

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 DECEMBER 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT – 2ND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR
2021 - 22**

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 2nd quarter update on the delivery of the key projects for 21/22, first identified to the Committee in March 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That delivery against the key projects for 21/22 be noted and commented on by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To enable achievements against the key projects for 2021/22 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 16 March 2021.





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 21/22. 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 Completed.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1. The 2nd Quarter monitoring report against key projects for 2021/22 is included in Appendix A.

8.2. Appendix A includes the original milestones which were reported to this Committee in March 2021 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 Q2, 14 projects are being reported, 10 with Green status, 3 with Amber status and 1 with Red Status.

8.4 **Renovate Play area, Howard Park, Letchworth - Amber** – Work has commenced at Howard Park & Gardens play area in Letchworth now that the paddling pool has closed for the winter. The renovation includes replacing and removing worn out equipment, improvements to the sandpit, and the construction of a new sensory pathway in the junior area. The renovation is likely to take 6 to 8 weeks. Areas that are being worked on will be fenced off and inaccessible to the public to keep everyone safe. The project is running behind original timescales due to supply issues following Brexit.

8.5 **Development of a Crematorium in North Hertfordshire – Red-** On 21 September 2021, having considered all reported matters, Cabinet approved the ceasing of the Crematorium project at Wilbury Hills Cemetery. Officers from the Commercial and Greenspace teams will now investigate alternative commercial opportunities for the site, whilst continuing the current letting arrangement with the tenant. Any commercial options proposed will be presented to Cabinet by March 2022. This project, therefore, will no longer be included in future monitoring reports to this Committee.

8.6 **Local Plan – Amber** - We have been told to expect the Inspector's report on the Local Plan in November 2021 and so are probably now looking at a meeting in Quarter 1 of 2022 for a Council decision on adoption. All information has been added to the Councils website

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 2021/22 that was undertaken in 2020/21. A number of these projects formed part of the Council's capital programme for 2021/22.

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 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring against Key Projects for 2021/2022

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.