

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017/18

Environment and Place



Vision/Outcome:

A Sustainable environment and a great place to live, work and play

To support this in 2017/18 we have:

- Installed fencing and bollards to nine open spaces across the district protecting them from unauthorised access including illegal encampments
- X• Organised energy switching schemes throughout the year for both residents and businesses providing cheaper energy tariffs with an average saving of £125 per household
- Installed a fast electric car charger at Causeway House
- Provided two new narrow track refuse vehicles for waste collections helping us to collect from hard to access roads
- Delivered a cost saving of £35k by maintaining the suspension of the green waste collection service over the winter period
- X• Introduced a trial kerbside textile recycling collection service to approximately 8,000 households (excluding flats) in Halstead, Coggeshall and Feering
- Increased the numbers of compost bins sold in the District, helping waste minimisation
- Delivered a grounds maintenance service to 40 local schools, academies, leisure centres and parish councils.
- Achieved 38 awards from the Essex Playing Field Association (including 10 gold, 15 silver and 13 Merit awards) for the standard and quality of the Council's play areas.
- Launched the #crimenottocare campaign to tackle fly tipping across Essex
- Won Gold for Best Medium Sized Park for Halstead Public Gardens in the Anglia in Bloom awards
- Joined forces with environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy to launch the 'We're watching you' campaign in a bid to reduce dog fouling by thoughtless dog walkers
- Provided a seven day cleaning programme in Town Centres including litter picking, bin emptying and sweeping

Strategic Growth and Infrastructure



Vision/Outcome:

A well connected and growing district with high quality homes and infrastructure

To support this in 2017/18 we have:

- Submitted the Draft Local Plan to Government for examination
- Granted planning permission for over 1,800 dwellings supporting the delivery of much needed housing across the District
- X• Enabled the delivery of 130 affordable homes across the District
- Continued to lobby Network Rail to improve the rail services for the District

- ✕ Secured £4.95m of Government funding towards new slip roads linking the A120 with Millennium way
 - Consulted with businesses and residents over plans for two Garden Communities
 - Completed due diligence and indicative financial model for setting up a Housing Development Company
 - ✕ Helped over 250 households from becoming homeless
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Economic Development



Vision/Outcome:

A prosperous district that attracts business growth and provides high quality employment opportunities

To support this in 2017/18 we have:

- Delivered a package of business engagement events providing advice and support to businesses across the District
 - ✕ Established the employment and skills board to address educational attainment and employment skills needs within the District
 - Published detailed guides and held events with Businesses to raise awareness of the Apprenticeship Levy
 - ✕ Delivered a business hub on the Premdor site in Sible Hedingham
 - Developed a vision for the regeneration of the land to the rear of Braintree Town Hall to enhance the appeal of the Town Centre to visitors
 - ✕ Launched the Grape and Grain Trail at the Essex Festival of Food and Drink enabling visitors to sample wines, beers and spirits from the finest local producers
 - Hosted an enrichment day attended by over 30 apprentices from across Essex providing them with the opportunity to learn new skills ready for the world of work
 - Secured planning consent and started on site to deliver four new grow on units at Braintree Enterprise Centre
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Health and Communities



Vision/Outcome:

Residents live well in healthy and resilient communities where residents feel supported

To support this in 2017/18 we have:

- ✕ Installed state of the art disability access hoists at Halstead and Braintree swimming pools to enable easy access in and out of the water for individuals with reduced mobility
- Replaced the artificial surface at Witham Sports Ground
- Refurbished the safety surfacing at play areas at Clare Road, Twelve Acres, Riverside, Panners Bridge, Chelmer Road and Meadowside Braintree
- Held a Community Awards Event to recognise the contribution volunteers make to our District

- Delivered a range of 'age well' activities across the District encouraging inactive over 60's to become active again
- ✕• Awarded over 80 grants through the Councillors' Community grant scheme
- Delivery of the Live Well Keep Safe event in Witham which 56 people attended and received information and advice from a variety of organisations, and participated in seated exercise and a tea dance
- Set up dementia friendly swimming sessions in partnership with Fusion and Sport for Confidence
- Developed a Young Peoples on line forum and website in partnership with students from Braintree College to engage with young people and seek their views across a range of topics
- Successfully developed a Livewell website for all local authorities across Essex providing residents with everything they need to know about local health initiatives and activities in Essex
- Successfully rolled out the Livewell brand which has been adopted by Essex County Council
- Delivered in to 10 schools, a range of fun events and educational interventions on exercise and diet to enable the pupils and their families to make lifestyle changes helping them to live well
- Negotiated a new funding agreement with the Braintree Museum Trust enabling the Trust to manage the Councils museum services

Finance and Performance



Vision/Outcome:

A high performing organisation that delivers excellent value for money services

To support this in 2017/18 we have:

- Implemented a new discretionary business rate relief scheme aimed at helping businesses that have had a sharp increase in their business rates following the 2017 revaluation.
 - Successfully transitioned our ICT service to an in-house model which has improved customer satisfaction and reduced costs of the service
 - Launched the 'do it on line' campaign to promote digital services
 - Achieved the Customer Service Excellence Standard for the third year in a row recognising the high standard of customer service provided
 - Launched the 'tell me more' email service for residents to receive information that really matters to them, stay informed and have access to the growing range of services and information available on line.
 - Published the Digital Strategy setting out the vision for digital services over the next four years
 - Increased the limit on the amount that can be invested in Pooled Funds from £15m to £20m
 - Acquired industrial investment at 15 Springwood Drive, Braintree
 - Received a 'highly commended' for Innovation at a leading local government awards ceremony.
 - Provided over 100 Community Priced weddings at the Town Hall
 - Maintained high customer satisfaction levels
 - Achieved planned savings of £877k through reducing costs and increasing income
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Overall Strategy and Direction



Vision/Outcome:

Delivering better outcomes for residents and businesses and reducing costs to taxpayers

To support this in 2017/18 we have:

- Contributed towards the consultation on the preferred routes for the A120 and widening of the A12
 - Continued to work in partnership to provide modern health care facilities in Witham, Sible Hedingham and Braintree
 - Granted outline planning consent for Braintree Enterprise Centre for construction of four commercial grow on units
 - Completed the due diligence and indicative financial model for the Housing Development Company enabling this to move forward in 2018
 - Submitted 3 bids totalling £28.7m under the Housing Infrastructure Fund
 - Published our 'Plan for Growth' setting out how we will deliver growth and prosperity to the District over the next 5 years
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