

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 2 November 2022
Subject: Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee Chairs Update	Wards Affected: All
Chair: Cllr Chris Hossack	
	For Information

Click It Local Update

On 3 March 2022 Essex County Council gave Brentwood Borough Council a grant of £15,000 to extend Brentwood's Click It Local contract for an additional six months until September 2022. At the Policy, Resources, Economic Development (PRED) Committee on 9 March, it was agreed that a Click It Local update would be provided to members on the platform's performance during this extension period.

Click It Local announced on 20 March that it had ceased trading with immediate effect. The contract extension had not been signed by this date and no further Council monies were transferred to Click It Local.

On 22 March, Essex County Council agreed that Brentwood Borough Council could keep the £15,000 grant to use on other projects. To date £5,000 of this funding has been allocated to support the onboarding of Brentwood businesses onto the Essex+ platform, a new high street loyalty pilot scheme supported by Essex CC that will be launching in autumn 2022. The remaining £10,000 remains in the Economic Development budget.

Business Improvement District for Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are business led partnerships which are created through a ballot process to deliver additional services to local businesses. They can be a powerful tool for directly involving local businesses in local activities and allow the business community and local authorities to work together to improve the local trading environment.

Following the High Streets Conferences held on 11 January and 21 March 2022, the council commissioned a BID feasibility report. The report has provided a series of recommendations for potential formation of a BID for Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone, subject to the outcome of a ballot in summer 2023.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Members will be aware that the Government announcement UKSPF funding for all districts earlier this year. The council responded by the deadline of 1 August 2022 with an Investment Plan for how the funding would be spent according to high-level themes set by the Government. Brentwood borough will be allocated £1 million to be spent in line with the business plan over the next three years (2022/23 – 2024/25), subject to approval. A report was brought to PRED Committee on 13 July 2022.

The council is still awaiting confirmation of these funds and approval of the business plan. Members will be updated once funding confirmation has been received, which will include convening a board to approve specific proposals for spending the funds in line with the Investment Plan and UKSPF rules.

Brentwood Business Showcase

The council held its sixth annual Brentwood Business Showcase on Wednesday 5 October 2022, attracting close to 500 attendees from across Essex. The event featured keynote speakers, workshops and a record number of exhibitors. New to the Showcase this year was the addition of a networking breakfast and a Sustainability Zone stage.

Draft Parking Strategy

At PRED Committee on 16 December 2020 it was resolved to engage with a parking consultant to assist the council to develop a draft parking strategy for members to consider.

Following stakeholder engagement, a draft strategy for parking has been produced and was approved by PRED Committee on 3 October 2022.

Brentwood Local Heritage List

The report to PRED Committee on 3 October 2022 presented the Brentwood Local Heritage List (Local List) and sought approval to adopt the list and with delegated authority to the Director of Place for ongoing management.

All Local Authorities are responsible for compiling a Local List, with guidance being set out by Historic England, through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The recently adopted Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 also refers to Non-Designated Heritage Assets and a Local List under Policy BE16 Conservation and Enhancement of Historic Environment and supports the ethos of local listing.

This was approved by the Committee.

Ingatestone and Fryerning Neighbourhood Plan (2020-2033) – Update

Brentwood Borough Council approved the designation of the Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area in October 2017. The neighbourhood planning group prepared a draft neighbourhood plan and consulted on the document before formally submitting the draft plan to Brentwood Borough Council under Regulation 15 on 17th November 2021 as required by the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. The Ingatestone & Fryerning Neighbourhood Plan was brought to the November 2021 Planning, Resources, and Economic Development Committee where the committee formally accepted the draft plan, agreed to undertake the required consultation (Regulation 16), and approved delegated powers to the Director of Place (formally the Director of Planning and Economic Development) to make any modifications as determined through the examination process, and proceed to referendum.

An update was brought to the July 2022 PRED Committee informing members that the Ingatestone and Fryerning Neighbourhood Plan had successfully completed the examination stage and had been granted permission to proceed to Referendum provided minor amendments were made. These amendments were made to the plan and the Referendum held between 30th July to 4th August 2022. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General)(England) 2012 (as amended), required a majority vote in favour of the neighbourhood plan in order for it to be 'made' and thus form part of Brentwood Borough Council Planning Development Framework. The results of the vote were 86.45% in favour for the plan, 13.55% against, with 15% of the residents eligible to vote participating in the referendum. Therefore, as of 5th August 2022, the Ingatestone and Fryerning Neighbourhood Plan has had full weight and is considered when determining planning applications within the parish boundary.

The report was for information purposes only, in order to provide members on an update on what has happened since the Council took responsibility for the Ingatestone & Fryerning Neighbourhood Plan on 24th November 2021. The neighbourhood planning process has now concluded, however, the Inspectors Report required the Ingatestone and Fryerning Neighbourhood Plan to undertake a review process following the Brentwood Local Plan early review. Therefore, the planning policy team will continue to engage with the Parish Council through this process.

Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule Consultation

The report updated Members on the progress which has been made in preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule for the borough since the previous update in March 2022.

The report presented the draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, and associated consultation materials and evidence base documents, and seeks the approval of the Committee to publish these documents for Regulation 16 consultation.

The draft Brentwood Borough CIL Charging Schedule proposes levy rates for the borough which will maximise the potential for new development to generate income for the delivery of new infrastructure, while also ensuring that proposed rates do not render new development in the borough financially unviable. Following committee approval, the draft CIL Charging Schedule has been published for a four-week consultation period between 12 October and 9 November 2022.