



Agenda

Clean & Green Committee

Monday, 26 February 2024 at 7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Brentwood Borough Council, Ingrave Road,
Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY

Membership (Quorum – 3)

Cllrs Aspinell (Chair), Mrs Fulcher (Vice-Chair), Barber, Dr Barrett, Naylor, Reed, Russell, Wiles and Worsfold

Substitute Members

Cllrs Barrett, Gorton, McCheyne, Munden and Mrs Pound

Agenda

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Live broadcast

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

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Jonathan Stephenson
Chief Executive

Town Hall
Brentwood, Essex
16.02.2024

Information for Members

Substitutes

The names of substitutes shall be announced at the start of the meeting by the Chair and the substitution shall cease at the end of the meeting.

Where substitution is permitted, substitutes for quasi judicial/regulatory committees must be drawn from Members who have received training in quasi- judicial/regulatory decision making. If a casual vacancy occurs on a quasi judicial/regulatory committee it will not be filled until the nominated member has been trained.

Rights to Attend and Speak

Any Members may attend any Committee to which these procedure rules apply.

A Member who is not a member of the Committee may speak at the meeting. The Member may speak at the Chair's discretion, it being the expectation that a Member will be allowed to speak on a ward matter.

Members requiring further information, or with specific questions, are asked to raise these with the appropriate officer at least two working days before the meeting.

Point of Order/ Personal explanation/ Point of Information

Point of Order

A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Mayor will hear them immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Procedure Rules or the law. The Member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken. The ruling of the Mayor on the point of order will be final.

Personal Explanation

A member may make a personal explanation at any time. A personal explanation must relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate, or outside of the meeting. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

Point of Information or clarification

A point of information or clarification must relate to the matter being debated. If a Member wishes to raise a point of information, he/she must first seek the permission of the Mayor. The Member must specify the nature of the information he/she wishes to provide and its importance to the current debate. If the Mayor gives his/her permission, the Member will give the additional information succinctly. Points of Information or clarification should be used in exceptional circumstances and should not be used to interrupt other speakers or to make a further speech when he/she has already spoken during the debate. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a point of information or clarification will be final.

Information for Members of the Public

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If you wish to record the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment then please contact the Communications Team before the meeting.

The use of flash photography or additional lighting may be allowed provided it has been discussed prior to the meeting and agreement reached to ensure that it will not disrupt proceedings.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of

these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

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 **Evacuation Procedures**

Evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point in the Car Park.



Minutes

Clean & Green Committee Monday, 11th December, 2023

Attendance

Cllr Aspinell (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Fulcher (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Barber
Cllr Dr Barrett
Cllr Naylor

Cllr Reed
Cllr Russell
Cllr Worsfold
Cllr McCheyne

Also Present

Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Poppy

Officers Present

Adam Aldridge	- Corporate Manager - Green Spaces
Phil Drane	- Director - Place
Zoey Foakes	- Governance & Member Support Officer
Marcus Hotten	- Director - Environment
Henry Muss	- Sustainability & Climate Officer

LIVE BROADCAST

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

259. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wiles with Cllr McCheyne substituting.

260. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Clean & Green Committee held on the 11th September 2023 were **APPROVED** as a true record.

261. Chairs update

The report began on page 13 of the agenda and highlighted the work the teams have done.

Cllr Barber asked the Chair for an update on situation with the pigeons at the railway station. Cllr Aspinell would provide members an update ahead of the next Committee meeting.

262. Hole Farm Community Woodland Update

A presentation was given by Emily Dawson from the Lower Thames Crossing team.

A new community woodland is being created in Brentwood Borough (Hole Farm Lane, Great Warley). To compensate for the environmental impacts of the Lower Thames Crossing project, National Highways has partnered with Forestry England to plan, plant and manage Hole Farm Community Woodland. This will be a multi purpose woodland by creating:

- An inspiring place for people to visit and explore; and
- A thriving wildlife habitat and source of sustainable timber.

The new community woodland will include wildlife-rich habitats and species rich grassland, linking to the wider Thames Chase Community Forest. 1,000 trees were planted on site by the local community last year, which are establishing well. A further 70,000 trees are to be planted this winter. To support the community woodland, some development is required including visitor facilities and a car park. This report provides an overview and update on the project.

This item was for information only so no voting was required.

263. Fees & Charges

Fees and charges made by the Council for various services are reviewed on an annual basis by the relevant Committee relating to the services provided. Recommended amendments to the fees and charges are incorporated into the budget setting process to take effect from the following financial year.

Cllr Fulcher amended the recommendation to ***Agree to the proposed charges for the 2023/24 2024/25 as attached in Appendix A-E F subject to the annual budget setting process.***

Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Fulcher **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Members were requested to:

Agree to the proposed charges for the 2024/25 as attached in Appendix A-F subject to the annual budget setting process.

264. Tree Strategy

The Council has a substantial stock of trees within its ownership, and it is essential for a strategy to be adopted by the authority that reflects current best practice. The recent internal audit commissioned by the Council, identified significant concerns raised with the existing strategy and inadequate levels of resources to deliver.

The draft strategy would be an update to the existing policy. The report sought approval for additional resourcing to deliver the draft strategy.

Following a full discussion, Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Fulcher **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that:

Members were requested to:

R1: To approve the updated Council's draft Tree Strategy

Members are asked to recommend to the Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee:

R2. To allocate an additional £115,000 over a two-year period to undertake a survey of Council Tree Stock.

265. Financial Appraisal for BBC Net Zero Carbon 2030 Target

A report asked Members to consider and approve the proposed Financial Appraisal for the BBC Net Zero Carbon 2030 Target by the Council and agree the next steps in developing the Council's response to Climate Change.

The report identified a potential 93% reduction in carbon emissions for the Council corporate, housing, waste fleet and managed services, falling from 1,699tCO₂e for the baseline 2018/19 year to 118tCO₂e in 2030.

Following a full discussion, Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Fulcher **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Members are asked to recommend to the Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee:

R1. To continue procuring green/zero carbon electricity tariff for Council properties.

R2. To allocate an additional £120,000 revenue budget for the purchase of the of green diesel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) for the Council fleet vehicles, currently using mineral diesel.

R3. To allocate £63,178 of capital funding to deliver energy-saving improvement to Council assets as set out in the report.

266. Fly Tipping

Currently the Councils operational services do not allocate a specific resource to the clearing of fly-tips reported across the Borough. At present it relies upon resource made available through the allocation of 'spare' refuse truck drivers. This only occurs when the refuse truck collection rounds are fully staffed, and the additional drivers are not required to provide cover for annual leave, training or sickness. Therefore, the clearance of fly-tips at present, is undertaken on a sporadic basis governed by the dependency of the availability of staffing resource within the refuse collection service.

Following a full discussion, Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Fulcher **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Members are asked to recommend to the Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee:

R1. To allocate an additional £70,000 annual revenue budget to recruit two members of staff for a dedicated fly-tip clearance team.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that adequate resource are provided to ensure that the Council can respond to clearing fly-tips in a prompt and timely manner

267. Urgent business

There were no items of Urgent Business. The meeting concluded at 8:26pm.



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Chairs Update
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This report provides an update to Members in relation to the areas covered under the Terms of Reference of the Clean & Green Committee.

Pigeon/Railway updates

Previously, the Route Engineer for Network Rail prepared a remit for repair works to the existing proofing over the footways, to mitigate the present issues with pigeon ingress within the proofing. Separately from this, Network Rail also issued an estimate to Essex County Council for Network Rail to proof over the carriageway at ECC's expense. Since both sets of works would involve a possession of the railway line (i.e. closure to rail traffic) and a road closure which Network Rail would seek to undertake simultaneously. The value of the estimate sent to Essex County Council for extending proofing over the carriageway areas at Hutton Road is £178,692.44.

This quote was sent to the previous Cabinet Member of Highways - Essex County Council, Cllr Lee Scott, however, a response was never received. A meeting with the current Cabinet Member, Cllr Cunningham, was arranged by the Leader to discuss a number of highways issues, including the matter of pigeon ingress. Further to the meeting, as requested by Cllr Cunningham, the email was forwarded by Network Rail to Cllr Cunningham outlining the costs. A further reminder has now been sent by the Council Officers. At the time of writing, a holding reply has been received from Cllr Cunningham.

A deep clean and removal of the detritus under the bridge has been undertaken by the street cleaning services and has now increased to a weekly scheduled clean, with close monitoring undertaken using before and after photos. It is the view of officers that this regime is maintaining a far better standard of cleanliness, with detritus levels remaining minimal to moderate, allowing cleansing to grade 'A' to be achieved at each visit. If required, this can be increased to twice a week within existing resources and scheduling, monitoring of the cleanliness will continue.

Waste Recycling Centres

Communication has been sent by the Leader of the Council, to the appropriate Cabinet Member of Essex County Council, Cllr Schwier, regarding the booking trial that is being undertaken at the Recycling Centres across Essex. The communication

outlined the concerns of this council, its impact upon residents, and asked for the Cabinet Member to consider the reversal of the decision before the pilot scheme is finalised. Further, a request to the Cabinet Member to meet and discuss with the Leader was made. At the time of writing, a holding reply has been received from Cllr Schwier.

Hole Farm Visit

On the morning of Wednesday, 17th January, members of Brentwood's Clean and Green Committee were shown around the Hole Farm Community Woodland project.

The 100-hectare site is being developed as part of the Lower Thames Crossing project and will become home to around 150,000 new trees, and provide facilities for visitors, including a network of surfaced paths, a café and community room.

The plans for the green space were designed and developed with the needs of local people in mind and work is expected to start on the new facilities in 2024, and open to the public in Summer 2025.

Trees

At the Audit & Scrutiny on the 26th September 2023, the internal audit report presented the tree management audit, and highlighted concerns raised regarding the design and effectiveness of the existing controls and measures that are in place to manage and mitigate any potential risks.

With the anticipated additional funding being agreed to support a two-year tree-officer post, it is proposed that a Working Group is set up to ensure that the action plan, to address the limitations, as outlined in the audit report, is kept on track.

Community Safety Update

Operation Dial

The first-year trial of Op Dial has nearly finished and has proven to be a huge success. The chosen ASB hot spot for the trial was Railway Square and the surrounding locale. It was agreed that the Community Safety team would patrol the area twice a week out of hours and hold a monthly day of action.

These out of hours patrols have continued since July 2023 with Community Safety and regular late night police patrols. This has proven very effective and has shown a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area.

This pilot is looking at being extended for another year, giving Brentwood the opportunity to choose a new area affected by antisocial behaviour for the team to concentrate on.

Project Minerva CCTV for Shenfield and Coptfold Road Car Park was installed and is monitored 24/7 by Brentwood's Control Room.

The following projects for **Safer Streets** have begun or are beginning in 2024:

- Extra solar powered CCTV masts and cameras for fly tipping enforcement in Navestock and Warley – to be completed by May.
- 20 Temporary deployable cameras for quick time deployment to hot spot areas for ASB, crime and environmental offences – ready to be deployed.
- £20,000 towards a new community trailer for Brentwood.
- 4 more public space cameras for Brentwood including in Kings Rd and Ingatestone.
- Border posts for Hawksmoor Green to prevent motor vehicle ASB.
- Anti bleed kits in every licensed premises in Brentwood and 20 kits for Brentwood police response cars.
- Taxi Marshalls for Brentwood at peak times of the year
- Women's Safety Charter for Brentwood, engaging with businesses, educational institutions and licensed premises to raise awareness, produce women's safety pledge, accompanying marketing and promotion and a bespoke videos for Brentwood.
- Safer Together, Women's Safety Legacy for both Brentwood working with all secondary schools with theatre company conducting interactive outreach sessions with pupils about women's safety. Also engaging and working with nighttime economy on women's safety and attitudes including interactive quiz. Working with communities in Brentwood producing a gala evening and public show in Brentwood.

Further detailed reports to follow on the above projects once they have been delivered.

The Baker Partnership Hub Update

The HUB continues to thrive and be a productive and innovative environment for the Council's Community Safety Team to work alongside Essex Police and partners such as Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Probation, NHW, Crime Stoppers, SEPP, and Youth Services as well as many more.

Phoenix Futures have also joined the HUB since January this year and have begun providing outreach for drug and alcohol abuse.

The HUB continues to have the following regular meetings between partners:

- Weekly Community Safety Intelligence and Tasking
- Daily Police Briefings
- Biweekly ASB and CCTV project meetings
- Monthly ASB partnership meetings
- Ad Hoc case review meetings
- Partnership engagement and ops planning

These partnership meetings have resulted in better/productive use of available resources, an improved intelligence product identifying hot spots, repeat offenders, times of offences and emerging community safety trends and issues, improved use of CCTV and camera positioning, improved regular community engagement,

improved communications on individual cases between agencies, prompter and more accurate responses to victims and more accurate risk assessments.

We plan to hold some interactive workshops with members in our HUB in the next twelve months to further illustrate the success of the HUB and the benefit partnership working is having for our community.



CLEAN & GREEN COMMITTEE

26th FEBRUARY 2024

REPORT TITLE:	5G Public Petition - Response
REPORT OF:	Director of Environment
REPORT IS FOR:	Decision

REPORT SUMMARY

The petition outlines an area expertise that the Council has limited knowledge of, and influence upon, but may wish to still consider the possibility of lobbying. The concerns are centred on potential impact to human health, rather than broader environmental concerns, and therefore it would be appropriate for the petition to be further considered by the Housing, Health and Community Committee.

A case against the Government was brought by Action Against 5G. The High Court handed down the judgment on the judicial review hearing not in favour of the applicant - Action Against 5G. A permission to appeal was applied for against the judgement received, this subsequently was refused. Currently, on December 12, 2023 an application to the European Court of Human Rights has been submitted.

RECOMMENDATION

R1 – For the Committee to note the content of the report, and to refer the petition to Housing, Health & Community Committee for further scrutiny.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The information available suggests that concerns are centred on potential impact to human health, rather than broader environmental concerns, and therefore it would be appropriate for the petition to be considered by the Housing, Health and Community Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 A petition was received at Ordinary council stating the following:

I, the undersigned call on the support of Brentwood Borough Council, to use any means at its disposal to lobby and persuade the owners and network providers of the transmission tower in Kelvedon Hatch and request a delay to installation of 5G until the result of the Judicial Review by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) are known.

2.2 Officers have undertaken research of available information from credible sources to provide a succinct briefing note appended to this report (Appendix A).

2.3 The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is an independent organisation that provides scientific advice and guidance on non-ionising radiation. It is formally recognised by the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation. The UK Health Security Agency, which is responsible for assessing risks to public health, recommends that ICNIRP guidance should be followed.

2.4 In essence, ICNIRP considers the roll out of 5G in residential area as being safe, as long as exposure guidelines are appropriately followed while installing and operating the masts.

2.5 In summary, although there are legitimate concerns raised regarding the health impact of 5G masts, the wider health community conclude that these are limited and can be mitigated through correct operation and installation. This is the official Government position upon the matter.

2.6 A case against the Government was brought by Action Against 5G. On the 6 and 7 February 2023 the Administrative Court heard the judicial review of the Secretary of State's alleged failure to address the evidence of risks to human health posed by 5G technology. On March 12, 2023 the High Court handed down the judgment on the judicial review hearing not in favour of the applicant - Action Against 5G.

2.7 A permission to appeal was applied for against the judgement received, this subsequently was refused. Currently, on December 12, 2023 an application to the European Court of Human Rights was submitted.

2.8 It should be noted that although the petition states: *The Judicial Review by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)*. It is not clear if the appeal has yet to be accepted by the European Court of Human Rights, and so may yet, not be heard.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The petition is binary in that either is supported or not, its should be noted that the Council does not have any direct influence upon this matter, and so its role is effectively to lobby.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 There is a risk that further information and research could come to light which gives weight either for or against the perceived health risks associated with 5G masts.
- 4.2 The resource and expertise that can be provided as a Council is limited, given that it is a highly specialist area of expertise. Health advice would usually follow the Government guidance on a given subject in this field.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None has been undertaken.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This petition has been presented to the Full Council in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. The Local Government Act 2000 provides the Council with a general power to 'promote economic, social or environmental well-being". Any lobbying by the council on this matter would fall within that general power.

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / Claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / laurie.edmonds@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312500 henry.muss@brentwood.gov.uk

REPORT AUTHOR: Name: Marcus Hotten
Title: Director of Environment
Phone: 01277 312 500
Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A- Installation of 5G Phone Masts

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Installation of 5G Phone Masts
Information Paper: February 2024
Henry Muss

Issues around the installation of 5G masts in the Brentwood Borough, especially near residential areas, have been raised on the ground of potential health issues. This Paper aims to outline current guidance and legal challenges.

- **Current Guidance**

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is an independent organisation that provides scientific advice and guidance on non-ionising radiation. It is formally recognised by the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation. The UK Health Security Agency, which is responsible for assessing risks to public health, recommends that [ICNIRP guidance should be followed](#).

In essence, ICNIRP considers **the roll out of 5G in residential area as being safe as long as exposure guidelines are appropriately followed while installing and operating the masts**. The regulations of installation and the monitoring of the exposure are however outside the ICNIRP remit.

The Government states that local authorities should [not set health safeguards that are different to ICNIRP guidelines](#) (PDF). They should also not refuse applications for mobile masts on health grounds where [ICNIRP guidelines are met](#).
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/planning-rules-for-5g-masts-in-england/>

- **Legal Challenges**

On 6 and 7 February 2023 the Administrative Court heard the judicial review of the Secretary of State's alleged failure to address the evidence of risks to human health posed by 5G technology. (<https://www.burghwoodclinic.co.uk/blog/judicial-challenge-to-safety-of-5g>)

No5's Philip Rule acts for the claimants, led by Michael Mansfield KC, and instructed by Lorna Hackett of Hackett & Dabbs LLP. The case is brought by Action Against 5G and with the support of the public through Crowd Justice.

At the hearing the government argued that there is no duty to inform the public of any risks at all, because it essentially denies that there are any risks from the increased exposures or new form of radiation frequency to be used in 5G rollout. This is in keeping with its publications that have sought to reassure the public that there – categorically and conclusively – is no chance of harm arising from exposure to 5G and radiofrequency radiation (“RFR”).

The claimants’ case was outlined to the Court identifying that such a position taken by the government is not based upon the scientific report that the government itself has advanced as being the most up-to-date piece of international research. That is the “ICNIRP” (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) March 2020 guidelines.

The ICNIRP guidelines evidence the existence of risks, and notes that several are yet to be fully understood or proven by repetition of study or by anthropological study directly on people who are ‘guinea pigs’ for ubiquitous RFR or 5G in the real-world.

ICNIRP summarises that it concludes, (based on its very limited approach discussed above) that there are already three substantiated effects caused by exposure to radiofrequency EMFs: (i) nerve stimulation, (ii) changes in the permeability of cell membranes, and (iii) effects due to temperature elevation. For many other recorded matters, it essentially notes the jury is still out, but did not find that as yet the harm to human health has already been proven. In particular there are not yet any significant number of studies into 5G technology (which uses high frequency waves, and targeted beams and pulsation in a way earlier generations did not).

For those with disability treated by medical implant the consideration of safety given by ICNIRP, in its revised 2020 guidelines expressly do not cater for their safety. As well as those genetically or environmentally susceptible to suffer cancer or EHS in the future from the exposure to RFR, there are also existing vulnerable groups who ought to be considered and who deserve to be given information to assist them (but have not been), including:

- Those with disabilities that require medical implants with electrical currents or conductivity, including pace-makers in the heart for example. (This important issue has simply not been addressed at all by ICNIRP);
- Those with disability/injury that required the implant of metal to their body;
- Children—for instance, children’s brains absorb greater quantity of RFR, and bone marrow exposure is greater; as well as their lifespan exposure being of longer duration;
- Those who presently suffer disability arising from existing cancer;
- Those presently suffering pre-cancerous conditions;
- Those exposed habitually to radiation in the workplace, of particular levels or longevity;
- Those with immunosuppressant conditions;
- Those suffering from ME;

- Those suffering from EHS.

The Court was shown, for example, that the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified both ELF magnetic fields and RF EMFs as possibly carcinogenic to humans. Exposure to non-ionising radiation including radiofrequency is notably a recorded disease or illness recognised by the WHO, since 2005, in the International Classification of Diseases, ICD-10 (even if the precise cause is not yet understood or known). Studies ICNIRP have identified, state certain effects that might prove harmful and their substantiation by further study is awaited. Limitations on current knowledge are relevant when assurances are sought to be given by the government.

The Court of Appeal previously granted permission for the case to proceed on the grounds that challenge:

- The failure to provide adequate or effective information to the public about the risks and how, if it be possible, it might be possible for individuals to avoid or minimise the risks;
- (a) The failure to provide adequate and sufficient reasons for not establishing a process to investigate and establish the adverse health effects and risks of adverse health effects from 5G technology and/or for discounting the risks presented by the evidence available; and/or (b) failure to meet the requirements of transparency and openness required of a public body.

These grounds advance a breach of the Human Rights Act 1998 by omissions and failings in violation of the positive obligations to protect human life, health and dignity, required to be met by Articles 2, 3 and/or 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Judgment is awaited from the Administrative Court in due course.

- **Further supporting evidence for safety of 5G Masts**

World Health Organisation

To date, and after much research performed, no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies. Health-related conclusions are drawn from studies performed across the entire radio spectrum but, so far, only a few studies have been carried out at the frequencies to be used by 5G.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-5g-mobile-networks-and-health>

Tissue heating is the main mechanism of interaction between radiofrequency fields and the human body. Radiofrequency exposure levels from current technologies result in negligible temperature rise in the human body.

As the frequency increases, there is less penetration into the body tissues and absorption of the energy becomes more confined to the surface of the body (skin and

eye). Provided that the overall exposure remains below international guidelines, no consequences for public health are anticipated.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) - Australian Government's primary authority on radiation protection and nuclear safety

There are no established short term or long term health effects to people or the environment from radio waves at the power levels used for 5G.

5G will initially use the same type of radio waves as 4G. In the future, 5G will use 'millimetre waves'. Millimetre waves cannot travel as far as those used in 4G, so more small cell base stations are required



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26th February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Allotments
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment
REPORT FOR:	Information only
WARDS:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

The Clean & Green Committee in September 2023 agreed that Officers in consultation with the Horticultural society identify new sites and seek to undertake a review of the existing allotments site to determine capacity and unmet demand.

The society believe that should any additional resource be made available to invest into the allotments, priority should be given to investing in existing sites seeking to maximise their potential, recognising the burden the additional administrative resource would represent for the Society should the further new sites be created.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund identified potential funding for Allotment maintenance. It is anticipated that the CIL report will be presented to Members at Council by September 2024. There is, therefore, and opportunity for the members to consider the allotments requirements in the debate and decision-making process of that Council meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 The Clean & Green Committee in September 2023 agreed that Officers in consultation with the Horticultural society identify new sites and seek to undertake a review of the existing allotments site to determine capacity and unmet demand.

1.2 PLC Consultancy undertook a Sports, Leisure and Open Space Assessment Final Report – August 2016.

The report stated that there are 15 allotment sites in the Borough providing approximately 770 plots of various sizes in a total of 12.57 hectares. A

standard allotment plot has an area of 250 square metres (originally ten square poles or 302.5 square yards) which equates to 40 plots to the hectare. There are, therefore, the equivalent of 503 standard plots in total. The figure of 770 arises from factors including popular sites where standard plots have been sub-divided to help reduce waiting lists or where site boundaries and shape make exact division impractical.

- 1.3 A list of sites, based on the information in the 2016 report, with their sizes and number of plots is set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

Site Name	Ha	Nos of plots	No of standard plots
Bishops Hall Road	0.19	15	8
Crescent Road	1.38	50	55
Hartwood	3.28	210	131
Middle Road	0.69	30	28
Ongar Road	0.87	56	35
Park Road	2.15	200	86
Stock Lane	1.83	93	73
Wash Road	0.20	15	8
Birbeck Road	0.08	6	3
Fielding Way	0.18	15	7
Honeypot Lane	0.47	25	19
Rectory Lane	0.22	10	9
River Road	0.50	20	20
Roman Road	0.34	15	14
Salmonds Grove	0.18	10	8
	12.56	770	504

Update on position

- 1.4 Of the 15 allotment sites, 8 are managed on behalf of the Council by the Brentwood Horticultural Society, representing the majority (over 600) plots available.
- 1.5 In communication with the Brentwood Horticultural Society it was explained to Officers, that at the time of the consultancy report in 2016, the society had an informal management structure, with many plots not let or cultivated, with intervention required on the sites to get them back to full use.
- 1.6 The Society have expressed concern over the accuracy of the above table (Paragraph 1.3), in particular the size of the sites, with site area being

overrepresented and consideration not being given to area lost to infrastructure, shape of the site, or easements

- 1.7 From 2017, until December 2023, there has been a total of 760 applications for allotment plots. The society has installed a total of 330 new plot holders across the 8 sites under its responsibility.
- 1.8 The Society is manned by unpaid volunteers and, although through previous employments, have suitable skills to manage the administration and management of the society's membership, it was emphasised that the staffing resources required to manage the allotments is as important as the availability of additional allotments. Indeed, if additional allotments were to be made available, it is the additional resource to manage the administration of any new allotments that would potentially limit any further expansion. The society has stated that it does not have the voluntary resource to support any additional sites.
- 1.9 The waiting list for an allotment remains fairly consistent, at an approximate 100 applications, this drops at the end of the society's administrative year (End of October) as existing plot holders relinquish their plots, with the waiting list increasing over the year, as new enquiries are made throughout the year.
- 1.10 The length of the waiting list varies especially for those sites that are relatively small but have a significant local need for plots. In this case there is a justification to expand the sites that are already established.
- 1.11 The society have previously recovered unusable land at the Ongar Road site for additional plots, by installing French drains, perimeter fencing and clearing the area of many years' worth of detritus all at the Society's expense. The Society commended the close working relationship with the Council's Asset Team who have assisted on seeking to develop and improve existing sites.
- 1.12 In summary, the society believe that should any additional resource be made available to invest into the allotments, priority should be given to investing in existing sites seeking to maximise their potential, recognising the burden the additional administrative resource would represent for the Society should the further new sites be created.
- 1.13 Therefore it is concluded that at this time further new allotment sites should not be brought forward until further support can be provide to the horticultural societies.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 1.14 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was approved at Full Council in September 2024. The CIL fund identified, within the adopted Infrastructure Delivery Plan Part B, potential funding for allotment maintenance. This has been estimated at £1 million over the plan period of up to 2033. This is of course dependent on how much CIL income the Council receives, and consideration being given to the competing priorities of other items of

infrastructure that have been brought forward. In terms of priority the funding of the allotments was ranked the lowest at a '3'.

- 1.15 The decision on what the CIL money is spent on will be determined by Council, with Members having the opportunity to consider potential CIL funding for allotments, however a justification would have to be brought forward.
- 1.16 It is anticipated that the above CIL report will be presented to Members at Council by September 2024. There is, therefore, an opportunity for the members to give consideration to the allotments requirements in the debate and decision-making process of that Council meeting.

2.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 2.1 None, the report is currently, effectively setting out the position of the Society.

3.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 3.1 None has been undertaken.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Up Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk

6.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development
Tel & Email 01277 312500/ laurie.edmonds@brentwood.gov.uk

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act make discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful.
 - 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.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, 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).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500/ kim.anderson@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312500 /henry.muss@brentwood.gov.uk

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Marcus Hotten

Title: Director - Environment

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26th February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Waste Strategy – Options Modelling
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment
REPORT IS FOR:	Decision
WARDS:	ALL

REPORT SUMMARY

The report sets out different options (paragraph 2.10) of waste collection service that are to be modelled to predicts a range of outcomes: recycling rates; the gross and net cost of the collection service; the whole system collection and disposal costs; and carbon emissions.

These model outcomes are assessed against as set of criteria as set out in paragraph 2.12, further options can be modelled if required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

R1. To Note the content of the report, specifically the options proposed for modelling as set out in paragraph 2.10

R2. To agree the proposed assessment criteria, as set out in paragraph 2.12

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure that the Council's waste collection service can adapt to anticipated changes that may be required by the Government.
- 1.2 To ensure that procurement of Waste Collection Vehicles and the future of design and location of any operational depot considers longer term strategic needs.

- 1.3 To explore opportunities to minimise waste collection and maximise kerb-side recycling.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On the 26th June, 2023 the Clean and Green Committee resolved to appoint a suitable consultant to support the development of a waste strategy, supported by a Waste Strategy Working Group.
- 2.2 The Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is a Non-Government Organisation working globally to tackle causes of climate crisis, and have been established on the United Kingdom since 2000.
- 2.3 WRAP work closely with local authorities to improve recycling quality and quantity of recycling, providing free to use resources and support, including the appointment of consultants to assist with developing and modelling waste collection options.

With WRAP's support, Ricardo consultancy were appointed to undertake the work.

Development of a Draft Waste and Recycling Strategy

- 2.4 To assist in the development of a strategy it was proposed that a Working Group be established to meet the following objectives:
- To identify and discuss strategic drivers and key principles that are likely to shape the strategy; these key principles will include reducing the impact that waste management has on climate change.
 - To commission the modelling of a range of contrasting waste collection options with accompanying estimated costs and recycling rates;
 - To identify any options that satisfy the previously identified key principles;
 - To draw up a draft strategy based on the outcomes of the modelling and testing.
- 2.5 The strategy will be research based and data-driven, setting out the reasons for our approach; the principles of what we will do; and the targets that we will strive to meet.

Modelling Steps

- 2.6 The methodology to achieve the above objectives sets out six milestones within the modelling to assist in the development of a finalised strategy. These are summarised below:
- 1. Benchmarking** – The Council performance is compared to similar authorities
 - 2. Baseline Modelling** – To establish resources and costs to deliver the existing waste collection service

3. **Options Modelling** – Options that are of interest in terms of resource requirements, costs, recycling performance and carbon emissions
4. **Stage 1 Options Appraisal** – To assess the Options against the baseline considering the Council objectives, constraints and priorities
5. **Stage 2 Options Appraisal** – Assess the variants and sensitivities against the service baseline and the Options
6. **Final Report** – Consolidates all analysis results to recommend a best path forward for consideration by Members.

Progress To Date

- 2.7 Ricardo consultants, working closely with Officers, have strived to benchmark against other similar authorities and establish the baseline costs of the existing service. Therefore steps 1. & 2. are nearing completion. The findings will be set out in a future report.

Step 3 - Options Modelling

- 2.8 A number of contrasting waste collection options are to be put forward and modelled. The options put forward are by no means an exhaustive list of the different combinations of collection systems that can be created. The options will consider different ways in which the waste can be presented by the residents, or the type of vehicle it is collected in.
- 2.9 The options were chosen to provide contrasting approaches to the collection of waste and recycling, as to provide a meaningful range of outputs and strategic options. The options should not be construed as pre-emptive to a preferred option or change to service.

2.10 The options are summarised below.

Options	Residual waste	Dry recycling	Food waste
Baseline	Weekly – Black sacks	Fortnightly - Multi-stream – Reusable sacks/Box	Weekly – Kitchen caddies
Option 1	Weekly – Black sacks	Fortnightly – Twin Stream (Split-back vehicle) Week 1 – Paper & Plastics (wheelie bin) + Food(caddy) Week 2 – Glass (box) + Food (caddy)	
Option 1a	Weekly – Black sacks	Fortnightly - Twin-stream (open-back vehicle) Week 1 – Paper & Plastics (bin) Week 2 – Glass (box)	Weekly Food– Kitchen caddies
Option 2	Weekly – Black sacks	Weekly Collection - Multi-stream recycling – Romaquip multicompartiment vehicle	
Option 2a	Weekly – Black sacks	Weekly – Multi Stream - Paper & Plastics (Sacks) (split-back vehicle) - Glass (box) (open back vehicle)	Weekly Food– Kitchen caddies
Option 3	Weekly – Black sacks	Fortnightly – Co-mingled (all dry recycling together) (wheeled bins) (open-back vehicle)	Weekly Food– Kitchen caddies
Option 4	Fortnightly – 240L Wheeled bins	Fortnightly - Twin-stream – (open-back vehicle) Week 1 – Paper & Plastics Week 2 – Glass (box)	Weekly Food – Kitchen caddies

2.11 The modelling will predict a number of key outcomes for the Council to consider. These key outcomes are: recycling rates; the gross and net cost of the collection service; the whole system collection and disposal costs; and carbon emissions.

2.12 These outputs will be assessed against the below suggested qualitative criteria.

- **Deliverability Risk** – Is the collection systems a proven method that can be delivered at the scale of the Borough?
- **Flexibility** – extent to which methodology is flexible to changes in waste composition.
- **Ease of Use** – Level of convenience, and easy to use and understand for residents

- **Public Acceptability** – the extent to which the collection methodology would be understood and accepted by residents.
- **Local environmental impacts (litter etc.)** – The level of impact on the cleanliness of the street scene
- **Exposure to market risk** – the evaluation of exposure to market risk (price) – recycle and other income streams
- **Local policy alignment** – Is this sympathetic to local Council and County policy
- **Legislation compliance** – Will the collection system comply with the Environment Act, or will exemptions be required.
- **Waste Hierarchy** – maximising the re-use and recycling opportunities within the waste system collection
- **Environmental impact/Carbon impact** – Carbon footprint of the collection and disposal systems

2.13 Ricardo consultants originally were to seek the view of the Waste Strategy Working Group as to the criteria ranking, and the weight given to each of the criteria. In consultation with the Chair of the Clean & Green Committee, a preference has been expressed that a survey is circulated to all Members of the Clean & Green Committee, as to provide an opportunity for all members of the Committee to provide a view upon the assessment criteria.

2.14 From the survey results, an average of the scores will be used to assess against the options set out above in paragraph 2.10. This will provide an assessment of the options and focus for further discussion and analysis.

2.15 These findings will be shared with the Clean & Green Committee at a subsequent Committee meeting.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 There are various collection options that could be modelled, however, it advised that the initial modelling is undertaken and reviewed. Should the analysis indicate that further options should be considered, then modelling of further options can be undertaken.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 There is the possibility that the development of the strategy will be delayed, however milestones are currently being achieved within the anticipated time scale.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation with relevant stakeholders will be considered as set out in the report to follow, once the business case for the different options has been established.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

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

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Up Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk

8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from this report

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / laurie.edmonds@brentwood.gov.uk

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful.
- 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.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, 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).

The report is to note, so will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy looks to reduce the health inequalities in relation to some of the protected characteristics.

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500/ kim.anderson@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The no direct environmental and climate implications arising from this report. However, the opportunities to reduce carbon footprint through increased recycling and whole system treatment costs will be considered in the options appraisal set out in the body of the report.

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500/ henry.muss@brentwood.gov.uk

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Marcus Hotten

Title: Director - Environment

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Garden Waste Wheeled Bin Collection Service – Bin Stickers
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment
REPORT IS FOR:	For decision
WARDS:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

The Council offers residents a chargeable garden waste collection service. The service has approximately 6,500 customer who pay £60 per bin each year for the provision of a 240 litre brown wheeled bin which is emptied fortnightly, other than for the two weeks over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Collections are currently made from all brown bins that are presented on the scheduled day as there are no visual indicators on the bins to show that accounts have been paid, and therefore that the containers should be emptied. This can result in collections being made from residents who no longer subscribe to the service but have retained the bin from a previous year's subscription which has elapsed, or who have purchased or acquired their own containers.

This report seeks approval for the introduction of stickers which are to be placed on the wheeled bins giving the collection teams a very clear indication which bins should be emptied.

RECOMMENDATION

R1 To approve the introduction of a stickering system for the garden waste wheeled bin service.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To ensure that only wheeled bins that are presented by customers who have an active subscription to the service are collected. This will make the service

more efficient and prompt residents who are not paying for the service to subscribe, thereby increasing income.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council offers residents a chargeable brown wheeled bin collection service to help them to dispose of their garden waste. The service has approximately 6,500 paying customers, many of whom have more than one bin, and is forecast to generate an income of £450,000 in this financial year. The annual charge for the service is currently £60 per bin and this includes the hire of the wheeled bin(s) fortnightly collection except for the two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.
- 2.2 Most Councils who operate a similar subscription service, issue bin stickers when customers join the scheme or renew their subscriptions. Customers are asked to attach the stickers to their bins in an agreed position and present them for collection with the stickers facing the road. The stickers can then be easily seen by the collection teams who will empty the bins displaying them.
- 2.3 In Brentwood, there is nothing to make the collection teams aware that the bin has been paid for, and therefore all Council brown wheeled bins presented on the collection day are emptied. This often results in residents who no longer subscribe to the service receiving collections, resulting in potential lost income and additional operational costs. Based on the number of customers whose contracts have been cancelled, but where it has not been possible to reclaim the bins, it is estimated that approximately 500 containers could still be being presented for collection and potentially be being emptied. This is in addition to customers who may have purchased or acquired their own brown bins.
- 2.4 ~~OBJ~~By introducing a sticker system the bins presented by paying customers will be easily identifiable and emptied. Those not displaying a sticker would not be emptied until payment is made. This will ensure collections are only made from residents who subscribe to the service.
- 2.5 Should residents whose bins have not been emptied, wish to join, or rejoin the service, arrangements will be made for a sticker to be issued and collections scheduled. Payments can be made online or by calling the Council's Contact Centre who are able to take card payments. If payments are not made and the bins clearly belong to the Council, efforts will be made to remove them.
- 2.6 The introduction of the sticker system would be publicised in advance to give residents an opportunity to subscribe to the service and avoid any disruption to collections. This campaign could also promote the service with the intention of generating new customers.
- 2.7 The stickers will be provided externally by a company who, on instruction from the Council will mail them to service subscribers. These stickers will display the contract end date and provide a very visible and easy way for the collection staff to see which bins they should be emptying.

- 2.8 Locally - Basildon, Castlepoint, Havering, Barking and Dagenham and Southwark Councils all operate a sticker based wheeled bin garden waste collection service and work with a company who have extensive experience of managing the logistics and distribution. This company is very keen to work with Brentwood should Members agree this report.
- 2.9 Based on current bin numbers introducing the sticker system would cost approximately £18,000 in year one with ongoing annual costs of around £9,600. The additional costs in year one will ensure all customer are issued with stickers from “go live” and additional stickers when they re-subscribe to cover them for the next full-service year. Officers are confident that these costs would be off set and more income generated because of increased subscriptions to the service.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 An alternative option would be to introduce stickers as current rolling contracts are renewed. This would avoid the additional costs in year one, however adopting this approach would take a year to introduce before it results in all paying customers displaying stickers on their bins. This would prolong the current arrangements where residents who are not subscribing to the service have their bins emptied, and therefore it is not recommended.
- 3.2 The service could continue to operate as it currently does with limited controls to ensure only wheeled bins presented by customers who subscribe to the service are emptied.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 Continuing to provide the service as it is currently delivered with collection teams emptying all bins presented for collection presents a risk of not maximising the income potential the service could generate.
- 4.2 The number of additional paying customers the introduction of permit stickers would generate is unknown.
- 4.3 If the number of non-paying customers who no longer have their bins emptied are not replaced by a matching number of customers who subscribe to the service, the collected tonnage of green waste could drop. This would impact on the tonnage of garden waste collected and the associated performance indicators.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No engagement or consultation has been undertaken.

5.2 A communications campaign introducing the change to a sticker system along with the availability of the service could also generate new customer and further increase income.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

6.1 The cost to introduce a sticker system for current garden waste service customers will be in the region of £18,000 in year one followed by an annual cost of £9,600 per year. Based on the current charge of £60 per bin, if 60% of customers who have cancelled subscriptions but have retained their bins and are having them collected re-subscribe to the service the year one costs will be covered and an additional £8,400 generated in following years.

6.2 The cost of the sticker system would be managed within existing service budgets.

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / Claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

7.1 Under section 45(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012, waste collection authorities may recover a reasonable charge for the collection of garden waste.

8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / laurie.edmonds@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

8.1 The proposed service change should generate additional income but will not impact on the business community.

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act make discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful.

- 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.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, 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).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

10.1 There are no direct environmental implication relating to this report.

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 henry.muss@brentwood.gov.uk

REPORT AUTHOR:

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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COMMITTEE TITLE – Clean and Green Committee

DATE – 26th February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Clean and Green Rewilding Options and Trial Sites - Update
REPORT OF:	Adam Aldridge, Corporate Manager - Green Spaces

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides revised options for sites bought forward by Clean and Green Committee for the trial of “rewilding” areas of parks and verges.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To agree the revised trial sites detailed below for rewilding and to agree the change in management for these areas during the trial period.

SUPPORT ING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Officers have reviewed the sites bought to the committee by its members and have assessed the suitability of each site.
- 1.2 The below information sets out what is achievable at minimal cost with negligible impact on resource for the Green Spaces operational teams.
- 1.3 The below sites have been assessed in line with the proposal of natural rewilding methods where grasses and flora are left to regenerate natively. These proposed sites as bought forward by ward members do not account for cultivation of specific wild flora, which is out of scope of the trial.
- 1.4 It should be noted that these sites if accepted, can be easily reverted to formally mowed verges/greens using existing resource and machinery.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A report was presented to the Clean and Green Committee on the 11th of September 2023 to propose the plans for relaxed mowing in certain areas

within the borough. The management options for these sites included relaxed mowing, natural regeneration, tree planting and establishment of wildflowers.

- 2.2 To address concerns over rewilding in certain areas and as requested by members, certain sites are no longer deemed feasible as part of this trial. Should a further review be required at these sites, a further paper will be presented to Clean and Green Committee indicating a cost and resource implication, as these sites could not be reverted easily during a trial period.
- 2.3 To define the management type of each area, the table below provides some detail on how each management option could be implemented. It is important to note that options beyond Relaxed Mowing and match funded whip planting will bear a significant cost and resource implication to the Councils Green Spaces department:

Management Option	Detail	Implementation Period
Relaxed Mowing	<p>Area will be left to form a natural meadow.</p> <p>Area will receive a “mower width” perimeter cut as part of routine maintenance to ensure the area is presentable and intentional. This will include a regular cut of a “mower width” around and footpath, desire line, obstacles, or hard surfaced area.</p> <p>Naturalised area will be cut once per annum with a “cut and collect” machine or a flail machine where collection is not possible.</p>	<p>Immediate Implementation</p> <p>Establishment 1 year</p>
Tree Planting (Whips)	<p>A whip is an unbranched young tree approximately 50cm to 1m in size. These are low maintenance and would not require additional watering. Whips would be sourced from a sustainable source and be of a native variety.</p>	<p>Whip Planting November – February</p> <p>10 Years Establishment</p>

Tree Planting (Standards)	A standard tree is an established tree of a size greater than 2m in height. These would provide an “instant impact” but would require regular watering.	Standard Planting November – February Immediate Establishment 3 Year Watering Program
Wildflower Meadow	An area will be cultivated in the Autumn months with a perennial wildflower mix	September – October Implementation 1-3 Year Establishment Period
Bulb Planting		October Implementation Bulbs will flower each spring.

- 2.4 Officers have considered the practicality of the areas put forward by the Committee and have made recommendation for each area in the table below. Appendix A to this document is a list of maps detailing each area.
- 2.5 The tree planting initiative at Hutton Recreation ground as agreed has now been completed and was successfully funded by Thames Chase Community Forest.
- 2.6 There are currently no areas planned for Wildflower Meadow or Whip planting as these areas would not be easily reverted during a trial period. Wildflower meadow creation come at an inflated cost and labour, and we would want to be sure that these areas are to be managed long term before implementing.

<u>Site Location</u>	<u>Preferred Management Option</u>	<u>Map Reference</u>
Hutton Recreation Ground	Relaxed Mowing – Deemed unsuitable. Tree Planting (Standards) – to commence in 2024 planting season if trial considered a success. Tree Planting (Standards) - Avenue of 80 Trees – Completed.	Map 1
Greensward Elizabeth Road	Relaxed Mowing	Map 2

Greensward Harewood Road	Relaxed Mowing	Map 3
Elizabeth Road/Doddinghurst Road Junction	Tree Planting (Standards) Bulb Planting Relaxed Mowing	Map 4
Green Area between Days Lane, Crow Green and Ashwells Lane	Relaxed Mowing	Map 5
Greensward in Ongar Road	Relaxed Mowing	Map 6
Iris Close Community Green	Area not suitable due to public use of green. There would be difficulty maintaining this area as anything other than amenity grass.	N/A
Chelmsford Road	Verges would not be suitable due to small size. Area would be perceived as unkept as opposed to rewilded.	N/A
Hanging Hill Lane	Relaxed Mowing	Map 7
Wendover Gardens	Relaxed Mowing	Map 8

2.7 It should be considered that whilst relaxed mowing areas will be simple to revert to maintained grass in the first year, areas that are planted with trees are not easily reverted without potential reputational damage to the Council as this would involve the destruction of newly planted trees.

2.8 Areas left for rewilding for longer than one year, may require additional resource for cultivation, overseeding and watering if they were to revert to amenity grass after this period.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 To continue to maintain areas as amenity grassland. This option has no impact.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 Public perception of these areas may be seen as a “cost cutting” exercise and not that of biodiversity. It is recommended that Communications undertake targeted social media releases to the areas affected to educate residents.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Members of this committee have provided a low-key consultation with residents of affected areas. The general feedback is positive and in favour of re wilding these areas.
- 5.2 If these sites were perceived to be a success, it is the recommendation that a wider consultation process is created to understand the commitment of our residents for any potential wider rollout, borough wide.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

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

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / Claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful .
 - 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.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, 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).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure, and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

9.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 These measures support improved biodiversity and reduced fuel usage.

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312500

10.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from this report

Name & Title: Leigh Nicholson, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Adam Aldridge

Title: Corporate Manager – Green Spaces

Phone:01702 318053

Email: adam.aldridge@brentwood.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Maps

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Briefing note



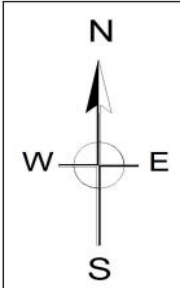
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Drawn by :
Service :
Date : 15th August 2023

Relaxed Mowing **GREEN**
Tree Planting **PURPLE**

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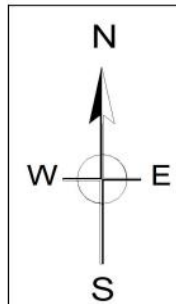
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Drawn by :
Service :
Date : 7th August 2023

Relaxed Mowing **GREEN**

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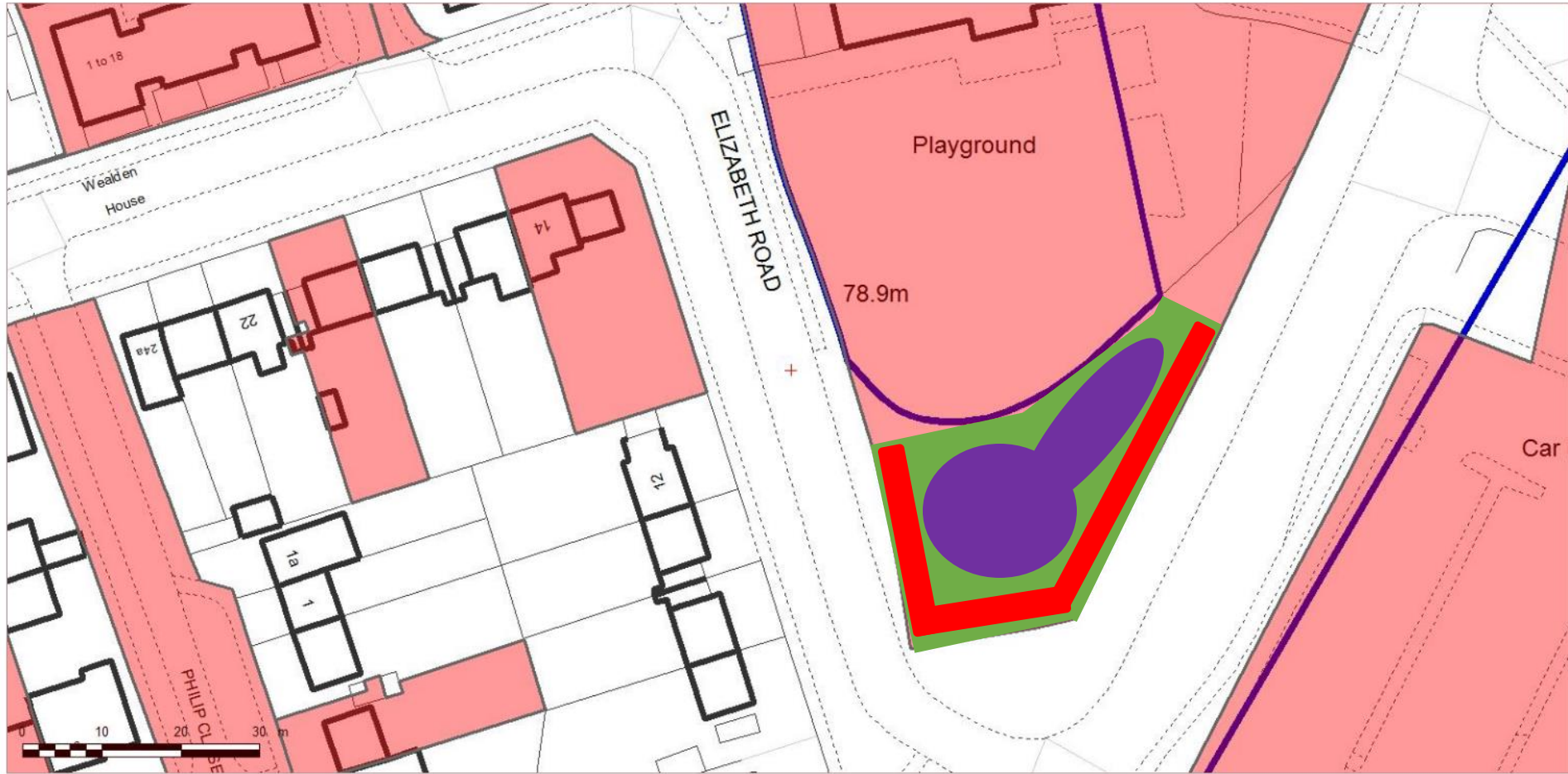
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Service :
Date : 7th August 2023

Relaxed Mowing GREEN

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Drawing No. :
Scale at A4 : 1:750
Drawn by :
Service :
Date : 7th August 2023

Relaxed Mowing

GREEN

Tree Planting

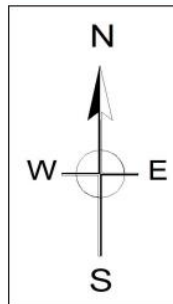
PURPLE

Bulb Planting

RED



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Drawing No. :
Scale at A4 : 1:1250
Drawn by :
Service :
Date : 29th August 2023

Relaxed Mowing GREEN

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Drawing No. :
Scale at A4 : 1:1250
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Service :
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Relaxed Mowing GREEN

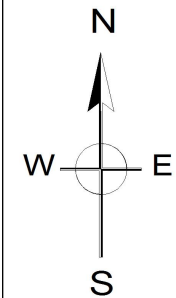
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Hanging Hill Lane

Relaxed Mowing =



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 Service :
 Date : 9th February 2024

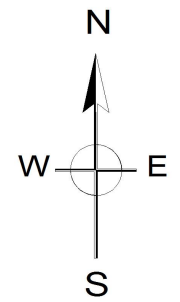
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Wendover Gardens

Relaxed Mowing = 

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CLEAN & GREEN COMMITTEE

26th February 2024

REPORT TITLE:	The Great British Spring Clean
REPORT OF:	Director of Environment
REPORT IS FOR:	Decision
WARDS:	ALL

REPORT SUMMARY

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. In 2024, the campaign returns from 15th March to 31st March.

The promotion of the Great British Spring Clean provides an opportunity for the Council to highlight the works that it undertakes and raise the awareness of littering campaigns.

It is proposed that as part of the campaign the Council takes an active role by: firstly, promoting its own volunteer litter pick days with the County Parks; and secondly, diverting existing resources to deliver a deep-litter picking and cleaning of the 'gateways' to the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

R1 – To approve the cleansing schedule of 'gateway' sites as set out in paragraph 2.5

R2 – To approve the promotion of the Great British Spring Clean and provide support as set out in paragraph 2.4

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The promotion of the Great British Spring Clean provides an opportunity for the Council to highlight the works that it undertakes and raise the awareness of littering campaigns.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. In 2024, the campaign returns from 15th March to 31st March. The scheme

is promoted by Keep Britain Tidy, with those signing up pledging to pick more than 400,000 bags throughout the campaign period in 2023.

- 2.2 As a Local Authority the Council can provide support, by agreeing to lend equipment, co-ordinate the collection of litter collected, and by providing Keep Britain Tidy with contact details of a nominated person that can be shared upon their website.
- 2.4 It is proposed that as part of the campaign the Council takes an active role by: firstly, promoting its own volunteer litter pick days with the County Parks; and secondly, diverting existing resources to deliver a deep-litter picking and cleaning of the 'gateways' to the Borough. The targeting of the 'gateways' will provide a visible and positive outcome, and address sites that are not suitable for community volunteers to undertake.
- 2.5 The proposed 'Gateway' sites and actions are listed below:
- **Brook Street (A1023)**– *The Clean up around the 'triangle' at the junction of the entrance to the roundabout, the sweeping of channels and the central islands from the roundabout to Nags Head Lane. A deep cleanse and litter pick of the slip road adjacent to the Shell Garage.*
 - **Rayleigh Road/London Road (A129)** – *The Sweeping of the channels and traffic islands from Hutton Village to the boundary of the Borough.*
 - **Chelmsford Road** – *From the A12 to Alexander Lane, deep litter pick - channels and traffic islands to be swept*
 - **Ongar Road (A128)** – *From Kelvendon Hatch, Eagle Lane to Pilgrims Hatch, Coxtie Green Road – deep litter pick - channels and traffic islands to be swept*
 - **Warley Street (B186)** – *From the A127 to Bird Lane – deep litter pick and channels swept*
- 2.6 To achieve the above list of works in the two-week period of the Great British Spring Clean promotion, it is proposed that the Neighbourhood Action Team will postpone the usual schedule of work, effectively moving and delaying the existing schedule by a two-week period.
- 2.7 It should be noted that the majority of the cleansing work would be usually scheduled to be undertaken throughout the year, rather than condensed into a succinct period. The proposed works would be in addition to any existing schedule, so would in effect be an additional cleaning of these targeted areas.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 To continue with the schedule of existing programme of works and to not undertake these additional cleansing tasks.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 That the additional work cannot be completed in the time allocated. It has been estimated that the works are achievable, providing there isn't additional 'deep cleaning of gateway sites' requested and incorporated.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

5.1 None undertaken.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal or governance implications arising from the report.

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / Claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from the report.

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / laurie.edmonds@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful .
- 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.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, 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).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report.

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 henry.muss@brentwood.gov.uk

REPORT AUTHOR: **Name: Paul Ellis**
Title: Corporate Manger – Streets & Waste
Phone: 01277 312 500
Email: paul.ellis@brentwood.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Members Interests

Members of the Council must declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests and the nature of the interest at the beginning of an agenda item and that, on declaring a pecuniary interest, they are required to leave the Chamber.

- **What are pecuniary interests?**

A person's pecuniary interests are their business interests (for example their employment trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which they are associated) and wider financial interests they might have (for example trust funds, investments, and asset including land and property).

- **Do I have any disclosable pecuniary interests?**

You have a disclosable pecuniary interest if you, your spouse or civil partner, or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner have a disclosable pecuniary interest set out in the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

- **What does having a disclosable pecuniary interest stop me doing?**

If you are present at a meeting of your council or authority, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of your authority, and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting, you must not :

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, of if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting participate further in any discussion of the business or,
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

- **Other Pecuniary Interests**

Other Pecuniary Interests are also set out in the Members' Code of Conduct and apply only to you as a Member.

If you have an Other Pecuniary Interest in an item of business on the agenda then you must disclose that interest and withdraw from the room while that business is being considered

- **Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Non –pecuniary interests are set out in the Council's Code of Conduct and apply to you as a Member and also to relevant persons where the decision might reasonably be regarded as affecting their wellbeing.

A 'relevant person' is your spouse or civil partner, or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner

If you have a non-pecuniary interest in any business of the Authority and you are present at a meeting of the Authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest whether or not such interest is registered on your Register of Interests or for which you have made a pending notification.

Green and Clean Committee

The functions within the remit of the Green and Clean Committee are set out below:

1. Waste management, refuse collection and recycling
2. Environmental improvement schemes
3. The quality of the public realm, including street services and grounds maintenance
4. Highway matters that are the responsibility of the Borough Council (including highway closures under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847) and drainage
5. Public conveniences
6. Cemeteries and closed churchyards
7. Environmental Health
8. Environmental nuisance and pollution controls
9. Other miscellaneous powers enforced by Environmental Health
10. Unlawful incursions
11. Operational facilities management (including maintenance) of the Town Hall and the Depot
12. Oversee and monitor the enforcement activities of the Council
13. Community Safety (including Community Safety Partnership) and CCTV
14. To implement working parties as required

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