

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**22 JUNE 2021**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT – 4TH QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR 2020 - 21**

REPORT OF: THE CONTROLS, RISK AND PERFORMANCE MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL / BUILD THRIVING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES / RESPOND TO CHALLENGES TO THE ENVIRONMENT / ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY / SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOMES

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This monitoring report provides a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter update on the delivery of the key projects for 20/21, first identified to the Committee in March 2020.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. That delivery against the key projects for 20/21 be noted and commented on by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1. To enable achievements against the key projects for 2020/21 to be considered

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1. There are no alternative options as this is a monitoring report.

**5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**





- 5.1. No external consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report as it is a monitoring report. Members will, however, be aware that a report setting out the key projects was brought to this Committee on 17 March 2020.

**6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## 7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. This report provides details on the status of the key projects for 20/21. It does not include any projects initiated after the document was agreed and is not a full report on all the projects that the Council is undertaking
- 7.2. This report summarises the status of each of the key projects. The following symbols have been used to summarise progress.

Status key	
	Project Halted / funding not available/ Extremely Late
	Project behind original due date/ unlikely to hit original due date.
	Project not due for completion in this year or has not reached due date
-	Project Pending
	Project Completed.

## 8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter monitoring report against key projects for 2020/21 is included in Appendix A.
- 8.2. Appendix A includes the original milestones which were reported to this Committee in March 2020 and progress made against those actions. In addition, updates may have been provided to Executive Members and where relevant through the Members Information Service. Progress against some, will also have been monitored through the Capital monitoring reports to the Finance Audit and Risk Committee and to Cabinet.
- 8.3. For Q4, 12 projects are being reported, 4 with Green Status, 7 Amber, and 1 project currently showing as pending.
- 8.4. **Implementation of Customer and Member Portals – Moved from Green to Amber –**  
The Customer Portal is now live. We have gone with a soft launch, targeting e – billing customers and callers to the CSC to sign up initially and will then follow up with a bigger launch, so this milestone is complete. Pilot testing is still ongoing for the Councillor Portal - the pilot group was set up week commencing 12 April 2021. The technical issues have now been resolved. Although there is no specific timeframe for going live to all councillors, the wider roll out is expected to be completed shortly after the elections and Annual Council Meeting, unless there is any adverse feedback from the pilot group

- 8.5 **Renovate Play area, Howard Park, Letchworth - Amber** – Delivery of the project at Howard Park has been delayed due to supply issues brought about as a consequence of Brexit. Delivery of the planned items of play equipment is estimated for the middle of May 2021 when we expect use of the existing play area to increase. We do not want to close the play area at the busiest time of year, so the works have been delayed to September 2021 when the schools will have returned after the summer holidays. This is the same situation for similar projects at the Holroyd Crescent and Wilbury play areas. The project is now expected to be completed by the end of October 2021
- 8.6 **Development of a Crematorium in North Hertfordshire – Amber** - The new Inquiry took place on 22/02/2021. A decision was received week commencing 19 April 2021 and our appeal against refusal of outline planning permission has been dismissed. Officers are now considering the Inspectors reasons for the dismissal and assessing options available for next steps.
- 8.7 **Develop Long Term Museum Storage Solution – Moved from Green to Amber** - The indicative cost plan obtained, contrasts with earlier feasibility studies for the development of additional facilities in this location and suggests an overall cost of the development in excess of the identified budget. Officers are currently investigating whether this can be offset through commercial use of the rest of the plot or through the sourcing of grant funding. Once commercial investigations are completed, officers will undertake a procurement to source alternative quotes for the overall scheme and gain a clear picture of the costs involved
- 8.7 At the Overview and Scrutiny meeting in March, the Brexit actions relating to preparation for the UK's exit from the EU was reported as complete, and the project has now been removed from future monitoring reports.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. No direct legal implications arise from this report. Legal implications for the projects listed in Appendix A are considered as part of those projects and will include (but are not limited to) governance, property, planning and contractual issues. Under the Local Government Act 2000 there is a legal requirement for Councils operating Executive arrangements to appoint an overview and scrutiny committee with remit to review decisions and other actions.
- 9.2. Overview and Scrutiny's terms of reference include at paragraph 6.2.7(s) of the Constitution "to review performance against the Council's agreed priorities and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or service areas". This report gives the Committee an opportunity to comment on progress made against the projects that have been identified for delivery against the Council's objectives.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no specific revenue implications.

- 10.2. The actions identified were resourced through the corporate business planning process cycle for 2020/21 that was undertaken in 2019/20. A number of these projects formed part of the Council's capital programme for 2020/21.
- 10.3. The Council continues to face difficult spending decisions in view of the expected reduction in government support in future years and the availability of funding continues to impact on the projects that can be undertaken.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. The Lead Officer for each project is responsible for identifying any risks to the successful delivery of the Project
- 11.2. Any major projects are identified as Corporate Risks for the Council and these are monitored by Risk Management Group and the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. These include the Local Plan.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. By reporting delivery against the key projects for 2020/21 this provides a means to monitor whether the council are meeting the stated outcomes of the district priorities, its targets or delivering accessible and appropriate services to the community to meet different people's needs. This enables the Council to fulfil a number of obligations arising from the Public Sector Equality Duty.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. Environmental Impact Assessments will be undertaken where required for individual projects.

## **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1. There are no additional human resource implications arising from this monitoring report. The resources needed to deliver projects should be considered through the Corporate Business Planning process.

## **16.APPENDICES**

16.1 Appendix A – 4th Quarter Monitoring against Key Projects for 2020/2021

## **17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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## **18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18.1 None.