

Report to: Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 11 November 2008



Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management (Councillor C. Whitbread)

Subject: Essex Local Area Agreement 2006-2008 and 2008-2011

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Committee Secretary: A. Hendry (01992 564246)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

The Scrutiny Panel is requested to note:

- (a) the final position against the first Local Area Agreement for Essex; and**
- (b) the current position with regard to Performance Reward Grant allocation for the new Essex Local Area Agreement.**

1. (Deputy Chief Executive) The Scrutiny Panel has previously received reports in relation to the Council's contribution to the development and delivery of the second Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Essex.
2. LAAs are contracts between the government and local authorities and their partners such as Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), intended to secure improvement across priority areas over a three year period, through enhanced partnership working and cooperation. The scheme was first introduced in June 2004, and the second LAA for Essex commenced from April 2008. The Government expects all local authorities to participate in the LAA process, and the 'Story of Place' for the Epping Forest District (and the other second-tier Essex authorities) aimed to ensure that the new LAA properly reflected the diversity of the district and took local priorities into account in improving the quality of life in Essex.

Essex Local Area Agreement 2006-2008

3. Essex County Council is the responsible authority for the LAA, and reported to the Essex Partnership Management Board in July 2008 outlining overall progress against the first LAA for the county, which was in place from April 2006 until March 2008. The Essex Partnership Management Board coordinates the implementation and delivery of the LAA across the county, and the report provides unaudited results for the first LAA, an analysis in terms of overall achievement and examples of where the LAA has made a real difference to quality of life.
4. Essex County Council is required to report on performance against the LAA to the Government Office for the East of England, and a copy of the report considered by the Essex Partnership Management Board is attached as an appendix to this report for the information of the Scrutiny Panel. In considering this report, members should be aware that it covers all of the priorities and indicators contained within the LAA, including

many that are not the responsibility of the Council. It may not therefore necessarily be possible for officers to respond to queries raised in respect of specific LAA priorities and indicators, which might need to be referred to the County Council for response.

Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

5. The new LAA was formally agreed and adopted by Essex County Council at its full council meeting on 6 May 2008. A copy of the LAA, entitled 'Liberating Potential', has been placed in the Members' Room. Performance against a range of indicators within the LAA that the Council 'has regard to', is reflected in the quarterly performance monitoring report submitted to the Scrutiny Panel.
6. As part of the LAA process, the Epping Forest LSP has received an allocation of £453,855 Performance Reward Grant (PRG) monies to be spent on suitable schemes during 2009/10 and 2010/11. How the overall amount is to be 'spread' amongst different schemes is at the discretion of the LSP, as long as the partnership is able to demonstrate that the schemes put forward meet appropriate LAA targets. The LSP put forward the following schemes to the Essex Partnership Management Board on 17 October in the amounts shown:

Scheme	£
Home Safety Scheme	20,000
Supported Volunteering Initiative	49,844
Supported Programme for People with Learning Difficulties	39,950
Tender for Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group	100,000
Parenting Programme Officer	50,000
Youth Worker - Youth Justice System	140,000
Epping Forest Carers' Project	29,8634
CCTV Project	35,000
Community Transport - Driver Training for School Staff	40,120

7. It should be noted that the total of the PRG bids exceeds the indicative allocation. If all schemes proceed as they now stand and no other sources of funding are found in respect of projects, the LSP will need to make further decisions as to the amounts to be allocated to each project.
8. The Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the final position against the first LAA for Essex, and the current position with regard to PRG allocation for the new LAA.

Resource Implications:

Performance Reward Grant allocation to the Epping Forest LSP of £453,855, as set out in the report.

Legal and Governance Implications:

There are no legal implications or Human Rights Act issues arising from the recommendations in this report.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report for the Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration for climate change, the corporate Safer, Cleaner and Greener initiative, or any Crime and Disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

Progress against the first LAA for Essex is set out in Essex County Council's report to the Essex Partnership Management Board on 24 July 2008.

Background Papers:

Report of Essex County Council to the Essex Partnership Management Board (24 July 2008).

Impact Assessments:

Service Directors will identify any risk management issues arising from any proposals for corrective action in respect of LAA areas of current under-performance, within the quarterly performance monitoring report submitted to the Scrutiny Panel.. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.