

Greener & Safer Chelmsford – Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 6th February 2023

Portfolio Update, Cllr Rose Moore

Introduction

Areas of responsibility:

Technical Services

This includes

- facilities management
- building maintenance
- residual highways matters
- municipal engineering
- architectural design

Community and Safety

This includes:

- Public Health & Protection Services (PHPS)
- the development and management of play facilities and oversight of issues affecting young people
- the safety of the community and accident prevention, including emergency planning
- the aims of the Community Safety Strategy, in partnership with others

Leisure Services

- provision of sporting and leisure facilities
- Riverside Leisure Centre
- Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre
- Dovedale Sports Centre
- South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre
- Hylands House

Recycling and Waste management

This includes:

- strategies for recycling and waste collection
- overseeing the functions of waste collection and recycling, street cleansing and minor works to the highway
- the operation of Chelmsford Market

Parks

- parks strategy and development, including the development and management of play facilities
- open spaces, grounds maintenance, horticulture, allotments
- biodiversity
- all matters relating to the cemeteries and crematorium (Bereavement Services)

Presentation

1. Technical services – verbal update / questions

2. Community and Safety

Community Safety – Spencer Clarke will present a full overview of the Community Policing team's work and take questions at the meeting on 6th February, so I will keep it brief:

Highlights:

Women's Safety Charter & related outreach/training

Safer Streets funding – further investment

Modern Slavery and Exploitation - Awareness campaign and training

Public Health & Protection Services

Introduction:

Public Health & Protection Services consists of a broad range of services including Community Safety, Environmental Health, Housing Standards, CCTV and Licensing.

The main essence of the service is to protect the public, through regulatory means such as ensuring businesses comply with food safety, health & safety or licensing requirements; public services such as taxi marshals and an out-of-hours noise team, and health improvement through general advice or other health initiatives.

The key objective of the service is to continue to provide high quality public places, through education, regulation, and partnerships.

The team's work makes a significant contribution to the corporate objectives of ensuring the Chelmsford City Council area becomes greener, fairer and more-connected, and encouraging healthy, active, and enjoyable lives.

The service leads on public health. Although the whole Council contributes to tackling health inequalities and improving residents' health and quality of life, PHPS also leads corporately on health & safety, safeguarding and sustainable travel.

The service also delivers a range of functions for neighbouring local authorities.

The purpose of the service plan is to assist in providing an incremental improvement to service delivery through specific projects. These are often in addition to the significant amount of reactive core duties that the service achieves, and work that is driven by other plans, for example the Community Safety Action Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The years of 2019 through to 2021 were significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Nationally, normal business activities were severely restricted. The impact of these controls on businesses regulated by Public Health and Protection Services was significant and created a backlog of activity.

Licensing – verbal update - overview of the team's work; trends, cases of note, enforcements

Public Health – Highlights: slides

1. Refreshed Health & Wellbeing Plan
2. Air quality strategy – draft Feb 2022, Cabinet ...launched with live stats via LYC website
3. Animal Welfare Policy
4. Campaign to address dog-fouling and encourage responsible behaviour
5. Pavement Licensing Policy (Chelmsford City Centre)
6. Food safety - visit from FSA CEO Emily Miles, 24th November 2022

3. Leisure Services

Written update to be shared ahead of the meeting, including

CCC Leisure Centres: Riverside, South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre, Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre, Dovedale (operated in joint agreement with Chelmsford College)

Community Outreach & Engagement

Active Chelmsford

MelFest/Play In The Park

Questions welcome

Hylands House – verbal update:

Events

Improvement works

Stables Artist Studios, Music at the Stables

Stables Café

Hylands House – slides –

Weddings, Outdoor venue, School Proms, Fireworks Policy

4. Parks

Bereavement Services

Service update to be presented at the meeting

Parks & Green Spaces

Verbal update / slides

Investment in equipped Play & Neighbourhood schemes:

Examples:

Churchill Rise Play Area

Chislett Row

Springfield Hall Park (Rocket Park)

Boosting Biodiversity – Grasslands and Woodland Habitat initiatives

5. Recycling and Waste management

Street Care

Verbal update:

Team members – EVs on order, charging infrastructure

Rangers Service

Recycling-on-the-Go (RotG) Policy – updated March 2022

A priority of this Council is to reduce the amount of waste generated and ensure that as much as possible of any waste generated is reused, recycled, or composted – moving towards a Circular Economy.

Recycling-on-the-Go is an important element of the overall approach, complementary to the source-separated kerbside household collections, to increase the amount of waste materials that are captured at source to be recycled or composted, consequently reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, or other forms of disposal.

Recycling-on-the-Go bins have been situated in several locations around the City Council area. Initially these were positioned in areas with a high footfall, such as Chelmsford's City Centre and some of the larger shopping parades.

The standard configuration is a 'quad-bin' with separate receptacles for mixed glass, paper/card and cans/plastic bottles, together with a compartment for general non-recyclable waste.

When first installed, these unfortunately suffered from some misuse, and a high rate of contamination. A series of educational campaigns and a general change in public attitudes and behaviour has seen contamination rates drop to an acceptable standard, allowing a phased programme to increase the number of recycling-on-the-go bins to be installed.

This table details two phases for installation of RotG facilities... phase 2 in green:

<u>City Centre</u>	<u>Non-City Centre</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top of High Street• Bottom of High Street (Stoney Bridge)• Market Square (x2)• Springfield Road• Frenches Walk• Moulsham Street• Railway Station• Bus Interchange• Bell Meadow (x2)• Moulsham Street (by church)• New Street Shopping Arcade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWF – ASDA• SWF Town Square• Galleywood Shops• Trent Road Shopping Arcade• Melbourne Shopping Arcade• Westlands Estate Shopping Arcade• Boreham Shopping Arcade• Broomfield Road Shopping Arcade• Bunny Walks Cycle/Footpath• Writtle Green• Hullbridge Road Shops – SWF• Oaklands Park• Hylands Stables Visitor Centre

Slides:

Magnetic posters to ID materials welcome at our recycling stations

Love Your Chelmsford – [Home - Love Your Chelmsford](#)

verbal update - slides to illustrate a range of campaigns, 2022-23

LYC website – new features, short films, latest figures

Recycling & Waste Collections – verbal update

Household recycling – figures

Flats & good practice - responsible Landlords- LYC campaigns

Trends and comparisons with neighbouring districts

2022 Love Your Chelmsford campaigns

Essex Waste Partnership Board – CCC's contribution to the emerging Essex Waste Strategy

We have established a Green Investment Fund to enable conversion of our vehicle fleet, to reduce - and ultimately eliminate - reliance on fossil fuels. This budget sets aside £500k. If we need to provide more in future, we will do so – to ensure that all vehicles we purchase are electric or other ultra-low-emission such as hydrogen, except where genuine operational constraints make these unsuitable, or they are not available. Further details of the City Council's ambitious decarbonisation programme - to achieve net-zero carbon for the Council's own estate by 2030 - are available on request.

Chelmsford Market – verbal update

Overview

Support for traders in 2022-3

Roof repairs, Market Road

Future Vision / Cultural Strategy

Policies, Strategies & Achievements of note

Plans, Policies & Strategies

- 1. Parks and Green Spaces:** Policy for creating and managing species-rich grassland
Policy agreed November 2021, implemented from April 2022
First season review conducted and considered at CM Briefing, 4 January 2023
- 2. PHPS:** Pavement Licensing Policy (Chelmsford City Centre)
Approved by Regulatory Committee, 17 March 2022
- 3. Parks and Green Spaces:** Parks, Green Spaces and Waterways Strategy 2022
Agreed at Cabinet Member Briefing, 6 April 2022
- 4. PHPS:** Air Quality Strategy
Approved at Cabinet, 7 June 2022
Live data available at [Air Quality Dashboard Chelmsford - Love Your Chelmsford](#)
- 5. PHPS:** Chelmsford Health & Wellbeing Plan
Refresh approved at Cabinet, 18 October 2022
- 6. PHPS:** Animal Welfare Policy
Refresh agreed for publication at Cabinet Member Briefing, 19 October 2022
- 7. PHPS:** Women's Safety Charter
'Published / Posted' 8 December 2022

Awards and recognition

- 1. Purple Flag Accreditation** - [reaccreditation successful](#), February 2022
extended in 2015 to include the ARU campus. The last full accreditation was announced in February 2022 (a virtual assessment due to the pandemic in October 2021), with an interim submitted in October 2022. Our next full assessment will be October 2023 when two assessors will visit Chelmsford for the evening. The panel will be meeting on 31 January 2023 to consider the interim submission
- 2. Green Flag Awards** – [now 17 across Chelmsford](#)
- 3. National Wedding Awards** – Hylands House – [finalist in the prestigious 'Guides for Brides' Customer Service Awards.](#)
- 4. Declaration of a Local Nature Reserve** - [Frankland Fields](#), South Woodham Ferrers, Summer 2022 (Cabinet, 7 June 2022)

Leisure Update 2022-23

Attendances

Despite the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, all centres have experienced good attendances during 2022 and are broadly in-line to achieve the targets set for the year. Attendances are back above 90% of pre-covid levels.

2022/23	Riverside	CSAC	SWFLC	Dovedale	Total
Expected attendances	950,000	255,000	260,000	52,000	1,517,000
Tracking above / below target for the year	+58,222	+27,640	+29,230	+11,858	+126,950

Memberships

Uptake of memberships continues to recover and almost all sales targets have been achieved during 2022, but overall memberships are unlikely to reach pre-pandemic levels in the near future. Cancellations are slightly higher than anticipated at present driven by the cost-of-living crisis as people try to cut back their spending. Fortunately, the strong sales performance earlier in the year has helped to counteract that and the membership base has still grown despite the challenging circumstances. The July sales campaign was based on a '**Cut your costs not your health**' message.

Highlights for 2022/23

- The **Ice Show** returned for the first time in 3 years for Easter 2022, with Beauty and the Beast. Tickets went on sale at the end of February, with total ticket sales 4574. Tickets are now on sale for The Little Mermaid on Ice which runs over 8 performances between 5-9th April 2023. The cast is made up of local skaters of all ages and abilities from the Riverside Ice-Skating Club.
- A 'QUEST' quality assessment was undertaken at Riverside in June 2022 - with the focus being on Covid Recovery. This provides a national quality benchmark comparing Riverside to standards across the industry. The overall rating for 2022 was 'Very Good'
- A **Health and Wellbeing Coach** was recruited in 2022 and is 100% externally funded. Commencing work in May 2022 based at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre (CSAC), operating in partnership with West Chelmsford PCN. To date she has worked with around 250 different clients which each typically receive 3 or 4 sessions and many are referred to the Active Health programme at CSAC and Riverside with strong continuation rates. Information also provided at five local GP practices in West Chelmsford PCN to signpost people for healthy activities both mind and body.
- **British University and Colleges Sport outdoor athletics championships** were held at CSAC over the May bank holiday weekend in 2022, with 7,000 students involved during the championship. This was the highest level of competition held at CSAC to date, and

three fantastic days of athletics brought lots of business to the local area. Some of the athletes competing were looking to represent GB later in the year for the Commonwealth games (28 July), in Birmingham, and the World championships, held in Oregon, USA (15 July).

- On 7-9 June 2022 a '**Mini Games**' was held at CSAC with 2,000 primary school children participating in an Olympic games style event representing different countries. There were six sessions in total run across the three days. Each session started with a marching band leading the children on a full lap of the track, two 2012 Olympic torches were paraded around alongside the band. Medals were presented to the top three boys and girls at the end of each session.
- CSAC and South Woodham Leisure Centre both received funding for the **Activate holiday hunger programme** from Active Essex throughout each school holiday with 30 spaces available per day at CSAC and 20 at SWFLC. So far this year this has amounted to 2000 spaces at both centres. These places are fully funded and attract children that may not attend the school holiday activity programmes, whilst receiving a free lunch.
- In addition to Activate a varied programme of summer courses were available across all centres. Intended for those aged 5 years and above the programme included skills courses, City Camps and crash courses.
- Children with a disability from across East Anglia took part in over 30 activities and sports when CSAC hosted an '**experience day**' for more than 450 young people on behalf of [The President's Sporting Club](#) and [The Essex Disabled Sports Foundation](#). Sporting celebrities from across the region watched the youngsters try a range of sports including trampolining, judo, volleyball, and athletics. Ambassadors from The President's Sporting Club took part, including former football stars Sir Trevor Brooking, Peter Shilton and Tony Cottee along with former world heavyweight boxing champion Frank Bruno MBE.
- As part of the health and wellbeing programme an **Cytosponge Unit** was in operation at CSAC from 27 January 2022 to 8 July 2022. In addition, the **Breast Screening Unit** was on station from late April for approximately 6 months.
- Easter saw a 59% rise in attendances at the **Play in the Park** sessions compared to the pre pandemic levels in 2019. Changes were introduced for the summer programme to ensure the increased number of children attending were accompanied by a parent/guardian. The summer programme, from 25 July 2022 to 26 August 2022 saw over 80 individual sessions delivering 6507 attendances, catering for up to 200 children per session.
- 17 different community clubs ran activities as part of the **Spring into Action** initiative with 25 individual events taking place. This provided free promotion for clubs and they appreciate the opportunity to attract new members.

- The second stage of the three-day **Ride London** Classique started from Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford [28 May]. As part of the celebrations a family cycle festival was organised at the event to promote cycling and encourage people to get on their bikes. A supervised ride was organised from Bell Meadow to Anglia Ruskin University, led by a Penny Farthing and this encouraged families to use the local cycle network to get to the event, following the new 'Explore Chelmsford' recreational cycle route. Other activities included a Dr Bike service, display stands from local cycle clubs and a demonstration by Radical Bikes Trials and Jumps team.
- The **CHP Sheltered Accommodation Project** continues to run in three CHP units with a group of regular attendees. A separate Line Dancing session has been set up at the request of the attendees. This is a successful project which reduces isolation and encourages elderly residents to exercise.
- A standalone website www.chelmsford.gov.uk/foreveractive for the **Forever Active** programme has been created with over 45 community-based activity sessions listed. A dedicated member of staff looks after the project and is a point of contact for phone enquiries. A 'Community Connector' can be called upon to buddy up with less confident attendees to encourage them to visit sessions. Links have been formed with Writtle College Wellbeing Hub to set up a wellbeing activity and garden space for residents to engage with
- The **Summer Solstice Stride** took place on the 23 June 2022 in collaboration with the volunteer walk leaders from Heart and Sole group, with over 70 walkers enjoying the summer evening and choosing a 5km or 10km route with a similar **Yuletide Stride** event repeated at Christmas.
- Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre was one of six centres shortlisted as a Best Performer in the Association of Public Sector Excellence Performance Network Awards. The network involves submitting data on all operational aspects of the Centre such as finance, attendance, and staffing information. Facilities are then ranked in relation to key performance indicators
- **Moving Communities**, the annual customer experience survey, was undertaken during August 2022 with over 600 responses from our leisure centre customers. The headline results include overall satisfaction levels at 87.38% compared to the national average of 82.07%, a rating of 87.43% compared to 86.19% for in-centre activity and 87.86% compared to 72.73% for the level of cleanliness
- **UK Rubik's Cube Association** held an international event at South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre with over 600 participants across the weekend and whilst no world records were broken, they hope to return for future events
- Three successful funding bids were made to the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** which will run until March 2025, including the appointment of an Active Health Coordinator

[£97,500], support for the Sport for Confidence scheme [£57,889] and “Melfest” Picnic in the Park [£20,000]

- **‘With you in Mind’** based at CSAC was awarded £22,500 (£7,500 per annum) from the Mid Essex Health Inequalities Fund. Where bids were unsuccessful there has been helpful advice on potential alternative sources of funding.
- As part of the ongoing commitment to provide activities for older people a **Forever Active Day** was held at Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre on Thursday 24 November 2022. The aim was to showcase opportunities available across the Chelmsford area and provide free taster sessions. Activities included Nifty Fifty Cricket, Bat and Chat Table Tennis, Forever Fit classes, seated exercise, carpet bowls and a visit from our very own people powered smoothie bike. Many of the people who attended have gone on to attend sessions in their local area or been directed to more specialist sessions e.g. cancer rehabilitation
- **Forever Active Swim** programme [for those aged over 65 years] introduced in January 2023
- The track replacement at **Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre** is planned for Spring 2023. Improvements are scheduled to the Gym/ Studio in 2023. This will enhance Chelmsford’s ability to deliver large scale athletics events, for example two new prestigious athletic events are planned for 2023 – the England Athletics U20 and U23 Championships on 17 and 18 June and England Athletics Senior and Disability Championships on 22 and 23 July
- Other high level athletic events that will be taking place in 2023 include South of England Championship U20s and Seniors on 3 and 4 June, Essex Schools on 10 June, English Schools Track & Field Cup Final (U13&U15) on 8 July and the Essex County Championships on 13 and 14 May