



ORDINARY COUNCIL

13th March 2024

REPORT TITLE:	Update on Priorities for 2023/2024
REPORT OF:	Greg Campbell
REPORT OF FOR:	INFORMATION ONLY
WARDS:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

The following report sets out an update on the progress of the priorities set by the Administration for 2023/2024 to date.

SUPPORT ING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During 2023 the Administration reviewed the long-term Vision of Brentwood Borough Council and against this document set its priorities for 2023 / 2024. This report identifies the work and progress towards the yearly priorities.

Progress against the priorities that were set by the administration are set out in the chart below. Work is ongoing and will continue to support the aims throughout 2024 which will continue in order to achieve the priorities that have been set.

Theme & Priority	Latest Update
A Greener Borough	
Declare a Climate Emergency and inform awareness of our programme through schools, events and roadshows	Climate Emergency declared at Council - June 2023
Invest in hybrid, electric or alternative fuel powered vehicles	Three electric vans are expected to arrive next month. Quotes obtained for 7.5 tonne electric lorry – ordered. Business case and budget for HVO fuel for fleet approved, trial to commence in April 2024.
Expand our bulky waste collection and review actions to deter fly tipping	7.5 tonne lorry quotes obtained and business case for additional dedicated fly-tip team presented and approved. Recruitment for staff underway,
Improve our street scene through street cleaning	Leaf cleansing schedule developed and reviewed; trial of new sweepers undertaken – order place with arrived in April; Participation in Keep Britain Tidy National Spring Clean focusing on key gateways to the borough
Improve the management of our verges, fields and open spaces with frequency of grass cutting	Pilot Re-wilding schemes to be introduced to grass verges/swards next summer.

BBC will strive to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emissions for its own operations by 2030 and borough wide by 2040 following its declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2023	Carbon-reduction plan presented to Clean & Green Committee, HVO pilot to commence in April 2024.
A Thriving Economy	
Launch the Brentwood Connected Business Improvement District (BID) and start delivering business plan objectives to benefit business in Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone	Brentwood Connected BID was launched on 1 October 2023 for a 5-year fixed term. The BID Manager has been recruited.
Working with South Essex Councils (SEC) to deliver the South Essex Expo. Work in partnership to deliver the Jobs Fair in Brentwood	The South Essex Business Expo will take place on 14 March 2024 at The Brentwood Centre with 150 exhibitors and an expected 1,000 attendees. The event is organised by Networking Essex and sponsored by all of the South Essex councils and Essex County Council. Working in partnership with Brentwood Jobcentre we delivered two Brentwood Jobs Fairs in 2023. The council is exploring the option of growing the event to have a skills/careers element in 2024. The date of the next Brentwood Jobs Fair is to be confirmed.
Complete Phase 3 to detailed design phase and collate the tender pack ready to procure for the development of the Baytree Development	Work continues to progress with satisfying the planning conditions in order to collate the tender pack for procuring the development at Baytree. Works on site are expected to start at the end of 2024.
Review the Parking Strategy to determine where investment and improvements to parking will be made	The Council has reviewed options regarding its current system and looks to implement any changes to improve the user experience for parking 2024/25. The Council is introducing free Sunday parking from the next financial year.
Work with agencies to reduce poor parking in the High Street	Continue to work with South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP), the Police and with our Enforcement Team to undertake actions and explore alternative avenues to reduce poor parking and encourage the right behaviours.

An Inclusive Community

Work with appropriate community groups, licensees and police to improve the night-time economy

Safer Streets funding and projects are underway with the Community Safety Team working closely with police and licensing around Violence Against Woman and Girls and night-time economy safety.

Consult key stakeholders on access to parks, community halls, common spaces and town centres for the benefit of community engagement and mental health

Community Connect trailer programme provides regular community engagement across the borough. Programmes through 'Find Your Active' promote use of our green spaces and how physical activity promotes good mental health.

Improve health care capacity in the Borough through working with NHS providers

Meeting held with Brentwood and Basildon Alliance and members to discuss health care capacity in February. Regular BB Alliance meetings to look at reducing health inequalities across the borough.

A Place To Call Home

Create a long-term strategy to deliver more affordable housing

The SHDP is currently in place to deliver high quality affordable housing. We are also reviewing our HRA business plan and Asset Management Strategy to ensure that we are making the best use of our stock.

An Open Council

<p>Develop a communications strategy recognising the needs of all our stakeholders and residents</p>	<p>Work continues to develop a Communications Strategy in line with new templates. This strategy will also take into account the 'Engage with Us' Platform that has been used by the council for recent and future consultations. This represents a corporate approach to Consultations moving forward.</p>
<p>Regularly meet with Parish Councils and incorporate their views into our decision making</p>	<p>In July the Council met with the Essex Association of Local Councils and a meeting is being planned with the Parish Council Liaison group later this year.</p>
<p>Maintain all existing partnerships in a state of review, ensuring their objectives are being met and value for money secured</p>	<p>The Council's Partnership Register is reviewed on an annual basis and reported back to Senior Leadership Team . The Council is also undertaking a Peer Challenge in March 2024 with a particular focus on partnerships.</p>

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Having priorities enables officers to focus on their deliverables.

4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

This is an internal document.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
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Financial implications will or have been identified as the projects against the priorities are or will be developed.

6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
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There are no legal implications that the identification of these priorities has created.

8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Laurie Edmonds, Corporate Manager – Economic Development
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There are no specific Economic Development issues that the setting of the priorities have created at present.

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
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There are no specific Equality & Health issues that the setting of the priorities have created at present.

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Name & Title: Henry Muss, Sustainability & Climate Officer
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There are no specific Environmental issues that the setting of the priorities have created at present.

REPORT AUTHOR:

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None