

Council AGENDA



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Date: Monday, 17 February 2014

Time: 19:15

Venue: Council Chamber, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB

Membership:

Councillor J E Abbott	Councillor M E Galione	Councillor Ricci
Councillor J S Allen	Councillor C Gibson	Councillor D E A Rice
Councillor M J Banthorpe	Councillor M Green	Councillor W J Rose
Councillor P R Barlow	Councillor P Horner	Councillor V Santomauro
Councillor J Baugh	Councillor S A Howell	Councillor W D Scattergood
Councillor J C Beavis	Councillor H D Johnson	Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor D L Bebb	Councillor S C Kirby	Councillor A F Shelton
Councillor E Bishop	Councillor M C M Lager	Councillor L Shepherd
Councillor R J Bolton	Councillor C Louis	Councillor C E Shute
Councillor L B Bowers–Flint	Councillor D J Louis	Councillor C Siddall
Councillor G Butland	Councillor D Mann	Councillor G A Spray
Councillor C A Cadman	Councillor J T McKee	Councillor J S Sutton
Councillor S Canning	Councillor R G S Mitchell	Councillor J R Swift
Councillor T G Cunningham	Councillor J M Money	Councillor P Tattersley
Councillor J G J Elliott	Councillor Lady P Newton	Councillor C M Thompson
Councillor Dr R L Evans	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Councillor M Thorogood
Councillor A V E Everard	Councillor I C F Parker	Councillor L S Walters
Councillor J H G Finbow	Councillor J A Pell	Councillor R G Walters
Councillor M J Fincken	Councillor R P Ramage	Councillor S A Wilson
Councillor T J W Foster	Councillor D M Reid	Councillor B Wright

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

N BEACH
Chief Executive

QUESTION TIME

Immediately after the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved there will be a period of up to 30 minutes when members of the public can speak.

Members of the public wishing to speak should contact Chloe Glock in the Council's Member Services Section on 01376 552525 or email chloe.glock@braintree.gov.uk at least 2 working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public can remain to observe the whole of the public part of the meeting.

Health and Safety. Any persons attending meetings in the Council offices are requested to take a few moments to familiarise themselves with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of a continuous alarm sounding during the meeting, you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building. Any persons unable to use the stairs will be assisted to the nearest safe refuge.

Mobile Phones. Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off during the meeting.

Documents. Agendas, reports and minutes for all the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the internet at <http://www.braintree.gov.uk>

We welcome comments from members of the public to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please let us have your comments setting out the following information:

Meeting AttendedDate of Meeting.....

Comments.....

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Contact details.....

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence to Alastair Peace on 01376 552525 or email alastair.peace@braintree.gov.uk

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

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

Any member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other Pecuniary Interest to indicate in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Such Member 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.

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 page 2).

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th December 2013 (copy previously circulated).

6 To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Canning:

This Council commends the Prime Minister's efforts to encourage people to shop locally and assist small businesses in their communities including his support of the recent Small Business Saturday campaign, doubling of rate relief and helping firms to access finance. It recognises that this fits in strongly with the work the Council has done to rejuvenate its high streets and encourage growth in its small businesses. This Council resolves to continue to back local businesses in the Braintree District by ensuring the area remains a competitive and inviting place to start a business and calls on the Government to continue with policies that support small business.

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive under Rule 4 of the Constitution.

The motion has been proposed by Councillor Canning and seconded by Councillors Beavis, Cunningham, Santomauro and Siddall.

7 To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Cunningham:

This Council reaffirms its support and promotes policies that are helping the economy of the Braintree District to grow and giving its residents real opportunity, greater prosperity and leading to stronger communities across

the whole District:

- fixing the tax and benefit system - by cutting income tax and capping welfare - rewarding work and locally cutting Braintree District Council Tax by 1%,
- backing people who want to start their first business by cutting national insurance by £2,000, and locally through the Braintree 'Pop Up' shop,
- supporting people who want to own their first home through the Help to Buy scheme and the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme of which Braintree District supported by Essex County Council have been the first authority in Essex to implement.
- offering apprentices opportunity within Braintree District Council and acknowledging the importance of apprentices in organizations across the District.

Appropriate notice of the motion has been given to the Chief Executive under Rule 4 of the Constitution.

The motion has been proposed by Councillor Cunningham and seconded by Councillors Canning, Galione, Lager and Rose.

8	Council Budget and Council Tax for 2014-15 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2017-18	7 - 18
9	Council Tax Resolution 2014-15	19 - 24
10	Reports from the Leader and Cabinet Members. To receive the following reports from each Portfolio Holder and to ask questions on matters contained in the reports:	
10a	Councillor Butland - Leader of the Council	25 - 26
10b	Councillor Beavis - People and Participation	27 - 30
10c	Councillor Bebb - Performance and Efficiency	31 - 32

10d	Councillor Lady Newton - Planning and Property	33 - 36
10e	Councillor Schmitt- Place	37 - 40
10f	Councillor Siddall - Prosperity and Growth	41 - 42
11	Oral Questions from Councillors - Public Session Oral questions without notice on matters related to a particular portfolio, the powers or duties of the Council or the district. (Procedure Rules 7.1 to 7.3 apply). Where a verbal response cannot be given, a written response will be issued to all members.	
12	List of Public Meetings Held Since Last Council Meeting	43 - 44
13	Chairmen's Statements - Public Session To receive statements from those Chairmen who have given prior notification in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.9 and to respond to questions on such statements.	
13a	Chairman of the Mi Community Scheme - Mi Community Scheme Update	45 - 52
14	Statements by Members - Public Session To receive any statements by Members of which the appropriate written notice has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.6. None have been received.	
15	External Organisations To receive reports and ask questions on the business of external organisations. There are none.	
16	Exclusion of Public and Press: - To give consideration to adopting the following Resolution: - 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

- 17 Leader's or Cabinet Member Statements - Private Session**
Leader's Statement or statements by Cabinet Members containing exempt information on a key issue. **There are none.**
- 18 Policy Recommendations and References - Private Session**
There are none.
- 19 Reports from the Leader or Cabinet Members - Private Session**
To receive any reports from the Leader of the Council and each Portfolio Holder containing exempt information and to ask questions on matters contained in the reports. *There are none.*
- 20 Oral Questions from Councillors - Private Session**
Oral questions without notice on matters related to a particular portfolio, the powers or duties of the Council or the district containing exempt information. (Procedure Rules 7.1 to 7.3 apply). Where a verbal response cannot be given, a written response will be issued to all members.
- 21 Private Meetings Held Since the Last Council Meeting**
To raise any matters arising from the Minutes of meetings that have been held in Private Session since the Council meeting of 16th December 2013. **There are none.**
- 22 Chairmen's Statements - Private Session.**
To receive statements containing exempt information from those Chairmen who have given prior notification in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.9 and to respond to questions on such statements - **There are none.**
- 23 Statements by Members - Private Session**
To receive any statements by Members of which the appropriate written notice has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.6. **There are none.**

Council Budget and Council Tax for 2014/15 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18	Agenda No: 8
Portfolio Area:	Performance and Efficiency, Councillor McKee
Background Papers:	Public Report

Executive Summary

- 1) The Council is required to agree the 2014/15 budget and the level of Council Tax for 2014/15 to fund this budget.
- 2) These were considered in detail by Cabinet at its meeting on 3rd February 2014. The detailed report has been previously circulated to all Members.
- 3) The detailed recommendations from Cabinet are attached at Appendix 1.
- 4) Notification of the final Revenue Support Grant figure for 2014/15 has been received since the Cabinet meeting; the Council is to receive an additional sum of £910 and this is detailed in Appendix 2.

Recommendation

Members are asked to agree:

- **the Council's Budget and the Council Tax for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix 1, as amended for the changes detailed in Appendix 2;**

NOTE: Members are requested to bring with them to the meeting their copy of the budget book which was circulated previously.

Minute Extract

CABINET – 3rd FEBRUARY 2014**67. COUNCIL BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2014-15 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014-15 TO 2017-18 UPDATE**

INFORMATION: Members agreed to focus on issues which had emerged during scrutiny of the Council Budget and Council Tax 2014-15 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2017-18 Update report at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29th January 2014.

Councillor Bebb, Cabinet Member, Performance and Efficiency, reported that the figures in the report required change due to the recent finalisation of the estimate of retained Business Rates resulting in a net reduction of £34,682. Further changes may be required when the final Settlement Funding Assessment for 2014-15 is received from the Government within the next two weeks. Members agreed that these changes be met from the unallocated balance.

Allotment Rental Fees

Councillor Schmitt, Cabinet Member, Place, reported on the results of consultation on proposed allotment rental fee increases. In response to consultation, Councillor Schmitt recommended to Cabinet that the proposed increase in allotment rental fees be phased in over a three year period fixed at 15% per annum. This would increase charges per square metre from 26 pence in year 1, to 30 pence in year 2 and 40 pence in year 3. Members agreed to the recommendation and that the reduction in funds resulting from the proposed budget change be met from the unallocated balance.

Blue Badge Holder Parking

In response to information sought at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to proposals to charge blue badge holders for car parking, Councillor Mitchell, Deputy Cabinet Member, Place, advised that the Braintree Access Group, with whom consultation had taken place, has around 10 members comprising individuals and others representing organisations with an interest in disability issues. The Group has confirmed that it wishes to work with the Council in ensuring that the future design of car parks fully meets disability requirements. However, 5 out of the 8 comments received from the group expressed concern over the introduction of charging for blue badge holders.

Councillor Barlow described the difficulties which some people with disabilities have in needing extra time to visit town centres. Councillor Barlow suggested that the Council considers allowing blue badge holders to have a free hour in recognition of their additional time needs. Councillor Barlow cited Westminster Council as an example of a Council allowing a concessionary hour to blue badge holders in recognition of the mobility difficulties of some holders.

Councillor Butland, Leader of the Council, said he was quite persuaded to look at the issue raised by Councillor Barlow. Members agreed that Councillor Mitchell, in consultation with the Access Group, should consider the issue of allowing a concessionary hour for blue badge holders.

Witham River Walk

At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Lager had queried a Capital bid he had made for bridge replacement on Witham River Walk as set out in Appendix K of the report.

The Leader reported that the River Walk had been leased by Braintree District Council to Witham Town Council in April 2005 for a 25 year period. The lease includes the management and maintenance of the cycleways, pathways and bridges along the route. A commuted sum of £70,400 (being four times the annual revenue maintenance budget of £17,600) was paid to the Town Council at the time. Over the remaining lease period of 16 years, it is the responsibility of the Town Council to maintain the River Walk, including the bridges, and therefore, Braintree District Council will not be making a capital provision for this.

Capital Bids from Members

Councillor Abbott suggested that Members have a greater input to decision making on capital bids submitted by Members. Cabinet Members agreed to consider this suggestion.

DECISION: That it be **Recommended to Council** that the following be approved:

1. The budget variations to the current base budget as detailed in Section 4 of the report;
2. The savings as detailed in Appendix B **(updated version attached)**;
3. The Priority Areas Investment bids, ongoing and for one-off expenditure, detailed in Appendix A;
4. The New Burdens Grant of £87,076 to be received in 2014/15 be held in an earmarked reserve, to be utilised in respect of the Local Council Tax Support scheme as authorised by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Property;
5. The Council Tax Freeze grant receivable from the Government in 2014/15 be accepted;
6. The Council's discretionary fees and charges for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix C;
7. The Council's housing rents and service charges are increased by 3.7% for 2014/15, as detailed in Appendix C;

8. That delegated authority is given to the appropriate Cabinet Member to agree variations to Trade Waste, Town Hall Centre, Building Control and Car Parking fees and charges for commercial purposes;
9. The Council agrees to take on ownership of the former DC Leisure Pension Fund liabilities and assets, providing an estimated net additional deficit of £365,000;
10. Discretionary council tax discounts and exemptions for 2014/15 of:
 - Discount applicable to empty dwellings undergoing major repairs is set at 0% for the twelve month period;
 - Discount applicable to vacant dwellings is set at 0% for the six month period;
 - Discount applicable to second homes is set at 0%;
 - Empty Homes Premium charged on dwellings vacant for over two-years be set at 0%;
11. The Council's Pay Policy for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix F;
12. An allocation of £485,518 from the General Fund unallocated balance in 2014/15 (**updated see Appendix 2**);
13. The New Homes Bonus allocation for year 4 is added to the New Homes Bonus earmarked reserve;
14. Transfers between earmarked reserves and back to the Unallocated Balance in 2013/14 and estimated drawdown from earmarked reserves for 2014/15 as detailed in Appendix J;

Capital

15. The General Fund Capital bids for 2014/15 listed in Appendix L;

Treasury Management

16. The Prudential Indicators and limits set out in Appendix N;
17. The Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision as recommended in Appendix N;
18. The Treasury Management Strategy, including annual investment strategy, for 2014/15 (Appendix N);

Council Tax

19. The proposed estimates (producing a budget requirement for council tax purposes of £14,714,468) as detailed in Appendix G (updated version attached) and the Council Tax for 2014/15 of £159.57 for a Band D property, having taking into consideration **(updated see Appendix 2)**:

- The consultation feedback received;
- The assessment of risks in the budget assumptions;
- The Equalities Impact Assessments and
- The Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of balances (Appendix P to the report).

REASON FOR DECISION: To determine the budget and council tax level proposals for 2014/15 to be submitted to Full Council for consideration, in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution.

Notification of Final Settlement Funding Assessment for 2014/15 from Government

The Government issued details of the Local Government Finance Settlement and Council Tax Referendum Principles for 2014/15 on 5th February 2014.

This includes the notification of the final Revenue Support Grant for this Council for 2014/15 which has been confirmed at £3,570,051; an increase of £910 over the provisional figure of £3,569,141. This is required to be reflected in the Council's Budget for 2014/15.

It is recommended that this small addition to the grant is added to the General Fund Unallocated Balance.

The effect of this will be to revise the recommendations to Council from Cabinet as follows:

12. An allocation of **£484,608** from the General Fund unallocated balance in 2014/15;
and
19. The proposed estimates (producing a budget requirement for council tax purposes of **£14,715,378**)

New Savings Proposals 2014-15

Updated: 4th February 2014

Ref	Portfolio	Business Plan	Description	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Consultation update (Text in Bold added following Cabinet meeting 3/02/14)
				£	£	£	£	

SAVINGS REQUIRING MEMBER DECISION

1	Leader	Governance	Basic Member Allowances - Boundary Commission recommendation of a reduction in number of members from 60 to 50 with effect from next election in May 2015		-45,000			Not applicable
2	People	Community Services	Passengers make a greater contribution to the reimbursement to volunteer drivers out-of-pocket expenses through an increase in fares to the social car scheme	-3,010				See below
3	People	Community Services	Increase fares to hirers of Community Transport minibuses. Fares have not been increased for 5 years and customer feedback indicates that a price increase would be acceptable	-15,870				From the 10th December the annual questionnaire relating to Community Transport was sent to all their customers. The survey included questions on the increase in fares. To date, 207 (245) responses have been received with the top line information being as follows: 1) 84 (119) respondents commented positively on the fare increases and the value that the service provides. 2) 107 (107) respondents had no comments to make on the fare increases and valued the service provided. 3) 16 (19) respondents made negative comments. Only two of whom state the fares should not increase.
4	Performance & Efficiency	Business Solutions	CCTV - To review the efficiency and effectiveness of CCTV service in Braintree and Halstead town centres.	-5,000	0			Discussions have taken place with Essex Police, Halstead Town Council and George Yard Shopping Centre. The District Commander commented that whilst we do not get a high detection yield from the CCTV system (in terms of those brought to justice through CCTV evidence alone), the crime prevention effect of CCTV is considerable. CCTV provides supporting evidence to assist in a prosecution, and the cost of community reassurance and crime deterrent cannot be readily measured or valued.

New Savings Proposals 2014-15

Updated: 4th February 2014

Ref	Portfolio	Business Plan	Description	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Consultation update (Text in Bold added following Cabinet meeting 3/02/14)
5	Place	Operations	Allotments - increase plot charges	-1,300	-1,600	-1,600		Following consultation with the allotment owners and discussions at both Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet meetings it was clear that whilst a rise in fees for allotments was acceptable, it would be more affordable if done over a period of time. Therefore a revised proposal is being recommended that the increases are fixed and phased in over three years. The charge per square metre will therefore rise from 26p to 30p in year 1 (2014/15), 35p in year 2 and 40p in year 3.
6	Place	Operations	Great Notley Country Park - renegotiate the annual contribution to ECC (50% over a two-year period)		-15,000	-15,000		Initial conversations have taken place with ECC
7	Place	Operations	Waste Collections - Combine the domestic refuse, recycling and commercial waste collections across the District to maximise resources and increase opportunities to collect more commercial waste recycling to generate additional income	26,000	-215,000	-11,000		Implementation is not until February 2015 and there is a 6 month implementation plan which includes consultation
8	Place	Operations	Increase recycling - promotion of recycling in areas where participation is low.	-17,100	-32,700	-26,500		Not applicable

New Savings Proposals 2014-15

Updated: 4th February 2014

Ref	Portfolio	Business Plan	Description	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Consultation update (Text in Bold added following Cabinet meeting 3/02/14)
9	Place	Operations	Review of Offstreet Car Parking	-80,000				In completing the car park review in 2013 an extensive consultation exercise was undertaken with users and stakeholders. Overall the feedback included that 88% of existing customers considered that the car parks currently offer good value for money. On the proposals for Blue Badge holders consultation has been undertaken with the Braintree Access Group. They have confirmed they wish to work with us to ensure the future design of the car parks meets the disability requirements. However 5 out of the 8 respondents also expressed concern over the introduction of charging for blue badge holders. At the Cabinet meeting, it was agreed that consideration would be given to allowing a one hour extension to any parking ticket purchased in recognition of additional time needs of blue badge holders.
10	Place	Environment	Installation of solar panels at Halstead Leisure Centre and Braintree Swimming Centre. Income generation.	-34,650	-3,150			Not applicable
11	Planning & Property	Asset Management	Increase in fees to produce S106 legal agreements and to monitor S.106 delivery.	-7,000				Letter sent to 132 stakeholders with response requested by 31st January 2014. No responses received in relation to the proposed increases in fees.
12	Planning & Property	Sustainable Development	Street naming and numbering service - increase fees to cover the service cost	-2,500				Letter sent to 132 stakeholders with response requested by 31st January 2014. No responses received in relation to the proposed increases in fees.

New Savings Proposals 2014-15

Updated: 4th February 2014

Ref	Portfolio	Business Plan	Description	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Consultation update (Text in Bold added following Cabinet meeting 3/02/14)
13	Planning & Property	Sustainable Development	Development Management - increase charges for the provision of advice to prospective applicants on planning proposals	-20,000				Letter sent to 132 stakeholders with response requested by 31st January 2014. Three responses received to the proposals; one requested justification for proposed increases; one suggested a reduced fee for short meetings without written responses; one was very resistant to the proposed increases and did not consider the service to be good value.
14	Planning & Property	Sustainable Development	Land Charges - Increase in the fee for a land or property search		-5,000			Not applicable - Increase is not until next year
15	Planning & Property	Sustainable Development	Planning Policy - 25% reduction in contribution to Dedham Valley AONB and Stour Valley Project		-4,000			Letter sent to stakeholders with response requested by 31st January 2014. Three responses received from Babergh District Council and the Projects Partnership Board Chair and Joint Committee Chair which are not supportive of the proposed cut. Another further Local Authority has indicated it intends to cut its contribution by a further 15% in the same period.
16	Prosperity	Operations	Review of Markets service - Management and operation	-10,000				Not applicable

SAVINGS REQUIRING MEMBER DECISION - TOTAL	-170,430	-321,450	-54,100	0
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General Fund Revenue Profile 2014/15 to 2017/18

Updated: 4th February 2014

	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
	£	£	£	£
Base Budget brought forward from previous year	15,983,462	15,317,986	13,773,374	13,563,788
<u>Inflation:</u>				
Pay - annual award and incremental progression	211,610	230,520	358,020	340,480
Other Expenditure Inflation	93,750	85,940	80,010	85,330
Income Inflation	0	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Pension Fund and National Insurance contribution adjustments	10,510	69,460	244,360	118,080
<u>New Demands:</u>				
Priority Area Investment, Bids and Unavoidable Budget Changes previously profiled	(335,160)	(139,360)	(24,910)	0
New Bids 2014/15 (Ongoing)	144,720	116,000	0	0
One-off Growth Items 2014/15	1,055,000	(1,055,000)		
<u>Reductions:</u>				
Savings Proposals previously profiled	(813,882)	(124,600)	(72,580)	0
New Savings Proposals for 2014/15 onwards (Member decision required)	(170,430)	(321,450)	(54,100)	0
New Savings Proposals for 2014/15 onwards (Management savings)	(746,530)	(267,490)	(72,170)	(19,830)
Set-aside Grant returned and Community Right to Bid and Challenge grants	(27,146)	(170)	27,316	
Council Tax Freeze Grant 2014/15 and 2015/16	(87,918)	(88,462)	87,918	88,462
Additional Savings Required	0	0	(733,450)	(723,073)
Updated Base Budget	15,317,986	13,773,374	13,563,788	13,403,237
(Use of) / Addition to Balances	685,752	14,807		

General Fund Revenue Profile 2014/15 to 2017/18

Updated: 4th February 2014

	<u>2014/15</u> £	<u>2015/16</u> £	<u>2016/17</u> £	<u>2017/18</u> £
Contribution from Balances for one-off growth items / Investment Bids 2013/14 and 2014/15	(1,171,270)	(29,910)	0	
Contribution from Earmarked reserves	(118,000)			
Budget Requirement	14,714,468	13,758,271	13,563,788	13,403,237
Government Grant - Revenue Support Grant	(3,569,141)	(2,449,282)	(1,990,627)	(1,558,333)
Retained Business Rates	(3,287,835)	(3,455,592)	(3,524,704)	(3,595,198)
Collection Fund Balance	(43,190)			
BDC Requirement from Council Taxpayers	7,814,302	7,853,397	8,048,457	8,249,706
Tax base (+0.5%p.a growth in properties and collection rate of 98.5%)	48,971	49,216	49,462	49,709
Council Tax (Band D)	£ 159.57	£ 159.57	£ 162.72	£ 165.96
Council Tax per week	£ 3.07	£ 3.07	£ 3.13	£ 3.19
Percentage Increase	-1.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Increase per week	-£ 0.03	£ -	£ 0.06	£ 0.06

Council Tax Resolution 2014/15		Agenda No: 9
Corporate Priority: Deliver excellent customer service and provide value for money Portfolio Area: Performance and Efficiency Report presented by: Cllr John McKee Report prepared by: Trevor Wilson		
Background Papers: Cabinet Report 3rd February 2014: Council Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.		Public
Options: To agree the Council Tax Requirement and resultant Council Tax rate for 2014/15		Key Decision: YES
Executive Summary: <p>The Cabinet has recommended a 2014/15 budget for the Council of £14,715,378, reflecting an adjustment for the final Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 5th February 2014. After allowing for Revenue Support Grant, the estimated amount of the local share of business rates to be retained by the Council for the year, and the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2014 in respect of council tax, this results in a Council Tax Requirement of £7,814,302. This equates to a Band D Council Tax rate of £159.57.</p> <p>In areas where there are parish and town council precepts the basic amount of council tax before major precepts are added is shown in Column 5 of Schedule A. The aggregate total of local precepts notified to the Council, or estimated, is £1,671,415, which equates to an average precept based on the tax base of parish and town council areas of £47.15 per Band D dwelling, an increase of 2.1% on the current year. At the time of writing this report Belchamp Walter Parish Council had yet to confirm its precept amount for 2014/15 and therefore it has currently been assumed the amount will remain the same as the current year.</p> <p>The Council's budget plus the aggregate total of local precepts gives a Council Tax Requirement of £9,485,717.</p> <p>At the time of writing this report the precepts and resultant Council Tax amounts for the three major precepting authorities; Essex County Council, Essex Police, and the Essex Fire Authority, were still subject to confirmation. Therefore, a revised Council Tax resolution will be provided at the meeting which will set out the total tax rates for each property band, in each area.</p>		

Decision:	
1. To approve the Council Tax Requirement and level of Council Tax for 2014/15, in accordance with the attached resolution.	
Purpose of Decision:	
To formally set the Council Tax Requirement and resulting amount of Council Tax for 2014/15.	

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail	
Financial:	As set out in the report
Legal:	The Council is required to make certain calculations for determining the Council Tax rate to be levied on properties in its area.
Equalities/Diversity	As per the Cabinet report referred to in the background papers
Customer Impact:	As per the Cabinet report referred to in the background papers
Environment and Climate Change:	As per the Cabinet report referred to in the background papers
Consultation/Community Engagement:	As per the Cabinet report referred to in the background papers
Risks:	As per the Cabinet report referred to in the background papers
Officer Contact:	Trevor Wilson
Designation:	Head of Finance
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Council Tax Resolution 2014/15

Council Tax Base

Under delegated powers the Corporate Director has determined the amount of Council Tax Base for the whole Council area for 2014/15 as 48,971 Band D equivalents; and also that the amount set out in Column 2 of Schedule A should be the Council Tax Base for dwellings in those parts of the district listed in Column 1 of Schedule A to this resolution.

Calculation of the Council Tax Requirement

The following amounts are calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-

- a) £89,514,402 being the expenditure the Council estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and which will be charged to its General Fund revenue account in accordance with proper practice. This amount includes allowances for contingencies, additions to earmarked financial reserves, the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2014 in respect of business rates, and local precepts issued to the Council.
- b) £80,028,685 being the income estimated by the Council which will be credited to the General Fund revenue account in accordance with proper practice. This amount includes specific and general government grants, the estimated use of earmarked financial reserves and general balances, and the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2014 in respect of council tax.
- c) £9,485,717, being the Council Tax Requirement for the year calculated as the difference between expenditure and income as set out at (a) and (b).

In making the above calculations the following amounts have been taken into account:

- d) £3,570,051, being the amount of Revenue Support Grant receivable from central government for the year.
- e) £3,287,835, being the estimated amount of the local share of business rates to be retained by the Council for the year after allowing for the following items: a tariff of £12,663,999 and estimated levy of £583,037 due to central government; £407,590 being the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2014 in respect of business rates to be transferred from the General Fund revenue account to the Collection Fund in 2014/15; and a net amount of £981,151 of Local Government Act 2003 Section 31 grants estimated to be receivable from central government to fund the cap on the RPI increase in the business rate multiplier and the introduction and extension of various reliefs being funded by government.
- f) £43,190, being the amount that has been calculated as the Council's share of the estimated Collection Fund balance at 31 March 2014 in respect of council tax, which will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund revenue account in 2014/15.

- g) £1,671,415, being the total of all local precepts received or anticipated from town and parish councils and taken into account in making the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement at (c) above, and shown in Column 3 of Schedule A. At the time of writing this report Belchamp Walter parish council had yet to confirm their precept amount for 2014/15 and therefore it has currently been assumed the amount will remain the same as the current year.

Calculation of the Basic Amount of Council Tax

The following amounts have been calculated:

- h) £193.70, being the basic amount of Council Tax for the year including local precepts, calculated by dividing (c) by the Council Tax Base for the whole district.
- i) £159.57, being the basic amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of the District where there are no local precepts for town or parish councils. This represents the District Council's share of the total Council Tax rate and is charged across property bands as follows:

Property Band	Band as proportion of Band D	Council Tax Rate
A	6/9	£106.38
B	7/9	£124.11
C	8/9	£141.84
D	9/9	£159.57
E	11/9	£195.03
F	13/9	£230.49
G	15/9	£265.95
H	18/9	£319.14

The District Council's basic amount of Council Tax equates to a Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes (excluding town and parish precepts) of £7,814,302.

Under the principles set by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the 2014/15 financial year, the basic amount of Council Tax calculated by the Council is not deemed excessive and therefore does not require a referendum to be held.

- j) The amounts shown in Column 5 of Schedule A, calculated by adding to the basic amount of Council Tax at (i) above, the local precept amount relating to each parish or town council area, divided by the tax base for that area. This represents the basic amount of Council Tax for each parish or town council area. The charge for each property band is also shown in Schedule A.

Special Expenses

The Council resolves that any expenses incurred by it in performing, in part of its area, a function that is performed elsewhere in its area by a parish or town council, or a Chairman of a parish meeting, shall not be treated as Special Expenses for the purposes of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

SCHEDULE A

Col . 1	Col . 2	Col . 3	Col . 4	Col . 5	COUNCIL TAX FOR THE DISTRICT COUNCIL INCLUDING PARISH TAX £							
PARISH/AREA	TAX BASE (BAND D EQUIV)	PARISH PRECEPT £	PARISH TAX (BAND D) £	BASIC AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX £	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ALPHAMSTONE & LAMARSH	191.68	2,800	14.61	174.18	116.12	135.47	154.83	174.18	212.89	251.59	290.30	348.36
ASHEN	137.21	4,071	29.67	189.24	126.16	147.19	168.21	189.24	231.29	273.35	315.40	378.48
BARDFIELD SALING	94.76	-	0.00	159.57	106.38	124.11	141.84	159.57	195.03	230.49	265.95	319.14
BELCHAMP OTTEN	76.04	1,000	13.15	172.72	115.15	134.34	153.53	172.72	211.10	249.48	287.87	345.44
BELCHAMP ST PAUL	153.07	3,000	19.60	179.17	119.45	139.35	159.26	179.17	218.99	258.80	298.62	358.34
BELCHAMP WALTER	101.55	4,493	44.24	203.81	135.87	158.52	181.16	203.81	249.10	294.39	339.68	407.62
BIRDBROOK	142.14	10,806	76.02	235.59	157.06	183.24	209.41	235.59	287.94	340.30	392.65	471.18
BLACK NOTLEY	850.74	61,545	72.34	231.91	154.61	180.37	206.14	231.91	283.45	334.98	386.52	463.82
BORLEY	52.60	1,277	24.28	183.85	122.57	142.99	163.42	183.85	224.71	265.56	306.42	367.70
BRADWELL	212.07	7,569	35.69	195.26	130.17	151.87	173.56	195.26	238.65	282.04	325.43	390.52
BRAINTREE	13428.49	-	0.00	159.57	106.38	124.11	141.84	159.57	195.03	230.49	265.95	319.14
BULMER	253.93	4,406	17.35	176.92	117.95	137.60	157.26	176.92	216.24	255.55	294.87	353.84
BURES HAMLET	309.98	23,905	77.12	236.69	157.79	184.09	210.39	236.69	289.29	341.89	394.48	473.38
CASTLE HEDINGHAM	465.51	22,130	47.54	207.11	138.07	161.09	184.10	207.11	253.13	299.16	345.18	414.22
COGGESHALL	1720.28	154,213	89.64	249.21	166.14	193.83	221.52	249.21	304.59	359.97	415.35	498.42
COLNE ENGAIN	391.54	21,257	54.29	213.86	142.57	166.34	190.10	213.86	261.38	308.91	356.43	427.72
CRESSING	596.32	23,748	39.82	199.39	132.93	155.08	177.24	199.39	243.70	288.01	332.32	398.78
EARLS COLNE	1217.46	48,187	39.58	199.15	132.77	154.89	177.02	199.15	243.41	287.66	331.92	398.30
FEERING	787.80	36,614	46.48	206.05	137.37	160.26	183.16	206.05	251.84	297.63	343.42	412.10
FINCHINGFIELD	627.60	35,334	56.30	215.87	143.91	167.90	191.88	215.87	263.84	311.81	359.78	431.74
FOXEARH & LISTON	141.45	4,844	34.25	193.82	129.21	150.75	172.28	193.82	236.89	279.96	323.03	387.64
GESTINGTHORPE	174.74	4,715	26.98	186.55	124.37	145.09	165.82	186.55	228.01	269.46	310.92	373.10
GOSFIELD	538.70	25,823	47.94	207.51	138.34	161.40	184.45	207.51	253.62	299.74	345.85	415.02
GREAT BARDFIELD	517.62	25,330	48.94	208.51	139.01	162.17	185.34	208.51	254.85	301.18	347.52	417.02
GREAT MAPLESTEAD	155.04	3,338	21.53	181.10	120.73	140.86	160.98	181.10	221.34	261.59	301.83	362.20
GREAT NOTLEY	2410.10	60,252	25.00	184.57	123.05	143.55	164.06	184.57	225.59	266.60	307.62	369.14
GREAT SALING	131.40	4,595	34.97	194.54	129.69	151.31	172.92	194.54	237.77	281.00	324.23	389.08
GREAT YELDHAM	561.35	38,922	69.34	228.91	152.61	178.04	203.48	228.91	279.78	330.65	381.52	457.82
GREENSTEAD GREEN	272.45	4,075	14.96	174.53	116.35	135.75	155.14	174.53	213.31	252.10	290.88	349.06
HALSTEAD	3593.28	136,051	37.86	197.43	131.62	153.56	175.49	197.43	241.30	285.18	329.05	394.86
HATFIELD PEVEREL	1696.27	51,569	30.40	189.97	126.65	147.75	168.86	189.97	232.19	274.40	316.62	379.94
HELIONS BUMPSTEAD	173.95	11,502	66.12	225.69	150.46	175.54	200.61	225.69	275.84	326.00	376.15	451.38
HENNYS,MIDDLETON & TWINSTEAD	222.02	4,315	19.44	179.01	119.34	139.23	159.12	179.01	218.79	258.57	298.35	358.02
KELVEDON	1257.06	75,000	59.66	219.23	146.15	170.51	194.87	219.23	267.95	316.67	365.38	438.46
LITTLE MAPLESTEAD	108.94	2,532	23.24	182.81	121.87	142.19	162.50	182.81	223.43	264.06	304.68	365.62

SCHEDULE A

Col . 1	Col . 2	Col . 3	Col . 4	Col . 5	COUNCIL TAX FOR THE DISTRICT COUNCIL INCLUDING PARISH TAX £							
PARISH/AREA	TAX BASE (BAND D EQUIV)	PARISH PRECEPT £	PARISH TAX (BAND D) £	BASIC AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX £	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE, & OVINGTON	221.53	4,930	22.25	181.82	121.21	141.42	161.62	181.82	222.22	262.63	303.03	363.64
PANFIELD	325.44	15,820	48.61	208.18	138.79	161.92	185.05	208.18	254.44	300.70	346.97	416.36
PEBMARSH	226.16	6,731	29.76	189.33	126.22	147.26	168.29	189.33	231.40	273.48	315.55	378.66
PENTLOW	103.92	4,000	38.49	198.06	132.04	154.05	176.05	198.06	242.07	286.09	330.10	396.12
RAYNE	827.99	34,076	41.16	200.73	133.82	156.12	178.43	200.73	245.34	289.94	334.55	401.46
RIDGEWELL	199.46	11,839	59.36	218.93	145.95	170.28	194.60	218.93	267.58	316.23	364.88	437.86
RIVENHALL	257.28	8,780	34.13	193.70	129.13	150.66	172.18	193.70	236.74	279.79	322.83	387.40
SHALFORD	322.39	12,318	38.21	197.78	131.85	153.83	175.80	197.78	241.73	285.68	329.63	395.56
SIBLE HEDINGHAM	1360.88	82,549	60.66	220.23	146.82	171.29	195.76	220.23	269.17	318.11	367.05	440.46
SILVER END	1020.95	50,859	49.82	209.39	139.59	162.86	186.12	209.39	255.92	302.45	348.98	418.78
STAMBOURNE	163.31	4,160	25.47	185.04	123.36	143.92	164.48	185.04	226.16	267.28	308.40	370.08
STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD	598.64	33,111	55.31	214.88	143.25	167.13	191.00	214.88	262.63	310.38	358.13	429.76
STISTED	253.93	8,403	33.09	192.66	128.44	149.85	171.25	192.66	235.47	278.29	321.10	385.32
STURMER	188.63	4,700	24.92	184.49	122.99	143.49	163.99	184.49	225.49	266.49	307.48	368.98
TERLING & FAIRSTEAD	409.66	13,670	33.37	192.94	128.63	150.06	171.50	192.94	235.82	278.69	321.57	385.88
TOPPESFIELD	206.26	11,076	53.70	213.27	142.18	165.88	189.57	213.27	260.66	308.06	355.45	426.54
WETHERSFIELD	507.62	22,000	43.34	202.91	135.27	157.82	180.36	202.91	248.00	293.09	338.18	405.82
WHITE COLNE	202.12	9,386	46.44	206.01	137.34	160.23	183.12	206.01	251.79	297.57	343.35	412.02
WHITE NOTLEY & FAULKBOURNE	233.54	10,315	44.17	203.74	135.83	158.46	181.10	203.74	249.02	294.29	339.57	407.48
WICKHAM ST PAUL	131.66	10,629	80.73	240.30	160.20	186.90	213.60	240.30	293.70	347.10	400.50	480.60
WITHAM	7444.49	392,845	52.77	212.34	141.56	165.15	188.75	212.34	259.53	306.71	353.90	424.68
	48971.00	1,671,415										

LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Agenda No: 10a

1. Braintree District Business Group – 6th January 2014

I attended the above meeting to consult the Group on the Council's proposed budget for 2014-15.

2. Launch of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme – 7th January 2014

Together with Cllr Bebb we launched the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) with our partners Essex County Council and Lloyds TSB. Braintree District is the only authority in Essex to link with the County Council to help first time buyers obtain mortgages.

3. Meeting with Essex Fire & Rescue Service – 20th January 2014

Together with Corporate Director Jon Hayden, I met with Cllr Anthony Hedley, Chairman of the EF&RS, and some of his officers to discuss plans that the service is keen to progress at its Kelvedon Headquarters. It was useful to understand what this important public service is hoping to do to provide a more efficient and effective service to local taxpayers.

4. Police & Crime Panel (PCP) – 29th January 2014

Essex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), Nick Alston, presented his Police Precept for 2014-15 to the PCP. The PCC proposed a budget with a precept increase of 3.5%. He informed the PCP that should the Government introduce a lower level of increase which would trigger a referendum he would submit a revised budget within the lower level.

The PCC informed the PCP that the loss of central government grant for 2014/15 was £8.4 million or 4.8%.

Members may recall that last year I voted against the proposed increase on the grounds that the budget appeared to be based solely on the impact it would have on the number of police officers. It made no reference to outputs and, in particular, the falling crime rate. The PCC acknowledged this and undertook to do some work on this during 2013-14.

Regrettably this year's budget proposals were couched in exactly the same way. Nowhere in the PCC's twenty six page report was there a single mention of crime rates.

As a result I could not support the PCC's budget and was one of three Members of the PCP to veto the proposed precept. A number of Members who supported the PCC's proposals nevertheless expressed their reservations and he should be in no doubt that becoming a serial tax increasing offender will not be supported.

Cllr Graham Butland
Leader

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
PEOPLE AND PARTICIPATION**

Agenda No: 10b

LEISURE SERVICES

1 – The Fusion Leisure Contract

One of the key outcomes of the Leisure Services Contract was to encourage healthy lifestyles outside of Braintree District Council owned leisure facilities. I was pleased that Fusion Lifestyle has recently visited a number of parish councils and other organisations to discuss improved leisure services in the rural areas.

2 – The New Witham Leisure Centre

Construction site is continuing to progress well. I'm pleased to report that the £9.5 million investment project by the Council into Witham, replacing the old Bramston Sports Centre, is on target and on budget. The new centre is now weather tight and invitations have been sent to Members inviting them to visit the construction. I have also sent a personal invite to Priti Patel MP, the Member for Witham, and I can confirm that she will be visiting the site in early spring. Tentative arrangements are starting to progress with Fusion Lifestyle regarding the Grand opening of the centre.

3 – Halstead Leisure Centre

The new state-of-the-art gym at Halstead Leisure Centre opened at Christmas. Cllr. Peter Tattersley (Deputy Portfolio Member) attended the official opening in January along with Fusion Lifestyle. Cllr. Tattersley was impressed by the new facilities available and the accessibility of the facilities and equipment to residents with disability. Football has increased since the new facilities have opened demonstrating the needs of the community in this area.

4 – Braintree Swim Centre

Post the recent planning permission for the new gym facilities at the Braintree Swim Centre I'm pleased to report that a detailed scope for the project is progressing well. I will update Council during the course of the year.

5 – Active Braintree District Network (ABDN)

The first meeting of the New Year is soon to be held. I'm constantly pleased and surprised by the number of partners that attend the meetings. The ABDN continues to secure funding that provides real benefits to the residents of the Braintree District and fulfils the outcomes of the Leisure Contract. A representative of PARK RUN will attend the next meeting with a view to promoting PARK RUN at the Great Notley Discovery Centre.

6 – Tour de France

Over the next few months key stakeholders from around Essex will form a Stakeholders Board to progress the logistics of the Tour de France entering the Braintree District for a stage of the race on Monday 7th July 2014.

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

1 – Active Communities Plan

The Active Communities Plan (formerly the Localism Plan) is being created . It will encompass the Public Health agenda and the District Council's approach to strong partnership working. The Active Communities Plan is being embraced throughout the organisation which will ensure that all departments work collaboratively on the Active Communities Plan. As Cabinet Member I will consider holding ad-hoc Member briefings to ensure all Members are fully engaged in the process of the Active Communities Plan.

2 – Health and Wellbeing

Health & Wellbeing Panel

The panel continues to explore with partners two key areas of focus. 1) Hip fractures in older people. 2) Adult Obesity. These two issues have been highlighted as need for concern in the recent NHS Health Profile. The Rural Community Council of Essex, the Chairman of the ABDN and the Chief Executive Officer of the Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency have been invited to join the panel meetings. The next meeting of the panel will be held shortly. Cllr. Dr Naylor, the Cabinet Member for Health at Essex County Council, has confirmed her attendance for the next meeting. Braintree District Council is currently seeking applications to fill the post of a new Health & Wellbeing Officer who will be able to work with the Health and Wellbeing Panel to co-ordinate a process for outcomes.

ECC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Essex County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) met on the 8th January 2014. Our main agenda item was to consider the Public Health Annual Report and Commissioning Intentions. Cllr. Dr Naylor (Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Health) and Dr. Mike Gogarty (Public Health Director at Essex County Council) presented the report. This is the first Public Health Annual Report following the move of the function to Essex County Council. The report offers opportunities for social care and health partners to work together to better secure improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population of Essex.

3 – Safeguarding

Cllr. Tattersley and I have attended a series of work-shops on safeguarding to gain a greater understanding of the complexities around safeguarding vulnerable people in our district. We have recently met with officers and partners to begin the structure for a Member Development Training Evening. Details of this event will follow shortly. I would encourage all Members to attend this training.

4 – Localism

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has announced a further round of Community Budgets Pilots now known as "Our Place". "Our Witham" steering group has applied to be a "Pilot Area". The DCLG has appointed an

organisation called the OPM to deliver the support package to successful applicants.

Bures (Hamlet and St. Mary) parish councils have committed to starting a Neighbourhood Plan in 2014. Early discussions have commenced with Braintree District Council and Babergh District Council to establish roles and responsibilities for a cross boundary Neighbourhood Plan.

Cressing Parish Council is applying for Neighbourhood Plan funding of £7,000.00. Braintree District Council will apply for £5,000.00 from the DCLG to support the Neighbourhood Plan process.

The Service Level Agreement between Braintree District Council and the Rural Community Council of Essex is being monitored to ensure the demand for local community planning advice is being supported.

5 – Community Transport

The total passenger journeys for December 2013 was 4,478 this represents an 8.72% increase on December 2012. Community Transport has secured 180 Winter Warmer Packs to elderly and vulnerable people living alone in the Braintree District.

Working in partnership with Greenfields Community Housing and Fusion Lifestyle, Community Transport is supporting a six week pilot course to provide seated exercise to people living in Halstead, the Colnes and the Hedinghams.

6 – Member Development

The cross-party Member Development Group will meet in February. The group will be looking at the findings from the piece of research carried out during 2013 by an external advisor into improving and enhancing the Member Development and Training Programme. The new Member Development and Training Programme will include a process for undertaking induction post the 2015 elections.

7 – Museum Trust

Braintree District Council and Braintree District Museum Trust Limited are working in partnership to create a shared, sustainable future vision for the heritage services they fund and manage in Braintree District. A jointly funded option and feasibility study will be commissioned from an external specialist consultant to review the current Museum Trust proposals for increased revenue generation at the Warner Textile Archive, capital redevelopment at Braintree District Museum and the management of Braintree Town Hall. The work is due for completion by late Summer 2014.

Cllr Joanne Beavis
Cabinet Member – People & Participation

Further information on the contents of this report can be obtained by contacting:
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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

Agenda No: 10c

Local Authority Mortgage Scheme

BDC, the County Council and Lloyds Bank, through its branches in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead, formally launched the first Essex LAMS scheme on January 7th to support first-time local buyers purchase a home with a low deposit. Known as the “Lloyds Local Lend a Hand”, the scheme helps borrower applicants, subject to Lloyds Bank's usual lending criteria, to select any existing property in the area covered by Braintree District Council up to a maximum loan of £250,000. First-time buyers will put down a minimum deposit of 5%, and the £1million each invested by BDC and ECC provides a cash backed indemnity of up to 20% as additional security. The Council's investment is for a 5 year term with interest yield currently at 3.04%

Banking arrangements

Following the Co-operative bank's autumn announcement that they would be withdrawing from the local authority market, the Council obtained agreement to terminate its contract two-years early, without penalty. It is now confirmed that Lloyds Bank will be providing banking services to the Council. Bank accounts have been set-up with Lloyds Bank and these will be fully operational in the next few weeks. The Council will be issuing communications on the changeover arrangements.

Business Rates Pooling

Further to my report at the December Council, the proposed pooling arrangement between ten Essex authorities will not, in the event, be established for 2014/15. This decision was a consequence of revised regulations regarding the operation of the business rates retention scheme not being available. The absence of the regulations placed an unacceptably high level of uncertainty over the pooling arrangement. Essex County Council, as lead authority, sent a letter informing the Department for Communities and Local Government that the Essex authorities were withdrawing their application for 2014/15.

Public Service Network (PSN)

The Cabinet Office is working with all public sector organisations to ensure stricter PSN security compliance. This has been somewhat challenging for most public sector organisations, with very tough new requirements, and for us it means, for example, that we are undertaking some major changes to our email system in order to improve security and upgrade to the latest version of software. With these undertakings in hand we have now achieved PCN compliance as from January 28th.

Council and Business Rate Collection

The current status of Council Tax collection is 87.38% for the year to date compared to 88.08% for the previous year, and the target for the total year is 98.0%.

Business Rates collection status is 88.04% for the year to date compared to 88.81% for the previous year, and the target for the year is 98.5%.

District Council Network

Together with the Chief Executive I attended the December DCN Assembly, which was focused upon the Autumn Finance and local authorities financial settlement from DCLG. I also attended the half yearly Assembly in January with Chris Fleetham, Corporate Director, with useful workshops on Strategic Housing Market Assessments and experience of one authority in running a pilot in administering on- line applications for housing benefit.

Rural Services Network

In early January I co-hosted a workshop convened at Braintree for finance managers drawn from district councils across the eastern counties.

Cllr David Bebb
Cabinet Member for Performance and Efficiency

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

Agenda No: 10d

INFRASTRUCTURE

A120

The economic impact study on improvement of the A120 commissioned by Haven Gateway Partnership is nearing completion and will be a key piece of evidence used to try to secure government funding for the scheme. The draft South East LEP (SELEP) Strategic Economic Plan identifies the improvement of the A120 through dualling the route from Braintree to Harwich as well as junction improvements to the existing road. This Strategic Economic Plan forms the basis of negotiations between SELEP and government to secure Single Local Growth funding and guide transport investment.

Under a 'pinch point' scheme, the Highways Agency commenced overnight works to modify the roundabout at Galleys Corner on 2nd February, to ease traffic flow and reduce congestion. These works will involve lane closure and will continue until mid-March, and will also involve daytime lane closures on 3 weekends.

Broadband

Essex County Council has confirmed that 5 key industrial estates in the District will receive improved broadband under the BDUK programme - Lakes Industrial Park, Skyline 120 Business Park, Earls Colne Business Park, Springwood Industrial Estate and Waterside Business Park. Councillor Bentley has also supplied a copy of indicative plans for fibre installation across the District. These are subject to change once detailed surveys and design work are completed. I have arranged for the information to be made available to Members. The Council will continue to lobby for further improvements to broadband across the District.

PLANNING POLICY

Pre Submission Site Allocations and Development Management Plan

The draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan will be published for a 6 week period of public engagement in February. Comments received will then be reported back to the LDF Sub Committee for information. Any proposed changes would need to be considered by Council and a further public engagement period may be necessary. It is expected that the document will be submitted for examination in the summer, with an examination expected in the Autumn.

Great Maplestead Village Design Statement

A Village Design Statement has been completed for Great Maplestead and has been approved as planning guidance.

Essex County Council Minerals Local Plan Examination Outcome

The Planning Inspector of the ECC Minerals Local Plan has announced through the ECC website, that there is a requirement for 'main modifications' to be made to the Local Plan. Main modifications are changes which the Inspector recommends must be made to the Plan before he can consider it sound and it can be adopted by a Local Authority. A 6 week public consultation period starting in mid-February will set out in detail the changes which are being proposed and comments will be invited only on the proposed changes. The Inspector will then consider these comments before submitting his final report.

HOUSING

Homelessness & Temporary Accommodation

Between April 2013 and the end of December 2013 the Council has accepted 122 households as being eligible, homeless and in priority need. The total for 2012/13 was 164 households and therefore we are predicting a similar number to last year's total. At the end of December 2013 there were 64 homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by the Council. This figure has only varied by small amounts throughout 2013/14.

As part of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol arrangements for rough sleepers, the Council is again this Winter working with the local charity BENS (Braintree Emergency Night Shelter) to ensure that there is shelter available in the event of very cold weather.

Affordable Housing Development

Since April 2013 there has been a total of 69 new affordable homes. The next completions of new homes are scheduled for February and March 2014 when a number of schemes with a total of 29 units are due to be completed. The 29 units include:-

- A development in Braintree by Family Mosaic of 4 flats for single people with learning disabilities and 2 wheelchair adapted bungalows for families;
- Three Greenfields Community Housing developments including:-
 - A mix of 15 homes of a range of sizes on the Hatfield Road estate, Witham
 - 6 homes in Stisted and
 - 2 new homes in Feering.

The Housing Register

In the last quarter 172 housing association homes were let in the Braintree District via the Gateway to Homechoice, Choice Based Lettings scheme.

As at the end of 16th January 2014 there were 2591 applicants on the Housing Register consisting of:-

119 – Band A
251 – Band B
664 – Band C
113 – Band D
1430 – Band E

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Land East of High Street, Halstead

The revised Vendor Consortium Agreement and Savills (the selling agents) Letters of Appointment have now been sent out to all vendors for signature. Savills commenced the marketing of the site in November 2013 with a view to inviting sealed bids in early February 2014.

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REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF PLACE

Agenda No: 10e

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Disabled Facilities Grant: Funding to help local housing authorities meet the cost of providing Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) for disabled people is currently paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government as a capital grant. In July 2013, as part of the government spending review, it was announced that from 2015-16 the DFG grant for local authorities will be £220m. It has emerged that from 2015-16 all of this central government funding will be now be provided by Department of Health.

Green Deal: Under a series of proposals intending to support households with their energy bills, funding available to councils through Green Deal Communities could be increased from £20m to £80m this year to support street by street energy efficiency improvements. Also the Government has confirmed it will implement measures allowing households to move from a quote to a Green Deal Plan in a single day. An online advisory tool for consumers will be launched alongside greater signposting to appropriate companies. Pending Parliamentary approval, legislation could also be changed to make it clearer that landlords and tenants can benefit from the Green Deal.

Food safety checks ‘in decline’: An investigation using data obtained from the Food Standards Agency revealed more than a third of high and medium-risk food businesses are not complying with safety rules. I can reassure Members that we have a compliance rate of 93% and this has been the case for the last 3 years. The national average for broadly compliant premises has risen slightly from 90.2% to 91.2%. Therefore our local standards are well above the national average. Although our figure stays the same this does not mean that our non-compliant premises are not improving and becoming compliant. Each year the inspectors are tasked with improving 60% of the non-compliant premises in their areas. It is also important to note that premises can be non-compliant purely for failing to keep up to date with its paperwork. We have several good premises that let themselves down in this respect.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

PCC Public Engagement: At the event held on 5th December, 5 members of the public attended along with PCC, PCC staff, Essex Police representatives, BDC/CSP representatives.

Safer Essex: It is good news for the District that our Chief Executive has been elected as Chair of Safer Essex.

LANDSCAPE SERVICES

More tree damage was reported from the storm on 25th January which brings the total number of reported incidents to over 90 for the winter period.

New Planting: At Bocking Blackwater, Sauls Road, Witham; Bramble Road, Witham; Ajax Close, Bradford Meadow and other sites in mitigation for tree losses on Greenfields land following subsidence claims, the latter funded from Greenfields Community Housing. The contractor is now on site and trees started being planted from 27th January. Bramble Road play area planting will be carried out in early February.

Tree work/vegetation management: Works to thin out the avenue of trees at the town entrance and on the A131 Braintree bypass buffer planting have commenced and residents have been notified.

OPERATIONS

Christmas/New Year Waste Collections: Members will be well aware of the challenges we faced in collecting over the Christmas/New Year period, given the operational problems caused by our furry friends at the depot that resulted in a number of vehicle breakdowns. This proved a particular challenge for collection crews, who were undertaking 3 collections in the same week (food, dry recycling and grey bins), although I am pleased to report that 98% of collections were completed to schedule. The crews worked hard to clear the additional waste generated over the Christmas period, as well as the excess waste from the delays and normal service resumed two days later than planned.

For those households that were affected by the delays, we offer our sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused.

Trade Waste Recycling: We are continuing to roll-out our new recycling service across the three towns, which has given more choice to local businesses in how they dispose of their waste. So far, 172 businesses have signed up to the new service. A further 192 businesses have indicated that they may be interested and these will be revisited in the coming weeks.

Household Waste Recycling Centres: Essex County Council is currently piloting the disposal of trade waste at the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Springwood Industrial Estate, Braintree, in an effort to reduce the amount of trade waste that is currently going through the site (as domestic rather than trade waste). This includes refuse from gardening and building work carried out at domestic properties by a commercial service provider who is not the home owner. The scheme allows small businesses dispose of their waste (including recycling) under a 'Pay as You Throw' system.

Alongside this, the Council has received notification that Essex County Council is undertaking a public consultation exercise in respect of their Household Waste Recycling Centres, with the intention of developing a range of service options during late summer/autumn 2014. This review is being undertaken in the context of the changing demands on the service, operational limitations presented by some sites and the financial challenges requiring all services to be reviewed. The County Council is keen to hear from as many users as possible and I would strongly urge all users to make their views known by completing the on-line survey on the County Council's website.

Door-stepping (domestic recycling): Our 8-strong team of Recycling Door-steppers have visited some 13,000 households, speaking to nearly 7,500 householders (a contact rate of 57.5%). Monitoring before and after the campaign has shown that participation rates in dry recycling and food waste recycling increased by 4%. The door-steppers also obtained valuable data and feedback from the target household group on their recycling behaviour, which will help to design future communications to encourage even greater participation and increase recycling performance. Further targeted door-stepping and trouble-shooting commenced earlier this month, following the recruitment of a new Recycling Advisor.

ICDC (Integrated Commercial and Domestic Collections); A report to Cabinet on 3 February outlined proposals for the Council to install in-cab technology within its waste collection vehicles and combine domestic and trade waste collection service throughout the District. The aim is to deliver service improvements, increase customer satisfaction, support businesses (particularly those in rural areas) and achieve further operational efficiencies. It also outlined proposals for a new combined vehicle and plant workshop on land owned by the Council at Unit 9, Lakes Industrial Park, Braintree.

Public Toilets: The new public toilets at Witham Town Park (Maldon Road) were opened to the public w/c 19 January 2014. These are fully DDA compliant and will hopefully serve the local community well for many years to come. The toilets were funded by BDC, but will be maintained by Witham Town Council under the terms of a lease signed by both Councils.

Parking: I would draw Members' attention to the new Park Safe enforcement vehicle that was launched by the North Essex Parking Partnership at the end of January. The vehicle will focus on tackling dangerous, careless, inconsiderate and negligent parking on No Stopping restrictions including on pedestrian crossings and zig-zag markings around schools. The vehicle will be clearly branded to make it highly visible to motorists. It will be phased in across the North of Essex (except Tendring) over the next few months and we anticipate seeing it in Braintree in the coming weeks.

Cllr Wendy Schmitt
Cabinet Member – Place

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**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
PROSPERITY AND GROWTH**

Agenda No: 10f

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Ignite

Following October's planning approval for the Springwood Drive Enterprise Centre extension; tenders for the works have now been received and are being evaluated. This will provide 12 new start-up units as well as training, advice and conference facilities and is due to be completed early in 2015.

Rural Business Support

An event for rural businesses will be held on 2nd April 2014 at the Essex Golf and Country Club on the Earls Colne Industrial Estate. This will be hosted by the Chairman, and will provide information and advice from Council services and other agencies on support for rural businesses.

Business Improvement Districts

We are supporting Witham Industrial Watch to resubmit their Business Improvement District initiative which provides CCTV on the Witham Industrial Estates and will involve a new ballot to be completed by 31st July 2014.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On the 17th December, I was pleased to be invited by the Cofunds Chief Executive David Hobbs, along with our Chief Executive, to visit their new offices in Witham. Cofunds, is a leading financial services provider, which has relocated from Chelmsford into the Council owned Mayland House, and is the largest general investment platform in the UK, currently looking after over £60bn of investments on behalf of roughly 800,000 people. Cofunds have invested £10m in refurbishing the building and employ over 600 staff, their offices are now fully operational, in addition to the 600 existing staff this has brought to Witham it has also already led to additional local people being employed, and the future opportunities this also brings to local people cannot be underestimated.

We were given a guided tour of the three storey building's impressive modern facilities, and had the opportunity to meet managers and staff, Cofunds are very committed to working closely with the Council in the future in order to bring jobs and prosperity to the Braintree district.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Following a successful breakfast meeting which I hosted for the District's business leaders on 27th November, the first formal meeting of the District Business Leaders Board will take place at Village Glass in Witham on 28th February 2014 and will discuss

the key business issues which they have identified - transport infrastructure, broadband and skills. This Board will be critically important in making the case to bodies such as the South East LEP for investment in the District's economic infrastructure. The Board will be complemented by an open business forum which we intend to hold twice yearly and which will move around the District. These will replace the current District Business Group.

REGENERATION

Following the demolition of 75 & 77 South Street on the corner of South Street and Fairfield Road and the erection of temporary hoardings on the site, we are waiting for the County Council to be able to undertake survey work on the site before we can complete the improvement works. This project should be finished by the summer, improving traffic flow and providing a more attractive gateway to the town centre. Work to the St. Michael's Fountain site is substantially complete and includes seating, paving and planting. This will make a significant difference to another key gateway to the town centre and remaining works will be completed by the spring

We continue to work with our partners in each of the towns to deliver the Portas Pilot aspirations. In Braintree town, the Town Team delivered a highly successful series of events around Christmas including the Christmas lights switch on.

I attended a visit by Brandon Lewis MP, the Minister for Local Government, to Witham on 27th January 2014 to discuss plans for the town along with Priti Patel MP and town team members. The Association of Town Centre Managers is also working with the town team to help develop its plans.

The Halstead Town Team continue to work on their website which will promote shopping locally in the town, and is aimed to improve the marketing the events which are to be held, they also held a very successful Christmas Market.

Cllr Chris Siddall
Cabinet Member – Prosperity and Growth

Further information on the contents of this report can be obtained by contacting:

Cllr Chris Siddall, telephone: (01376) 565302

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COUNCIL
17th February 2014



LIST OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD SINCE COUNCIL MEETING OF 16TH DECEMBER 2013		Agenda No: 12
Corporate Priority: Not applicable Report presented by: Not applicable Report prepared by: Alastair Peace – Member Services Manager		
Background Papers: Published Minutes of the meetings listed within the report below.		Public Report
Options: Report for noting		Key Decision: No
Executive Summary: Since the Council meeting held on 16 th December 2013, the following Minutes have been published for meetings held in public session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Council – 16th December 2013 (2) Planning Committee – 17th December 2013 (3) Planning Committee – 7th January 2014 (4) Governance Committee – 15th January 2014 (5) Planning Committee – 21st January 2014 (6) Licensing Committee – 22nd January 2014 (7) Braintree District Local Highways Panel – 23rd January 2014 (8) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29th January 2014 (9) Cabinet – 3rd February 2014 <p><i>Note: Hard copies of minutes are sent to Members of the relevant meeting. Copies are available for all Members to view on the Council's website at http://www.braintree.gov.uk/meetings</i></p>		
Decision: Members are invited to note the Minutes published.		
Purpose of Decision: Not applicable		
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Chairman's Statement – From the Chairman of the Mi Community Scheme Update on the Mi Community Scheme		Agenda No: 13a
Corporate Priority: People take pride in their local areas Portfolio Area: People and Participation Report presented by: Cllr Gabrielle Spray Report prepared by: Angela Verghese		
Background Papers: Mi community prospectus (Round 3) Mi community web page on Council website provides full information on the scheme		Public Report Yes
Options: To receive a report on the Mi community Scheme		Key Decision: No
Executive Summary: <p>Mi community is a Member led Scheme that provides one off investment for local projects with the intention that such projects will be able to continue to benefit local communities beyond the period of Mi community investment. Only projects that have the support of the local Member can be considered. To date there have been two rounds of funding resulting in 20 projects going ahead across the District. The third Round is now closed for applicants, with the fourth and final Round due to open for applications in September 2014. A thorough revision of the application processes and materials was undertaken at the end of Round 1 in response to feedback from both successful and unsuccessful applicants.</p> <p>The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with information about the successful local projects that have benefitted from Mi community investment and will consequently bring a lasting benefit to local communities. The Report also highlights the support and advice provided to applicants, to support them through the application process, as well as the open and transparent decision making methods that have been put in place to ensure that all applications are treated equitably.</p>		
Decision: To note the report on the Mi community Scheme		
Purpose of Decision: To inform Members of the outcomes of the Mi community Scheme		

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail	
Financial:	None additional. A total of £500,000 is available for Mi community to invest in local projects (£125,000 per annum)
Legal:	All successful applicants are required sign and comply with Funding Agreements
Equalities/Diversity	Equality issues were taken into account in the development of the scheme
Customer Impact:	Taken into account into the development of the scheme and subsequent feedback
Environment and Climate Change:	n/a
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Previous feedback was used to review and make changes to the scheme
Risks:	Any unspent funding is required to be repaid by applicants All projects are monitored quarterly for 12 months.
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1. Background

Funding for Mi community was approved in 2011 with a total of £500,000 to invest over a 4 year period resulting in approximately £125,000 being available each year. The amount available will vary slightly depending on any unspent money from previous rounds being carried forward.

It supports the role of community councillor through councillor involvement in encouraging and supporting local people to develop local projects to meet local needs. All applicants must have the support of their local Ward Councillor and relevant Ward Councillors are kept advised of the progress of their projects throughout the application process.

Mi community is led by a Member Working Group comprising of Councillors Spray (Chairman), Bowers-Flint, Cadman, Barlow, Mann, Allen, Fincken, Elliott, Wilson, and Canning.

Rounds 1 & 2 of Mi community have been completed and a list of the 20 projects supported in these Rounds is attached in Appendix 1.

Round 3 opened in September 2013 and is now closed for further applications. Successful applicants will be notified by 31st March 2014. Round 4 will open in September 2014 with successful applicants being notified by 31st March 2015.

2. Decision Making Process

Mi community applicants submit a Stage 1 application form on which they are required to demonstrate how their project meets the Mi community criteria. A judging panel, selected from Members of the Mi community Working Group plus one independent representative, scores the applications as 'High', 'Medium' or 'Low' against how clearly the projects meet 3 key criteria:

1. Initiative, resourcefulness and benefit to the community
2. Evidence of local support and support from their District Councillor
3. Sustainability, ie how the project will continue beyond the 1 year period of Mi community funding.

Applicants successful at Stage 1 are invited to proceed to Stage 2 and submit a detailed project plan. Following feedback from Round 1 the Working Group decided to reduce the number of bids proceeding to Stage 2 to order to limit the number of people who will not be successful, despite having put a lot of work into their projects to produce a project plan. For example, in the current Round 3 bids proceeding to Stage 2 total £178,651 against an amount available of £127,000

It is emphasised to applicants how competitive the process is due to the number of projects put forward and the money available. It is further explained that endorsement by their District Councillor does not guarantee success.

The Panel ensure that the judging process is applied equally and fairly to all applicants but have a difficult job to do prioritising the bids and, inevitably, some good projects are eliminated at Stage 1. This has particularly been the case in the current Round of Mi community where the quality of bids submitted has been extremely high.

At Stage 2 a more detailed and rigorous point scoring process is implemented by the Panel in assessing information that applicants have provided in their Project Plan.

3. Applications Converted to Successful Projects

Mi community	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3*
Total Value of Applications Submitted	£613,065	£456,430	£533,948
Total No of Applications Received	62	37	42
Total No of Applications Rejected at Stage 1	45	22	31
Total Value of Applications Proceeding to Stage 2	£263,505	£197,876	£178,651
Total No of Applications Rejected at Stage 2	8	4	*
Total No of Successful Applications	9	11	*
Total value of Successful Applications	£118,723	£129,234	*

All the Mi community Rounds have been oversubscribed in terms of value of bids submitted but this is not unique to Mi community, rather it is also the experience of other funders.

*Round 3 currently in progress therefore figures not available until 31st March 2014

4. Advice and Feedback For Applicants

Stage 1

Prior to applying to Mi community applicants can contact officers to outline their project and to receive advice on whether or not it is likely to be within the Mi community criteria. Applicants can then decide whether or not to proceed. This process, introduced after feedback from Round 1, has helped to reduce the number of inappropriate applications received.

Applicants rejected at Stage 1 receive a letter explaining which of the key criteria their application did not score as highly on as those of other applicants. If they are voluntary organisations, they are advised to contact Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency (BDVSA) for help in seeking other sources of funding. BDVSA is funded by the Council to provide such support and advice to the voluntary sector. Parish Council applicants, who are not voluntary organisations and therefore do not receive advice from BDVSA, are sent an information sheet about other sources of funding available to them or other appropriate funders may be suggested.

Stage 2

Applicants proceeding to Stage 2 are invited to attend a one to one session with officers to receive feedback on their application and advice on preparing their project plans. Feedback from applicants is very positive with them all stating that this practical help and advice is greatly appreciated and of considerable help in completing their Project Plans.

5. Way Forward

As outlined in this Report, Round 4 of Mi community will open in September 2014. No further funding is currently available for Mi community in the 2015/16 financial year and onwards. Initial discussions are currently underway with Essex Community Foundation on how we can work with them in the future to provide financial support to local organisations. A Report on this will be taken to a future meeting of the Mi community Member Working Group.

APPENDIX 1

Mi community – Round 1 Successful Applicants

Preserving and encouraging local children and adults to develop an interest in our natural surroundings by offering environmental and educational activities for the community at Molly's Wood, Sible Hedingham	Friends of Molly's Wood	£18,990
Conversion of a gardener's lodge into a café to attract visitors to Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens	Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens Trust	£20,750
Providing an accessible salt spreader available for Helions Bumpstead and other parts of the District, to improve road safety	Helions Bumpstead Parish Council	£2,600
Setting up a new charity outlet offering employment and training for disadvantaged young people in Braintree	PARC	£15,000
Conversion of a local community hall in Witham to cater for recreational, family, and company events	Glebe Hall Community Hall Management Committee	£10,000
Supporting Braintree Open Talent project to challenge the unrealised talent of local young people into regular showcase events that they organise, manage and present	Braintree Foyer	£18,483
Converting an infant school's land in Witham to enable their children to learn about growing flowers and vegetables	Witham Forum for the Environment	£4,900
Equipping volunteers to help the police to reduce speeding vehicles in the Bocking area	Braintree & Bocking Community Speed Watch	£3,000
Conversion of the village hall in White Colne into a more attractive community space for local people and hirers	White Colne 50 Club	£25,000
Total Mi community Investment Round 1		£118,723

Mi community – Round 2 Successful Projects

Training for volunteers to become club coaches	Braintree & Bocking Swimming Club	£10,000
Providing an eco-toilet to enable the local church to be used for community events and meetings in Little Maplestead	Little Maplestead Parish Council	£21,000
Creating a nature reserve to protect and enhance the existing natural environment at Oak Meadow in Rayne	Rayne Parish Council	£11,626
Providing an all-weather shelter and information point for villagers and visitors to a park and play area in Sturmer	Sturmer Parish Council	£15,000
Developing a family friendly Wildlife Picnic Area in Witham	Greener Silver End	£9,258
Providing an efficient heating system for users and visitors to Halstead Town Football Club	Halstead Town Football Club	£4,900
Delivering free life-skill training courses for 15-19 year olds including those unable to access the usual routes of training	St John Ambulance	£10,000
Equipping a new weekly support group for new mums and babies	Great Notley National Childbirth Trust	£5,000
Improving facilities for the local community in Alphamstone by extending and updating the village hall	Alphamstone Village Hall Committee	£25,000
Training and equipping volunteers to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment through maintenance of grass verges and village playing field footpaths in Great Maplestead	Great Maplestead Parish Council	£2,200
Building a new pavilion in Colne Engaine for both sports and community use.	Colne Engaine Football Club	£15,250
Total Mi community Investment Round 2		£197,876

