



**Melton  
Borough  
Council**

## **Climate, Access and Engagement Portfolio Update**

***Councillor Alison Freer-Jones***

*22 December 2020*

# Portfolio Holder for Climate, Engagement & Access

Governance & Democratic Services

Legal & Information Governance

Community Grants and Community Lottery

Resident Engagement and embedding services in communities

Member Development Champion

Parish Council Liaison & Rural Communities

Equalities & Accessibility

Customer Access, website and telephony experience

Electoral Services

Corporate Complaints

Climate Change

Lightbulb and Disabled Facilities Grants Housing & Communities

Licensing

Environmental Protection inc. place based Planning & Licensing

Director of the BID

# Corporate Strategy & Priorities Updates

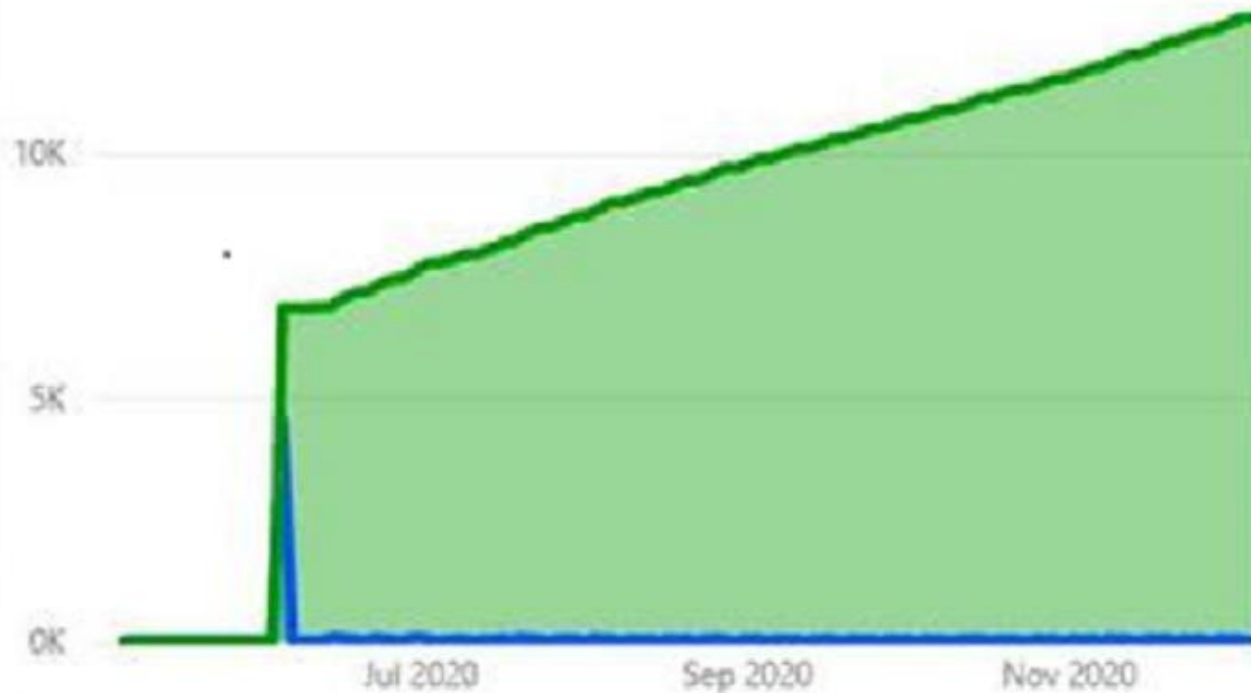
- **Priority 1 - Excellent services positively impacting our communities lives**
  - IEG4 Update
  - System Design
- **Priority 4 - Protect our climate and enhance our rural, natural environment**
  - Climate Change
  - Regulatory Update
- **Priority 6 - Connected with and led by our community**
  - AV Equipment
  - Melton Deal
- **General Portfolio Updates**
  - Brexit
  - Elections
  - Constitutional Working Group
  - LGA Review
  - Community Grants
  - Community Lottery

# Corporate Strategy

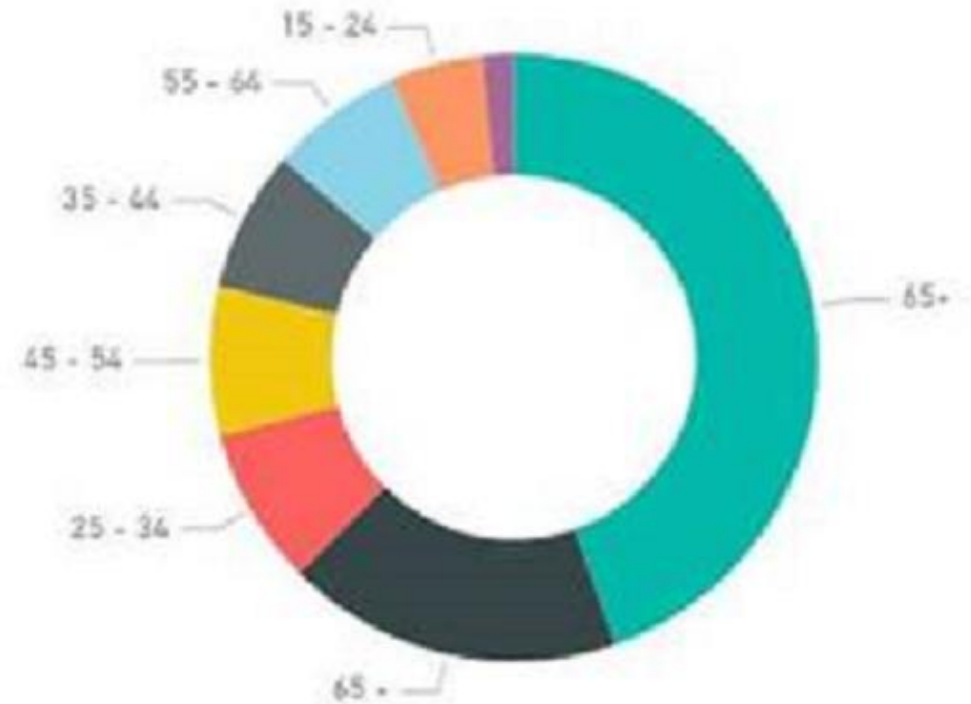
## Priority 1- Excellent services positively impacting our communities lives

**What we will do -** Improve website and customer access  
Implement a new self service platform

### Total Accounts and New Accounts



### Account by age band



# Corporate Strategy

## Priority 1- Excellent services positively impacting our communities lives



# Corporate Strategy

## Priority 4- Protect our climate and enhance our rural, natural environment

### Focus

Ensure council operations are carbon neutral by 2030 and promote sustainability within the borough

**What we will do-** Reduce emissions across all council activities

**What we will do-** Promote and encourage more walking and cycling opportunities

### Focus

Utilise new investment in enforcement to tackle environmental and place based issues that matter to our communities such as litter, blight and inappropriate behaviour.

### What we do

Use education and enforcement to tackle issues which blight our communities.

### Climate Change

#### Monthly Update

The Climate Emergency Policy Development Group has resumed its activity after interruption related to the Covid-19 pandemic – the last meeting was late October. The proposed Baseline Study and Improvement Pathways is in the process of being procured.

#### Next 3 months

The Group is looking at the role of Local Plan policy EN9 with an analysis of application to inform whether and how there is scope for it to secure greater benefits. Work with LRF recovery group continues to look for joint bids for potential electric car charging points in public carparks and de-carbonising our vehicles. There is initial discussion regarding the potential opportunity for a joint bid with other Councils for funding for carbon neutral retrofitting to our housing stock.

### Regulatory

#### Monthly Update

The Environmental Enforcement Officer & the Environmental Health Technical Officer continue to engage, explain, encourage then enforce where necessary. Both have had great success with garden clearances. The Council has also re-commenced interview under cautions for a number of fly tipping offences. In November there were 6 warning notices and letters issued, 2 formal notices. 2 fixed penalty notices have been paid and we have worked in conjunction with the legal team to successfully prosecute one individual for a breach of householder duty of care. Their legal team have two further fly tipping prosecutions listed for Monday 14 December 2020.

#### Next 3 months

An all member briefing to be scheduled in February / March 2021

# Corporate Strategy

## Priority 6- Connected with and led by our community

### Focus

Promoting democracy and community involvement in council decision making

### What we will do

Make council meetings and the leadership of the council more digitally accessible

### ACV Equipment

#### Monthly Update

The current system is 8 years old and has become difficult to support, and is no longer considered fit for purpose. The current system will not support hybrid meetings or live streaming. Procurement for the new Audio Visual Equipment has commenced.

#### Next 3 months

- Evaluation of Bids will commence Mid-January 2021
- Approval for addition to the Capital Programme will be presented to Council in February 2021
- Implementation is expected by the end of March 2021

### Focus

Promoting democracy and community involvement in council decision-making.

### What we will do

Strengthen relationships and work more closely with our Parish Councils.

### Planning Service Review

#### Monthly Update

- Planning Services Review- work progressing with introduction of new validation process, revision of job descriptions with career grading and instalment of new software for the application process
- Business engagement through BID board - monthly board meetings

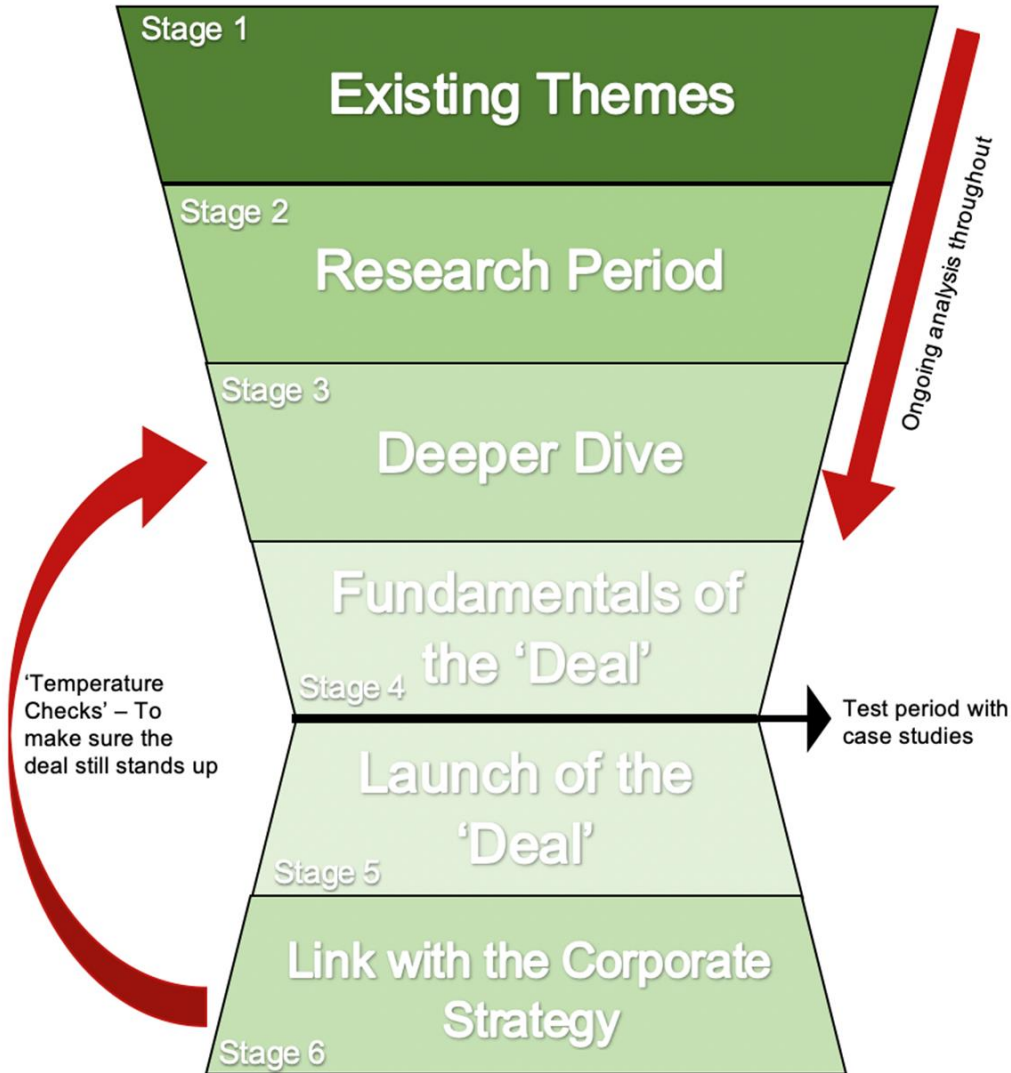
#### Next 3 months

- Interactive workshop for members engagement through planning process to be planned towards the end of January

# Corporate Strategy

## Priority 6- Connected with and led by our community

### The Melton Deal



- Programme of work has been created for us to understand our communities and engage with them as active partners.
- The Deal will empower local communities in helping each other to help themselves.
- The work spans until Summer 2021 to ensure we understand all aspects of our community.
- Work from previous studies and Scrutiny Committee can be fed in as the project progresses.
- Co-creating a deal for every resident across the whole of the Borough

#### Focus

Work with public and voluntary sector partners to create integrated community based services

Review and reinvigorate partnership structures and frameworks with tenants and wider community groups.

#### What we will do

Harness community spirit and establish a new "deal" between the council and the communities we serve.



# General Portfolio Updates

## Brexit Readiness & Data Protection

A project plan is being monitored to ensure that the Council is data compliant with any changes arising from exiting the EU. The systems where information is stored have been reviewed in case of a 'no adequacy' decision from the EC. Wider issues are engaged through LRF structures which have evolved in recognition that the impact of EU Exit and Covid-19 issues will be concurrent. Key issues for the Council arising from this are business support for exporting businesses and workforce implications for employees of EU nationals.

## PCC/County Election

Election planning has begun for the elections in May 2021 especially as new measures will need to be put in place in light of the pandemic. This is the first year that we will be using our new elections system so work is being undertaken to input all data in readiness for the elections. A new Elections Manager started on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

## Constitutional Review Working Group

Considered a range of outstanding constitutional matters which will be considered by Council in the coming months. The meeting on 10 November 2020 considered a Member Skills Charter to enable a more tailored Member Development Programme. We will also be looking at the Member Officer Protocol in the coming months.

## LGA Review

To support continuous improvement, Judith Hurcombe from the LGA has been undertaking a review of the new governance arrangements since they were adopted nearly two years ago. The review specifically focusses on member engagement in decision making and how the governance structure supports all members to deliver the new Corporate Strategy.

## Equalities

Work is underway to refresh and reconvene the Corporate Equalities Group (previously Equalities Steering Group), to consider how best to drive the action plan forward. An Equalities report will be delivered to full Council on 24.03.21.

## Community Grants

2020/21 was the first year of the new community grants allocation policy and saw a wider range of services and a number of smaller local services benefit from the Community Grants fund than has previously been possible. Bidding period for 2021/22 applications is now open with a closing date of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

## Community Lottery

A Cabinet report was considered in June 2020. A further report will be reported to Cabinet in June 2021.