



Epping Forest Organisational Assessment & Area Assessment

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Organisational Assessment

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



Organisational Assessment

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



Organisational Assessment

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



Organisational Assessment

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



Organisational Assessment

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*



Organisational Assessment

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



Organisational Assessment

- 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



Organisational Assessment

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 9th December

§ Website called *One Place*

The logo for "oneplace", with "one" in red and "place" in orange, set against a background of a dotted grid.