

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 27 th September 2023
Subject: Chairs report for Finance, Asset, Investment and Recovery Committee	
Committee Chair: Cllr David Kendall	

The Finance, Asset, Investment and Recovery Committee met on the 13th September with the updates set out below:

The Chair thanked Officers Laurie Edmonds together with Kaye Thurgood and Nish Patel for the success of the Brentwood BID.

The Chair highlighted the upcoming Brentwood Job Fair which is a bigger event than last year with over 30 employers signed up.

Following the success of previous Brentwood Business Showcase events, there will now be a South East Essex Business Exhibition taking place at the Brentwood Centre on 14th March 2024.

The Chair addressed the report by Moody's in relation to the Council's financial position. To reassure members, our staff, and residents - the Council's medium term financial strategy is robust and our governance process is robust.

Members agreed to a cross party workshop be introduced to discuss UKSPF especially in relation to the third year funding and how it will be allocated.

Members endorsed the draft OneTeam Health & Safety and Wellbeing Policy. By endorsing this statutory policy the Council is committed to ensuring there is always a positive and proactive culture towards Health, Safety, and the Wellbeing of its organisation.

On the date of the meeting, the Chair update the Committee that he received confirmation from Hutton Bowls Club that they were no longer continuing the Club due to low membership numbers. Members agrees that the Council does not renew the lease on Hutton Poplars Lodge with the Bowls Club and to look to market Hutton Poplars Lodge for commercial vendors.

The Brentwood Leisure Centre and Hartswood Pavilion in King George's Playing Fields is currently managed by Everyone Active (SLM) and their contract is due to expire on 1 October 2023. The Council is looking to extend the contract until 31 March 2025 and during that period draw up the tender documents to go out in 2024

for a longer-term leisure contract. This short extension aligns with expiration of the Leisure Contract for Rochford District Council's leisure facilities. It is proposed to do a joint tender for the leisure facilities across Brentwood and Rochford from 1 April 2025. In order to inform the specification for the tender document both authorities Council needs to undertake a condition survey and feasibility study to understand the investment that the Council's and the operator will need to make over the term of the contract. A separate report is going to the Executive Group at Rochford District Council. Members agreed to extend the existing Leisure Contract with Everyone Active until 31 March 2025 and to appoint Sports, Leisure and Culture (SPL) consultants to undertake feasibility study and provide support with the procurement of a new combined leisure contract for the management and operation of the following facilities across Brentwood and Rochford.

Members discussed the option to move Wedding ceremonies from the Town Hall to Merrymeade House. Officers will look to negotiate an agreement with Brentwood CVS to manage weddings/civil ceremonies at Merrymeade House.

The report provided an overview of the Basildon Local Plan project and its potential impacts on Brentwood borough. A draft response had been submitted to comply with the consultation deadline and is subject to committee approval which members approved the response.

A report sought approval on a formal response from Brentwood Borough Council (submitted as an officer's response pending approval from the committee) to the Basildon Local Plan, Issues & Options consultation (Regulation 18). The consultation ran from 27 June to 5 September 2023. Members approved the response to the Basildon Local Plan Issues & Options consultation (Regulation 18).

The Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 was adopted in March 2022 following Examination in Public overseen by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The appointed Inspectors in their final report recommended a number of Main Modifications in order to make the plan sound and capable of adoption. Members approved that work is continued for the preparation of the Local Plan Review, including a focus on climate change and sustainability matters, with emerging work presented to a reconvened Local Development Plan Member Working Group and key stages brought to committee in due course – and also to approve that the Local Plan supporting evidence is reviewed and updated where appropriate, including commencing a Call for Sites consultation.