

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 23 July 2024

Subject: Contracts Delivery

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ray Balcombe and Cllr Ken Williamson/Cllr Paul Keska (Parking)

Recommending:

The report of the Contracts Delivery Portfolio Holder be noted.

1. Parking

Park Mark Award in EFDC car parks

Epping Forest District Council has retained its national Park Mark safety award in its off-street public car parks. Park Mark is awarded to parking facilities that pass a rigorous risk assessment conducted by the police and the British Parking Association. The assessments include management and maintenance of the facility, ensuring that there are appropriate levels of surveillance, lighting, signage, and cleanliness. These criteria are known to reduce the opportunity for crime and create a safer environment for the motorist and their vehicle.

EV Charging

Due to the increased local demand for public EV charging and with a wider goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030, Epping Forest District Council partnered with InstaVolt to install 14 charging stations across 5 public car parks. Within this partnership, InstaVolt installs, operates and maintains EV charging stations at no cost to the Council, and in return, the chargers generate income for the Council. Not only does this help to protect the public purse, but also means the Council's exposure to risk is minimal.

InstaVolt are an industry leading provider, with a reputation for ease of use and reliability, as well as provision of a high-level service to customers, including a 24/7 customer helpline. The EV chargers are ultra-rapid, where a vehicle can typically charge in under 30 minutes and therefore dwell times at these stations is very low. Since the charging stations have been installed, they have seen good usage levels and great customer satisfaction, and the Council is now generating greenhouse gas savings and increasing car park occupancy levels.

2. Leisure Management

Swimming Pool Support Fund

Loughton Leisure Centre has been awarded £300,000 funding from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) to replace the boilers at the facility. The funding will allow the existing boilers (which have exceeded its lifespan) to be replaced with an eco-friendly boiler system to reduce energy consumption and carbon output. This investment will support the environmental and financial sustainability of the facility and help the Council with its Climate Change Action Plan to become carbon neutral by 2030. The work is expected to take place Q4 of 2024.

Epping Leisure Centre

Work is continuing to progress well on site for the new Epping Leisure Centre. The contractor, Pellikaan, has completed the excavation works as well as installing the foundation piles and this now allows the start of the construction of the building structure. The next phase of works is to complete the basement floor slabs, retaining walls and the concrete shells that will form the main and teaching pools. The project is expected to complete on time and within budget. The new facility is anticipated to be completed in October 2025.

Waste Management

Work is progressing well in setting up the new TVS Ltd waste company with board members confirmed as:

- Cllr Chris Whitbread – EFDC Leader
- Georgina Blakemore – EFDC CEO
- Rosa Tanfield – Colchester City Council, Head of Neighbourhood Services

Two board meetings have taken place, and the Business plan has been approved and went to Cabinet for Shareholder approval on 15th July. The waste fleet is progressing to plan with all vehicles on track to be delivered to Epping Forest from early October. Work on the Operations Hub is also progressing as planned ready for operations in November.