

ACTIONS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to questions raised by members at the meeting of the committee held on 28th January 2020

1. More information on the slippage on Libraries Self Service

Libraries RFID capital budget was recommended to be slipped in order to better align to the work being undertaken as a result of the Future Library Strategy.

Undertaking the work on RFIDs at a point where the Strategy was not agreed would not have been appropriate. We also needed to assess the market which has moved on drastically in terms of self service functionality, to ensure value for money and to ensure we will be buying fit for purpose products that will last.

2. We have previously referred to cuts in respite care, and the use of specialist foster carers – can we have more detail please?

Savings to respite care will be delivered as part of our 'Reinventing services for Children with Disabilities' programme which aims to ensure a range of personalised support for children and families appropriate to their level of need. This covers community based short breaks (clubs and activities) and overnight short breaks for those with assessed social care needs. Savings have been made within community short breaks through recommissioning contracts for an interim period whilst the model for the future service is developed. These options are still in development with an objective to continue targeted support within the community to avert escalation to social care packages wherever possible.

3. More information on the Essex Strategic Employment Space Programme capital scheme

The Essex Employment Space Programme is a strategic overview of employment land availability to consider where we need to intervene in the market to develop appropriate employment space in the right place and of the right type and size. The programme's primary aim is to release growth and improve productivity where the market is not currently delivering and thus a provision has been made in the capital programme for any opportunities.

4. Further information to be provided on the flood management budget, including evaluation of ongoing risks, significant planned projects, and opportunities for Government match-funding.

The Flood Capital programme commenced in 2015/16 and by the end of 2019/20 will have reduced surface water flood risk to over 1,300 residential properties. The current programme has seen over 75 sites investigated for the potential to deliver capital schemes. The knowledge gained from these projects will help to unlock more funding in the future and reduce the risk of surface water

flooding to more residential properties in Essex. By the end of the current programme it is estimated that over £6m of external funding will have been realised towards the delivery of schemes.

It is worth noting that the original ask for the capital programme was to generate 25% of its annual budget from external contributions. At the end of year 5 this will have been exceeded by generating over £6m of funding which equates to 35% of the total 5 year budget

The total capital cost associated with delivering Year 6 (2020/21) of the Flood Prevention programme is £3.5m. This is anticipated to be funded by £1.75m of external grants and £1.750m from ECC. The ECC-led schemes and grant funding projects would result in

- Preventing £21.973m in damages to residential and commercial properties and critical infrastructure (roads, hospitals and care homes).
- Better flood protection for 185 homes in 2020/21 yielding a cost-benefit ratio of 1 to 3.42.

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