



Essex County Council

Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:15	Thursday, 23 June 2022	Council Chamber County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
--------------	-----------------------------------	---

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 34574

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members of the public will be able to view and listen to any items on the agenda unless the Committee has resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting as a result of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

ECC Guest Wifi

For members of the public, you can now access free wifi in County Hall.

- Please log in to 'ECC Guest'
- Follow the instructions on your web browser

Attendance at meetings

Most meetings are held at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. [A map and directions to County Hall can be found on our website.](#)

Access to the meeting and reasonable adjustments

County Hall is accessible via ramped access to the building for people with physical disabilities. The Council Chamber is accessible by lift located on the first and second floors of County Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in most Meeting Rooms. Specialist headsets are available from Reception.

Accessing Documents

If you have a need for documents in, large print, Braille, electronically or in alternative languages and easy read please contact the Democratic Services Officer before the meeting takes place. For further information about how you can access this meeting, contact the Democratic Services Officer.

The agenda is also available on the Essex County Council website, www.essex.gov.uk. From the Home Page, click on 'Running the council', then on 'How decisions are made', then 'council meetings calendar'. Finally, select the relevant committee from the calendar of meetings.

Livestreaming of meetings

In the interests of improving access to the Council's meetings, most meetings will be livestreamed on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#). Recordings of the meetings once they have finished are also available on the Channel.

		Pages
**	Private Pre-Meeting for CPSC Members Only Please note that there will be a private pre-meeting for committee members on Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 4.00pm via Microsoft Teams.	
1	Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	4 - 4
2	Appointment of Vice-Chairman To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Committee	
3	Minutes: 28 April 2022 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022 and consider the matters arising.	5 - 14
4	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. Please note that members of the public wishing to ask a question must email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk by noon on the day before the meeting (Wednesday 22 June 2022) and that questions must relate to an item on the agenda for the meeting.	
5	2021/22 Provisional Outturn Report and Reserves Update (i) 2021/22 Provisional Outturn Report (Part 1) (ii) Reserves Update (Part 2)	15 - 31

6	Call-In of FP/419/05/22 ECC Levelling Up Funding of Active Essex Healthy and Active Lifestyle Projects in Tendring and Basildon	32 - 35
7	Visit to Essex Records Office	36 - 36
8	Work Programme	37 - 41
9	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 July 2022, in County Hall.	
10	Urgent Business To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.	

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

11	Urgent Exempt Business To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.
-----------	---

Agenda item 1

Committee: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The Political groups have reviewed and updated their nominations for various committees including the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee. The following changes have been approved a Full Council on 10 May 2022.

1. Councillor Paul Gadd will no longer serve on the Committee;
2. Councillor Wendy Stamp will be appointed in his place.

CORPORATE POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)

10 Con: 1 Lab: 1 LD: 2 NAG)

Councillor C Pond	Chairman
Councillor T Cunningham	
Councillor J Fleming	
Councillor M Garnett	
Councillor I Henderson	
Councillor S Kane	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor M Mackrory	
Councillor A McQuiggan	
Councillor C Siddall	
Councillor W Stamp	
Councillor M Steptoe	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor A Wiles	

Recommendations:

To note

1. Changes to the substantive Membership as shown on the previous page.
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 10.15am on Thursday, 28 April 2022 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford.

Present:

County Councillors:

C Pond (Chairman)
T Cunningham
J Fleming
P Gadd
S Kane
M Mackrory (Vice Chairman)
A McQuiggan
C Siddall
M Steptoe (Vice Chairman)
M Vance

Chairmen and Vice Chairmen from other scrutiny committees:

A Goggin
R Gooding
C Guglielmi
D Harris (by Zoom link)
P May
C Souter

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer, and Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer, were also present.

The Chairman welcomed Chairmen and Vice Chairmen from the other scrutiny committees who were in attendance. This was in recognition of the cross-cutting nature of the Everyone's Essex agenda item and would be a standing invite for future updates on Everyone's Essex.

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report on Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received and noted.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Wiles.

2. Minutes

The notes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

Matters Arising: It was noted that further information had been received on the actions listed as arising from the briefing session on developer contributions. There was further discussion on this under Agenda Item 7.

4. Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Everyone's Essex

The Committee considered report CPSC/08/2022 comprising.

The Chairman welcomed the following to the meeting to introduce the item and respond to questions:

- Councillor Kevin Bentley, Leader of the Council
- Councillor Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance
- Richard Puleston, Director – Policy
- Suzanne Barcz - Head of Performance and Business Intelligence

The Leader and Deputy Leader provided the first quarterly performance update on the aspirations and targets set in the Everyone's Essex Strategy:

During questioning and discussion, the following was acknowledged, highlighted and/or noted:

- (i) The Strategy was intended to be the building blocks for generational change, facilitate equal opportunity, and some outcomes would not be immediate.
- (ii) Some measures would require work with local partners with working to reduce carbon emissions cited as an example.
- (iii) The Leader had met District Leaders to raise the profile of Everyone's Essex. However, the County Council would need to make sure that it is not viewed as just "a public sector thing" and that there was private sector and community and voluntary sector involvement. The important role of the private sector, in particular, in developing apprenticeship opportunities was highlighted.
- (iv) The Leader stressed that no one should be left behind but that some areas would need more attention. It would not always be about financial support but checking and ensuring that people had equal opportunities and this was reflected in the County Council's own Levelling Up paper which complemented the

national White Paper. There would need to be both a geographical and cohort approach. Some members stressed there could also be practical issues to consider around accessing support.

- (v) Scrutiny had an ongoing role to challenge the consistency of change and improvement across the county and disaggregating analysis down to local community levels where necessary.
- (vi) In rural areas the challenge was not always about household income but broader issues around isolation and connectivity.
- (vii) There was challenge on wider disparities of health and wellbeing (life expectancy, suicides and education for example) and some further information on these (possibly in different formats) would be available at other times in the year (not everything was measured/available quarterly).
- (viii) Mental health was highlighted as a particular challenge with societal rather than just individual factors also impacting on symptoms and outcomes. It was important to look at root causes and measuring the outcomes of some improvement actions would not be tangible straightaway.
- (ix) The issue of poverty was complex. An example of this was that 75% of families in poverty actually had family members in some kind of work. If families were currently being supported on a part-time income for example, then perhaps some of the support to be offered should be around identifying and resolving issues currently preventing full-time work.
- (x) Members highlighted energy poverty, looking at more green energy and to make sure that people were skilled to work in green areas of the local economy.
- (xi) The impact of the Tendring Multi-Disciplinary Team pilot providing a more-rounded approach towards families would be assessed and learning from it applied where appropriate elsewhere.
- (xii) There was challenge on the clarity and transparency of the baselines being used for some measures.
- (xiii) There was a reluctance to put absolute timelines on every target as the future for some issues was currently extremely unpredictable.

Conclusion:

It was agreed that some further clarity and information was to be provided:

- (i) on the availability of some baseline data for the County Council's energy usage.
- (ii) On total household waste to be collected and the percentage sent for recycling as the targets seemed worse than baseline?
- (iii) on the availability of some baseline data for sustainable transport

It was **further agreed** to continue with format of quarterly performance reporting presented to the Committee, recognising that the structure of ongoing scrutiny engagement with the performance reporting for Everyone's Essex may further evolve over time.

The witnesses were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

6. Data Analytics and artificial intelligence

The Committee considered report CPSC/09/22 which.

Richard Puleston, Director – Policy, remained from the previous item. The Chairman also welcomed the following to the meeting to join Mr Puleston and introduce the item and respond to questions:

- Nicola Mallett - Head of Profession Data and Analytics
- Stephen Simpkin - Data Science Fellow

During questioning, the following was acknowledged, highlighted and/or noted:

- (i) It was important to ensure that the County Council had a culture that valued data and viewed it as a strategic asset. Generally, data was welcomed when it reinforced hypotheses but less so when it challenged those hypotheses.
- (ii) Members challenged the combinations of data available and options for different types of presentation of data and the levels of granularity (for example educational attainment).
- (iii) Members sought clarification on the challenges of data sharing between partners. Partnership working was an ongoing part of the operating environment and the County Council wanted to work more with partners and increase the number of data sharing agreements in places for sharing information on different issues. It was important to continue to promote recognition within both the County Council and partner organisations that they had a shared interest in improving local infrastructure.

- (iv) Outcomes were not just about service delivery and for levelling up, for instance, it was more complex and pulling data together was more difficult. Residents did not always recognise local government boundaries when looking for support and the onus was on local government and other partners to make sure data flowed across those boundaries.
- (v) Data analysis can highlight the unexpected (for example rural Braintree had been identified as needing support for levelling up but was not showing up on indices of deprivation).
- (vi) An example case study showed 50,000 households at risk of fuel poverty and a further 60,000 identified as at risk with a 52% rise in the regulated price cap. This analysis had used a definition of fuel poverty as those spending more than 10% of their income on energy who continued their same rates of energy usage. This was still very new analysis and further work was needed to establish outreach to partners and residents to provide more information.
- (vii) Members challenged the availability of published data sets that the County Council held citing, for example, how much energy was used by the County Council. There was a commitment to add more data to the existing data portal where possible and subject to any relevant commercial sensitivities. Members were invited to suggest any particular data that they would like to see published on a regular basis.

Conclusion:

The witnesses were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

7. Developer Contributions

On 31 March 2022 the Committee had hosted a private virtual briefing session on aspects of the process for developer contributions to local infrastructure (with members from the three other scrutiny committees also invited). The Committee considered report CPSC/10/22 which was an overview of the briefing presentation and resulting discussion. Further information had subsequently been provided;

- (i) On how members could get involved in developer contributions and mitigating impacts on development;
- (ii) Clarifying the County Council's role and interactions with the NHS;
- (iii) Clarifying the data held on specific s106 holdings and the status of planned projects.

It was **agreed that:**

- (i) Notwithstanding the provision of the above, further clarity would be sought on the data held for s106 holdings and whether further granularity was possible and further detail could be made available – for example at ward level.
- (ii) Further information be requested on the preparing for, and anticipated impact of the introduction of the national infrastructure levy and what was being done to facilitate such introduction.

7. Work Programme

The Committee received report CPSC/11/22 comprising the current work programme of the Committee which was noted.

It was also highlighted that the Place and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee had hosted a joint session (with Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee members also invited) to look at the draft Economic Renewal Investment Fund/Strategy and members had constructively challenged and supported the proposals. Some further thought would need to be given to scrutiny follow-up and monitoring.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that whilst the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 26 May 2022, a site visit to the Essex Records Office was being arranged which might impact on that date.

[CLERKS NOTE: the formal meeting date of 26 May 2022 was subsequently cancelled to be replaced by a site visit on the 24 May 2022 instead.]

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.25pm

Chairman

Corporate Policy and Scrutiny – Matters Arising as at 23 June 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Status</u>
28 April 2022	Everyone's Essex	Further information and clarity to be provided on the availability of some baseline data for the County Council's energy usage	Further information circulated - completed
		On total household waste to be collected and the percentage sent for recycling as the targets seemed worse than baseline?	Further information circulated - completed
		On the availability of some baseline data for sustainable transport	Further information circulated - completed
31 March 2022	Briefing – s106 and s278 planning contributions	Further information to be provided on how members can get involved in developer contributions and mitigating impacts on development.	Circulated - completed
		Further information to be provided clarifying the County Council's role and interactions with Health and NHS	Circulated - completed
		Further information to be provided clarifying the data held on specific s106 holdings and the status of planned projects	Circulated and clerk to request a further follow-up.
24 February 2022	Levelling Up White Paper	Further information on the A127 Task force to be provided to local members	TBC
27 January 2022		Further information was requested on financing climate commission aspirations and targets and other identified climate change actions.	Email from Stephanie Mitchener (attaching November 2021 Cabinet paper and appendix) circulated 16 February 2022
		Further information was requested on the reprofiling of funding of Local Highways Panels.	Email from Adrian Osborne with extra information circulated 9 February 2022

		Further information was requested on the budget slippage for Active Travel and what it would have been spent on	TBC
		Further clarification was sought on levels and component parts of reserves. It was noted that reserves and provisioning was already an item on the Committee's work programme so this could be picked up when that formal agenda item is scheduled.	On Work Programme – to be scheduled
8 December 2021	2021/22 Financial Overview as at the Half year Stage and Budget Setting Process	To bring more finalised 2022/23 budget proposals to the scheduled Thursday 27 th January 2022 meeting of the Committee (ahead of February Full Council)	Included in January 2022 agenda papers - Completed
		Provide a further progress update on savings being delivered against the targets set in the MTRS. This would be included as part of the third quarter outturn update at the next meeting	Included in January 2022 agenda papers
		Whilst acknowledging that some detail on concurrent savings and one-off savings had been included in the Budget setting agenda papers, this would be further broken-down for the Committee	Included in January 2022 agenda papers
		Further detail to be provided on the reprofiling of expenditure and over-spend in the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport account relating to 3-year delivery programme for Local Highways Panels.	Included in January 2022 agenda papers
		That a future more detailed agenda item on reserves and provisioning be scheduled	Add to Work Programme
		Further detail to be provided about the impact of the proposed CIPFA / Government restrictions on property investments, the level of provisioning required and its impact on the 2022/23 budget.	Included in agenda papers
8 December 2021	Work Programme	Financing the delivery of the Climate Commission report recommendations to be added to Work Programme.	Complete

		Information on the section 106 process and why some monies were not used or reallocated - particularly in relation to Health schemes to be added to Work Programme.	Complete
30 September 2021 (informal)	Ways of Working Programme update (agenda item 4)	The cost of converting meeting rooms	Update requested - this may be scheduled into formal agenda item.
		The advice provided to staff around home working (and in particular security)	Update requested - this may be scheduled into formal agenda item.
		A breakdown of numbers of staff in each of the four workstyles identified by ECC. It was highlighted and acknowledged that this would only be available around January 2022 and this timing may be the opportunity for a follow-up discussion to include how Tranche 2 had worked and latest staff feedback	Update requested – this may be scheduled into formal agenda item.
		Copy of procedure notes on welfare issued to Heads of Department, and line managers and others	Update requested - this may be scheduled into formal agenda item.
		Copy of notes/minutes of discussions with Trade Unions	Update requested - this may be scheduled into formal agenda item.
		Further information on the hybrid meeting rooms including confirming: (i) The suitability of the microphones for the size of room; (ii) That the quality of a meeting would be no worse than would be experienced in person, particularly for the hard of hearing; (iii) Availability of training for staff to use the new equipment;	Subsequent email correspondence between Councillor McQuiggan and Executive Director, People and Transformation to be circulated to members

		<p>(iii) The acceptance criteria for the commissioning of a room and the minimum remote equipment required;</p> <p>Arrangements for ensuring the security of the tools permitted in hybrid meetings and the use of end-to-end encryption.</p>	
		Joint work being done with other local authorities on the experience of hybrid working in the public sector.	Update requested – this may be scheduled into formal agenda item.
30 September 2021 (informal)	Corporate Systems update	The Committee be kept updated on the roll-out	TBC - this may be scheduled into formal agenda item or rolled up into a broader Ways of Working update.
		A summary report be provided to outline the pre-work undertaken before Oracle was selected and to indicate the level of security in place for such a cloud-based system.	<p>Provided and to be circulated to Members via link here</p> <p>Matter Arising - Oracle Security</p>

Report title: 2021/22 Provisional Outturn Report and Reserves Update	
Report to: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Cllr Christopher Whitbread, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs	
Date: 23 June 2022	For: Consideration
Enquiries to: Nicole Wood, Executive Director, Corporate Services nicole.wood@essex.gov.uk or Adrian Osborne, Head of Strategic Finance and Insight email adrian.osborne2@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This item is to consider the 2021/22 Provisional Outturn report, as presented to Cabinet on 21st June 2022 (Part 1), and an update on Reserves following Provisional Outturn (Part 2)

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council presented its 2021/22 Provisional Outturn report to June Cabinet. There was a net under spend of £15.6m (1.7%), against a revenue budget of £894m. Approval was sought from Cabinet to appropriate this to earmarked revenue reserves, predominantly to provide some financial risk mitigation against escalating costs in the short term, as well as further support to deliver Everyone's Essex strategic aims.
- 2.2 For the Capital Programme there was an under spend £14.5m (6%) against a budget of £235.8m.

3 Part 1 – 2021/22 Provisional Outturn Report

- 3.1 This has been an exceptional and peculiar year, given we have received over £100m of one-off covid-related grants from government to underwrite our risk, although the majority of these measures from government have now ceased. The ongoing effect of the pandemic made financial forecasting uncertain and volatile throughout the year, resulting in a better year end position than expected. This impacted across the organisation, with large areas of spend where demand, although increased, was not as high as anticipated when the budget was set in Winter 2020, including across Adult Social Care, Children Services, Transport and Waste.
- 3.2 We face an extremely challenging period now and in the medium term, with inflation at a 40-year high, and forecast to rise even further. Robust financial management over the last year, despite the exceptional circumstances the Council has faced, has enabled recommendations in this report that will offer some financial risk mitigation in the short term to the impact of escalating

costs, alongside some opportunities for one-off investment in our key priorities.

- 3.3 The Provisional Outturn Cabinet report sets out an under spend on revenue of £15.6m (1.7%) against a budget of £894.9m. This position is after adjusting for proposals to carry forward under spends for use in 2022/23 and reserve movements. £2m of the under spend is driven by reduced capital financing costs, as borrowing has been at a lower level than anticipated, and a £1.9m favourable position on Funding, where government grants have been greater than expected predominantly following receipt of the Tax Income Loss Guarantee grant. This leaves £11.7m due to under spends on services.
- 3.4 It was proposed the net under spend of £15.622m be appropriated into earmarked revenue reserves as follows:
- **£10m** to a new General Risk Reserve to support mitigation of the cost pressures we face
 - **£2.6m** to the Everyone's Essex Reserve to support delivery of Everyone's Essex priorities
 - **£2m** to the Commercial Investment in Essex Places Reserve given increased activity in this area with the Essex Renewal Fund
 - **£1m** to the Technology and Digitisation Reserve for the heightened cyber risks currently faced as a result of the Ukraine war
- 3.5 £14.2m of approvals were sought in the Provisional Outturn report to appropriate under spends to the Carry Forward Reserve to support the 2022/23 budget and specific risks.
- 3.6 The current economic outlook is unprecedented in modern times. While we have budgeted for inflation in 2022/23, the extent of the current inflation forecasts of 10% or greater were not anticipated when the budget was set – for context this is double the council tax rise for 2022/23. The 2021/22 under spend presented has to be viewed in this context – it has enabled some financial risk mitigation in the short term for escalating costs, but it will require further planning moving forwards to ensure we spend within our means.
- 3.7 The Capital Programme had an under spend of £14.5m against the latest budget of £235.8m. This has been driven by a relatively small number of schemes, predominantly for reasons outside of the Councils control. The budget change adjustments are summarised as follows:
- Slippage of £17.3m
 - Budget additions of £4.7m
 - Budget reductions of £23.3m
 - Advanced works of £21.4m

4 List of Appendices

2021/22 Provisional Outturn Cabinet Report – [2021/22 Provisional Outturn Cabinet Report](#)

Part 2 – Reserves Update

Report title: Reserves - update	
Report to: Corporate Scrutiny	
Report author: Stephanie Mitchener, Director of Finance	
Date: 23 June 2022	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Adrian Osborne, Head of Strategic Finance and Insight	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of Report

To provide Scrutiny Committee with a briefing and update on the Council's reserves.

2. Recommendations

None – the report is for information and discussion.

3. Background

The Council holds reserves to provide some resilience to cope with unpredictable financial pressures and long term contractual commitments. The provision of adequate reserves is essential.

4. Statutory responsibility

The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. Sections 31A, 32 42A and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require local authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating their budget requirement. Within this statutory framework, it is the responsibility for the Section 151 Officer to advise the Council about the level of reserves to hold and to report to all of the Members of the Council where reserves have become seriously depleted and it is forecast that the Council will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year.

There is no set formula for deciding what level of reserves is appropriate – what is appropriate will depend on the Council's own circumstances, which will vary over time. Members are responsible for ensuring that the Council's reserves are appropriate for local circumstances, taking into consideration the advice provided by the Section 151 Officer.

5. Importance of reserves

Reserves play an increasingly important part in the financial strategy of the authority, they provide a cushion against significant risks the Council faces and a

source of funding for business cases to change the way it provides services and achieves future savings. The continued provision of adequate reserves is essential. Without these, it may be necessary to take urgent remedial action in-year to mitigate challenges that arise, which could lead to longer term consequences.

Never has this issue been highlighted more prominently than in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, where ECC had to make a number of emergency decisions in the early part of 2020/21 using reserves to bridge costs originally totalling £75m whilst awaiting additional emergency funding from Government.

Our reserves acknowledge that there are an increasing number of risks associated with the budget and the financial position of the authority, most notable are the assumed full delivery of savings, the management of social care demand, exact implications of new burdens, changes to local government funding, residual impact of the Covid pandemic and the budget gap in future years. Most recently, global events have resulted in escalating inflation rates – now at their highest level in 40 years. With uncertainty about how long high inflation rates will prevail, it is highly probable there will be volatility in the financial position throughout 2022/23.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Resilience Index, that was launched in December 2019, is a tool to help local authorities understand relative areas of financial risk against their peers. Essex County Council's overall balance of reserves and movement in reserves is assessed as being of relatively low risk in the last release (drawing on 2020/21 Revenue Outturn data), or alternatively, judged us as being of relatively high resilience due to the balance of reserves we maintain.

6. What is the Council's Reserves policy?

The Council holds reserves for a range of specific purposes to manage long term financial commitments, and to ensure it has some financial resilience to cope with unpredictable financial pressures. Reserves can be split into three types:

Restricted use funds - those reserves that are held for long term contractual commitments or on behalf of others and are not available for use by the Council. Restricted use funds include our Public Finance Initiative (PFI) and Schools reserves.

Other Revenue reserves – funds earmarked to enable the Council to change the way it provides services and achieve future savings (including the Everyone's Essex Reserve, Transformation Reserve and Reserve for Future Capital Funding).

General Balance – un-ringfenced funds which provide a working balance to protect the Council against unexpected cost pressures.

7. What are the Council's Reserves used to fund?

As referred to above, there are three types of reserves. Balances stated reflect all proposed appropriations to/from reserves in the 2021/22 Provisional Outturn Report. The largest category is '**Restricted Use Funds**' and represents funds set aside to meet our long term contractual commitments, or those beyond the control of the Council, and primarily comprise:

- PFI reserves (£32m at 31 March 2022) The Council has entered into a number of long-term Private Finance Initiative contracts for the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of the A130 road and a number of schools (including Debden Park, Clacton Secondary Schools, and several schools within the Building Schools for the Future programme). These reserves have been established to equalise the impact on the revenue budget of annual differences between contract costs and PFI credits (grant) paid by the Government towards these costs.
- Waste reserve (£115m at 31 March 2022) The Council started building the Waste Reserve in 2006/07 and is now reaping the benefits. Initially used to spread the costs of waste disposal across the lifetime of the PFI contract (now ended), avoiding fluctuation in costs that would peak at the equivalent of a 2% rise in council tax, for this service alone. In part this was necessary because of significant increase in land fill tax. The reserve will now be used to deliver the Waste strategy, and is also being used to mitigate volume pressure created by the increase in tonnage caused by home working during the Covid pandemic.
- Grant Equalisation reserves (£78m at 31 March 2022) These reserves comprise grants given from Government for specific purposes that have yet to be utilised for their intended purpose (it is primarily a technical cash flow reserve). It cannot be applied for other purposes. We have a Covid Equalisation Reserve (£41m at 31 March 2022) which is used for the emergency funding received during the pandemic and the main Grant Equalisation Reserve (£37m at 31 March 2022) that is used for other grants.
- Funds held on behalf of others (£52m at 31 March 2022) This includes Schools balances and partnership funds, where the authority to commit funds rests with school governors and partnership boards rather than the Council.

The next category covers **Other Revenue reserves**, these are earmarked and include those set aside to enable the Council to change the way it provides services and achieve future savings which would otherwise cause uneven cash flows and have negative effects on the Council Tax payers or services. Some examples include:

- Transformation Reserve (£49m at 31 March 2022) which has been set aside to enable investment in initiatives that will deliver future savings (in the context of over £169m of savings required up to 2025/26)
- Everyone's Essex Reserve (£47m at 31 March 2022) which has been set aside to enable investment in Everyone's Essex priorities
- Emergency Reserve (£18m at 31 March 2022) to help deal with risk around increased market fragility, exit from the EU, capacity issues across social care, as well as general risks around delivery and demand

- Commercial Investment in Essex Places Reserve (£16m at 31 March 2022) which has been set aside for commercial investment in Essex Places that align to the Council's recently launched Essex Renewal Fund
- Adults Risk Reserve (£14m at 31 March 2022) established to help manage commercial price pressures that may arise from meeting cost of care requirements
- General Risk Reserve (£14m at 31 March 2022) to help mitigate price pressures resulting from the current high rate of inflation
- Adults Transformation Reserve (£13m at 31 March 2022) to support change capacity to deliver ongoing sustainability work
- Technology and Digitisation Reserve (£12m at 31 March 2022) which has been set aside to meet the future cost of replacing the Council's key technology systems

The **General Balance** represents the final category of reserves held by the Council. This is in an un-ringfenced reserve set aside to allow the Council to deal with unexpected events or costs at short notice. The general reserve balance has been retained at or around 6% of the annual net budget in recognition of the level of risk associated with reductions and uncertainty around Government funding and pressures the Authority faces. It equates to 23 days expenditure.

Appendix 1 provides a brief description of each reserve and Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of the reserve balances.

8. What have the Reserves been used to fund in the last year?

The primary movements relate to meeting our contractual and other liabilities and investing in business cases for transforming the authority, including implementation of the new corporate system, My Oracle. It should be noted that we budget for appropriations to reserves, in order to maintain an appropriate level to meet future liabilities and financial challenges.

Appendix 2 shows the detailed adjustments in 2021/22, any usage of reserves is openly and transparently reported within our quarterly financial reviews to Cabinet.

The below table summarise the withdrawals from the reserve categories and provides examples of activities that the reserves have been utilised for.

Reserve Category	Withdrawn (£m)	Description
Restricted Use	77	<p>£29m from the Covid equalisation reserve to meet costs associated with the pandemic</p> <p>£25m from the Grants equalisation reserve to equalise the timing differences between the recognition of grant income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and incurring the grant eligible expenditure,</p> <p>£10m across our PFI reserves (primarily A130)</p> <p>£9m from the Waste Reserve to mitigate pressure from increased tonnage driven by home working and to mitigate non delivery of savings</p> <p>£3m schools balances withdrawn</p>

Reserve Category	Withdrawn (£m)	Description
Other Revenue Reserves	118	<p>£21m approved carry forwards from 2020/21</p> <p>£7m from the Ambition Fund, which was primarily to fund announcements from the Leader's budget speech at Council Feb 2021</p> <p>£7m from the Transformation Reserve, of which £2m was to fund the design and implementation of the Transforming Community Care Programme in Adult Social Care, with the remainder spread across a number of smaller programmes</p> <p>£10m from Technology and Digitisation which mainly related to implementation of the new corporate system and to Social Care Case Management</p> <p>£7m to finance the capital programme</p> <p>£6m across other reserves</p> <p>£58m Subtotal - funded expenditure</p> <p>£60m technical adjustments - increasing existing reserves or creating new reserves by drawing down from other reserves (e.g. creation of Everyone's Essex)</p>
Total	195	

9. What is the projected level of Reserves that the Council will hold in the next three years?

The council projects its level of reserves for the next three financial years which align with our Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) and were set out in the budget report endorsed by Council in February 2022.

Forecast balances as set out in the February budget report have since been updated in light of the provisional outturn for 2021/22 and latest intelligence.

Appendix 2 sets out the projected level of reserves to 2024/25.

10. What is the rate of return on ECCs Reserves?

The council earns interest on its level of cash balances, however these are not directly related to its level of reserves.

The Council's cash balances are managed in accordance with the parameters established by the annual Treasury Management Strategy (approved by full Council alongside the budget).

Cash held by the Council is either invested temporarily or used to offset our need to borrow for capital financing purposes, until it is needed for its intended purpose.

During 2021/22, the Council held some of its cash balances for investment, achieving investment income of **£900,000**, a return of 0.14%. The majority of the cash balances were used to temporarily defer external borrowing, thereby avoiding an estimated **£8m** in debt financing costs in 2021/22 which would have been the equivalent of 1% council tax

11. List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Description & Purpose of each reserve

Appendix 2 – Provisional Outturn position (unaudited) on reserves

Appendix 3 – Projected level of reserves up to 2024/25

Appendix 1 – Description and purpose of each reserve

Restricted Use Funds	Description
A130 PFI	Equalise the timing differences between expenditure and government grant over the life of the PFI contract.
Building Schools for the Future PFI	Equalise the timing differences between expenditure and government grant over the life of the PFI contract.
Clacton Secondary Schools PFI	Equalise the timing differences between expenditure and government grant over the life of the PFI contract.
COVID Equalisation Reserve	Equalise the timing differences between the recognition of emergency funding in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and incurring the expenditure.
Debden PFI	Equalise the timing differences between expenditure and government grant over the life of the PFI contract.
Grants Equalisation reserve	Equalise the timing differences between the recognition of grant income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (in accordance with Accounting Policy 2.6) and incurring the grant eligible expenditure.
Partnerships (not available for ECC use)	To retain unspent contributions from partners and apply them in subsequent years.
Schools (not available for ECC use)	Schools are permitted to retain unspent resources (whether planned or unplanned), which are held in the Schools Reserves. The statutory authority to commit such resources rests with school governors.
Trading Activities	Surpluses generated by trading activities, to be applied by these activities in subsequent years.
Waste Reserve	To smooth the effects of future increases in the costs of waste disposal.
Earmarked Reserves	Description
Adults Digital Programme	Used to meet the costs of the Adults Digital Transformation programme.
Adults Risk	To help manage commercial price pressures that may arise from meeting cost of care
Adults Transformation	To set aside resources to support change capacity to deliver ongoing future sustainability work
Ambition Fund	Reserve created to fund investment in new delivery models and ways of working.
Bursary for trainee carers	New reserve created in the 2019/20 Provisional Outturn report to fund bursaries for trainee carers.
Capital Receipts Pump Priming	Used to meet costs associated with bringing properties into readiness for disposal.
Carbon Reduction Reserve	Used to finance measures aimed at reducing the Council's carbon footprint and support the costs of the Carbon Reduction Credit scheme.
Carry Forwards Reserve	Used to carry under spends in the current financial year forward to support expenditure plans in the forthcoming financial year.
Childrens Risk	To help manage potential price and volume pressures that may arise in the provision of Children's Services

Appendix 1 Description and purpose of each reserve (cont'd)

Earmarked Reserves	Description
Childrens Transformation	To support transformation capacity to deliver the Childrens Sustainability programme
Collection Fund Investment Risk Reserve	Established to mitigate the risks of falling collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates.
Commercial Investment in Essex Places Reserve	Established to set aside funding for commercial investment in Essex Places that align to the Council's housing growth and town centre agendas.
Community Initiatives Fund	To fund revenue and capital community initiatives.
EES Pensions Deficit Reserve	Earmarked reserve to cover future costs that may arise as a result of pensions arrangements following the sale of EES.
Emergency Reserve	To help deal with risk around increased market fragility, exit from the EU, capacity issues across social care, as well as general risks around delivery and demand.
Emergency Planning	To meet costs associated with emergency planning.
Equalities Reserve	To set aside resources to support the focus on the people and places where the council can make the biggest difference to improve lives
Essex Climate Change Commission Reserve	Can be drawn upon by the Essex Climate Change Commission to fund initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and promote Green Infrastructure initiatives.
Essex Crime and Police	To support the set up costs and subsequent financing of the Essex Crime and Police Panel
Everyone's Essex Reserve	To set aside resources to support delivery of the Everyone's Essex strategy for levelling up the county and improving lives and opportunities for all our residents
Future Capital Funding	Comprises revenue contributions to be used to supplement the resources available to finance future capital expenditure.
General Balance	Reserve set aside to allow the Council to deal with unexpected events or costs at short notice.
General Risk Reserve	To support against inflationary risk for future years
Health & Safety Reserve	Used to meet the costs of undertaking asbestos, legionella and Disability Discrimination Act surveys.
Insurance	Provides for future potential and contingent liabilities for insurance claims.
Newton Reserve	Funds bequeathed to the Council for use by the Essex Records Office
Property Fund Reserve	Reserve created to manage the risks associated with landlord responsibility (e.g. gaps in occupancy).

Appendix 1 Description and purpose of each reserve (cont'd)

Earmarked Reserves	Description
Quadrennial Elections Reserve	Reserve established to meet costs associated with the Council's quadrennial elections.
Renewal Fund	To support COVID-19 recovery activity.
Social Distancing and Hygiene	To support new burdens on the Council to manage social distancing requirements.
Technology and Digitisation	To set aside resources to meet the future cost of replacing key council's technology systems.
Transformation	Used to meet costs associated with project management and change management aspects of the Council's ambitious programme of transformation.

Appendix 2 – 2021/22 (unaudited) outturn position on reserves

	Balance at	2021/22 movements		Balance at
	1 April 2021	Contributions to reserves	Withdrawals from reserves	31 March 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restricted use				
Grants equalisation reserve	50,409	11,607	(25,177)	36,839
COVID equalisation reserve	37,496	32,489	(29,216)	40,769
PFI equalisation reserves				
A130 PFI	36,448	988	(9,255)	28,181
Clacton secondary schools' PFI	740	343	(123)	960
Debden PFI	964	1,307	(528)	1,743
Building Schools for the Future PFI	823	128	287	1,238
Waste reserve	116,850	7,178	(9,159)	114,869
Schools	43,601	9,045	(3,435)	49,211
Partnerships	1,764	637	(25)	2,376
Trading activities	1,341	173	-	1,514
Total restricted use	290,436	63,895	(76,631)	277,700
Future capital funding	9,847	11,590	(7,000)	14,437

Appendix 2 – 2021/22 (unaudited) outturn position on reserves (cont'd)

	Balance at	2021/22 movements		Balance at
	1 April 2021	Contributions to reserves	Withdrawals from reserves	31 March 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Other revenue reserves				
Adults Digital programme	1,288	247	(1,260)	275
Adults Risk	-	14,259	(38)	14,221
Adults Transformation	3,500	9,218	-	12,718
Ambition Fund	16,578	6,598	(16,652)	6,524
Bursary for trainee carers	500	-	(162)	338
Capital receipts pump priming	4,204	(170)	-	4,034
Carbon Reduction reserve	1,096	-	(114)	982
Carry Forwards reserve	21,273	24,704	(21,233)	24,744
Childrens Transformation	1,314	6,019	(146)	7,187
Collection Fund investment risk reserve	4,029	13,843	(10,286)	7,586
Commercial Investment In Essex Places reserve	12,583	3,094	(18)	15,659
EES Pension Deficit reserve	4,000	-	-	4,000
Emergency reserve	12,564	5,000	-	17,564
Equalities reserve	-	10,261	(10,000)	261
Essex Climate Change Commission reserve	5,000	53	(722)	4,331
Everyone's Essex reserve	-	47,600	(328)	47,272
General Risk reserve	-	13,859	-	13,859
Health and Safety reserve	2,812	2,579	(735)	4,656
Insurance	7,498	-	(1,238)	6,260
Property Fund reserve	977	325	-	1,302
Quadrennial Elections reserve	925	500	(426)	999
Renewal Fund	27,900	273	(25,650)	2,523
Technology and Digitisation	8,749	13,034	(10,142)	11,641
Transformation	54,686	5,538	(11,719)	48,505
Other reserves	1,796	377	(376)	1,797
Total other revenue reserves	193,272	177,211	(111,245)	259,238
Total	493,555	252,696	(194,876)	551,375

Appendix 3 – Projected level of reserves up to 2024/25

Reserve	2021/22		2022/23			2023/24	2024/25
	Opening Balance £000	Closing Balance £000	Budget Appropriations £000	Assumed Usage £000	Closing Balance £000	Closing Balance £000	Closing Balance £000
Restricted Funds							
<u>A130 PFI</u>	(36,448)	(28,181)	10,308	-	(17,873)	(7,808)	(2,766)
<u>BSF PFI</u>	(823)	(1,237)	-	(798)	(2,035)	(2,833)	(3,631)
<u>Clacton PFI</u>	(740)	(960)	-	312	(647)	(490)	(407)
<u>Debden PFI</u>	(964)	(1,743)	-	173	(1,570)	(1,537)	(1,457)
<u>Waste Reserve</u>	(116,850)	(114,870)	6,209	3,728	(104,933)	(98,325)	(92,646)
<u>Grant Equalisation</u>	(50,409)	(36,839)	-	-	(36,839)	(36,839)	(36,839)
Partnerships and Third Party	(1,764)	(2,376)	-	-	(2,376)	(2,376)	(2,376)
Schools	(43,601)	(49,212)			(49,212)	(49,212)	(49,212)
Trading Activities	(1,341)	(1,514)	304	(304)	(1,514)	(1,514)	(1,514)
Total Restricted Funds	(252,940)	(236,931)	16,822	3,111	(216,999)	(200,933)	(190,848)

Appendix 3 – Projected level of reserves up to 2024/25 (cont'd)

Reserve	2021/22		2022/23			2023/24	2024/25
	Opening Balance £000	Closing Balance £000	Budget Appropriations £000	Assumed Usage £000	Closing Balance £000	Closing Balance £000	Closing Balance £000
Other Revenue Reserves							
<u>Adult Social Care Risk</u>	-	(14,221)	-	6,683	(7,538)	(5,026)	(2,513)
<u>Adults Digital Programme</u>	(1,288)	(275)	-	247	(28)	(28)	(28)
<u>Adults Transformation</u>	(3,500)	(12,718)	-	6,776	(5,942)	(3,880)	(1,814)
<u>Ambition Fund</u>	(16,578)	(6,523)	(8,800)	9,552	(5,771)	(3,848)	(1,924)
<u>Bursary for trainee carers</u>	(500)	(338)	-	338	-	-	-
<u>Capital Receipts Pump Priming</u>	(4,204)	(4,034)	(6,000)	2,500	(7,534)	(6,034)	(4,534)
<u>Carbon Reduction and Energy Risk</u>	(1,096)	(982)	114	192	(676)	(524)	(334)
<u>Carry Forward</u>	(21,273)	(24,742)	-	24,742	(0)	(0)	(0)
<u>Childrens Risk</u>	-	-	(2,500)	625	(1,875)	(1,250)	(625)
<u>Childrens Transformation</u>	(1,314)	(7,188)	-	1,859	(5,328)	(3,552)	(1,776)
<u>Collection Fund Risk</u>	(4,029)	(7,587)	(9,497)	-	(17,084)	(17,084)	(17,084)
<u>Commercial Investment in Essex Places</u>	(12,583)	(15,658)	170	800	(14,688)	(13,828)	(12,828)
<u>Community Initiatives Fund</u>	(401)	(376)	(350)	350	(376)	(376)	(376)
<u>Covid equalisation</u>	(37,496)	(40,769)	1,831	20,000	(18,939)	0	0
<u>EES Pensions</u>	(4,000)	(4,000)	-	-	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
<u>Emergency</u>	(12,564)	(17,564)	(9,094)	9,087	(17,571)	(17,571)	(17,571)
<u>Emergency Planning</u>	(300)	(300)	-	-	(300)	(300)	(300)
<u>Equalities Fund Reserve</u>	-	(261)	-	-	(261)	(261)	(261)
<u>Essex Climate Change Commission</u>	(5,000)	(4,331)	-	2,730	(1,601)	(852)	(166)
<u>Essex Crime and Police</u>	(73)	(73)	-	-	(73)	(73)	(73)
<u>Everyones Essex</u>	-	(47,273)	(1,000)	15,333	(32,940)	(19,212)	(5,722)
<u>Future Capital Funding</u>	(9,847)	(14,437)	(14,674)	16,483	(12,628)	(12,628)	(12,628)

Appendix 3 – Projected level of reserves up to 2024/25 (cont'd)

Reserve	2021/22		2022/23			2023/24	2024/25
	Opening	Closing	Budget	Assumed	Closing	Closing	Closing
	Balance £000	Balance £000	Appropriations £000	Usage £000	Balance £000	Balance £000	Balance £000
Other Revenue Reserves							
General Risk	-	(13,858)	-	-	-	-	-
Health & Safety	(2,812)	(4,657)	-	103	(4,554)	(4,554)	(4,554)
Insurance	(7,498)	(6,260)	-	-	(6,260)	(6,260)	(6,260)
Newton Reserve	(122)	(149)	-	-	(149)	(149)	(149)
Property Investment	(977)	(1,303)	-	-	(1,303)	(1,303)	(1,303)
Quadrennial Elections	(925)	(999)	(500)	-	(1,499)	(1,999)	(2,499)
Renewal Fund	(27,900)	(2,523)	-	-	(2,523)	(2,523)	(2,523)
Social Distancing and Hygeine	(900)	(900)	-	-	(900)	(900)	(900)
Technology and Digitisation	(8,749)	(11,640)	(10,000)	13,033	(8,608)	(1,678)	0
Transformation	(54,686)	(48,506)	(11,823)	12,500	(47,829)	(47,149)	(46,469)
Total Restricted Funds	(240,615)	(314,446)	(72,123)	143,932	(228,779)	(176,840)	(149,213)
General Balance	(68,096)	(68,096)			(68,096)	(68,096)	(68,096)
Total Reserves	(561,651)	(619,473)	(55,301)	147,043	(513,874)	(445,870)	(408,157)

Call-in of FP/419/05/22 ECC Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyle projects in Tendring and Basildon

Reference Number: CPSC/13/22

Report title: Call-in of FP/419/05/22 ECC Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyle projects in Tendring and Basildon	
Report to: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 23 June 2022	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

This to consider the call-in of the above proposed decision and the report of an informal meeting held to discuss the call-in.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to note this report and consider any issues arising.

3. Background

On 18 May 2022 the Cabinet Member Decision FP/419/05/22 (ECC Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyle projects in Tendring and Basildon) was called-in by Councillor Kerry Smith.

A copy of the decision can be found on the website of Essex County Council by entering the full FP reference number on the following page:
[Decisions \(essex.gov.uk\)](https://www.essex.gov.uk/decisions)

The call-in notification questioned whether there were other areas within Basildon that may have greater need for support.

In line with the procedure for handling the call in of a decision, an informal meeting was held on 23 May 2022. The note of the informal meeting is attached at Appendix A.

On the basis of discussion at the informal meeting Councillor Smith withdrew his call-in.

4. Action Required

The Committee is invited to note the action taken in this matter and consider any issues arising.

Call-in of FP/419/05/22 ECC Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyle projects in Tendring and Basildon

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix

- Notes of Informal meeting held on 23 May 2022 to consider the call in of the decision FP/419/05/22 - ECC Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyle projects in Tendring and Basildon.

Informal meeting to consider call in of FP/419/05/22 ECC Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyles projects in Tendring and Basildon (23.05.22)

Present:

Councillors K Smith, C Pond, J Spence, L McKinley
Jason Fergus
Grant Taylor (Basildon)
Alastair Gordon,
Will Hooper,
Phil Oldershaw,
Emma Tombs

Councillor Spence invited GT and JF to give an overview of the work taking place and intended to take place in Vange. He stressed that there was agreement that Vange was a priority, however not all areas could be included in every project.

JF and GT advised that the three projects within Basildon identified in the CMA aligned with and supported the Safe and Sound Estates programme to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of those people living on three specific estates. The three estates were Laindon Five Links, Lee Chapel North and Felmores. GT agreed that Vange was a priority and particularly drew attention to work taking place with Trust Links, a South Essex charity for mental health and wellbeing. A Steering Group had been established made up of local residents and Councillor McGurran (ECC; Pitsea) to develop plans for a community hub, utilising some £.5m from a wide range of partners. The hub was expected to open in Autumn and would use physical activity to contribute directly to strengthening community cohesion on the estates, designing out crime and anti-social behaviour

JF further advised that there would be further tranches of LDP funding and it was expected that projects in Craylands and Vange would be undertaken.

Cllr Smith suggested that an observer, on looking at the published statistics in relation to areas of deprivation, would be surprised by the allocation of funds to Lee Chapel North. JF agreed to provide further information on the allocation of funding within Vange. GT agreed, at the suggestion of Cllr Smith, that he would speak to the Chief Executive of Basildon Council, to ask that convening an informal working group of Councillors be considered, in order to consider areas for future funding in relation to sport and physical activities.

On the conclusion of the discussion it was **AGREED** –

- That JF would provide further information on projects and investment taking place in Vange to Cllr Smith;
- That GT would approach the Chief Executive of Basildon Council, to ask that convening an informal working group of Councillors to consider opportunities for future funding in relation to sport and physical activity be considered.

Councillor Smith agreed that he was satisfied with this position, and that the call in was therefore withdrawn.

Visit to Essex Records Office

Reference Number: CPSC/14/22

Report title: Visit to Essex Records Office	
Report to: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager	
Date: 23 June 2022	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

A short report of a recent site visit is attached below.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider this report and any issues arising.

3. Background

The Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee asked if a visit to the Essex Records Office (ERO) for committee members could be arranged and subsequently took place on Tuesday 24 May 2022.

The visit was hosted by Councillor Mark Durham - Deputy Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture, Martin Astell, ERO Manager and Louise Fitton, Head of Essex Culture and Green Spaces, who welcomed members of the committee. Members were shown and given a demonstration of a number of services that the ERO have including:

- Archival services
- Digitisation services
- Sound and video archive
- Reprographics
- ERO search room.

Following conclusion of the visit, it was agreed that a further discussion would be held to decide whether to hold a future visit to the ERO.

It should also be noted that member attendance at this visit was noticeably poor, with only three members attending.

4. Update and Next Steps

See above.

Work Programme

Reference Number: CPSC/15/22

Report title: Work Programme	
Report to: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 23 June 2022	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The work programme is a standard agenda item. The work programme for the Committee continues to be developed and the current position is outlined below.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider this report and issues under consideration in the Appendix and any further development or amendments.

3. Background

3.1 Developing a work programme

Issues identified during induction sessions in summer 2021 and subsequent formal meetings continue to be incorporated into the work programme by the Chairman and Vice Chairmen.

- 3.2 This work has reflected the adoption of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy at Council on 12 October 2021.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy when considering the work programme and future items.

Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee. Reflecting the corporate focus of the committee, this could be more looking at the How We Will Deliver section and include scrutiny of effectiveness and efficiency, value for money, and the managing and prioritising of resources, so that investment can be made in the priorities set out in the strategy. It could

Work Programme

also include scrutinising the People Plan in the strategy which aims to ensure that the County Council has the capability to meet the demands ahead.

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix

- Current Work Programme.

APPENDIX**Corporate Policy and Scrutiny - Work Programme – 23 June 2022**

Provisional Date	Topic Title	Lead Contact	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Relevance to Scrutiny Theme *	Cross-Committee Work Identified
23 June 2022	2021-22 Full Year Financial Outturn	Cabinet Member Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs	To consider the full year financial outturn and to understand the challenges on the budget.	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Not applicable
23 June 2022	Reserves and provisioning	Cabinet Member Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs/ Director Finance	To review background, current policy and levels. To incorporate financing climate change commission recommendations	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Not applicable
23 June 2022	Levelling Up funding of Active Essex healthy and active lifestyles projects in Tendring and Basildon	Deputy Leader and cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance/ Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Deputy Leader	To consider a report of an informal meeting held to consider the call-in of this decision which was then subsequently withdrawn.		Not applicable
23 June 2022	Essex Records Office	Cabinet Member Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture	To consider a report of the site visit to the Essex Records Office	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Not applicable
28 July 2022	Everyone's Essex Strategy	Leader/ Director, Policy and the Head of Performance and Business Intelligence	To consider latest update to monitor progress	Scrutiny of the Everyone's Essex Strategy	Invite other Chairmen/ Vice Chairmen

Provisional Date	Topic Title	Lead Contact	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Relevance to Scrutiny Theme *	Cross-Committee Work Identified
28 July 2022	Ways of Working update	Cabinet Member Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs/ Executive Director, People and Transformation	1. To incorporate latest staff feedback. 2. Incorporate any corporate technology transformation ambitions.	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Invite other Chairmen/ Vice Chairmen
22 September 2022	2022 First Quarter financials	Cabinet Member Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs/ Director Finance	To consider latest financial performance	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Not applicable
22 September 2022	Commercial (non-property) investments	Cabinet Member Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs/ Director Finance	To understand the investments being made, and review current approach and performance	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Not applicable
27 October 2022	Everyone's Essex Strategy	Leader/ Director, Policy and the Head of Performance and Business Intelligence	To consider latest update to monitor progress	Scrutiny of the Everyone's Essex Strategy	Invite other Chairmen/ Vice Chairmen
27 October 2022	Ways of Working – accommodation/ estate strategy	Cabinet Member Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs/ Executive Director, People and Transformation	To review the proposed approach.	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	TBC.
TBC 2022	Essex Archive Services	Cabinet Member Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture	Influence future approach on the delivery of services including use of digitalisation.	Ability to deliver Everyone's Essex Strategy	Not applicable

Joint scrutiny with Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG)

Review of TOVI Waste Plant and impact on future waste strategy (to be hosted by PSEG on 30 June 2022)

Corporate Economic Renewal Fund/Strategy – follow up (arrangements TBC)

**Further issues not scoped or currently being scheduled
(themes and issues highlighted during induction discussions with Cabinet Members)**

Essex Housing - ECC's strategies and plans, including environmental considerations.

Essex Outdoors - Increasing usage and making it more commercial. Could be led by another scrutiny committee.

Faith covenant - Role of ECC and the wider Equalities agenda

Procurement - Percentage of procurement with Essex businesses, social value contracts, autonomy of service areas