



COMMITTEE TITLE: Housing, Health and Community Committee

DATE: 11th March 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Chair's update
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REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Members in relation to the areas covered under the Terms of Reference of the Housing, Health and Community Committee.

HOUSING

Garage Site Review

Following a piece of work by our housing management system provider, we are now able to see the renewed list of applicants who are seeking a garage.

In order to ensure we are letting garages as quickly as possible, officers are individually matching a person to a garage, conducting checks to ensure it is in full working order and then offering it to the matched applicant.

As the project progresses, whole sites will be identified for repair and grounds works, however, as applicant numbers are limited at present, we are taking an individual approach to avoid repairing vast numbers of garages that are not in demand.

Regarding the outcome of the recent options appraisals, a large proportion of the garage sites have returned that they would only be suitable for resident parking, however, the capital costs required to redevelop the sites in comparison to future revenue potential, are significantly higher and therefore funding options and implications need to be carefully looked at before raising expectations regarding the sites.

We have therefore asked for further information about other options for these sites before we proceed any further.

Leasehold Consultation

In December 2023 we advised this committee that due to the level of upcoming major works and continued struggles to residents' finances, that we would be reviewing the leasehold payment options.

This consultation opened on the 21st February and is due to close on the 20th March 2024. All Leaseholders have been written to asking for their comments and there is an online link on the Council Housing Consultation page where they are able to provide this feedback.

Members are welcome to comment and communication on how to do this has been circulated.

All comments will be considered and where necessary changes made with a view to bring the final policy to Committee in June 2024 for final approval.

If you wish to comment on the consultation the link below provides all relevant information.

www.brentwood.gov.uk/MajorWorks

Grounds Maintenance

A full mapping exercise has been completed by an external contractor which details the grounds maintenance items on site. This is currently being built into a bill of quantities that the depot will price against for the coming years.

In order to ensure the sites are ready for summer months, the depot have conducted a large amount of winter works to cut back shrubs, remove moss on paths and remove any sapling trees to assist with the ongoing maintenance. Due to time constraints, not all housing sites could have winter works but the depot and housing meet monthly to agree and discuss and ongoing areas of concern or works requests.

Allocations and Housing Register @ 31st January 2024

The below table provides an updated position on the number of households currently on our Housing Register:

Housing Register		Transfer Applicants	
Bedroom Need	Number	Bedroom Need	Number
1	137	1	54
2	56	2	73
3	53	3	104
4	2	4	13
Total	248		244

ECO funded Energy Efficiency Project

The Planned Works team have been working with The Warmfront Team and their supply chain to deliver ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) improvements to some of our social housing properties. Currently 138 properties have been identified for the scheme. 128 will benefit from a dual measure of cavity wall insulation and loft insulation, 10 properties will benefit from a single measure of cavity wall insulation. The approximate value of works fully funded under the ECO scheme is £808,000

COMMUNITY

Community Connect trailer dates

The Community Connect Trailer will be at the following locations on dates set out below. The trailer is normally there between the hours of 10am – 1.00pm.

- Wednesday 20 March - Ingatestone High Street
- Wednesday 10 April – Brentwood High Street

- Tuesday 23 April – Kelvedon Hatch (Nisa Shop)
- Wednesday 8 May – Doddinghurst (outside shops)
- Thursday 16 May – Brentwood High Street
- Tuesday 28 May – Shenfield High Street

Weddings at Merrymeade House

Merrymeade House will look to hold its first Community wedding ceremony on 14 March. Brentwood Community and Voluntary Service will be managing the weddings going forward working with Merrymeade Tea Rooms to offer wedding breakfast/buffets to provide the full wedding experience. There will be a wedding open day on Monday 8 April 1-3pm to showcase the venue to couples who are looking to tie the knot.

UKSPF – Grant programme

The grant application process is now closed, and officers are currently scoring applications.

LEISURE

Leisure Procurement update

A report went to the 15 January Housing Health and Community Committee setting out the process and next steps. Tender documents are currently being finalised.

- Week Commencing 11 March any bidders will be invited to attend to present and visit the leisure facilities.
- Initial tender submissions by Mid July
- Revised tender submissions by early November
- Contract award December 2024.

Easter Opening times at Brentwood Centre and Hartswood Pavilion

Brentwood Centre

Good Friday and Easter Monday 8am – 7.30pm

Hartswood Pavilion

Good Friday and Easter Monday 7am – 6pm

HEALTH

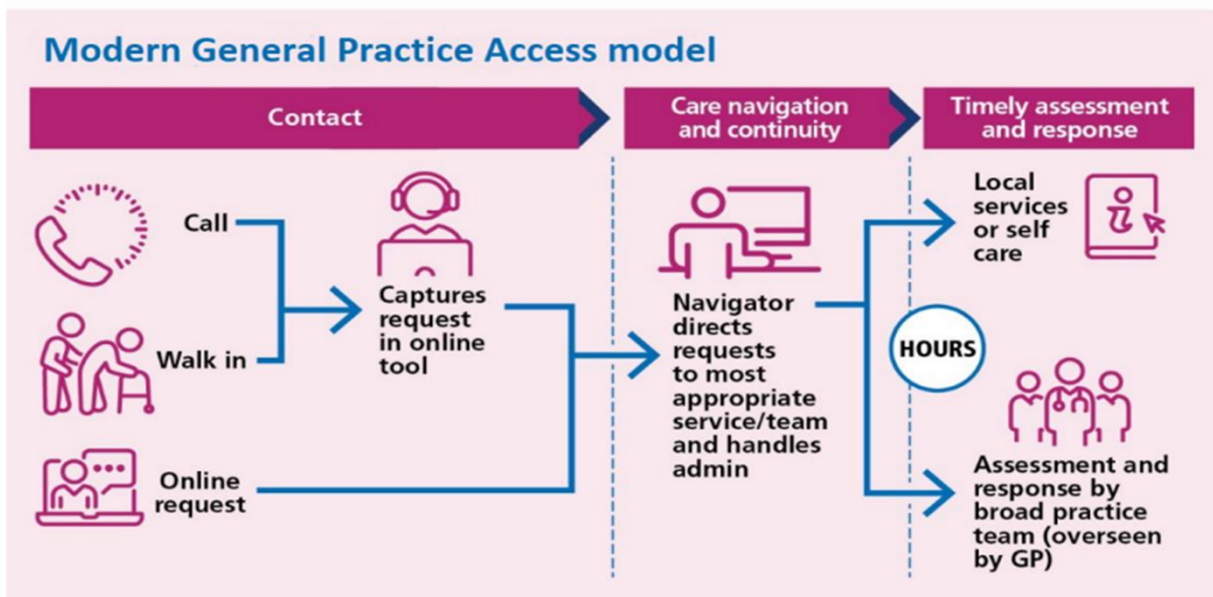
Brentwood and Basildon Alliance

A meeting was held with members and the Brentwood and basildon Alliance to look at access to Primary Care health services in Brentwood and exploring joint working opportunities.

There are additional roles that sit in the Brentwood Primary Care Network

- Occupational Therapists in Brentwood are employed by Sport for Confidence, doing a lot of work with Learning Disability (LD) residents and ensuring that the GP practices are all LD friendly

- Social Prescribers are working closely with voluntary organisations to ensure residents are linked in with local community groups and support general practice to manage people holistically (see following slide on social prescribing hub in Brentwood).
- Paramedics in Primary Care can support urgent on the same day care, supporting residents in care homes and carry out home visits.
- Pharmacists can support doctors with prescribing and monitoring of prescriptions and blood tests as well as carry or long-term condition consultations.
- General Practice Assistants can support the GP practice with some clinical and administrative tasks, such as requests from the hospital or other health care providers but can also support the reception team during busy periods.
- First Contact Physios can see and treat a wide range of musculoskeletal conditions and can arrange appropriate referrals, investigations as well as provide support to support people to self-manage their conditions.



Proposed next steps and opportunities for joint working

- Health to be invited to Dunton planning group
- Senior level meeting to embed joint working relating to housing development and health
- Agreed joint communications relating to housing development as well as modern General Practice
- Further explore Council owned estate and joint funding opportunities

Public Health Capacity Building

Essex County Council and the district authorities are in the process of reviewing and refreshing the Public Health offer across the County. Currently each local authority has a part funded post and grant money to deliver projects to reduce health inequalities and support the local priorities of each Health and Wellbeing Board.

The review will be looking at five key themes with a new draft Memorandum of Understanding completed by May 2024.

- Shared priorities
- Roles and responsibilities
- Matrix management
- Professional development
- Performance evaluation

Essex is not proposing to reduce any funding to the post or project money at this stage.