Supplementary Council Agenda



Council Tuesday, 13th December, 2011

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Room: Council Chamber

Time: 7.30 pm

Committee Secretary: Council Secretary: Ian Willett

Tel: 01992 564243 Email:

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7. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 3 - 10)

To receive reports from the Leader, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and members of the Cabinet on matters falling within their area of responsibility:

- (a) Report of the Leader and Legal Portfolio Holder;
- (b) Report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (c) Report of the Environment Portfolio Holder;
- (d) Report of the Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder;
- (e) Report of the Housing Portfolio Holder:
- (f) Report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder;
- (g) Report of the Planning and Technology Portfolio Holder;
- (h) Report of the Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder;
- (i) Report of the Support Services Portfolio Holder.

11. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 11 - 18)

(a) Calendar of Meetings 2012/13

(Support Services Portfolio Holder) To consider the attached report.

(b) Treasury Management Strategy – Council's Bank

(Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder) To consider the attached report.

- 14. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (Pages 19 20)
 - (a) To receive the attached report from Council representatives on the business

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- of the Grange Farm Managing Trustees; and
- (b) To request written reports from representatives on joint arrangements and external organisations for future meetings.

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet Date: 13 December 2011

Subject: Finance and Economic Development Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gagan Mohindra

Recommending:

That the report of the Finance & Economic Development Portfolio

Holder be noted

The Autumn Statement

In anticipation of the Autumn Statement I decided it was more important for my report to include comments on the Statement than be issued as part of the main agenda. I hope Members will find the following comments helpful and understand my reasoning.

The overall picture painted by the Statement was not a good one, growth has been lower than anticipated and so the austerity measures will need to continue for longer. There has been a good deal of media coverage about the state of the economy, infrastructure works, credit easing and what the Government will do for some regions and so I will concentrate on the aspects that will affect this Council directly.

Firstly, the extension of the period of public sector pay restraint needs to be explained. Pay settlements in local government are determined by negotiations between the employers' organisations and the trades unions not by central government. However, clearly a policy like this is something the employers' organisations will have to have regard to and I think it is unlikely that pay settlements in local government will vary much from this guidance. The Medium Term Financial Strategy allows for pay awards of 1.5% in 2013/14 and 1% in 2014/15, so the proposed awards of 1% for both years will not require any additional resources.

The other items that I want to comment on are the additional schemes to provide assistance to business rate payers. There is currently a rate relief holiday in place for small businesses, this was due to expire in October 2012 but will now continue through to the end of the 2012/13 financial year. The other change is to assist businesses facing increases in their rating bills in 2012/13 due to the RPI uprating. Businesses will be allowed to defer 60% of the increase, to be repaid equally across the following two years. I am sure businesses will welcome these initiatives and I am glad that, in addition to the specific concentrated measures of regional aid, government has been able to take steps to help the wider business community. The deferral proposal will make the billing and collection of business rates more complicated for us but the staff in Revenues have coped well with similar schemes in the past.

Accountancy

The recent meetings of the Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee and Scrutiny Panel have received the financial monitoring reports for the second quarter of the financial year. These reports analyse variances on the key items of income and expenditure for both revenue and capital items. The overall position is very much in line with the estimates.

The meeting of the Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee also received the first draft of the growth and savings lists for both continuing service budgets and district development fund items. The ongoing budget process meant it was necessary to issue this as a supplementary paper and so Portfolio Holders only had a limited opportunity to review the lists before the meeting. As the budget process continues and Portfolio Holders are able to examine items more closely the lists will be amended and updated. At this stage the necessary savings for the 2012/13 budget have been largely identified. However, further savings are needed in subsequent years and any additional savings that can be identified now will help the Council maintain its long term financial stability.

It is also worth saying that there remains considerable uncertainty about the localisation of council tax benefit and the local government resource review. These issues could still have a significant detrimental impact on the Council's financial position and if this proves to be the case additional savings will be required.

Benefits

Changes to Housing Benefit for single people under 35

Members will be aware of the general background of welfare reform and the various initiatives that are currently in progress. One significant change is happening with Housing Benefit from 1st January 2012 for single people aged 25 to 34 who rent from a private landlord. The Government is introducing changes to Housing Benefit so that single people in this age group will only be entitled to the shared accommodation rate to help with their rent (rather than being able to claim for self-contained one-bedroom accommodation).

This means that single people will only be entitled to the lower rate of Housing Benefit for a room in shared accommodation if all of the following apply:

- You are a single person
- You are occupying one-bedroom self-contained accommodation in the private rented sector
- Your Housing Benefit is due to be reviewed from January 2012 onwards
- At the date of the review you will be aged 25 or over but under 35 years, and
- You are not covered by any of the exemptions on sharing accommodation.

The change means that from January 2012 onwards, instead of the one-bedroom self-contained rate for Housing Benefit, you would move onto the shared accommodation rate that applies on the date of your annual review. This rate will be much lower than the one bedroom self contained rate. The exact amount will only be known on the date of your annual review as the rates change each month. However the current shared accommodation rates for property in this district range from

£69.27 to £73.50 per week, which gives an indication of the likely rate from 1 January 2012. If your Housing Benefit is not assessed under Local Housing Allowance rules we cannot provide an estimate at present, although the rate is likely to be much lower than the current rate.

You will not be affected by these changes if you

- Get the severe disability premium, or
- Need an extra bedroom for an overnight carer who does not live with you, or
- are subject to active multi-agency management under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), or
- have spent three months or more in a homeless hostel, or more than one
 hostel, specialising in rehabilitation and resettlement within the community. To
 benefit from this exemption claimants would need to have been offered and to
 have accepted support services to enable them to be rehabilitated or resettled
 in the community.

Eighty three existing claimants have been identified who will be affected by these changes. Each person has been sent a letter advising them of the changes, their individual anniversary date and the current single room rate for the area that they are currently living in. Information has also been included in recent editions of the Forester to raise awareness. However, if Members are contacted by concerned residents please advise the residents to contact the Council's Benefits Service for help and advice.

Revenues

The conveyor belt of consultations continues and on 31 October 2011 the Government published its 'Technical Reforms of Council Tax' consultation paper. The review proposes changes to the discounts available for second and empty homes, changing the default number of payments and a number of other technical changes. When the consultation was issued the Secretary of State said that the changes could allow a £20 reduction in council tax for a band D property. Whilst this might be the case for a district with a very large number of second and empty properties it is unlikely to provide a significant benefit to this Council. There is a concern that the impact on cash flow and collection rates in moving from 10 to 12 payments will cost more than any additional income generated from changes to discounts.

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 29 December 2011 with the Government aiming for legislation to be in place for billing for the 2013/14 financial year. The proposed responses to the consultation are being considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 November and Cabinet on 5 December.

Economic Development

The One Shops Local website was launched at a special event at Epping Forest College on 29 November. Almost 50 representatives from local business attended the event and feedback on the site was very positive. Already almost 30 businesses have signed up to the free scheme which will be administered by colleagues in the Chamber of Commerce. The sites main aim is to provide a directory to promote local business which can provide a platform for shops to advertise discounts and

incentives and shoppers with a handy list of places locally that might serve their needs. The site is only open to local independent businesses and has been designed by colleagues from the private sector and built with funding from the Council. Leaflets, cards posters and window stickers have been produced, and we have pulled together a series of marketing initiatives to drive growth in the site. Hopefully from this positive beginning something substantial and really effective will grow. But it is essential that everyone does their bit, businesses, shoppers and partners on One Epping Forest if this is to happen.

Another event is planned for the end of January bringing together procurement managers from the major public sector organisations that serve the district and local businesses to help them get access to these accounts and contracts. Other events planned include a One Eats Local event to showcase food services in the district, and a One Fashion show to highlight the wealth of independent clothing stores we have.

Performance Management

Key Performance Indicators 2011/12 – Quarter 1 and 2 Performance

The Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel has considered performance for the first six months of 2011/12, in relation to the quarterly monitored Key Performance Indicators (KPI) adopted for the year. The six-month position with regard to the achievement of target performance for the KPIs was:

- (a) 14 (50.00%) achieved the second quarter performance target;
- (b) 14 (50.00%) did not achieved the second quarter performance target; and
- (c) of the 14 KPIs that did not achieve the second quarter target, performance for 6 (42.8/%) was within 5% of the target for the quarter.

The Scrutiny Panel has also considered the operation and continued relevance of a number of existing KPI, and considers that several should be deleted in favour of alternative monitoring and reporting arrangements. Recommendations in this respect will be made to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee on 16 January 2012.

Epping Forest District Council Website

The Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel has received a demonstration of the Council's proposed new website. The new website is being developed using Joomla, an open-source content management system, which is easier and more efficient to use than the existing content management system, and should present significant long-term financial savings to the authority. The new website is intended to be launched in June 2012.

A frustration of the current website is the unreliability of visitor data, as reported by a KPI. Potential visitor levels of the new Joomla based website and the existing website can only be estimated, and it is possible that the increased efficiency of the new website may result in a decrease in visitor numbers. The implementation of the European Union 'Cookies Directive' in 2012 will also adversely affect the collection of website visitor data. Alternative analytical options are being investigated, and the Scrutiny Panel has recommended that in the meantime, the relevant KPI be deleted and that proposals be developed for a new visitor indicator once the Joomla website

has been rolled-out and the Council has determined its approach to meeting the Cookies Directive.

The Scrutiny Panel has also considered proposed revisions to KPI that measure quality and user satisfaction in respect of the existing website. Recommendations in this respect will also be made to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee in the next cycle.

Revenue Income Optimisation

The Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee has considered the report of the Revenue Income Optimisation (RIO) exercise recently undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and has agreed in principle the approach to be taken to the revenue generation opportunities identified. A further report in respect of the implementation of the following opportunities agreed by the Committee is to be made to its meeting on 16 January 2012:

- i. the introduction of advertising on the Council's website and vehicle fleet;
- ii. opportunities for the expansion and development of the Council's car parks, including appropriate business opportunities.

Of the other income generating opportunities identified by PwC, the Committee has requested that further investigation be made into the possible introduction of sponsorship for some of the Council's events and services, of the development of existing advertising opportunities such as the 'Forester', and of the provision of advertising on lamp columns and CCTV columns managed by the Council and the authority's land and property assets.

Despite representing a significant income opportunity, Members were keen to retain current off-street car parking charges to support the local economy of the district, and did not agree implementation of the various options identified by PwC for the restructure of the Council's existing parking charges. It was agreed however, that further work should be carried out to fully understand the off-street parking requirements of residents and traders, and how parking charges could be structured in future to benefit local businesses by increasing turnover within the car parks. The Committee also deferred any consideration of the installation of renewable energy initiatives for the Council's operational property portfolio for the time being, in view of the Government's recent reduction in the Feed In Tariff subsidy.

Members of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel are to be specifically invited to attend the meeting of the Committee in January 2012, in view of the Panel's role in scrutinising the Council's fees and charges. The report of PwC and the views of the Cabinet Committee and members of the Scrutiny Panel on the implementation of the revenue generation opportunities agreed by the Committee will be considered by the Cabinet on 30 January 2012, as part of the budget setting process for 2012/13.

Facilities Management & Estates

Facilities Management

In 2002 the Council embarked on a programme of environmental improvement schemes at Council owned shopping parades around the District. These schemes, included in the Planned and Preventative Programme, were originally funded from

the Housing Revenue Account, but following the transfer of Council owned shops are now funded from the General Fund.

I am pleased to report that the latest scheme in the programme at Parklands Coopersale is nearing completion. The improvements undertaken include:

- (a) Resurfacing the rear yard/parking areas, incorporating new clothes drying lines for tenants and minor landscaping improvements;
- (b) Thoroughly overhauling and redecorating all garage doors, store doors and cladding to the rear of the shops and redecorating under the canopy at the front of the shops (this element of the works has been carried out by the Council's own Works Unit).
- (c) Fabricating and installing a new purpose built bin compound (due to be installed shortly).

Throughout the project staff in Facilities Management have liaised with colleagues in the Housing Services Directorate and consulted with the local shop tenants and Housing tenants living above the shops. There has been very positive feedback from tenants on the improvements made to the environment around the shops.

Capital funding for the final scheme in the programme at Upshire Road Waltham Abbey is included in the Planned and Preventative Maintenance Programme for 2012/13, subject to final approval of the Council as part of the Budget for 2012/13.

Estates and Valuation

Despite the current economic downturn, The Broadway Loughton continues to attract strong demand for shops with recent lettings to Greggs the bakers and a new off licence at 23 The Broadway which replaces the off licence lost when Threshers closed across the country.

Two difficult to let industrial units at Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate have recently been let to a Security company. These recent lettings have clearly helped the Council to maintain a high percentage of occupancy and to maximise income from the commercial property assets.

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet Date: 13 December 2011

Subject: Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Penny Smith

Recommending:

That the supplementary report of the Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder be noted

Sustainability issues

Conservation

The first stage application for the Waltham Abbey Townscape Heritage initiative was submitted on the 30th of Nov 2011 to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If successful the partnership (Town Partnership, Town Council and EFDC) will receive funding for the development phase of the scheme which will include developing a character appraisal and management plan for the conservation area. Early consultation with stakeholders will take place to introduce concepts for the regeneration of the area and gain input. The purpose of the Townscape Heritage Initiative is to deliver improvements to conservation areas in the country that have high levels of deprivation and provide funding for enhancements to listed buildings, streetscape, and deliver education programmes to begin to address deprivation issues. The partnership have focused the bid on Sun Street, the market square and the surrounding town centre to focus any potential funding to the main business area in Waltham Abbey.

Agenda Item 11

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet Date: 13 December 2011

Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Wyatt

Recommending:

That, as attached at Appendix 1, the draft Calendar of Council Meetings for 2012/13 be adopted.

(NOTE: The attention of members is drawn to paragraph 8 of the report. Officers were asked to give further consideration to the dates of three meetings in September 2012. The attached Appendix includes changes to overcome the issues identified by the Cabinet. The Council meeting remains on 27 September (a Thursday) to give officers the maximum time to produce the statutory statement of accounts and the meeting of the Standards Committee has been moved back one week to 2 October 2012 to avoid a clash with the Constitution and Members' Services Scrutiny Panel).

- 1. Within the current Democratic Services Business Plan, item 16 of the Action Plan is to review the Calendar of Council Meetings, and in particular the frequency of individual Committees. As a result, Democratic Services submit the draft Calendar of Council meetings each year to the Management Board for consideration prior to its approval by Members.
- 2. The draft Calendar at Appendix 1 is based upon the current year's calendar, with approximately the same number of meetings. It has been slightly amended in some places but wherever possible:
- (a) all Cabinet and Cabinet Committees have been scheduled for a Monday;
- (b) all Overview and Scrutiny Panels have been scheduled for a Tuesday;
- (c) all Planning Sub-Committee meetings have been scheduled for a Wednesday; and
- (d) all miscellaneous Committee meetings have been scheduled for a Thursday.
- 3. Licensing Sub-Committees have remained on a Tuesday morning with the two full meetings of the Licensing Committee on a Wednesday afternoon.
- 4. There are occasional instances where a Scrutiny Panel is not on a Tuesday evening, but this is to enable the Scrutiny Panel to retain their quarterly meeting schedule. Both the Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee and Scrutiny Panel have an additional meeting to allow for their participation in the budget preparation process, including a 'joint' meeting in January to consider the draft budget for the following year.
- 5. Friday evenings have continued to be kept free of meetings, and any encroachment into August has been kept to a bare minimum due to holidays. Planning Sub-Committees have always continued to meet throughout August, along with the Licensing Sub-Committee and Housing Appeals and Review Panel.

- 6. The calendar for 2011/12 changed the frequency of the Area Planning Sub-Committees from a three weekly cycle to a four weekly cycle. It is felt within Democratic Services that this change has worked well, with minimal impact upon the relevant Key Performance Indicators, and this arrangement has been retained for 2012/13.
- 7. It should be noted that the current Calendar is very congested and the organisation of any additional meetings should be given very careful consideration.
- 8. We noted that in September 2012, the Council meeting had been scheduled for a Thursday and that meetings of the Constitution and Members' Services Scrutiny Panel and the Standards Committee had been planned for the same evening on the Tuesday of the week of Council. We asked officers to give further consideration to the dates of these meetings before the matter is considered by Council and to include a note in the report to Council of changes to overcome these issues.
- 9. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.

Epping Forest District	Coun	cil Calen	dar of M	eetings 2	2012/13								
	20	12							2013				
Meeting	Ma	y Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<u>Executive</u>													
	(·) 22ı	nd	31st		27th		6th	18th		19th(21st)		23rd	21st
	(·)	11th	23rd		10th	22nd		3rd		4th	11th	15th	
FPM Cab Comm	(·)	25th			20th		26th		21st		18th		
NWA & AM Cab Comm			9th			8th				11th		8th	
LDF Cab Comm			2nd		3rd		19th		14th		25th		
<u>Scrutiny</u>													
OS Committee	(·)	7th	17th		4th	16th	27th		22nd		5th	9th	
Finance & Perf Mgmt		19th			18th		20th		21st		12th		
Housing			24th			23rd			29th		19th		
Planning Services		12th			11th			11th				16th	
Safer, Cleaner, Greener			10th			30th			8th	12th		2nd	
Sonstitution & Mbr Serv's		26th			25th			4th			26th		
① <u>Planning</u>													
(-)	(·)	13th		8th		3rd			30th		27th		
	•) 9t	h 6th	4th	1st-29th	26th	24th	28th	19th	23rd	20th	20th	17th	22nd
	(1) 23	rd 20th	18th	15th	12th	10th	7th	5th	9th	6th	6th	3rd	8th
	(·) 30·	th 27th	25th	22nd	19th	17th	21st	12th	16th	13th	13th	10th	15th
<u>Licensing</u>													
Licensing Committee						10th						10th	
Licensing Sub-Comm		12th	10th	7th	4th	2nd	6th	4th	8th	5th	5th	9th	
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	• .				I								
	(·)	21st			24th		29th			7th		4th	
Housing Appeals Panel		7th	5th	2nd	6th	4th	1st	6th	10th	7th	7th	4th	
Joint Consultative Comm			26th			18th			31st			25th	
Local Councils Liaision			5th				8th				7th		
Standards Committee		28th				2nd		13th			28th		
		ond Jubilee	•	ın-12 & Tue			_	mmission	er Election		Γhu 15-N		
Webcast meeting	Easte	<u>r 2012</u>	Fri 29-M	ar-13 - Mon	1-Apr-13		Local Ele	<u>ctions</u>			Γhu 2-Ma	ay-13	<u> </u>

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet Date: 13 December 2011

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gagan Mohindra

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – COUNCIL'S BANK

Recommending:

That the change in the Treasury Management Strategy to reduce the minimum long-term rating from A+ (or equivalent) down to A- (or equivalent) specifically only for the use of the Council's bank, NatWest, and only while it remains in the ownership of the UK Government, be approved.

The Council's overall treasury position

- 1. The Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee have considered a mid-year progress report on Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2011/12 which is a requirement of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and covers the treasury activity for the first half of 2011/12.
- 2. The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be financed immediately through capital receipts, grants etc, or through borrowing. The Council does not plan to borrow in order to carry out its capital investment during 2011/12.
- 3. During the first half of 2011/12 the treasury function managed the debt position to remain debt-free, in accordance with Council policy. The average investment position for the first half of the year was £54.6m. The table below shows the treasury position as at 30 September 2011.

Treasury position	31/03/2011 £m	30/09/2011 £m		
Total external borrowing	0.0	0.0		
Short term investment				
Fixed investment	43.803	44.545		
 Variable investment 	7.733	5.356		
Long term investment	0.439	0.439		
Debt from other Authorities	0.481	0.481		
Total investments	52.456	50.821		
(Net Borrowing) / Net Investment Position	52.456	50.821		

4. It is important that the cash flow of the Council is carefully monitored and controlled to ensure enough funds are available each day to cover its outgoings.

This will become more difficult as the Council uses up capital receipts and reduces investment balances.

- 5. The Director of Finance & ICT confirms that there have been no breaches of:
 - a) The Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposure (100%) and Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure (50%) during the period, with the average rates of 79.68% and 20.32% being achieved;
 - b) The limit set for investment over 364 days (£30m). We made one investment of £5m for 438 days. The average investment for the period is 160 days.
 - c) The limit set for investment in non UK Country (30%).
- 6. The prudential indicators assist the Council to reduce the risk of:
 - a) Counterparties going into liquidation by ensuring only highly rated institutions are used when investing the Council's money.
 - b) The Council incurring unbudgeted short-term loans, to pay unexpected expenditure items through ensuring adequate level of money are available immediately through instant access accounts.
 - c) Potentially losing out on investment income when interest rates start to increase by ensuring that deposits are kept within one year.

The Council's Bank

- 7. On 7 October, the Council received notification from its financial advisors that following the conclusion of the Moody's review of UK Financial Institutions, Nationwide Building Society, Nat West Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland Bank Plc no longer met our minimum criteria and therefore we currently can not undertake any new investments with them.
- 8. As Nat West is the Council's banker, although it does not meet the minimum credit criteria of A+ (or equivalent) long term, it stills meet the minimum short term credit criteria of F1 (or equivalent). The table below shows our minimum criteria for short and long term as agreed in the Council Treasury Management Strategy and the latest credit rating score for National Westminster Bank PLC.

	Treasury Strategy Criteria	Nat West Bank
Long Term Rating		
Fitch	A+	Α
Moody's	A1	A2
Standard & Poor's	A+	A+
Short Term		
Rating	F1	F1
Fitch	P-1	P-1
Moody's	A-1	A-1
Standard & Poor's		

- 9. We are recommending that the Council gives approval to the Treasury Strategy being changed to reduce the minimum criteria for Long Term Rating of A+ (or equivalent) to A- (or equivalent) in line withfrom advice given by our Treasury Advisors on 11 November. This will apply only to NatWest and only while NatWest remains the Council's bank and only while NatWest remains in state ownership This will allow the Council to continue to have adequate cash available to cover our outgoings each day.
- 10. It is not proposed to change the short term rating criteria within the Treasury Strategy. All three credit agencies have maintained the short term rating at levels that do not breach our strategy for the above named counterparties and no long term transactions will be entered into. The position is being monitored closely by accountancy staff and our treasury advisors, any changes to the current situation will be reviewed and the position reassessed to identify the best course
- 11. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.

Agenda Item 14

Report to Council

Grange Farm Managing Trustees

Councillor Mrs P Smith and Councillor David Johnson, the Council's appointed Custodian Trustees report on the activities of the Trust.

Grange Farm Centre Trust was established by a Charity Commission Scheme in 1984 following the re-distribution of Charitable lands in Chigwell.

On 23 November 2011 the new Grange Farm Centre Pavilion, Interpretation Centre, and Chigwell Meadows was officially opened by HRH The Earl of Wessex. The event marked the culmination of lengthy negotiations, with a number of interested parties for the commissioning of new leisure and recreational community facilities. Previous reports to Council have covered the key events.

The main facilities include; Football Pitches and changing facilities, Community Hall/ Kitchen for hire, restored public open meadowland with made pathways, improved signage and pedestrian access over the M11 motorway footbridge linking with Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve.

In addition, an Interpretation Centre for Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) is incorporated into the new Pavilion. EWT will be expanding their range of Educational activities around West Essex together with an office base for the management of their activities in the District including Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve with which the District Council and Grange Farm Trust have management agreements with EWT.

The Football Foundation supported the development of football pitches and changing room, with a large grant to assist with additional community football pitch provision within the District previously identified by the Councils District-wide Pitch Survey.

The Trust continue to award grants to qualifying projects in line with the Trusts' Objects. Annually this amounts to approximately One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds.

Contact details of Grange Farm Centre Pavilion

Office: 0208 127 4323

email: <u>info@grangefarmcentre.co.uk</u> <u>www.grangefarmcentre.co.uk</u>