

Brentwood 2025



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

2022-2023 Annual Review

Where everyone matters



2022 - 2023 Annual Review



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Growing | Protecting | Developing | Improving | Delivering

Welcome



**Councillor Chris Hossack
Leader of the Council**

And so ends another challenging year in local government. As we moved a year on from the pandemic, we continued to feel the effects of the trauma to our economy.

Then, just over a year ago, Putin ordered the terrible invasion on Ukraine with all that ensued, including the pressure of those who fled the country migrating to the UK, needing to be accommodated. The resultant surge in fuel prices, materials and goods, causing a cost-of-living crisis.

The response of the Brentwood community has, once again, been a terrific effort of compassion and they are to be commended. Our cost-of-living action plan is comprehensive and ever evolving and I hugely value the work of our staff, partners and voluntary sector in supporting the Brentwood community when they need it most. Despite all of this, the council has remained as dedicated as ever to our 5 key priorities set in the Corporate Strategy:

- **Growing our economy**
- **Protecting our environment**
- **Developing our communities**
- **Improving housing**
- **Delivering an efficient and effective council**

A huge achievement this year was the completion of our first strategic housing development site at Crescent Road. We are leading the way in net-zero carbon development in local government and demonstrating that small places can do big things! Work on site at Brookfield Close, our next scheme, will commence in Spring 2023 and the planning permission granted for Harewood Road was another milestone of achievement. We are living in a housing crisis so we must continue to drive this agenda hard for those that need decent homes.

Our strategic partnership with Rochford District Council has progressed as we continued to build in resilience and capacity as an authority. The partnership will become one of the key tools in the medium term to grapple with continued cost inflation and restricted income. This partnership demonstrates our commitment to remain innovative and forward thinking with our service delivery, whilst maintaining everything that is distinct about Brentwood. I commend our officers and staff for the efforts they have put into this transition whilst successfully maintaining their

commitment to Brentwood's residents.

I am pleased that the sound commercial decisions we have taken in the past are now paying dividends, to see us through this ambitious period of regeneration as we seek to invest in our town centre and support our local economy. I am excited about the prospect of a Business Improvement District later this year and am hopeful this will empower our businesses to shape a business environment that works for them.

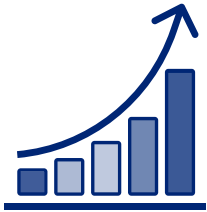
Everything we are doing is being noticed. We are building a reputation, as planned, that we are 'open for business'. Investors are looking at our 'can do' attitude and that, coupled with the unique assets Brentwood has to offer, will continue to present the Borough with some fantastic opportunities ahead.

It gives me great pleasure to share our achievements over the past year and I hope that this document demonstrates just some of the ways that we are maximising Brentwood as a great place to live, work and succeed.

Our key priorities

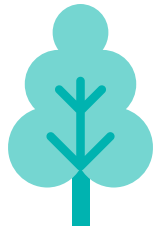


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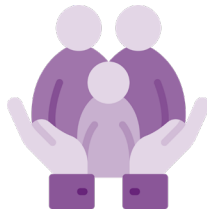
Growing our economy

A thriving borough that welcomes a wealth of business and culture



Protecting our environment

Developing a clean and green environment for everyone to enjoy



Developing our communities

Safe and strong communities where residents live happy, healthy and independent lives



Improving housing

Access to a range of decent homes that meet local needs



Delivering an efficient and effective council

An ambitious and innovative council that delivers quality services



Growing our economy

How you can help

- ✓ Shop locally
- ✓ Support local businesses

Our key priorities

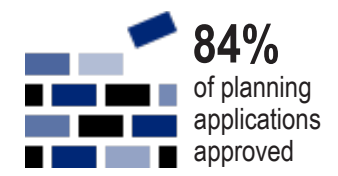
Promote Brentwood as a place to set up and do business from

Enable the growth of existing businesses



Our key objectives 2022-23	Key objectives achieved 2022-23
<p>Deliver an uplift of new homes and jobs, realising the benefits of the new Local Development Plan and beginning a plan review for strategic growth beyond 2033</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring data on housing delivery shows an uplift in completions and significantly more supply (7-years housing supply) Major development schemes are progressing as applications, including strategic housing and employment land at Dunton Hills Garden Village and Brentwood Enterprise Park, with determination expected by March 2023
<p>Create a Community Infrastructure Levy to secure funds from new development for local services and infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation on the CIL Draft Charging Schedule concluded (Nov 2022) Consultation representations are being reviewed to inform final version for submission, followed by an examination-in public before adoption later in 2023
<p>Deliver a programme of enlivenment events that boost footfall in our high streets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our continued support of the Brentwood Business Partnership enabled us to deliver enlivenment events on all of the high streets, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brentwood Art Trail Creepy Crown Street Shenfield Spooktacular Ingatstone Trick or Treat on the High Street A French Market took place on the Brentwood High Street in early December Early stage talks have begun with businesses and community groups as to how UKSPF funding could also be used to support this objective

Other achievements



Baytree Centre funding secured. Planning decision to be made March 2023



Department for Work and Pensions

Jobs fair in conjunction with DWP



Local Plan adopted



Parking Strategy



Welcomed over **200** attendees to High Street conferences

How you can help

- ✓ Shop locally
- ✓ Support local businesses

Growing our economy

Growing

Protecting

Developing

Improving

Delivering

Our key priorities

Encourage the creation of new enterprises and inward investment

Our key objectives 2022-23

Publish a joined-up vision for Brentwood Town Centre, advancing the agreed aims from the Economic Development Strategy, High Streets Conference and Parking Strategy

Investigate the creation of a Business Improvement District to lead on town centre investment with the Brentwood Business Partnership

Key objectives achieved 2022-23

- Three High Street conferences held
- BID workshops held November 2022
- Parking Strategy approved at PRED on 3 October 2022
- Three visioning events held with cultural and creative community

- Feasibility report for a Business Improvement District for Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone High Streets completed
- Work to define deliverables and increase engagement with businesses is underway
- BID Ballot to take place in June 2023

Other achievements



Pepperell House repurposed

Held the **6th** annual Brentwood Business Showcase, our biggest and best yet



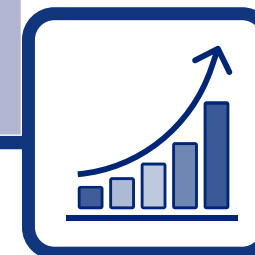
Strengthened relationships with local businesses i.e. Peri



£300,000
Brentwood Business Growth Grant scheme

LEVELLING UP

£1m UKSPF funding awarded



Growing

Protecting

Developing

Improving

Delivering

Protecting our environment

How you can help

- ✓ Use parks and green spaces responsibly
- ✓ Recycle as much of your waste as possible
- ✓ Keep our streets litter free
- ✓ Think about your carbon footprint

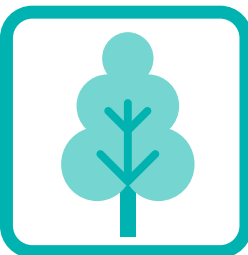
Our key priorities

Promote the environment and recognise its importance in the decisions we make

Encourage a clean, safe and environmentally friendly place to live, work and visit

Improve and enhance our waste management services

Support and engage the community to protect their environment



Our key objectives 2021-22

Develop an Environmental Strategy for the borough

Continue to implement phase one of EV Chargers Roll Out in Council Car Parks and pursue on-Street EV chargers with Essex County Council

Implement the Tree Planting Programme landscapes as part of future planting and planning applications, and encourage involvement in tree planting from volunteers and schools

Develop management plans for Brentwood Borough Council's Country parks to include biodiversity and education

Promote and work with environmental, regional bodies including other Councils and ASELA to develop wider cross boundary initiatives that influence a positive change towards the environmental agenda

Key objectives achieved 2021-22

Strategy approved following public consultation. A replacement Climate & Sustainability Officer, who will be responsible for delivering this strategy, has also been appointed

3 chargers installed in Town Hall South Car Park. In addition the council is working to add another 18 chargers including nine at King Georges Playing Fields and a further nine at Chatham Way Car Park. Work to install these chargers will begin in March with the chargers set to be operational by May 2023

Tree planting schedule approved and tree planting event delivered. 12,000 trees for planting in Hutton Country Park in February

Investigation into the establishment of trial 'Friends of...' groups agreed. Our tree planting programme will also incorporate an educational element around stewardship etc. Looking to undertake an engagement programme in spring

Work is on-going with partners and stakeholders to consult and develop the draft Environment Strategy, ensuring the policy of the draft Council strategy aligns with regional and national strategic objectives. The Council continues to play an active role within ASELA on the shaping of environmental projects, such as SEE Park

Other achievements



Growth in BEBA membership

£22,00 funding secured for 167 standard trees for the Urban Tree Challenge



Sustainability zone at Business Showcase

Tree walks and talks with Arboriculturalist



Installation of **30 EV chargers** at the Town Hall, Chatham Way and King Georges Playing Fields



452 Fly Tips cleared



How you can help

- ✓ Take pride in your neighbourhood
- ✓ Support community groups
- ✓ Think about volunteering
- ✓ Engage with us on public consultations

Developing our communities

Growing

Protecting

Developing

Improving

Delivering

Our key priorities

Our key objectives 2022-23

Key objectives achieved 2022-23

Launch the King George's Pavilion, Splash Pad, Adventure Play, Tag Active, Sensory Room and senior children play area at King George's

All major projects are now complete. Some work now underway on the first golf tee and overflow car park

Keeping Brentwood safe

Progress the Football Hub to procurement stage, submission of funding bid and the start of the development

Final arrangements being put in place to submit an application before May 2023

Invest in community facilities to support a growing population

Deliver an annual programme of community events, engagement opportunities & initiatives

Delivered a programme of community events, and supported Jubilee events. Additional civic events in response to the death of the Queen and the proclamation of the new King

Develop ideas and initiatives to support families through the 'cost of living' crisis

Comprehensive 'Live Document' Action Plan and Working Group established to drive the response and support for residents, staff and businesses

Support, strengthen and sustain communities

Work with leisure providers to engage seldom heard groups and those on low income to make physical activity more accessible

The Council is working with Everyone Active to further develop the community programme at the Brentwood Centre. Delivering SEN sessions at KGPF TAG Active

Encourage residents to lead active, healthy and fulfilling lifestyles

Develop the role of the Community Support Network & Strategic Partnership Working by reaching out to Voluntary, Community and Faith groups

The Community Support Networks delivers a Strategic Partnership working with the new Brentwood and Basildon Alliance, Health and Wellbeing Board and working with Voluntary Community and Faith groups

Develop a civic crowdfunding platform that will assist in the development of community initiatives

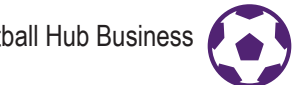
This platform will be shared with Rochford District Council as part of the strategic partnership arrangements. This will create greater opportunity to achieve value for money across both Councils

Other achievements



New booking system at Hartwood Golf Club

£5.5m Football Hub Business Case



Civic Community Star and Sport Awards

£24,050 sponsorship received



£132k grant funding allocated



Chat 1st Programme



19 Winter Warmth Hubs



25 Community Connect Trailer dates – 1,250 people engaged

30,000 visitors to community events



£90k COMF funding allocated to VSC organisations



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Corporate Strategy 2022-2023 Annual Review

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Improving housing

How you can help

- ✓ Be a responsible tenant/landlord
- ✓ Provide feedback on proposed development
- ✓ Engage with our Local Development Plan

Our key priorities

Provide decent, safe and affordable homes for local people

Support our tenants through a high quality, well managed service

Support responsible development in the borough



Our key objectives 2022-23	Key objectives achieved 2022-23
Carry out an independent review of the housing service against the Regulator of Social Housing's Standards	Review and action plan completed. Independent assessment against regulatory standards involving employees, members and residents awarded to external consultancy and will commence March 2023
Implement a comprehensive engagement and communications strategy to build a relationship of respect and trust with our residents	Menu of involvement options launched for customers in November 2022. Independent survey of resident priorities completed. New resident "living rooms" and local surgeries commenced January 2023
Ensure our homes are safe, well-maintained and energy efficient	Monthly meetings with partnering contractor reviewing KPIs and customer satisfaction. Planned and responsive cost benchmarking statistics available. Compliance report presented at February 2023 Housing Committee
Ensure building safety compliance across the housing stock: fire safety; gas servicing; asbestos; electrical safety; mechanical & electrical; and water quality	Monthly compliance monitoring established with main partnering contractor. New compliance dashboard for senior management team in place
Continue to develop low carbon energy efficient solutions for our homes to tackle climate change and reduce household energy bills	Social Housing Development Programme features homes that are zero carbon in use. Ten council properties have been retrofitted. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund bid for 152 homes submitted November 2022
Maximise the number of homeless preventions. Minimise the use of nightly paid temporary accommodation	Current performance 40% prevention of all cases. Bed and breakfast occupation in low single figures 2023. Temporary accommodation numbers not increasing of March 2023
Deliver the council housing development programme 2022/2023 milestones	Crescent Road scheme completed Oct 2022. Decant progressing at Brookfield/Courage site (start on site expected early 2023). Harewood site planning granted 2022

Other achievements



137 New boilers fitted as part of the capital programme

Fire Safety works at **6** blocks completed after delays due to Covid



Funding granted through the Domestic Violence Fund and the Protect and Vaccinate fund



715 Housing Advice requests actioned, **109** homeless applications processed

Opened up our first **Resident Living Room**

A warm space to support those affected by the Cost of Living



How you can help

- ✓ Make the most of our online services
- ✓ Tell us when we do things well or could do things better

Delivering an efficient and effective council



Our key priorities

Our key objectives 2022-23

Key objectives achieved 2022-23

To deliver savings identified of £1.3m within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy

- Corporate Vacancy Factor (£459k)
- Capitalisation Staff Costs (£50k)
- Digital Efficiencies (£30k)
- Vehicle Fleet maintenance (£135k)
- Waste Service Income (£365k)
- Leisure Strategy Income (£175k)
- Service Income Generation (£130k)

Quality customer service

Submit planning applications for the phase 1 redevelopment of the Baytree Shopping Centre and part of the Childerditch Industrial estate

- Planning applications submitted for Baytree Centre and Childerditch Industrial Estate
- Approval for funding was agreed at Ordinary Council 2nd November 2022

Efficient and effective delivery

Identify further opportunities to optimise the partnership with Rochford District Council to identify shared services to deliver an alternative service model

- Both authorities agreed to Harmonise Pay, Terms and Conditions
- Senior leadership restructure & recruitment undertaken
- Final recruitment to Director roles being undertaken in early January 2023
- Service reviews commenced October 2022

Maximising opportunity

Act as the lead authority for the Association of South East Local Authorities for the procurement of the full fibre project to link 192 public sector community facilities

- A procurement bid to potential suppliers is being prepared now that work to the fibre has progressed to the required stage
- Procurement exercise will follow once bid is finalised

Implement Peer Review Action Plan, following recommendations received during the Corporate Peer Challenge in November 2021

- Reported to PRED in November outlining progress against the Peer review recommendations
- The Peer Team returned to review progress on 14th December 2022 and provided an update report

To complete a local electoral review of Brentwood with the Boundary Commission

- Draft recommendations received from the Boundary Commission 4th October 2022
- Awaiting final outcome

Other achievements



Delivered balanced budget

Completed 2nd aspiring managers programme



Operation London Bridge

Team events inc. £11k raised by Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge



Customer Services Excellence Award

New Hardware and Cloud Desktop rolled out



One Team partnership



ARMED FORCES COVENANT

ERS Armed Forces Silver Award



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BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contact us

☎ 01277 312 500

✉ enquiries@brentwood.gov.uk

🌐 brentwood.gov.uk

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Brentwood Borough Council
Town Hall
Ingrave Road
Brentwood
Essex
CM15 8AY

Designed by Brentwood Borough Council

