













# Epping Forest Organisational Assessment & Area Assessment

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#### Overall Organisational Assessment – 2

Managing performance – 2 & Use of Resources – 2

Organisation meets minimum requirements performs adequately

- Some good quality services
  - Housing improvement and meeting DHS
  - Increasing recycling
  - Crime reducing
- Some strong local partnership work

#### However

- Track record of improvement is weak
- Benefits performance is slow
- Tensions between some senior officers and some members which affects relationships













#### Green and unique

- Recycling increased slightly from 42% to 43% in 2008/09
  - Improved to 46% by September 2009
  - Improvements planned new food and garden waste collection
- Ongoing consultation for gypsy and traveller site provision
  - Significant capacity required
  - No decisions yet made
- Progress on Core strategy and LDF has been slow this has been due to legal challenges to East of England plan













#### Homes and neighbourhoods

- Innovative approach to housing regeneration
- Increased supply of decent and affordable homes
  - Only 97 out of 6500 not meeting standard
  - Reduced number of homeless families
  - Most tenants satisfied with council as landlord
- However, slow progress on bringing private owned empty properties back into use
- Neighbourhoods improving good satisfaction keeping the area clean, helped by Environmental Response Unit
- Good partnership work –Stay safe and sanctuary schemes
- Some progress on access to services but little progress on customer transformation programme













#### A safe community

- Crime reduced overall rates down 8% for 2008/09
  - Criminal damage down 20% and violent crime down 5%
- Safer Communities Partnership working well to ensure all partners recognise key issues and contribute
- Cross border arrangements with other councils
- Council part funds 6 PCSOs













#### Fit for life

- Initiatives for improving health include:
  - Active Health Programme
  - DVD to help elderly people exercise
  - Allotments for older people created at Parsonage Court, Loughton
  - Joint Health Promotion Officer with other councils
- But too early to assess outcomes yet













#### **Economic prosperity**

- Overriding focus of keeping Council Tax low
  - Some tensions of quality of service compared to costs
- Benefits weak
  - Slow to pay benefits
  - Access mixed e.g. opening times do not meet expectations with 40% dissatisfied with opening hours
  - Investment in service but improvements not sustained
- Some good work to support people through the recession
- Developed residential facility in Epping for particular groups such as excluded children / vulnerable adults to develop skills through the arts













- Improved community leadership with Councillors proactive
- Proactive work with PCT and police
  - Focus on deprived areas
    - Housing, health and youth work
- Good work around anti social behaviour
- LSP members need to ensure they know the role they play in the issues facing Epping













#### Future challenges

- Big challenges and opportunities for Epping
- Improve trust and relationships
- Be clear around priorities and allocate funding accordingly
- Improve speed of service improvement
  - Only met 44% of targets in 2008/09 (and 58% excluding issues relating to East of England Plan)
  - Improve benefits services
- Address outcome of gypsy and traveller consultation
- Consider services for deprived areas
- What is your role in safeguarding children?













#### **Area assessment**

# Forward looking, focused on outcomes in local priorities

- **§** Answers three questions:
  - 1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
  - 2. How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
  - 3. What are the prospects for improvement?













# oneplace















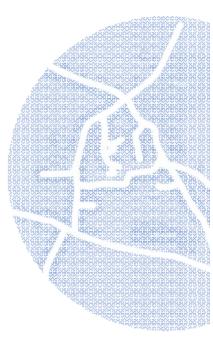
# **Essex – Local Strategic Partnership**Four themes

Our People

**Our Communities** 

Our Economy

Our World















# How well do priorities express community needs

- Partners understand the needs of local communities across Essex and listen and respond to local people.
  - Higher alcohol related crime in Harlow being tackled
  - Range of services to support 4,000 gypsy and travellers. But lack of coordination for the long term solution of high number of illegal traveller sites in Essex
- Good understanding of changing needs e.g. increasing number of older people













# **Our People**

- Partners working well to address health inequalities
  - Partners responding to great health inequalities in Tendring through additional funding to GP practices
- Good understanding of health needs
  - County / PCT / district / ward / neighbourhood level
- Partners supporting people to give up smoking
  - PCT areas are amongst best in region to support people to quit smoking
  - Rates of smoking for children under 15 have dropped
- Good support for older people independence













# **Our People**

- Services for safeguarding children are weak
- Partners recognise Children's Trust not working effectively and are reviewing its structure
- Some partners are not clear or understand their role in safeguarding
- Insufficient capacity is affecting safeguarding of children.
  - Proactive solutions are being sought but is it enough?













# **Our People**

- Despite key weaknesses, lots of good work going on
- Partners responding positively to increase in 16
   18 year olds not in education, employment or training.
- Essex Partnership Forum committed £4 million into developing skills for young people including through delivering some vocational centres.













# **Our Community**

- § Low overall crime rates
- § People agree that partners are dealing with anti social behaviour – Essex now ranked 12th (improved from 32th)
- § Partners successful at reducing people killed or seriously injured on roads (falling by over 23% in one year)
- Developed residential facility in Epping for particular groups such as excluded children / vulnerable adults to develop skills through the arts
- Domestic violence and repeat incidences are above average and an area of concern













# 'Our Economy'

Essex partners delivering wide range of initiatives to improve the economy and alleviate impact of recession

- County wide initiatives include,
  - 'Banking on Essex'
  - Reopening of post offices
  - Apprenticeship scheme (LSP target for additional 1000)
- Local initiatives include:
  - In Tendring early summits and range of support work
  - SoS bus in Colchester providing debt clinics
  - Work in Harlow including benefits take up campaigns













#### 'Our World'

- Effective partnership between councils increased amount of waste recycled & diverted from landfill
  - Financial support to districts to increase recycling & partnership work to develop food waste recycling
  - Partners exceeded county target recycling over 40% in 2008/09
- Partner introducing a range of initiatives and changing practices to reduce their carbon impact (LAA target)
  - Shared use of facilities between partners
  - Essex delivering against plans to reduce carbon emissions by 10%
  - Partners such as PCT's also working to reduce carbon impact
  - Countywide programme planting over 417,000 trees













#### **Next steps**

Thank you for your help and co-operation

- § Final publication was 9<sup>th</sup> December
- § Website called *One Place*

