

# Council AGENDA

**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.15 pm**

This meeting will be held via Zoom and will be available to view as a live broadcast by the Council's YouTube channel – Braintree District Council Committees.

## **NOTICE:**

This meeting of Full Council is a non-decision making meeting. The meeting of Full Council is being called to enable Councillors to discuss the matters listed on the Agenda. No decisions will be taken by Councillors. Where necessary, decisions following this meeting will be taken by Officers in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Members of the public will be able to view and listen to this meeting via YouTube. To access the meeting please use the link below: <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

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

### **Membership:-**

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

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

A WRIGHT  
Chief Executive

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBER – DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

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

### Public Question Time – Registration and Speaking:

In response to the Coronavirus the Council has implemented procedures for Public Question Time for its virtual meetings which are hosted via Zoom.

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes for Public Question Time.

Participation will be via the submission of a written question or statement which will be read out by an Officer or the Registered Speaker during the meeting. All written questions or statements should be concise and should be able to be read **within 3 minutes** allotted for each question/statement.

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

The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register for Public Question Time if they are received after the registration deadline.

Upon registration members of the public may indicate whether they wish to read their question/statement or to request an Officer to read their question/statement on their behalf during the virtual meeting. Members of the public who wish to read their question/statement will be provided with a link to attend the meeting to participate at the appropriate part of the Agenda.

All registered speakers are required to submit their written questions/statements to the Council by no later than 9am on the day of the meeting by emailing them to [governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk). In the event that a registered speaker is unable to connect to the virtual meeting their question/statement will be read by an Officer.

Questions/statements received by the Council will be published on the Council's website. The Council reserves the right to remove any defamatory comment in the submitted questions/statements.

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

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

**Data Processing:** During the meeting the Council will be collecting performance data of participants' connectivity to the meeting. This will be used for reviewing the functionality of Ms Teams/Zoom and YouTube as the Council's platform for virtual meetings and for monitoring compliance with the legal framework for Council meetings. Anonymised performance data may be shared with third parties.

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

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

	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice where necessary before the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th April 2021 (copy previously circulated).	
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b> (See paragraph above)	
<b>5</b>	<b>To receive any announcements/statements from the Chairman and/or Leader of the Council.</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Braintree Public Realm Project - Public Report</b>	<b>6 - 13</b>
	There is a Confidential Appendix for this report which is exempt from publication of the public agenda in accordance with Paragraph 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The meeting of Full Council will move into private session if Members wish to refer to any information set out within the Confidential Appendix.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Response from Cabinet to the Scrutiny Review into Leisure provision and Access to Sport in the District 2021</b>	<b>14 - 44</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Response from Cabinet to Scrutiny Review into the Childhood Vaccination Programme in the District (2019)</b>	<b>45 - 47</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review into Community Woodlands</b>	<b>48 - 55</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Cabinet Report to Full Council</b>	<b>56 - 66</b>

**11 Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council - 20th September 2021**

Members are requested to note that an Extraordinary meeting of Full Council has been called for Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.15pm. The Agenda will be limited to the following two business items:

- Climate Change Strategy
- The Cycling Strategy

**12 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To agree the exclusion of the public and press for the consideration of any Items for the reasons set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**PRIVATE SESSION**

**13 Braintree Public Realm Project - PRIVATE**

Discussion of the Confidential Appendix to the public report, Braintree Public Realm Project - Agenda Item 6 (pages 6 to 13 of the Agenda)

## Agenda Item: 6

<b>Report Title:</b> Braintree Public Realm Project	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 7 June 2021	<b>For:</b> Noting
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b>
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Tom Cunningham, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Dominic Collins, Corporate Director (Growth)	

### Confidential Appendix

This report has a confidential appendix which is not for publication as it includes exempt information falling within paragraph 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 In 2020 and following extensive consultation, civil engineering works commenced in Braintree Town Centre to deliver a pedestrianised town centre. Following a procurement exercise an initial works contract was awarded to Marlborough Highways Limited (MHL) who successfully delivered enabling works (Lot 1 works) prior to full closure of Market Place, Great Square and the High Street. A second and substantive contract (Lot 2) was then procured, also awarded to MHL, and works began in September 2020. In February 2021, it was decided to deliver the remaining works via a new contractor. The change of contractor has resulted in an increase in the costs of the project.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked:
- To note the update for the Braintree Public Realm Project as set out in this report and Appendix 1;
  - To note the additional budgetary requirement of £382,000 for the completion of the Braintree Public Realm Project, as set out in the Confidential Appendix;
  - To note that under delegated authority as set out in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive, is authorised to approve the additional capital required for the completion of the Braintree Public Realm works, and the proposed decision is set out in the Confidential Appendix.

### **3. Summary of Issues**

- 3.1 On 14 April 2020 Braintree District Council (the Council) commenced the procurement of a contractor to undertake the Braintree Town Centre Public Realm Works (the Works). That process was completed, and on 14 July 2020 Marlborough Highways Ltd (MHL) was awarded the Contract for Lot 2.
- 3.2 Works commenced under Lot 2 on site on 21 September 2020. The Contract for Lot 2 works set out that the completion of the works would be conducted through sectional completion assigned to specific areas of the town centre, with all sections due to be completed by 16 December 2020.
- 3.3 In February 2021 it was decided to complete the remaining works via a new contractor. Accordingly the Council undertook a range of procurement activities to secure the appropriate contractors and following contract awards the works on site are now progressing at pace.
- 3.4 Consequent to the change of contractor there has also been some delay in the Council and its contractors being able to obtain the materials necessary for the completion of the works. As a result this has further delayed the final completion date of the work until August 2021.
- 3.5 As a result of the delay between the original completion date in December 2020 and the end of August 2021 the Council have incurred additional fees. Full details of these additional costs are set out in the Confidential Appendix.

### **4. Options**

- 4.1 The Council received funding from the Department for Transport and Essex County Council for the works being undertaken. A condition of the funding is that the works are completed. Failure could result in the Department of Transport seeking to clawback their funding.
- 4.2 It is crucial that the Council complete the project and support its local businesses in Braintree town centre with the promise of an upgraded public realm, particularly important at a time when the District moves through the steps laid out in the Governments Roadmap to recover from the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 4.3 As a result, do nothing is not the recommended option at this time.

### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 Following Councils consideration of this report, the Chief Executive will consider the discussion that takes place before Council, and under delegated authority, as set out in the Council's Constitution, will determine the additional capital required for the completion of the Braintree Public Realm works. Details of the proposed decision being taken by the Chief Executive is set out in the Confidential Appendix.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Full details of the financial implications arising out of the issues set out in this report are contained within the Confidential Appendix.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising out of the issues within this report.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1 There are no further implications arising from the issues set out in this report.

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

- 9.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when the Council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 9.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 9.3 A full and detailed review of the Equality Impacts of the project was undertaken during the consultation process following Cabinet approval in December 2019. The improvement to the public realm, including removing traffic from the town centre, represented a significant improvement overall. The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **10. List of Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix 1. Current project status update (pages 9 to 13)
- 10.2 Appendix 2. Confidential Appendix

## **11. Background Papers**

- 11.1 [Cabinet meeting 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019](#): Pedestrianisation of Braintree Town Centre: Consultation Report and Feasibility Studies



## Agenda Item: 6

<b>Report Title:</b> Braintree Public Realm Project	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 7 June 2021	<b>For:</b> Noting
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b>
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Cllr Tom Cunningham, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Dominic Collins, Corporate Director of Growth	

The High Street









**New Street**



### Corner House / Tesco



### Lower High / St Michaels Fountain





## St Michael's Lane



<b>Report Title:</b> Response from Cabinet to the Scrutiny Review into Leisure provision and Access to Sport in the District 2021.	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<b>For:</b> Noting.
<b>Key Decision:</b> No.	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> DP/2021/9
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Peter Tattersley, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Joby Humm, Leisure, Health and Heritage Manager. E-mail: <a href="mailto:joby.humm@braintree.gov.uk">joby.humm@braintree.gov.uk</a>	

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

- 1.1 The Partnership Development Group, now known as the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee, completed a Scrutiny Review into Leisure Provision and Access to Sport in the District. This was considered by the Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, before being formally received by the Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. In line with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet are required to report their response to the recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Review back to Council.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing has considered these recommendations in the context of the work being delivered on the Livewell Strategy 2019 (Appendix 1) and Be-well Strategy 2018-2021 (Appendix 2) and has provided a response to each of the recommendations put forward by the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee; these are set out in Appendix 3.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the Cabinet responses to the recommendations contained within the Scrutiny Review into Leisure Provision and Access to Sport in the District, as set out in this report.

## **3. Summary of Issues**

- 3.1 The Cabinet wishes to thank the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee for its comprehensive report on the Review into Leisure Provision and Access to Sport in the District and notes the recommendations made by the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.2 Cabinet also wish to thank those local sports clubs, Parish Councils, and sport and physical activity organisations, Council officers, and other stakeholders who provided evidence to the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee, whether that be meeting directly with Members, presenting to the committee or responding to the survey that was sent out.
- 3.3 Responses to the recommendations put forward by the Scrutiny Review are set out in the Appendix 3 below in the order in which they were presented within the original report.
- 3.4 In support of the responses, an Action Plan has been prepared, and is included in Appendix 4, and sets out how the responses to the recommendations given by the Scrutiny Review will be delivered.
- 3.5 The recommendations set out in this report will help the Council to deliver the following Corporate Objectives:
- A sustainable environment and a great place to live, work and play;
  - Residents live well in healthy and resilient communities where residents feel supported.

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1 All options have been considered as part of the Cabinet Member's consideration to the recommendations.

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

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

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

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising out of the recommendations within this report.

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

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

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

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

- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 8.3 The Equality Impact Assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.
- 8.4 Officers will carry out an Equality Impact Assessment on any individual projects or actions as deemed necessary from this report.

## **10. List of Appendices**

- a. The Livewell Strategy 2019 (Appendix 1);
- b. The Be-well Strategy 2018-2021 (Appendix 2);
- c. Cabinet responses (Appendix 3); and
- d. Action Plan (Appendix 4).

## **11. Background Papers**

- a. [Partnership Development Group - Scrutiny Review into Leisure Provision and Access to Sport](#)
- b. [Cabinet Report – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021](#)



The Braintree District

# livewell strategy

2019-2023

[www.livewellcampaign.co.uk](http://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk)

# THIS IS OUR VISION

The Braintree District to be a place with the highest standards of health and wellbeing that prioritises prevention, innovation and new ways of working to meet growing health needs of our residents.

## **We will have a district where;**

- ♥ the physical environment in which our residents live, will improve their health and wellbeing;
- ♥ children grow up to reach their full potential;
- ♥ older people feel valued and supported in their local communities;
- ♥ people can expect to enjoy good health and social care, whatever their social or economic circumstances

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# INTRODUCTION

This is the Braintree District's Health & Wellbeing Panel's Public Health Strategy 2019 2023.

The Braintree Health and Wellbeing Panel provides a Districtwide approach to improving local health and social care, public health and community services so that our residents experience a more 'joined up' health care. The Panel brings together and aligns key health & wellbeing partners' their priorities, targets and activities within one joined up approach for improving the health and wellbeing of residents within the Braintree District.

As part of the Panel's work it has developed a Health and Wellbeing Programme under the "Livewell" banner. There are six strategic themes that guide the work of the Panel and its partners therefore this strategy focuses on priorities based around these themes and is therefore referred to as the Braintree Districts Livewell Strategy.

This Strategy is an overarching document for the next four years. The Braintree Health and Wellbeing Panel realises that the delivery of improved health and wellbeing needs to be carried out by a range of organisations working in partnership. Therefore, the Strategy seeks to create a framework that will ensure that the various partners work effectively towards a common vision and goals.

# KEY PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES FACING THE DISTRICT

The purpose of this strategy is to identify what the Braintree Health and Wellbeing Panel considers as the key Public Health challenges and what will be the key objectives for the Panel and what outcomes are intended to be achieved.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the Braintree District (JSNA) is produced by “Essex Insight”. It provides a comprehensive picture of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the District’s population. The JSNA shows that health and wellbeing statistics for the Braintree District are generally better than the national average but there are still areas that are of concern and need to be addressed:

## Key health & wellbeing challenges posed by our local population;

- ♥ An ageing population.
- ♥ Increasing obesity rates.
- ♥ A number of high risk groups with preventable health conditions
- ♥ Increasing in number of adults in substance misuse treatment.
- ♥ Increasing rate of diabetes.
- ♥ Third worst rate of hospital admissions due to hip fractures in the county.
- ♥ Increasing number of people with dementia.
- ♥ Average levels of child poverty, but some pockets of high deprivation.
- ♥ Low percentage of school children achieving a good level of development at age 5, including those eligible for free school meals.
- ♥ Second highest proportion of persistent secondary absenteeism in the County.

Slightly higher levels of employment in the county.

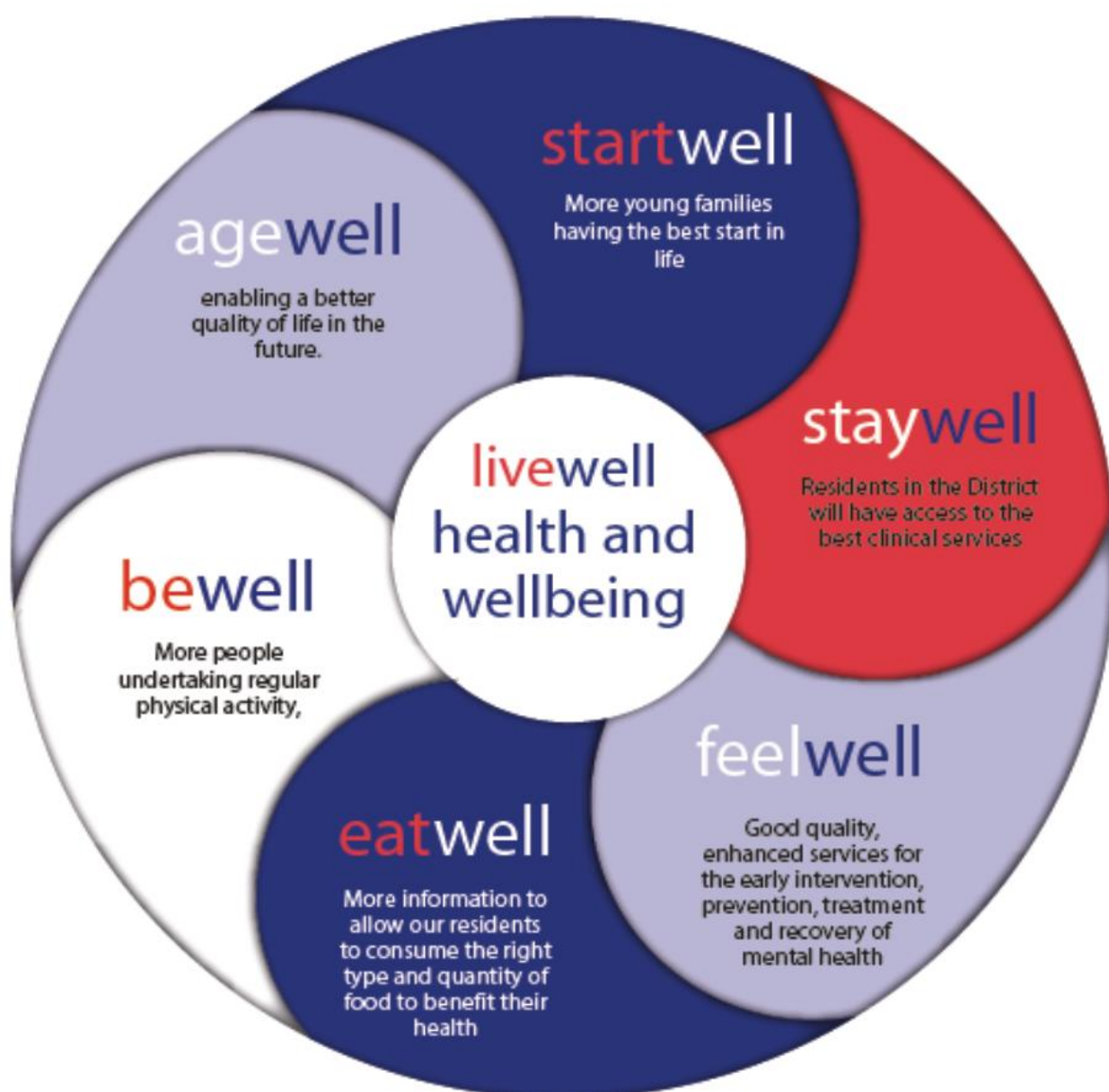
An average percentage of adults who are inactive.



# KEY LIVEWELL OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES 2019 2023

The outcomes and objectives for this strategy have been identified through the six themes of the Livewell Campaign. The objectives contribute to the ambitions shared by Braintree District Health & Wellbeing Panel member organisations where they feel a significant impact can be made to improve health & wellbeing by creating the right conditions to change lives of individuals and communities in the District. The outcomes are areas of priorities for action.

The Panel have therefore set key objective's under each of the Livewell themes:







## Startwell

What happens in pregnancy and early childhood impacts on physical and emotional health all the way through to adulthood. Supporting good maternal health is important for safe delivery and good birth weight to give babies the best start. During the first 2 years of life the brain displays a remarkable capacity to absorb information and adapt to its surroundings therefore positive early experience is therefore vital to ensure children are ready to learn, ready for school and have good life chances.

**Objective:** There are issues in the Braintree district which are relating to poor childhood development, therefore the Panel will endeavour to help young families in the District have the best start in life.

**Outcome:** *More young families having the best start in life*



## Bewell

Around one in two women and a third of men in England are damaging their health through a lack of physical activity. This is unsustainable and costing the UK an estimated £7.4bn a year. If current trends continue, the increasing costs of health and social care will destabilise public services and take a toll on quality of life for individuals and communities. Over one in four women and one in five men do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week. Nationally physical inactivity is the fourth largest cause of disease and disability in the UK

**Objective:** Tackling physical inactivity is critical to delivering many of the Livewell priorities (eg, dementia, obesity and giving every child the best start in life) therefore the panel will encourage residents to be more physically active by providing a whole range of existing and new opportunities to undertake regular physical activity

**Outcome:** *More people undertaking regular physical activity, which will in turn produce longer term health benefits*



## Staywell

Our ability to stay well throughout life is partly determined by our lifestyle choices. By maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding smoking and limiting alcohol consumption we can all improve our health and reduce our risk of disease.

**Objective:** There are times when we all need clinical services and the Panel recognises that there are areas of improvement that are needed, so the Panel will work together with the community and professionals to ensure we improve our local clinical services.

**Outcome:** *Residents in the District will have access to the best clinical services when they fall ill.*



## Eatwell

Healthy eating means consuming the right type and quantity of food from all food groups in order to lead a healthy life. Most people in eat and drink too many calories, too much fat, sugar and salt, and not enough fruit, vegetables, oily fish or fibre.

To have a healthy, balanced diet, people should try to eat 5 A Day base meals on starchy foods like potatoes, bread, rice or pasta have some dairy or dairy alternatives (such as soya drinks) eat some beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other protein. Choose unsaturated oils and spreads, eaten in small amounts drink plenty of fluids

**Objective:** Therefore the Panel will work to raise awareness across the District about healthier eating.

**Outcome:** *Residents have access to the best information to allow them to consume the right type and quantity of food to benefit their health.*



## Feelwell

Emotional Wellbeing, why it's important? Good mental health and wellbeing are

fundamental to our physical health, our relationships, our education, our training, our work and to achieving our potential. The benefits of positive mental health and well-being are wide ranging and significant both for individuals and for society as a whole. Positive mental health is associated with an increase in life expectancy, improved quality of life, improved physical outcomes, improved education attainment, increased economic participation, and positive social relationships.

**Objective:** There are times when we all need clinical services and the Panel recognises that there are areas of improvement that are needed, so the Panel will work together with the community and professionals to ensure we improve our local clinical services.

**Outcome:** *The district will have good quality, enhanced services for the early prevention, treatment and recovery of mental health problems across all ages*



## Agewell

Allow our older residents to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. Live healthily and happily

for longer and we want everyone to live as independently as possible but, when needed, to get joined up care with the best outcome. The population in the Braintree District is growing at a higher rate than the national average; that our population is ageing and more people have long-term illness.

**Objective:** That's why we need to continue working with our partners and providers across health, social care, housing and the voluntary sector to support people when they need it the most.

**Outcome:** *Our aging population have more opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing enabling a better quality of life in the future.*

**Reduce the number of elderly population whop feel socially isolated and alone.**

### SUMMARY:

#### Key Livewell Objectives

##### Key Outcome (1)

More young families having the best start in life

##### Key Outcome (2)

More people undertaking regular physical activity, which will in turn produce longer term health benefits.

##### Key Outcome (3)

Residents in the District will have access to the best clinical services when they fall ill.

##### Key Outcome (4)

Residents have access to the best information to allow them to consume the right type and quantity of food to benefit their health.

##### Key Outcome (5)

The district will have good quality, enhanced services for the early intervention, prevention, treatment and recovery of mental health problems across all ages

##### Key Outcome (6)

Our aging population have more opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing enabling a better quality of life in the future.

##### Key Outcome (7)

Reduce the number of elderly population whop feel socially isolated and alone.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

This strategy identifies the broad priority areas for work over the next four years, based on feedback from stakeholders and how this relates to the wider evidence base. A more detailed action plan will be developed to identify new and existing projects and which partner organisations will lead on the projects.

The annual Livewell Action Plan will be reported to the Braintree District Health & Wellbeing Panel and will be refreshed on an annual basis.

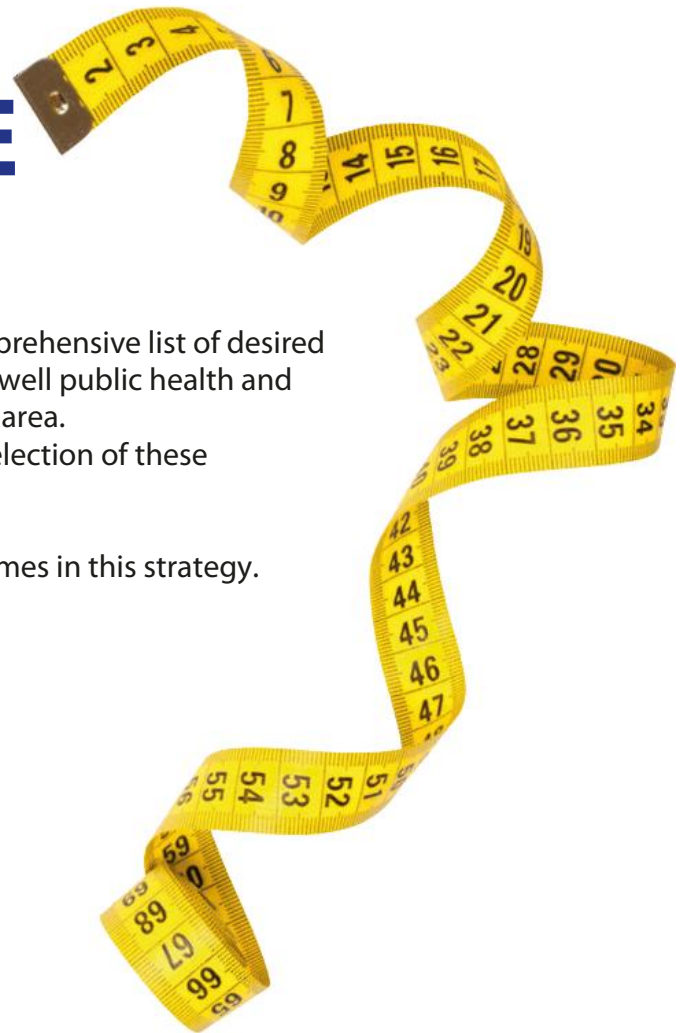
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## HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

The Public Health Outcomes Framework is a comprehensive list of desired outcomes and indicators that help measure how well public health and wellbeing is being improved and protected in an area.

The Health and Wellbeing Panel will focus on a selection of these indicators that:

- (a) require the most improvement and
- (b) will best indicate progress towards the outcomes in this strategy.









# bewell strategy

2018-2021

[www.livewellcampaign.co.uk](http://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk)

Prepared by Braintree District Council





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Everyone benefits from being active for their physical and mental wellbeing, that's why making regular activity part of our residents daily lives underpins the Bewell Strategy.

Active Essex has set a target to get 1 million Essex residents active by 2021, in the Braintree District If we want to contribute towards this target we need to encourage a further 4,624 people into an active lifestyle.

We know that most people (76%) in our district do not participate in enough physical activity to benefit their health and one in five deaths in Braintree's 40-79 year olds are preventable if residents followed the Governments guidelines for physical activity. In our District over half of our adult population (67%) are classed as being overweight or obese and 33% of children leaving junior school will be overweight. Physical activity has an important role to play in the prevention of much of this. Collectively working together with our partners focusing our efforts on the priorities contained in the strategy we can have the greatest impact on our residents health.

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## OUR STRATEGY FOCUSES ON **FOUR** PRIORITIES:

### 1. MOVE



Increase activity –more people in our district being active to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

### 2. COMPETE



Increase sport engagement – develop a high quality sport infrastructure locally to enable individuals and teams to achieve their sporting ambitions.

### 3. PROVIDE & ENABLE



The built and natural environment – we will work to ensure we have the right facilities in the right places now and in the future when our population grows.

### 4 ENGAGE & ACTIVATE



Engage and change behaviour – inspire people to make the change from inactive to active and maintain that change by building physical activity and improving diet into their everyday lifestyle.

**bewell strategy**

## IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT

Adult population

**150,360**

39,695 (26.4%) are  
classed as being inactive



## ACTIVE ESSEX TARGET

Get **1 million** Essex  
Residents active by 2021  
Our part of that target is  
to encourage a further 4,624  
residents to sustain an  
active lifestyle

## GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

**Adults** - 30 minutes of moderate  
physical activity 5 times per week

**Children and young people**

**(5-18 year olds)** - 1 hour per day

**Under 5's** - minimum 3 hours per day





# MOVE

Increase activity - more people in our district being active and participating in sport to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

## WE WILL:

Work with our partners to increase the number of people taking part in physical activity and sport by:

- ♥ Ensuring that information on sports and activity is easy to find and promoted
- ♥ Promote the use of green open space and seek opportunities to run events to increase participation
- ♥ Helping all school aged children in our district enjoy a hours physical activity every day
- ♥ Provide a multi partner Livewell website to hold information on all that is available locally to improve health and wellbeing

## TO:

- ♥ Increase activity levels amongst our residents
- ♥ More people use our green open space for exercise and leisure activity improving their health and wellbeing
- ♥ Increase the number of children taking part in an hours activity a day
- ♥ Support the local health system by reducing the number of people suffering from ill health associated with inactivity





# COMPETE

Increase sport engagement – develop a quality sport infrastructure locally to enable individuals and teams to achieve their sporting ambitions.

## WE WILL:

- ♥ Ensure pathways exist to identify and nurture talented athletes, coaches and officials
- ♥ Encourage, support and reward volunteers
- ♥ Create an environment that supports the development and sustainable growth of clubs and groups who provide physical activity and sport opportunities

## TO:

- ♥ Enable athletes, coaches and officials to achieve their sporting goals
- ♥ Ensure volunteers feel valued and continue to play a vital role in delivering sport and activities in the local community
- ♥ Ensure clubs and groups continue to provide sporting opportunities and the district is home to a diverse range of sport and physical activity based programmes.



# PROVIDE & ENABLE

The built and natural environment - we will work to ensure we have the right facilities in the right places now and in the future when our population grows.

## WE WILL:

- ♥ Deliver facility provision in our District through innovative, strong, long term partnerships with providers
- ♥ Facilitate diverse and affordable activities for underrepresented groups
- ♥ Secure funding to provide a diverse and appealing range of local and affordable sporting and physical activity opportunities are available

## TO:

- ♥ Ensure residents have access to facilities to encourage more participation in physical activity and sport.
- ♥ Ensure more people use the facilities on offer to improve their health and wellbeing





# ENGAGE & ACTIVATE

Engage and change behaviour - inspire people to make the change from inactive to active and maintain that change by building physical activity into their everyday lifestyle.

## WE WILL:

- ♥ Promote the benefits of being active and encourage people and families to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing by leading active lifestyles
- ♥ Break down barriers or resistance to physical activity
- ♥ Educate in the positive effects of physical activity to improve health and wellbeing
- ♥ Run 'behaviour change' campaigns linked to increasing activity

## TO:

- ♥ Influence positive behaviour change which leads to activity becoming part of residents everyday lives
- ♥ Residents are easily able to access information and act on the advice provided
- ♥ More informed residents who take responsibility for their own health & wellbeing

# FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT



**18**  
SWIMMING POOLS



**11**  
ARTIFICIAL PITCHES



**26**  
TENNIS  
COURTS



**214**  
GRASS  
PITCHES



**27**  
SPORTS HALLS

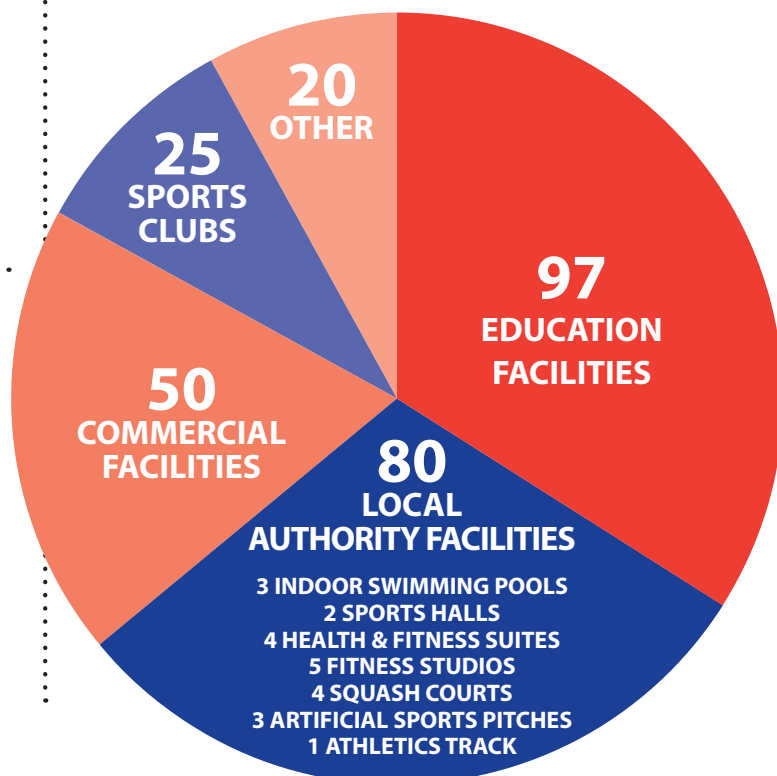


**31**  
PARKS AND  
OPEN SPACES



**20**  
PLAY AREAS/  
YOUTH  
FACILITIES

## FACILITY OWNERSHIP:



# HOW WE WILL DELIVER THE STRATEGY

The Bewell Strategy is a four year plan which will be delivered together with our partners: Active Braintree, Active Essex, MECCG, Essex County Council Public Health & Education and Fusion Lifestyle, through the production and implementation of an annual action plan. Responsibility for shaping the strategy, delivering its objectives and monitoring its impact will rest with a steering group made up of the Braintree District Health & Wellbeing Panel. Annual delivery plans will be produced each year and these will also be monitored by the steering group.

A further review of this strategy will take place in 2019/20 for the next 4 year period 2021/25.

## MEASURING SUCCESS

### BY 2021 WE WILL:

- ♥ Achieve at least 2.5% increase in adults being active for 150 minutes per week  
Baseline 57% - Target 60.5 %
- ♥ Achieve at least 3.1% decrease in adults not being active for at least 30 minutes per week  
Baseline 26.4% Target 23.3%  
This roughly equates to 4,624 more residents taking part in sport or physical activity for 30 minutes per month.
- ♥ Increase the number of children and young people who take part in physical activity for more than 1 hour per day by 5%  
Baseline 28% Target 33%
- ♥ Increase the number of children under 5 who exercise 5 times or more per week  
Baseline 37% Target 42%

2018 - 2021





## Appendix 3 – Cabinet Response

	Cabinet Response
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b></p> <p>The Council should review its planning policy with regard to planning permissions in order to address the issues regarding land usage and, in turn, allow more sites to be utilised accordingly for leisure facilities.</p>	<p>From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, the Government announced a new commercial use class E. Shops, cafes, offices, industrial processes, nurseries and indoor sports and leisure are all now included within this single use class. Change of use within the E category does not need planning permission, although building work, signage or changes to the external appearance of the building may still need to apply for permission. Therefore this allows sports provision in commercial premises.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b></p> <p>The Council should review why only 12 of 53 of the District's schools participate in the 'Daily Mile' and to ascertain if there are difficulties around achieving it in each school and to encourage as many as possible to participate.</p>	<p>Since the publication of the report, the Braintree District now has 29 of its 53 Primary schools (55%) engaging with the Daily Mile or similar projects such as the Golden Mile.</p> <p>Essex County Council (ECC) now have a dedicated post who is directly responsible for delivery of the Daily Mile activities in schools.</p> <p>The Daily Mile Local Coordinator is an 18-month role funded (£100,000) by Sport England in partnership with The Daily Mile Foundation to work with Active Essex and 10 other Active Partnerships in Essex to increase participation and registration of The Daily Mile. The target being all Primary Schools in Essex will have signed up to the Daily Mile in the next 18 months. More information can be found on this dedicated website:  <a href="https://www.activeessex.org/the-daily-mile/">https://www.activeessex.org/the-daily-mile/</a></p> <p>The Council are not able to require schools to participate in the Daily Mile project; however, the Livewell Child Officer will support and encourage this locally across all the Infant and Primary schools in the district and identify any local issues with delivery, supporting the role of the DMLC Officer at ECC.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b></p> <p>The Council should collect data pertaining to the various walking groups across the District, and that the information be distributed to the Parish and Town Councils for their reference.</p>	<p>Community 360 were commissioned by the Active Braintree Foundation in early 2020 working in collaboration with Braintree District Council to establish <i>Green Prescribing</i> activities in the District. The joint aim being to increase participation in physical activity by engaging with 'physically inactive' people (those that undertake less than thirty minutes of exercise per week) and those who may have long-term health conditions to participate in organised walking activities.</p>

Through this project C360 have collaborated with three GP practices in the Braintree District: the Freshwell Surgery, Finchingfield; Fern House Surgery, Witham; and Coggeshall Surgery, Coggeshall.

Below are some of the outcomes:

- Delivered 45 walking activities in total across Witham, Coggeshall, Shalford and Finchingfield from October until the December Lockdown.
- The total number of walkers involved in all walks during this time was 224.
- On average, each walk lasts at least 45 minutes and anywhere up to or over 60 minutes.
- Unfortunately, the walks were stopped in December due to increased restrictions. However, other forms of support such as welfare calls and online walks took their place.
- Through the Green Prescribing activity we have recruited 4 new volunteers to support walking activities, 2 of which have undertaken Walk Motivator Training, 43 individuals in total have now completed the Walk Motivator training.
- At Shalford, the walk was started by volunteers who came to the original Finchingfield walk and wanted to start one in their village. This was run by local people until COVID restrictions changed.
- By supporting the overall health and wellbeing of individuals on the walks, it is likely the project is reducing the number of GP appointments made, which on average cost £130 per hour. Taking into account the benefits to individual long term health in terms of weight, mobility and reducing the risks of acute conditions such as diabetes and stroke, savings of £51,673 could also be applied.
- There has been significant partnership development with GP practices and staff, building working relationships with GPs, nursing staff, Occupational Therapists and social prescribers who have continued to sign post to the online walks whilst walks have not been able to take place in person.

The plan will be to deliver even more walks across the District and to link up further with other walk providers such as Healthy Walks and Walking for wellbeing to have a holistic offer across the district for walking activity on offer.

<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b></p> <p>The Council identifies and collates possible funding streams in the District that could support leisure and sports provision; this information should then be circulated to Parish and Town Councils, as well as local sports clubs and groups.</p>	<p>The Council works with the Active Braintree Foundation to provide a link between the external funding opportunities promoted by Active Essex. These are then filtered appropriately and disseminated to our local clubs and health and activity minded organizations to deliver appropriate sports, physical activity and health and wellbeing projects. More details can be found at:</p> <p><a href="https://sportsuite.activeessex.org/funding">https://sportsuite.activeessex.org/funding</a></p> <p>The Council itself has also now recruited a Be-Well Development Officer on a 2 year fixed post who is currently engaging with sports clubs in the District to identify funding needs as they return to participation following the Covid pandemic. Locally, Active Braintree Foundation has a grant scheme open at present. There are also Councillor Community grants which continue to be promoted.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b></p> <p>The Community Assets Survey carried out by the Community Services Team, or a similar survey, should become a regular exercise for Members to undertake (suggest annually) and that the results are regularly forwarded to the Parish and Town Councils to be shared with residents and thus help them to identify what sport and leisure provision is available in their local area.</p>	<p>Council Ward Members worked to engage parishes to complete the Community Asset Survey in 2019. We will continue with and build on this work to increase the response rate from Parishes and undertake as a regular exercise.</p> <p>Actions to improve the communication between Parishes and Town Councils are detailed below in the action plan (Appendix 4).</p> <p>The Council, through its Livewell and Be well campaign, promotes the Active Essex activity finder web search engine to all residents via the Livewell website and active Braintree Foundation website. This provides another source of information for people to learn more about activities happening within their communities.</p> <p>Activity Finder Active Essex:  <a href="https://sportsuite.activeessex.org/activity-finder/activities?sort=distance&amp;page=2">https://sportsuite.activeessex.org/activity-finder/activities?sort=distance&amp;page=2</a></p> <p>The action plan identifies ways to promote this information better to Parish and Town Councils moving forward.</p>

<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b></p> <p>The Partnership Development Group recommends that there be some form of partnership working with land owners, pub landlords, café owners, etc. across the District in order to help promote the importance of more informal leisure provision (e.g. off-road cycle and walking paths that connect villages and towns).</p>	<p>The Portfolio Holder is happy to accept this recommendation and agree that more can be done to increase the promotion of informal activity, especially through our hospitality businesses and Tourism partnership.</p> <p>Currently the Council support the “Cake Escape” in partnership with Sustrans and ECC. This programme promotes recreational cycling by linking up with hospitality venues to offer discounts on purchases to those who cycle to them as part of their recreational or active travel rides. Participant businesses are also provided with Cycling Route Maps and puncture repair kits to support cyclists who visit them.</p> <p>As part of our partnership working with Visit Essex, Officers are in discussions to work with a national walks scheme to provide greater walking opportunities and promotion to residents through the Council’s communication channels.</p> <p>Social media is one key channel which can be used and we will also work with businesses in popular activity spots such as the Flitch way and Great Notley Country Park, or those in close proximity to existing popular cycle and walking routes and footpaths to encourage residents to make the best use of our District’s assets.</p> <p>The Draft Cycling Strategy, which is currently in its engagement phase, highlights a number of other actions that are planned to identify further cycling opportunities across the District and how recreational cycling can promote behaviour change to increase the number of people cycling.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 7:</b></p> <p>The Council should gather more information on effective means of communication and inclusion around leisure provision for wider groups of people in the District.</p>	<p><b>Means of communication - adopting a whole system approach to behaviour change</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder accepts this recommendation. There are a number of opportunities, identified through insight from our public health partners, that the Council’s Be well officer can work with to assist with developing communication to harder to reach groups. This includes using behaviour change models piloted by Active Essex on the Local Delivery Pilot in Basildon, Tendering and Colchester. This will also include working with newly identified partners from health, social care, education, transport, voluntary and community, community safety, and with employers to identify hard to reach groups and target specific opportunities to get people involved in more activity as secondary outcome to their health needs.</p>



Following the Sport England strategy “Uniting the Movement” released this Spring, Active Essex are currently in consultation on their Leisure and Health Strategy “Shaping our Future” and then Active Braintree Foundation will follow suit accordingly this Summer with its own locally aligned strategy. This will then feed into the Council’s own business plan process ready for the extended 18 month period from September 2021.

### **Active Rewards referral pilot 2019/2020**

The Active Rewards programme is still live and ongoing in pilot format; it was funded by Active Braintree Foundation. Fusion Lifestyle are funded to load customer rewards cards with credit (£27) per person that are specifically targeted referrals to leisure activities as residents who need to increase their activity or improve their health by selected partners working with these groups.

The three selected partners from our Active Network who trialled this were the Braintree Job Centre (DWP), to boost confidence and self-esteem for job seekers, Our Essex Children and Families wellbeing service (Barnardo’s), to support families on low income, and First Stop, who are a charity that support the most vulnerable and low income residents in our District. The aim is to remove the stigma and barrier that these target groups may have about signing up to membership/use of leisure centres. The rewards card is also flexible so individuals or families can use their credit on what they want to do, swim, class, gym, badminton, table tennis etc. The aim is they will continue use on concessionary rates after their credit has expired.

Now out of lockdown, these schemes are being revisited to ensure these referrals are getting access to the leisure centres again. Post-pandemic referrals are now being set up for cancer rehabilitation patients and cardiac rehab where hospitals are overwhelmed with backdated physio appointments.

Appendix 4 – Action Plan			
Recommendation	Action	When	Who
Rec.1	Investigate with planning policy the opportunity to have Active Braintree Foundation as a consultee on planning applications for sports and Leisure Facilities.	2021-2022	BDC – Leisure & Health Manager BDC - Head of Planning and Economic Development BDC - Planning Policy Officers  Active Braintree Foundation
Rec. 2	The BDC Livewell Child Officer to engage further with the Daily Mile Local Co-ordinator to ensure the Daily Mile project is promoted and endorsed as much as possible by the remaining 45% of Primary schools in the District. Identifying and supporting resolution of barriers to schools engaging in the programme.	July 2021	BDC - Livewell Child Officer  Daily Mile Local Co-ordinator - Active Essex
Rec. 3	To promote the existing walks programme and develop a communications plan so the Council can publish the details including the monthly Parish Council and Health & Wellbeing newsletters.	May/June 2021	BDC - Communications officer  Community 360  BDC - Be-Well Development Officer
Rec. 3	Identify and develop opportunities for new walks and expand the project in 2021 to include individuals with specific health risks and look to engage in light low intensity activity coming out of shielding and lockdowns.	June 2021	Active Braintree Foundation Trustees & Network BDC - Health & Wellbeing - Public Health Officer/Practitioner BDC - Be-Well Development Officer
Rec. 4	Develop a communications plan for promoting funding opportunities to sports clubs and organisations. Increase information resources for clubs to access sport and other funding streams.	Summer 2021	BDC - Be-Well Development Officer Active Essex Active Braintree Foundation

Rec 4.	Promote funding through Active Braintree Foundation website and social media and share with BDC Health & Wellbeing and Parish Council newsletters and communication channels	Summer 2021	BDC Communications Officers BDC - Be-Well Development Officer Active Braintree Foundation
Rec.5	Community services and Leisure, Health and wellbeing to review the Community Asset Survey for 2021-22 to try and capture requirements from rural facilities and conduct a further Community Asset Survey.	Autumn 2021	BDC Community Services BDC - Leisure & Health Manager
Rec. 5	Create stronger links between the Community Asset Survey and the annual Open Space Action Plan.	Ongoing	BDC - Leisure & Health Manager  BDC - Chartered Landscape Architect Officer
Rec. 5	Ensure the Active Essex activity finder is shared through more channels and encourage use by more Parish and Town Councils and clubs.	Summer 2021	BDC - Be-Well Development Officer
Rec. 6	Develop a communications plan from insight gathered from the Cycling strategy engagement in May/June 2021 on existing cycle routes between villages and across the three main towns.	Summer 2021	BDC Communications Officers BDC - Be-Well Development Officer
Rec. 6	National Bike Week 30 <sup>th</sup> May – 5 <sup>th</sup> June, BDC Livewell and Active Network partners will be promoting cycle routes to our residents via our Visit Braintree District social media and website.	June 2021	BDC - Be-Well Development Officer  Active Braintree Foundation
Rec.6	Support the Marks Hall Estate with the development of their Cycle Path Project, which has now received planning permission, and will provide approximately 8.2km of all-weather cycle path linking the communities of Coggeshall and Earls Colne and	2021-22	Visit Braintree Tourism Partnership Group BDC - Tourism Officer

	provide a new recreational activity for visitors to the Estate.		
Rec. 6	<p>Promote schemes to reward activity through hospitality and tourism business' in the District like Cake Escape Project but directed at walking activity and informal play projects like Council's Xplorer orienteering.</p> <p>Get hospitality venues to promote activity and local routes better in their facilities.</p>	Summer 2021	<p>BDC Economic Development Officers</p> <p>BDC - Leisure &amp; Health Manager</p> <p>BDC - Health &amp; Wellbeing Officer</p> <p>BDC - Economic Development</p>
Rec 7.	Continue to engage with network partners to promote the Active Rewards scheme with residents who could be referred including Braintree First Stop, Family Health and Wellbeing service, Braintree Mencap, Sport for Confidence, Job Centre (DWP).	May 2021	<p>Sports &amp; Community Development officer - Fusion Lifestyle</p> <p>Active Braintree Network Partners</p>
Rec. 7	Engage with Mid Essex CCG on the set up of cardiac rehabilitation referrals to the Active Rewards Scheme.	May 2021	Sports & Community Development officer - Fusion Lifestyle
Rec. 7	Engage with Mid Essex CCG on the set up of Cancer rehabilitation referrals to the Active Rewards Scheme.	May 2021	Sports & Community Development officer - Fusion Lifestyle

**Agenda Item: 8**

<b>Report Title:</b> Response from Cabinet to Scrutiny Review into the Childhood Vaccination Programme in the District (2019).	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<b>For:</b> Recommendation.
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> DP/2021/8
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Peter Tattersley, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Lee Crabb, Head of Environment E-mail: <a href="mailto:lee.crabb@braintree.gov.uk">lee.crabb@braintree.gov.uk</a>	

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The Community Development Group, now the Community Development Scrutiny Committee, has completed a Scrutiny Review into the District's childhood vaccination programme. This was considered by the Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. In line with the corporate process, the Council has requested Cabinet to respond to the Committee's recommendations.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Council notes this response from the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

**3. Summary of Issues**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member thanks the Committee for the time and effort put into this Review looking into the effectiveness of the childhood vaccination programme in our District. The Cabinet Member also thanks Essex County Council (ECC) Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities, Dr Mike Gogarty, and the Clinical Leads and Officers of NHS England for their contribution to the evidence gathering sessions of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 It is pleasing to see that the outcome was that there were no issues to address in our District regarding the childhood vaccination programme.
- 3.3 Over the last 18 months, the Covid Epidemic has had its toll on the childhood vaccination programme in our District and it is pleasing that the Council has been able to allow the NHS to catch up on the programme by providing our sports centres and the Town Hall Centre to act as childhood vaccination centres during the second lockdown period.

- 3.4 The Council will continue to support the childhood vaccination programme in our District wherever we are able to and will contribute to any subsequent reviews of this most important Public Health programme.
- 3.5 The recommendations set out in this report will help the Council to deliver the following Corporate Objective:
- Residents live well in healthy and resilient communities where residents feel supported.

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1 There are no options to consider as a result of this report and recommendation.

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

- 5.1 Any lessons learnt from the roll out of the local COVID-19 vaccination programme will be fed back to the relevant Government departments and Council roles will be considered and fed into future policy.

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

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

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

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

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

- 8.1 There are no other risks identified within the recommendations of this report.

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

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

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

**10. List of Appendices**

There are no appendices with this report.

**11. Background Papers**

- a. [Scrutiny Report from the Community Development Group \(now the Community Development Scrutiny Committee\).](#) Report to Full Council
- b. [Cabinet Report – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021](#)



**Agenda Item:9**

<b>Report Title:</b> Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review into Community Woodlands	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<b>For:</b> Decision
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> DP/2021/7
<b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Environment	
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Christopher Paggi, Planning Development Manager E-mail: <a href="mailto:Christopher.paggi@braintree.gov.uk">Christopher.paggi@braintree.gov.uk</a>	

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 In October 2019, the Community Development Group (now the Community Development Scrutiny Committee) began their scrutiny review on Community Woodlands.
- 1.2 At the Community Development Group meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the group made a total of 13 recommendations. This report to Council considers these recommendations and sets out how it is proposed to take these recommendations forward.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council undertakes the recommended actions as set out within the table in section 3 of this report.

**3. Summary of Issues**

- 3.1 In October 2019, the Community Development Group began their scrutiny review on Community Woodlands. As part of their initial review, Members of the Group were required to establish a clear definition of what constituted a community woodland when compared with that of a regular woodland, and from this to undertake research into the background of community woodlands and examples of these within the Braintree District. Members also explored the impacts of woodlands on climate emissions and other ecological benefits, as well as the community benefits of woodlands in the form of a cost/benefit review.
- 3.2 At the Community Development Group meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the group made a total of 13 recommendations.

- 3.3 As set out within the table below, this report to Council considers these recommendations and sets out how it is proposed to take these recommendations forward.

1	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The progress of planting more trees is monitored and measured.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  At present there is no requirement for residents or landowners to report to the local authority when tree planting is undertaken. Whilst planning applications will often include landscaping measures as part of the permission, this is not usually down to an individual number of species planted. It is therefore not considered feasible that all tree planting can be monitored in this way.</p> <p>However it may be possible to measure the number of new trees planted on Council owned land through schemes which are undertaken by the Council. Whilst this would not give a full picture it would provide a snapshot of additional Council owned trees.</p>
2	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council's Tree Strategy (2016) should be updated to include more information about the Council's objectives and aspirations for new community woodlands. A new updated Action Plan could be considered.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  The Landscape Services team will review and produce a new Tree Strategy for the Council by the end of June March 2022 for consideration. The new strategy will cross reference and align with the Council's objectives and aspirations for new community woodlands and will include references to the Council's Climate Change Strategy, particularly the Natural Environment priorities that are identified within the strategy.</p>
3	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council should protect the District's trees, woods and forests and improve our woodland assets. Where possible, the Council should expand woodland cover and possibly create new woodlands, perhaps as part of the Local Plan or close to new large developments where woodlands would help to manage risks such as flooding and improve biodiversity.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  The Council will continue to protect and proactively manage its own tree stock across the District.</p> <p>The Landscape Services team will continue to assess and seek to protect trees where it is expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of individual trees, or trees within a defined area or woodland through making new Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p>

	<p>The Council's Development Management team, in liaison with the Landscape Services team, will continue to seek to protect and safeguard trees and landscape features within new developments and will closely scrutinise any proposed tree removal. Mitigation will be secured for replacement tree planting and planning conditions will be used to ensure existing features are safeguarded during the construction process for new developments.</p> <p>There is at present no budget for the purchase or lease of land for new woodlands not on existing Braintree District Council owned land. Any such project would need approval through the Councils usual processes.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council adopts a long-term view and plants more resilient species appropriate to soil type, and gives consideration to after care and management costs, as employing contractors is expensive.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  The Landscape Services team will continue to carefully scrutinise landscaping proposals in connection with new developments, to ensure appropriate species for new tree planting are selected. Appropriate native species will be encouraged and secured where possible.</p> <p>Planning conditions currently require new landscape features that die or become diseased within 5 years to be replaced. Conditions will be strengthened to ensure landscaping schemes include proposals for appropriate irrigation measures to ensure newly planted specimens are able to establish. The Development Management team will also explore the use of new informatives on planning decisions which encourage the use of biodegradable tree guards and other more sensitive environmental measures, rather than the use of traditional tree ties and tree guards.</p> <p>The Landscape Services team will continue to inspect landscaping schemes on a case by case basis, where issues have been raised following implementation, and alongside the Development Management team and Planning Enforcement team, will seek to ensure replacement specimens are secured when necessary. However, the objective of strengthening planning conditions to include irrigation, seeks to ensure that specimens are able to establish without further intervention.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council should give consideration to the expansion of woodland cover where it would most benefit communities, support and contribute to health and wellbeing, education, the economy and environment.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  Support the aspiration for the expansion of existing woodland cover. However, this is only achievable if suitable land is available and within the Council's control for this purpose. As set out in response to Recommendation 3, there is at present no budget for the purchase or</p>

	lease of land for new woodlands not on existing Braintree District Council owned land. Any such project would need approval through the Councils usual processes.
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council should exercise its right to insist to developers that certain species of tree be planted at development sites with a more robust approach to ensure appropriate trees are planted and maintained (using the Tree Strategy and associated policies) with irrigation in the early years following planting.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  As per '4' above.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>Liaison between the Council and Writtle College about opportunities and collaboration regarding the maintenance of woodlands should continue, and there should also be better support towards Town and Parish Councils and voluntary organisations through the provision of information in relation to the ownership and maintenance of woodlands.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  Existing support for community groups is available from Landscape Services. Further advice on the ownership and maintenance of woodlands is available via the Woodland Trust:  <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/community-woods/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/community-woods/</a></p> <p>It is considered that the signposting to this guidance could be improved on both the Council's website and through the Council's new Tree Strategy to enable Parish and Town Councils and community groups to access this Changes will be made to the website to ensure that the links are clear.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council should identify ways to improve and encourage community involvement with Community Woodlands and raise awareness of their benefits.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  The content of the Council's website will be reviewed and updated to signpost existing external websites, such as the Woodland Trust, which has maps of Community Woodlands and links to enable people to network with local community groups.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council considers the development of a public 'woodlands' website ("public" being all woodlands that were under the ownership of public bodies, including Local Authorities and charities) which local residents could utilise in order to make suggestions on ways that the maintenance of existing woodlands could be improved, or new locations for tree planting.</i></p>

	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>While the aspiration is supported, it is considered that it would be more feasible and successful in the short term to improve signposting to existing websites e.g. the Woodland Trust and/or Essex Wildlife Trust, and existing community groups within the District. The setting up of a new website may replicate features contained within other groups websites and would not be able to be managed within existing resources.</p>
10	<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p><i>The Council explore funding opportunities such as the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, and whether it could submit an expression of interest for this. The Council could also work with partners who have access to funding, such as Dedham Vale AONB.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The Council will continue to explore any funding opportunities that are available including working with partners and related groups, including Essex County Council.</p> <p>The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) opened 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as part of the Government's Nature for Climate Fund, supporting the planting of 44,000 large 'standard' trees over a two-year period: 2021/22 to 2022/23. The application window closes on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</p> <p>The government has indicated that anyone is able to apply for this fund, however it is necessary to meet a number of eligibility criteria: the land include in a UTCf application must fall within an urban area (a built up area of at least 2,000 people); and you need to either have full control over the land or signed consent from those with management control over the land for the duration of the agreement. The fund provides 50% published standard costs for planting and establishment, but the remaining costs must be met through match funding, either money or labour. The fund cannot be used to mitigate impacts of development under a planning consent, or to restock the site with trees.</p> <p>The fund will be brought to the attention of officers working on projects at the moment which may involve funded tree planting on Council land. However, given the eligibility criteria of the scheme including the need to have a 50% match funding it is considered that the Council is unlikely to be in a position to submit a suitable bid within the timeframes outlined. However if further rounds of funding are released then the Council will consider whether a suitable bid can be made.</p>
11	<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p><i>The Council produces a guide for Town and Parish Councils and community groups who wish to set up a community woodland covering.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Existing guidance on community woodlands is available from the Woodland Trust: <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/community-woods/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/community-woods/</a> It is not considered that specific local</p>

	<p>guidance for Braintree District would add anything that is not already covered within this guidance.</p> <p>As with '7' above, it is considered that the signposting to this guidance could be improved on both the Council's website and through the Council's new Tree Strategy to enable Parish and Town Councils and community groups to access this.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council focuses its resources on managing its existing woodland rather than planting additional woodlands; however, it should still try to support groups who wish to set up additional community woodland sites (e.g. Witham Tree Group).</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  Support the recommendation. Assistance where possible will continue to be provided by the Council for community groups who wish to set up additional community woodland sites.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b>  <i>The Council improves residential access to our existing woodland by use of signage and paths.</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b>  The aspiration to improve access for leisure and recreation purposes has to be carefully balanced to ensure that existing woodlands are not prejudiced or damaged as a result either through overuse or through the installation of new paths which could be damaging to their tranquil character and be harmful to existing habitats.</p> <p>Where appropriate, opportunities to improve access should be taken. Opportunities may exist when considering planning applications for new major developments within the District, when considering mitigation required pursuant to Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) and the requirement for the provision/identification of circular walking routes. This could include requirement for the upgrade of existing/provision of new paths, subject to their being no landownership constraints. The Development Management team will continue to work to seek to strengthen existing routes and provide new routes for existing and future residents.</p>

- 3.5 The recommendations set out in this report will help the Council to deliver the following Corporate Objectives:
- Enhancing our environment
  - Supporting our communities
- 3.6 The new Tree Strategy will ensure that the Council's objectives and aspirations for new community woodlands are fully captured and ensures it supports the objectives and aspirations of the Council's Climate Change Strategy, particularly the Natural Environment priorities that are identified



within the strategy. This will assist in meeting the Corporate objective of enhancing our environment, by ensuring that our District is well maintained with high-quality parks and green spaces, and supporting our communities, by helping people to make positive lifestyle choices, increasing their physical and emotional wellbeing.

- 3.7 Improved content on the Council's website and to signpost to external websites such as the Woodland Trust and Essex Wildlife Trust and to existing community groups will ensure that local community groups are better supported and local residents have improved access to information. This will assist in meeting the Corporate objective of supporting our communities, by building on the strengths of our communities and what they can do to support themselves and help each other.

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1 The preferred option as set out in this report is to take the actions which are outlined in section 3 as a response to the recommendations from the overview and scrutiny report. These actions are those which are considered feasible and possible with the existing resources of the team.
- 4.2 An alternative option is to increase the resources of the Landscape Services Team significantly, either through additional staffing or financial support for consultants. This would enable some of the actions set out within this report to be brought forward or for further localised support to be provided to groups.
- 4.3 A further alternative option is not to accept some or all of the recommendations set out within the responses outlined in section 3.

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

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the next steps will include: starting work on the new Tree Strategy; reviewing and updating the content on the Council's website; and undertaking a feasibility exercise to establish whether a bid to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) can be made by the deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

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

- 6.1 The recommendations contained within this report will generate additional resource implications, which have not been budgeted for. The responses to the recommendations outline what can be achieved within existing and proposed resources for the team provided that these are able to be met. (Recruitment is still outstanding on several posts). Any additional recommendations taken forward will need further resources allocated to them.

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

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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

- 8.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

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

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

## **10. List of Appendices**

- 10.1. There are none.

## **11. Background Papers**

- a) [Scrutiny Review into Community Woodlands - Report to Full Council – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.](#)
- b) [Cabinet Report – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.](#)

<b>Report Title:</b> Cabinet Report to Full Council	
<b>Report to:</b> Council	
<b>Date:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<b>For:</b> Noting.
<b>Key Decision:</b> No	<b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> N/A
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council E-mail: <a href="mailto:cllr.gbutland@braintree.gov.uk">cllr.gbutland@braintree.gov.uk</a>	

**1. Introduction**

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

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

**2.1 Collection of Council Tax and Business Rates:**

**As at 31<sup>st</sup> March:**

- Council Tax – 96.65% with £94.645million collected compares to 98% for same period last year. Average amongst Essex authorities for the year was 95.9%
- Business Rates – 95.72% with £25.344million collected, compares to 99.28% for the same period last year.

This performance was achieved without the availability of all Recovery Processes, due to the Courts being unavailable for proceedings for non-payment.

**As at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021:**

- Council Tax – 11.36% with £11.518million collected, this compares to 10.85% for April 2020, 11.66% for 2019 and 11.54% for 2018
- Business Rates – 10.01% with £2.95million collected, this compares to 8.43% for April 2020, 11.39% for 2019 and 11.42% for 2018.

Over the last year, the Revenues Team has had good responses particularly from Council taxpayers who have been sent text and letter reminders.

## **2.2 Local Council Tax Support Hardship Fund**

The amount allocated to Council Tax accounts, £150 per working age claimant in receipt of Local Council Tax Support, totals £847,771 and represents 95% of the allocation received from Government. The balance of funding will be carried forward to the new financial year.

## **2.3 NHS Test and Trace payments**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Benefits Team had received 1,199 applications from residents, who had been told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate for a payment of £500. Of these, 431 applicants received payments totalling £215,500. Whilst, 756 applications were rejected as they did not meet the eligibility criteria for either the standard or discretionary schemes. 12 applications were awaiting further information being submitted before determining their claims.

The eligibility criteria for the Council's discretionary Test and Trace Scheme was broadened recently following a request and financial support from Essex County Council. This is to encourage as many people as possible to self-isolate and to stop the spread of the virus.

## **2.4 Restart Grants**

Currently processing applications for restart grants. The Grant Scheme is effective from 15<sup>th</sup> April and is to provide further support to non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses. Up to 7<sup>th</sup> May, the total value of Restart Grants paid was £6.645m to 912 businesses.

## **2.5 Business Support Grants**

The total value paid to businesses under all of the Business Grant Schemes administered by the Council on behalf of Central Government since March 2020 to 7<sup>th</sup> May is £53.54m with 10,428 payments made.

## **2.6 Customer Services Centre**

The average call answering time for the year was 29 seconds, with 74% of calls answered within 15 seconds. The total number of calls received in March was 10,987, an increase of 2,276 on the previous month, taking the total calls answered for the year to 109,250. The total number of emails was 12,451 with a further 28,186 enquiries via online forms received in the year.

The percentage of calls resolved at first point of contact increased over the year from 64% to 81%.

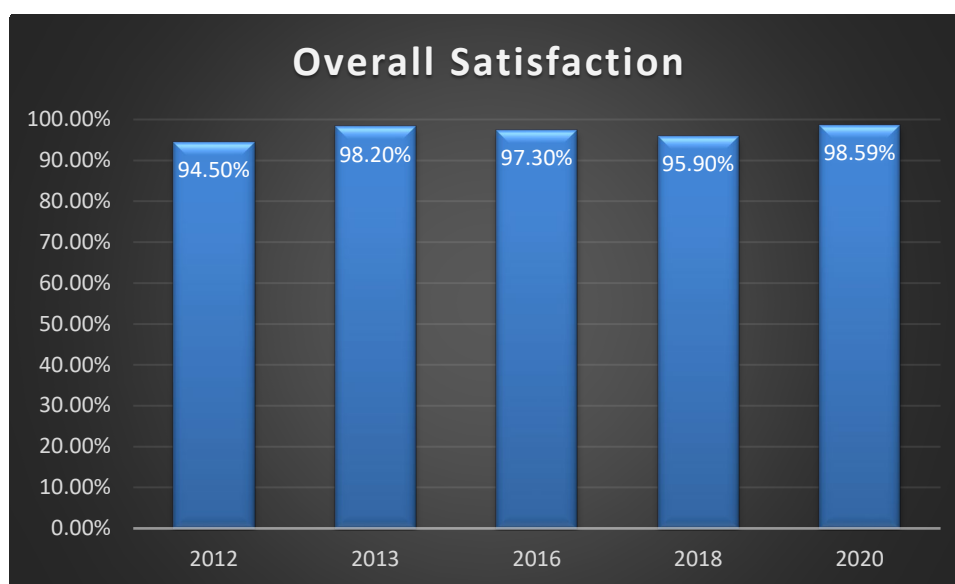
## **2.7 Shared Payroll Service**

Three local authorities joined the shared payroll service from April, for which Braintree is the lead authority. The service is now running payrolls for Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Colchester, Epping Forest and Rochford.

This comprises 17 payrolls, covering around 4,000 staff/ Members, with an additional 1,200-1,500 on election payrolls.

## 2.8 Customer Services Satisfaction Survey 2020/2021

The results of the Customer Services Satisfaction Survey are now published and being used to guide the design of services as we emerge from the Covid-19 restrictions where face to face contact was severely limited. The survey took place from September 2020 to January 2021. In total, 495 customers were surveyed and the overall satisfaction with the service remains positive at 98.59% for 2020/21. The results are slightly higher than any previous results and have improved by 2.69% since 2018.



## 2.9 ICT

The Council has acquired the technology which will allow hybrid meetings to be held from the Council Chamber area. This system will also allow the Council to continue to broadcast its meetings on YouTube via the Council's Channel, and also webcast to the Council's website, giving the public two methods of observing its meetings.

This facility will enable the decision makers and members of the public to be physically present in the Council Chamber, and for other attendees to participate in the meeting remotely. However, this method of participation will only be permissible in certain circumstances and this will be dependent on the agenda to be considered, and the meeting requirements. This is necessary in order to ensure that any decision taken by the relevant Committee are undertaken in accordance with the legislative provisions and stand up to any legal challenge.

The ICT Team and the Governance Team are currently testing the system, and this will be utilised once these have been concluded.

### **3. Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt – Cabinet Member for Environment**

#### **3.1 Climate Change**

The draft Climate Change Strategy was launched on May 10<sup>th</sup> and residents and businesses have been asked to give their views and prioritise actions to help the Council with the help of the community across the district to tackle climate change. This can be accessed from the Council's website [www.braintree.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/climatechange) or via the Council's Social Media channels and paper copies will be available on request via our Customer Service Centre.

All Councillors were sent a social media toolkit and we also re launched our Green Heart of Essex Facebook page.

Shortly an online simulator will be available that enables the user to explore options to make, as far as practical, Council operations and the wider District Carbon Neutral by 2030.

#### **3.2 Recycling**

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has published its consultation on Consistency in household and business recycling in England.

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

#### **4.1 Plan for Growth**

The research and recommendations to inform the revised Plan for Growth is currently out for tender. This is for the procurement of consultant support to a) research the current economic position in the Braintree district and b) provide steps that the District Council can take to support economic growth across 5 years. The Economic Development Team will consequently develop a new Plan for Growth following completion of research and consultation with key stakeholders.

#### **4.2 Town Centres**

Work continues in Braintree Town Centre with resin and paving going in at various points across the town centre, allowing more areas to be opened up as businesses reopen. Work to prepare for works in Witham and Halstead town centre is also progressing with design work being progressed in partnership with the Highways Authority.

The Council has been supporting all businesses to reopen, providing advice and support and free information signs and posters if needed. A communication campaign continues to encourage all local residents to shop locally and safely. This includes supporting businesses through ClickItLocal, a new delivery service for small businesses.



#### **4.3 I-Construct**

The project remains within budget and construction works are progressing well, currently due to complete in July 21. Since the beginning of the project the Haven Gateway Partnership have supported 111 businesses across the South East LEP area.

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

#### **5.1 Domestic Abuse**

The Domestic Abuse Bill passed both Houses of Parliament on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The Council has been working with partners to prepare for the new Act, this includes Essex County Council that are leading on the commissioning of services. This Council has received a revenue grant from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of £32,264 to help support the implementation of the new Act.

The new Act provides that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance alongside a number of other duties for local authorities in relation to Housing and Community Safety. Our teams will need to work with other local authority colleagues to identify the most effective way to implement these new duties.

Enactment of the Act is anticipated for June 2021.

#### **5.2 Affordable Housing**

There were 49 new affordable housing completions in April 2021. This follows on from 220 completions in 2020/21, which exceeded our target. It is encouraging to see that so many new affordable homes were developed during what has been a difficult year, and this will give more of our residents a wider range of housing options. The Council is hoping to enable 250 affordable housing completions in 2021/22, so April's figures give us a good start.

#### **5.3 Victoria Square Development**

Work is continuing to progress well and is now scheduled to complete at the end of November 2021.

Eastlight Community Homes have now entered into contract for the sale of 35 apartments.

#### **5.4 Horizon 120**

The infrastructure works continue to progress and are now scheduled to complete in July 21. Two land sales have been completed and a further 4, totalling approximately 14 acres, are in progress.

CareCo have commenced construction and Kier Construction have commenced work on the Enterprise Centre.

## **5.5 Horizon 120 Enterprise Centre**

Following the tender process, the construction contract has been awarded to Kier Construction Ltd. Kier have mobilised and have established their site compound.

The modern facility will be built to high environmental standards using innovative construction techniques and modern materials. The design of the building means that it will be highly energy efficient when in use.

The project is being paid for in part by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership which has allocated £7 million towards the scheme from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

The enterprise centre will be based at the new Horizon 120 business and innovation park being built off the A131 in Great Notley.

## **5.6 Asset Management**

Despite the impacts of Covid, the Council has been experiencing a good level of demand for its office and industrial start-up units and grow-on units, which are currently fully let.

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

### **6.1 Development Plans**

The Planning Policy Team continue to prepare for the Local Plan section 2 examination which will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The examination website contains all information relating to the examination and is regularly updated <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/section-2-examination-local-plan?documentId=259&categoryId=20010>

Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan has recently undergone a successful referendum and will be presented to full Council for adoption on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021. This will bring our number of adopted Plans in the District to four.

The Salings neighbourhood plan has successfully completed examination, and the referendum date will be announced in due course. Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan is due to start its regulation 16 consultation at the beginning of June.

### **6.2 Five Year Housing Land Supply**

The assessment of 5 year supply of housing land has now been updated to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to take into account homes built over the past year; permissions granted and updated information on expected future development.

Despite the challenge of the pandemic, delivery over the year 2020/21 once more exceeded the target, with 847 new homes being completed in the District. The five year target for identifying sites with a realistic prospect of completions 2021-2026 is 5,352 (1,070 per year), including the buffer. The review has identified a projected supply for decision making of 5,713 homes, which means an identified supply of 5.34 years.

### 6.3 Development Management Performance Statistics

The Development Management team have recently submitted its performance statistics to MHCLG for the last quarter of 2020-21. The tables below summarise the performance by quarter for 2020-21 and over the last 4 years.

#### Performance 2020-21

Indicator	GOV Target for 2019/20	BDC Target for 2019/20	Q1 2020-21	Q2 2020-21	Q3 2020-21	Q4 2020-21
<b>Majors</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>70%</b>	85.71%	77.78%	100%	100%
<b>Minors</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	89.47%	93.27%	79.78%	80.52%
<b>Others</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>85%</b>	93.28%	92.66%	89.72%	90.78%

#### Performance over the last 4 Years

Indicator	GOV Target for 2019/20	BDC Target for 2019/20	End of Year 2017-18%	End of Year 2018-19%	End of Year 2019-20%	End of Year 2020-21%
<b>Majors</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>70%</b>	76.47%	68.85%	83.56%	91.83%
<b>Minors</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	71.99%	53.71%	77.56%	85.93%
<b>Others</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>85%</b>	83.95%	69.99%	85.88%	91.48%

The above performance for Q4 (January to March) means that Development Management have exceeded both the minimum Government Targets (for the fourth successive quarter for 2020-21) and the BDC Targets (for the fourth successive quarter for 2020-21) for all three indicators. The performance statistics demonstrates how Development Management have continued to improve as a Service over the course of the last year.

Cumulatively, it also means that for the End of Year figures the team have met both the Government and BDC targets for 2020-21 and moreover, this represents our best performance for at least four years.

## **6.4 Members Forum**

Following approval of the Council's new Scheme of Delegation in December last year, significant progress has been made in processing and determining the legacy applications, namely those applications which were current planning applications (from 2020 or older) where there was an expectation that they would be determined by the Planning Committee, under the old Scheme of Delegation. Although some preliminary work has been undertaken on the Members Forum proposals, now that the legacy applications have largely been processed, Officers will now be working on the detailed proposals ready for further consultation.

## **6.5 Planning Enforcement**

The Planning Enforcement team have continued to experience a significant volume of enforcement enquiries and the team remains under pressure. One of the full time Members of the team has recently retired and as such some interim cover has been put in place to assist the team with the volume of enquiries. Coupled with this, the team are also dealing with a number of complex enforcement cases where the team are seeking to resolve breaches of planning control. Despite these pressures, any enforcement enquiry that is received by the team, is still being fully investigated and updates are being provided in accordance with the Council's adopted Enforcement Plan. As a reminder, any Member wishing to raise a Planning Enforcement enquiry with the team, must do so using the online form:

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/reporting-planning-breach>

## **7. Councillor Peter Tattersley - Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing**

### **7.1 Halstead Artificial Grass Pitch**

The new Halstead Artificial Grass Pitch works are due to complete in Late May/early June. A working group has been established to organise the opening events after the 21<sup>st</sup> June Covid restrictions have lifted. The new full size pitch will meet FA and FIFA regulations to play affiliated matches and training sessions.

### **7.2 Dementia, Social Isolation and Loneliness**

Lockdown has been particularly difficult for individuals living with dementia and mental illnesses, and their carers, including those with long term symptoms and those who have experienced a more recent impact due to COVID-19.

During National Mental Health Awareness week (10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May) and Dementia Awareness Week (17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May) the Council worked with partners to provide a range of activities, raise awareness and promote services that are available to local residents. In addition, we aim to support partners in delivering holiday activities and daily food parcels for those school children and young people who are receiving free school meals.

Cabinet agreed at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May to designate two Council Members to act as Mental Health Champions in order to provide a clear focal point for mental health related issues with the Council.

### **7.3 Leisure Recovery**

I previously circulated to all Members the financial position with regard to our leisure provider, Fusion. The current position is looking positive and we were successful in our bid for additional financial support from the National Leisure Recovery Fund.

The reopening of the Leisure Centres is progressing well, with none of the communication problems experienced in the first lockdown, and showing an increasing level of demand.

## **8. Councillor Frankie Ricci – Cabinet Member for Communities**

### **8.1 Braintree District Cycling Strategy**

On 10<sup>th</sup> May we launched the engagement for our draft Cycling Strategy, giving everyone the chance to have their say on how we can increase cycling across the District. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to share their thoughts and views. Please tell us what you think here [www.braintree.gov.uk/cyclingstrategy](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/cyclingstrategy)

As restrictions start to ease, officers will also be starting to go out and about in the district to engage with residents and businesses face to face to discuss their views on cycling, climate change community safety and other issues. Dates and times of these sessions will be advertised.

### **8.2 Councillor Community Grants**

Our Grants scheme has now launched for 2021/22. This will enable us to continue to support communities and groups as they recover from COVID, and COVID recovery will continue to be the focus for this fund in the year ahead. If groups would like to apply for the scheme, please speak to your local ward Councillor.

### **8.3 Support our Local Tourist attractions**

From 17<sup>th</sup> May, our indoor tourist attractions will start to open. This will include Braintree District Museum, which will be opening from 18<sup>th</sup> May and we have been working with the Trust to support their remobilisation plans. We all have an opportunity to support our local tourist attractions over the coming months and make the most of all of the things that our amazing district has to offer. To find out more, please go to <https://www.visitbraintreedistrict.co.uk/>

## **9 COVID-19 Update**

### **9.1 Situation update**

The Braintree District average case rate has continued to decline over recent weeks. Thankfully the pressure on local hospitals and the care sector is reducing.

More details and up to date information for Essex can be found here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/latest-covid-19-data-for-essex/covid-19-cases-in-essex-by-district>

The Government have set out their roadmap to recovery setting out points at which restrictions may be lifted. Only with everyone following the national guidance will these steps be reached therefore through our communication channels we continue to encourage everyone to adhere to the current guidance including hands, face, space and fresh air, keeping enclosed spaces well ventilated and to work from home where possible.

### **9.2 Testing**

Everyone without COVID-19 symptoms can now take quick and free lateral flow tests twice a week. These tests deliver faster results (in approx. 30 minutes). Self-test kits can be ordered online or collected from participating libraries, test centres or pharmacies.

The latest details on testing can be found on Essex County Council's website: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19>  
Essex County Council (ECC) has put in place increased testing for small businesses with under 50 employees where they can set up testing provision at their place of work to get regular testing for their staff who are not showing Covid-19 symptoms, including training for staff and test kits. Businesses that fit this criteria and interested in setting up a testing provision at their place of work should visit [essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/workplace-testing](https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/workplace-testing) where they can fill in an online form and a member of ECC staff will get in touch with them.

### **9.3 Vaccinations**

Vaccinations for people aged 38+ are now underway. People aged 38 and over are being encouraged to book their vaccination: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

In the Braintree district, 124,902 people have received their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine (correct as of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021) which is fantastic news.

You can find the latest vaccination information here: <https://eput.nhs.uk/news-events/coronavirus/coronavirus-vaccine/>



## **9.4 Supporting our Communities**

The pilot with the COVID ambassadors, who are helping to keep our public spaces safe has been running since the end of February 2021. Feedback has been positive and the pilot has been successfully supporting the reopening of our High Streets and ensuring COVID compliance, working in partnership with Essex Police.

Our teams continue to support the track and trace programme and compliance management of COVID measures. We have now employed one full time and one part time Covid Compliance Officers to support businesses to comply with the current regulations.

## **9.5 Business support**

£23 million has been issued in grants to businesses since the introduction of restrictions in October. All bar one of the grant schemes are now closed to applications.

We are progressing with the final tranche of payments for the Essex business grants which opened to applications on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

We have approved 126 applications for the Business Adaptation Grant which fully allocates the £138,000 in funding provided by Essex County Council. Payments will be made within the next week and a confirmation email sent to applicants.

We are also processing applications for the third Additional Restrictions Grant. The scheme is oversubscribed and we are currently processing applications in order of receipt on a first come, first served basis. Once the applications are approved and processed, we will have paid another £534,000 to businesses who have had their trade affected by restrictions.

More information on grants can be found on our website.

## **9.6 Organisational Impact**

The organisation continues to be impacted by an increase in demand for COVID support, but officers continue to manage this where possible and mitigate impacts on service delivery.

Councillor Graham Butland  
Leader of the Council