

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NOTES OF A MEETING OF STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2022  
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES  
AT 7.00 - 8.45 PM**

**Members Present:** J Lea (Chairman), J Lucas (Vice-Chairman), C Amos, R Balcombe, I Hadley, S Murray, C Nweke, D Stocker, D Wixley and S Yerrell

**Co-opted Member:** W Marshall

**Other members present:** L Burrows, A Patel, D Barlow and S Rackham

**Other members virtually:** R Brookes, H Kane and J H Whitehouse

**Apologies for Absence:**

**Officers Present:** J Gould (Interim Strategic Director), G Wallis (Community, Culture & Wellbeing Service Manager), F Ferrari (Public Health Improvement Officer), F Pellegrino (Heritage & Venues Team Manager), N Cole (Corporate Communications Officer) and R Perrin (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer)

**Officers present virtually:** V Messenger (Democratic Services Officer) and J Nuth ((interim) Housing Strategy Manager)

**23. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman reminded everyone present that this meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

**24. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

The Committee noted that there were no substitute members.

**25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

**26. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the notes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of apologies for Councillor Lea and Councillor Brookes being in attendance.

**27. TERMS OF REFERENCE & WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference. The Chairman advised the Committee that the items scheduled for the meeting on 17 January 2023 would need

to be deferred to the meeting on 21 March 2023. Therefore, the meeting on 17 January 2023 would now be cancelled.

Councillor S Murray advised that he would be asking for the following Cabinet decisions to be scrutinised, which may be referred back to this Committee.

- The adoption of an alternative operating model for Epping Forest District Museum; and
- the performance of housing repairs by Qualis.

The Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing & Community Partnerships advised the Committee that the Cabinet decision had included the requirement to scrutinise the process to achieve an alternative operating model.

The Co-opted Member, W Marshall enquired about the Housing Strategy and when it would be presented to the Committee. He was advised that the Overarching Housing Strategy had been presented to the Committee in July 2022 with no major changes and would be presented to Cabinet in December 2022. Officers advised that there was an ongoing consulting on the Resident Involvement Strategy, and it would be presented to the Committee on 21 March 2023.

## **28. MUSEUM COLLECTION RATIONALISATION PROGRAMME**

The Team Manager for Heritage and Venues presented an update on the Museum Collections Projects and the rationalisation. The details were outlined in the report.

The Committee asked questions and made the following comments.

- Were items loaned out? Yes, items were loaned out, although any items which had been determined not have any significant to the authority through this process were permanent removed.
- What classified as hazard materials? It was noted that some of the items contained asbestos, arsenic and lead.
- What would happen to the project if the funding was reduced? The Team Manager for Heritage and Venues advised that the funding had been secured for the project. Although, officers were always looking out for funding opportunities, and they had a great group of volunteers.
- Would the museum return artifacts to country of origin, if required? Yes.
- How many volunteers assisted the museum? Nineteen.
- Does the museum approach the local community for their knowledge? Yes, the museum hosts a group where members of public can attend and assist the museum with future projects and knowledge of the local area.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee noted the progress and update on the Museum Collect Project.

## **29. REFRESH OF THE EPPING FOREST HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY**

The Service Manager for Community, Culture & Wellbeing, G Wallis and Public Health Improvement Officer, F Ferrari presented the refreshed Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022 -2026 and the agreed partnership arrangements for this to be delivered.

The Committee asked a number of questions and made the following comments.

- Had there been any measures put in place for the cost-of-living crisis and potential recession? The Service Manager advised that they had been identified as one of the five strategic priorities. It was noted that the following had been set out in the Strategy in relation to this priority.
  - *Increasing access to available resources which support residents with the rising cost of fuel and food.*
  - *Working with employers and anchor institutions to enhance employment opportunities for residents.*
  - *Helping residents of all ages access education, training, skills development and volunteering opportunities to enable them to fulfil their potential.*
  - *Increasing knowledge and awareness of financial skills and support amongst children, young people and adults.*
- How would the messages be communicated to children? The Service Manager advised that the EF Health & Wellbeing Action Groups included partners such as the Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service and Active Essex with partner agencies were frequently working and delivering initiatives directly into primary and secondary schools. Partners were also working with the parents, carers, and guardians of children to further disseminate the information.
- What were court and road champions? The Public Health Improvement Officer advised that this was an inclusive term for a type of Community Champion that lived either within courts or on roads in the community.
- That the Strategy confirmed the importance of green spaces in the urban areas of the district.
- What was a financial wellbeing hub? It was a service facilitated on behalf of the EF Health & Wellbeing Board by Epping Forest Citizens Advice to help resident's maximum their income and other services that could provide residents with support if they were experiencing financial difficulties.
- Were there any plans to deal with the effects of long term Covid? This would be considered by the Clinical Care Action Group action group and driven through the wider strategy.
- That the Committee should receive a report on the projects delivered by the Strategy and compare them against the success criteria.
- Could officers provide the static information basis on wards mentioned in the Strategy. It was noted that information mentioned for the district could be found at the following link [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.localauthorityhealthprofiles.org.uk/)
- Had the Council been part of the Active Essex campaign? It was noted that the Council had obtain funding from Active Essex for projects within the district. They also chaired the Healthy Behaviours Action Group and were one of the partners within the Board.
- How was the success of the Strategy measured? It was noted that each Action Group would develop its own projects and initiatives and at that point, and at that point impact measures would be agreed collectively between the partners. Furthermore, both data and case studies would feed into the evaluation of the projects, capturing both quantitative and qualitative outcomes.
- That the Committee would like to receive an annual update on the Strategy, in an agreed format.

- It was noted that there were similar needs in Loughton for a financial wellbeing hub and other similar initiatives, especially relating to mental health. Officers advised that these issues would be reported back to Primary Network Colleagues. It was also noted that the Council worked closely with Sparks and Mind, which were both mental health charities. Offices advised that there was the will to roll out the support services to the other super out point areas in the district.
- What were the costs associated with the Strategy? It had no dedicated budget, but it did have a host of partner agencies, the community and a will to work together to align the existing resources ensuring a whole system approach and alignment of resources to achieve agreed common goals.
- How would the work be audited? As initiatives and projects were started, there would probably be an agreed benchmark made by agencies and partners that would reported back to the Board.
- It was noted that Frontline was a portal that captured all the events and activities going on in the district. Partners, organisation and the general public could submit information to this service which was found on the council's website.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Committee noted the revised Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy
2. That the Committee receive annual update on the Strategy.

**30. ANNUAL LETTINGS REPORT 2021/22**

The Interim Housing Strategy Manager presented the Social Housing Annual Lettings Report 2021-22, which had been outlined in the report.

The Committee asked questions and made the following comments.

- Why were the lettings to applicants in Band B higher than lettings to applicant in Band A? The Strategic Director advised that it was due to the fact applicants downsizing were in this category.
- Were officers able to advise whether the difference in 'affordable' or 'social' rent levels affected applicants' choices when bidding for a property? Unfortunately, no because the scheme was choice based. Although all affordable houses were bid for, and applicants were assessed to ensure they were financial suitability as part of the letting process.
- How could armed forces applicants be given priority in their hometowns, if they were discharged in another area of the country? The Strategic Director advised that there were two approaches, firstly they could apply to be on the housing register, or they could make a homeless application.
- What happens to tenants who were unable to afford private renting? The Strategic Director advised that welfare benefits were there to assist and if a person were in threat of losing their home, they could approach the council for advice.
- What is the process for appealing which band applicants were placed in? The Strategic Director advised that there was a Reviews and Performance Officer who considered appeals and decide, which would then be reviewed by another officer. This process was set out in the Allocation Policy.

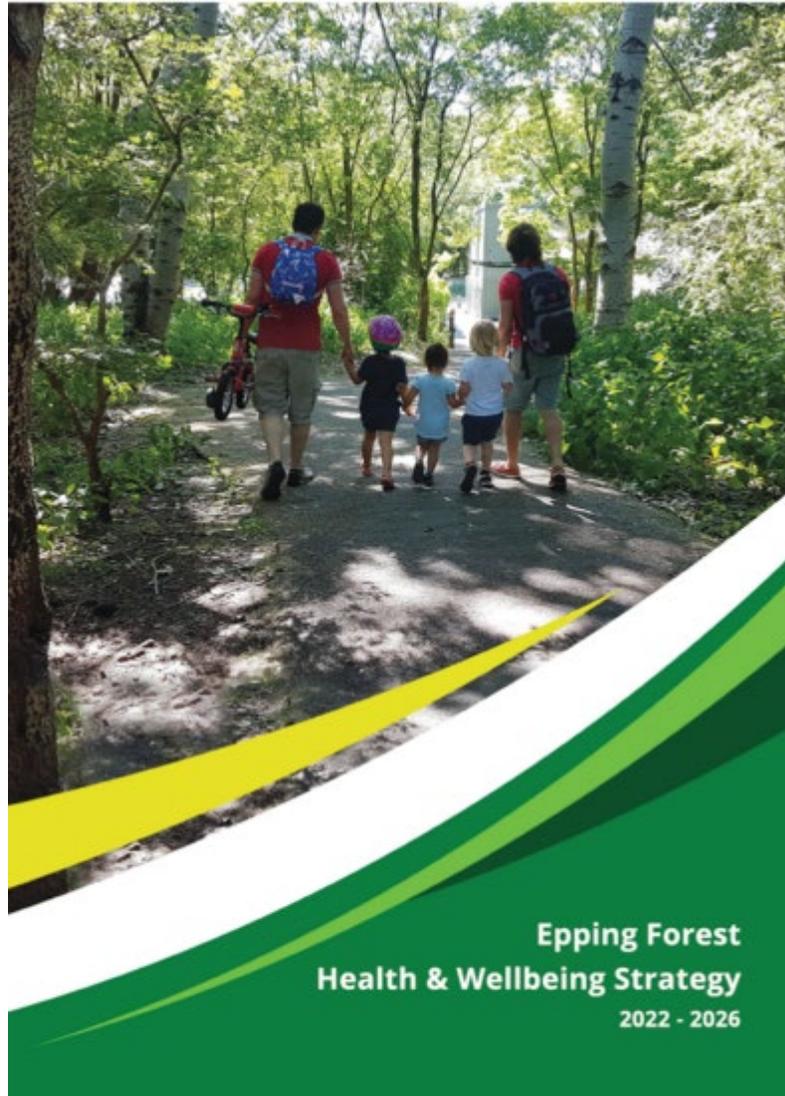
**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee noted the Social Housing Annual Lettings Report for 2021-22.

**31. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted that the date of the next meeting would be 2 March 2023.

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# Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26

**Gill Wallis**

Service Manager – Community, Culture & Wellbeing

**Fabrizio Ferrari**

Public Health Improvement Officer – EFDC/ECC



Essex County Council



Essex Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust



West Essex  
Health and Care  
Partnership



Epping Forest  
District Council  
[www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

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New City  
College



community

safety  
PARTNERSHIP  
EPPING FOREST DISTRICT



Epping Forest  
District



Active Essex

CHANGING 1 MILLION LIVES



# Consultation & Insight



- Face to face focus groups with Community Champions representing communities district-wide
- Public consultation via an on-line questionnaire
- Engagement with the Epping Forest Youth Council
- Facilitated Community & Wellbeing Directorate input via workshops and discussion groups
- A stakeholder consultation event hosted at the Civic Offices attended by 55 representatives from 30 organisations, including the community and voluntary sector.

# Data & Strategic context

- Essex County Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government – 2019 English indices of deprivation
- Office for Health Improvement & Disparities – Local Health Profiles for England
- Hertfordshire Health Evidence – District Profiles

## Key Strategies

- Epping Forest District Council Corporate Plan 2023-27
- Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26
- Herts & West Essex ICB 10 strategic year plan
- Levelling Up Essex – A white paper



# Key Strategic Priorities

## Reducing Health Inequalities

Improve Mental Health  
& Wellbeing

Reduce Loneliness &  
Social Isolation

Increase Physical  
Activity

Support Residents in  
Relation to the Rising  
Cost of Living

Tackle Alcohol &  
Substance Misuse  
Issues

# Principles

## A Whole System Approach

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2021

# Principles cont.....

Prevention & Early Intervention

Self-Care & Management of Own Wellbeing

Place-Based Approach

Life-Course Approach





# Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Board



Healthy  
Behaviours  
Action  
Group

Socio -  
Economic  
Action  
Group

Clinical  
Care  
Action  
Group

Built  
Environment  
Action  
Group



# Action Group Membership

## Healthy Behaviours

### Board Representative:

**Rachel Lewis – ECC Active Essex**

- ECC Active Essex
- EFDC – Community Culture & Wellbeing
- Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service
- Mind in West Essex
- VAEF
- Essex Wellbeing Service
- EPUT
- ECC Social Care
- Places Leisure
- Red Balloon Foundation
- EFDC – Public Health
- Other TBC

## Socio Economic

### Board Representatives:

**Jo O’Boyle – Citizens Advice  
Cllr Holly Whitbread – ECC  
Caroline Wiggins – EFDC**

- EF Citizens Advice
- EFDC – Community & Culture
- New City Collage
- EFDC – Economic Development
- VAEF
- Essex Wellbeing Service
- ECC- Adult Social Care
- EFD Chamber of commerce
- Department for Work & Pensions
- EPUT
- EFDC – Public Health
- Other TBC

### Community Safety Partnership

Chair – Cllr Holly Whitbread  
Specialist – Caroline Wiggins

## Clinical Care

### Board Representatives:

**Jessica Steele – ICB Primary Care Transformation  
Amy Jackson – ICB Interim Assistant Director Transformation**

### Epping North PCN - Health Inequalities

Lead – Dr Kataria

### Epping North - Integrated Neighbourhood Team

Lead – Sara Chaudhry

### LBC Health Inequalities and Partnership Working

Lead – Dr Lasker

### LBC - Integrated Neighbourhood Team

Lead – Sara Chaudhry

## Built Environment

### Board Representative:

**TBC**

- Harlow & Gilston Garden Town
- EFDC – Sustainable Transport Officer
- EFDC Planning Implementation
- Country Care
- EFDC Land & Estates
- EFDC Climate Change Officer
- EFDC Planning Policy
- ICB Built Environment Lead
- EFDC – Clean Air Officer
- City Of London
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- EFDC – Public Health
- Other TBC



# Ninefields Waltham Abbey

- Key successes:
  - Half a million pound of investment
  - 1,333 doorstep interactions
  - 18 new projects and initiatives started
  - 20 different partners engaged in area
  - Over 900 residents directly engaged in projects
  - 165 most vulnerable residents supported by Financial Wellbeing Hub
  - Recruitment of Court and Road Champions to build on success





# Thank you Questions?



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