

<b>Committee:</b> Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee	<b>Date:</b> 23 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs Update	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
	<b>For Information</b>

### **SAIL Update**

The Seven Arches Investments Quarterly update reports will be issued to all PRED members as soon as they are completed. The reports require multiple parties to provide updates and detailed inputs some of which the management team despite chasing, are still waiting on. These reports will be issued by December for reference however should any member have any questions please don't hesitate to contact SAIL.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

As of 15 November, the Council is still waiting for confirmation of when the UK Shared Prosperity Funds will be distributed. The Council is also awaiting full guidance on allocating the funds and the reporting methods.

### **High Streets Conference III Update**

High streets conferences were held January and March 2022, which resulted in the commissioning of a business improvement district (BID) feasibility study. This study was shared with PRED members at the 14 September meeting. The study recommended moving to the next stage of work, which involves increased engagement with businesses, defining the exact deliverables of any BID, providing working levy rules including thresholds and levy rates and estimate likely turnout and support for any BID proposal. A final report is expected to be delivered in February 2023.

As part of this current stage of work, two business engagement events were held at Brentwood Theatre on 8 November: one in the afternoon and a repeat session in the evening. A wide variety of business sectors across all three high streets were in attendance. Locus Management gave an overview of the BID model and Colchester's BID Manager shared some of the initiatives 'Our Colchester' is delivering in the county's newest city. Locus then led facilitated workshops with the 30 business attendees to discover the detailed improvements they would like to see to their high street. The results of these workshops will be presented to the council in December.

### **Discover Brentwood Update**

The Council has invested in the same software ('Council Platform') as Rochford District Council for its website platform to support future hosting opportunities. In October, the Discover Brentwood website was moved to the new platform, which

offers increased functionality. In 2023, the Economic Development team plans to add an events calendar and create routes/itineraries to increased footfall to shops, restaurants, pubs and attractions.

### **Brentwood Jobs Fair**

The Council will be supporting the Brentwood Jobs Fair, which is being organised by Brentwood Jobcentre Plus and will be held at the Nightingale Centre in February 2023. The Council, along with its partners, will promote the event to employers and to jobseekers.