



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY

**to
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
4 JULY 2017**

DENGIE GATEWAY PROJECT – BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH ‘HUB’ UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members views on which of the shortlisted projects within Burnham-on-Crouch should be implemented.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree that project 2, the Woodland and Sculpture trails are progressed.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Members will be aware that there have a number of proposals to install a ‘hub’ project at Riverside Park as part of the Dengie Gateway Project. Previous ideas have included a shelter made from an upturned sailing yacht and a large mast. The Shelter concept was rejected following informal feedback from Burnham Town Council. At its meeting of January 2017 (Minute No. 1040 refers), this Committee rejected the mast concept and requested that ideas be sought from the public and reported back to this committee for consideration.
- 3.2 It is perhaps worth noting that Burnham-on-Crouch and Riverside Park will receive improved visitor signage as a result of the Dengie Gateway Project and the Councils capital programme this summer.
- 3.3 The Council received a good response to its request for ideas and received 30 individual responses. A number of the suggestions related to projects that were already being taken forward, for example, repairs to the Maldon District Council (MDC) owned car parks. Some whilst potentially good projects could not be delivered within the relatively small financial amount made available.
- 3.4 Following a careful review, Officers have shortlisted 4 projects that are believed to fit with the original Dengie Gateway Project aims, which are deliverable within the time constraints and affordable. A short project description for each is shown as **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.5 Of the projects presented in **APPENDIX 1** project 1 and project 2 are thought to be the simplest to implement. Project 3 could be controversial although may be popular

in the longer term. Project 4 may be best delivered through an alternative and it is a proposal that is not on MDC land.

- 3.6 Members are requested to consider the proposals and select their preferred option. It is the view of Officers that Project 2 Woodland and Sculpture Trail would add a feature to riverside park that will, if delivered correctly, significantly attract visitor numbers and is based upon local opinion.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The exercise to seek ideas from members of the public for a Burnham based project as a replacement 'hub' has been positive and a good number of suggestions were received. Officers have selected four projects that are all deliverable within the defined budget and times scales. Members are requested to give a view on the most attractive project for officers to take forward and implement within the allocated budget

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 This proposal links strongly to the Council's goal of Creating Opportunities economic growth and prosperity, and the promotion of active and healthy communities.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – It is hoped that the Burnham-on-Crouch Hub project will act as an attractive addition to the town and draw the local community and visitors to Riverside park and the wider town.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – There are no corporate risks associated with this report.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The Dengie Gateway project is funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. The project identified will not significantly impact upon the existing revenue allocations for the area.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None specifically identified as a result of this proposal in the short term.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – No direct impacts associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to:

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