

Policy and Public Initiatives Panel Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ**

Wednesday, 27 November 2019 at 18:00

The Policy and Public Initiatives Panel provides legislative, improvement and policy advice to Cabinet and Portfolio Holders on issues that may affect executive functions. The Panel considers issues at the request of Cabinet and Portfolio Holders and must seek approval from Cabinet on whether and how issues proactively identified by the Panel are examined. The Panel also considers initiatives for review from members of the public.

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Policy and Public Initiatives Panel – Terms of Reference

- (1) To proactively identify issues and legislative changes that may require review and improvement and to seek Cabinet's agreement as to whether and how they should be examined.
- (2) To review strategies and policies at the request of the Cabinet and to make recommendations back to Cabinet for decision.
- (3) To review issues at the request of a Portfolio Holder and to make recommendations back to the Portfolio Holder for decision.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Policy and Public Initiatives Panel
Wednesday, 27 November 2019 at 18:00

The Scrutiny Panel Members are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Councillor Phil Coleman | Chairman |
| Councillor Martyn Warnes | Deputy Chairman |
| Councillor Christopher Arnold | |
| Councillor Helen Chuah | |
| Councillor John Jowers | |
| Councillor Derek Loveland | |
| Councillor Lee Scordis | |

The Policy and Public Initiatives Panel Substitute Members are:

All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members.

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 are a correct record of the meeting held on 25 September 2019.

Policy and Public Initiatives Panel Minutes 25 September 2019 7 - 16

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 Public Initiatives

The Chairman will invite members of the public who wish to suggest ideas for review by the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel. Speaking arrangements for this item would be the same as Have Your Say.

8 Presentation on Youth Zone sports and social centres 17 - 32

This item consists of a presentation on the setting up and operation of Youth Zone sports and social centres for young people. Detail will be given on the necessary co-operative efforts and mix of funding which involves the local authority, the charity 'OnSide' and private sector benefactors.

The presentation will be provided by:

Jamie Masraff, Director of Operations for OnSide Youth Zones

Gavin Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Barking and Dagenham Youth Zone

9 Work Programme 2019-20 33 - 36

This report sets out the current Work Programme 2019-2020 for the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel, providing details of the items of business that are scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

10 Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive)

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 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)

POLICY AND PUBLIC INITIATIVES PANEL

25 September 2019

Attendees: Councillors Arnold, Chuah, Coleman, Jowers, Loveland, Scordis and Warnes.

Substitutes: None

Also Present: Councillors Cory, Fox, Goacher and Lilley

39. Minutes

In response to questions, Owen Howell, Democratic Services Officer, confirmed that he would ask Rachel Forkin, Transport and Sustainability Manager, as to whether a letter had been sent by Cabinet to Councillor Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, as recommended by the Panel in minute 36 of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

40. Public Engagement – Survey Results and Contributions at the meeting

Councillor Mark Cory, Leader of the Council, summarised the purpose of the Panel, to raise and consider ideas from the public, to look at feasibility and identify ways to take these forward. He confirmed that work was already underway to follow up on ideas for use of the River Colne which had been brought forward at the Panel's previous meeting.

Mr Alan Skinner, trustee of the 'Learning Never Stops' adult learning charity, addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). He called for an adult learning centre to be provided and made available for use by all in the Borough. He detailed the long history of adult learning in Colchester and, whilst he believed that a new adult college would not be feasible, other options such as the setting up of a 'learning shop' were possible.

Mr Skinner informed the Panel that his charity's website had around 15,000 users who used it to source courses and learning providers. If a learning centre were to be set up in the town, it would be vital that this be advertised and promoted across a range of media, and by different organisations, including the Council.

The Panel discussed previous centres which had provided such facilities, such as the old learning centre and the old Greyfriars Adult Education Centre. Mr Skinner explained that the assets of the old Greyfriars centre had been transferred to the Wilson Marriage Centre which remained in operation. Unlike the locally-managed

Greyfriars, the Wilson Marriage Centre was used to provide services and courses run and managed by Essex County Council.

Mr Tony Barker addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) and urged that work be done by the Council to ensure that improvements are made to the appearance of the derelict land to the West and South-West of FirstSite. The poor appearance of the land detracted from the ability of FirstSite to attract visitors. The Council were asked to consider actions to improve the appearance of other sites, such as the former 'Jacks' store, and to take action to force private property owners to improve dilapidated properties.

The Chair highlighted the ongoing work to bring the 'Jacks' site back into use, as part of the adjacent 'Three Wise Monkeys', and the time being taken over this, due to the discovery of the remains of a Roman Bath under the property.

Ms. Ali Wilkin addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) to request that the Council seek to tackle poverty through the provision of additional allotments. The Council was asked to find land for use as allotments by those in the most deprived communities, potentially in partnership with charities such as Colchester Food Bank. Ms. Wilkin explained how such partnerships were already used in other areas, describing the initiative in place in Selby, where local food banks and churches worked together to run allotments, in an effort to address food poverty and heal divisions in communities.

Mr. Joe Wilkin addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). and to raise the poor state of pavements and kerbs throughout the town, in particular those in the area around the St. Botolph's roundabout, and to request that the Council communicate his concerns to Essex County Council, who were responsible for maintenance. Mr Wilkin explained that he provided care for his mother, who often used a wheelchair, and that the broken pavements caused her significant pain and discomfort whether walking or using a wheelchair. The pavements along the North end of Mersea Road and those outside the Magistrates' Court were also noted as being in particularly poor condition. Mr Wilkin requested that full and proper repairs be carried out, rather than broken paving being replaced with cheaper asphalt, as this caused difficulties for residents with limited mobility.

Councillor Scordis, as County Councillor for Abbey Division, asked Mr. Wilkin to contact him to discuss this issue. He explained that he had raised many pavement defects with the County Council, including those around St. Botolph's and the Court, and that he would raise the ongoing problems with Councillor Kevin Bentley, County Council Cabinet Member for Infrastructure. Austerity was suggested as a cause of reduced funding for maintenance of pavements, and the replacement of old paving slabs and asphalt with modern concrete slabs was raised as a potential solution. The Panel affirmed that the Council and Cabinet should keep pressure on Essex County Council to address damaged or dangerous pavements in the St Botolph's area.

Mr. Stuart Johnson addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). He requested that the Council install on-street 'bike hangars' for cycle storage, especially where this is not available in properties, such as flats. This more-frequently affects those on lower incomes and detracts from efforts to encourage cycling. Mr Johnson listed a number of places where hangars

are used and named the company Cyclehoop as a provider. There are now around 1,800 hangers in operation within London boroughs, giving space for 8,000 bikes. Bristol, Salford and Edinburgh have also installed such hangers. Mr. Johnson urged the Council to make secure storage available to all residents.

The Chair notified those present that safer cycle storage was on the Panel's agenda for its meeting on 15 January 2020. The Panel agreed that lack of storage could be a factor inhibiting modal shift. Questions were asked as to whether developers could be made to provide cycle storage as a condition for obtaining planning permission.

Mr. Johnson explained that provision would need to be led by demand, as it had been in London, requiring residents to state that they required the storage, and that there were options around charging for use of the storage, so that users contributed towards the cost of maintenance. It was agreed that efforts to install such storage would need to be community-led.

Mr. Michael Batten addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) and to present the two submissions which he had made to the online survey. He welcomed efforts to improve the appearance of Colchester town centre, including new flower displays, Town Ambassadors and the removal of A-boards. There remained two items of unsightly street clutter, in the form of temporary County Council signs sited near the bus lane on Queen Street. These were now rusting, fell over, and led to broken sandbags. These were to have been removed once permanent signs were in place, but this removal had not occurred. It was requested that the Council raise this with the County Council.

Members of the Panel committed to pursue removal of these signs and indicated that they would raise this with the County Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure. A member of the Panel explained that the County Council had installed the bus lane to mitigate the poor air quality recorded in Queen Street and St Botolph's Street. It was asked why private traffic was still allowed to turn into Queen Street from East Hill and suggested that further measures be used to prevent U-turns on East Hill by traffic travelling from the High Street and wishing to turn into Queen Street. It was stressed that action taken should aim to avoid moving the issue of U-turns further down East Hill, and specifically to the junction with Roman Road.

Councillor Mike Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety assured the Panel that he had written to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure to request that the temporary signs be removed, or face action by the Borough Council. He had been told that they would remain in place until an issue of uncertainty regarding the permanent signs was resolved. The Council continued to pursue a resolution to this issue with Essex County Council.

Speaking on the issue of dangerous cycling on footways, Mr. Batten requested that enforcement action be taken against cycling on footways. He described seeing enforcement opportunities not being taken and stressed the dangers posed by pavement cycling, especially in busy places and at busy times of day.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety agreed with the importance of enforcement and informed the Panel that he had directed Neighbourhood Team officers to take action to reduce cycling on footways.

Councillor Mark Goacher attended and with the consent of the Chair addressed the Panel to request that Holy Trinity Church on Trinity Street be brought back into use. This church had previously been leased by the Council for use as a café by GO4, a charity supporting people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and as an indoor market, but this had closed in 2017. The Saxon Church was possibly the oldest existent church in Colchester and the charity had asked if it could be brought back into use as a charity café and drop-in centre for those residents who experience isolation, and for groups providing social opportunities for the elderly.

Councillor Goacher posited that the lack of heating would not be a problem during the Summer, and viability of the potential use could be strengthened if the building were managed by the Council as a shared space for community groups. Should the Council install modern heating, this could then be used all year round. A member of the Panel voiced agreement with this proposal, had spoken recently to the relevant portfolio holder regarding the Church, and believed it should be opened for use. It could potentially be used as the site of an indoor market, for education or to support groups tackling loneliness, as well as offering a visitor centre.

The Panel discussed past uses of the Church, including work put into finding potential uses for it. Now that several facilities serving elderly residents in the Borough had been closed, namely the Lion Walk Centre and the Abbots Centre, it was suggested that Holy Trinity Church could be brought back into use for sustainable, practical purposes which would help to improve facilities available to older residents of the Borough. It was further suggested that the Essex Heritage Fund may be a possible source of funding to assist with this.

The Leader of the Council informed the meeting that he had initiated action to find a partner organisation to make use of the Church for a community purpose around 18 months ago, with serious proposals from the Greek Orthodox Church and from MIND resulting in a decision to proceed with MIND, in light of their success with a similar project elsewhere. MIND had subsequently pulled out of the project, but the Council remained committed to finding a use for the building which combined community benefits with sustainability. Officers were working with Historic England to win funding for the building, but it was noted that there was a limit to the commercial possibilities for the Church due to the Diocese having a covenant on the site.

The Leader agreed that the heating system would need a full refurbishment and explained that his aim was to include the Church in the Town Centre Master Plan, as it was one of the major historic foci in the Town Centre.

Mr. Dorian Kelly addressed the Panel pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) to suggest that the Council pursue ways to promote the stopping of tour buses within Colchester. He detailed conversations he had held with tour companies, who told him that they want Colchester to be a destination for their buses/coaches but were currently hindered by the lack of stopping and layover places, and tight restrictions on pick-ups at the West end of East Hill. Mr Kelly suggested that the bus depot on Queen Street could be used, with adaptations, as a stopping and layover point, incorporating tourist and toilet facilities.

A member of the Panel gave support to the benefits to be gained from providing a

base for tour buses to use. The Panel questioned whether the bus depot site had greater potential for other uses, such as for a covered market, and discussed the need to examine where other towns sited bus and coach facilities. The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety clarified that tour buses and coaches currently parked on Sheepen Road, and that the use of Cowdray Crescent for dropping off and picking up had stopped due to the tailbacks that this caused on the High Street. It was noted that evidence was needed as to the scale of problems facing tour bus operators, and to ascertain what knowledge they had of existing options for stopping and lay-overs. The Leader of the Council agreed to explore options for providing better facilities for tour buses to visit Colchester.

Following the public contributions, the Chair explained the process which had been used for gathering input from the public engagement exercise and how the Panel would discuss and decide what recommendations they may wish to put forward for Cabinet to approve the Panel to add to their work programme.

The Chair invited the Leader of the Council to brief the Panel on progress made on both the emerging Transport Strategy, and the Town Centre Master Plan, where this related to suggested initiatives concerning the Town Centre/High Street or the Transport Strategy. The Leader did so, explaining that the Council was working closely with the County Council on the Transport Strategy, and that the determining of the future of the town centre was of critical importance to the Strategy. The Town Centre Master Plan was focussing on matters such as investment in historic buildings, potential for pedestrianisation and how transport would fit in with this.

The Leader of the Council proposed to bring a blueprint of the Town Centre Master Plan to the Panel meeting on 15 January 2020 to brief on what was proposed, within the wider development and transport plans for the Borough. Colchester was progressing relatively quickly with this, having succeeded in the first stage of bidding for funding from central government's 'Future High Streets' programme.

The Panel noted that, for the initiatives relating to the High Street and its environs, it would be best to examine these as part of the already-scheduled item on the High Street, following the briefing it would receive on the blueprint for the Town Centre Master Plan and elements of the Transport Strategy. The importance of ensuring that any development in the St. Botolph's area fitted and augmented the Council's plans for the High Street was stressed, and that these areas of planning should be considered in relation to each other. The Leader of the Council committed to provide additional information on this subject at that meeting and gave assurances that the Cabinet continued to work with the County Council to find a satisfactory plan for the St Botolph's roundabout area. It was also agreed that the consideration of secure suburban cycle hangers be held alongside the scheduled consideration of cycle storage in the centre of Colchester, also due to be held on 15 January 2020.

Where initiatives fell within the remit of Essex County Council, it was confirmed that these could be forwarded to the County Council, should the Panel decide that this would be appropriate.

The Panel observed that any plans to reduce traffic on the High Street would need to consider how this would affect residents of the Dutch Quarter and businesses which depended on access via the High Street and West Stockwell Street. This included

the Town Hall itself, with its parking accessed in this way. One member suggested consideration of reducing the one-way section of West Stockwell Street to the South end of the road. This would prevent vehicles entering the High Street but would give better access to parking without vehicles being forced to drive down the High Street.

Certain initiatives involved the provision of services or facilities which had been provided in the past and it was stated that information would need to be sought from officers as to why the provision had ended, should the Panel decide to recommend that they be further examined.

The request for the Council to provide facilities for padel tennis and table tennis were discussed. One member opined that installing permanent fixed table tennis tables would be the easier and more popular option, potentially in a Castle Park location. The member further requested that benches for chess-playing be installed also. The concern was raised that padel tennis was currently not a well-known sport and that interest in using a court would be limited. The Leader of the Council voiced his support for the provision of table tennis tables as part of the Council's work to promote participation in sport in partnership with other councils. A member of the Panel queried whether padel tennis could be provided at the new sports hall which was being built as part of the Northern Gateway development. The Chair offered to discuss the potential for this with the lead officer on the construction project.

Regarding the request that a mosque be provided for the Borough, the Panel noted that a mosque was already located and in use in the Town, sited in Priory Street.

The potential for a tram system was considered and members recalled that the potential for resuming the use of trams, or an alternative such as a hopper or 'nippy' bus service, had been examined a number of years ago, as a part of a possible future pedestrianised town centre. It was noted that plans for a new rapid transit system, tied in to the garden communities project envisioned in the Emerging Local Plan, was already being considered. The Leader of the Council explained that the Cabinet was examining ways to best use funds which had been gained from successful Housing Infrastructure Fund bids, and this included the part-funding of a rapid transit system. A Panel member queried whether Colchester could support a tram system and suggested a hopper bus service to operate in the centre of town.

In regard to suggestions for improving air quality, reducing traffic in the town centre and increasing greenery, a member suggested that the planting of additional trees in the town centre would improve the atmosphere and the look of the centre. This could be accompanied by better street furniture, such as benches. The suburbs of Colchester were acknowledged as being relatively green, but this could not currently be said to be true of the Town's centre. The Leader of the Council informed the Panel that the Council was aiming to plant at least 200,000 new trees, primarily on Council-owned land. Opportunities for this in the Town centre were limited, however, due to the private ownership of some potential sites, and the concrete over others. The green wall initiative on North Hill was still progressing.

Following up the initiative brought to the meeting by Ms Ali Wilkin, the Panel queried whether the Council could sanction appropriate community groups to run additional allotment sites. It was remarked that the Council controlled many allotments already, with the figure confirmed to be 1,100 allotments across 19 sites. 40-50 allotments

had been supported by the use of the County Council's Community Initiative Fund. Allotments were popular both in urban and rural areas. The Panel enquired as to whether it would be possible to require developers to provide allotments as part of development schemes and whether the Council could site more allotment sites on its land. The Leader of the Council noted the success of the 'Big Garden' in Highwoods, and the Council's policy to open community orchards but emphasised that the Council, where possible, prioritised the use of its available urban land for affordable and social housing, addressing the demand for this. In addition, the Council operated a £900k Council Tax support scheme for those in greatest need.

The suggestion that efforts be made to encourage development of a new 'lanes' area for smaller independent retailers was examined. Colchester currently has such an area, along Eld Lane, Trinity Street and Sir Isaac's Walk [the 'South Lanes' area]. A member gave the view that to be successful, the Council would need control over business rates and that this would be a positive area for action, should this be devolved to local authorities. The Leader of the Council extolled progress made in the project to revitalise the South Lanes, with support from the Council. Funding and assistance with communications and public relations had been given by the Council, and the Colchester Business Improvement District was an active partner in this work.

The Panel examined the request that the Council tidy derelict land owned by the Council to the South East of FirstSite. A member of the Panel voiced agreement that the site looked untidy and detracted from FirstSite and suggested that officers investigate what measures could be taken in the short term to improve the look of the land. The Leader of the Council informed the Panel that options had been examined, including sturdy hoardings around the site. This would cost £20,000 and it had been decided that this was too costly for a short-term temporary measure. The Leader gave assurance that less-costly alternatives would be investigated and committed to re-examine what could be done to tidy and clear the site.

Speaking on general suggestions which called for increased efforts to promote cleanliness in the Town's centre, the Leader of the Council gave assurance that this was a priority and that 42 new recycling bins had already been installed in the town centre, with special receptacles for chewing gum. He committed to continue the Council's work to minimise the culture of littering, where this still remained an issue.

A Panel member requested that, as part of its future work item looking at the High Street, it examined the issue of toilet provision for the night-time economy. The High Street urinal which had been provided for evening and night users of the Town, and which descended into the street during the daytime, was discussed. This had ceased to be used once a restaurant outlet had commenced trading in an adjacent unit. Night-time urination in doorways and on walls was both unpleasant and potentially damaging to buildings. It was stressed that options should be sought for all genders.

The Panel discussed the feasibility of the Council providing a pop-up stage in the Town centre, for hire by performers and musicians, such as the one provided by York Council in Parliament Street. The Leader of the Council voiced his wish to see more live music and performance art in the Town centre.

The Leader of the Council briefed the Panel on the options considered for an indoor market, and the recent Portfolio Holder decision to give greater flexibility and new

options for the provision of the current market, including different locations and market days, and ways to reduce the time commitment for Neighbourhood Officers who assisted with set up and removal. The potential for a market in the Queen Street bus depot building was covered, and the Leader cautioned that this was an interesting idea, but great care had to be taken with the building as it was in poor condition and there was potential for the façade to collapse should major changes be made to the building. Nevertheless, dependent on the resolution of the current planning appeal relating to the Alumno plans for the 'Cultural Quarter', this could be a positive use for the building. A Panel member requested that discussion of market locations should not include the Vineyard Gate area, due to low footfall in that area, and loss of parking spaces which a market would cause, including disabled parking.

Concern was raised that the majority of initiatives being discussed were focussed on Colchester itself, and that consideration should be given to other parts of the Borough, especially as populations rose and infrastructure requirements increased.

Ways to provide a learning centre or 'shop' were raised. The Leader of the Council explained that the County Council continued to seek additional ways in which to use existing libraries, and with space in Colchester Library still under-utilised, this could potentially be a location in which an adult learning centre could be based.

The Panel considered ways to improve the reach and visibility of public engagement exercises. It was recommended that councillors be asked to use their contacts with residents to publicise opportunities for them to speak on what they would wish to see done in their local areas. It was hoped that this would encourage more input from those living in the rural parts of the Borough. Parish Councils could likewise be asked to publicise such an engagement exercise, and it was suggested that different meeting venues might be considered, to widen the Panel's reach.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) The Policy and Public Initiatives Panel has considered the initiatives and issues raised as part of its public consultation and that those relating to the town centre be further considered as part of the scheduled future work item relating to options for Colchester High Street.
- (b) The Policy and Public Initiatives Panel consider the use of secure cycle hangers as part of its scheduled future work item for wider consideration of secure cycle storage.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that approval be given for the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel to examine potential options for providing or supporting the provision of a new lifelong learning centre in the Borough of Colchester.

41. Work Programme 2019/20

The Panel considered the draft Work Programme for 2019-20. The Chair informed the Panel that he would invite the Chief Executive of the Barking Youth Zone to address their meeting on 27 November.

A request was made that the Colchester BID be invited to provide an update on the

South Lanes Project on 15 January 2020, to be given when the Panel considers options for the High Street and Town centre.

The Panel directed that an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats be provided as part of the consideration of the two forms of local authority administration, to be considered at the Panel's meeting on 4 March 2020.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme for 2019 be noted.

27 November 2019

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|-----------------------|---|---------------|--------------------|
| Report of | Assistant Director Policy and Corporate | Author | Owen Howell |
| | | | ☎ 282518 |
| Title | Presentation on Youth Zone sports and social centres | | |
| Wards affected | Not applicable | | |

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This item consists of a presentation on the setting up and operation of Youth Zone sports and social centres for young people. Detail is given on the necessary co-operative efforts and mix of funding which involves the local authority, the charity 'OnSide' and private sector benefactors.

1.2 The presentation will be provided by:

- Jamie Masraff, Director of Operations for OnSide Youth Zones
- Gavin Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Barking and Dagenham Youth Zone

2. Action Required

2.1 The Panel is asked to consider the presentation given and the potential benefits and costs of participating in a Youth Zone project.

3. Reason for Review

3.1 This item was recommended for review by the Panel at its meeting on 19 June 2019, and this was approved by Cabinet on 10 July 2019.

4. Background Information

4.1 Feasibility studies into youth service provision are to be carried out by the Council, with completion expected in 2020.

4.2 Youth Zones are sporting and social centres for young people, delivered by local authorities in partnership with the charity OnSide and with additional funding provided from private sector donors. They represent one option for local authorities that wish to increase provision of services to young people.

5. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

5.1 The Youth Zone model of sporting and social centres aims to ensure that sport and social opportunities are available to all young people, encouraging and supporting use by those from low-income backgrounds, and young residents with disabilities. OnSide calculate that over 3,500 disabled people have to-date been engaged with through Youth Zones' operations.

6. Standard References

- 6.1 There are no particular references at this stage to consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications. The Panel should, however, consider what implications may lie within each of these areas, should Colchester Borough Council consider whether to institute and operate a Youth Zone

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 This item has references to the following Strategic Plan themes and priorities:

Growth

- Help make sure Colchester is a welcoming place for all residents and visitors
- Ensure residents benefit from Colchester's economic growth with skills, jobs and improving infrastructure
- Promote inward investment to the borough
- Work with partners to create a shared vision for a vibrant town centre.

Opportunity

- Promote and enhance Colchester borough's heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support job creation
- Promote initiatives to help residents live healthier lives.

Wellbeing

- Encourage belonging, involvement and responsibility in all the borough's communities
- Work with Essex Police and partners in the Safer Colchester Partnership to make Colchester an even safer place
- Help residents adopt healthier lifestyles by enabling the provision of excellent leisure facilities and beautiful green spaces, countryside and beaches.

8. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 8.1 The implications in these areas will be addressed within the presentation and discussion on this item.

Appendix

Appendix A: Presentation slides on Youth Zone provision and operation.

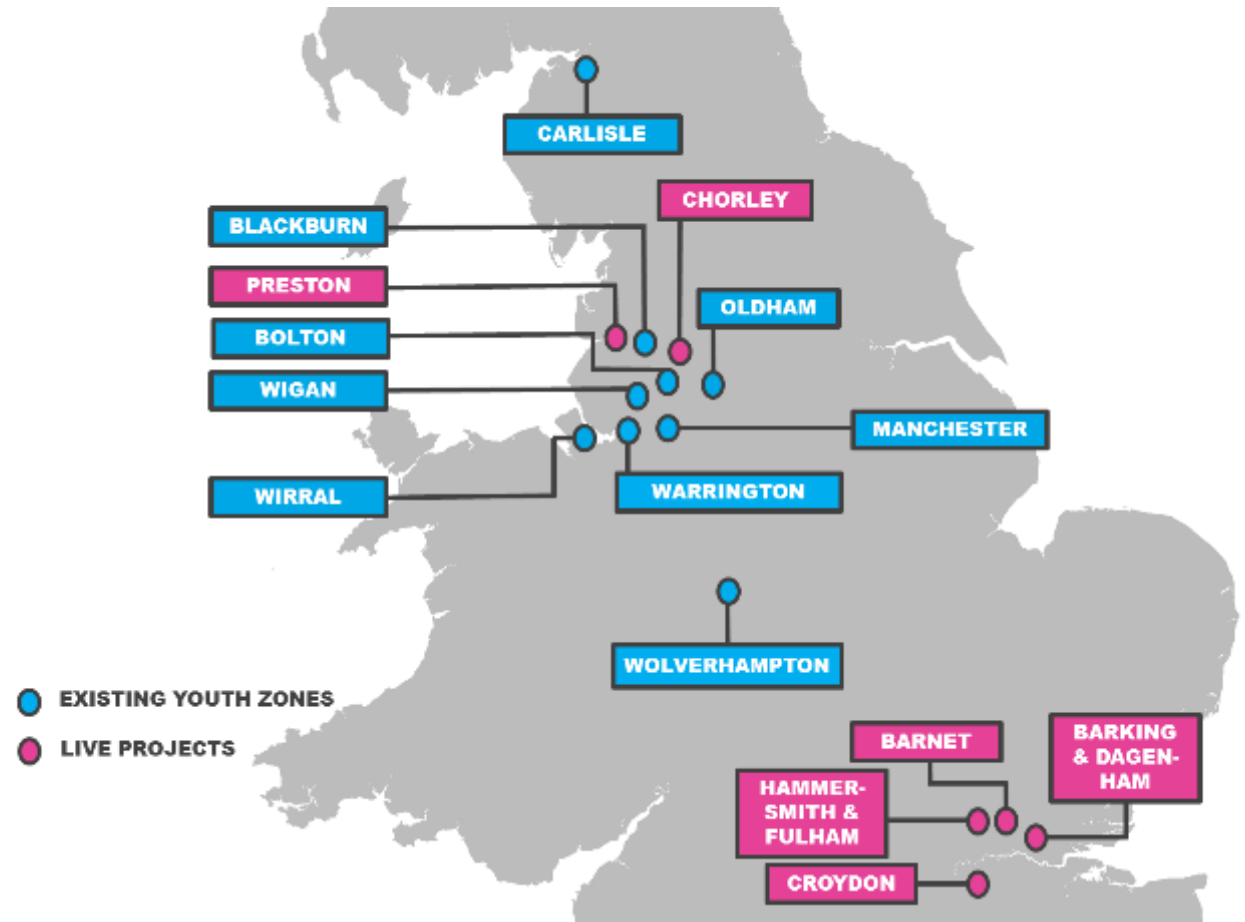
ONSIDE YOUTH ZONES

ALWAYS THERE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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ONSIDE YOUTH ZONES

- A **national network** of local, independent youth charities
- Providing **safe, affordable & inspiring** leisure time activities
- **Community assets** for local partners and residents
- Over **£100m invested** in young people



ESTABLISHING LOCAL CHARITIES DEDICATED TO RAISING YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE AND ASPIRATIONS



A YOUTH ZONE THAT PROVIDES STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES FOR SPORTS, MUSIC, ARTS, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

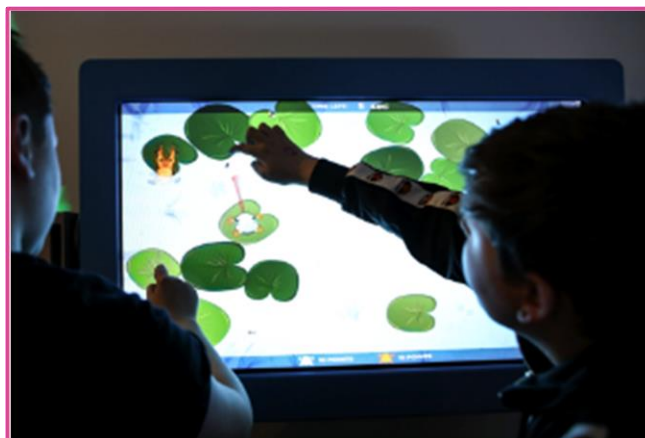


SOMETHING THAT BECOMES A COMMUNITY ASSET FOR OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS TO DELIVER TO YOUNG PEOPLE

PARTNERS IN DELIVERY WITH
THE HIVE YOUTH ZONE



THAT ENGAGES THOUSANDS OF LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH AN AFFORDABLE AND INCLUSIVE OFFER



- **150 to 250 young people each evening**
- **Open seven nights per week**
- **Age 8-19 (25 for those with a disability)**
- **Neutral spaces**
- **20+ activities each session**
- **50p per visit**
- **£5 annual membership**
- **£1 for a nutritious hot meal**
- **Expert staff and volunteers**
- **Raise aspirations & build confidence**

AND THAT DELIVERS MAJOR BENEFITS BOTH TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY



Benefits to young people

- 86% feel **happier** since joining their Youth Zone
- 89% feel **more self confident**
- 80% report getting **better marks** in school
- 84% of those who complete the employability programme move into **employment, education or training**
- 73% **exercise** at their Youth Zone at least once a week
- 90% now **get on better with others**

Benefits to the community

- A 30-77% reduction in **anti-social behavior** according to local police
- Over 50 **new jobs** and 100 **volunteering** opportunities
- 89% of local businesses feel the Youth Zone has **raised pride in the area**

ON-SIDE'S OFFER IS TO MORE THAN MATCH THE INVESTMENT REQUIRED TO DELIVER AT THIS SCALE AND WITH THIS IMPACT

MID-SIZE YOUTH ZONE (AS IN CHORLEY)

CAPITAL

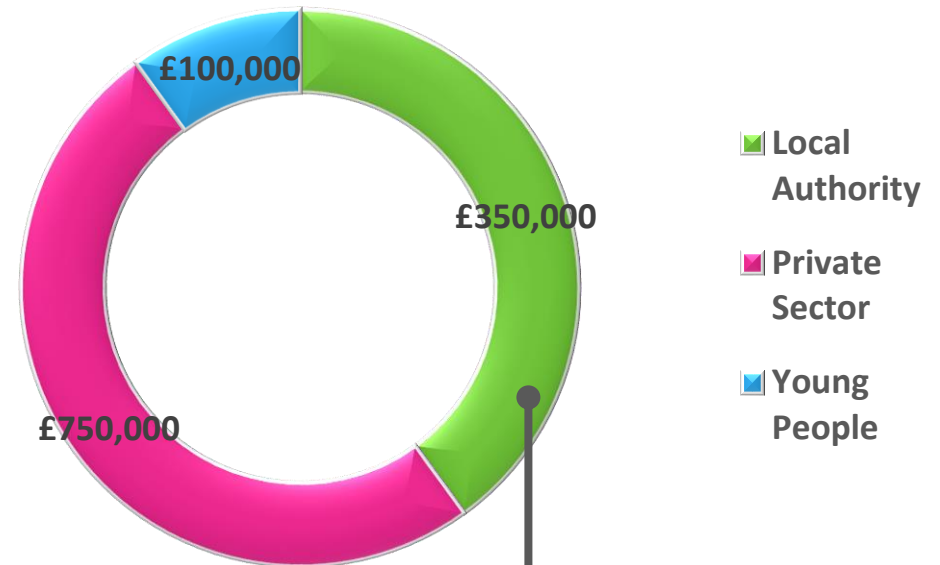
£7million to initiate, plan & build

REVENUE

£1.2million to run annually



50% COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION **50% ON-SIDE CONTRIBUTION**



THIS EQUATES TO A MAXIMUM £100 OF COUNCIL SPENDING PER YOUNG PERSON ENGAGED

ON-SIDE'S OFFER IS TO MORE THAN MATCH THE INVESTMENT REQUIRED TO DELIVER AT THIS SCALE AND WITH THIS IMPACT

LARGE-SIZED YOUTH ZONE (AS IN B&D)

CAPITAL

£8million to initiate, plan & build

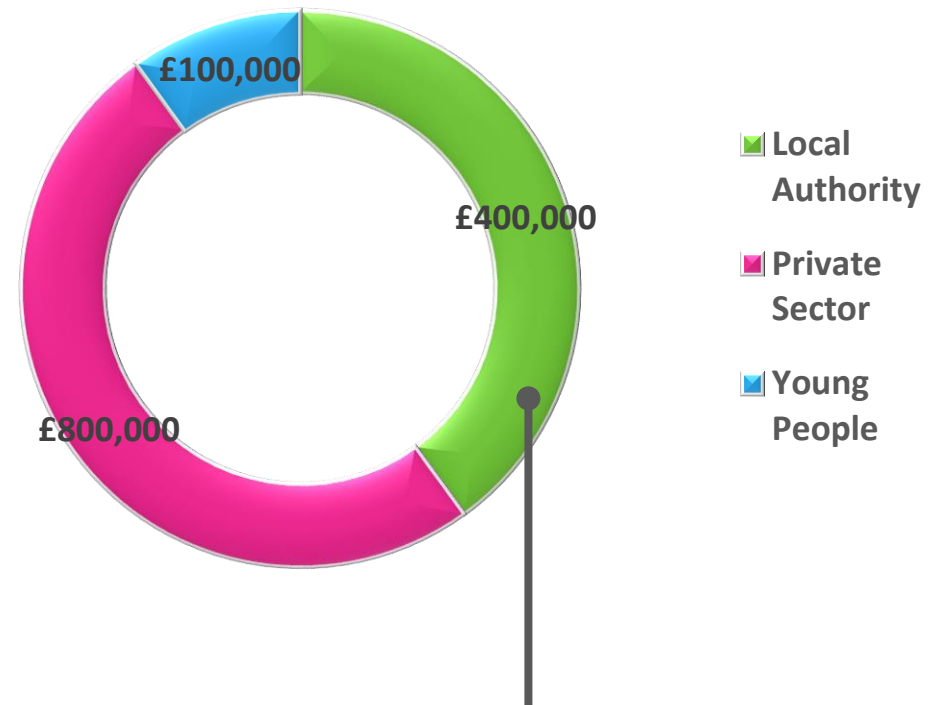
REVENUE

£1.3million to run annually



50% COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION

50% ONSIDE CONTRIBUTION



THIS EQUATES TO A MAXIMUM £100 OF COUNCIL SPENDING PER YOUNG PERSON ENGAGED

ONSIDE HAS A UNIQUE TRACK RECORD OF RAISING FUNDING TO INVEST IN YOUNG PEOPLE



**£140 MILLION
RAISED FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE
SINCE 2008**

IN SUMMARY, A YOUTH ZONE WOULD:

- Raise over **£20million** over the next 10 years for benefit of local young people
- Generate a **membership of over 4,000 young people**, many from the most deprived communities that aren't reached by current services
- Create **50** local jobs and over **100** active volunteers
- Provide a **NEUTRAL** space for young people from **all** areas and backgrounds
- Significantly **reduce ASB** in the area, providing a platform for the whole community to work together
- Provide a **FOCUS** on young people, not a facility dominated by adult use



**ON
SIDE**



Link to OnSide's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceUb4QnvjDs>



Policy and Public Initiatives Panel

Item
9

27 November 2019

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Report of | Assistant Director Policy and Corporate | Author | Owen Howell ☎ 282518 |
| Title | Work Programme 2019-20 | | |
| Wards affected | Not applicable | | |

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current Work Programme 2019-2020 for the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel, providing details of the items of business that are scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the contents of the Panel's Work Programme for 2019-2020 as set out below and to confirm the appropriate scheduling of work for the municipal year.
- 2.2 The Panel is asked to approve a change in date, to move the Panel meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 January 2020 to instead take place on Monday 20 January 2020. This is to ensure that the attendance of key officers is possible.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 This function forms part of the Panel's Terms of Reference and, as such, no alternative options are presented.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 The Policy and Public Initiatives Panel's Work Programme will evolve as the municipal year progresses. Items can be added to the Work Programme in two ways, either through Cabinet approving a request from the Panel, or Portfolio Holders and Cabinet requesting policies, strategies or other issues be reviewed. The Panel may also receive outline scoping reports on service reviews that are taking place across the Council and these will be added to the work programme when appropriate.
- 4.2 On 25 September the Panel recommended that Cabinet approve the Panel to examine options for providing or supporting the provision of a new lifelong learning centre in the Borough. On 9 October Cabinet decided that this would risk duplication of services already being provided. The following resolution was made by Cabinet:

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Public Safety and Licensing work with One Colchester to look at the provision of lifelong learning within Colchester to map the existing provision and ensure that it was effectively promoted and signposted.

REASONS The Cabinet considered that if the recommendation from the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel were agreed there would be a risk of duplication of services, as there was already existing provision of lifelong learning.

- 4.3 The above Cabinet resolution means that an item relating to this matter will not be added to the Work Programme of the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel.
- 4.4 The Panel had been scheduled to consider an item on the impacts of Universal Credit and Austerity measures at its meeting on 27 November 2019. This has been rescheduled to 4 March 2020 to better facilitate participation by all relevant stakeholders.
- 4.5 As noted at 2.2 of this report, the Panel is asked to approve a change in date, to move the Panel meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 January 2020 to instead take place on Monday 20 January 2020. This is to ensure that the attendance of key officers is possible, thus allowing a full discussion of the item 'Next steps regarding options for Colchester High Street' and for questions from the Panel to be answered effectively. This has been noted in the work programme found at Appendix A.

5. Standard References

- 5.1 There are no specific references to publicity or consultation considerations; or financial; equality, diversity and human rights; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 Policy review 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.

7. Appendix

- 7.1 Appendix A – Work Programme for 2019-20

Policy and Public Initiatives Panel Work Programme 2019-20

| |
|--|
| 19 June 2019 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible Dog Ownership 2. Work Programme 2019-20 and suggestion of items for consideration |
| 31 July 2019 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of the River Colne in terms of encouraging more effective use from environmental and activity aspects. |
| 25 September 2019 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Engagement – Survey Responses and Contributions at the meeting. |
| 27 November 2019 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential for providing a Youth Zone sports and social centre |
| 15 January 2020 20 January 2020 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next steps regarding options for Colchester High Street: agreeing objectives, gathering data and consulting stakeholders and the public. 2. Secure and covered cycle storage options |
| 4 March 2020 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the Cabinet and Leader model of Council administration and the alternative committee model 2. Impact of Universal Credit and Austerity Measures |

Requests awaiting consideration by Cabinet:

- None currently outstanding.

