

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 12th February 2024
Greener & Safer Chelmsford – Portfolio Update, Cllr Rose Moore**

Introduction – Outlining responsibilities, Director & Officer support

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

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)

Public Health & Protection Services

- 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.

May 2023 – New Term of Office and roles

May 2023 – new role:

Cllr Natacha Dudley - Cabinet Member for an Active Chelmsford

Oversight of Leisure Services (Jon Lyons), Active Chelmsford, Play In The Park (Antony Bensley), Hylands House (Lorraine Thorne), and Community Engagement (CCC & Chelmsford CVS)

Welcoming new Members -

Cllr Donna Eley – Cabinet Deputy for Community Safety (Spencer Clarke)

Cllr Terry Sherlock – Climate Ambassador (Love Your Chelmsford/Comms teams)

Induction sessions took place through May and June 2023, comprising visits to our main operational sites, and introductions to key members of staff.

Parks & Green Spaces

Introduction - refurbishments, investment, community engagement

Melbourne Park – winner of best new play area – November 2023:

[33 award wins for Chelmsford's playing fields | City Life](#)

Hylands Estate

1. [Our Volunteering programme](#) at Hylands Estate is led by Lyn McLay-Kidd and specialises in Conservation projects – coppicing, dead hedging, tree planting, ditching, culvert bridge building, path construction, live willow work, pond works. It's very popular and currently fully booked.

2. **Go Ape!** Tree-top adventures at Hylands Park - planning consent granted March 2023 – opens July 2023: [Go Ape Chelmsford opens at Hylands Estate | City Life](#)

3. **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), December 2023** update / implementation

In October 2023, Overview & Scrutiny Committee approved a PSPO related to dog walking. A4 leaflets are available on-site at the Stables Visitor Centre. They can also be handed out by staff / officers patrolling. You can read the full details by downloading the [PSPO for dog walking at Hylands Park](#)

- [map showing the marked areas within Hylands Park](#)

4. **Improvements to lighting, Stables Visitor Centre/Car Park footpaths:**

Funding was released from the Green Investment Fund for the next phase of the City Council's LED replacement lighting programme [June 2023/January 2024 briefings

5. **Use of car parks and visitor footfall count**

6. **Space To Thrive**

Creation & management of species-rich grassland – 2nd and 3rd season implementation
Community engagement

Our first **Tree Giveaway** proved to be a great success. Promoted initially via emails to existing Parks subscribers from Monday 2nd October 2023, 1000 2yr-old whips were swiftly claimed – a choice of Crab Apple, Rowan, Silver Birch or Bird Cherry... all wonderful for wildlife.

Our Parks staff set up 3 tree collection points across the district & distributed the trees over 3 days in brown paper bags with a sprinkling of compost to protect the root ball, along with aftercare advice. Cllr Sherlock helped out at Compass Gardens (SWF) and I joined the team at Melbourne (CSAC) and Bell Meadow Plaza/Central Park.

[Free tree giveaway for Chelmsford residents | City Life](#)

7. **Tree-planting & mass greening** - end of season 2022-3

8. Green Flag Awards - Whole Service Accreditation - outcome of review, published June 2023

[Chelmsford retains Green Flag status for 17 parks | City Life](#)

9. Local Nature Reserves and John Shennan Field - Update

Relevant Policies and Strategies are available to view/download via the Love Your Chelmsford site: [Policies - Love Your Chelmsford](#)

Street Care

10. Local Environmental Quality - trends and 2022/23 performance, April 2023

11. Caring for our streets and public places - street care and street cleaning plan, April 2023

Recycling & Waste Management

12. Service update

Chelmsford Market

13. Overview and update

ShopMobility & Market Road WCs

14. Economic Development - Market Culture

Back in March 2020, as Lockdown descended, it was agreed by our political leadership team that market rents should be suspended and subsequently discounted for all traders, with a gradual restoration to full rent as restrictions eased. 2020 and 2021 were undoubtedly tough, and there remained a sense of uncertainty as restrictions were lifted. We've continued to support our traders through 2022 and 2023 – whether stall and kiosk-holders in the Indoor Retail Market or trading on the High Street - through turbulent and challenging times for retail. Our traders have voiced their appreciation of all the support the Council continues to give them.

The increasing use of home-delivery services and online shopping continues to redefine retail and poses a threat to high street retail outlets. Market Traders continue to add value and character to the city centre, whether on the High Street or indoor retail market at High Chelmer Car Park – and we're actively investigating how to regenerate our city centre as a Destination, working across council directorates and the local community.

This Administration will continue to support and celebrate Market Culture, to ensure it continues to weave character and variety into the cityscape.

Public Health & Protection Services

15. Highlights:

Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement, considered at Cabinet on 14 March 2023: [81-modern-day-slavery.pdf \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

Green Dog Walkers scheme, launched September 2023 at Chelmer Park [Nicola Tansley]:

[Green Dog Walkers scheme \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

[Council launches Green Dog Walkers scheme | City Life \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

20 new EV plates for our taxi fleet:

[Chelmsford miles ahead with twenty electric taxis on the road | City Life](#)

16. Housing Standards

Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2), November 2023

17. ASB/Noise Nuisance

18. Food Standards

19. Vaping Motion (December Full Council) - Update

Summary: The council acknowledges the role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. However, vaping is not risk-free; particularly for those who have never smoked. Council recognizes the Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children. They have called for vaping products to be regulated in a similar way as tobacco products, with plain packaging and a requirement for products to be kept out of sight behind shop counters. They have also called for mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products, a ban on free samples of vaping products being given out to people of any age, or if they contain nicotine, and a ban on the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK. The council will commit to not allowing the sale of vaping products in any Chelmsford City Council run premises.

Health & Wellbeing

20. Livewell Chelmsford – Update

- PHAB funding supports trailblazing healthcare pilot at Sanctus
- Health & Wellbeing Plan – refresh, outreach work with CGC council
- Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Review – June 2023

21. Chelmsford Food Plan - approved at Cabinet, September 2023:

[72-food-plan.pdf \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

22. Air Quality

- New Air Quality Strategy for Chelmsford: [Dashboard](#) available on
- CCC consulted on proposed revisions to national Air Quality Strategy
- Revocation of Chelmsford's AQMA zones - approved by Cabinet, 30th January 2024

23. Litter Enforcement Plan/Environmental Crime/FPNs

Increased levels of fines were approved by Cabinet in September 2023:

[Environmental fines \(FPN\) \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

[Increased fines of up to £1,000 for environmental crimes | City Life \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

Bereavement Services

24. Overview and Update

25. Cemetery & Crematorium - Investment & improvements 2023-4

Love Your Chelmsford

26. Update

The Love Your Chelmsford team, based at Freighter House, encourage Greener, more sustainable lifestyles, and organise volunteering sessions for litter-picks, as well as loans of litter-picking equipment.

The Carbon Literacy Project has awarded Chelmsford City Council with an exciting accolade! We have received Bronze Award accreditation, recognising Chelmsford City Council as a Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO).

A Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO) is an organisation that has demonstrated its commitment to action on climate change and creating a low-carbon culture. The Carbon Literacy Project awards the accreditation to organisations that are demonstrating Carbon Literacy through its organisational behaviour. The CLO accreditation is a tiered system with Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels; increasing levels of commitment that incentivise bold action.

Chelmsford City Council is proud to announce we are **the first district council in Essex with the CLO Bronze Award accreditation**. Being carbon literate means we are aware of carbon costs and the impacts of everyday activities on climate change, utilising our influence to reduce emissions.

Last year, we introduced carbon literacy training to our staff, in a drive towards our mission to net zero emissions by 2030 and support the local area to influence a lower carbon footprint. We look forward to taking this further, offering the training to more staff and aim to become a Silver level accredited Carbon Literate Organisation.

Carbon Literacy training sessions for staff are run at Freighter House by Emilia Ayms.

[New environmental status achieved by Chelmsford City Council | City Life](#)

The LYC team also produce content for the dedicated website www.loveyourchelmsford.co.uk, and use LYC social media platforms to promote our aims and objectives, in line with the Council's Declaration and Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan, and promote wider messages from *Love Essex, Love Food, Hate Waste*, etc.

"Find your nearest green space" continues to prove popular - celebrating the local area, walkable/bikeable and accessible open spaces.

LYC content is based on the Council's Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

It includes videos and tutorials that fit within different areas of the website, e.g. 'How to make a bee home', 'How to plant a tree in your garden', 'Family-friendly Cycle routes in Chelmsford'. Any new content is also shared on our social media platforms (FB, Twitter, Instagram.)

Love your Chelmsford is a point of reference for 'all things green' in Chelmsford; providing inspiration, advice, options and opportunities to access a programme of activities and events, to get actively involved in helping to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency and meet the carbon reduction challenges for the area.

Whether planning a visit to explore local green spaces or looking for 'green lifestyle' changes, 'Love Your Chelmsford' encourages us to take direct responsibility and make a real difference in tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency by choosing to live and work in a more environmentally responsible way, for the benefit of current and future generations.

The programme currently has ten main workstreams – activities are given priority as opportunities arise and resources allow:

'Green living' work streams:

- A. Business engagement
- B. Re-use and Renew
- C. Reducing and recycling your waste
- D. Cleaner Chelmsford
- E. Greening Chelmsford [including mass tree planting and woodland creation]

'Green living at home' work streams:

- F. Green cleaning
- G. Eating green
- H. Green energy
- I. Greener Travel
- J. Sustainable clothing and fashion

At a Cabinet Member briefing in June 2023, we reviewed objectives and positioning of the programme.

Highlights, 2023-4

Campaigns:

Restoring Nature: [Space to Thrive \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk)

Caring for our waterways: [Over 100 abandoned shopping trolleys found during Chelmsford river clean-up | City Life](#)

Positive Action to tackle ASB, dog-fouling and Environmental Crime

[Council launches Green Dog Walkers scheme | City Life \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

[Litter prevention action plan \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

Accreditations:

Green Flag Whole Service Accreditation (Parks & Green Spaces)



Awarded Bronze – First District Council in Essex

Comms:

Grassland Policy

EV plates

Hylands PSPO

Green Flag Accreditation

Big Tree Giveaway

Freighter House Open Day

Littering & Fly-Tipping enforcement

Space To Thrive

Council-wide and ongoing action:

[Climate & Ecological Emergency – Action Plan](#)

Decarbonisation programme

Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Advocate for Chelmsford's [Women's Safety Charter](#) (October 2023)

Women's Safety - What Part Do You Play?" [Women's Safety Charter \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](#)

Spoke at the launch event, The Studio, Chelmsford Theatre

Contributed to [Women's Safety in our City – discussion](#) at Patch, with Karen Whybro and Sara Tupper (Chelmsford For You/BID)

I joined Community Safety colleagues for Chelmsford city centre's **Nights of Action** (2022-3), and the **Purple Flag Assessment** in November 2023

Supported the proposal for a **Knife Angel legacy artwork** and educational outreach in Frank

Whitmore Green, in association with [KI100 Essex](#)

Highlighted the [Make Space for Girls](#) initiative to Community Safety colleagues and recently took part in outreach work and discussion with students from Boswells School

Contributed to [Thriving Places](#) Workshop sessions, suggesting prioritising health & wellbeing, and carrying out a mental health impact assessment, when planning new development

Media: Essex Chronicle, Essex Live, Chelmsford Community Radio, BBC Essex, Look East – features, phone-ins and interviews.

Outside Bodies:

Member of the **Essex Waste Partnership Board**, attending quarterly meetings with Keith Nicholson, Director of Public Places. We highlight good practice, align Love Your Chelmsford campaigns with Love Essex/national initiatives, and are helping to shape the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex (to 2050). The draft strategy is now going through stages of public consultation. This draft was substantially re-worked following feedback from Chelmsford, ahead of going out to public consultation.

Member of **Essex Flood Partnership Board**, attending quarterly meetings with Keith Nicholson, Director of Public Places. My priorities are forging stronger relationships with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, district-wide opportunities for nature-based flood resilience in new development, e.g. rain gardens, Public Awareness campaigns, accessing/promoting grant-funding for infrastructure, and properties at risk of flooding.

Thank You – any questions?