

# Council AGENDA

**Monday, 9th October 2017 at 7.15 PM**

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

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
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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 J Goodman	Councillor Mrs J Pell
Councillor Mrs J Allen	Councillor A Hensman	Councillor R Ramage
Councillor M Banthorpe	Councillor P Horner	Councillor F Ricci
Councillor P Barlow	Councillor D Hufton-Rees	Councillor B Rose
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 S Kirby	Councillor P Schwier
Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint	Councillor G Maclure	Councillor C Siddall
Councillor G Butland	Councillor D Mann	Councillor Mrs G Spray
Councillor S Canning	Councillor J McKee	Councillor P Tattersley
Councillor J Cunningham	Councillor R Mitchell	Councillor Miss M Thorogood
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	Councillor Mrs J Money	Councillor R van Dulken
Councillor T Cunningham	Councillor Lady Newton	Councillor Mrs L Walters
Councillor M Dunn	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Councillor Mrs S Wilson
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor Mrs I Parker	
Councillor Mrs D Garrod	Councillor Mrs S Paul	

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

A WRIGHT  
Acting 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](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk) no later than 2 working days prior to the meeting. 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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- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 To receive any announcements/statements from the Chairman and/or Leader of the Council.**
- 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 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 24th July 2017 (copy previously circulated).
- 6 Anglia in Bloom Awards**

To receive a presentation of the Anglia in Bloom Awards.
- 7 Recommendations from Cabinet, 5th September 2017 – North Essex Garden Communities – Progress to date and key developments** **5 - 8**
- 8 Treasury Management Strategy – Investment Policy** **9 - 13**
- 9 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.

<b>9a</b>	<b>Councillor G Butland - Leader of the Council</b>	<b>14 - 16</b>
<b>9b</b>	<b>Councillor D Bebb - Finance and Performance</b>	<b>17 - 19</b>
<b>9c</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs Bowers-Flint - Planning and Housing</b>	<b>20 - 22</b>
<b>9d</b>	<b>Councillor T Cunningham - Economic Development</b>	<b>23 - 24</b>
<b>9e</b>	<b>Councillor J McKee - Corporate Services and Asset Management</b>	<b>25 - 26</b>
<b>9f</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs W Schmitt - Environment and Place</b>	<b>27 - 30</b>
<b>9g</b>	<b>Councillor P Tattersley - Health and Communities</b>	<b>31 - 35</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>List of Public Meetings Held Since Last Council Meeting</b>	<b>36 - 37</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Exclusion of Public and Press: - To give consideration to adopting the following Resolution: -</b> That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.	

## **PRIVATE SESSION**

## **Page**

There are no matters for Private Session.

<b>Recommendations from Cabinet, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b>	<b>Agenda No: 7</b>
<b>North Essex Garden Communities – Progress to date and Key Developments</b>	
<b>Original Report:</b>	<b>Public Report</b>
<a href="#">Report and Minutes of the Cabinet 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017</a>	

**Minute Extract:**

**CABINET – 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

25 **\*NORTH ESSEX GARDEN COMMUNITIES – PROGRESS TO DATE AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

Minutes Published: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Call-in Expires: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**INFORMATION:** The strategic vision identified through the joint working of Braintree, Colchester, Essex and Tendring Councils was approved by Cabinet and Council in late 2016. These established a dedicated delivery structure through the creation of North Essex Garden Communities Limited (NEGC Limited) and individual, site-focused Local Delivery Vehicles (LDVs). Since the approval of each of the Councils involved, NEGC Limited has been formally established and transferred to the Councils, and Directors have been appointed.

Members were advised that the report would also be presented to Colchester, Essex and Tendring Authorities at their respective meetings.

Members were informed that since works had started on this project the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 had been passed and within this there was the opportunity for New Town Development Corporations (NTDC) to be established. Under the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, development corporations which had local accountability could be established by the Secretary of State and it was reported that all four Essex Authorities, (Braintree, Colchester, Tendring and Essex) were keen to apply. A New Town Development Corporation would enable Local Authorities to have greater flexibility in terms of planning and assembling of land, it would also enable Local Authorities to oversee delivery.

If Town Development Corporations were agreed as an approach, in order to

submit a proposal, key issues would need to be considered and ultimately approved by the Councils. A major factor to be considered would be whether to create one overall NTDC or one for each selected area. It was the view of the board of the NEGC Limited that a single NTDC for entirety of North Essex would be preferable.

It was reported that the land within the project areas remains outside the control of the Councils and LDVs. The emphasis to date had rightly been on seeking agreement to acquire land voluntarily. It remained the preferred option that land deals would be entered into between the relevant landowners / developers and the LDV with the view that each LDV would then have the rights to control the delivery of its scheme ensuring that the delivery was undertaken on Garden Community principles. The LDV Directors had continued to have positive ongoing discussions and had continued to build working relationships with the relevant landowners and promoters of the sites with a view to the LDV securing a controlling interest in the land and the landowners working with the LDV to deliver the Garden Communities.

It was anticipated that a number of key milestones would occur over the following 18 months, some of which would involve decision-making by NEGC Limited and individually by the Councils. Each milestone and the nature of related decisions/approvals would differ and be subject to the amount of background work and advice available at each date.

A programme budget was being actively managed and monitored to deliver the necessary workload and meet the project programme. This budget had evolved in response to influences such as the Kerslake Review, progress with planning and land negotiations, and discussions with Government. As part of the ongoing liaison with Government, a bid for additional grant support had been made to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). This had included bringing forward potential work to accelerate the programme of works, notably in respect of possible early infrastructure interventions. At the current time there was no confirmation on any award amount. The overall scope of work and budget requirements had shown a shortfall of £914,000 for 2017/18. The four Councils were requested to make further equal contributions of £250,000 per Authority to ensure the budget was sufficient for 2017/18. This contribution formed part of the development costs of the project, which may not be recoverable. NEGC Limited would continue to seek opportunities for grant funding from the HCA and other bodies which would, if successful, reduce cost pressures; however because this funding could not be guaranteed it was prudent to allocate the requested contribution.

Clarity was sought around the reference to 'no scheme value' set out in the report and Members were advised that this referred to the total value of the land which had no schemes proposed for it.

Members were advised that the timeframe for the New Town Development Corporation to come in to fruition would be dependent on the outcome from the department of Communities and Local Government. The primary legislation had already been formed, however the secondary legislation as to how the NTDC would be established was yet to be confirmed and the Councils would be unable to proceed until this had been completed.

**DECISION: That Cabinet:**

1. Notes the progress made in respect of the North Essex Garden Communities project and endorsed the work of NEGC Ltd.
2. Notes the updated position on the control of land and supports the continued work by the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) Directors to achieve control of the land for each Community by way of voluntary agreements with the current land owners in accordance with the LDV structure.
3. Supports the approach proposed by NEGC Limited that Directors actively engage with Government to promote the positioning of the NEGC Limited as a “Responsible Body” for the establishment of a single new locally-controlled Development Corporation across all three of the proposed North Essex Garden Communities – subject to final consideration of this approach by Members after the publication of the Regulations.
4. Supports the signing of a letter (attached as Appendix A) to be sent by the Leaders of all four of the Councils together with NEGC Limited to the relevant Secretary of State to support the promotion of regulations which enable the formation of a New Town Development Corporation with a locally accountable body in a timely and effective way.
5. Notes that detailed work is being undertaken by NEGC Limited to assess the financial and legal implications and requirements relating to the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) to enable future decisions to be taken by the respective Councils / Development Corporation.
6. Supports the principle of using compulsory purchase powers (either as individual Councils or potentially through a new Development Corporation) to secure control of the land if voluntary land agreements cannot be achieved in a reasonable time.
7. Agrees to provide a further contribution of £250,000 to fund the work of NEGC Limited in the development of the project and to recommend to Council that the funds are allocated from unallocated New Homes Bonus.

**That Cabinet Recommends to Council that it:**

1. Notes the progress made in respect of the North Essex Garden Communities project and endorses the work of NEGC Ltd.
2. Notes the decisions of the Cabinet and endorses the approach to the progression of the project.
3. Allocates £250,000 of unallocated New Homes Bonus to fund the work of NEGC Limited in the development of the project.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To provide an update on progress made and the current position regarding the Garden Communities project and in particular:

To note that the joint Part One of the Local Plans has been agreed by the three District Councils;

- To note that the proposed governance arrangements approved by the four authorities have been established and that whilst no land deals have been secured, discussions and negotiations are continuing in respect of all three areas.
- To advise Members of the emergence of the potential to deliver the Garden Communities through the delivery model of a locally controlled Development Corporation and to seek support for the approach proposed by North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) Limited.
- To advise Members of the potential use of compulsory purchase powers to gain control of the land to deliver the Garden Communities and to seek support in principle to the development of an approach to Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers.
- To provide Members with an update on the financial position of the project and to seek a further financial contribution of £250,000 to the project from each of the Councils.

**Recommended Decision:** That Council:

1. Notes the progress made in respect of the North Essex Garden Communities project and endorses the work of NEGC Ltd.
2. Notes the decisions of the Cabinet and endorses the approach to the progression of the project.
3. Allocates £250,000 of unallocated New Homes Bonus to fund the work of NEGC Limited in the development of the project.

Note: the original report to Cabinet is available as set out above.



Treasury Management Strategy – Investment Policy		Agenda No:8
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Finance and Performance</b>	
<b>Corporate Outcome:</b>	<b>A high performing organisation that delivers excellent and value for money services</b> <b>Delivering better outcomes for residents and businesses and reducing costs to taxpayers</b>	
<b>Report presented by:</b>	<b>Councillor David Bebb</b>	
<b>Report prepared by:</b>	<b>Trevor Wilson, Head of Finance</b>	
<b>Background Papers:</b> Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18 and the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017/18:  Council Budget and Council Tax 2017-18 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2017-18 to 2020-21  Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017/18 – considered by the Governance Committee on 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017		<b>Public Report</b>  <b>Key Decision: No</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>		
<b><u>Background</u></b> The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2017/18 was approved by Council at its meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017. The TMSS includes the Annual Investment Strategy prepared in accordance with statutory guidance and which sets out the investment policy to be applied to the management of the Council’s financial investments and the associated risks, including limits on exposure to certain types of investments.  The Mid-Year Treasury Management Report 2017/18 was reported to the Governance Committee at its meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017, and provided an updated position on the Council’s treasury management activities. This report will be formally received by Council at its meeting on 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017, following consideration by Cabinet on 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017.  The current investment policy includes an overall limit of £25million on Non-Specified Investments. For this Council, Non-Specified Investments are those investments which have a duration exceeding 12 months; or investments with financial institutions that do not meet the Council’s definition of high credit quality as they do not have a formal credit rating from any of the leading rating agencies. For this latter category a lower aggregate limit of £15million currently applies. This limit has been used to enable diversification of the Council’s investment portfolio into Collective Investment Schemes, or “Pooled Funds”. An individual limit of £5million is also applied to any fund used.		

### **Investments in Pooled Funds**

The Council's approach to use of Pooled Funds has been on the basis that such investments would improve the income yield to the Council at a time when interest rates continue to be low and real term returns are eroded by inflation. In taking this decision it was recognised that such funds could experience volatility in their market valuations, but this risk could be mitigated by accepting a longer investment horizon (typically at least 3 to 5 years).

Since October 2014, the Council has built up its Pooled Fund portfolio with the last tranche being placed in April 2017, taking the total amount invested up to the maximum currently permitted under the TMSS. The allocation of these funds is currently as follows:

- £3million – CCLA Local Authority Property Fund
- £2.5million – Schroder UK Income Maximiser Fund (an equity fund)
- £5million – Threadneedle UK Equity Income Fund
- £2.5million – M&G Global Dividend Fund (an equity fund)
- £2million – M&G UK Income Distribution Fund (an equity fund)

Over the last three financial years the income yield from Pooled Funds has averaged 4.75% per annum, this compares to 0.53% per annum achieved on the Council's remaining short-term investments, which make up the larger proportion of the Council's investment portfolio. As expected, the valuations of the Pooled Funds have fluctuated over time and at the end of August the overall valuation was £16.52million, representing an unrealised gain of £1.52million. This value will inevitably change +/- in the future and any gain/ loss will only be realised when the investments are sold.

### **Investment Balances**

The amount invested is directly influenced by the Council's cash flow requirements, both in terms of day-to-day income and expenditure; and the core cash retained for the medium-longer term as reflected in the Council's capital and revenue reserves.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, investments totalled £38.92million, which was higher than originally anticipated in the TMSS. The current forecast is for the balance to remain at around £39million at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. This is £9million more than originally projected in the TMSS.

The main reason why cash balances are currently higher than previously expected is due to the Council's capital investment plans. In May 2016, Cabinet approved a District Investment Strategy, which is to be funded from a mixture of unallocated General Fund balances and New Homes Bonus, along with some future new borrowing. In the longer-term this strategy will reduce the Council's cash balances and therefore ultimately amounts available for investment. However, whilst schemes are being formulated, and also taking into account the potential development timescales involved with some of the planned projects, it is currently expected that cash balances will now remain at similar levels to those currently experienced over the medium-term.

In addition to this core cash, the Council typically has positive cash flows on its day-to-day activities such that in-year investment balances have tended to average over £50million in recent years.

### **Investment Policy**

In light of the increase in cash balances that are now projected to be held over the medium-term, coupled with the prolonged period of low interest rates, it is considered appropriate to revise the limit applied on the amount of investments permitted in Pooled Funds. It is proposed to maintain the overall limit on Non-Specified Investments of £25million, but increase the limit that applies to financial institutions that do not meet the Council's definition of high credit quality from £15million to £20million. The limit of £5million per fund will remain unchanged.

By increasing the potential exposure to Pooled Funds, there will be a commensurate reduction in the capacity (and therefore associated risk) to make other investments for periods greater than 12months.

The Head of Finance and Financial Services Manager have recently met with Arlingclose Ltd, the Council's treasury management advisors, who are supportive of the proposal to increase the Council's exposure to Pooled Funds on the basis of the current medium-term cash flow projections.

The increase in limit will allow the Council to invest further in some of its existing Pooled Funds, although the intention is also to consider further diversification by potentially using alternative funds which have a different risk profile (e.g. multi-asset/ diversified funds).

Decisions regarding the selection and allocation of monies to Pooled Funds will be made by the Member Strategic Investment Group supported by officers and with advice from Arlingclose.

### **Recommended Decision:**

That Council approves an increase of £5million, from £15million to £20million, in the Treasury Management Strategy limit applied to investments with financial institutions without credit ratings or rated below the Council's definition of high credit quality (i.e. Pooled Funds).

### **Purpose of Decision:**

To recommend an amendment to the Council's Investment Policy increasing the capacity to use Pooled Funds as an investment class.

Recommendations on in-year changes to the Council's investment policy would normally be made via a proposal made by the Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance at the time Cabinet consider the Mid-Year Treasury Management report following its referral from the Governance Committee. However, due to the change in the timing of the Cabinet meeting held in September, the Mid-Year Treasury Management report will not be received by Cabinet until its meeting to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

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

<b>Financial:</b>	Increasing the amount invested into Pooled Funds has the potential to add value through additional income yield over and above that currently achievable on short-term investments. Pricing of investments in Pooled Funds will respond to changing market conditions and therefore are likely to experience increases/ decreases in value over time. These changes in value are not accounted for against the Council's General Fund balance until such time as the investments are sold, provided the Council continues to manage such investments on the basis of being held for the medium-long term, rather than for "trading".
<b>Legal:</b>	Local authorities' treasury management activities operate within a statutory framework which refers to a requirement to follow certain professional codes issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.
<b>Safeguarding:</b>	None
<b>Equalities/Diversity:</b>	None
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	No direct impact but the outcomes from treasury management activities do influence the financial resources available to the Council to deliver its priorities and service objectives
<b>Environment and Climate Change:</b>	None
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	The Council has appointed Arlingclose Ltd to provide it with professional treasury management advice. Officers have recently met with Arlingclose who are supportive of the proposal to increase the Council's use of Pooled Funds based on the current projected level of cash balances over the medium-term. Further advice will be sought from Arlingclose on the final selection and allocation of monies to funds.
<b>Risks:</b>	<p>The Treasury Management Strategy seeks to set a framework to manage the inherent risks around treasury management activities which effectively comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security – ensuring investments are repaid. By investing in Pooled Funds the Council is buying a proportionate share of the net assets of the fund and in doing so achieves a greater level of diversification of credit risk from any individual counterparty.</li> <li>• Liquidity – ensuring that cash is available for both</li> </ul>

	<p>capital and revenue purposes when required. Whilst the Council will be increasing its exposure to investments that it expects to hold for the medium-term, as well as being able to sell such investments at relatively short notice, it is also expected that the Council will continue to retain a significant sum in short-term/ liquid investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest rate risk – limiting exposure to fixed and variable rate interest rates in terms of both borrowing and investments. Yields derived from Pooled Funds invested in equities will be influenced by the performance and ability of companies to pay dividends to shareholders; and income from property fund investments will reflect the level of net income generated from rental agreements on the underlying assets.</li> <li>• Market risk (price risk) – Limiting exposure to changes in market prices. Pooled Funds will be subject to a greater level of volatility than short-dated deposits and money market funds in terms of their market pricing giving rise to potential gains or losses on the amount invested. The risk associated with this volatility is managed by treating the investments as being held for the medium-term (3-5 years), albeit the funds could be liquidated at relatively short notice should circumstances require.</li> </ul>
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Trevor Wilson
<b>Designation:</b>	Head of Finance
<b>Ext. No:</b>	2801
<b>E-mail:</b>	Trevor.wilson@braintree.gov.uk

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

**Agenda No: 9a**

**South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) - Friday 22nd September 2017**

I attended the above meeting as one of the two Essex District Councils' representatives.

The meeting received a presentation from Adam Bryan, SELEP CEO, on the emerging SELEP Strategic Economic Plan. I raised the importance of ensuring that the plan should be consistent with the Local Authority Local Plans which also refer to economic development. It was agreed that there must be consistency in the submissions going into the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG).

The Board considered the Mayor of London's Draft Transport Strategy and its response to the document. The Board was generally supportive of the draft strategy with the exception of the Mayor's aim "to create a London suburban metro by the late 2020's, with suburban rail services being devolved to the Mayor". It was agreed to support the Secretary of State's decision not to transfer South Eastern Metro services to Transport for London (TfL). SELEP did, however, agree with the initiatives which the strategy sets out for these routes, including improved disabled access, increased capacity and more affordable ticketing. I proposed that SELEP's response should emphasise the need for improved public transport links between the Capital and Stansted Airport.

The Board also received an update on major funding opportunities that have been offered nationally to enable delivery of infrastructure to support growth. This includes the Housing & Infrastructure Fund (HIF), launched by DCLG, and the Highways England's Growth & Housing Fund (GHF). Amongst the bids being considered for submission by SELEP for GHF funding is the A120 Millennium Way Slips. Possible bids for funding from the HIF include the A12 Kelvedon to Marks Tey and the A120.

Full papers can be seen at [www.southeastlep.com](http://www.southeastlep.com)

**East of England European & International Panel - Friday 22nd September 2017**

I attended this meeting as a representative of the East of England Local Government Association.

The panel received a presentation on Buutzorg which is the Dutch Model of Care at Home. This system is attracting significant interest in the UK and pilot schemes are being held in Suffolk.

An update was provided on the state of play in relation to the EU's Research &

Innovation Funding programme, Horizon 2020 and its proposed successor Framework Programme 9. In the first two years of Horizon 2020, organisations in the East of England were awarded circa £300 million, including £200 million for Higher Education.

UK organisations remain fully eligible to bid for Horizon 2020 funding until the UK exits the EU. The Commission has confirmed that the status of UK participants in EU funding programmes remains unchanged until the UK leaves the EU. Speaking in London in July, Universities and Science Minister Jo Johnson provided further clarification on how the UK government will underwrite bids for EU funding<sup>3</sup>, saying “I appreciate that the UK’s decision to leave the EU has caused uncertainty for the research community. Nobody in Europe benefits from the loss of research competitiveness that may occur if we let ourselves get distracted from maintaining research excellence through collaboration.

The government will:

- Underwrite the funding for all successful bids made by UK participants for Horizon 2020 projects that are submitted before EU exit. This covers: projects that are ongoing at the point of EU exit, funding applied for before the UK’s departure from the EU and that is subsequently successful post-Brexit, and schemes where the application has two stages as long as the first application is submitted before the UK leaves the EU.
- Underwrite those schemes not directly administered by the Commission but that award Horizon 2020 funding.

Other items considered at the meeting included the future of Interreg post-Brexit and the future applicability of EU waste directives once we have left the EU.

Members wishing to see the detailed papers should go to <http://www.east-of-england.eu/about-us/europe-and-international-panel/europe-and-international-panel-papers.aspx>

### **Garden Communities Update**

Since the last Council meeting I have attended two North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) Board meetings, one on 27<sup>th</sup> July and the latest on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting in July led to a report coming to our Braintree District Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Since this Cabinet meeting the report has also been approved by Essex County, Colchester and Tendring Cabinets.

The September Board meeting ratified the decision to appoint a Group Managing Director for NEGC. The Board appointed Richard Bayley, who has Executive Director-level leadership experience in multi-million pound public/private projects and will start working for NEGC from October 2017.

The Board received updates from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) on their strategic economic plan as well as ratifying bid submissions to the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

On the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> September and as a Board Director of NEGC I attended a meeting with the Chairmen of the Parish Councils in the vicinity of the Colchester/

Braintree borders. The intention of the briefing was to explain some of the basics and principles around Garden Communities, the reason for considering in principle development corporation status and to provide Parish Council Chairmen with the opportunity for questions and discussions.

### **Essex Vision**

The Deputy Leader attended the Essex Assembly at Chelmsford City Racecourse on 18<sup>th</sup> September. The aim of the meeting was to launch the Essex Vision 'The Future of Essex' which has been developed through an extensive consultation process across the whole of Essex. Its purpose is to give the many different communities, groups and businesses of Essex a way to collaborate over the next twenty years in planning the future of the County. The document had also been welcomed at the Essex Leaders and Chief Executives meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September. I will bring a more detailed report to the December Full Council to outline the vision in more detail and how we will engage with it going forward.

### **Member Working Group**

Work is currently underway to establish a Member Working Group to consider ways to better utilise the skills of Members. I will inform Members shortly on the terms of reference and timetable for this work.

Councillor Graham Butland  
Leader of the Council

<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Councillor Graham Butland</b>
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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF  
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**Agenda No: 9b**

**Tax Collection rates as at end of August**

**Council Tax** collected was 49.66% to the end of August compared to 49.64% for the previous year and the target for the year is 98.2%. Amount collected £41.40 million.

**Business Rates** collected was 49.17% to the end of August compared to 48.87% for the previous year and the target for the year is 98.5%. Amount collected £21.31 million.

There continues to be encouraging trend in the success rate of council and business tax recovery, and decline in the number of recalcitrant council tax payers, with accompanying reduction in required recovery interventions.

The number of dwellings attracting the 50% council tax premium (empty for 2 years+) is 204.

**2015/16 Statement of Accounts**

Ernst & Young (EY), our external auditors, commenced the audit of the accounts on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Council's Accounts for 2015/16 and the External Auditor's Results Report were received by the Governance Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September. An unqualified report was received from EY.

**Discretionary Business Rate Reliefs – Spring 2017 Budget**

Business Rate bills for 2017/18, issued in March 2017, were based on the 2017 Rating List and included Transitional Relief and the revised Small Business Rate Relief and Rural Rate Relief schemes, as appropriate.

However, the Government announced in the Spring 2017 Budget that there would be three new discretionary reliefs. These are:

- Supporting Small Businesses
- Discretionary Business Rates Scheme
- Public House Relief

The Government has specified and issued the criteria for awarding Supporting Small Businesses and Public House reliefs.

The criteria for the Discretionary Business Rates Scheme will be agreed at a specially convened meeting of the Cabinet scheduled to be held immediately prior to this Council meeting.

The major precepting authorities have been consulted on the proposed scheme.

The Government has issued notice that the new reliefs are to be applied in the order as stated above. So whilst we would have been able to run the Supporting Small Businesses relief we have waited until the Discretionary scheme has been agreed such that all three reliefs can be run at the same time. Businesses will be rebilled as appropriate within the next few days.

The Government has set-aside a provision of £300million to fund the Discretionary Relief scheme over a 4-year period. Braintree's allocations are: £287,021 for 2017/18 declining to £8,200 for 2020/21.

The scheme has been designed to provide support to local businesses (detail of the scheme can be found in the agenda papers of the special Cabinet meeting).

### **Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Charities and Not for Profit Organisations**

The Council's revised Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Charities and Not-for-Profit Organisations was agreed at the 13<sup>th</sup> March Cabinet meeting. The new scheme will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Those organisations which have completed and returned the new application form have been informed of their award under the new scheme. Those organisations which currently receive an award but have not yet completed a new application form were sent a letter informing them of the deadline (31<sup>st</sup> July 2017) for receipt of the form in order for the application to be assessed and an award, as appropriate, to be made from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

### **Performance**

**Projects:** In the first quarter of the year, the Council has performed well completing four projects and a further 55 projects are on track. One project has been transferred into next year's delivery plan.

**Key Performance Indicators:** Of the 18 performance indicators used to measure success of our priorities, 11 have achieved or exceeded target, four performance indicators have just missed target and three performance indicators have missed their target by more than 5%, in relation to: number of passenger journeys on the Community Transport scheme, the number of visits to our leisure centres, and participation of under 16's in sport and health activities. It is anticipated that any areas of downturn in performance will be mitigated throughout the year.

### **Finance Performance**

An overall positive variance for the year of £543,000 (3.8%) is projected against the budget, with income projected to be overachieved by £629,000; with an overall overspend of £86,000 forecast on Staffing and Other Expenditure.

The first quarter projected variance, along with last year's outturn, will be used to inform a review undertaken by managers to identify potential cost reductions or additional income which could assist in reducing the current anticipated budget shortfall of £0.5million in 2018/19.

**Payroll**

Arrangements to provide a shared payroll/ system resource via the BDC Payroll Manager have been implemented with Colchester BC who will contribute 50% towards the cost of the post. This has been agreed on a trial basis for 6 months up to end January 2018

Cllr David Bebb  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF  
PLANNING AND HOUSING**

**Agenda No: 9c**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**A12**

We are awaiting a Highways England decision on the preferred route announcement which was expected imminently but has been delayed to November/December 2017.

**A120**

Essex County Council is due to announce the preferred way forward via its Cabinet meeting in November 2017. A Members Forum hosted by Cllr Kevin Bentley was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 which was attended by ECC, BDC and Parish members (approx. 30). ECC has been pleased with the level of engagement from Braintree District across all the Fora.

**Housing Development Company**

A new Project Manager has been engaged to lead on the Housing Development Company and arrangements are being made to set up a Corporate Working Group. Procurement for professional services and contractors for delivery is due to commence imminently with Cabinet and Council approvals schedules for Spring 2018.

**PLANNING POLICY**

Following the Local Plan consultation over the summer the representations made to the Plan have now been processed and are available in full on the website, via the consultation portal. Around 1,700 representations have been received to the Local Plan as a whole and these will be added to the section 1 representations which have been received by Tendring and Colchester.

The Local Plan will now be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate who will undertake an independent examination of the Local Plan. This process is expected to take place in two parts and be completed in 2018.

Our yearly update to the Local Development Scheme (the project management document for planning policy documents) was considered by the Local Plan Sub-committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017. This includes a timetable for the production of the Joint Development Plan Documents which will support the garden communities at West of Braintree and Colchester/Braintree Borders.

The Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted for examination. The examiner has requested more information to consider the environmental and

sustainability implications of the Plan, which will need to be completed by external specialist consultants. Once completed this will need to be subject to a six-week consultation period. As such it is likely that the examiner's report on the Local Plan will be available in early 2018 instead of December 2017.

## **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

The service is monitoring applications granted for new dwellings on a quarterly basis. The most up to date figures relate to Quarter 1 in 2017/18 (April to June 2017). During that quarter, planning permissions were granted for a total of 266 dwellings of which 67 would be affordable dwellings. Reserved Matters were also granted for 52 dwellings.

## **HOUSING**

### **New Affordable Housing Development**

There have been 34 new affordable homes completed so far in this financial year and we are on target to complete more than the target of 130 new affordable homes in 2017/18. Greenfields development programme forms a major part of this, with completions now coming through over the next few months in Kelvedon and Hatfield Peverel.

We are also expecting a few completions from the Bellway Housing schemes in Halstead (Central Piling) and Witham (Forest Road phase 1) and new homes are also being provided at The Crest development off Baker's Lane in Great Notley.

We are negotiating with Colne Housing for 3 flats at the former Crossman House site to be used for temporary accommodation, while the other 18 homes will be completed in the next 2 months.

### **Supported Housing**

The impact of changes in the administration of Housing Benefit and in Essex County Council's funding of housing-related support has been to push Districts into commissioning roles. Where previously some staffing and administration costs were met by Housing Benefit, Districts now receive Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. The grant gives discretion to Councils to continue to fund the schemes from which Housing Benefit has been reduced. It also gives us the option to fund some of the schemes that previously received funding administered by Essex County Council.

In particular locally, we are having much greater involvement with the Braintree Foyer and with Genesis and Colne Housing who operate private sector leasing schemes locally. How we fund them for the next year and what procurement arrangements need to be made in the future will be under consideration.

### **Homelessness**

This is a time of significant change in Housing. As you will be aware, there was a Members' Evening focussing on the likely impacts of Universal Credit and the Homelessness Reduction Act. The Government has announced that the new Act will be implemented in April 2018. It will change the Council's duties to homeless households and is likely to mean that we need:-

- additional staff on a long-term basis;
- access to more temporary accommodation;
- continued access to supported housing schemes (where future funding is uncertain); *and*
- greater access to the private rented sector (when frozen Housing Benefit rates and the implementation of Universal Credit make it more difficult to access).

The Housing Service has booked training sessions with a leading expert on homelessness and is holding a workshop with partner organisations to discuss how our strategy needs to change to manage the impact of the Act.

We are discussing with our IT provider how their system will be upgraded to enable us to report on our actions under the new Act and additional resources have been allocated to the Housing Service to help manage the transition.

Councillor Mrs Lynette Bowers-Flint  
Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Agenda No: 9d**

**Enterprise Centres**

The Council has awarded the contract for the four commercial grown-on units and car park at Springwood Drive to Cadman, and a pre-contract meeting has been held. The contractor will take possession of the site in October with anticipated completion in Q4 2017/18.

Construction of the Rural Business Hub in Sible Hedingham is progressing well with anticipated completion in November 2017.

**Regeneration**

I have previously reported on the sharpened focus on the condition of Braintree's town centre by local communities and the media, and that we were meeting with the press and holding a series of workshops with the town centre community. The workshops have generated a lot of interest, culminating in a vision for the town being formed with passion and enthusiasm. This will allow us to share ownership and work with the community to move Braintree towards a stronger future.

We continue to work on plans for physical improvements to Halstead and Witham town centres and expect to be able to give more detail on the outcomes of this effort during Autumn this year.

**Business Engagement**

Officers are currently finalising dates for the latest in our programme of business breakfasts which will focus on infrastructure with presentations on broadband and an update on strategic road improvement schemes in the District, and a skills session which we will hope will be hosted at the new STEM centre at The College at Braintree.

As part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at Employment Land, Members of the Committee were invited on a tour of all major employment sites in the District to look at the current quantum, quality and management styles of different business parks in the District. The day included a discussion with Malcolm Hobbs, owner of Earls Colne Business Park.

The Economic Development email bulletin continues to be sent out monthly, providing information on Braintree District Council projects and signposting opportunities for funding bids and consultations and updates from partner authorities such as Essex County Council. The mailing list now reaches over 3,000 people.

I attended an Essex Chamber of Commerce event in Harlow on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September to hear updates from the Chairman of SELEP and the new Transformation Manager at London Stansted Airport.

Economic Development officers and I are working with London Stansted to support and generate business awareness for their 'Meet the Buyers Event' in November. We want to do what we can to help enable Braintree District businesses to have the opportunity to offer their services to the Stansted Airport supply chain. Stansted Airport remains Braintree District's largest single employer and offers tremendous current and future economic benefits. We strongly wish to be a constructive and supportive nearby local authority and are acknowledged by the Airport as being one.

### **Skills**

The Braintree Careers Fair was held on Wednesday 20 September with over 800 year 11 students across the district attending. The Careers Fair provides an opportunity for pupils to understand the many post 16 options available to them from September 2018. There were 70 stands at the event facilitated by employers and education providers. The event was organised by the Braintree Information, Advice and Guidance Cluster Group which Officers are involved with.

In July, working in partnership with Essex ESB and Colchester Institute, an Engineering Taster Day was delivered to over 140 year 9 students at the new STEM Innovation Centre at The College at Braintree. Students took part in a range of hands on, engaging activities facilitated by local employers, such as RDC and Maycast Nokes, and industry experts. Students reported they understood the Engineering sector better thanks to the event and that their interest in engineering as a career had increased thanks to being there.

Councillor Tom Cunningham  
Cabinet Member for Economic Development

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF  
CORPORATE SERVICES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**Agenda No: 9e**

**LEGAL**

Work continues in support for the North Essex Garden Communities Limited, working in partnership with colleagues in Colchester Borough Council, Tendring District and Essex County Council

The team are continuing to provide legal support with assistance from specialist legal resource to complete Transfer and Funding agreements to achieve a smooth transfer of staff and responsibilities of the Museum Service to Braintree District Museum Trust Ltd.

**ELECTIONS**

The Holy Trinity ward of Halstead Town Council By-Election on the 24 August 2017 was completed successfully.

The annual electoral registration canvass process is ongoing together with the community governance review. Consultation on the first stage of the latter has recently concluded and is due to be considered further by Council in December.

**BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

The ICT service has been brought in-house and is currently going through a review of the structure. This will be in place by November 2017.

The Cyber-Security sub-group have reviewed the council's password policy. This has been revised in the light of the National Cyber Security Centre guide-lines and a new policy has been rolled out and implemented in September. Vulnerabilities have been identified and work continues to be undertaken to make the corporate systems more secure.

We have developed our digital strategy and the draft is being reviewed to detail the capital and revenue implications to allow the Council to deliver our digital vision for the future. This strategy is due to be considered by Cabinet in November.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Asset management continue to be very active during the past month, and have made significant progress with many of investments that form part of our overall investment strategy. Recently approved schemes are all on track:

- **Silver End GP Surgery** Purchase of Head Lease has been negotiated and, currently in the process of completing this acquisition, further adding to our income generation and health provision.

- **Causeway House Letting Vacant Space** ECC reduced the accommodation they occupy on the 2nd floor from 17,208 sq. ft. to 8,148 sq. ft. from the 14th June 2017. Asset Management engaged Joscelyne Chase to market the vacant 2nd floor accommodation. A letting was completed on the 1st August 2017 with Staff Management Limited, a care company, who will be occupying 2,120 sq. ft. behind the ICONS space on the 2nd floor. The remaining space is being marketed with recent inspections by prospective tenants.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

### **Communications and PR**

As a part of the Better at Business initiative across the authority, communications and marketing were targeted to increase their income generation through advertising on Roundabouts, Vehicle Billboards, Publications, George Yard, and currently the team have achieved 48% of the annual target.

### **Manor Street Exhibition**

The planning of the communications plan for this major development in Braintree Town Centre continues and as the scheme plans develops, the communications team are preparing internal and external communications including the Autumn public consultation.

## **HR AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Performance indicators for the performance of the HR service are on target and indicate a healthy and motivated staff: low staff turnover %, low levels of sickness, % of staff with nil sickness is trending upwards, and all Q1 key metrics indicating improvement over last year.

BDC continues to lead the way with Apprentice development :

- Hosting a conference in Causeway House on September 15<sup>th</sup> with James Cleverly MP attending the event; various workshops were held including: Barclays Money Management, Health & Well-Being with Fusion Leisure, K9 Dogs Services, Personal Safety. A motivational speech from a Sussex CCC professional cricketer who had overcome personal hurdles to achieve.
- Appointing Sam Jenkins as the Apprentice Ambassador
- Introducing Level 3 and Level 4 Apprentice schemes as part of Staff Development and Retention

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

**Agenda No: 9f**

**WASTE**

**DCLG - Flats Recycling (May to July 2017)**

4.53 tonnes of recycling were collected from the 214 participating blocks of flats during the 3 month period. 0.75 tonnes were collected in the winning area (Witham) - an increase of 0.09 tonnes compared to the baseline month - with no contamination recorded.

£25 'Love to Shop' vouchers were awarded to 8 recipients from the winning area/block of flats, with a £200 donation going to the RSPCA (May & June) and £100 to the British Heart Foundation (July) being the nominated charities for the three months.

The results to date have been disappointing, but not surprising. This exercise has reinforced how difficult it is to engage flat dwellers in recycling, given that people's attitudes and behaviours towards recycling differ so much. It seems doubtful that unless there is a consistent and uniform approach, with all residents on board, that this type of facility will change behaviour to any significant degree.

The rewards element of the scheme finished in July, but officers are continuing to monitor participation levels and encourage as many residents as possible to use the recycling facilities available. We will be reviewing whether or not to continue with collections as part of the budget efficiency exercise.

**DCLG - Schools Recycling (Food)**

The winners of the **Best Performing School** and **Super Recycling School** were announced in July and I was delighted to attend special assemblies at both schools to present the awards. The winners were:-

St. John the Baptist School, Pebmarsh – Best Performing School - Awarded: £1,000  
Powers Hall Infants School, Witham – Super Recycling School - Awarded: £1,500

The remaining 24 participating schools received £500 each and a certificate in recognition of their recycling efforts.

**Recycling & Black Sack Deliveries – Annual Supplies**

Staff are in the process of delivering the annual supplies of recycling sacks to households. Deliveries have been completed in the south and central areas of the District and staff have now moved on to the North and are expected to complete deliveries by the end of October.

## **STREET CLEANSING**

**Cleansing standards:** The results of our first (4-month) period of LEQSE monitoring are good, with Graffiti (0%) and Dog Fouling (0.92%) classified 'Good'; and Litter (2.68%) and Detritus (6.81%) deemed 'satisfactory'. Our overall performance is above the national average and all our results are comfortably within our local targets.

## **STREET SCENE PROTECTION**

### **Dog out of Control**

Two men were prosecuted for allowing their dog to be out of control in a public place. They were fined £1,100 and a Control Order was issued for the dog to be on a leash when out in public to ensure that it is kept under proper control in future.

## **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

### **Damage to Play Area**

In the early morning of Thursday, 25 August, the Fire Brigade were called out to attend a fire at Braintree's John Ray Park which left part of a brand new fitness trail (outside gym) damaged. Two parallel rows of tyres used for fitness were alight and one bench was vandalised. Council staff cleared up the mess and made the area safe for use and the fitness trail has also now been fully restored. The Council has urged anyone with information about how the fire started to contact the Police.

### **Protection of public open space from illegal encampments**

Work continues on protecting a number of the Council's open spaces to prevent unauthorised access by travellers. Four sites have largely been completed and the remaining 5 sites are due to be completed by October 2017. Ward Members have been provided with a schedule of the works and members of the public will be notified by notices displayed at each site and by letter drop to those living in the vicinity of the works explaining what we are doing and giving a contact number for any queries. Our Marketing and Communication team will provide relevant information to the wider community via social media as the scheme progresses.

### **Halstead Cemetery**

A new Cremated Remains extension is currently being laid to provide an additional 220 plots. This should ensure that we have adequate provision for cremated remains for the next 10-15 years.

### **Bocking Cemetery and Witham Cemetery**

New signage has been erected in the car park at Bocking to discourage overnight parking in response to an ongoing complaint raised by a local resident. The situation will be monitored periodically to see if the problem has been resolved.

## **Anglia In Bloom**

I have great pleasure and pride in announcing that for the second consecutive year, Halstead Public Gardens received a Gold Award and was named 'Best Medium Park' at the Anglia in Bloom Awards last month. Our thanks to the staff who keep the gardens in such prestige condition. Also congratulations to the wonderful Halstead In Bloom Group, who received another Gold Award. Halstead was also named as the winner of the 'Town Category' (6001 to 12000 residents). Our thanks to all of the volunteers and the Halstead Town Partnership, who work so hard to make Halstead such a beautiful place. Good luck Halstead, in the Britain in Bloom Awards on the 27 October.

## **CAR PARKING**

**Phase 2 Redecoration at George Yard Multi-Storey Car Park:** Work has commenced at the car park on the redecoration of the ground floor, first floor and the entrance/exit ramps. Advance notification of the works has been given to customers in the usual way (notices displayed in the car park and a note on the Council Page in the B&W Times).

## **GREEN HEART OF ESSEX/LOVE ESSEX**

### **CrimeNotToCare – Campaign to tackle menace of fly tipping in Essex**

On September the 4th I took part in the launch of this years campaign to combat the menace of fly tipping which is costing Essex taxpayers over £1 million each year.

It aims to reduce the amount of household waste that is fly-tipped by rogue traders, who offer to take people's rubbish away for money and then dump it. The campaign will hammer home the message that even if a resident gives their waste to a third party to dispose of, they can end up with a criminal record and hefty fine if it is fly-tipped.

"Almost 50% of people don't know they're responsible by law if their rubbish is fly-tipped by a third party. We hope *CrimeNotToCare* will educate people on how to dispose of their waste correctly to ensure they don't end up with a criminal record and a hefty fine."

Ensure you don't fall foul of the law, visit <http://www.recycleforessex.com/crimenottocare> for advice.

### **Top tips to dispose of waste correctly**

- 1) If you use a trader to remove your waste ask to see their waste carrier registration number issued by the Environment Agency. It is illegal for them to take your waste if they don't have a permit. Check their credentials and vehicle details here <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>
- 2) Make sure you get a receipt or transfer notice before your waste is taken away
- 3) Don't be afraid to ask where your waste is going and request paperwork that shows where it will be disposed. A legitimate waste carrier will not object to this questioning.
- 4) Protect yourself by being careful with your waste. Never leave rubbish, such as old washing machines or scrap metal on your drive or in the street as it could end up in the wrong hands. You can donate working items to reuse organisations or charity shops.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **Hidden Harm/Child Sexual Exploitation project**

A training session was held with 35 staff from McDonalds and work with schools continues

### **Essex Police and Crime Commissioner**

Held a public meeting in Halstead which was well attended. Based on information given at the meeting an operation was held at the parks where ASB was occurring and an arrest was made.

### **Essex Police and Crime Panel**

The last meeting of the above took place from October 2nd it will become the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt  
Cabinet Member for Environment and Place

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF HEALTH  
AND COMMUNITIES**

**Agenda No: 9g**

**World Alzheimer's Day**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 partners from the Braintree District Dementia Alliance, Sport for Confidence and Fusion hosted an event at Witham Leisure Centre as part of World Alzheimer's Day. Local residents whether suffering with dementia themselves or caring for someone with dementia were able to go along to the centre and try new activities, meet others and learn about services available to them. The activities included dementia friends' sessions, dancing, singing for the brain, new age curling and boccia. The event was also used to launch the dementia friendly swimming sessions which will continue to take place on a weekly basis.

Dementia friendly walks have also recently been launched with a monthly walk taking place in Braintree, Halstead and Witham. These are being co-ordinated by Essex County Fire & Rescue Service but further information can be obtained from Kryshia Fuller in Community Services.

**Community Transport**

The Community Services Apprentice is developing initiatives which aim to recruit volunteer drivers from Witham. It has been identified that, whilst the service has been highly successful in recruiting volunteers, we do not currently have many from the Witham area. This will enable the service to run with greater efficiency as we will be able to provide members from the Witham area with a driver from their locality.

Consultation took place recently in relation to increasing the fees and charges for Community Transport. The comments received indicated that generally members would accept an increase as the service was valued and is good value in relation to taxi journeys.

In accordance with the Cabinet report the increase in charges will be operational from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

**Funding Fair**

The team is working with Community 360 to hold a Funding Fair in the Committee Area at Causeway House from 2-8pm on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The aim of the event is to provide information to the community and voluntary sector about the current funding opportunities available to them. There will be information stands and presentations throughout the event and the groups will have the opportunity to talk through possible bids with both funders and Community 360 representatives.

## **Community 360 and Citizens Advice Service Level Agreement review**

The current Service Level Agreements with both organisations expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. A one year agreement in line with the three year funding allocation agreed by members in 2015 for the period 2016 – 2019 is being developed.

## **Essex Faith Covenant**

In 2016 Essex County Council established a Multi-Faith Steering Group made up of public service partners, faith groups and the voluntary sector as there was a recognised need to create a strategic relationship with faith groups across Essex, with the aim of taking action to jointly provide further support to vulnerable groups and communities.

A new Faith Covenant is being development as a joint commitment to a shared set of principles that guide engagement between faith communities and public services with the aim of promoting open, practical working and strengthening community cohesion.

We will be one of the Local Authorities signing up to the Covenant at an event to be held in Colchester on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

## **Live Well, Keep Safe**

Following the success of the Live Well, Keep Safe event in Braintree at the beginning of the year, further events will be held in Witham on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and in Halstead in 2018.

The event will provide elderly, vulnerable and socially isolated residents with information relating to both health and well-being and community safety. Partners attending include Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Police, Age UK, Essex Libraries, Energy Management, Connect Well, Crimestoppers and Greenfields Community Housing. Those attending will also have the opportunity to take part in a seated exercise session and a tea dance demonstration.

## **Monitoring of the Livewell Strategy**

Following on from the successful Member training event on Health on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017, I have asked officers to develop new Wellbeing Indicators to monitor the success or otherwise of the rapidly developing Health Agenda. The new indicators will be designed to allow Members to view progress on a number key health areas and my intention is the key indicators will be included in the Council's Quarterly Monitoring Report.

## **New performance measures for the Fusion Contract**

In recognition of the recent questions raised by a Member at the last Council meeting over the cancelling of swim classes at Witham pool, I have requested that Fusion monitor the number of all classes cancelled in all our Centres. I will then ask Fusion to present these figures on cancelled classes as part of their Annual Report due to be presented to Cabinet early next year.



## Pool Pods

A system to improve swimming pool access for those who are disabled, less mobile or pregnant is now available at all our leisure centres.

Braintree Swimming & Fitness Centre and Halstead Leisure Centre have recently installed the PoolPod; a mobile lift mechanism that fits to the side of swimming pools to help individuals with reduced mobility in and out of the water with ease.

A similar pod has been installed at Witham Leisure Centre since July 2014 and has helped to increase swimming participation and usability.



## Sports Awards 2017 – Nominations now open

The Active Braintree Sports & Physical Activity Awards are back for the fourth year running and residents are being called on to nominate their sporting stars to recognise their achievements.

Open to residents or clubs, the awards celebrate the very best of sport and physical activity in the District and those who contribute to help to make this happen.

The award categories are:

- Sports Personality of the Year (sponsored by George Yard)
- Young Sports Personality of the Year (sponsored by Milbank)
- Physical activity project of the year/changing lives around physical activity
- Services to Disability Sport
- Unsung Hero (Volunteer)
- Young Community Volunteer (sponsored by Braintree District Council Chairman)
- Community Club of the Year (sponsored by Fusion)
- Coach of the Year
- School or College of the Year (sponsored by Braintree Freeport)
- Life Time Services Award (sponsored by Braintree & Witham Times)

Nominations can be completed online at [www.activeessex.org/active-braintree-sports-awards](http://www.activeessex.org/active-braintree-sports-awards) or email [active@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:active@braintree.gov.uk). They close at 5pm on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 with the awards being presented at The College at Braintree on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



## County Health & Wellbeing Forum

I recently attended the new District-County Health & Wellbeing Forum (DCHWB Forum). The Forum has been created to bring together Chairs of District Health & Wellbeing Panels with the Chair of the Essex HWB Board and senior District Public Health Officers to develop a 'joined up' approach to Health & Wellbeing for Essex's residents and communities.

## AGP (Artificial Grass Pitch) resurface at Witham



I am happy to report the conclusion of a four-week £150,000 construction project to resurface the artificial grass pitch at Witham Sports Ground. The old second generation (2G) carpet reached its 10-year life expectancy from its original installation in 2006. The second generation surface is predominantly used for hockey and currently Witham hockey club has 5 men's, 4 ladies, 2 veterans, mixed and boys and girls junior teams from 10 year to 15 years utilising the pitch. The line markings have also been reconfigured to allow better pitch management for local football teams to train on.

## **Museum Service**

The Harry Potter school of witchcraft and wizardry has been one of the most successful exhibitions ever held at the museum.

There were almost a thousand visitors on the first day with over 3,000 visitors to date. The last day of the exhibition is 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Councillor Peter Tattersley  
Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Councillor Peter Tattersley</b>
<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Health and Communities</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk">cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk</a></b>

<b>List of Public Meetings Held Since Last Council Meeting</b>		<b>Agenda No: 10</b>
<b>Portfolio:</b> Not applicable <b>Corporate Outcome:</b> Not applicable <b>Report presented by:</b> Not applicable <b>Report prepared by:</b> Chloe Glock, Governance Business Officer		
<b>Background Papers:</b>		<b>Public Report</b>
Published Minutes of the meetings listed within the report below.		<b>Key Decision: No</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>  Since the last Council meeting held on 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017, the following Minutes have been published for meetings held in public session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) <a href="#">Planning Committee</a> – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017</li> <li>(2) <a href="#">Planning Committee</a> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017</li> <li>(3) <a href="#">Cabinet</a> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(4) <a href="#">Governance Committee</a> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(5) <a href="#">Planning Committee</a> – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(6) <a href="#">Licensing Committee</a> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(7) <a href="#">*Overview and Scrutiny Committee</a> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(8) <a href="#">*Braintree Local Highways Panel</a> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(9) <a href="#">*Planning Committee</a> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>(10) <a href="#">*Local Plan Sub-Committee</a> – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommended Decision:</b>  Members are invited to note the Minutes published.		
<b>Purpose of Decision:</b>  Not applicable.		

\*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 meeting.

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

<b>Financial:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Legal:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Safeguarding:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Equalities/Diversity:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Environment and Climate Change:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Risks:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Chloe Glock
<b>Designation:</b>	Governance Business Officer
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<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:chloe.glock@braintree.gov.uk">chloe.glock@braintree.gov.uk</a>