

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 13 th March 2024
Subject: Chairs Report for Housing, Health and Communities Committee	
Committee Chair: Cllr Dr Barrett	

Asset of Community Value: Prince of Wales

A valid nomination has been received by Mountnessing Village Council on 26 January 2024 in relation to the land. Members agreed unanimously to list the land known as Prince of Wales, as indicated on the site map in Appendix B of the report, as an Asset of Community Value.

Asset of Community Value: Shenfield Library

A valid nomination has been received by Shenfield and Hutton Morning WI on 1 February 2024 In relation to the land. Members agreed unanimously to list the land known as Shenfield Library, as indicated on the site map in Appendix B of the report, as an Asset of Community Value.

Community Event and Engagement Programme 2024-2025

Currently the Council's organises Strawberry Fair, Family Fun Days, Lighting Up Brentwood and Shenfield Christmas Fayre. There are also a number of community engagement events with partners that utilise the Community Connect Trailer through the year. The proposed planned community event and engagement programme for 2024-2025 is subject to Members agreement and is also subject to the annual budget setting process. Members agreed unanimously the proposed Community Event and Engagement Programme for 2024- 2025.

Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Strategy

At the 15 December Housing Health and Community Committee the draft Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Strategy was presented to Members of the Committee for any comments. The final strategy sets out the five-year plan to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Brentwood and reduce the health inequalities at every stage of residents' lives.

The Strategy set out the partnership approach to influence the wider determinants of health to make the biggest difference in our communities. The Strategy had been co-produced by board members, those with lived experience and informed by what the relevant data is telling us.

In developing the Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the health and wellbeing outcomes it would want to see in Brentwood, how it links to other local

strategies and plans, data and insight from partners and feedback from residents and those with lived experience. It is also important to recognise the needs that emerged from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Members agreed unanimously to note the final Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Voluntary Sector Grants – Core Funding

The Council allocates discretionary core funding to key Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations that provide support to our local residents. This enables the Council to ensure that we have a strong and resilient VCS which supports the Council's priorities. The Council needs to ensure with the limited amount of funding available that the processes and principles of funding are applied fairly and transparently, and they are effective in providing targeted support to those most in need.

Members agreed unanimously that:

That Brentwood Council for Voluntary Services is funded for 2024-25 and that a further report come back to the relevant Committee once the outcome of the Essex County Council VCS infrastructure model has been determined.

Brentwood Community Transport is funded for 2024-25 and that a further report come back to the relevant committee once the outcome of the joint work with Essex County Council, Basildon Borough Council, Brentwood Borough Council, Brentwood and Basildon Alliance and Brentwood Community Transport has been concluded with the recommendation and next steps agreed.

That Citizens Advice Brentwood is funded for 2024- 25 to enable alignment with the other core funding arrangements at Brentwood Borough Council and bring back a further report to the relevant committee to look at longer term funding models.

Strategic Housing Delivery Programme (SHDP)

The Strategic Housing Delivery Programme (SHDP) is made up of two distinct elements, 1) the regeneration of Brookfield Close and Courage Court, Hutton to develop 62 zero carbon homes alongside Harewood Regeneration which consists of 40 new zero carbon homes, and 2) the development of a range of smaller HRA sites to deliver further affordable homes on further council owned sites.

The Council's Corporate Strategy 'Brentwood 2025' commits to Introducing "innovative Carbon reduction and absorption schemes", "identify opportunities for low emission and green developments" and using 'brownfield sites efficiently, such as council owned garage sites, to provide affordable homes..."

Members agreed unanimously to:

Progress the Brookfield Regeneration Main Contract through a selected Framework to Direct Award (two stage tender) in accordance with the agreed budget.

Progress the Harewood Regeneration Main Contract through a selected Framework to Direct Award (two stage tender) in accordance with the agreed budget.

Authorise delegated Authority to the Strategic Director and Director of Assets and Investments in consultation with the Chair of HHC Committee and Section 151 officer to enter into PCSA (Pre-Contract Service Agreements) on both Harewood and Brookfield Regeneration sites in accordance with the agreed budget.

Seek resolution of recommendations 1, 2 and 3 at Ordinary Council on March 13th 2024.

Strategic Housing Delivery Programme (SHDP) – Adopted strategy

The Affordable Homes Strategy 2021-2028 was approved by EE&H committee in July 2021, it lays out the vision, principles, governance, delivery mechanisms, and viability assumptions that support the delivery of new homes both on sites already in the pipeline but also future phases.

The Delivery Programme (SHDP) which is borne out of the ‘Strategy’ is currently made up of two distinct elements, 1) the regeneration of Brookfield Close and Courage Court, Hutton to develop 62 zero carbon homes alongside Harewood Regeneration which consists of 40 new zero carbon homes, and 2) the development of a range of smaller HRA sites to deliver further affordable homes on further council owned sites.

The Council’s Corporate Strategy ‘Brentwood 2025’ also commits to Introducing “innovative Carbon reduction and absorption schemes”, “identify opportunities for low emission and green developments” and using ‘brownfield sites efficiently, such as council owned garage sites, to provide affordable homes...”

Members agreed unanimously to update the adopted Affordable Homes Development Strategy 2021/28.

Resident Engagement

In 2022 Housing conducted a soft launch for the new Tenant Talkback resident engagement options. As we moved through 2023, we conducted several events with stakeholders to find which types of events worked best and where.

As we approach April 2024, with the introduction of the new Housing Consumer Regulations, we are entering a phase of more frequent and varied resident engagement which is in line with the Resident Engagement Strategy 2022 – 2027.

The Resident engagement action plan 24/25 (Appendix 2) provides further detail on what has already been done, what is planned for this year and the longer-term vision for resident engagement beyond 2024/25.