

ACHIEVEMENTS 2018/19

Environment and Place



Vision/Outcome:

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

To support this in 2018/19 we have:

- Installed fencing and bollards to our larger open spaces across the district protecting them from unauthorised access including illegal encampments
- Delivered a cost saving of £35k from the garden waste service
- Led on a county wide framework for street sweeping arisings reducing our costs of collection and disposal
- Worked with other Essex Councils and the University of Essex on a number of initiatives to gain a greater understanding of residents' recycling habits and encourage residents to minimise their waste and recycle more
- Achieved a recycling rate of 50.9%
- Improved the waste collection service for our commercial customers by reviewing the collection routes and implementing changes to how the collections are made
- Delivered a commercial grounds maintenance service to 40 schools, academies, leisure sites and parish councils.
- Achieved 40 awards from the Essex Playing Fields Association for the standards and high quality of the Council's playing areas
- Removed over 800 fly tips within 24 hours of being reported
- Served over 80 fixed penalty notices and prosecuted 12 residents in relation to littering, dog fouling, and fly tipping to keep the district looking clean and tidy
- Upgraded the lighting in our car parks with new energy efficient LED lights
- Delivered an improved low tariff energy switching scheme for both residents and businesses in the district
- Launched a litter reduction campaign aimed at social media and younger audiences
- 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 2018/19 we have:

- Secured £10 million of external funding to support the planning application for the Millennium Way slip roads to help alleviate congestion at Galleys Corner in Braintree
- Granted planning permission for over 1200 dwellings supporting the delivery of much needed housing across the district
- Enabled the delivery of 154 affordable homes across the district

- Continued to work with other local authorities, businesses and residents over plans for two Garden Communities
 - Approved funds to develop up to five council-owned sites to deliver new mixed tenure homes across the district
 - Prevented over 200 households from becoming homeless
 - Been a proactive partner with Essex County Council and Highways England to drive forward strategic improvements in the district, in particular the A120 and A12
 - Completed the acquisition of a strategic employment site at Great Notley providing additional land to support business growth and create up to 2,000 jobs
 - Secured detailed planning consent for the regeneration of Braintree Town Centre comprising of a Livewell Hub, 70 bed hotel, restaurant/café, commercial unit, 35 residential units, bus interchange, car park and enhanced public realm
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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 2018/19 we have:

- Launched the Business Engagement Strategy and developed our support service to provide access to grants and funding and signposted businesses to support services offering mentoring and training, helping businesses across the district grow
 - Completed the construction of four new industrial units and 40 space car park providing much needed grow-on space to small businesses
 - Secured grant funding to support the delivery of the I-Construct in the Construction Hub at Braintree Enterprise Centre
 - Delivered the Braintree District Careers Fair in partnership with the Essex Skills Board and local businesses to promote post-16 learning and career opportunities
 - Completed the transfer of the Sible Hedingham work hub providing accommodation for start-up businesses
 - Prepared spatial plans for the improvements to Halstead Town Centre
 - Held regular street markets in Braintree and trialled a street market in Witham to increase footfall and support the local economy
 - Secured funding to support the district to reach 99% superfast broadband coverage by the end of 2020
 - Launched the District Tourism Plan to support the growth of the visitor economy
 - Regenerated the Spa Road shopping area in Witham improving the visual impact and the facilities
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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 2018/19 we have:

- Expanded the Handyperson scheme to help disabled and frail residents lead more independent lives
- Continued to deliver our Live Well programme with a range of projects to support our residents to lead healthy lifestyles
- Seen a reduction in the number of overweight children in schools signed up to the Livewell Child project and been recognised nationally for our work in this area
- Raised awareness of child exploitation by providing training to licensed premises and taxi drivers through the 'Spot-it, Stop-it' campaign
- Delivered a domestic abuse campaign highlighting the support available to both victims and perpetrators
- Established a monthly shopper bus trip supporting rural villages that no longer have access to a public transport route
- Introduced a number of activities to benefit those living with dementia and their carers such as dementia friendly cinemas, tea dances, swimming and walks
- Delivered the Braintree District Volunteer Awards for the second year in a row to recognise the contribution volunteers make to our district
- Worked with the friends of Bocking Windmill to develop the Bocking Windmill as a heritage attraction for the district
- Worked in partnership with Essex County Council and the Young Foundation to carry out an action research project which took a strengths based approach to understanding and tackling social isolation and loneliness in Halstead.

Finance and Performance



Vision/Outcome:

A high performing organisation that delivers excellent value for money services

To support this in 2018/19 we have:

- Implemented new processes in our Housing service to improve resilience and efficiency of the service following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act
 - Developed our Commercial and Investment Programme generating income and savings through a number of actions to reinvest in front line services
 - Produced, audited and published our accounts by the 31st July 2018
 - Achieved the Customer Service Excellence Standard for the fourth consecutive year demonstrating the high standard of customer service provided and were recognised as an exemplar in 13 areas
 - Reviewed and implemented changes to data protection and IT security procedures
 - Developed our online booking and payment systems for customers of our pest control service enabling them to book and pay for services online
 - Introduced in-cab technology into our street scene vehicles improving the efficiency of the service
 - Continued to develop our online services making it easier for customers to access services
 - Developed a shared payroll service with other local authorities to enable a more efficient, resilient and cost effective service
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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 2018/19 we have:

- Contributed towards the delivery of the Essex Vision, aligning our Annual Plan to encourage a joint approach to tackling issues across the district
 - Worked with the NHS, public, private and voluntary sector partners through the Health and Wellbeing board to improve health opportunities for our residents
 - Worked with our Community Safety partners to make the district a safer place to live
 - Continued to work in partnership to improve infrastructure across the district such as the A120 Millennium slip road and improvements to Springwood Industrial Estate
 - Continued to work with Tendring District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council on the shared part one of the Local Plan
 - Worked with Chelmsford City Council to co-ordinate growth and infrastructure in the region
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