

Council Meeting

**Online Meeting, Virtual Meeting Platform
Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 18:00**

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right of access to all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet which may be conducted remotely such as by live audio or video broadcast / webcast. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is published on the Council's website at least five working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available here:

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

Occasionally certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual have to be considered in private. When this is the case an announcement will be made, the live broadcast will end and the meeting will be moved to consider in private.

Have Your Say!

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public at most public meetings. If you would like to submit representations to a meeting and need to find out more, please refer to the Have Your Say! arrangements here:

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

Members of the public can register to speak at the meeting using the form access via the link below. Members of the public need to register and submit a copy of their comments by 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting.

[Council Have Your Say form](#)

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Council
Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 18:00

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Published 20/10/2020

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held online on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 18:00 for the transaction of the business stated below.



Chief Executive

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

Please note that the business will be subject to short breaks at approximately 90 minute intervals.

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 6 are normally dealt with briefly.

1 Welcome and Announcements (Council)

The Mayor will welcome members of the public and Councillors and will ask the Chaplain to say a prayer. The Mayor will explain the procedures to be followed at the meeting including a reminder for everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking, but otherwise keep microphones muted.

2 Election of the Mayor

Motion A

Motion to elect Councillor Robert Davidson as the Mayor of the Borough of Colchester for the remainder of the 2020-21 municipal year and for the 2021-22 municipal year.

The Mayor to make the declaration and take the customary oath.

The Mayor to return thanks.

3 Election of the Deputy Mayor

Motion B

Motion that Councillor Tim Young be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Colchester for the remainder of the 2020-21 municipal year and the 2021-22 municipal year.

The Deputy Mayor to make the declaration and return thanks.

4 Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

Motion C

Motion of thanks to the Retiring Mayor, Councillor Nick Cope.

The Retiring Mayor to make an acknowledgement.

5 Mayor's Chaplain and Other Announcements

The Mayor to announce the appointment of the Mayor's Chaplain and make other announcements.

6 Motion to Adjourn

Motion D

The Mayor will invite Council to adjourn for a brief period.

7 Have Your Say! (Virtual Meetings)

Members of the public may make representations to meetings of Council. Each representation may be no longer than three minutes (500 words). Members of the public may register their wish to address the meeting by registering online by 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting date. In addition a written copy of the representation will need to be supplied for use in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties preventing participation at the meeting itself.

8 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.

9 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Council)

E ... Motion that the minutes of the meetings held on 15 July 2020 and 12 August 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

Council minutes 150720

11 - 24

Council minutes 120820

25 - 28

10 **Items (if any) referred under the Call-in Procedure (Council)**

The Council consider any items referred by the Scrutiny Panel under the Call-in Procedure because they are considered to be contrary to the policy framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with, the budget.

11 **Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees**

Council will consider the following recommendations:-

11(i) **Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-2023** 29 - 30

F... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 494 of the Cabinet meeting of 2 September 2020 be approved and adopted.

11(ii) **Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy** 31 - 34

G... Motion that the changes to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, set out in paragraph 5.4 to 5.9 of the report by the Assistant Director, be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

12 **Notices of Motion pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11**

Council will consider the following Motions:-

(Note: The maximum length of time for the consideration of all such motions shall be 80 minutes. In the event that a motion is still being debated when the 80 minutes have elapsed the Mayor shall invite the proposer of the motion to respond to the debate and then move straight to the vote.)

12(i) **Planning for the Future**

Motion H

Proposer: Councillor Cory

This Council notes the publication of the Planning White Paper Planning for the Future and expresses its concerns about the proposals it contains.

Current planning laws are already in favour of development with 90% of planning applications approved and approximately one million unbuilt permissions sitting with developers nationwide. Proposals outlined in the Planning White Paper Planning for the Future further distances local residents and local democracy from the planning process.

This Council therefore resolves to object to any potential detrimental national and local planning policies and calls on our three MPs

representing Colchester Borough to support the following consultation responses:

- **Diminishing local input:** The proposals contained within the White Paper risk diminishing the role of planning authorities, planning committee members and ward councillors. Automatic permission granted in “growth areas” and permission in principle in “renewal areas, give no democratic oversight of local development;
- **Sites already have permission:** The million sites nationwide currently in the system with existing planning permissions for houses that have not yet been built, or even started to be built, along with the high proportion of planning applications that are agreed, are a clear sign that the planning process is not a barrier to development;
- **Give Local Authorities, Parish, Town and Community Councils more power and resources:** While the current planning system is not perfect this is at least in part due to reductions in central government funding to local planning authorities which have, in turn, led to local authorities reducing expenditure on planning services. Such reductions have affected both the processing of planning applications and enforcement activities;
- **Targets for Affordable Housing must be met:** Strengthen our hand in providing affordable housing and reform viability assessment criteria that allow developers to get away without providing adequate affordable housing.
- **Net-zero Carbon development needed now:** Implement a much earlier target for net-zero carbon standards for new build-housing. 2050 is too late, investment must be given to enable net-zero building from now on;
- **Contributions must benefit communities not developers:** The ‘nationalisation’ of the level of developer contributions could assist large national developers at the expense of local communities. Faster is not always better when local community infrastructure requires thoughtful development. Proposals must encourage the use of local, small and medium developers, as well as self-build;
- **Neighbourhood Plans:** Neighbourhood Plans are an effective tool for the community to shape local areas, including local infrastructure, services and housing. They must be supported and strengthened in any future planning reforms.

In addition to making these points to the government, we ask that our three MPs support Colchester Borough Council’s ‘Planning for the Future: White Paper August 2020’ Consultation response.

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

12(ii) **Saving Paxman Factory**

Motion I

Proposer: Councillor Scordis

This Council notes the sad news that Colchester's historic Paxman factory is due to close as MAN Energy Solutions look to uproot to Stockport. This will lead to the end of the manufacture of Colchester's historic diesel engine, which has previously been used by the Ministry of Defence and British train stock, until contracts were cancelled for cheaper models outside Britain.

This Council also calls on Will Quince MP to lobby the Ministry of Defence and train companies to look at providing contracts to Paxmans to keep this historic factory running and protect local jobs and manufacturing in Colchester.

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

Main Amendment

Proposer: Councillor Dundas

In the second sentence of the first paragraph, the deletion of the words “, until contracts were cancelled for cheaper models outside Britain.”

The addition of the following words at the end of the first paragraph: “As we move towards a carbon neutral economy and more trainlines are electrified the demand for these diesel engines is inevitably declining but it is regrettable that investment was not made in Colchester by MAN to enable a move to manufacture renewables and other modern power plants “

The addition of the following words at the start of the second paragraph: “As preference for UK manufacturers is currently not possible under EU public procurement law outside of security critical areas, “

The deletion of the following words in the second paragraph “train companies to look at providing contracts to Paxmans” and their replacement with the following words: “Department of Transport to take advantage of any new rules which may apply after the end of the transition period on December 31 2020 and look at giving preference to UK manufacturers, and to MAN Energy Colchester in particular, in procurement matters”

Should the amendment be approved the revised wording of the motion would be as follows:-

This Council notes the sad news that Colchester's historic Paxman factory is due to close as MAN Energy Solutions look to uproot to Stockport. This will lead to the end of the manufacture of

Colchester's historic diesel engine, which has previously been used by the Ministry of Defence and British train stock. As we move towards a carbon neutral economy and more trainlines are electrified the demand for these diesel engines is inevitably declining but it is regrettable that investment was not made in Colchester by MAN to enable a move to manufacture renewables and other modern power plants.

As preference for UK manufacturers is currently not possible under EU public procurement law outside of security critical areas, this Council also calls on Will Quince MP to lobby the Ministry of Defence and Department of Transport to take advantage of any new rules which may apply after the end of the transition period on December 31 2020 and look at giving preference to UK manufacturers, and to MAN Energy Colchester in particular, in procurement matters to keep this historic factory running and protect local jobs and manufacturing in Colchester.

13 Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Cabinet members and Chairmen will receive and answer pre-notified questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(1) followed by any oral questions (not submitted in advance) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(3).

(Note: a period of up to 60 minutes is available for pre-notified questions and oral questions by Members of the Council to Cabinet Members and Chairmen (or in their absence Deputy Chairmen)).

At the time of the publication of the Summons, no pre-notified questions had been received.

14 Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions 35 - 40

Council is invited to note the Schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions for the period 3 July 2020 - 2 October 2020.

15 Urgent Items (Council)

Council will consider any business not specified in the Summons which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor determines should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

16 Reports Referred to in Recommendations

The reports specified below are submitted for information and referred to in the recommendations specified in item 11 of the agenda:

Better Colchester Strategic Plan, Report to Cabinet, 2 September 2020 41 - 62

Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, report to Licensing Committee, 11 August 2020 63 - 66

Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, report to Licensing Committee, 30 September 2020 67 - 70

17 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)

Council

Wednesday, 15 July 2020

Attendees:

Councillor Christopher Arnold, Councillor Lewis Barber, Councillor Nick Barlow, Councillor Lyn Barton, Councillor Kevin Bentley, Councillor Tina Bourne, Councillor Roger Buston, Councillor Nigel Chapman, Councillor Peter Chillingworth, Councillor Helen Chuah, Councillor Phil Coleman, Councillor Nick Cope, Councillor Mark Cory, Councillor Simon Crow, Councillor Robert Davidson, Councillor Paul Dundas, Councillor John Elliott, Councillor Andrew Ellis, Councillor Adam Fox, Councillor Mark Goacher, Councillor Martin Goss, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Chris Hayter, Councillor Pauline Hazell, Councillor Theresa Higgins, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor Brian Jarvis, Councillor John Jowers, Councillor David King, Councillor Cyril Liddy, Councillor Michael Lilley, Councillor Sue Lissimore, Councillor Derek Loveland, Councillor Andrea Luxford Vaughan, Councillor Fiona Maclean, Councillor Jackie Maclean, Councillor Sam McCarthy, Councillor Patricia Moore, Councillor Beverley Oxford, Councillor Gerard Oxford, Councillor Philip Oxford, Councillor Chris Pearson, Councillor Lee Scordis, Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell, Councillor Martyn Warnes, Councillor Lorcan Whitehead, Councillor Dennis Willetts, Councillor Barbara Wood, Councillor Julie Young, Councillor Tim Young

382 Prayers

The Revered Lorraine Badger-Watts opened the meeting with prayers.

383 Have Your Say! (Virtual Meetings)

Nick Chilvers addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Remote Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1) about the funding of non-statutory services and Northern Gateway Sports Park. He supported the call for a review of non-statutory services, which should establish which were well used and those that supported vulnerable groups or public safety. A detailed review of sports and leisure needed to be undertaken. Many of the activities carried out at Leisure World were already well provided for by commercial companies. The pool should be retained, and the rest of the building repurposed or contracted out. In terms of the Northern Gateway Sports Park, the Council needed to ensure that the finance from partners was assured in the long term. It was an ambitious scheme and was a big risk, given the uncertainty of how many Colchester residents

would actually pay to use it regularly. Overall as the Council looked at its services it needed to keep those that the majority used and those that alleviated hardship.

In response, Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, stressed that the only way out of the financial challenge facing the authority was by working together and looking in depth at all the services the Council provided. Whilst a distinction could be drawn between discretionary and non-discretionary services, the situation was more complex than that suggested. Information would be shared on the budget position and situation had already been looked at in depth in a robust scrutiny session. Northern Gateway enjoyed support from an impressive list of partners. It would be a major asset for the borough. Some residents understood the challenge facing the Council and appreciated that it would have to trim its budgets. The Council would take soundings as it proceeded and would look to provide for the vulnerable.

384 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Council)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

385 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that in view of the Covid 19 pandemic he had only been able to attend a limited number of events, including:

- Victory in Europe Day;
- The Opening of the Stanway Foodbank;

The Mayor thanked Councillor Davidson for attending Armed Forces Day. The Mayor also announced the following forthcoming events:-

- Victory Japan Day, 15 August 2020
- Opening of the Oyster Fishery 4 September 2020;
- Arnhem Service, 17 September 2020

The Mayor expressed his sadness and regret at the death of long serving Essex County Councillor Rodney Bass and paid tribute to Beverley Davies who had recently retired from the Council after serving for over 12 years.

386 COVID 19 Budget Changes 2020-21 and Budget Strategy 2021-22

Councillor King (in respect of being a director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd) and Councillor J. Young (in respect of being a substitute director of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd) declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

Councillor Bentley (as an executive member of Essex County Council, who were shareholders in NEGC Ltd) declared a pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5) and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.

Councillor King moved the recommendation contained in minute 458 of the Cabinet meeting of 3 June be approved and adopted.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost (TWENTY TWO voted FOR, TWENTY SIX voted AGAINST and TWO ABSTAINED from voting).

A named vote having been request pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 15(2) the voting was as follows:-

FOR: Councillors Barlow, Barton, Bourne, Chuah, Cory, Fox, Goss, Harris, Higgins, Hogg, King, Liddy, Lilley, McCarthy, Pearson, Scordis, Scott-Boutell, Warnes, Whitehead, J. Young, T. Young and the Mayor (Cope).

AGAINST: Councillors Arnold, Barber, Buston, Chapman, Chillingworth, Crow, Dundas, Elliott, Ellis, Goacher, Hayter, Hazell, Jarvis, Lissimore, Loveland, Luxford Vaughan, F. Maclean, J. Maclean, Moore, B. Oxford, G. Oxford, P. Oxford, Willetts, Wood and the Deputy Mayor (Davidson).

ABSTAINED FROM VOTING: Coleman, Jowers

387 COVID 19 Finance Update

Councillor Warnes (as a board member of Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd) declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 478 of the Cabinet meeting of

8 July 2020 be approved and adopted (TWENTY EIGHT voted FOR, NONE voted AGAINST and TWENTY TWO ABSTAINED from VOTING)

A named vote having been request pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 15(2) the voting was as follows:-

FOR: Councillors Barlow, Barton, Bourne, Chuah, Coleman, Cory, Fox, Goacher, Goss, Harris, Higgins, Hogg, King, Liddy, Lilley, Luxford Vaughan, McCarthy, B. Oxford, G. Oxford, P. Oxford, Pearson, Scordis, Scott-Boutell, Warnes, Whitehead, J. Young, T. Young and the Mayor (Cope)

AGAINST : None

ABSTANED FROM VOTING: Councillors Arnold, Barber, Bentley, Buston, Chapman, Chillingworth, Crow, Dundas, Elliot, Ellis, Hayter, Hazell, Jarvis, Jowers, Lissimore, Loveland, F. Maclean, J. Maclean, Moore, Willetts, Wood and the Deputy Mayor (Davidson).

388 Review of Governance Recommendations

Councillor Warnes (as a board member of Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd) declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS) that the recommendations contained in minute 477 of the Cabinet meeting of 8 July 2020 be approved and adopted.

389 Stanway Western Approach Community Facility

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS) that the recommendation contained in minute 475 of the Cabinet meeting of 8 July 2020 be approved and adopted.

390 Scrap Metal Dealers Policy

Councillor Warnes (as a board member of Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd) declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS) that the recommendation contained in minute 104 of the Licensing Committee meeting of 10 July 2020 be approved and adopted.

391 Motion of Thanks

It was proposed by Councillor Bourne on behalf of all Group Leaders that:-

“This Council recognises the considerable effort undertaken by many in our Borough during the pandemic crisis that in turn has created a force for good. The consolidation of community effort in neighbourhoods across the whole of Colchester Borough has uplifted spirits and brought pride to this Council.

The loss of family and friends to COVID19 and the lack of time to effectively mourn their passing is a cruel and brutal blow for bereaved residents. This Council extends its heartfelt sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones over the past four months.

In addition this Council:

- expresses its warmest thanks to the thousands of critical workers across the Borough, and from outside our Borough, who kept vital services running during full lockdown in very challenging circumstances. Many carried out extra shifts and duties when called to do so at short notice;
- is grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who put their names forward to help neighbours, colleagues and residents with prescription collection, basic shopping trips, befriending phone calls, social media and IT help, plus a variety of other support tasks to keep vulnerable residents safe and connected;
- notes the strategic and operational effort from local councillors working in their ward and assisting residents;
- thanks Parish, Town and Community Council groups who administered support to vulnerable residents at a local level;
- recognises the contribution of Colchester Borough Council staff who kept essential services running, some undertaking new temporary roles to boost crucial services;
- highlights the work of Colchester Borough Homes staff who kept residents safe and protected through their caring and diligent work;
- appreciates the tireless work of Community 360 staff and volunteer base in extending caring support to the most vulnerable residents by building a large team of volunteers that continue to offer daily help;
- pays tribute to the knowledge, skills and expertise of senior council officers in coordinating work with other public sector bodies involving health, police, probation, fire and rescue, social care and the Essex Resilience Forum.

This Council appreciates every kind endeavour shown by residents during these

unprecedented times. Whilst we recognise that the pandemic still rages around the world, in Colchester local actions prove to be strong, supportive and resilient, this is testament to every individual act of kindness.

COVID-19 is still present in our community and we urge residents to stay alert and safe while following the precautions laid down locally and nationally. Colchester is rebuilding and we need everyone to play their part.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

392 Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Questioner	Subject	Response
Oral questions		
Councillor Moore	In 2008 following a detailed study by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel the Council had responded to a consultation making clear its opposition to a further nuclear power station at Bradwell. In 2015 the then Leader of the Council Councillor Smith had indicated that the Council's position had not changed. Could the Portfolio Holder explain why the Council's response to the latest consultation sat on the fence, leaning towards approval and who had authorised the response. It emphasised the economic benefits of the development.	Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, explained that he was totally opposed to nuclear power, and that he was not happy with the proposals put forward in the consultation. If Colchester Borough Council had been the planning authority it would have opposed the proposals. The response did “sit on the fence”, and he would have liked to send a more robust response. The response had to address the technical matters raised. He had also asked for the public consultation to be reinstated and held over a longer period, but the developers were reluctant to do so. It was noted that Maldon District Council had

		<p>objected, and the Council would probably support their stance.</p> <p>Whilst the Council appreciated the economic benefits that could accrue from the development, it would rather see the development of greener forms of energy. The Cabinet was opposed to the development and would send a more robust response in future.</p>
Councillor Harris	<p>Following the government's decision to allow restaurants and pubs to open again there were examples across the borough of venues not taking public safety seriously. Would the Portfolio Holder agree that a strong message needed to be sent to the trade?</p>	<p>Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, expressed his dismay at the situation. When establishments had first reopened there had been good compliance with the regulations. However this had deteriorated and particularly in smaller venues or away from the town centre, guidance was not always adhered to. The public needed to take responsibility and not use such venues. The Council and police had visited the most problematic venues but as the guidance did not have the force of law, there was no effective sanction. The Council would consider using its licensing powers against those who did not comply with the guidance.</p>

Councillor Barber	Following the vote on NEGC Ltd earlier in the meeting, would the Council commit to an independent transparent audit on decision making and use of tax-payers money in respect of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd?	Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that he felt that the Scrutiny Panel was best placed to undertake such a review, or to consider whether such a review should be conducted independently.
Councillor Barber	Would the Council agree to a capital investment for secure cycle storage in Council owned car parks and other Council land to promote cycling?	Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, explained that as part of the Parking Strategy, which was out to consultation at present, the Council was looking to replace some car parking spaces in town centre car parks with cycle storage. Some people considered that this was too far out and would prefer cycle parking in the High Street, which was disappointing.
Councillor Hazell	Was the Council considering building on the site of the West End Tennis Centre. A surveyor from Colchester Amphora had been on the site last week which had raised concerns about the future of the site. She had received information indicating that the Council was seeking relocate the tennis centre to Leisure World in 5-6 years, and that in the interim there would be no provision for tennis in Colchester.	Councillor Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services, indicated that the Council was undertaking a feasibility study on all of its sites. Once it was complete, findings would be shared with ward councillors.

Councillor Pearson	Would the Portfolio Holder agree that the use of wheeled bins in some wards had improved the Council's environmental performance and therefore should be rolled out to all parts of the borough.	Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Waste, Environment and Transportation, explained that 12,932 households in the borough currently used wheeled bins. There were no plans to introduce wheeled bins across all of the borough, although there was interest from some residents and ward councillors in a further roll out. Wheeled bins were better in terms of staff welfare and caused less injury and sickness. 83% of Councils used wheeled bins.
Councillor Dundas	Would the Portfolio Holder clarify Labour Group policy on Alumno as an official Labour account had stated or heavily implied that it was Labour Party policy to campaign for Essex County Council not to lift the covenant on the Alumno site. How did that fit with the administration's duty to use reasonable endeavours to do the opposite? Were the legal risks to the Council of such a message cleared with the Monitoring Officer in advance?	Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, indicated that a written response would be sent.
Councillor Crow	He had been contacted by a resident who lived between the Minories and the top of Queen St who understood that the Council wished to negotiate on their rights of	Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, indicated that a written answer would be provided.

	<p>access to bus park in order to proceed with the Alumno development. They had received no direct contact from the Council or its agents. The resident was concerned that they might lose their right of way to access to their property. Could the Portfolio Holder confirm that the Council would not seek to permanently remove the right of way if negotiations were unsuccessful? Could they also confirm that if Essex County Council did not lift the covenant on the site, no legal work around would be sought to bypass this and a line would be drawn. What deadline would the Council put on negotiations should Essex County Council refuse to lift the covenant?</p>	
Councillor Warnes	<p>The condition of Berechurch Dyke was a cause of concern. This was an important part of Colchester's Iron Age heritage. The Dyke was in the ownership of the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Would the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance work with him to raise residents' concerns with the MOD?</p>	<p>Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, indicated that she would work with Councillor Warnes on this issue.</p>
Councillor Jowers	<p>Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public</p>	<p>Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy,</p>

	<p>Safety, had indicated in his previous answer to Councillor Moore that he did not oppose the construction of the new nuclear power station at Bradwell. A major debate on the issue was necessary so that the Council's position was clear and that all information could be discussed openly.</p>	<p>indicated that Councillor Lilley had misspoke and meant to say that he would rather it was not built. He shared his feelings and had sat on the Scrutiny Panel when it had looked into these issues. He was aware of the impact of nuclear power on the Blackwater Estuary. He was opposed to nuclear power locally and nationally. At this point the Council should seek further information and further consultation, particularly with residents of Mersea. He was content to open up the issue to further debate.</p> <p>Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, indicated that he had misspoke and gave an assurance that he did not wish to see a further nuclear power station built at Bradwell. He had been a member of both the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Greenpeace.</p>
Councillor Hogg	<p>Would the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety meet with him to discuss the repair of CCTV cameras in his ward, which currently gave a false</p>	<p>Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, indicated that he would be happy to meet to discuss this issue.</p>

	sense of security to residents.	
Councillor J. Maclean	<p>In the Cabinet report titled “Stanway Western Approach Community Facility” the Executive summary highlights section 106 contribution amounts totalling approximately £1.8million with contributions received so far totalling £1.2million.</p> <p>It is being recommended delegated authority for Stanway’s new community facility is assigned to the Assistant Director of Community at the Council who will be able to make decisions relating to procurement and the award of contracts in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety.</p> <p>However it appears this recommendation is only being considered, a) subject to all section 106 funding being received and b) the successful tender remaining within budget.</p> <p>With a noticeable shortfall of what appears to be around £600k between section 106 contributions agreed and section 106 contributions received, could the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety</p>	Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, indicated that a written response would be sent.

	<p>please confirm if this shortfall in received section 106 funds could delay the delivery of Stanway's much needed community facility.</p> <p>Could the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety also confirm if such a delay could exist, subject to expiring section 106 contributions suggested to expire in 2023 (point 13.1 in the aforementioned report), what risk is there that Stanway residents could miss out on the proposed community facility from being built altogether.</p> <p>Also, how much in financial terms of section 106 contributions from development within Stanway has been allocated to the Councils Northern Gateway project.</p>	
--	---	--

393 Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions

RESOLVED that the schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions covering the period 4 February 2020 – 2 July 2020 be noted.

394 Urgent Items (Council)

With the consent of the Mayor, Councillor Dundas invited Council to express its thanks to former Councillor Davies and to recognise her work as the Chair of the Scrutiny

Panel. She had earned respect across the political groups for her professionalism and fairness.

RESOLVED that the Council's thanks to former Councillor Davies for her service as a Councillor and as Chair of the Scrutiny Panel be formally recorded.

Council

Wednesday, 12 August 2020

Attendees:

Councillor Lewis Barber, Councillor Nick Barlow, Councillor Kevin Bentley, Councillor Tina Bourne, Councillor Roger Buston, Councillor Nigel Chapman, Councillor Peter Chillingworth, Councillor Helen Chuah, Councillor Nick Cope, Councillor Mark Cory, Councillor Robert Davidson, Councillor Paul Dundas, Councillor John Elliott, Councillor Adam Fox, Councillor Mark Goacher, Councillor Martin Goss, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Chris Hayter, Councillor Pauline Hazell, Councillor Theresa Higgins, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor Brian Jarvis, Councillor John Jowers, Councillor David King, Councillor Cyril Liddy, Councillor Michael Lilley, Councillor Sue Lissimore, Councillor Derek Loveland, Councillor Fiona Maclean, Councillor Jackie Maclean, Councillor Sam McCarthy, Councillor Gerard Oxford, Councillor Chris Pearson, Councillor Lee Scordis, Councillor Martyn Warnes, Councillor Lorcan Whitehead, Councillor Dennis Willetts, Councillor Barbara Wood, Councillor Julie Young, Councillor Tim Young

395 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Arnold, Barton, Coleman, Crow, Ellis, Luxford Vaughan, Moore, B. Oxford, P. Oxford and Scott-Boutell.

396 Have Your Say! (Virtual Meetings)

Councillor Banks of West Mersea Parish Council addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Remote Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1) to express the Town Council's support for the proposed motion. If Bradwell B were to go ahead there would be considerable impact on residents and visitors to Mersea, both from the industrial complex itself and from construction traffic. The Dengie Peninsula had a number of environmental designations including Triple SI, RAMSAR, National Nature Reserve, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. The estuary was in a Marine Conservation Zone. The cooling towers would deposit increased levels of saline back in the estuary. The claims by the industry that nuclear power produced zero carbon did not stand up to scrutiny. EDF was effectively a French state owned company and CGN was effectively a Chinese state owned company, who were desperate to have their unproven technology tested in a remote area. All Councillors, regardless of their political persuasion, should support the motion.

Theresa Schrier addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Remote Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1) to express her concern about the impact of Bradwell B on local communities. Of particular concern was the impact of construction traffic on the local villages. In addition the proposed site of the power station was very extensive and would completely dominate Bradwell village. There would be no benefit to the local area.

John Akker addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Remote Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1). The decision to hold this debate was welcomed. This was an opportunity for Colchester to unite and send a strong message of opposition to Bradwell B. There were sound environmental, climate and planning reasons to oppose it. If the motion was passed the Council should use its networks to publicise the decision and to influence neighbouring authorities and other partners, such as the University. Tribute was paid to the work of ward councillors representing West Mersea, who had supported residents in their concerns on the lack of consultation and their fears on the impact on the local environment, evacuation, impact on marine life, and on recreation and tourism. The new document needed to be robust and clear and the local community should be consulted as part of the process.

Robbie Spence addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Remote Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1). He drew Council's attention to work of Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group (BANNG), which showed that Bradwell was unsustainable, unsuitable and unacceptable as a site for a massive new nuclear power station. It was unsustainable because it was a low lying coastal site that would be subject to impacts of climate change as sea level rises, particularly storm surges. It was an unsuitable site as it would destroy the peaceful, low profile marshland and estuarine landscape. It was unacceptable because of the dangers it posed to communities around the Blackwater and beyond. An accident on the scale of Fukushima would potentially affect an area of half a million people. Bernard Jenkin MP had also expressed concern about the security concerns arising from the involvement of China General Nuclear.

Ian Clarke addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1) to stress the importance of the Bradwell B Stage 1 consultation. It was a statutory consultation for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The application would be decided by The Planning Inspectorate and not Maldon District Council although it was the "Host Authority". Under the NSIP process Colchester Borough Council as a "Neighbouring Authority" had an equal influence on the application to Maldon District Council. The Planning Inspectorate made clear that the Stage 1 Consultation provided the main opportunity for consultees to influence the project after which there was limited scope for a consultee to do that.

There was concern that in the context of Mersea Island and evacuation that under current regulatory protocol the applicant may obtain a Development Consent Order before a credible evacuation plan has been devised. The Council should insist for the

protection of both Mersea Island residents and visitors that no Development Consent Order was issued before the feasibility of a credible evacuation plan was determined. The Council should also object on the limitations in scope of the consultation during the pandemic and for various other reasons of which details had already been given. The Council should withdraw its recent limited and inconclusive response to the consultation and submit a comprehensive response objecting to the proposals reflecting but also updating its earlier Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel review and prepared in consultation with affected parishes and others.

Professor Blowers of Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group (BANNG) addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5(1) of the Remote Meetings Procedure Rules. Since its inception in 2008 BANNG had held the view that Bradwell was an unsuitable site for a new nuclear power station. It had worked with the Council in 2010 on a consultation response to Government providing a robust rejection of the site's suitability. The argument's made then were still relevant, and changes since then reinforced the arguments against it. There was a declining need for nuclear power together with concerns on climate change, and the scale of the proposed station.

The site was inappropriate as the scale of the project would transform the Dengie Peninsula and the Blackwater Estuary into an industrial complex. The site was unsustainable as Bradwell was low lying, flat and liable to flooding. Climate change could render the site unviable in the course of its lifetime. The site was unacceptable as in the event of a major accident it was inconceivable that emergency plans could effectively protect large populations living in the range of radioactive impacts. The site was unsuitable as the environmental destruction, loss of habitats impacts on the estuary's fishing and tourism would transform a peaceful and precious area into a noisy, oppressive, polluting and dangerous nuclear complex. BANNG remained committed to providing its support for endeavours to reject Bradwell as a potentially suitable site for Bradwell B.

397 New Nuclear at Bradwell

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Cory that:

“Accepting different views may be held strategically about Nuclear Power for the UK, this Council should make clear its position on new nuclear at Bradwell and the impact of new nuclear upon the Borough of Colchester.

This Council objects to new nuclear at Bradwell due to the local environmental impacts and prefers a focus on renewable energy alternatives.

[The concern based upon 'local environmental impact' reflects Colchester Borough Council's investigations into Bradwell B in 2009/10 through the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish group on new nuclear at Bradwell]."

On being put to the vote the motion was approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 2 September 2020

494. Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23

The Chief Operating Officer submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, introduced the Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23. As a consequence of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic the Council needed to review its strategic priorities to ensure they remained relevant focused on the needs of the borough's residents. It remained ambitious and inspiring. There were five key themes:-

- Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability;
- Creating safe, healthy and active communities;
- Delivering homes for people who need them;
- Growing the economy so everyone benefits;
- Celebrating our heritage and culture.

Tackling the climate challenge remained the biggest challenge and sustainability ran through all the other priorities. The focus on safe, healthy and active communities would help tackle inequalities, whilst prioritising the economy would ensure that the borough was well placed to bounce back from the impact off Covid 19. The value of arts and heritage had been demonstrated during the Covid 19 pandemic where arts organisations had helped communities stay safe and entertained.

Councillor Higgins, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services, highlighted the work the Council was undertaking in conjunction with partners to improve cycling and walking provision within the borough. Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, stressed that the Council would help arts organisations with their national portfolio funding applications for funding. Continued support and investment in the arts was vital for the local economy, as the arts and heritage sector supported 7000 jobs and attracted tourism into the borough

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, stressed the importance of growing the economy and ensuring all residents benefitted from the resulting growth. The impact of the pandemic on the local economy must not be underestimated and the full effects had not yet been felt. Support for the economy would encourage investment in Colchester. The borough needed to be confident and be prepared to adapt to the new environment.

Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Housing, stressed that the Council was using its powers to borrow to invest in housing, particularly affordable housing. He was proud of the Council's work in providing new Council housing and improving sheltered accommodation for the elderly. The Council was working to provide sustainable communities at Northern Gateway and through the Tendring/Colchester Garden Community.

Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety, highlighted how well Colchester's communities had reacted to the Covid 19 pandemic. Volunteer groups and third sector organisations such as Community360 had worked together with the Council to support communities and minimise the impact on the vulnerable. In terms of public safety, significant improvements to the CCTV network were planned.

Councillor Cory thanked Pam Donnelly, Strategic Director, Customer and Relations, and Lucie Breadman, Assistant Director, Communities, for their work with One Colchester through the pandemic, which had helped support residents, particularly the most vulnerable. The Council would be able to build on this work as it delivered its strategic priorities.

RESOLVED that the Strategic Plan 2020-23 be agreed.

RECOMMENDED to *COUNCIL* that the Strategic Plan 2020-23 be adopted and included in the Policy Framework

REASONS

To enable the Strategic Plan to be adopted and included in the Policy Framework.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2020-21 but does not reflect significant new priorities agreed by the Council as part of setting its budget strategy and Medium-Term Financial Forecast. Crucially the current Strategic Plan does not reflect the unanimous decision by Full Council to declare a Climate Emergency or the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A new plan is required and needs to be adopted by the Council. The absence of a relevant Strategic Plan would create a significant risk of the Council failing to identify and deliver on its core priorities.

Report of	Assistant Director of Corporate and Improvement	Author	Matthew Evans ☎ 03300 538006
Title	Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To request that the results of a recent consultation in respect of amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy are noted, and that the proposed changes to the Policy, which have been approved by the Licensing Committee, be adopted.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 It is recommended that the changes to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, set out in the report at Paragraph 5.4 to 5.9, be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Council has committed to keeping the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy under review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and is responsive to the changing licensing environment. The Policy has been in operation since January 2019 and the proposed changes have been identified which would aid the clarity of the Policy and its operation.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To leave the Policy unaltered, which would fail to address the recent issues identified.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The Licensing Committee provisionally approved amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy subject to the results of a public consultation, and this consultation was duly carried out between 18 May and 31 July 2020.
- 5.2 At the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 11 August 2020, the Committee were advised that there had been no responses to the consultation, and accordingly they resolved that the changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy be approved in full and recommended to Council for adoption.
- 5.2 It subsequently transpired that a valid response had been received to the original consultation, and as a result of this, at their meeting on 30 September 2020 the Licensing Committee were invited to reconsider the elements of the amended policy to which the representation related. Following a review of the proposed changes to the Policy, the Licensing Committee again resolved to accept the proposed Policy amendments, and request that these be adopted by Council.
- 5.3 The proposed, approved, changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy are set out in paragraphs 5.4 to 5.9 below:

Hackney Carriage Proprietors' Suitability

- 5.4 The application process to be amended to require hackney carriage proprietors, including joint owners, to provide the following information, in addition to the information already provided in relation to the vehicle being licensed –
- A current Passport or Birth Certificate
 - Evidence that they may legally work in the UK
 - Please note - If circumstances come to light during the lifetime of the licence that they no longer have a right to work in the UK, the licence will be revoked.
 - A basic Disclosure and Barring Service Check accompanied by a list of all previous convictions and any other relevant material information. The disclosure must be less than three months old when the application is made. Thereafter a DBS must be submitted every year. If they are also a licensed driver with the Council this requirement would not apply.
 - Proof of completion of safeguarding training.
- 5.5 The following test be included at Paragraph 2.3 of the Policy and used when deciding the suitability of an individual –
- Would I be comfortable allowing this person to have control of a licensed vehicle that can travel anywhere, at any time of the day or night without arising suspicion and be satisfied that he/she would not allow it to be used for criminal or other unacceptable purposes and be confident that he/she would maintain it to an acceptable standard throughout the period of the licence.
- 5.6 The minimum age for vehicle proprietors be set at 18 years or over.

Use of Meters

- 5.7 To add to Paragraph 8 of the Annex on hackney carriage vehicles and Paragraph 8 on the Annex on private hire vehicles that the meter must be turned on at the start of every journey.

Driver Conditions – Pre-licensing Standards

- 5.8 That Annex 1 of the Policy relating to Driver Conditions be amended to add an additional requirement to the pre-licensing standards that applicants holding an EU country driving licence must obtain a UK counterpart licence from the DVLA before they can be considered for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence and the details must be disclosed to the Council. Applicants from all other countries must apply for a full UK DVLA licence before being considered.

Selling a Vehicle

- 5.9 To add to the hackney and private hire conditions the following -

If the vehicle is sold to someone else who is going to use it for hackney/private hire work the Council must be informed, in writing within 14 days, of the name and address of the new owner. If this is not done the existing owner will remain responsible for the hackney carriage or private vehicle licence. A fee will be charged to transfer the licence to the new owner.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 The Policy aims to contribute to the Council's vision of the Borough by ensuring that the licensed trade plays a significant role not only in the Borough's transport strategy but also in helping to promote Colchester and thereby enhancing our reputation as a destination and encouraging further investment.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The changes have been the subject of consultation and therefore no further consultation is required.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 The new revised Policy will be available for all on the Council's website.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 There may be costs incurred in defending any action brought against the Council which seeks to judicially review the policy.

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 The draft Policy has been developed in accordance with, and taken account of, all relevant legislation and national and local strategies.

11. Risk Management Implications

- 11.1 A flexible yet robust revised Policy will continue to provide the Council with a sound basis for decision making.

12. Health & Safety and Community Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no known direct health & safety or community safety issues which might arise from the adoption of the revised Policy.

13. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 13.1 There are no known environmental or sustainability implications.

Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
3 July 2020 – 2 October 2020

Portfolio – Business and Resources					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
07/09/2020	RES-001-20	Contract Award for Maintenance Repairs to Boundary Wall at Colchester Cemetery.	Martin Leek/Geoff Beales	To agree to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer Stone Technical Services Group Limited for the delivery of the maintenance repair works.	Decision agreed 14/09/2020

Portfolio – Commercial Services					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
18/08/2020	COM-001-20	Contract for Provision of CCTV Equipment	Steven Eke	To award the contract for the provision of CCTV equipment, including all cameras, backend operating systems and other equipment as operationally required, to Rio IT Ltd.	Decision agreed 02/09/2020

Portfolio – Communities, Well Being and Public Safety					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
09/07/2020	WEL-001-20	Response to Bradwell B Stage One Consultation	Sandra Scott, Shelley Blackaby and Belinda Silkstone	To respond to the Bradwell B Stage One Consultation	Decision called in and referred to the Scrutiny Panel who

Agenda item 14

Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members 3 July 2020 – 2 October 2020

					considered the call in on 27 July 2020 and made recommendations to the Portfolio Holder.
08/09/2020	WEL-002-20	Transparency Statement on Modern Slavery 2019-20	Sonia Carr	That a Transparency Statement is published by the Council on its website for the fifth successive year by 30 September 2020 in accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.	Decision agreed 15/09/2020

Portfolio – Culture and Performance

Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
23/09/2020	CUL-001-20	Proposed Consultation Response to Changes to the Current Planning System	Karen Syrett	To respond to the current consultation document Proposed Changes to the Current Planning System.	Decision agreed 30/09/2020

Portfolio – Customers

Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
02/07/2020	CUS-001-20	Decision to award contract for Device Management	Kieran Johnston	Award of contract for device management (also known as	Decision agreed

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
3 July 2020 – 2 October 2020**

				Endpoint Management) and associated licences to WCL Ltd under the Everything ICT framework (with Centrality as the sub-contractor) for a period of 3 years	16/07/2020
17/08/202	CUS-002-20	Decision to award a contract for Device Management	Kieran Johnston	Award of contract for the supply of 350 laptops to Bechtle Direct Ltd	Decision agreed 24/08/2020

Portfolio – Housing					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
02/07/2020	HOU-004-20	Award of contract for the replacement of fire doors in sheltered housing schemes	Clare Lawrance	To award a contract to Foster Property Maintenance Ltd.	Decision agreed 09/07/2020
28/07/2020	HOU-005-20	Award of Contract for Electrical Installation Condition Reports and Remedial Works in the Housing Stock	Clare Lawrance	To award a contract to Aaron Services Ltd	Decision agreed 11/08/2020
19/08/2020	HOU-006-20	Revisions to Relationship Breakdown and Succession Policy	Suzanne Norton	Approval of the refreshed Relationship Breakdown and Succession policies	Decision agreed 26/08/2020
25/09/2020	HOU-007-20	Award of Contract for the Build of New Council Homes at Buffett Way & Scarfe Way, Greenstead	Andrew Tyrrell	To award a contract to Amplis Construction Ltd for the construction of 12 new council homes (2 x blocks of 6, 2-bedroom flats) at Buffett Way and Scarfe Way in Greenstead. To agree that in the event of any unforeseen issue(s) in proceeding	Decision agreed 09/09/2020

Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
3 July 2020 – 2 October 2020

				<p>with the above first-placed contractor, the contract would then be awarded sequentially to the second-placed, or third-placed contractors in order.</p> <p>To note that once awarded, the Assistant Director for Place & Client Services was previously delegated authority (via Cabinet decision dated 8 July 2020), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to agree and implement all consequential contractual, legal, financial or other related matters for the contracted project through to completion and occupation of the new homes</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

Portfolio – Strategy					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
No decisions in this period					

Portfolio – Waste, Environment and Transportation					
Date	Number	Report Title	Author	Decision	Result
02/07/2020	WAS-02-20	Recommendation for the Award of Contract for Festive Lights 2020	Rosa Tanfield	To award a contract to Gala Lighting Ltd for the design, supply and installation of festive lighting in	Decision agreed 09/07/2020

**Record of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members
3 July 2020 – 2 October 2020**

				Colchester town centre for a five year contract period and with the option to extend for up to a further five years.	
15/07/2020	WAS-03-20	Award of contract for the replacement of Food Waste vehicles	Rory Doyle	To award a contract to Terberg	Decision agreed 22/072020

2 September 2020

Report of	Chief Operating Officer	Author	Rory Doyle ☎ 507855
Title	The Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23		
Wards affected	all wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the draft Strategic Plan 2020-23 (attached). The Strategic Plan sets the priorities for the borough and the Council for the next three years. The current Strategic Plan was published in February 2018 and is set to run to 2021.
- 1.2 A report was taken to Cabinet in March 2020 to approve the Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23. The report set out the need to update the current plan in light of the new Strategic Priorities agreed by Council and the declaration of the Climate Emergency in July 2019. The Plan set out how the Council will address the key challenges facing the borough through five strategic priority themes:
 - Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability
 - Creating safe, healthy and active communities
 - Delivering homes for people who need them
 - Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits
 - Celebrating our heritage and culture.
- 1.3 The Strategic Plan was due to be taken to Full Council with the recommendation that it be adopted and included in the Policy Framework however this was subsequently delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 The Covid-19 pandemic has presented the Council with unprecedented service and financial challenges changing some of the key financial planning assumptions, and priorities upon which the previous draft Strategic Plan presented in March 2020 was based as a result a review and reprioritisation of priorities has been undertaken as part of the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Programme.
- 1.5 This report outlines a refreshed set of 15 priorities (3 under each strategic theme), taking in to account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and sets out the key goals by which success will be measured moving forward, together with a clear set of commitments that will be delivered in the first year of the Plan. These will form the basis for the Strategic Plan Action Plan.
- 1.6 The Strategic Plan is one of the core statutory elements of the Council's Policy framework, as set out in Article 4 of the Council's Constitution. It therefore needs to be adopted by full Council.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To agree the Strategic Plan 2020-23 and recommend to full Council that it be adopted and included in the Policy Framework.
3. **Reason for Recommended Decision**
- 3.1 To enable the Strategic Plan to be adopted and included in the Policy Framework.
4. **Alternative Options**
- 4.1 The current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2020-21 but does not reflect significant new priorities agreed by the Council as part of setting its budget strategy and Medium-Term Financial Forecast. Crucially the current Strategic Plan does not reflect the unanimous decision by Full Council to declare a Climate Emergency or the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.2 A new plan is required and needs to be adopted by the Council. The absence of a relevant Strategic Plan would create a significant risk of the Council failing to identify and deliver on its core priorities.
5. **Background Information**
- 5.1 The Council's Strategic Plan describes the organisation's view of the main priorities for the borough. It covers a three-year time span, although many of the issues it addresses are long-term in nature.
- 5.2 In March 2020 Cabinet were presented with a draft of the Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Since then the global Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on our communities, our economy and the Council as an organisation. During this time the Council has been leading the recovery and adaptation of its services and operations under the Recovery Programme. Part of this programme of work included the need to prioritise what's important in the 'new normal'. Being clear about priorities going forward and reprioritising work already underway has been a key part of the budget strategy and the approach to corporate programme management. This includes prioritisation of all existing, new and emerging projects and a reshaping of the overarching Strategic Priorities presented in the plan to Cabinet in March 2020.
- 5.3 This work has been undertaken and the five Strategic Plan themes are still as relevant, if not more so, since they were presented in March. These themes are:
- Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability
 - Creating safe, healthy, and active communities
 - Delivering homes for people who need them
 - Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits
 - Celebrating our heritage and culture.
- 5.4 Within each theme, three strategic priorities are identified. These priorities have been revised in light of the impact of Covid-19 and the priority statements guide what is important to us and provide a steer on the areas we will focus on. Importantly each priority includes key goals against which success will be measured, with commitments for delivery in year 1 to provide reassurance.
- 4.5 The plan is written as a strategic-level document, showing the aims and objectives of the Council at a high level, to steer both the organisation's decision making, Covid Recovery Plan and day-to-day management of services. All five themes are connected; they are overarching principles for the way in which the authority will work as a whole – rather than

being seen in isolation, the plan aims to present the themes and priorities as the ethos under which decisions will be made and the direction the authority will travel over the next three years including recovery and adaptation post Covid-19. For example, whilst tackling the climate challenge is a strategic theme on its own, action taken under the strategic themes of 'Creating safe, healthy, and active communities', 'Delivering homes for people who need them', 'Growing a fair economy' etc. will also ensure we are delivering on our climate challenge strategic priority.

- 4.6 Being a strategic level document means that the detail, 'how' it will be delivered, sits below the Strategic Plan within the Strategic Plan Action Plan, and Covid Recovery Plan.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 The Strategic Plan 2020-23 will continue to support the importance of equality and diversity in all aspects of borough life.
- 6.2 The Equality Act requires councils to have an equality objective, and the new Plan does that throughout its themes and priorities. An Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the website [here](#), or by following this pathway from the homepage – Our Council>How the Council works>Equality and Diversity>Equality Impact Assessments>Corporate and Improvement>Strategic Plan 2020-23

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The themes and priorities of the Strategic Plan 2020-23 will be reflected in officer reports to councillors following its adoption by full Council.

8. Publicity Considerations

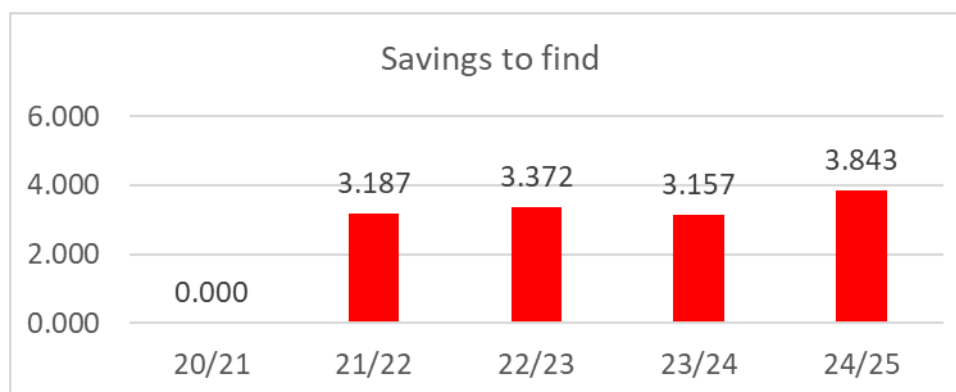
- 8.1 The Strategic Plan is a key element of the Council's continued external engagement activity. The Council will continue to ensure promotion of strategic activity via new and existing communications channels including direct, in person, in the media, on social media platforms and on its website.
- 8.2 The Council will communicate at key milestones of strategic projects to promote a strong positive reputation for the borough, with half-year updates on the website.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 £500k was allocated from reserves in 2019/20 to meet the cost of feasibility and scoping of New Strategic Priorities. In order to protect resources to address the Covid-19 crisis the cost of feasibility and scoping has been contained at £250k.
- 9.2 July 2020 Cabinet received a finance update on Covid-19 including the allocations set out below.

Revised MTFF (£m)	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
New Strategic Priorities	0.216	0.200	0.333	0.333
Covid Recovery	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.000

- 9.3 The July Cabinet 2020 report identified a significant budget gap to be addressed in 2021/22 and later years



- 9.4 The allocation of resources to the Strategic Plan will need to be considered in setting the 2021/22 budget and 2021-25 MTFF. It may be necessary to vary the previously agreed allocation for new strategic priorities and recovery in order to balance the 2021/22 budget. Progress on addressing the budget gap will be reported to October 2020 Cabinet.

10. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety remains a key component in this Strategic Plan. This is clearly identified in the 'Creating safe, healthy and active communities' strategic theme, however action on the wider determinants of health, the diverse range of social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's wellbeing is embedded throughout the Plan.

11. Health and Safety Implications

- 11.1 No health and safety implications have been identified.

12. Risk Management Implications

- 12.1 As action plans to deliver the Strategic Plan 2020-23 are developed, risks will be identified and addressed.
- 12.2 The absence of a Strategic Plan, or the retention of a Strategic Plan that is no longer fit for purpose, would create risks for the Council failing to deliver on its core priorities and use of resources.
- 12.3 The introduction of a new strategic plan, one year early, is a direct response to the key risks in the Strategic Risk Register and will ensure that the whole organisation is focused on a clearly understood, single set of priorities.

13. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 13.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. This is one of the key reasons why the Strategic Plan needs to be replaced a year earlier than anticipated, to ensure that the Council's Strategic Plan reflects the urgency of this commitment.
- 13.2 This is clearly identified in the 'Tackling the climate challenge and leading Sustainability' strategic theme, and the priorities and goals within that.

- 13.3 It is expected that setting out such a clear commitment to the environment and sustainability, agreeing measurable goals and year 1 commitments will enable the Council to deliver real improvement and be held to account.

Appendices

The Better Colchester Strategic Plan 2020-23

New Strategic Priorities – Policy and Research

Tackling the
climate challenge
and leading
sustainability

Creating safe,
healthy and
active
communities

Delivering homes
for people who
need them

Growing a fair
economy so
everyone
benefits

Celebrating our
heritage and
culture

Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability

PRIORITIES	2020–2023 GOALS
Respond to the Climate Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon emissions to help achieve a net zero Carbon footprint for Council Services by 2030 • Environment and sustainability embedded within all Council decision making and the adaptation and recovery from Covid-19 • Air quality across Colchester is improved • Continue to support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste
Conserve and enhance biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the environmental impact of our activities • Enhance environments to create more space for nature to grow and thrive through greening and natural seeding • Discover, nurture and enable the work led by communities that promotes biodiversity • Plant native species and manage our woodlands, meadows and greenspace whilst sustaining existing habitats • Work alongside communities to maintain clean, green neighbourhoods and urban spaces that we all look after and enjoy
Enable more opportunity for walking and cycling around Colchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to implement strategies and develop measures to reduce traffic in the town centre • Improve facilities and routes for cyclists and walkers to enable active travel behaviours, healthier lifestyles and reduce car use • Ensure major regeneration projects put physical activity, cycling and walking at the forefront of development
During 2020/21 we will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a new Environment and Sustainability Panel to oversee our work to tackle the climate emergency • Complete the phasing out of Glyphosate herbicide in Council operations • Embed environment and sustainability impact assessment and prioritisation in all recovery, project and programme management • Roll out use of eCargo bikes with Council teams, local businesses and partners • Model the Council’s carbon footprint in detail and develop a detailed Carbon Management Plan to 2030 • Implement sustainable changes to waste and recycling collections that support improved staff wellbeing • Commence construction of the Northern Gateway Heat Network

Creating safe, healthy and active communities

PRIORITIES	2020–2023 GOALS
Build on community strengths and assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Approach and work alongside communities to build a borough where people are more empowered, self-sufficient, healthy, active, happy and doing what they enjoy • Encourage belonging, involvement and responsibility in all Colchester's communities and neighbourhoods • Work with our partners to make volunteering and community involvement as easy as possible • Maximise developer contributions (such as Section 106) and other funding mechanisms to help fund community infrastructure
Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work alongside Public Health to take steps that mitigate Covid-19 infection risks and control outbreaks across the population • Support residents to do the things they enjoy doing to stay healthy, happy and physically active • Enable access and involvement in community green space, countryside sites, sport, and leisure facilities • Support people to live in healthy homes that meet their needs • Supporting the most vulnerable residents through our One Colchester partnership
Provide opportunities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide positive opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interests them, keeps them safe, makes them happy and supports improved mental wellbeing • Support the creation of strong, safe, and friendly communities that care about each other • Work with Essex Police, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex Youth Service and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and tackle serious crime • Work alongside our partners to improve cleanliness and community safety in the town centre • Upgrade and extend the CCTV network to reach more places
During 2020/21 we will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully support Public Health England's Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plans, specifically deploying Environmental Health Officer resources and working with Community360 to continue Shielding where necessary • Facilitate ABCD sessions and awareness within communities, system leaders and members to discover and connect the assets that exist and are mobilised within neighbourhoods • Coproduce investment proposals and deliver interventions that support our vulnerable residents to be more physically active through the Essex Local Delivery Pilot. • Deliver the new Stanway Community Facility for the benefit of the local community • Work with partners to support victims of domestic violence • Work in partnership with Essex County Council to support vulnerable people to live in homes that promote independence and wellbeing

Delivering homes for people who need them

PRIORITIES	2020–2023 GOALS
Increase the number, quality and types of homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver 30% affordable housing across all our own housing sites• Deliver 380 affordable homes• Improve existing Council homes to keep them in good repair and improve energy efficiency• Build new Council homes for our residents• Ensure all new homes are designed to a high quality across all tenures• Continue to improve and modernise available housing for older people
Prevent households from experiencing homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners to Implement the 2020-23 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy action plan• Intervene early to prevent homelessness and work in partnership with other organisations to sustain people's accommodation• Tackle rough sleeping in the borough
Create new communities and adopt a new Local Plan that delivers jobs, homes and the infrastructure to meet the borough’s future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a Development Plan Document for Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community• Establish a Delivery Vehicle and investment package for the next phase of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community• Develop the Colchester Northern Gateway as a sustainable place to live, work and play• Ensure the Council has a good supply of land available for new homes and business• Create great places to live through the provision of new homes with infrastructure and facilities that support sustainable living and promote health and wellbeing
During 2020/21 we will	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree “Phase 2” sites for development by Amphora Homes and undertake feasibility and viability assessments• Adopt section 1 of the Local Plan• Deliver the first mixed tenure housing site built by the Council at Creffield Road• Deliver 100% Council homes at Military Road (8 homes)• Deliver up to 16 new Council homes on the Council's garage sites• Initiate delivery of an extra ‘100 Council Homes’ through an investment project• Accelerate construction to enable recovery from Covid-19

Growing a better economy so everyone benefits

PRIORITIES	2020 – 2023 GOALS
Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our borough becomes stronger post Covid-19 by supporting businesses to recover, adapt and build resilience. • Work with partners to facilitate a high skill, high wage, low carbon workforce • Develop opportunities to ensure the new economy is greener, sustainable and more resilient • Work with our partners to enable Colchester town centre to be a more vibrant, resilient and adaptable to future change • Transform the Northern Gateway as a hub for improved wellbeing, physical activity, jobs, housing and renewable energy • Address the inequality of access to Gigabit Broadband in communities • Tackle local skills shortages working with businesses, University of Essex, Colchester Institute and other partners
Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a Town Deal with partners and the Government to attract significant new investment • Collaborate with the town centre Business Improvement District (BID) • Continue to regenerate Colchester Town Centre using Council assets, aligned private investment, the Town Deal and Town Investment Plan
Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and help businesses to flourish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our strategy for inclusive economic growth supports the ambitions outlined in the North Essex Growth Strategy, the Local Industrial Strategy and our Town Deal • Ensure a good supply of employment land and premises to attract new businesses and allow existing firms to expand and thrive • Encourage green technologies and innovative solutions to the Climate Emergency • Maximise the Social Value benefits derived from third party contracts • Ensure the Council's assets continue to contribute to economic growth and opportunity
During 2020/21 we will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and agree the Council's Economic Recovery plan • Agree the Town Deal bid and Town Investment Plan submission with partners • Deliver the Local Broadband Full Fibre Network project • Work in partnership to support our Business Improvement District • Providing enhanced support to businesses through Covid-19 working with business networks to direct appropriate interventions • Commence "The Walk", and provide the attractive main pedestrian and cycle boulevard through Northern Gateway South • Complete and open Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Park

Celebrating our heritage and culture

PRIORITIES	2020-2023 GOALS
Agree and implement a new Cultural Strategy that supports our cultural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners to deliver a collaborative Cultural Vision and Ambitions for the borough• Agree the key milestones and investment necessary to deliver the strategy• Continue to provide sustainable grant funding to support Mercury Theatre, Firstsite and Colchester Arts Centre and help the sector to adapt and recover from the impact of Covid-19• Identify further opportunities to improve the cultural offer for residents and visitors
Strengthen Colchester’s tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote Colchester’s heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support jobs• Expand the events programme to encourage more visitors and position Colchester as a destination for major events• Work with partners and The Town Centre Business Improvement District to improve the public realm for residents and visitors• Improve the information available to Visitors through the launch of a new improved Website
Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester’s unique heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring our history to life through the Heritage Live projects• Enhance and promote our heritage by better revealing our assets by supporting projects and initiatives to increase public awareness and access to their heritage in daily life• Continue to deliver a major exhibition at Colchester Castle bi-annually• Encourage and support the use of our Heritage sites for Community events, activities and theatre
During 2020/21 we will	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and agree a new Cultural Strategy in collaboration with partners• Complete the Mercury Rising project• Deliver a Major Nero Exhibition at Colchester Castle• Launch a new Visitor Website• Work to deliver a scheme redevelopment for Vineyard Gate car park to showcase the Town Wall and provide a welcoming arrival point for visitors to the historic town with interpretation and on-site presentation of surviving archaeology and heritage assets• Seek grant funding and implement schemes to enhance Balkerne Square and St Nicholas Square as new public spaces to showcase the adjacent assets.

New Strategic Priorities – Policy and Research - September Cabinet

The development of these priorities and the Strategic Plan is informed by a range of relevant information, data, surveys or consultations including: [Census data](#), [ONS data](#), [Essex Open Data](#), [Public Health Profiles](#), [indices of deprivation](#), [Colchester Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) and [Mosaic profiling](#).

This longer-term view is important in ensuring that the Strategic Plan takes due account of future needs such as population growth and diversity. Analysis is carried out by the Council's Research and Change Team, and officers also keep abreast of policy developments at national/central government level.

We have also used the wide range of research and statistics available on the Council's website [here](#), which include [key statistics for Colchester](#) and the [Authority Monitoring Report 2019](#) and the results of consultations which we have held on various subjects [here](#), and consultations on planning/the Local Plan [here](#). Recent research and consultation work was considered at August's [Policy Panel](#), and at [Scrutiny Panel](#) in respect of how it helps to inform the Council's recovery plan.

As priorities are developed, so the objectives and outcomes will be shared and views sought, from potential partners, key stakeholders, councillors and the public. To deliver these shared priorities, the contribution of local stakeholders and other agencies will be particularly important where the Council must work with others and where their help and contributions may be sought.

Residents' views

These priorities are also underpinned by what residents told us during the development of the current and previous Strategic Plans:

- *"Colchester is a welcoming place and should continue to be so.*
- *They are positive about Colchester as a town and borough and see it a good place to live.*
- *They are proud of the long and prominent history of the town.*
- *They like the countryside surrounding Colchester, especially those with young children.*
- *They like the borough's open spaces, particularly Castle Park and the events and activities that are held there.*
- *They believe being slightly further out of London helps Colchester maintain more of a rural image, yet still being connected to the heart of Essex and London.*
- *They understand the importance of 'growth' for the town and borough; but want infrastructure to keep pace with Colchester's growth.*
- *They want the Council to play its part to maximise the availability of affordable housing.*
- *They want to maximise the availability of jobs and opportunities, especially younger people.*
- *They want the Council to support the most vulnerable in society, and to help reduce homelessness.*
- *They want the town centre to be more accessible and appealing; and recognise the Council cannot work on its own in dealing with the town centre challenges.*
- *They think the Council has an important role in facilitating healthier lives as part of the infrastructure improvements as the town grows.*
- *They are concerned about anti-social behaviour, particularly those living in urban areas.*
- *They are positive about the Council's recycling services".* [Strategic Plan 2018-21](#)

"We need to make more of our heritage; There need to be more opportunities for business; Transport and retail need to be improved; Growth needs to be managed and housing needs to be affordable; We need to be ambitious for the whole borough". [Strategic Plan 2015-18](#)

Policy, research and consultation work is key to ensuring that the priorities remain relevant and take account of changing needs and issues locally, as well as the changing legislative, financial and policy context for local government. Illustrative examples by theme are shown on the following pages, after a section which has been added in the light of Covid-19 since the initial report to Cabinet in March 2020 .

A brief overview of some key national impacts since March 2020's Cabinet report on issues which underpin relevant research and policy developments

Covid-19

March 2020 saw the publication of the UK government's [coronavirus action plan](#) and the [Coronavirus Act](#), which is in force for a maximum of two years, with [two-monthly reports](#) as updates on which powers are currently active. To quote the July update, "The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in one of the largest ever shocks to the UK economy and public finances. The impact of the virus and the measures that have had to be put in place have been far reaching, affecting people's jobs, livelihoods and wellbeing". Tackling Covid-19 has also drawn heavily on available resources, both at national and local level.

Examples of new legislation or developments aimed at responding to and/or mitigating the impact which are pertinent to the Strategic Plan 2020-23 include:

- The [£40 million green recovery fund](#) which opens in September "to fund shovel-ready projects to restore nature and tackle climate change".
- [Planning for the future](#) – this White Paper "proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed". A new infrastructure levy would replace both s106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- [Changes to the current planning system](#) – this consultation runs to 1 October. Its housing focus includes "temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing". Recent research includes [the use of developer contributions](#).
- The [Business and Planning Act 2020](#) contains a range of temporary and urgent measures intended to support the economy to recover.
- [A Plan for Jobs 2020](#) looks to support jobs, give businesses the confidence to retain/hire, and provide people with the tools to get better jobs.

There have also been 'new territory' societal changes due to Covid-19 which are still developing, such as:

- [Shift to homeworking](#) - British Chambers of Commerce research suggests 62% of employers expect their staff to remain working remotely for the foreseeable future, saying some or all workers will be working from home for the next 12 months.
- Financial impact on [individuals and businesses](#) – short, medium and long term - including once current initiatives eg furlough/grants/protections cease
- Employment - [One in three UK firms 'expect to make redundancies'](#) (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development/ recruiter Adecco)
- [Walking and cycling](#) - £2 billion funding to create "a new era and to boost greener, active transport"
- [Impact on public transport](#) following public health and social distancing measures, including increase in private car use eg for commuting
- Vulnerable groups and disproportionate impact - [shielding](#) analysis and [research into long-term health impacts of Covid-19](#)
- Greater reliance on online solutions – including the [availability of internet access](#) and [good quality broadband](#)

Existing relevant draft legislation eg environment and waste reduction

Some examples of related items already underway but needing Parliamentary time and resources which have been focused on Covid-19 recovery include:

- [The Environment Bill](#), which has started its passage through the Houses of Parliament, introduces legislation to improve the natural environment, environmental protection, waste and resource efficiency, air quality, nature and biodiversity.
- The [Circular Economy Package](#) sets a target to recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035 and to have no more than 10% municipal waste going to landfill by 2035. The plan builds on the Government's [Resources and Waste Strategy](#) and restricts the materials which can be landfilled or incinerated. landfill.

Transition

[The UK Transition](#) after Brexit (EU Exit) comes to an end this year, with new rules from January 2021. It is another key 'known unknown' external factor to keep under consideration within the horizon of the Strategic Plan 2020-23.

Theme/priority	2020-2023 goals	Research	Policy
Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability			
Respond to the Climate Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon emissions to help achieve a net zero Carbon footprint for Council Services by 2030 • Environment and sustainability embedded within all Council decision making and the adaptation and recovery from Covid-19 • Air quality across Colchester is improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean air for Colchester survey • Air quality survey • Petrol and diesel car ban brought forward to 2035 • Air quality: Assessing progress towards WHO guideline levels of PM2.5 in the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Emergency Action Plan. • Colchester Air Quality Action plan • Environmental Sustainability strategy • Carbon Management Plan 2016-2020 • Infrastructure evidence base for Local Plan • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Minerals and waste planning policy (ECC) • CBC-commissioned energy market study for businesses • North Essex Energy Group established • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: - Strategy for Rural Essex, Essex Rural Partnership. <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Bill -introduced to Parliament January 2020 • Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal • Clean Air Strategy 2019 • Clean growth strategy • A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment • Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study 2016-2037 • Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England outline a shared vision to use nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency. • Committee on Climate Change (CCC)- (at govt's request) • Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK -CCC trees, carbon, waste • Towards an active nation – Sport England strategy
Conserve and enhance biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the environmental impact of our activities • Enhance environments to create more space for nature to grow and thrive through natural seeding • Discover, nurture and enable the work led by communities that promotes biodiversity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure evidence base for Local Plan • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Colchester Woodland Project • Use of Glyphosate herbicides to stop • Waste Vision and Strategy • Minerals and waste planning policy (ECC) <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Bill -introduced to Parliament January 2020 • Key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, including local requirements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant native species and manage our woodlands, meadows and greenspace whilst sustaining existing habitats • Work alongside communities to maintain clean, green neighbourhoods and urban spaces that we all look after and enjoy • Continue to support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste • Improve our waste and recycling services and protect employee health and wellbeing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural capital assets check - Essex as case study - UK National Ecosystem Assessment (pollinators/weed killers) • Improving our management of water in the environment - DEFRA • Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal • RSPB - conservation and sustainability strategy • Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs): designation and management – Natural England • Living Landscapes – the Wildlife Trusts • Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK -CCC report • Government sets out plans to overhaul waste system • National Waste Strategy • Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK -food waste.
Enable more opportunity for walking and cycling around Colchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to implement strategies and develop measures to reduce traffic in the town centre • Improve facilities and routes for cyclists and walkers to enable active travel behaviours, healthier lifestyles and reduce car use • Ensure major regeneration projects put physical activity, cycling and walking at the forefront of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to work survey • Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - Health Domain • Walking for Health - NHS • National drive to encourage 60 mins daily physical activity • £2.4m for year-round sports activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA Air Quality Project • Colchester Borough Cycling Action Plan • Essex Cycling Strategy • Essex Walking strategy • Infrastructure evidence base for Local Plan • Colchester travel to work patterns - where and how people travel to work • Colchester Local Plan Traffic Modelling Technical Report • Sustainable Solutions Connectivity North Essex Garden Communities Movement and Access Study • Local Transport Plan • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study 2016-2037 • Colchester Ambassadors <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality: Assessing progress towards WHO guideline levels of PM2.5 in the UK (central govt) • Reducing transport emissions - govt's Road to Zero strategy - developing, manufacturing and using zero emission road vehicles • Towards an active nation – Sport England strategy

Creating safe, healthy and active communities			
Building on community strengths and assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Approach and work alongside communities to build a borough where people are more empowered, self-sufficient, healthy, active, happy and doing what they enjoy • Encourage belonging, involvement and responsibility in all Colchester's communities and neighbourhoods • Work with our partners to make volunteering and community involvement as easy as possible • Maximise developer contributions (such as Section 106) and other funding mechanisms to help fund community infrastructure 	IMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework – see pages 148-151 re S106, CIL and funding • Youth Service (ECC) • Stanway community facilities survey – example of S106 work to deliver community benefit • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural • £25m Safer Streets plan tackles crime hotspots • Essex Police Rural Crime Strategy, National • Government announces £8m for vibrant new communities • Towards an active nation – Sport England strategy
Tackle the causes of inequality and support our most vulnerable people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work alongside Public Health to take steps that mitigate Covid-19 infection risks and control outbreaks across the population • Support residents to do the things they enjoy doing to stay healthy, happy and physically active • Enable access and involvement in community green space, countryside sites, sport, and leisure facilities • Support people to live in healthy homes that meet their needs • Supporting the most vulnerable residents through our One Colchester partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester Profile; Public Health England • IMD - (health deprivation) • Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) - University of Essex research into health inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Suffolk and North Essex health strategy 2019-24 - NHS • Give councils powers to tackle indoor air pollution, urge medical bodies • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025 • Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2015 -2037 • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural National • Towards an active nation – Sport England strategy • Health matters: physical activity – Public Health England
Provide opportunities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide positive opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interests them, keeps them safe, makes them 	IMD (Employment Domain) Employment in the UK (ONS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wing STEM Centre at the Colchester Institute's Colchester Campus (will enable hundreds more adults and young people to prepare for careers in construction, science and engineering. • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • University of Essex - named as University Enterprise Zone

	<p>happy and supports improved mental wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the creation of strong, safe, and friendly communities that care about each other • Work with Essex Police, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex Youth Service and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and tackle serious crime • Work alongside our partners to improve cleanliness and community safety in the town centre • Upgrade and extend the CCTV network to reach more places 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth service (ECC) • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural • Colchester Ambassadors • Community360 - volunteering opportunities <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards an active nation – Sport England strategy
Delivering homes for people who need them			
Increase the number, quality and types of homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 30% affordable housing across all our own housing sites • Deliver 380 affordable homes • Improve existing Council homes to keep them in good repair and improve energy efficiency • Build new Council homes for our residents • Ensure all new homes are designed to a high quality across all tenures • Continue to improve and modernise available housing for older people 	IMD (barriers to housing and services deprivation and living environment deprivation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority Monitoring Report 2019 – homes • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Evidence Base - Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033 • Evidence Base - Adopted Local Plan 2004-2020 • Colchester Infrastructure Delivery Plan • Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study 2016-2037 • North Essex Economic Strategy developed through a partnership of Braintree District, Colchester Borough, Essex County, Tendring District and Uttlesford District Councils (Cabinet Nov 2019) • Colchester Rapid Transit - Strategic Outline Business Case • Community Infrastructure Levy - review of evidence base • Sustainable Solutions Connectivity North Essex Garden Communities Movement and Access Study • Garden Community plans could support more than 21,000 jobs by 2050 - Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) • Research commissioned by CBC with North East Essex Health and Well Being Alliance examined the role community assets play in enabling wellbeing and is being used to inform the Community Cell activity, with partners such as One Colchester Strategic Partnership and the NEE HWB Alliance.

<p>Prevent households from experiencing homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to implement the 2020-23 Housing and Homelessness Strategy action plan • Intervene early to prevent homelessness and work in partnership with other organisations to sustain people's accommodation • Tackle rough sleeping in the borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IMD – Income Domain, Barriers to Housing and Services Domain) • Homelessness Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Asset Management Strategy • East Suffolk and North Essex health strategy 2019-24 • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: -rural National • Jobcentres to receive new £3m fund to support homeless people • Funding for 83 Councils to tackle homelessness • Rough Sleeper Initiative - MHCLG funding
<p>Create new communities and adopt a new Local Plan that delivers jobs, homes and the infrastructure to meet the borough's future needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Development Plan Document for Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community • Establish a Delivery Vehicle and investment package for the next phase of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community • Develop the Colchester Northern Gateway as a sustainable place to live, work and play • Ensure the Council has a good supply of land available for new homes and business • Create great places to live through the provision of new homes with infrastructure and facilities that support sustainable living and promote health and wellbeing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Infrastructure evidence base for Local Plan • Evidence Base - Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033 • Government announces £8m for vibrant new communities • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural • Authority Monitoring Report 2019 – CBC's planning policy objectives + indicators for the Local Plan's thematic areas of transport and accessibility; environment and rural communities; and energy, resources, waste water and recycling + statistics on population, homes, economy, employment and environment. • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Evidence Base - Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033 • Colchester Infrastructure Delivery Plan • Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study 2016-2037 • North Essex Economic Strategy -Braintree, Colchester, Essex, Tendring and Uttlesford councils (Cabinet Nov 2019) • Colchester Rapid Transit - Strategic Outline Business Case • Community Infrastructure Levy - review of evidence base • Sustainable Solutions Connectivity North Essex Garden Communities Movement and Access Study • Garden Community plans could support more than 21,000 jobs by 2050 - Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR)

Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits			
Enable Economic Recovery from Covid-19 ensuring all residents benefit from growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our borough becomes stronger post Covid-19 by supporting businesses to recover, adapt and build resilience. • Work with partners to facilitate a high skill, high wage, low carbon workforce • Develop opportunities to ensure the new economy is greener, sustainable and more resilient • Work with our partners to enable Colchester town centre to be a more vibrant, resilient and adaptable to future change • Transform the Northern Gateway as a hub for improved wellbeing, physical activity, jobs, housing and renewable energy • Address the inequality of access to Gigabit Broadband in communities • Tackle local skills shortages working with businesses, University of Essex, Colchester Institute and other partners 	IMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC's Recovery plan is intelligence and insight driven Scrutiny 4.6 • Covid-19 Colchester Business Survey response • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • North Essex Economic Strategy --(Cabinet Nov 2019) • Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025 • Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2015 -2037 • Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study 2016-2037 • University of Essex - named as University Enterprise Zone • Colchester Ambassadors <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards an active nation – Sport England strategy
Work with partners to deliver a shared vision for a vibrant town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a Town Deal with partners and the Government to attract significant new investment • Collaborate with the town centre Business Improvement District (BID) • Continue with regenerate Colchester town centre using Council assets, aligned with the Town Deal and Investment Plan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester BID • Colchester Ambassadors • Showcasing Colchester's creative sector • CBC's Asset Management Strategy (2016-2021) • Digital Strategy 2017-22 • 'We are Colchester' - partnership launched in response to the Towns Fund and tasked with shaping the Colchester Town Deal • 'We Are Colchester' board - unlocking our economic potential <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towns Fund Prospectus

<p>Create an environment that attracts inward investment to Colchester and helps businesses to flourish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our strategy for inclusive economic growth supports the ambitions outlined in the North Essex Growth Strategy, the Local Industrial Strategy and our Town Deal • Ensure a good supply of employment land and premises to attract new businesses and allow existing firms to expand and thrive • Encourage green technologies and innovative solutions to the Climate Emergency • Maximise the Social Value benefits derived from third party contracts • Ensure the Council's assets continue to contribute to economic growth and opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IMD – Employment Domain) • UK Business; Activity, size and location (ONS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester Economic Development Strategy 2015-2021 • Colchester - Ultra Ready for business • Colchester Ambassadors • North Essex Economic Strategy -Braintree, Colchester, Essex, Tendring and Uttlesford councils (Cabinet Nov 2019) • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Colchester Fibre roll-out • Digital Strategy 2017-2022 • Colchester Ultra Ready • Colchester BID (Our Colchester) • Emerging Local Plan • Authority Monitoring Report 2019 • Evidence Base - Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033 • Objectively Assessed Housing Need Study 2016-2037 • University of Essex - named as University Enterprise Zone • CBC-commissioned energy market study for businesses • Garden Community plans could support more than 21,000 jobs by 2050 - Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural • Asset Management Strategy (2016-2021) - CBC • Haven Gateway Partnership • Showcasing Colchester's creative sector <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Industrial Strategy • National Planning Policy Framework • Stronger Towns Fund • Social Value Act: information and resources •
<p>Celebrating our heritage and culture</p>			
<p>Agree and implement a new Cultural Strategy that supports our cultural assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to deliver a collaborative Cultural Vision and Ambitions for the borough • Agree the key milestones and investment necessary to deliver the strategy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural • Arts Council - strategy 2020-2030 • Mercury Theatre Expansion and Improvement • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council - strategy 2020-2030

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sustainable grant funding to support Mercury Theatre, Firstsite and Colchester Arts Centre and help the sector to adapt and recover from the impact of Covid-19 • Identify further opportunities to improve the cultural offer for residents and visitors 		
Strengthen Colchester's tourism sector and welcome more visitors each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Colchester's heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support jobs • Expand the events programme to encourage more visitors and position Colchester as a destination for major events • Work with partners and the Town Centre Business Improvement District to improve the public realm for residents and visitors • Improve the information available to visitors through the launch of a new improved website 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Economic impact of tourism 2018 • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: rural National • Arts Council - strategy 2020-2030 • Visit Britain • Department for Education
Protect, enhance and celebrate Colchester's unique heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring our history to life through the Heritage Live project • Enhance and promote our heritage by better revealing our assets by supporting projects and initiatives to increase public awareness and access to their heritage in daily life • Continue to deliver a major exhibition at Colchester Castle bi-annually • Encourage and support the use of our heritage sites for community events, activities and theatre 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework • Respecting our Past, Embracing our Future: Strategy for Rural Essex, Essex Rural Partnership National • Arts Council - strategy 2020-2030 • National Lottery Heritage Fund • Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

11 August 2020

Report of	Assistant Director (Communities)	Author	Jon Ruder ☎ 282840
Title	Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To notify the Committee of the outcome of the consultation carried out from 18 May to 31 July 2020 on proposed changes to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 It is recommended that the changes to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, set out in the report at Paragraph 5.3 to 5.8 be approved and recommended to full Council for adoption.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Council has committed to keeping the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy under review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and is responsive to the changing licensing environment. The Policy has been in operation since January 2019 and the proposed changes have been identified which would aid the clarity of the Policy and its operation.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To leave the Policy unaltered which would fail to address the recent issues identified.

5. Changes to the Policy

- 5.1 The Trade was consulted on the proposed changes from 18 May 2020 to 31 July 2020 and no representations have been received.
- 5.2 The proposed changes are set out below. It should be noted that the requirements in relation to a basic DBS from all vehicle proprietors is contained within the Department of Transport's Statutory Taxi & Private Vehicle Standards which was published on 22 July 2020. These Standards require the annual production of a Basic DBS by hackney carriage proprietors and therefore it is recommended that the Policy be amended in line with this requirement.

Hackney Carriage Proprietors' Suitability

- 5.3 The application process to be amended to require hackney carriage proprietors, including joint owners, to provide the following information, in addition to the information already provided in relation to the vehicle being licensed –
- A current Passport or Birth Certificate
 - Evidence that they may legally work in the UK
 - Please note - If circumstances come to light during the lifetime of the licence that they no longer have a right to work in the UK, the licence will be revoked.
 - A basic Disclosure and Barring Service Check accompanied by a list of all previous convictions and any other relevant material information. The disclosure must be less than three months old when the application is made. Thereafter a DBS must be submitted every year. If they are also a licensed driver with the Council this requirement would not apply.
 - Proof of completion of safeguarding training.

- 5.4 The following test be included at Paragraph 2.3 of the Policy and used when deciding the suitability of an individual –

Would I be comfortable allowing this person to have control of a licensed vehicle that can travel anywhere, at any time of the day or night without arising suspicion and be satisfied that he/she would not allow it to be used for criminal or other unacceptable purposes and be confident that he/she would maintain it to an acceptable standard throughout the period of the licence.

- 5.5 The minimum age for vehicle proprietors be set at 18 years or over.

Use of Meters

- 5.6 To add to Paragraph 8 of the Annex on hackney carriage vehicles and Paragraph 8 on the Annex on private hire vehicles that the meter must be turned on at the start of every journey.

Driver Conditions – Pre-licensing Standards

- 5.7 That Annex 1 of the Policy relating to Driver Conditions be amended to add an additional requirement to the pre-licensing standards that applicants holding an EU country driving

licence must obtain a UK counterpart licence from the DVLA before they can be considered for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence and the details must be disclosed to the Council. Applicants from all other countries must apply for a full UK DVLA licence before being considered.

Selling a Vehicle

- 5.8 To add to the hackney and private hire conditions the following -

If the vehicle is sold to someone else who is going to use it for hackney/private hire work the Council must be informed, in writing within 14 days, of the name and address of the new owner. If this is not done the existing owner will remain responsible for the hackney carriage or private vehicle licence. A fee will be charged to transfer the licence to the new owner.

6. Revocation of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence

- 6.1 The consultation sought views on the proposed process for the revocation of a vehicle licence is the case of joint owners. Since the Committee first considered the matter, further information has come to light which means that it is not proposed, at this stage, to take this matter forward. A further report will be brought back to the Committee in due course.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The Policy aims to contribute to the Council's vision of the Borough by ensuring that the licensed trade plays a significant role not only in the Borough's transport strategy but also in helping to promote Colchester and thereby enhancing our reputation as a destination and encouraging further investment.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The changes have been the subject of consultation and therefore no further consultation is required.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 The new revised Policy will be available for all on the Council's website.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 There may be costs incurred in defending any action brought against the Council which seeks to judicially review the policy.

11. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 The draft Policy has been developed in accordance with, and taken account of, all relevant legislation and national and local strategies.

12. Risk Management Implications

- 12.1 A flexible yet robust revised Policy will continue to provide the Council with a sound basis for decision making.

13. Health & Safety and Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no known direct health & safety or community safety issues which might arise from the adoption of the revised Policy.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 There are no known environmental or sustainability implications.

30 September 2020

Report of	Assistant Director (Communities)	Author	Jon Ruder ☎ 282840
Title	Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To notify the Committee of a representation received in relation to the consultation carried out from 18 May to 31 July 2020 on proposed changes to the Suitability requirements for hackney carriage vehicle proprietors.

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee give full consideration to the points raised in the representation and determine whether it wishes to recommend the changes set out in Paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 below.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Council has committed to keeping the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy under review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and is responsive to the changing licensing environment. The Policy has been in operation since January 2019 and the proposed changes are in line with the new requirements under the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To leave the Policy unaltered which would fail to address the recent issues identified.

5. Changes to the Policy

- 5.1 The outcome of the consultation with the Trade on proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy was considered by the Licensing Committee on 10 August 2020. It has now come to light that a representation was received in respect of the suitability requirements for hackney carriage proprietors. This representation is attached at Annex 1. The matter is therefore brought before the Committee for its consideration.

Proposed Changes - Hackney Carriage Proprietors' Suitability

- 5.2 The application process to be amended to require hackney carriage proprietors, including joint owners, to provide the following information, in addition to the information already provided in relation to the vehicle being licensed –

- A current Passport or Birth Certificate
- Evidence that they may legally work in the UK
 - Please note - If circumstances come to light during the lifetime of the licence that they no longer have a right to work in the UK, the licence will be revoked.
- A basic Disclosure and Barring Service Check accompanied by a list of all previous convictions and any other relevant material information. The disclosure must be less than three months old when the application is made. Thereafter a DBS must be submitted every year. If they are also a licensed driver with the Council this requirement would not apply.
- Proof of completion of safeguarding training.

- 5.3 The following test be included at Paragraph 2.3 of the Policy and used when deciding the suitability of an individual –

Would I be comfortable allowing this person to have control of a licensed vehicle that can travel anywhere, at any time of the day or night without arising suspicion and be satisfied that he/she would not allow it to be used for criminal or other unacceptable purposes and be confident that he/she would maintain it to an acceptable standard throughout the period of the licence.

- 5.4 The minimum age for vehicle proprietors be set at 18 years or over.
- 5.5 The requirements in relation to a basic DBS from all vehicle proprietors is contained within the Department of Transport's Statutory Taxi & Private Vehicle Standards which was published on 22 July 2020. These Standards require the annual production of a Basic DBS by hackney carriage proprietors and therefore it is recommended that the Policy be amended in line with this requirement.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 The Policy aims to contribute to the Council's vision of the Borough by ensuring that the licensed trade plays a significant role not only in the Borough's transport strategy but also in helping to promote Colchester and thereby enhancing our reputation as a destination and encouraging further investment.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The changes have been the subject of consultation and therefore no further consultation is required.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 The new revised Policy will be available for all on the Council's website.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 There may be costs incurred in defending any action brought against the Council which seeks to judicially review the policy.

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 The draft Policy has been developed in accordance with, and taken account of, all relevant legislation and national and local strategies.

11. Risk Management Implications

- 11.1 A flexible yet robust revised Policy will continue to provide the Council with a sound basis for decision making.

12. Health & Safety and Community Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no known direct health & safety or community safety issues which might arise from the adoption of the revised Policy.

13. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 13.1 There are no known environmental or sustainability implications.

Representation received

Good morning

Please find below my objections to the proposed changes to licensing:

DBS for Joint Owners

I think it is unreasonable for a non driving joint owner to be required to have a DBS. My partner has been joint owner for many, many years, purely to ensure that should I get seriously ill, or die, she has the authority to sell my vehicle as she sees fit, rather than have the plate returned to the Council. She is 70 years old next year, has never and will never drive a taxi. It is another unnecessary expense we do not need, especially at this difficult time.

I am all for improving the standard of vehicles/drivers, especially as the standards have dropped so much out on the street over the last 10 years or so, some of who can't even drive properly, or communicate properly.

Thanks

Dave Daniel
Plate 1