

Scrutiny Panel Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ
Tuesday, 08 June 2021 at 18:00**

The Scrutiny Panel examines the policies and strategies from a borough-wide perspective and ensure the actions of the Cabinet accord with the Council's policies and budget. The Panel reviews corporate strategies that form the Council's Strategic Plan, Council partnerships and the Council's budgetary guidelines, and scrutinises Cabinet or Portfolio Holder decisions which have been called in.

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

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Dates of the meetings are available here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar.aspx>.

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Scrutiny Panel – Terms of Reference

1. To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee under section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and in particular (but not limited to):

- (a) To review corporate strategies;
- (b) To ensure that actions of the Cabinet accord with the policies and budget of the Council;
- (c) To monitor and scrutinise the financial performance of the Council, performance reporting and to make recommendations to the Cabinet particularly in relation to annual revenue and capital guidelines, bids and submissions;
- (d) To review the Council's spending proposals to the policy priorities and review progress towards achieving those priorities against the Strategic and Implementation Plans;
- (e) To review the financial performance of the Council and to make recommendations to the Cabinet in relation to financial outturns, revenue and capital expenditure monitors;
- (f) To review or scrutinise executive decisions made by Cabinet, the North Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee (in relation to decisions relating to off-street matters only) and the Colchester and Ipswich Joint Museums Committee which have been made but not implemented referred to the Panel pursuant to the Call-In Procedure;
- (g) To review or scrutinise executive decisions made by Portfolio Holders and officers taking key decisions which have been made but not implemented referred to the Panel pursuant to the Call-In Procedure;
- (h) To monitor the effectiveness and application of the Call-In Procedure, to report on the number and reasons for Call-In and to make recommendations to the Council on any changes required to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the process;
- (i) To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet;
- (j) At the request of the Cabinet, to make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of the volume of reports to the Cabinet or creating difficulty for the management of Cabinet business or jeopardising the efficient running of Council business;

2. To fulfil all the functions of the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee ("the Committee") under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and in particular (but not limited to):

- (a) To review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions;
- (b) To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of those functions.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Scrutiny Panel
Tuesday, 08 June 2021 at 18:00

The Scrutiny Panel Members are:

Councillor Mark Cory	Chairman
Councillor Tina Bourne	Deputy Chairman
Councillor Nigel Chapman	
Councillor Lyn Barton	
Councillor Derek Loveland	
Councillor Lorcan Whitehead	
Councillor Dennis Willetts	
Councillor Barbara Wood	

The Scrutiny Panel Substitute Members are:

All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

AGENDA
THE LIST OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
(Part A - open to the public)

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 5 are normally dealt with briefly.

1 Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors and remind everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking. The Chairman will also explain action in the event of an emergency, mobile phones switched to silent, audio-recording of the meeting. Councillors who are members of the committee will introduce themselves.

2 Substitutions

Councillors will be asked to say if they are attending on behalf of a Committee member who is absent.

3 Urgent Items

The Chairman will announce if there is any item not on the published agenda which will be considered because it is urgent and will explain the reason for the urgency.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the item or

participating in any vote upon the item, or any other pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Councillors will be invited to confirm that the minutes of the meetings held on 16 March 2021 and 18 March 2021 are a correct record.

Minutes of Scrutiny Panel meeting 16 March 2021

7 - 14

Minutes of Scrutiny Panel meeting 18 March 2021

15 - 22

6 Have Your Say!

The Chairman will invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition on any item included on the agenda or any other matter relating to the terms of reference of the meeting. Please indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

7 Decisions taken under special urgency provisions

The Councillors will consider any decisions by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder which have been taken under Special Urgency provisions.

8 Cabinet or Portfolio Holder Decisions called in for Review

The Councillors will consider any Cabinet or Portfolio Holder decisions called in for review.

9 Items requested by members of the Panel and other Members

(a) To evaluate requests by members of the Panel for an item relevant to the Panel's functions to be considered.

(b) To evaluate requests by other members of the Council for an item relevant to the Panel's functions to be considered.

Members of the panel may use agenda item 'a' (all other members will use agenda item 'b') as the appropriate route for referring a 'local government matter' in the context of the Councillor Call for Action to the panel. Please refer to the panel's terms of reference for further procedural arrangements.

10 Work Programme 2021-22

23 - 40

This report sets out the current Work Programme 2021-2022 for the Scrutiny Panel. This provides details of the reports that are scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

11 Exclusion of the Public (Scrutiny)

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Part B (not open to the public including the press)

SCRUTINY PANEL

16 March 2021

Present: - Councillor Barber, Councillor Bourne, Councillor Dundas, Councillor Hayter, Councillor Hogg, Councillor McCarthy, Councillor Whitehead

Substitutions: - Councillor Crow for Councillor Bentley.

Also present: - Councillor King.

293. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

294. Review of Bus Service Provision

A statement was read out on behalf of a member of the public, Mr Chris Piggott, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5(1) of the Council's Remote Meetings Procedure Rules. Mr Piggott wrote to raise issues with a perceived lack of public transport infrastructure, especially in South Colchester, where bus use could involve lengthy journeys and a need to change buses. An assurance that this would be considered in the future was sought.

A statement was read out on behalf of a member of the public, Mr Thomas Rowe, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5(1) of the Council's Remote Meetings Procedure Rules.

Mr Rowe wrote to raise the following questions:

1. Whether a circular route from Ipswich Road to the hospital could be investigated.
2. Whether the possibility of the Number 2 bus to stop on Queens Street could be evaluated.
3. Whether rest breaks for drivers could be organised not to coincide with commuting and rush hours.
4. Whether the Council could liaise with Greater Anglia to better coordinate arrival and departure times for improved connections and journey times.
- 4a) How often waiting times are reviewed and what is considered to be an acceptable wait time is for passengers getting off trains.
5. Whether pricing could be more competitive during off-peak hours to encourage more users.

6. Whether buses could run for longer hours to help facilitate the night time economy.

7. How often routes were reviewed, and how demand was measured or predicted to determine new routes and times.

Jane Thompson, Transport and Sustainability Joint Lead, introduced the review and invited Helen Morris, Head of Essex County Council's Integrated Passenger Transport Unit [IPTU] to address the Panel.

The Head of the IPTU asked for any questions about specific issues to be sent to County Council cabinet members, rather than raised at this meeting, as the pre-election period had almost been reached. She then detailed structural issues faced by bus provision under the deregulated model used in Essex. This model entailed the great majority of services being commercially run, with 15% of services supported by the County Council for the good of the public.

A continued decline in passenger numbers had been recorded since 1985, leading to reductions in investment over time. Passenger numbers remain crucial to support service provision. Essex covered many rural areas in which it was a challenge to deliver bus services, with some areas not being served by any routes. Passenger confidence was now an even greater issue, due to Covid-19 fears, and there was a need to shape the bus network to reflect changed travel patterns.

The bus transport sector was currently experiencing market failure, due to Covid-19, so significant public funding had been needed to subsidise the service whilst restrictions had drastically cut passenger numbers. Tribute was paid to those who had kept the network functioning during the pandemic, and partnership working was praised. The County Council's bus strategy had been badly hit and will be adjusted to reflect any Department for Transport guidance issued.

The 'Safer, Greener, Healthier' Strategy was outlined, to reduce car use and improve the environment and public health. £2.5m had been granted by the Department for Transport and the Head of the IPTU explained how the Borough Council and its members could help the Strategy to succeed. This included promotion of bus use, promotion by the Council and members, forming a pro-bus vision and complimentary parking strategy for the Borough and looking to use S106 money from planning applications to help the Borough and County Councils work to provide new routes and stops for new developments.

Richard Gravitt, Essex County Council Strategy, Growth, Infrastructure & Integration Manager, explained that the County Council spent £8-£9m on bus service provision within the year, £20m on school bus transport and £17m on concessionary bus fares. Tracey Vickers, County Council Head of Sustainable Transport, explained that the draft County Travel Strategy was going to be presented, but that the County's Cabinet had agreed to send it for further consultation, following requests for this. The County Council's current strategy was to persuade the public to only travel when necessary, to push modal shift to safer/healthier/sustainable options for travel. Prioritisation had been given to promoting active travel, rebuilding passenger

transport and exploring new approaches and driving behaviour change to affordable alternatives to private motor transport.

The Transport and Sustainability Joint Lead gave an overview of views expressed by bus operators in the past, including complaints that congestion was a problem and that parking charges were too low and acted as a disincentive to bus use. Work had been promised to improve punctuality and access, engagement with stakeholders and improving environmental standards.

Piers Marlow, FirstGroup Managing Director, gave more information on how Covid-19 had forced changes to service provision since the previous March. Some routes had experienced drops in usage of up to 90%, with the best performing down by 50%. Social distancing had drastically reduced capacity and forced reductions in vehicle use. Plans were in place for 12 April to meet an increase in traveller numbers. Since schools had reopened, service usage had risen to around 35/40%.

Julian Elliott, FirstGroup, noted that punctuality had improved, thanks to a drop in traffic density and a lowering of the variation in journey times because of this. This shows what was possible, if congestion were to be addressed once Covid-19 restrictions were eased. Travel patterns were expected to change. Hybrid working was expected to remain commonplace, so work was underway to look at a range of tickets for semi-regular passengers.

Two-thirds of passengers were now paying via cashless options. Digital options would continue to be promoted, but cash was still a valid way to pay. Online booking options included tools to check seat availabilities.

FirstGroup's Managing Director regretted that the pandemic had hit their plans for improving environmental performance but gave assurance that efforts were still underway to increase the use of vehicles meeting the Euro 6 standard. A 'Green Road' Strategy was being used to change driving styles, to increase safety and reduce emissions. No new diesel buses would be brought into use after December 2022. Existing diesel vehicles would be phased out and replaced with zero-emission alternatives. FirstGroup operated electric vehicles across the UK and this might be possible to do within the Borough.

The bus operators worked in partnership with the County Council, under the National Bus Strategy, to improve coverage and uptake. All Essex operators met regularly with the County Council to raise and address any issues.

Glenn Shuttleworth, Go East Anglia's District Manager, informed the Panel that Go Ahead [operators of Hedingham and Chambers buses] was investing in new technology, now operating the largest electric fleet within London. Go Ahead had experienced similar effect from the pandemic as FirstGroup, with passenger numbers now returning to levels closer to normal.

The new national Bus Strategy was argued to be a good opportunity for operators and councils to work together to expand bus usage.

The District Manager echoed the view that parking in the Borough was too cheap and added that the bus operators suffered from the lack of a dedicated bus station. It was posited that the use of buses would be improved if the Colchester Business Improvement District could look at efforts to incentivise bus use, such as offers and deals for bus passengers from local outlets.

Michael Jennings, Arriva's Area Head of Commercial, emphasised the challenges in the sector. Focus had been given to maintaining a core network that was safe for use. Like other operators, some routes had lost around 90% of their passenger usage during lockdown.

Partnership working was described as essential to create a strategic approach, increase passenger numbers and to gain access to funding streams. With travel patterns changing, now would be a good opportunity to help shape new travel habits and persuade people to use buses.

Tracey Rudling, Chief Executive of Community 360, described her charity's role in supplying minibuses designed for accessibility. Community 360 had experienced a challenging year, due to Covid-19. Around 50,000 trips were carried out, in a normal year, for vulnerable service users and those who could not access general public transport services. Most clients were classified as being at increased risk of Covid-19, and a significant percentage of the volunteer drivers had been unable to work during the pandemic. Community 360 had experienced an approximate loss of £10k from its community transport operations each month during the pandemic.

The Head of ECC's IPTU praised the successes of community transport schemes and explained the County Council's approach of shaping their operations around community schemes. The Chief Executive of Community 360 detailed their operations and ventured the possibility of partnership working between community schemes and commercial operators.

An investment had been made in five leased buses, contactless payment options had been put in place and measures engaged to minimise any risk of Covid-19 infection. Around 18,000 journeys had been undertaken during 2020, with total mileage of around 1,200 miles and regular checks were carried out to ensure driver and passenger safety. Options had been introduced to allow social activities to move online, to reduce the need for travel to in-person meetings.

The Panel commenced their discussion, raising a range of factors impacting on passenger transport, such as the Ipswich Road roundabout roadworks and the increased number of properties from new developments. A member [Councillor Hogg] requested a comparison be provided to show the route network which will be in place after the ending of Covid-19 restrictions, compared to the network which was operated prior to the pandemic. It was agreed that this request would be added to the questions asked in the 'Have Your Say' contributions from the public and sent to the Head of ECC IPTU so that they could be discussed with operators and responses provided. Owen Howell, Democratic Services Officer, would ensure these were sent to Helen Morris at Essex County Council for this purpose. It was noted that operators were in a difficult position as it had not been possible to conduct a long-term review to envisage future networks. Recent announcements regarding a

national bus strategy were noted as potentially heralding a better opportunity for operators and councils to come together to plan for the future. Achieving increased bus usage would 'tick many boxes' involving environmental goals, desirable modal shift, reducing congestion and improving public health.

It was asked whether Essex was too large and heterogenous an area to allow a single transport network to be successful and whether there was scope for services to be provided by mutual organisations and community providers. The Head of ECC's IPTU confirmed that it was the diversity of Essex which presented the greatest challenge, rather than the size. Different network types were required for different types of areas. Department for Transport modelling had only been on areas such as Oxford or Brighton. Granular modelling and planning were required for each different type of area. Issues were greater for rural areas, an example being that there were no 'town deal' funds and fewer funding options for rural areas.

Government funding covered 75% of the cost difference between diesel and electric buses, which did not make it financially viable to fully replace all diesel vehicles. The County Council has raised this concern with Government and has pushed the need for 'branch' schemes which extend beyond the main routes.

The Panel were informed that the new national bus strategy was highly detailed and had a focus on partnership working between transport authorities, bus companies, community transport operators and statutory partners. The Borough Council could support this via its approach to its administration of the planning system, via the local plan, by influencing town development and its parking strategy, and by working with partners such as the Business Improvement District and hospital to design a granular approach for the Borough.

FirstGroup gave assurance that opportunities for improvement would be significant, but that the Council should be patient whilst operators conducted recovery work after the pandemic and worked to bring capacity up to full strength.

A Panel member stressed the importance of reducing congestion and expanding bus use. The guests were asked how long it would be before zero emission vehicles could be brought into use in the Borough. Piers Marlow informed the Panel that FirstGroup's early plans were examining use of electric vehicles, rather than hydrogen-powered. This was unlikely to happen within the coming two years but was possible within three to five years. Infrastructure set-up was the key issue.

Members asked why the £2.5m funding from Government for electric buses had only been used for vehicles in central Essex. The Head of ECC's IPTU explained that the bidding criteria for this funding had been very specific, especially with regard to rurality. Two pilot schemes in rural parts of central Essex had therefore been proposed where no services had previously been possible. These would include trialling of electric minibuses, app functions and methods to push modal shift and give digital support to service users. More details would be provided to members following the meeting.

The guests were asked whether a 'one-stop shop' application could be possible. Non-digital payment tended to slow journey times, and touch-payment was

suggested as a way to improve the situation. It was confirmed that the technology existed for this and needed to be examined. The Bus service open data service already provided information on all operators' services and timings and would in the future provide fare data also. This was in line with the statutory requirements laid out in the Bus Services Act 2017. It was noted that research carried out with non-bus users living near stops had found that a lack of knowledge and fear of being caught out was a key disincentive to use of the bus services.

It was queried what councillors could do to help via setting conditions for Section 106 contributions and conditions on new developments to ensure bus stops and infrastructure are provided. The officers of ECC explained that Tier-Two authorities such as borough councils should work with the County Council to include sustainable transport measures and ensure flexible agreements which included the provision of new infrastructure, with new services and infrastructure working together. Part of the planning process was to consider ways to drive modal shift and some past 106 agreements had included enhanced bus provisions. The new national strategy indicated a move towards allowing councils a greater ability to work together, including on the use of online apps to cover multiple council areas. The simpler the online ticketing app was, the easier and quicker it would be for payment and the more likely it would be to increase uptake.

The Panel discussed what possible benefits would be likely were the current High Street restrictions on private vehicle use to be kept in place. Jonathan Ellis, FirstGroup, stressed the importance of enabling buses to quickly enter and leave the town centre. Essex County Council's Strategy, Growth, Infrastructure & Integration Manager noted that bus stop capacity in the Town centre was limited, with many concentrated on the High Street.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, explained that Cabinet had held discussions with the Business Improvement District regarding potential ways to use a strategy and offers to increase passenger numbers coming in to Colchester. There was strong support for active and sustainable travel, such as via the County's 'Safer, Greener, Healthier' approach, aiming to move people away from car use.

The Panel discussed pricing difficulties, observing that increased passenger numbers were needed to allow fare prices to be reduced, whilst fare reductions could increase passenger numbers. It was asked what could be done to reduce fare prices and what level of reductions in fare prices would be needed to increase passenger numbers by the required amount [i.e., price elasticity of demand]. The Managing Director of FirstGroup elaborated on his expectation that, post-pandemic, travel patterns would be very different, and that ticket offers would need to match the new patterns and seek to attract new users. There were many options, but all depended on partnership working. Essex County Council's Strategy, Growth, Infrastructure & Integration Manager explained that demand for bus use was price inelastic in the short term, but more elastic over time as alternatives were sought by service users.

It was expected that the majority of expected government funding would commence from 2022 onwards. The Panel were informed that a key challenge was how to accommodate bus routes within the historic streetscape of Colchester. There were

design and funding challenges, which required investment to overcome. It was suggested that bus users tended to browse, buy and use services more whilst shopping, and that this should be used to make the case to the town centre retail and service community that increased bus use helps their businesses.

Glenn Shuttleworth, Go East Anglia's District Manager, told the Panel that his firm had been urging local authorities to make different decisions regarding passenger travel contracts. The current system was built around accepting the lowest-cost bids, which makes it harder to improve environmental and service standards. The Head of ECC's IPTU confirmed that the current system was based primarily on cost, to maximise the network coverage that could be afforded. This would need to be addressed when the national bus strategy was considered. With school transport services costing around £30m per annum, this system required modernisation; the current system was still based on rules laid down in 1948.

The Panel discussed whether to make a recommendation that Cabinet work with the Colchester Business Improvement District and bus operators to attempt to find ways to provide offers to bus users in order to drive a modal shift from car use to bus use, in addition to promoting sustainable and active travel options.

The Panel then considered whether to make recommendations to encourage councillors to promote local bus services and for the Council to work with the national Bus Strategy to help improve investment in local buses, to potentially boost the local economy and create jobs. There was also a further recommendation proposed that the Council uses its powers as a tier two authority to incentivise and support bus use and seek lower ticket prices. The Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources advised that recommendations would be most effective if specific and based on the partnership working between the Council and Essex County Council.

A number of recommendations were then proposed formally and agreed as follow below. The Chairman then thanked the Panel's guests for participating in this review.

RECOMMENDATION to CABINET that: -

- (a) Cabinet encourages councillors to take up the '#UseTheBus challenge', to invest in local communities, jobs and the environment by championing bus travel.
- (b) Cabinet uses the powers available to a Tier Two authority to enhance and highlight modal shift from car use. Powers of Planning, redevelopment of Town Centre and a boroughwide Parking Strategy being examples (but not an exhaustive list) of these powers.
- (c) Cabinet investigates incentives and offers, through the Business Improvement District [BID] and business partners, in developing a level playing field for bus passengers, when compared to parking deals, thus promoting sustainable transport options.

- (d) Guidance be issued to all elected members as to the options available regarding use of Section 106 funds from new developments, potentially to support bus infrastructure and routes.
- (e) Cabinet directs officers to investigate the possibility of working with partners to create a Borough-wide travel app, to support and encourage use of sustainable and active travel options.

295. Alternative ways of working and service provision involving partners and communities.

Richard Block, Assistant Director – Corporate and Service Improvement, explained that this was a very broad subject, on a large scale which had already seen many service areas looking for alternative ways to work and provide services over the past twelve months. There would be further developments over coming years, in part to reflect the developing financial position of the Council, looking to improve service quality whilst lowering service costs. The intention was to introduce this to the Panel at this meeting, so that Panel members can start to consider what they would like to see and consider at its future meeting in June 2021.

The Chairman asked for more information to be provided to the Panel, when possible, so that members could identify which specific subjects and services they wished to scrutinise and consider. These ideas should then be sent by Panel members to Owen Howell, Democratic Services Officer, for collation. It was agreed that, if possible, an informal workshop session would be held by the Panel prior to the June meeting to lay out what that meeting would cover.

RESOLVED that the Panel would consider this topic in greater detail at its meeting on 8 June 2021 and, if possible, would have an informal workshop session prior to this, to provide direction to officers as to what the Panel wished to discuss at the formal meeting.

296. Work Programme 2020-21

It was noted and agreed that the Panel would receive a full presentation on alternative ways of working and service provision at its meeting on 8 June 2021, if possible.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme for 2020-21 be noted and approved.

SCRUTINY PANEL

18 March 2021

Present: - Councillor Barber, Councillor Bentley, Councillor Bourne, Councillor Dundas, Councillor Hayter, Councillor Hogg, Councillor McCarthy, Councillor Whitehead

Substitutions: - None

Also present: - Councillor Fox, Councillor King, Councillor J. Young.

297. Review of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Colchester Borough Council's Strategic Arts Partners: The Mercury Theatre, Colchester Arts Centre and Firstsite.

The Chairman welcomed guests and viewers and gave an overview of the range of dynamic arts organisations operating within the Borough, and the invaluable outreach work that they carried out for the Borough's communities.

Councillor Julie Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance and Deputy Leader of the Council, described the Council's investment in the Borough's cultural organisations. These organisations were held up to be important to the future recovery of the Borough and the Council was proud of the partnership working that was carried out between them and the Council. Additional investments were being made to ensure Colchester provided the best possible cultural offerings.

Steve Mannix, Chief Executive of the Mercury Theatre, highlighted the diverse programme of activities provided by his organisation. The Mercury had also worked to provide support to those who depended on it for work, including the setting up of a hardship fund for casual and freelance members of staff. This fund had totalled around £45k.

118 online events had been carried out by the Mercury during the pandemic. A pantomime had been held and viewed 419,000 times, with free screenings provided to care homes. Fundraising was being carried out to enable the Theatre to conduct future live-screened events. 214 creative engagement sessions had been held during the past year. A syndicated production had also been possible with the BBC.

21 new jobs had been created to support the Theatre's work, with funding provided by the European Support Fund. Engagement with schools had been carried out and the Theatre had worked with 19 disabled young people to achieve nationally recognised qualifications.

The pandemic had caused a delay of around seven months to the Mercury Rising project, but as much progress was carried out as had been possible, and 25 April

had been set as the expected completion date. £864k had been obtained from the government's cultural funding, and details were provided on the slides shown to the Panel. However, the Chief Executive informed the Panel that the Theatre was now being let down by Essex County Council, which was withdrawing its funding.

The Theatre had worked with the Business Improvement District and the One Colchester Partnership, seconding its staff to assist with communications work and support for the Council, providing volunteers to help foodbanks, local schools and in producing items of personal protective equipment.

Anthony Roberts, Director of Colchester Arts Centre, described the engagements that the Centre had carried out during the past year, which had reached a total of around 219,000 personal engagements with members of the public. 136,000 of these had been via social media. 45,000 people had attended events in person prior to the outbreak of Covid-19, and social media engagement had increased the reach of the Arts Centre and this had been recognised and had encouraged the Centre to find new ways to engage with the public in the future. This could include events, free events, day sessions, clubs and outreach activities. The Arts Centre wished to not only provide performances, but also to find ways to start conversations regarding artistic activities.

A song contest had been held during lockdown, allowing the performance of 30 new artists' works, films had been commissioned, poetry workshops held, and carol shows performed. John Cooper Clarke had held an online show. This had all been carried out whilst £800k of work had been carried out to the Arts Centre's venue, to upgrade the building.

Sally Shaw, Director of Firstsite, emphasised the creative agility which had been necessary over the past twelve months. This included reaching out to artists to ask if they could help Firstsite to help people at home to engage with different artistic forms and activities. Firstsite had worked with national, regional and local artists to produce activity packs to engage people with the arts. There had been a huge spike in the email circulation list going into lockdown, when the first pack had been produced, and a second spike when the second action pack released. The list had gone from around 11,000 email addresses to around 45,000. Activity packs had been downloaded by around 90,000 households. Each one helped to publicise Colchester's arts and had contributed to an increase in new people visiting Firstsite between lockdowns.

Whilst open, Firstsite had conducted its Holiday Club, providing days of free family activities and food. 7,500 meals had been provided since the Club had started, with around 1,500 being provided in Summer 2020. Tate Modern had invited Firstsite to conduct a canteen/meal club in the Turbine Hall in Summer 2021. Firstsite were also looking to replicate the Holiday Club in ten other arts facilities in Essex and were looking for partners in this work.

The Director of Firstsite warned that Essex County Council funding for Firstsite would now end at the end of March, and that their help was desperately needed in order to ensure that Firstsite could continue its art and outreach activities for local communities.

Future work planned included 'The Great Big Artist Exhibition', upcoming shows and works and a continuing project, across Colchester and Ipswich hospitals, to talk with staff and capture their experiences of the past year. These accounts would be displayed, with pictures, to show what life had been like for NHS staff and Covid-19 patients. Counsellors would be on-hand to engage with those affected.

Karen Loweman, Director of Operations at Colchester Borough Homes, emphasised and agreed with the importance and impact of art outreach work to improve life for many residents of Council-owned properties.

The Panel discussed the work of the three organisations over the past year, praising the new ways found to do things that could be kept going, and which engaged with thousands. This had provided people with much needed positivity during lockdowns.

The guests were asked how much of their organisations' future work would involve online productions, outreach work and activities, and whether this was likely to be financially viable.

Tracey Childs, Co-Chief Executive of The Mercury, confirmed that there would be future livestreaming carried out, following on from this having been used during lockdown, including to nursing homes, children and vulnerable individuals. There would be difficulties in obtaining permission to livestream performances (outside of lockdown) and the Theatre was seeking funding to obtain the technology to create inhouse streaming opportunities. It was noted that the provision of high-speed broadband in the Town centre would be key to making this possible.

The Panel praised the work on survival and finding new ways to continue to provide artistic work.

A specific question was asked as to whether the cost overruns reported on the Mercury Rising had been borne by the contractors, the Council or by the Theatre itself. The Chief Executive of The Mercury stressed that there had been no precedent to the Covid-19 situation and that best endeavours had been made to keep capital building projects going. Teams had been able to operate at around 25% the expected rate because of restrictions on workplaces. Most of the project funding had been from Government and Arts funds so overruns had had limited effect on the Theatre or the Council. The project would finish on time and on budget.

Concern was raised by one Panel member regarding the ending of funding from Essex County Council, and the effect that this would have on the arts organisations. The guests were asked what had been discussed and planned for regarding their future financial situations. Sally Shaw, Firstsite Director, elaborated on the situation, explaining that the withdrawal of funding from the County Council would see £100k lost from the budget of Firstsite. The organisations affected were creative and determined to find ways to cope but would find it difficult to absorb the lost funding and did not want to lose the partnership working which had been conducted with Essex County Council. This would be even more of a loss than the cancelled funding. It had been shown that ideas such as the Holiday Fun programme had been

heavily in demand and work would be done to sell ideas like this on to other organisations.

[At this point of the meeting, Sally Shaw, Firstsite Director, had to leave the meeting]

Steve Mannix, Chief Executive of the Mercury Theatre, warned that the loss of the connection with Essex County Council would mean the loss of a regional avenue for potential inward investment from larger funding sources and increase the pressure on remaining local funding and Borough Council support. There was currently no regional tourism strategy and the Chief Executive ventured that it was necessary to produce strategies at sub-regional, regional and national levels.

Members of the Panel praised the quality of the productions made in the Borough, and several members expressed the view that there would be continuing markets for these to be livestreamed and broadcast online. A strong online offering was expected to increase the numbers of people then visiting the venues in person to experience productions. This would then act as an economic driver, with visitors also using local shops and hospitality businesses in the area. The Panel also noted the positive effects of the local economy, such as by contracting local businesses on projects like 'Mercury Rising.' There were also many sources of funding which were not open to the Council, but which were open for applications by the three arts organisations.

A Panel member suggested the Council look at whether it could adopt a procurement model which would help to support local businesses, partners and arts organisations.

The Panel asked for information on the potential for more outdoors performances. Nigel Hildreth, Colchester Arts Centre's Chair of Trustees, explained that various options had been considered, costed and necessary equipment sourced. Some outdoor performances had already been carried out. Steve Mannix detailed carol singing visits carried out by the Mercury, such as to care homes, and explained their outdoor options for the coming Summer. 'Shakespeare in the Park' had been explored as an option, but this had been replaced by performance of 'Baskerville' at the Mercury, with associated events and activities, which could showcase the new building.

Anthony Roberts told the Panel of the Arts Centre's 'Comedy in the Park' events, and noted the possibility of a County-Council funded festival on the green behind St Botolph's.

The Panel and guests discussed the effects of new ways of working on the demographics of audiences. Anthony Roberts confirmed that they had seen changes, although the exact changes were difficult to quantify due to a lack of formal data. It had been possible however to see that the new ways of working during the past year had reached people who had never previously visited the venues. The Panel were informed that the online offerings from The Mercury had reached more younger people and more people with disabilities. Working online, and offering cheaper ticket options, had increased the diversity of audiences and increased uptake by people from lower-income households.

In discussion of the organisations' staffing and use of furlough, the Co-Chief Executive of The Mercury informed the Panel that core staff had continued to work and facilitate the 'Mercury Rising' project, whilst the majority of staff had been furloughed. Social get-togethers had been run online to maintain contact and reduce isolation. Furlough had been very helpful and had helped The Mercury to avoid any redundancies. The advance of grant money from the Council had been very important, especially in the context of around 30% job losses being seen throughout the industry nationwide.

RESOLVED that the PANEL regretted the arts organisations' loss of funding from Essex County Council and was disappointed that the County Council had not responded to calls from the Mercury Theatre for a continuation of funding for the 'Mercury Rising' project.

Councillor Julie Young, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Culture, affirmed that the funding from the Borough Council was money well spent and that the organisations worked hard to raise public spirits, provide outreach work and support communities.

Councillor David King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, likewise praised the organisations and thanked them for all their work. He confirmed that the Council was in this partnership for the long term and offered to see if the County Council could be persuaded to resume their funding, as a cross-party effort.

Councillor Adam Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, hailed the strength of the partnership working between the organisations, the Council and Colchester Borough Homes [CBH]. CBH project management had helped ensure that the 'Mercury Rising' project stayed on track. With County Council elections in the near future, it was stressed that it was important for Colchester's members of Essex County Council to stand up for local arts organisations.

The importance of sourcing local contractors, where possible, was stressed, with an example being the work planned for the building of new Council housing.

RECOMMENDATION to CABINET that: -

- (a) Cabinet formally recognises the importance of the three art organisations, built on trust and partnership working;
- (b) Cabinet explore whether the procurement model used for the 'Mercury Rising' project can be used more widely by the Council to boost the local economy;
- (c) All councillors be kept informed of all outreach work and events by the arts organisations, to ensure that they can share the great work undertaken within the cultural sector and ensure that those who could benefit from them have the opportunity so to do.

298. Colchester Borough Homes Performance Targets 2021/22

Councillor Adam Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, paid tribute to Colchester Borough Homes as being integral to the Council's work. A number of target changes had been proposed, including on responses to homelessness. Three of these also formed key performance indicator [KPI] targets for the Council. Geoff Beales, Client Services Manager, explained that the Government's agenda was changing, with more focus on complaint handling, safety and compliance. The KPIs for CBH would therefore need to reflect these changes in the coming years as regulation and legislation are updated. It was proposed that homelessness duty owed be measured by three specific metrics to show work in this area, rather than by a single KPI.

A Panel member requested more information on rent arrears, including on the causes behind arrears and how these are taken into account when the Council and CBH work with tenants to address them. Karen Loweman, CBH Director of Operations, described the balanced approach used by the Company. Eviction was an absolute last resort and staff have worked throughout lockdown to stay in touch with residents and address problems as soon as possible.

The Panel was informed that the majority of tenants had experienced reductions in income and CBH worked with those in difficulty to address arrears, find employment opportunities and access any payments to which they were entitled. The Portfolio Holder for Housing exhorted councillors to encourage local tenants to contact CBH if they needed help, or to use the services of organisations such as Citizens' Advice to address any problems they may be experiencing.

Views given by a Panel member were that CBH was one of the best-performing parts of the Council's portfolio and that the targets proposed were sensible, especially in the context of the past year.

Regarding Homelessness, the Director of Operations observed that CBH saw around 120 new applications each month. The first goal was to prevent homelessness, where possible. If it wasn't possible, the next goal was to relieve homelessness, with the last resort being to alleviate homelessness which had occurred. There had been opportunities to relieve homelessness during the past year, as private rental tenants had stayed in properties more through the Covid-19 restrictions. A ban on evictions due to arrears had drastically reduced private rental eviction rates.

RESOLVED that the Panel had scrutinised and noted the report.

299. Corporate Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2021-2022

Councillor Julie Young, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Culture and Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the report and explained Cabinet's wish to continue with stretching targets.

Previous meetings had identified that the existing target for Homelessness Duty owed had been difficult to understand, so this was planned for replacement by new metrics to show the prevention and alleviation work.

Regarding business rates, the economic conditions had impacted negatively on local businesses and their payment of business rates. Officers worked to identify businesses which were liable for business rates. This had been helped by the need for businesses to declare their premises in order to claim Covid-19-related support grants, which allowed for them to be looked at to see if they were liable for business rates.

The Portfolio Holder was asked whether a more challenging target could be set for the time taken to process housing benefit and council tax allowance claims, as the Council consistently outperformed its targets for these. The answer given was that the Council aimed to outperform these targets by a clear margin, rather than to just achieve them.

The Panel discussed the KPI targets proposed. It was stated that a new affordable housing target, shown as a percentage, was easier to understand and compare. The Portfolio Holder for Housing explained the target for 30% affordable housing for large developments. This was not always possible, but the previous target of 20% had been mostly achieved. Potential changes to the Planning system and best practice from other local authorities had been examined and Cabinet was keen to maximise the building of affordable housing.

8 June 2021

Report of	Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Owen Howell ☎ 282518
Title	Work Programme 2021-22		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current Work Programme 2021-2022 for the Scrutiny Panel. This provides details of the reports that are scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to consider and approve the contents of the Work Programme for 2021-2022.
- 2.2 The Panel is asked to decide whether it wishes to continue to hold an additional meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee in February or March.
- 2.3 Training on conducting effective scrutiny is available for all members and the Panel is asked to resolve that this should be scheduled, with an invitation to all members of the Council [to ensure that substitute members of the Panel may attend].

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The Panel's work programme evolves as the Municipal Year progresses and items of business are commenced and concluded. At each meeting the opportunity is taken for the work programme to be reviewed and, if necessary, amended according to current circumstances. The draft work programme for 2021-22 is appended to this report. This contains the items which are reviewed each year by the Panel, and a July review of the Council's upcoming transformation programme which was requested at the end of the 2020-21 Municipal Year.
- 3.2 The Forward Plan of Key Decisions is included as part of the work programme for the Scrutiny Panel, and this is included an **Appendix A**.
- 3.3 Officers have asked the Panel to consider whether it wishes to return to holding a single meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee, in the Summer months, and to cancel the additional meeting of the Committee which has been held in February or March of the past few municipal years. This additional meeting had been held to provide additional updates from the partners of the Safer Colchester Partnership, however the Committee only has a requirement to meet once per year.

4. Standard References

- 4.1 There are no particular references to publicity or consultation considerations, or financial, equality, diversity, human rights, community safety, health and safety, environmental and sustainability or risk management implications.

5. Strategic Plan References

- 5.1 Good governance is integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan's priorities and direction for the Borough as set out under the four themes of growth, responsibility, opportunity and wellbeing.
- 5.2 The Council recognises that effective local government relies on establishing and maintaining the Public's confidence, and that setting high standards of self-governance provides a clear and demonstrable lead. Effective governance underpins the implementation and application of all aspects of the Council's work.

Appendices

Appendix A – Scrutiny Panel Work Programme, 2021-22

Appendix B – Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 1 June 2021 – 30 September 2021

Work Programme for 2021/22

Scrutiny Panel meeting – 8 June 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 3 June 2021
1. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel meeting – 20 July 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 15 July 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Year End 2020/21 Performance Report and Strategic Plan Action Plan 2018-21 2. Budget Strategy and Transformation Programme 3. Annual Scrutiny Report 4. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 17 August 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 12 August 2021
1. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel (Crime and Disorder Committee) - 14 September 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 9 September 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Colchester Partnership (Crime and Disorder Committee) 2. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel – 12 October 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Briefing – 7 October 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Colchester Borough Homes: 2020-21 Performance 2. Local Council Tax Support – Year 2022/23 3. Budget Strategy for 2022-23 4. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 9 November 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 4 November 2021
1. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 14 December 2021
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 9 December 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Half Year 2021-22 Performance Report & Strategic Plan Action Plan progress 2. Budget Strategy for 2022-23 3. Work Programme 2021-22

Scrutiny Panel meeting - 25 January 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 20 January 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2022-23 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Forecast and Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2. Housing Revenue Accounts Estimate and Housing Investment Programme 3. Corporate Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2022-23 4. Colchester Borough Homes: Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2022-23 5. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel (Crime and Disorder Committee) - 15 February 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 10 February 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Colchester Partnership (Crime and Disorder Committee) 2. Work Programme 2021-22
Scrutiny Panel meeting– 15 March 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 10 March 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports from Arts Organisations (Mercury, The Arts Centre, FirstSite)

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS 1 June 2021 – 30 September 2021

During the period from 1 June 2021 – 30 September 2021* Colchester Borough Council intends to take 'Key Decisions' on the issues set out in the following pages. Key Decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to either:

- result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000; or
- have a significant impact on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the Borough of Colchester.

This Forward Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions and it will be updated on a monthly basis. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be addressed to the contact name specified in the Plan. General queries about the Plan itself should be made to Democratic Services (01206) 507832 or email democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed and the documents listed on the Plan and any other documents relevant to each decision which may be submitted to the decision taker can be viewed free of charge although there will be a postage and photocopying charge for any copies made. *All decisions will be available for inspection on the Council's website, www.colchester.gov.uk*

If you wish to request details of documents regarding the 'Key Decisions' outlined in this Plan please contact the individual officer identified.

If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'Key Decisions' outlined in this Plan please submit them, in writing, to the Contact Officer highlighted two working days before the date of the decision (as indicated in the brackets in the date of decision column). This will enable your views to be considered by the decision taker.

Contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated at the end of this plan.

If you need help with reading or understanding this document please telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone users dial 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to call and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

*The Forward Plan also shows decisions which fall before the period covered by the Plan but which have not been taken at the time of the publication of the Plan.

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DOES DECISION INCLUDE EXEMPT INFORMATION (or information defined by the Government as Confidential)	DATE OF DECISION or PERIOD DECISION TO BE TAKEN	DECISION MAKER (title and name, including Cabinet, portfolio holders and officers) – details of decision makers correct at time of publication	DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED OR TO BE SUBMITTED TO DECISION TAKER TO CONSIDER (and from where they are available)	CONTACT DETAILS FROM WHICH DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED (name of the authors of the reports)
Award of Contract for Light Vehicles	No	May 2021	<p>Dan Gascoyne, Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with Councillor Martin Goss, Portfolio Holder for Waste, Environment and Transportation, under delegated authority from Cabinet</p> <p>Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Portfolio Holder report and tender analysis	<p>Robert Doran Fleet and Depot Contract Manager 01206 282612 Robert.Doran@colchester.gov.uk</p>
Award of Contract for Heating Renewals	Yes	May 2021	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Adam Fox</p> <p>Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Portfolio Holder report	<p>Clare Lawrance Client Asset Manager 01206 282506 Clare.lawrance@colchester.gov.uk</p>

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Award of contract for the demolition and rebuild of Elfreda House, Anglia Close, Shrub End	Yes	May 2021	Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Adam Fox Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report, Appendix showing results of procurement exercise	Clare Lawrance Client Asset Manager 01206 282506 Clare.lawrance@colchester.gov.uk
Award of Contract for the Colchester Northern Gateway Heat Network	Yes	May 2021	Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services in consultation with the Assistant Director, Place and Client Services Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report and tender analysis	Andrew Tyrrell Client Services Manager 01206 282390 Andrew.tyrrell@colchester.gov.uk

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Award of contract for construction works for Stanway Community Facility on the Western Bypass	Yes	June 2021	Assistant Director, Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Officer report,	Cathy Doyle Community Enabling Officer 07970 991601 cathy.doyle@colchester.gov.uk
Minor amendments to the Gateway to Homechoice Allocations Policy	No	June 2021	Portfolio Holder for Housing (Cllr Fox) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder Report Revised Gateway to Homechoice Allocations Policy	Tina Hinson Housing Strategy Manager 01206 506903 tina.hinson@colchester.gov.uk

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Award of Contract for 100 Kitchen Packages 2021	No	June 2021	Portfolio Holder for Housing (Cllr Fox) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report	Clare Lawrance Client Asset Manager 01206 282506 Clare.lawrance@colchester.gov.uk
Variation of Contract (awarded in November 2020) to Provide 100 Kitchens	No	June 2021	Portfolio Holder for Housing (Cllr Fox) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report	Clare Lawrance Client Asset Manager 01206 282506 Clare.lawrance@colchester.gov.uk

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Award of Extension of Contract for EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Reports) 2021	No	June 2021	Portfolio Holder for Housing (Cllr Fox) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report	Clare Lawrance Client Asset Manager 01206 282506 Clare.lawrance@colchester.gov.uk
Award of Agency Staff Contract	Yes	9 June 2021	Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Cabinet report	Jess Douglas Strategic People & Performance Manager Tel 01206 282239 Jessica.Douglas@colchester.gov.uk

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Colchester Northern Gateway – Utility Infrastructure (Approval to enter contracts for the provision of the prime utilities)	No	9 June 2021	Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Cabinet report with supporting documents and plans	Andrew Tyrrell Client Services Manager 01206 282390 Andrew.tyrrell@colchester.gov.uk
St Marks Community Centre	No	9 June 2021	Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley) Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Cabinet report	Alison Fogg Development Manager 01206 508906 alison.fogg@colchesteramphora.com

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Award of key contracts for construction phase of Queen Street Growth scheme	Yes	9 June 2021	<p>Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley)</p> <p>Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Cabinet report	<p>Matthew Brown Economic Development Projects Manager 01206 507348 matthew.brown@colchester.gov.uk</p>
Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Operation Model	Yes	9 June 2021	<p>Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley)</p> <p>Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Cabinet report	<p>Andrew Tyrrell Client Services Manager 01206 282390 Andrew.tyrrell@colchester.gov.uk</p>

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Town Deal programme: initial (fast-track) business cases	No	7 July 2021	<p>Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley)</p> <p>Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Cabinet report	<p>Matthew Brown Economic Development Projects Manager 01206 507348 matthew.brown@colchester.gov.uk</p>
Creation of a new Solar PV Park and Micro Grid	No	7 July 2021	<p>Cabinet (Cllrs Cory, J Young, Fox, Goss, King and Lilley)</p> <p>Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk</p>	Cabinet report	<p>Andrew Tyrrell Client Services Manager 01206 282390 Andrew.tyrrell@colchester.gov.uk</p>

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Placement of the Council's insurance policies following a formal tender process, including cover for Colchester Borough Homes and Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd	No	July 2021	Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources Councillor King. Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report including A full assessment of the quotes submitted by interested insurers will be undertaken by the Council's brokers, Aon Ltd. This will assess against the criteria set in the tender specification, and recommend the most advantageous package.	Hayley McGrath Corporate Governance Manager 01206 508902 Hayley.mcgrath@colchester.gov.uk
Approval of Award of Contract for Replacement Windows and Doors	Yes	August 2021	Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Adam Fox Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report	Clare Lawrance Client Asset Manager 01206 282506 Clare.lawrance@colchester.gov.uk

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Award of the Contract for the Construction of the Renewable Heat Network Energy Centre and at the Northern Gateway	Yes	August 2021	Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services Please contact via Democratic Services (01206) 507832 email: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder report with not for publication appendix	Andrew Tyrrell Client Services Manager 01206 282390 Andrew.tyrrell@colchester.gov.uk

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