






**Aim 1. To ensure that the Council has appropriate resources, on an ongoing basis, to fund its statutory duties and appropriate discretionary services whilst continuing to keep Council Tax low**



**Objective 1.a. To ensure that the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) plans to meet the Council's financial and service requirements for any forward five year period, whilst minimising any reliance on Government funding**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Implement the Council's future options review for the HRA Financial Plan, in light of Government requirements to reduce Council house rents by 1% p/a for 4 years and to sell 'higher value' empty Council properties.	Communities	31-Mar-2018		Achieved	Q1 – Completed. The Council Housebuilding Programme has re-commenced; Cabinet has agreed the purchase of completed affordable homes from the purchaser of the Pyrles Lane Nursery development; and the Housing Maintenance Programme has been re-configured to reduce the amount of improvements to the Council's housing stock in accordance with the decision to revert to the Decent Homes Standard from the Modern Home Standard
2. Prepare for the implementation of the sale of 'higher value' empty Council properties, to pay the Government's annual levy and meet the requirements of the Housing and Planning Act 2016	Communities	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 – Not yet required –Government decision on the future of this proposed policy is awaited
3. Deliver savings and generate income identified for 2017/18 as approved by the Cabinet	Management Board	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 (2017/18) Langston Road will open this quarter. Savings initiative on track.
4. Prepare to deliver savings and generate income for 2018/19 within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy	Management Board	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Not yet due, will be addressed in budget process for 2018/19
5. Develop additional business cases, including the use of the 'Invest to Save' Fund, to address the need for net savings and income generation in subsequent years	Management Board	30-Sep-2017		On Target	Q1 - Not yet due.

**Objective 1.b. To continue to review and develop the Council's own assets and landholdings for appropriate uses, in order to maximise revenue streams and capital receipts, and to deliver the following key projects:**

- The Epping Forest Shopping Park, Loughton
- Council Housebuilding Programme
- St John's Redevelopment Scheme, Epping
- North Weald Airfield

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Deliver Phase 1 of the Council Housebuilding Programme, to provide 23 new affordable rented homes	Communities	31-May-2017	●	On Target	Q1 - Good progress being made. A number of homes have been handed over in phases. Completion due in September 2017. An Official Opening centred on John Scott Court is planned for October 2017
2. Progress Phases 2 and 3 of the Council Housebuilding Programme, to provide 85 new affordable rented homes	Communities	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 – Good progress being made with Phase 2 (Burton Rd, Loughton). The sites under Phase 3 have commenced
3. Procure Phases 4, 5 and 6 of the Council Housebuilding Programme, to provide new affordable rented homes	Communities	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 – Discussions are being held with the Council's Development Agent, East Thames, on the options for procuring consultants and appointing their consultants.
4. Purchase 8 affordable rented properties from the private developer of the development at Barnfield, Roydon, as part of the Council's Housebuilding Programme	Communities	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 – Good progress being made. The homes are due to be handed over by the private developer in Autumn 2017.
5. Establish a pilot for modular accommodation to meet the housing needs of six single homeless residents	Communities	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 – A Brief has been formulated for the appointment of Employers Agent – and tenders have been received. Once appointed, the successful EA will specify and procure the works, and the Council's nominated supplier will provide the units.
6. Relocate the Housing Repairs Service from the Epping Depot to the Oakwood Hill Depot, Loughton	Communities	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 – The Project Team has identified 5 options for co-locating the Housing Repairs Service with Grounds Maintenance and Fleet Operations. A solution for the problem of staff parking is being formulated. A Consultant QS is currently costing the options. A report on the proposed approach will be submitted to Cabinet shortly. PwC, the Council's Accommodation Consultants,

					are liaising with the Project Team Chair over linkages with the Council's Accommodation Strategy
7. Sell the Council-owned nursery site at Pyrles Lane, Loughton, to deliver a capital receipt	Neighbourhoods	31-Dec-2017		On Target	Q1 - Report on the value and marketing strategy for Pyrles Lane Nursery now agreed by Cabinet, to include provision for affordable housing and a financial contribution to the redevelopment at Town Mead Depot to accommodate the Council's nursery service, which no longer can be accommodated at the new Oakwood Hill Depot.
8. Subject to the agreement of Cabinet, enter into a Development Agreement with the purchaser of the nursery site at Pyrles Lane, Loughton, for the Council to purchase the affordable rented homes provided on the site, as part of the Council's Housebuilding Programme	Communities	31-Dec-2017		On Target	Q1 – In July, Cabinet has agreed the purchase of completed affordable homes from the purchaser of the Pyrles Lane Nursery development. The detailed arrangements will be set out in the Marketing Brief to consultants at the appropriate time.
9. Deliver an approach to North Weald Airfield with an agreed operating partner, to maximise the use of the facilities	Neighbourhoods	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Awaiting results of the Local Plan Employment Land Review which will give direction to the scale and type of future uses that the Airfield could accommodate.
10. Open the Epping Forest Shopping Park, to deliver local jobs and economic development	Neighbourhoods	30-Sep-2017		On Target	Q1 - Council received the building after practical completion in mid-June 2017. Tenants now fitting out with opening scheduled for late September 2017. Highways Section 278 Works to be completed by end of August 2017.
11. Develop the St John's Road site, to deliver local jobs and economic development	Neighbourhoods	31-Mar-2018		Behind Schedule	Q1 - Negotiations completed on Tri-Partite Agreement with Town Council and Frontier Estates. In hands of Legal Representatives for final sign off end July 2017.
12. Produce a plan to implement agreed recommendations from the Service Accommodation Review, to optimise the use of the Council premises	Transformation Programme Board	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - On target. Following a competitive procurement exercise PricewaterhouseCoopers have been commissioned to provide support for Phase 2 of the Accommodation Review. The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet in time for consideration for the 2018/19 budget.
13. Deliver the 2017/18 works from the Facilities Management Programme	Resources	31-Mar-2018		Behind Schedule	Q1 - Behind target. Several schemes have been put on hold pending the outcome of the Accommodation Review. A revised schedule of works will be presented to Cabinet in the autumn.

**Objective 1.c. To explore appropriate opportunities to make savings and increase income through the shared delivery of services with other organisations, where such arrangements would provide improved and/or more cost effective outcomes**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Enter into a further long-term shared service agreement to manage Lowewood Museum on behalf of Broxbourne Borough Council, to generate income	Communities	30-Jun-2017	●	On Target	Q1 – The revised SLA has been produced and approved by EFDC's Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder. However, delays are being experienced with Broxbourne BC signing the agreement, which is being pursued Q1. SLA with Broxbourne BC currently being scrutinized by BBC O&S committee, as part of financial efficiency plan. Cabinet decision to be made on 11th July.
2. Subject to the successful receipt of National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status from Arts Council England, evaluate the potential for partnership working with Chelmsford Borough Council for museum and cultural services	Communities	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 - Unfortunately the No Borders partnership application to Arts Council England was not successful, due to the number of applications that were received and the 'balance process' applied to assessing bids. Our bid was recommended by ACE Eastern Region, for national evaluation, which assesses each application on geographical spread of investment; diversity in the organisation and specialisation. As our services are in an area of already high ACE investment and the organisation is not 'diversity-led we were unsuccessful this time. However, we have been advised that our bid was very strong and that we can access alternative 'project' funding to deliver some of the proposed business plan. We have a firm commitment with Chelmsford Council to work together on this, going forward
3. Evaluate the potential to expand the provision of legal services provided to other authorities, to generate income	Governance	31-Dec-2017	●	On Target	Q1 - Retained the Lexcel accreditation to assist the marketing of the legal service. Networked through attendance at various special interest groups within the public law partnership.
4. Complete a new off-street parking contract to manage the Council's car parks with an alternative provider to increase efficiency and reduce costs	Neighbourhoods	01-Apr-2017	●	Achieved	Q1 - New Off-Street Contract successfully let to NSL who started their management responsibilities from 1 April 2017. Increased level of enforcement activity, particularly at weekends has been achieved.
5. Provide payroll service jointly with Braintree and Colchester Councils and sign up at least one more partner authority or one other authority to buy in our service, to deliver savings	Resources	31-Mar-2018	●	On Target	Q1 - The joint working on the payroll service and further development of additional modules continues to go well. Initial discussions have been held with one potential partner but this seems unlikely to proceed at the moment.

6. Implement the recommendations of the Reprographics Service Review, to make savings and improvements to print services	Resources	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - The review continues to make good progress and shared service opportunities are being discussed with two other authorities.
7. Develop an approach to shared service review, to establish opportunities for sharing services with other public sector partners	Transformation Programme Board	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Discovery has been undertaken to map existing EFDC shared services, as well as research to compare the EFDC approach to other local authorities. Findings and a recommended approach will be presented to the Transformation Programme Board in Quarter 2.

## Aim 2. To ensure that the Council has a sound and approved Local Plan and commences its subsequent delivery

**Objective 2.a. To produce a sound Local Plan, following consultation with local residents and working with neighbouring councils, that meets the needs of our communities whilst minimising the impact on the District's Green Belt**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Facilitate and ensure that accommodation provided to nursery workers is fit for purpose, through implementation of the Nursery Workers Accommodation Action Plan	Communities	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 – The Council's Nursery Worker Task Force continues to meet to progress the Action Plan. The Lea Valley growers have agreed, in principle, to work with the Council to implement their trade body's recently published accommodation standards for nursery workers – which is a positive (but early) step forward in improving the housing conditions for workers.
2. Complete the new Local Plan in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and in the timescales outlined in the adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Neighbourhoods	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Results of the Regulation 18 Consultation reported to Cabinet. Key issues identified to include an analysis of Settlement Level. Local Development Scheme to be updated in October 2017.
3. Update the Council's Housing Strategy, following production of the Draft Local Plan 'Preferred Options Approach'	Communities	31-Dec-2017		On Target	Q1 - A Draft Housing Strategy has been produced, on which consultation with the Communities Select Committee has been undertaken. It was intended to submit the Housing Strategy to Cabinet in July 2017 for adoption. However, due to the good progress being made with the Local Plan, which is a dynamic process, the inter-relationship with the Local Plan process in the Housing Strategy is being reviewed. A revised Housing Strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration in Autumn 2017.

**Objective 2.b. To increase opportunities for sustainable economic development within the District, in order to increase local employment opportunities for residents**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Adoption and publication of the Local Plan Regulation 26, including site allocations for employment land and policies maps	Neighbourhoods	30-Oct-2018		On Target	Q1 - Work to prepare evidence base ongoing. Workshops held with Members on Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Open Space, Playing Pitches and Indoor Sports Study commenced. Site Assessment work has started on the 160 new/amended sites arising as a result of the Regulation 18 Consultations.
2. Provide sustainable employment opportunities for the district's young people through development of the Council's apprenticeship scheme	Resources	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Recruitment processes are underway for the new cohort of apprentices.
3. Lead the development of Harlow and Gilston Garden Town in partnership with East Herts and Harlow Councils, to delivery housing and economic development across west Essex	Neighbourhoods	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Duty to Co-operate activities ongoing. Garden City Project proceeding with the commissioning of two pieces of external consultancy in relation to "Visionary" and "Governance". Work commenced on mitigation plan for the Air Quality MOU to reduce potential impacts on Epping Forest.

**Objective 2.c. To deliver the Council's new Leisure and Cultural Strategy, in order to maximise participation and value for money in the provision of leisure and cultural services to local residents and visitors**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Subject to the receipt of funding from Arts Council England, establish a Museum Development Trust to increase income for museum services	Communities	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 – Very good progress is being made with this exciting initiative. The Memorandum and Articles of Association for the new limited company and charity have been approved by the Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder, following a briefing held for senior EFDC and BBC officers and members. The first round of interviews was held for trustees in June and five have been appointed, in addition to the respective Portfolio Holders from each Council.
2. Deliver the transition of the Council's leisure facilities to a new partner through contract management	Neighbourhoods	01-Apr-2017		On Target	Q1 - Contract with PfP successfully mobilised and management transferred to new contractor from the 1 April 2017. All staff successfully transferred under TUPE and service improvements have commenced to include major extension





					to Loughton Leisure Centre and reconfiguration of Health and Fitness facilities at Epping Sports Centre.
3. Develop a new leisure centre in Waltham Abbey, to deliver savings and improved facilities	Neighbourhoods	30-Nov-2018		On Target	Q1 - Detailed planning provision granted by District Development Management Committee and contractor mobilised on site to demolish existing community building. Main construction works for new Leisure Centre due to commence in September 2017 with practical completion targeted at November 2018.
4. Establish 3 multi-agency groups to contribute to the health, well-being and safety priorities of our residents, to improve quality of life	Communities	31-Mar-2018		Achieved	Q1 - All three Health and wellbeing focus groups have been established and initial meetings have been held. This includes Start Well (0-19's), Age Well (20's – 60's) and Stay Well (60+).






**Aim 3. To ensure that the Council adopts a modern approach to the delivery of its services and that they are efficient, effective and fit for purpose**

**Objective 3.a. To have efficient arrangements in place to enable customers to easily contact the Council, in a variety of convenient ways, and in most cases have their service needs met effectively on first contact**


Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Deliver the 2017/18 works from the Council's Transformation Programme, achieving key benefits for our customers	Transformation Programme Board	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Work is proceeding well on the Council's Transformation Programme, with programmes and projects on course to deliver outputs to time and budget.
2. Produce a plan to implement the Workforce Development Strategy, to establish a new common operating model	Resources	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - A Programme Definition Document has been written and meetings are scheduled in July to share this with Portfolio Holders and the Leadership Team.
3. Advance proposals to amalgamate the contact centre and reception points to improve reception services for customers	Office of the Chief Executive	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Plans to bring together the corporate customer team are progressing with the first two teams affected now in consultation to move onto new job descriptions.  Plans for the refurbishment of Reception are continuing to develop as part of the Accommodation Review (P002), however the timescales for Reception are dependent on the wider programme and will need to be kept in review.

4. Deliver customer self-service account facilities for residents and businesses so they can receive their bills electronically	Resources	30-Sep-2017		On Target	Q1 - The system has been set up and tested and will now be publicised to encourage take up.
5. Deliver projects of legislative importance, to ensure our services for customers are fit-for-purpose, including:	Management Board	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Election and Accounts Closure ran smoothly. internal Audit Programme approved and progressing in line with plan.





**Objective 3.b. To utilize modern technology to enable Council officers and members to work more effectively, in order to provide enhanced services to customers and make Council services and information easier to access**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Trial flexible working for Building Control and Development Control officers through the use of new technologies	Governance	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Await initial feedback from 2 authorities who have gone live with the system we wish to trail and then ICT indicate that the commencement of the the in-building control is imminent.
2. Implement the ICT Strategy to support the Transformation Programme, including mobile and flexible working	Resources	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - Good progress has been made on both the implementation of the current strategy and the development of the new strategy.
3. Implement use of mobile phone text messages to remind customers when their payment is due	Resources	30-Sep-2017		On Target	Q1 - Testing is progressing well and the target date should be achieved.
4. Produce a plan to improve the management of information, to protect public data and comply with legislation	Governance	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - The Chief Internal Auditor chairing a group looking at our information asset register which will feed into the new working group on general data protection regulations, chaired by a director of governance on 24th July.
5. Deliver initiatives from the Environmental Charter, using modern technology to provide enhanced services to customers	Communities	31-Mar-2018		Pending	Q1 – No progress has been able to be made on this initiative, pending the arrival of the new Assistant Director (Private Housing and Communities Support) in August 2017.



6. Deliver the Corporate Communications project, to increase customer recognition of our services and improve communications with our customers	Governance	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 - The communications PR team has recently concentrated on both the election and the Local Plan and the future focus will be to produce audit and analysis of our communications.
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**Objective 3.c. To ensure that the Council understands the effects of an ageing population within the District and works with other agencies to make appropriate plans and arrangements to respond to these effects**

Action	Lead Directorate	Target Date	.	Status	Progress notes
1. Implement the Action Plan for the future delivery of services to older people, following the Ageing Population Needs Assessment	Communities	31-Mar-2018		On Target	Q1 – Good progress continues to be made with implementing the Action Plan, in partnership with other agencies And monthly meetings are being held with colleagues from ECC and West Essex CCG.
2. Review the approach to the delivery of housing support for residents at the Council's sheltered housing schemes	Communities	31-Mar-2018		Behind Schedule	Q1 – As the outsourcing of the Council's Careline is close to reaching its conclusion, there is a need to bed down the new call monitoring arrangements and also to consider the longer term staffing arrangements for the Older People's Housing Services – both of which are linked to the proposed wider review of the future sheltered housing service. This is a major project that will therefore not be completed by March 2018. The revised completion date is Sept 2018
3. Review, modernise and rationalise the sheltered housing to better meet the needs of residents	Communities	31-Dec-2017		On Target	Q1 - The officer project team has formulated some initial thoughts, which will be discussed with the Communities Select Committee in the first instance in Autumn 2017
4. Deliver the Council's Careline Monitoring Service through an outsourced arrangement with a third party provider, following a competitive procurement exercise	Communities	28-Feb-2018		On Target	Q1 – Following a competitive procurement process, based on price and quality, using an existing Framework Agreement, a recommendation on a preferred contractor has been made to the Housing Portfolio Holder. The programmed transfer of service date of November 2017 continues to be on target.