

The Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (MECCG) is bringing together all the health partners in Braintree, Maldon and Chelmsford to collectively talk about health issues and how the partners can work together. As these discussions develop I will provide Members with details of any new joint initiatives that arise out of these meetings.

Dementia

Dementia friendly activities continue to be delivered across the District including dementia friendly cinema and walks. Officers are awaiting an update in relation to the progress of the dementia friendly choir which started late last year.

A number of new programmes were introduced at the Town Hall over the Christmas period to support those living with dementia and their carers. The Town Hall team has been working closely with outside agencies such as Dementia Action Alliance, Age UK etc. to continue to deliver afternoon teas and workshops and to develop new initiatives.

MECCG has advised that Douglas Grove Surgery in Witham has become dementia friendly and produced a comprehensive action plan. Blandford Medical Centre is working towards introducing new dementia friendly policies.

Mental Health

A fifth workshop on Mental Health was held in November 2019 with a presentation from Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT). The MECCG outlined the proposed enhanced community dementia teams and the potential for a mental health crisis café in the District.

Mental Health Priorities

Data Mapping

Officers are currently interpreting the “fingertips” District or CCG level mental health data. Separate conversations are also being held with the MECCG on how access to psychological therapies can be improved.

Children and Young People

Primary and secondary schools across the District are providing information in an attempt to understand what provision is available and where the gaps are in relation to Mental Health services.

Raising Awareness

The Public Health England Every Mind Matters campaign is being promoted and we continue to support the work of “Walk and Talk for Men”. Tea and talk sessions take place for Council staff to attend where they have an opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns arising out of Council activities with one of our trained Mental Health Champions.

Councillor Peter Tattersley
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

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List of Public Meetings Held Since Last Council Meeting	Agenda No: 13
<p>Portfolio Not applicable Corporate Outcome: Not applicable Report presented by: Not applicable Report prepared by: Jessica Mann, Governance and Members 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 16th December 2019, the following Minutes have been published for meetings held in public session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Planning Committee – 17th December 2019 (2) Cabinet – 18th December 2019 (3) Planning Committee – 7th January 2020 (4) Community Development Group – 14th January 2020 (5) *Corporate Governance Group – 16th January 2020 (6) Planning Committee – 21st January 2020 (7) Braintree Local Highways Panel – 23rd January 2020 (8) *Performance Management Board - 29th January 2020 (9) Planning Committee – 4th February 2020 (10) *Partnership Development Group – 5th February 2020 (11) *Cabinet – 10th February 2020 (12) *Local Plan Sub-Committee – 11th February 2020 <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>	