

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 25 February 2021

Chairman: Councillor M Sartin

Democratic Services Officer: V Messenger (01992 564243)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report January/February 2021 be noted.**

Report:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 January 2021

1. A robust debate on the call-in of the Planning and Sustainability Portfolio Holder's Decision on the adoption of the Epping Forest SAC Interim Air Quality Mitigation Strategy was held at this extra meeting. Councillor C C Pond explained the reasons for the call-in. Members questions were answered by officers including Mr J Maurici QC, and Drs Riley and Venfield from AECOM. The Committee voted to confirm the PFH decision.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 February 2021

2. At the meeting on 2 February 2021, the Committee undertook external scrutiny of the North Essex Parking Partnership. NEPP's Group Manager, Mr Walker, gave a comprehensive overview of its operations. Formed in April 2011, the north part of the partnership comprised Essex County Council and six other local authorities – Colchester (lead LA), Braintree, Epping Forest, Harlow, Tendring and Uttlesford. The Joint Parking Committee, made up of NEPP officers and partnership members, managed its business. Mr Walker answered members questions that covered the Forest's red routes, parking enforcement officers, penalty income, permit schemes, idling vehicles, speeding vehicles, footway parking, installation of electric vehicle charging points, single yellow line applications and junction protection schemes.

3. A further update of the People Strategy outlined the work being delivered under two workstreams – attracting, on boarding and retaining the best talent, and creating a culture of engagement wellbeing. Future reports would be going to Stronger Council Select Committee.

4. The Elections Planning Progress Report outlined the considerable task in planning for 6 May 2021 elections for the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex County Council and local elections to include those postponed from 2020 and those due in May 2021.

5. The Committee pre-scrutinised the new policy on the disposal of small land fill sites and individual properties the receipts of which would be ringfenced for HRA functions.

6. The Committee reviewed the Corporate Plan Key Action Plan 2020/21 quarter 3 exceptions. The quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 showed the Council to be in a much stronger position than quarter 2.

7. Before members tonight is the co-option of an independent member to Stronger Communities Select Committee, which the Committee recommended be approved. Members also agreed to delay the reconvening of the Local High Streets Task and Finish Panel until after the third national lockdown ends when it would be revisited.

8. Other business considered by the Committee included the Executive's current programme of Key Decisions for 1 February 2021. The work programmes of the scrutiny committees were also reviewed, and each select committee Chairman gave a summary of matters covered in their January meetings.

9. Finally, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be welcoming the Epping Forest Youth Council to its next meeting on 15 April and will be undertaking external scrutiny of Young People's Mental Health Services.