

Economic Development Team Update

Creating opportunities for economic growth and prosperity

1. A VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY

	Objective	Expected Outcome	Achievements to Date	Current Status
1.1 Causeway Business Forum	Support the institutionalisation and growth of the Causeway Business Forum (CBF) to represent businesses located on the Causeway	Support business growth on the Causeway, Maldon District's most important employment area. Engage with local businesses to take forward issues of local concern and work with Maldon District Council (MDC) to deliver improvements. Encourage business retention and growth, delivering increased jobs and business rate income.	The CBF holds regular bi-monthly meetings, attracting active participation from some of the most important businesses located on the Causeway.	The last Causeway business Forum meeting was held on 31 January 2019. Speakers included Christine Bellamy - Internships Officer, Employability and Careers Centre, University of Essex providing information on the University of Essex employment offer to businesses including the job site, the interns, and jobs/recruitment fairs. Sarah Bell – Partnership Development Manager, Faculty of Science and Engineering Research and Innovation Development Office, Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) provided an overview of ARU. Lucy Dickinson - Lucy Dickinson, Superfast Essex Programme Communications Manager, Essex County Council, provided information regarding the government funded Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme to enable businesses to increase their connectivity to Ultrafast Broadband. Emma Foy - Director of Resources, Maldon District Council provided a summary of business rates changes

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1.2 Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce	Engage businesses in Burnham-on-Crouch and across the Dengie on economic development projects of interest to MDC, e.g. skills, apprenticeships and business growth.	Implement the agreed business engagement framework including development of Local Business Forum and Chambers	The Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce regularly holds meeting that attract a full house of mostly SME local businesses that enthusiastically participate in the debate on diverse topics including funding, skills, GDPR etc.	The first meeting of the Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce for 2019 took place between 7pm and 9pm at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club on Wednesday 30th January. The agenda included Lucy Dickinson, Superfast Essex Communications Manager, to provide information to businesses regarding the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, and an update from MDC on Business

2. FOSTER A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESSES

2.1 Delivery of a Maldon District Enterprise Centre	Provision of a Maldon District Enterprise Centre, to provide a suitable and cost effective location for local start-ups, and encourage the development of local skills in the engineering and advanced manufacturing sectors, especially electrical, electronic, mechanical, maritime, civil and nuclear engineering	An Enterprise Centre for Maldon District, supporting establishment of new businesses and supporting development of local skills. Greater economic development and growth will create local jobs and increase business rate income.	On 26 October we submitted a full Strategic Outline Business Case prepared by Nautilus Associates, based on the information contained in the final Maldon District Enterprise Centre Feasibility Study Report completed in September 2018.	At the request of the Essex Business Board the bid was further updated and re-submitted at the end of January. The SELEP Accountability Board will meet on 15/02 and the Investment Panel on 08/03 to determine funding. We will review the position following the outcome and look at options for progressing the centre.
2.2 Chairman's visits	The Chairman of MDC, Councillor Henry Bass has an ongoing programme of visits to local businesses to gather their views and provide advice on what initiatives and funding could be put in place to support the growth and sustainability of local businesses. The Economic Development team is working with the Chairman and accompanies him on many of his visits to local businesses.	Business engagement that shows the Council's commitment to help local companies grow and expand. Visits to local companies offer an opportunity for early intelligence on potential problems or expansions that may affect business rate income.	The Economic Development (ED) team assisted with the arrangements for the North Maldon Business Breakfast event held at the Five Lakes Hotel on 18/01. This follows the first North Maldon Business Breakfast event on 05/10/2018 that was so successful that it was decided to hold regular events for businesses in North Maldon.	The ED team has assisted with the arrangements for the Chairman's Business Awards event to be held at the Five Lakes Hotel on 22/02.

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2.3 Business Newsletter	Distribute a periodic Maldon District Council Business Newsletter as part of our Business Plan objective for Creating Opportunities for Economic Growth and prosperity.	Maintain good communication with local businesses and an opportunity to alert them to upcoming events and other opportunities.	The newsletter is regularly distributed to a diverse selection of local businesses and now includes a funding newsletter to alert businesses to funding opportunities.	The latest business and funding newsletters for January 2019 were distributed on 31/01.
2.4 Available Land / Premises Directory	Provide access to a suitable employment land register and vacant unit search function	Ensure that information on vacant units and available land is on hand to assist local start-ups and businesses looking for suitable expansion space. This will also enable the ED team to work pro-actively with Invest Essex to provide good early information to prospective businesses looking to move to Essex	Available Land / Premises Directory set up on 21/03/2018. Public property search link added 03/08/2018.	Directory is kept up to date and used in keeping Invest Essex up to date on the latest land availability.

3. PROMOTE THE MALDON DISTRICT AS A DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR BUSINESSES AND VISITORS

3.1 Attracting New Businesses to the District	Work with companies outside Maldon District to set up businesses in our district. Invest Essex responds to requests from DIT from companies outside the UK and ED is able to monitor these enquiries via our access to the Evolutive CRM system used by Invest Essex. We also respond to enquiries from companies in the UK, but outside our district who require information on available	Some employment land and properties in Maldon District are too large for the local market to absorb. These sites need to be marketed to organisations outside Maldon District and outside the UK, to increase the likelihood of finding suitable new occupiers. This would have a significant positive impact on business rates.	The ED team is liaising with Invest Essex in order to promote Maldon District to companies that are referred to Invest Essex by DIT. We hold bimonthly meetings with Invest Essex to follow up on opportunities identified. The new available Land / Premises directory referred to in item 2.3 above is being utilized to assist with enquiries from Invest Essex.	The ED team is working with the North Essex Energy Group to provide input on managed workspace and business support for a brochure to be published in Q1 2019.
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3.2 Sense of Place Board	The ED team is supporting the work of the Sense of Place Board, represented by influential local businesses who can promote the adoption of the Sense of Place ethos across the District.	The Sense of Place (SOP) Board promotes a strong local branding and sense of pride amongst local businesses, with the objective of increasing tourism to the district and attracting other businesses to invest and set up operations based on the success of local businesses that confirm that Maldon is a great place to live, work and enjoy.	The Sense of Place Branding is now becoming better known, especially through the hoardings that were erected outside the construction site for the new Blackwater Retail Park and visitor information signage installed by the TIC team. The SOP Board is applying for a Magnox grant to fund a full time resource to manage SOP projects.	The Sense of Place Board, through Charlie Fillinghams leadership is taking a more engaged and proactive position in terms of economic growth, and its role in supporting business. They have clarified their priorities around Tourism, Town Centres - (Maldon and Burnham), Business , Supporting the Elderly. There is very good synergy with the new MDC Corporate Plan. They are also bidding for funding for a co-ordinator who will enable them to act as the catalyst for businesses to come together and speak to MDC with a single voice.

4. RAISE ASPIRATIONS AND IMPROVE SKILLS TRAINING PROVISION

4.1 Maldon District Skills Strategy	The purpose of the Maldon District Skills Strategy is to enable local people to be supported in accessing the appropriate skills to enable them to access the potential jobs that Maldon District can offer, enabling Maldon District employers to attract and recruit suitably skilled and qualified local people. A highly skilled workforce will also be a key issue in attracting new businesses to locate within Maldon District.	The supply of a suitably qualified local workforce will enable existing companies to grow, start-ups to flourish and attract additional businesses to Maldon District. This will provide suitable employment opportunities for local residents, especially young people, encouraging people to live and work in Maldon District, reducing out commuting and promoting skills retention.	The Maldon District Skills Strategy was presented to the Planning and Licensing (P&L) Committee on 6 September and approved for stakeholder and public consultation.	A period of 6 weeks of consultation was launched on 25 October and closed on Thursday 06 December 2018. The updated Maldon District Skills Strategy will now be presented to P&L Committee on 7 March.
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4.2i Support the development of apprenticeship schemes	Establishment of a Historic Vessels Apprenticeship programme to train 12 apprentices per year	Supporting and preserving local heritage marine activity, regenerating coastal areas, promoting tourism and skills development. Heritage marine skills are also transferable to other engineering sectors.	A substantial Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application was submitted with MDC support to fund a Historic Vessels apprenticeship scheme. While this application was not successful, HLF have invited resubmission with changes. ED is supporting.	ED supported Heritage Marine to submit a fast track CCF round 5 bid to fund a Development Officer post to manage the admin supporting the apprentices and volunteers working on the scheme for 2019-20 and 2020-2021. The Expression of Interest was accepted but unfortunately the bid was ultimately not successful. A new round of CCF funding is expected to open in May 2019.
4.2ii Support the development of apprenticeship schemes	The ED team works with Plume School to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and apprenticeships in Maldon District	In order to provide sufficient suitable skills for businesses in Maldon District to grow, the number of local young people involved in STEM education and apprenticeships needs to increase. Apprenticeship events held in partnership with local schools help to achieve these outcomes	Several events have been held in partnership with Plume School and the turnout from businesses and young people has been encouraging. Further work is in progress to encourage local high tech businesses to participate more actively.	

5. IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY

5.1 Superfast Broadband	Supporting the BDUK scheme to deliver improved high speed broadband connectivity across the District	Ensure adequate provision of Broadband across Maldon District. Implementation of Phase 2a of the Superfast Essex Broadband Programme in Maldon District utilizing a contribution of £45,000 by MDC as agreed with Essex County Council in May 2016 (over three years)	A meeting was held at MDC on 08/06/2018. Superfast Essex provided a draft bilateral funding agreement to cover the delivery of Phase 2a in Maldon District. Suitable milestones are being developed to be written into the agreement and payment split accordingly	Lucy Dickinson, Superfast Essex Communications Manager, provided information to businesses regarding the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme at meetings of the Causeway Business Forum and Burnham-on-Crouch Chamber of Commerce in January 2019
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**6. IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE
 BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

	Objective	Expected Outcome	Achievements to Date	Current Status
6.1 Risks and Opportunities in respect of Business Rates	Provide suitable business support to assist local businesses to set up and grow, as well as retain existing businesses in the area. Create a register of employment land that provides information on currently available properties and flags up additional employment land to become available in future	Maximise business rate income by identifying empty sites and helping to fill them as soon as possible. Identify alternative delivery mechanisms or land uses that compensate for possible loss in business rates, e.g. mixed use developments	Specific sites that are receiving attention include the Wyndham Heron Site in Heybridge as well as empty commercial units on the high street. Wyndham Heron site has now been occupied and a workshop was held on 30 July to discuss the future of the High street and propose a working group to consider setting up a Town Centre Commission.	Regular monthly meetings are being held between the ED team and Revs & Bens to discuss current issues. The Maldon Business Hub group was established in late 2018 and is growing rapidly to represent businesses in Maldon town centre, including businesses on Maldon High Street. Work is currently underway on an expression of interns for the Future High Street Fund to look at potential for improving the viability of the High Street in Maldon.