# **COUNCIL PLAN 2006 - 2010 - ACTION PLAN**

# PROGRESS REPORT – 31 MARCH 2010

REF	OBJECTIVE	ACTION (S)	LEAD MEMBER/LEAD OFFICER	REQUIRED OUTCOME(S)	PERFORMANCE TARGET/MEASURE
			GREEN AND UNIQUE		
GU1	To ensure that new homes provided in the district as a result of regional growth are sustainable, by good planning and the provision of adequate infrastructure.	nable, England Plan, in relation to the appropriate level of future residential development in the district;  Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development of homes planned for the district, and the number of affordable hom	character of the Epping Forest District by a reduction in the number	(a) A reduction in the number of homes proposed for the district in the final version of the East of England Regional Plan from 11,000;	
				the east of England region.	(b) A reduction in the number of affordable homes allocated to key worker homes planned for the region in the final version of the East of England Regional Plan from 760 to 500 per annum.
	Progress Report (31.3.07)  The Council has continued to make representations on the East of England Plan and the number of homes proposed from 7,000. The East of England Plan has completed the Proposed Changes stage and the final plan should be issued during the When members considered the original draft East of England Plan, they agreed to include in the Council's response concluded the Examination in Public (EiP) of the East of England Plan on behalf of the Council for the session on affordation of the areas covered. Having heard the concerns and information provided at the Examination in Public, the EiP Panel report to the Secretary of State, nor has the Secretary of State made any reference in her proposed changes to the draft.				d during summer 2007.  nse concerns about the perceived high round. The Head of Housing Services affordable housing, and this was one Panel did not include a target in its
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  There has been delay in the Secretary instigation, and a further period of public  Progress Report (31.3.09)  The East of England Plan was published seeking mortgages) began to become pare awaited. This and other pressures h	c consultation followed in late 200 d in May 2008, at a time when he roblematic. The Plan has been s	ousing markets and the availability of final subject to both a review to 2031 and lega	ance (both for developers and those

		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		The recession has served to delay larger scale private housing schemes. Legal challenges to the East of England Plan have not assisted progress on some aspects of the growth of Harlow and the prospect of changes to regional planning arrangements following the general election is also having an impact. The Council has had to work on Gypsy and Traveller issues at the expense of quicker progress on its Local Development Framework.				
		(b) To approach neighbouring local authorities with a view to jointly planning the delivery of additional homes in the region, following the final East of England Plan has been published.	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The establishment of a joint delivery vehicle for the joint planning of new homes in the Epping Forest District and neighbouring areas.	The establishment of an appropriate Joint Delivery Vehicle by April 2008.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		The proposed changes to the East of End Documents for the growth of Harlow. A d bodies already meet at Member/Chief Ex	elivery vehicle has been establi			
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		Officers from three neighbouring local au timetables.	thorities have worked together,	so as to seek the alignment of their resp	ective Local Development Framework	
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		Officers from the three neighbouring loca background to the East of England Plan				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		Officers and Members of the three neight considered growth around Harlow as req	bouring local authorities have w uired by Objective HA1, and ha	orked together, albeit at more of a techn ve recently issued their report.	ical level. Consultants have	
GU2	To increase levels of recycling and to reduce waste growth.	To fully implement the wheeled bin and alternate weekly waste collection arrangements across the district;	Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder/ Director of Environment and Street Scene	The attainment of statutory and local recycling and waste reduction targets.	The achievement of a recycling target of 40% by 2008/09.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)		l	L	
All stages of the wheeled bins programme have been implemented across the district. Recycling performance averaged across the dapproximately 37% and, if performance is maintained, the 40% target set for 2008/09 should be achievable. The total household was remained almost static which, whilst not meeting the target, is good compared to a national year on year increase of 3%.				e total household waste stream has		

		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		Recycling is currently around 42%, in excess of the 2008/09 target. The new contract is becoming established but the Partnersh hold its first meeting and set up the Innovation Forum to progress service developments. To see further increases in recycling we education and information to the community and the extension of recycling in flats, and work on this is well underway. Early wo the removal of food waste from the waste stream with the intention of this being implemented in the new municipal year, subject etc.				
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The final quarter recycling performance for 2008/09 is 43.44%, a slight improvement upon 2007/08 (41.67%) and remaining ahead of the Local Agreement (LAA) target of 40%. The improvement, whilst slight, is creditable, given that no major changes to collection services were made of 2008/09 period. Recycling facilities using clear sacks have been made available to all residents, including those in flats, thereby achieving 100 against that indicator. Work continues on the introduction of formalised container based arrangements in flats and communal buildings. The thousehold waste collected reduced by 1.6% and the amount to landfill reduced by 4.6%. The Cabinet agreed in January 2009 to introduce as wheeled bin and a new co-mingled collection of food and garden waste, and these arrangements are scheduled to commence in September 2				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED The revised waste and recycling service was successfully implemented in September 2010, with the introduction of a w co-mingled collection of food and garden waste in a 180 litre wheeled bin alongside weekly collections of all other dry recyclables and residual was the new system has dramatically increased recycling rates and reduced the amount of waste collected overall. Monthly recycling rates have be the region of 55%, leading to significant reductions in the amount of waste going to landfill. This has led to increases in recycling credit received Essex County Council. Good progress is also being made in providing comprehensive recycling facilities in flats and similar communal building greater emphasis will now have to be given to maintaining the provision of educative and informational literature/advertising etc to ensure that the improvements in performance are maintained going forwards. The Cabinet has agreed to introduce waste collection and recycling from schools halls and churches, which may further enhance recycling performance.				
GU3	To increase the profile of the Council's Museum Service and improve access to the collections of the Epping Forest Museum and understanding of the social history of the district.	(a) To undertake improvements to the entrance area and re-display the lower galleries at the Epping Forest Museum;	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	The provision of improved access to the Epping Forest Museum for people with disabilities, the generation of increased numbers of visitors to the museum, and greater public awareness of the Museum Service and the history of the district.	(a) Improvements to museum entrance area to be completed by 30 September 2006;	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
Capital Funding was secured in 2006/07 to undertake refurbishment, access a entrance area and the refurbishment of the Museum Shop were completed. V completion in June 2007. Access improvements include new low-level display boards and up-graded lighting to assist people with impaired vision. It is also record of social history images and objects. Press and marketing initiatives in attendance in 2007/08. Attendances in 2006/07 were adversely affected by s				ted. Work is currently underway on the loadisplay cases for wheelchair users and the also planned to install a touch-screen dives in relation to the refurbishments show	ower archaeology gallery due for ne re-titling of display/interpretation isplay containing a photographic uld lead to increased museum	

The former BVPI guidance was amended to no longer allow the Museum to include usage from exhibitions at other venues or at external events, which the Museum service attended. This has meant that large numbers of service users cannot be included within the figures captured for the quarterly attendance returns.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

The redisplay of the lower galleries and improvements to the Epping Forest Museum entrance are now complete. The specialist display cases allow the permanent exhibiting of the remains of the Waltham Abbey Abbott, to include a striking reconstruction of his facial features in the form of a bronze bust.

#### Progress Report (31.3.10)

ACTION COMPLETED The Museum has undertaken improvements to the temporary exhibition galleries from within existing budgets and, following emergency building works, is in the process of improving the displays in the social history gallery to showcase more material. The Museum is working with a wide range of partners to increase the tourism profile of the district and seeking ways to maximize the potential benefit from the development of the nearby Olympic 2012 white water canoe centre. New Museum signage and marketing material has been produced. Plans are proceeding to relocate the Museum stores to Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey, which will facilitate greater public access to the collections. External funding is being explored to support this.

(8	a) To undertake a community
0	utreach programme at schools,
lil	oraries and public buildings to
ir	crease the profile of the Council's
Ν	luseum Service.

## Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive

The provision of improved access to the Epping Forest Museum for people with disabilities, the generation of increased numbers of visitors to the museum, and greater public awareness of the Museum Service and the history of the district.

(b) Improved performance of 5% per annum to be achieved on BVPI's in relation to numbers of visitors to the Epping Forest Museum.

## Progress Report (31.3.07)

Pre-planning work has started on Community Outreach Programme to include sourcing of new peripatetic display cases to be located in schools, public buildings and libraries. This will increase access to the museum collection. The full Community Outreach Programme will be rolled-out in Autumn 2007.

## Progress Report (31.3.08)

Consultation with users indicated that a web-based local history resource would be more beneficial than case based displays and user figures could be utilised for performance indicator returns, and this approach was agreed. The Museum education service is launching a local history website for schools in September 2008, and the temporary exhibition programme and provision of touring exhibitions to other venues in the district, have been well received and generated publicity for the service.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

The Museum Education Service successfully launched the Local History Website during 2008/09. Education and outreach projects, school visits and special events for young people at the Museum, continue to remain very popular.

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		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED Resources are be service is increasing year by year, and a			e is increasing. Overall usage of the	
GU4	To develop the Local Development Framework for the district.	To commence the development of the Local Development Framework once amendments to the current Local Plan for the district has been completed and the final version of the East of England Regional Plan has been published.	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The adoption of a development framework for the district against which future planning proposals can be assessed.	The adoption of the Local Development Framework by 30 September 2010 (targets for the completion of numerous intermediate stages of the development of the framework have previously been approved by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister).	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		The final version of the East of England F Development Scheme to reflect the public				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		No further update required to the 31 Marc	ch 2007 progress report.			
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The development of the Local Development Framework has been delayed for several reasons, including the delayed adoption of the East of England Plan and the legal challenges thereto, and the direction placed on the Council in relation to the production of a Development Plan Document concerning gypsies and travellers, which has necessarily had to take priority.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		A number of significant pieces of work ha Development Framework (LDF), and som				

	HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS						
HN1	To increase the amount of affordable housing in the district to meet identified need, and to consider and investigate different options for increased delivery.	(a) To revise the Local Plan for the district to require that 40% of all homes built on developments over fifteen properties are affordable to people on low incomes;	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	An increase in the amount of affordable housing provided through Section 106 Agreements by at least 33%.	The approval of at least twenty more affordable homes per annum through planning permissions, than if the alterations to the Local Plan had not been made.		

Action achieved. The Local Plan for the district now requires that 40% of all homes built on developments of over fifteen properties are affordable to people on low incomes.

## Progress Report (31.3.08)

No further update required to the 31 March 2007 progress report. In 2007/08, the two Section 106 Agreements entered into required that 111 of the 156 (71%) properties granted permission should be provided as affordable housing.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

No further update required to the 31 March 2008 progress report. The current downturn in the general economy and housing market has meant that relatively few new large housing schemes are being promoted, and that developers are wary of entering into commitments where terms cannot be met.

## Progress Report (31.3.10)

All developments granted planning permission for residential development during the year required at least 40% affordable housing. One development granted planning permission in the Green Belt required at least 80% of the homes to be provided as affordable housing (Jennings Nursery, Manor Road, Chigwell), and another large development (White Lodge/The Limes, Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey), commenced on site, which will also provide 80% affordable housing.

(b) To work with housing	Housing Portfolio Holder/	The development of a good	The completion of at least one
associations to provide more local	Director of Housing	relationship between the Council, its	hundred new affordable homes per
affordable housing;	_	housing association partners, and	annum.
		the Epping Forest Strategic Housing	
		Partnership, resulting in the	
		provision of additional affordable	
		housing.	

#### Progress Report (31.3.07)

Due to the current dearth of land available for private development within the district, the amount of new affordable housing provided has been low. The target of at least 100 homes per annum (on average) was met between 2004/05 and 2005/06, when 199 new affordable homes were completed, but only 25 new affordable homes were completed on two developments in 2006/07, and only 13 are expected to be completed on two developments in 2007/08. However, there are a potential 444 affordable properties in the development pipeline, most of which are hoped to come to fruition over the coming years.

Negotiations with developers on Section 106 sites have been robust, resulting in the Council's target of 30% affordable housing prior to July 2006 and 40% since then being secured, with a small number of exceptions where these have been justified and accepted by members. The Strategic Housing Partnership (comprising the Council and its five preferred Registered Social Landlord partners) continues to strengthen and increase partnership working, and has contributed towards so many potential schemes being developed in the pipeline.

Only 19 new affordable homes were completed in 2007/08. However, a large development is now on site at Epping Forest College, which is due to provide 89 affordable homes. Other large sites with outline planning permissions include White Lodge, Waltham Abbey (96 affordable homes) and St John's School, Epping (around 40 affordable homes). In total, taking into account all developments with planning permissions and those that are on site, there are around 450 affordable homes in the pipeline.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

Despite the current economic climate hitting the housing development market quite hard, 34 new affordable homes were completed in 2008/09 at a cost of £778,000, of which the Council has funded £690,000 and the Homes and Communities Agency has funded £88,000. The Strategic Housing Partnership, consisting of five preferred Registered Social Landlord partners, continues to work with the Council to identify and progress schemes, which has maintained a pipeline of developments amounting to 517 properties.

## Progress Report (31.3.10)

Sixty-three new affordable homes were completed during the year. The Council continues to work closely with its five Preferred RSL Partners to develop new affordable housing. There are currently eight developments on site, and a further four sites with detailed planning permission which, together, are expected to provide a further 366 homes within the next three years (an average of 122 per annum). In addition, it is known that developers are currently considering the potential development of a further five sites within the district which, if all receive planning permission for the number of homes currently planned (which is unlikely), would provide a further 180 new affordable homes.

(c) To consider in detail the following	Housing Portfolio	The consideration and future	An increase in the amount of
options for increasing the delivery of	Holder/Chairman of Housing	adoption of new initiatives to	affordable housing available in the
affordable housing, initially through the	Scrutiny Panel/Director of	increase the amount of affordable	district.
Housing Scrutiny Panel:	Housing	housing.	
(i) allowing the development of	j	Ğ	
residential accommodation in the			
Green Belt, providing significant levels			
of affordable housing, as a very			
special reason for departing from			
normal Green Belt policy;			
(ii) the development of affordable			
housing on large urban open spaces			
within estates;			
(iii) setting an absolute minimum			
amount of 20% affordable housing that			
will be acceptable on large			
development sites, irrespective of			
other planning gains;			
(iv) the provision of more Social			
Housing Grant to Registered Social			
Landlords;			
(v) a review of the Council's			
landholdings to assess the scope for			
developing additional affordable			
housing;			

	(vi) the use of grant funding from		
	the Housing Corporation's London		
	Region to be used to fund the		
	development of affordable housing		
	schemes in the district, with		
	nomination agreements being shared		
	between the Council and London		
	boroughs;		
	(vii) greater commitment by the		
	Council to comply with the agreed		
	Joint Commissioning Scheme, to		
	increase the likelihood of Housing		
	Corporation bids being funded; and		
	(viii) the seeking of 'hot spot'		
	status from the Office of the Deputy		
	Prime Minister, to reduce right to buy		
	discounts and deter right to buy sales,		
	thereby slowing down the reduction in		
	Council housing stock.		
	Progress Report (31.3.07)		

At its meeting on 3 March 2006, the Housing Scrutiny Panel considered the potential ways of increasing affordable housing set out in this action. However, although the Scrutiny Panel did not support suggestions/proposals relating to (c)(i) – (c)(iii) or (c)(v) – (c)(vi), it did recommend to the Cabinet that an additional £1m local authority social housing grant (LA SHG) should be provided and that annual consideration should be given to the amount of LA SHG that should be made in future years (following which the Cabinet agreed to make additional provision of £0.5m and undertake an annual review of LA SHG). The Cabinet also agreed a recommendation from the Housing Scrutiny Panel that the land associated with any General Fund assets that becomes surplus to requirements in the future may be provided to an RSL free of charge to provide affordable housing. However, the Cabinet did not agree the Scrutiny Panel's recommendation that the Council should seek Right to Buy (RTB) 'Hot Spot Status' for the district from the Government which, if obtained, would reduce the maximum discount available to tenants under the RTB from £34,000 to £16,000.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

No further update required to the 31 March 2007 progress report.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

Through the Planning and Economic Development Directorate, an exercise commenced in 2008/09 that called for sites to be put forward for future development of housing across the district. Each of the sites proposed is currently being assessed, with the results informing the future land availability. The Housing Portfolio Holder recommended a number of sites for inclusion in the assessment.

		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		<ul> <li>During the year, the Housing Scrutiny Panel set up an Affordable Housing Sub-Group of members to investigate ways of increasing the amount of affordable housing within the District. The Sub-Group's report was considered by the Cabinet, which agreed all of its recommendations as follows:</li> <li>Budget provision of £350,000, to invest in an Open Market Shared Ownership Scheme in 2010/11, enabling first time buyers to purchase an existing open market property on a shared ownership lease with a housing association;</li> <li>Continuation of the Home Ownership Grant Scheme into 2010/11, to fund a further six Home Ownership Grants of £28,000 each;</li> <li>Once desk-top exercises have been completed to assess the development potential of difficult-to-let garage sites with vacancies in excess of 20% (and no waiting list), more detailed development appraisals be undertaken to assess their development potential for affordable housing further;</li> <li>Provision of grants totalling £375,000 to one of the Council's Preferred RSL Partners 11 to fund the purchase of 5/7 houses off the open market to let at affordable rents; and</li> <li>The re-commencement of a programme of new social house-building, subject to the financial difficulties that such a programme would currently have on the Council's General Fund being overcome by a change in accounting regulations by the Government.</li> </ul>				
HN2	To prevent homelessness and respond to homelessness applications efficiently, effectively	(a) To increase the amount of affordable housing in the district to meet identified need;	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	See objective HN1	See objective HN1	
	and fairly, to help homeless people secure appropriate	Progress Report (31.3.07)				
	accommodation and minimise the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.	See progress report in relation to HN1(b) above.				
	accommodation.	Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		See progress report in relation to HN1(b)	above.			
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		See progress report in relation to HN1(b) above.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		See progress report in relation to HN1(b)	above.			
		(b) To provide additional temporary accommodation by the extension of the Fresh START Scheme from ten to twenty privately rented properties leased by a housing association, and the development of Leader Lodge at North Weald for the provision of eight to ten self contained flats as temporary accommodation;	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	The provision of eighteen to twenty additional units of temporary accommodation.	The provision of an additional ten units of accommodation by 30 April 2006 and a further 8 to10 units by 30 April 2008.	

East Thames Housing Group has only been able to source 4 of the 10 private rented properties sought under the Fresh START Scheme, that meet the Council's needs and which private landlords are prepared to offer to the scheme. However, following a recent meeting, East Thames has agreed to reenergise their efforts, increasing advertising if necessary.

In June 2006, despite an officer recommendation for approval, the Area Plans Sub-Committee refused an outline planning application to demolish Leader Lodge and redevelop the site to provide 10 new self-contained flats. This was because the Sub-Committee felt that 'the proposals would result in a form of development out of character in this area of predominantly single-family dwellings and detrimental to the street scene' and 'would result in an intensification of use out of character with the surrounding properties and likely to result in activity causing disturbance to the occupiers of adjacent properties'. The Housing Portfolio Holder intends to report to the Cabinet in June 2007 on an alternative proposal for the future of Leader Lodge and its associated land.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

Although East Thames Housing Group has increased the number of properties added to the Fresh START scheme, other leases have come to an end. East Thames has also experienced problems with being unable to source private properties to let at within housing benefit levels.

In June 2007, the Cabinet agreed to pursue a development scheme at Leader Lodge, by retaining and converting the existing building and the provision of an annexe. It was agreed that this should be through a tender with the Council's Preferred RSL Partners. This has now taken place and London and Quadrant Housing Society has been selected, following the withdrawal of the highest tenderer.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

East Thames Housing Group has acquired 13 properties in the private sector under the Fresh START Scheme. However, they are unable to take on any more at the present time and the current number of properties are meeting the Council's requirements. London and Quadrant Housing Society, the second highest tenderer for the Leader Lodge Scheme has now withdrawn, and the Council will therefore be undertaking a further tendering exercise.

#### Progress Report (31.3.10)

No further progress in respect of the Fresh START Scheme. With regard to Leader Lodge at North weald, following a second tendering exercise, Moat Housing was selected to purchase Leader Lodge to enable the existing building to be converted into four flats and to provide an annex of two additional flats, which would all be sold on a shared ownership basis to first time buyers. However, Moat subsequently withdrew its tender, due to the introduction of new regulations by the Government that affect shared ownership developments in rural areas (which North Weald is classified within the regulations). These restrict to 80% the amount of equity that shared-owners can purchase, and require Registered Social Landlords' to repurchase the properties when the occupier wishes to sell, neither scenarios of which Moat had taken into account within its tender. Since the remaining tenders are not considered to be cost effective, the Director of Housing will be advising the Housing Portfolio Holder on the available options for the future of Leader Lodge.

		(c) To further develop the Council's homelessness prevention service by the appointment of an additional parttime homelessness prevention officer, specialising in young people's homelessness and to work with partner agencies to tackle homelessness.	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	The provision of improved homelessness services, particularly for young people.	The prevention of at least an additional forty incidences of homelessness per annum.
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  Following the receipt of increased funding the past in preventing homelessness) the officers, including the introduction of a Tesuccessfully prevented in 2006/07.	e capacity of the Homelessness	Prevention Service has increased to 4.5	FTE homelessness prevention
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  The Homelessness Prevention Team has reduced homelessness applications and			s cases were prevented, leading to
Progress Report (31.3.09)  The Homelessness Prevention Team has remained with the same establis reduction compared with previous years is that the Government changed additional funding for the Rental Loan Scheme during the year, and a report Repossession Prevention Funding is spent on further homeless prevention				d the criteria in terms of what constitutes port will be submitted to the Cabinet in J	prevention. The Cabinet approved
Progress Report (31.3.10)  ACTION COMPLETED The Homelessness Prevention Team continues to undertake a valuable role in preventing ho number of households to whom the Council would otherwise have a duty to secure accommodation. However, there funding of the Team by the Government, which may result in the Council having to increase its funding from the General Council Counc					here are uncertainties over the future
HN3	To help people with special housing needs to live in homes suitable for their needs, with appropriate levels of support.	To work with the other main agencies involved with supported housing and, after consultation with service providers and service users, produce an annual Local Supporting People Strategy.	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	The production of an annual Local Supporting People Strategy setting out how the agencies involved with supported housing will help meet peoples special needs.	The production of an updated Local Supporting People Strategy by 1 April each year.

		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		In partnership with other support agencies in the district, the Council has uniquely produced a Local Supporting People Strategy following consultation exercises, annually since the introduction of the supporting people regime. However, the Supporting People Commissioning Body has decided that local strategies should now be produced on a sub-regional basis. Discussions are therefore taking place with the four other Essex local authorities in the London Commuter Belt Sub-Region about the formation of a sub-regional group and the production of a sub regional supporting people strategy and action plan.				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		Little progress has been made by the Essex Supporting People Team in developing sub-regional supporting people strategies. However, Essex County Council's Head of Supporting People has established a sub-regional group for the London commuter belt.				
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		While the London Commuter Belt Sub-Regional Group has met on a few occasions during the year, it has been agreed that it is not entirely successful in its existing form. Suitable alternative ways of meeting the group's aims are being discussed with the Essex Supporting People Team and these will include the production of a sub-regional Supporting people Strategy.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED It has been agre no longer a need to produce a Local Sup		Belt Sub-Regional Supporting People G	roup should not continue, and there is	
HN4	To ensure that privately owned homes are fit for people to live in, with empty homes kept to a minimum and to provide help to those who need it most.	(a) To target assistance at home owners in need;	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	The provision of improved, more secure homes in the private sector.	(a) The provision of at least four home renovation grants and sixty Home Repairs Assistance Grants per annum, at a cost of no more than £200,000 per annum until the revised Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy is adopted;	
					(b) 70% of vulnerable private sector households to be living in homes meeting the decent homes standard by 2010/11.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		The Council has adopted its revised Priv provided 2 Renovation Grants and 52 Ho the 2010/11 target for decent homes.				

The Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy which forms part of the Private Sector Housing Strategy introduced a new range of grants to replace Renovation Grants and Home Repairs Assistance. The Policy was adopted later than had been intended and for this reason it has not been possible yet to evidence the successes that had been hoped for. However, work has been carried out at 26 properties under the old grants regime in the year, as well as work being completed to improve the 'Decency' of approximately 30 properties under the new Housing Assistance Policy.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

There was a significant increase in demand for housing assistance during the year, which resulted in 88 homes occupied by vulnerable people being made decent at a cost of approximately £332,260. In addition, repairs were carried out at 9 homes occupied by vulnerable families at a cost of approximately £12,000 and improvements made to the thermal comfort of the homes of 3 vulnerable families (in addition to the thermal comfort improvements carried out in order to make homes decent), at a cost of approximately £5,000.

## Progress Report (31.3.10)

The demand for housing assistance in 2009/10 for vulnerable households remained significant, with over £310,000 being spent on Private Sector Grants. 100 homes were made decent through a variety of grants that provide financial assistance to improve thermal comfort and to repair dwellings. Furthermore, expenditure on mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants totalled £355,000. The Private Sector Housing Assistance Programme continues to promote independent living and assist the most vulnerable households within the district.

(b) To produce an Empty Homes	Housing Portfolio	The development of an Empty	(a) The production of an Empty
Strategy setting out how the number of empty homes in the district can be reduced;	Holder/Director of Housing	Homes Strategy setting out the way that the Council will try to minimise the number of empty properties and will deal with long term empty	Homes Strategy by 1 September 2006;
D		properties causing a nuisance.	(b) The bringing of at least ten empty properties brought back into use per annum as a result of initiatives within the Empty Property Strategy.

# Progress Report (31.3.07)

The Empty Homes Strategy has been produced and adopted by the Cabinet/Council. The Strategy was adopted late in the Council year and therefore the target was not met. However, steps are in place to take the strategy forward, including the use of compulsory purchase powers where considered appropriate. In reality, given the nature of the district and the resources available, a more reasonable annual target would be 5 homes rather than the existing 10.

#### Progress Report (31,3,08)

All financial incentives set out in the Empty Homes Strategy are in place. Take up is slow, but it is anticipated that this will improve with time and continued advertising. Two properties have been brought back into use as a result of the Strategy and Empty Property Officer involvement. It is difficult to quantify the direct impact of Council Tax discount removal at this stage.

	Progress Report (31.3.09)
	Progress continues to be slow. Again 2 properties were brought back into use as a result of the Strategy and the work of the Private Sector Housing Team. The Team has not been fully staffed during the year and, as a result, has had to concentrate resources on statutory functions. Plans are in place to proactively engage with all owners of vacant properties in the district as soon as a member of staff is appointed to a vacant post within the Team in 2009/2010.

**ACTION COMPLETED** Two empty properties in the private sector were brought back into use due to the work of the Private Sector Housing Team. It was not possible to bring any further properties back into use, due to insufficient staffing resources. However, in recognition of this, the Cabinet has agreed to the appointment of an additional temporary, part-time, post in the Private Sector Housing Team, whose duties will include implementing the Council's Empty Property Strategy.

(c) To analyse the results of the latest Private Sector Stock Condition Survey;	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	To achieve a better understanding of the condition and energy efficiency of the private sector housing stock	The completion of the analysis the results of the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey by 31 March 2006.
Survey;	•	of the private sector housing stock and the number of empty properties	Condition Survey by 31 March 2006.
		in the district.	

## Progress Report (31.3.07)

The data provided by the Stock Condition Survey was used as the basis behind the new Private Sector Housing Strategy and the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy, both of which have now been adopted.

# Progress Report (31.3.08)

'Decent Homes' inspections together with inspections being carried out under Housing Act 2004, are providing a valuable source of data which with the findings of the Stock Condition Survey will assist in monitoring the success of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Housing Assistance Policy.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

'Decent Homes' inspections together with inspections being carried out under Housing Act 2004 continue to provide a valuable source of data which, with the findings of the Stock Condition Survey, will assist in monitoring the success of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Housing Assistance Policy. A further private sector stock condition survey is planned for 2010/11.

#### Progress Report (31.3.10)

**ACTION COMPLETED** The Cabinet has agreed to fund the undertaking of a new Private Sector Stock Condition Survey in 2010/11, which will provide more up to date information on the condition of the private sector housing stock.

(d) To produce an updated Private	Housing Portfolio	The development of a clear policy	The production of the Private Sector
Sector Housing Assistance Policy,	Holder/Director of Housing	on the criteria to be adopted by the	Housing Assistance Policy by
based on the results of the Private	_	Council for the provision of various	September 2006.
Sector Stock Condition Survey.		forms of assistance to owners and	
		occupiers of private sector	
		properties.	

		Progress Report (31.3.07)			_
		The Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy was adopted by the Council in March 2007.			
		Progress Report (31.3.08)			
		It is the Council's stated strategic aim that the Housing Assistance Policy 2007 be seen as an initial step towards providing assistance by way of equity release and/or loans rather than grants, and work was to have begun on developing such a Policy during 2007/08. However, as local authorities within the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) have now also begun looking at the potential for a regional loan/equity release scheme, it now seems prudent to be party to this work rather than developing a scheme of our own, particularly given the current financial climate in which there is likely to be a poor uptake of equity release/loans based assistance in the immediate future.			
		Progress Report (31.3.09)			
		The London Commuter Belt Sub-Regional Private Sector Housing Group made a decision to divert the EERA funding potentially available for a regional loan/equity release scheme, into a Fuel Poverty/Carbon Emissions Reduction Scheme. Further consideration will be given to the potential for the inclusion of loan/equity release-based housing assistance products following the completion of the Council's next private sector stock condition survey, currently planned for 2010/11.			
		Progress Report (31.3.10)			
		ACTION COMPLETED The Private Sect Scrutiny Panel. The Strategy included ar developed until the proposed Private Sec	n action plan, which the Scrutiny	Panel agreed. The Scrutiny Panel acc	
HN5	To ensure that the Council manages and maintains its homes effectively and efficiently, and that it provides decent homes for its tenants and leaseholders at affordable rents, and deals with issues of anti-social behaviour.	(a) To continue to identify which Council homes do not meet, or will not meet, the Decent Homes Standard, provide sufficient resources and carry out appropriate programmes of work to ensure that all these homes meet the Standard by 2010;	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	The provision of decent homes for occupation by the Council's tenants	All homes to meet the Decent Home Standard by 2010.
		Progress Report (31.3.07)			
		Rather than commission consultants to undertake stock condition surveys, stock surveys are now undertaken on a rolling basis by technical housing officers, in order to maximise value for money. Significant programmes of work continue to be undertaken to improve tenants' homes and reduce the number of non-decent homes. The number of non-decent Council homes has reduced from 22% of the Council's stock in April 2002 to 5.3% in April 2007. The Council is on course to meet the Government's objective of having no non-decent homes by 2010.			
		Progress Report (31.3.08)			
		The percentage of non-decent homes re non-decent homes by 2010 is still expect		d the Council's target for April 2009 is ju	st 1.5%. The objective of having no

Throughout 2008/09 the Council manag further 544 properties so they did not be having no non-decent homes by 2010 is	come non-decent. In all, there w		
Progress Report (31.3.10)			
ACTION COMPLETED As at 31 March significant achievement. However, it was to their homes. Consideration is now be	s not possible to survey these p	roperties, despite numerous attempts,	since the tenants would not give access
(b) To undertake a major improvement scheme at Springfields, Waltham Abbey;	Housing Portfolio Holder/Director of Housing	The achievement of ninety-six improved tenanted and leasehold properties that meet the Decent Homes Standard.	The completion of improvement works by 31 December 2007.
Progress Report (31.3.08)			
Progress Report (31.3.08)  The Springfields improvement scheme of	commenced in November 2007 a	and is due to be completed around Jan	uary 2009.
	commenced in November 2007 a	and is due to be completed around Jan	uary 2009.
The Springfields improvement scheme of Progress Report (31.3.09)	was due to be completed arounc	I January 2009. However, a number of	uary 2009. unforeseen construction issues have led
The Springfields improvement scheme of Progress Report (31.3.09)  The Springfields improvement scheme of the Springfields improvement s	was due to be completed arounc	I January 2009. However, a number of	
The Springfields improvement scheme of Progress Report (31.3.09)  The Springfields improvement scheme of to a delay, amounting to around 17 week	was due to be completed around ks. Works are currently expected	I January 2009. However, a number of d to be completed in August 2009.	

The use of introductory tenancies for new Council tenants was successfully introduced on 1 April 2006. In its first year of operation, 311 introductory tenancies were granted. It was necessary to issue Notices of Possession Proceedings in just 16 cases (all on the grounds of rent arrears), which resulted in only one application to court.

The use of the introductory tenancy scheme appears to be a significant success in that it has sent a clear message to all new tenants of the Council's expectations of them as tenants, and that the Council will taken action to re-possess their property, much more easily than from a secure tenants, if they fail to keep to their Conditions of Tenancy. It is believed that this initiative has contributed to the rent collection rate increasing further in 2006/07.

## Progress Report (31.3.08)

The introductory tenancy scheme has now been fully established, with all new tenants being allocated introductory tenancies.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

The introductory tenancy scheme continues to be a success.

#### Progress Report (31.3.10)

**ACTION COMPLETED** The introductory tenancy scheme continues to be a success.

(d) To introduce a joint Choice	Housing Portfolio	Housing applicants will be able to	The implementation of a joint Choice
Based Lettings Scheme, in	Holder/Director of Housing	"bid" for vacant properties in any of	Based Lettings Scheme by 1 April
collaboration with five neighbouring	_	the six local authority areas where	2007.
local authorities.		they are registered, instead of	
		properties being "allocated" by the	
		local authorities to those in most	
		housing need.	

#### Progress Report (31.3.07)

A consortium comprising the Council and five neighbouring local authorities has been formed and successfully bid for £96,000 grant funding from the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Consultants have been appointed to project manage the joint implementation of the Choice Based Lettings Scheme, a specification of the required service has been produced and tenders are currently being invited from organisations experienced in providing a choice based lettings service to local authorities. A consultation exercise has established widespread support for the introduction of choice based lettings but, due to a number of factors including the temporary withdrawal of one of the local authorities from the Consortium, the anticipated live date for the scheme is now October 2007.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

The 'Home Options' choice based lettings scheme went live in November 2007, with regular update reports provided to the Housing Scrutiny Panel. A formal review of the success of the implementation was undertaken by the Scrutiny Panel after six months operation.

		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		Objective completed. The 'HomeOption' Choice Based Lettings scheme continues to be successful.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED The 'HomeOptio	n' Choice Based Lettings schen	me continues to be successful. The Hou	using Scrutiny Panel undertook a further	
		review of the scheme during the year				
HN6	To continue to undertake	(a) To extend the use of locally	Environmental Protection	(a) Improved standards of street	Improvements in respect of relevant	
	improvements in local environmental standards.	based cleansing teams where	Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street	cleansing and local environmental conditions;	Best Value Performance Indicators, to achieve top quartile district council	
	environmentai standards.	appropriate to the locality;	Scene	conditions,	performance by 30 June 2006.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		In view of the demise of the Council's wa	ste management contractor at t	the start of 2006/07, no further action ha	as so far been taken with respect to the	
		introduction of additional local cleansing	teams. BVPI 199 (Local Enviro	nmental Cleanliness Standards) outturn	ns for 2006/07demonstrate a continued	
		improvement in street cleansing standard	ds, with BV199 (a) being record	ed as 2%, and BV199 (b) and 199 (c) at	t zero percent.	
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		The 2006/07 outturn data for BVPI 199a	at 2% has been questioned by	Defra as being unrealistically low. Enca	ams on hehalf of Defra, have visited the	
		district and provided support and advice	on how BVPI 199a monitoring s	should be undertaken. This has resulted	d in a re-evaluation of previous results	
		with the 2007/08 outturn result of 27%. T to Encams very strict approach to the mo				
		monitoring arrangements.	of the malcator. BVP1	199 has been replaced by the new Nin s	95 TOF 2006/09, WHICH HAS different	
		The annual control is	anliin arallith. th.a. a natura at an		int along side the growing local toward	
		The new waste management contract is Levels of reportable graffiti and fly postin				
					3 3 4 1 3	
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The waste management contractor has r				
		adversely affected performance, and a m service requirements are currently under	narked improvement has been a	achieved on the relevant performance in nding to appoint a specialist consultant :	idicators compared with 2007/08. The	
		Solvide requirements are duriently under	review, with the contractor line	rialing to appoint a specialist constitution	to davise on resourcing levels.	
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED Street cleansing	nerformance has not moved for	rward as honed even though local team	as have been reintroduced in some	
		areas. The review of the service was co	mpleted by Sita and revised arra	angements were put into place. New so	chedules have been prepared which will	
		be available to members and town council				
		upon the detritus performance. Sita are the forthcoming months.	aware or the concern regarding	penormance and the Parthership Board	u wiii be monitoring this carefully over	

				_		
		(b) To utilise where appropriate the new powers available to the Council within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.  Progress Report (31.3.07)	Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	(a) Reductions in fly-tipping, fly- posting, abandoned vehicles etc.	Improvements in respect of relevant Best Value Performance Indicators, to achieve top quartile district council performance by 30 June 2006.	
		The Council has yet to fully consider the implications of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, and this matter remains with the Environment Scrutiny Panel. Performance with respect to the management of fly tipping has improved with fewer reported cases and an additional prosecution having been instigated.				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  The Council has adopted its 'Safer, Cleaner, Greener' strategy and brought all relevant services together under the newly created Environment and Street Scene Directorate. The Environment Scrutiny Panel has made recommendations to the Cabinet following its consideration of the Rogers Review, which Cabinet have accepted. This will result, once the Neighbourhood Teams have been established, of higher profile activity within the district in dealing with 'envirocrime' and related matters.				
		Progress Report (31.3.09)  The 'Safer, Cleaner, Greener' Strategy has been considered in depth by the Environment Scrutiny Panel and will go forward for final adoption by the Cabinet in July 2009. Recruitment into the Neighbourhood Teams is complete, although not all posts are as yet occupied due to external appointees having to complete notice periods etc. Once all are actually in post, training will commence to achieve Police Accreditation, an important first step in enabling a more robust approach to environmental enforcement. The Environmental Response Unit is now fully operational and is undertaking a wide range of environmental 'improvements', which are making a real difference to the environment and the perception of the local community.				
		ACTION COMPLETED All of the new posts have now been filled, although this required additional recruitment during the year. All officers have successfully achieved accreditation and are able to undertake the full range of enforcement activities. The response unit has been particularly successful, dealing rapidly with low grade environmental crime, thereby preventing situations from deteriorating and ensuring that residents see a quick response to reported problems. The Cabinet has approved a penalty regime for the issue of fixed penalty notices, and the use of penalty notices will be advertised prior to use on the ground. The 'Safer, Cleaner, Greener (SCG)' Strategy document was approved by the Cabinet along with its associated action plan. The plan will be monitored by the SCG Scrutiny Panel. The Neighbourhood Team has met its performance targets for responding to and dealing with residents' complaints and reports of environmental crime. A number of "stop and check" operations have been planned in partnership with Essex Police, to target illegal waste movements.				
HN7	To seek to deal with problems associated with vehicle parking in the built up areas of the district.	To complete parking reviews for the Loughton and Waltham Abbey areas.	Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street	The improvement of local parking arrangements, and the management of problems associated with on street and commuter parking.	(a) The completion of parking reviews for Loughton and Waltham Abbey by 31 March 2007;	
			Scene		(b) The implementation of locally agreed parking controls to include resident parking schemes where appropriate, commencing during 2007/08.	

Parking reviews for Loughton and Waltham Abbey have commenced but were not completed by March 2007. The new/revised parking controls for Buckhurst Hill, Loughton (TCE) and Epping became available for implementation and enforcement as of 2 April 2007. However, there are engineering works associated with these schemes and full implementation will be delayed into 2007/08.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

The Buckhurst Hill and Epping parking reviews were implemented during 2007, and are both due for post 6 month reviews in the early part of 2008/09. These will almost certainly result in further changes to meet local concerns. The Cabinet has decided not to undertake any further wide scale reviews once these and the Loughton Broadway TCE review are completed. In the future, reviews will be targeted at local parking 'hotspots', but with action only where there is a clear consensus from the local community for the proposed solutions.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

There have been regrettable long-term delays in completing the reviews of the previous parking schemes. This has been due, in the main, to the resourcing difficulties in the local County Highways Service. It is anticipated that the public consultation phases of the reviews will be undertaken during Summer 2009.

## Progress Report (31.3.10)

Regrettably, progress with the parking reviews has remained stubbornly behind schedule. The consultations have been undertaken, but the design of schemes following those have been delayed. It has also been required to supplement public consultation in some areas to meet the concerns of ward members regarding proposals. All of the technical work and assessment remains with Essex County Council, who also continue to face resourcing difficulties.

	A SAFE COMMUNITY						
SC1	To enhance the safety, security and wellbeing of people using the district's town centres and public car parks.	To include improved lighting and closed circuit television systems as part of programme of town centre enhancements and the upgrading of the Council's public car parks.	Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder/Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	The provision of safer and more secure town centres and public car parks.	The achievement of an appropriate accreditation for at least one car park per annum.		
Progress Report (31.3.07)  Improvement works have been completed in the Lower Que Road car park at Loughton Broadway was also improved at economic issues in relation to improved lighting and closed Scrutiny Panel.				Broadway Town Centre Enhancement so	cheme. The wider community and		

		Progress Report (31.3.08)			
		No further works have been undertaken at car parks other than to deal with routine maintenance issues. Works will be undertaken to the remaining car parks at the Broadway should the TCE scheme be approved for completion. The Town Centres Task and Finish Panel has been wound up, with its role transferred to the Environment and Planning Scrutiny Panel. The issue of CCTV and anti-social behaviour will be managed through the Council's 'Safer, Cleaner, Greener' initiative.			
		Progress Report (31.3.09)			
		The Burton Road car park at the Broadway in Loughton has been completely refurbished as part of the Broadway Town Centre Enhancement Scheme (TCE). CCTV is being installed as part of the TCE scheme and car parks will be included. CCTV has been provided at the lower car park in Buckhurst Hill and at Cottis Lane in Epping. The Bakers Lane car park in Epping is scheduled for refurbishment in 2009/10 at which time CCTV will be considered. Problems have arisen with anti-social behaviour in some car park locations, such as the private Tesco car park at Waltham Abbey, and these are discussed and managed through the area based problem solving groups and the Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAP). It has not been possible to achieve accreditation for any of the car parks within the district, in the main because the existing payment methodologies preclude the use of entry/exit barriers or similar controls which are a prerequisite of successful accreditation.			
		Progress Report (31.3.10)			
		ACTION COMPLETED The refurbishme bay markings, lighting and CCTV. This vanti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour.	vork should make the car park r	more pleasant and safe for users, but wi	Il also hopefully reduce incidences of
SC2	To reduce the overall level of recorded crime in the district.	(a) To develop a joint Community Safety Team, consisting of the Council's Crime Reduction Unit and local police officers;	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	The achievement of reduced crime levels across the district.	The achievement of a reduction in the overall level of recorded crime in the district by 16% by March 2008 based on the crime figures for 2003/04.
		Progress Report (31.3.07)			
		The establishment of an integrated Community Safety Team has been delayed for various reasons, including the deferral of the Transformation Programme, and police matters such as neighbourhood policing and regionalisation having taken greater priority a joint Community Safety Team will be further considered as part of the review of the Council's management structure to be conremainder of 2007/08.			
		Progress Report (31.3.08)			
		The Council's Safer Communities Team has been strengthened through the recent corporate restructure, with new posts of Anti-Social Behaviour Investigator (x2) and CCTV Officer being created. This, in combination with the formation of the Environment and Street Scene Directorate, will see the safer communities agenda being taken forward. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership continues to function well and the Council has assumed the chairmanship of the Panel for 2008/09. The target of a 16% reduction in overall crime from the 2003/04 baseline was not achieved, the reduction being 12%. However, within this outturn, there are key reductions in criminal damage (down 26%), wounding (down 24%), theft from a person (down 57%). On the negative side domestic burglary was up 16%, assault without injury up 20% and robbery of personal property up 42%. These issues will all be targeted in the Safer Communities Partnership Plan for 2008/09.			

The Safer Communities Partnership continues to perform well. Within the Council a CCTV strategy has been developed and cross-border arrangements with neighbouring authorities have been successfully initiated. Similar arrangements have also been put into place with respect to the sharing of information and intelligence on persistent and prolific offenders. The Council has continued to part-fund six Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) and has tasking rights over all of the PCSOs within the Epping Forest Police Division. The Safer Communities Unit is now at full establishment. Team members participate on a regular basis in Police briefings thereby being kept fully aware of trends in local criminal activity. The benefits of the above activities can be seen from a reduction in overall crime levels as set out in the next section of this progress report

#### Progress Report (31.3.10)

**ACTION COMPLETED** Safer Communities staff, the police and the Council's Environment and Neighbourhood Officers are working more closely together. Team areas are now co-terminus with the police neighbourhood areas and the Council has greater control of tasking rights for Police Community Support Officers. The Council's staff and police neighbourhood officers regularly attend the Neighbourhood Action Panels together, joint security surveys are undertaken and the police regularly contribute to the on-going programme of education.

(b) To reduce the incidences of recorded domestic burglary, theft of vehicles, criminal damage and robbery that occur in the district.

Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene

The achievement of reduced crime levels across the district.

The achievement of a reduction in the overall level of recorded crime in the district by 16% by March 2008 based on the crime figures for 2003/04.

## Progress Report (31.3.07)

The Council and the Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership are constantly monitoring procedures and looking at ways to reduce the incidence of all types of recorded crime in the district, in order to meet the target of a 16% reduction by March 2008.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

The target of a 16% reduction in overall crime from the 2003/04 baseline was not achieved, the reduction being 12%. However, within this outturn, there are key reductions in criminal damage (down 26%), wounding (down 24%), theft from a person (down 57%). On the negative side, domestic burglary was up 16%, assault without injury up 20% and robbery of personal property up 42%. These issues will be targeted in the Safer Communities Partnership Plan for 2008/09.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

Overall crime levels for 2008/09 were down 8% compared to 2007/08 and the target set of a 5% reduction. This equates to 745 fewer crimes in 2008/09 than in 2007/08. Within this overall decline there are some areas of concern such as domestic burglary, up 13%, but also areas of success such as serious acquisitive crime, down by 1%, criminal damage down by 20% and violent crime down by 5%. The overall picture is therefore an encouraging one.

		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED There has been an on-going reduction in overall crime through 2009/10, although the target of 5% is unlikely to be achieved. However, given that this target was set against an 8% reduction in 2008/09, the likely reduction of around 3% should still be seen as very creditable, especially in view of the difficult economic climate which does tend to see increases in certain types of criminal activity. By way of highlights, data to the end of February 2010 indicate the following trends for the previous twelve month period:				
		<ul> <li>all crime down by 2.6% (200 less c</li> <li>assaults up by 8%;</li> </ul>	rimes);			
		<ul> <li>domestic violence 7% reduction;</li> </ul>				
		<ul><li>burglary down 7%; and</li><li>anti-social behaviour up by 1%.</li></ul>				
		Despite some areas falling, there remain concerns around burglary and domestic violence which the Community Safety Partnership is seeking to address through the forthcoming Strategic Assessment. Overall crime remains higher than in most of the comparator authorities (known as 'most similar groups') but this district does have particular challenges arising from its proximity to London and the associated transport links and the fact that it borders a high number of areas which generates a lot of cross border criminality. The Cabinet and the Local Strategic Partnership have adopted the 'Prevent' action plan, which sets out to sensitively manage issues around extremism within the district, from whatever quarter it might arise.				
SC3	To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour and provide leisure and training opportunities for young people to encourage positive and healthy lifestyles.	To work with the Council's partners to secure ongoing external funding for the Epping Forest Community Sports Project;	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour and to work with young offenders to assist rehabilitation.	The provision of at least one ongoing activity per annum in each area identified by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in relation to anti-social issues involving young people.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		Unfortunately, NACRO have terminated although a limited service is to continue i active in crime reduction initiatives, partic behaviour issues, in conjunction with the	n 2007/08 with the assistance ocularly the establishment of a co	f funding from Sport England. The Cou	ncil's Young Persons Officer has been	
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		In conjunction with Tottenham Hotspur Community Trust, an innovative programme of diversionary activities has been implemented at the Limes Farm Estate at Chigwell. External funding is being secured from the Sports Lottery Fund to extend this initiative to Waltham Abbey and the Shelley Estate in Ongar.				
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The Tottenham Hotspur Community Trus Loughton. Work at the Limes farm estate				

Partnership work between the Council's Community Development and Sports and Health Development teams and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation is successfully being delivered in the Limes Farm Estate, at Chigwell. Two local young people from the estate have been trained and mentored and are now qualified football coaches delivering on the project. Multi sport sessions and community tennis sessions have also been introduced; dance sessions continue to develop and the participants are working towards a public performance at Epping Forest College. A weekly youth activity night has been established at Ninefields, Waltham Abbey and this is managed and co-ordinated by the Community Development and Sports and Health Development teams. Further work is being developed to deliver further initiatives to young people in Debden and Waltham Abbey.

As a complement to the initiatives provided through the community leisure teams, the Community Safety Partnership has again successfully implemented 'Crucial Crew' for all year 9 pupils throughout the district, as well as running a number of 'Reality Roadshows' in secondary schools for year 9 pupils. Both events provide a wealth of information and guidance to young people about how best to live their lives and stay safe, including information around drugs, alcohol, sexual health, bullying, internet safety, avoiding violence etc.

#### FIT FOR LIFE

FL <sup>2</sup>	To ensure that the leisure management contract entered into with SLM Limited delivers the Council's key objectives for the future of its leisure facilities, with respect to lower revenue costs, increased investment, continuous improvement and the transfer of risk.	(a) To undertake regular and effective monitoring of the leisure management contract entered into with SLM Limited;	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	The maintenance of high standards of service and customer satisfaction in accordance with the requirements of the leisure management contract.	(a) The number of Default Notices issued in relation to the Leisure Management Contract to be below ten complaint notices or five default notices in any four consecutive week period;  (b) The number of Stage 2 Complaints made to the Council in respect of its leisure facilities to remain at less than 1% of total number of participants using the facilities.
		Progress Papart (31.3.07)			

#### Progress Report (31.3.07)

Regular monitoring of the Leisure Management Contract is taking place on an ongoing basis through site visits, statistical returns and monthly meetings at officer level. The Contract Monitoring Board has met on several occasions and is working effectively. The number of Default Notices issued is below the threshold, with only one default and seven improvement notices required in the first fifteen months of the contract. Similarly, the number of Stage 2 Complaints received is also well below threshold, with less than 10 received in the same period.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

The monitoring regime for the Leisure Management Contract is well embedded with respect to site visits, core meetings and the Monitoring Board. The Improvement Notice/Default Notice and complaints thresholds have not been exceeded, although there is still an ongoing concern around the timeliness and accuracy of financial information required to be submitted by the contractor. Regular monitoring of the Leisure Management Contract continues to take place on an ongoing basis through site visits, statistical returns and monthly meetings at officer level. The Contract Monitoring Board has met on several occasions. Number of defaults issued in 07/08 -1. Number of Improvement Notices issued in 07/08 - 38. These are mainly for failure to carry out building maintenance or provide valid certificates. There were 15 stage 2 complaints on various issues but mainly on the issue of SLM's proposal on changing the times available to Loughton swimming club. This is still an ongoing issue.

The Monitoring Board for the Leisure Management Contract continues to meet on a regular basis. The maintenance of the leisure centres remains an area of concern, with a number of improvement notices being issued throughout the year. The reduction in participation, amongst other things, has resulted in SLM income streams decreasing. Agreement has been reached with SLM with regard to the calculation of income share and contract indexation.

## Progress Report (31.3.10)

ACTION COMPLETED The Monitoring Board for the Leisure Management Contract continues to meet on a regular basis. The contract continues to perform well, with each centre achieving a higher level of income in 2009/10 than over the previous year. This is very creditable given the economic climate and the fact that leisure memberships and attendance are often items which are the first to be discarded when personal financial circumstances come under pressure. It has been necessary, as in previous years, to issue improvement and default notices during the year. However, the number of notices issued is below the target set, and the number of complaints also fell below the 1% target. Capital money allocated by SLM within the original contract remain available for use, and this will be carried forward into 2010/11

(b) To explore further service initiatives to reduce revenue costs and increase participation;

Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene The provision of new facilities that increase participation.

An increase in Participation and level of Income in line with projections contained in the contractor's tender.

# Progress Report (31.3.07)

Several major marketing initiatives have been undertaken by SLM Limited to increase participation, particularly in the area of health and fitness. Reprogramming of swimming lessons has increased the number of attendances and reduced waiting lists. Re-negotiation is underway regarding an extension of the contract for Epping Sports Centre for seven years, with the expectation of lower revenue consequences by way of a reduced management fee or increased investment by SLM.

## Progress Report (31.3.08)

SLM have submitted a charge proposal for Epping Sports Centre, which predicts a substantial increase in management fee. SLM have been asked to look at revised proposals for the whole contract to contain costs. The submission for ESC has been received but it has shown an increase in the Management Fee and no significant Capital Investment. A meeting has therefore been held between Members and SLM Directors and SLM are to submit further proposals to the Council. This is now awaited.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

As part of cost reductions for the management of Epping Sports Centre, agreement has been reached with SLM regarding investment at Loughton Leisure Centre and the bar closure at Epping Sports Centre, as part of an overall package of measures including the cessation of the Joint Use Agreement at Waltham Abbey Sports Centre. Members have agreed to pursue, through a Task and Finish Panel, the feasibility of adding a sports hall alongside the existing leisure facilities at the Waltham Abbey Pool complex.

		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED The new sports hall has been approved in principle, by the Cabinet, but subject to their being no ongoing revenue consequences. Capital has been approved to take the project to the pre-planning application stage at which point a decision will be made whether and how best to proceed. The withdrawal from the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre was successfully completed, with most staff ha wishes met with respect to redeployment, retraining or redundancy. The Cabinet has also agreed to provide capital to SLM to provide new equipment at Ongar Leisure Centre and to make internal structural changes at Loughton Leisure Centre, which will generate in excess of £ revenue savings. These changes will see additional and improved facilities for existing and new users.				
		(c) To ensure that capital investment is completed on time and to the correct standard.	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	The maintenance of assets to appropriate standards.	The achievement of a guaranteed level of capital investment completed on time and to the appropriate quality in accordance with the contractor's tender.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		Major capital investment schemes at Ong and at a level of £1.5m as guaranteed wi				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		The Council is undertaking a feasibility st saving to be achieved.	tudy in 2008 for the provision of	a sports hall at Waltham Abbey Swimm	ing Pool, which may allow an efficiency	
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		Members have agreed to pursue, through Waltham Abbey Pool complex.	h a Task and Finish Panel, the f	easibility of adding a sports hall alongsid	de the existing leisure facilities at the	
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED In addition to the be carried forward into 2010/11, for routing			n the SLM tender accounts which will	
FL2	To increase access to leisure and cultural opportunities in the rural parts of the district through the 'Beyond Suburbia' Cultural	To implement the key findings of the Beyond Suburbia initiative in partnership with local parish councils and other agencies.	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	The improvement of quality of life for rural communities, the alleviation of isolation and economic benefits.	(a) The achievement of ten new activities in rural parishes per annum;	
	Development Programme.				(b) The generation of external funding of £50,000 per annum for one new facility development project each year.	

		Progress Report (31.3.07)					
		The target of ten new activity sessions with respect to leisure and cultural opportunities has been met. External funding levels have been reached to enable major improvements, including a new playground to be undertaken at Matching Tye.					
		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		The target for activity sessions continues of £245K over the next 30 years. Rural p					
		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		Work is well advanced in the consultation 2009.	n, planning and design of the ne	ew playgrounds at Nazeing and Abridge	, with target for completion of Summer		
		Progress Report (31.3.10)					
		ACTION COMPLETED The 'Active Health Programme' is very successful in the district and currently attracts in excess of 400 people per month through its seated exercise, movement classes and' Lifewalks' programmes. Qualitative evaluation also indicates significant improvement in participants' quality of life and physical well-being for many elderly people that were previously in-active.					
FL3	To increase access to opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to lead a healthy lifestyle.	To expand the district wide 'Active Life' programme of activities to include the 'Life Walks', 'Bodycare' and general practitioner referral schemes, and other initiatives.	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	Increased participation in physical activity by people at risk leading to lower incidence of ill heath.	(a) The achievement of an increase in the number of participants in the 'Active Life' initiative of 5% per annum;		
		and other initiatives.			(b) The achievement of an increase in the number of people referred by General Practitioners and other health professionals of 5% per annum;		
					(c) The achievement of at least two activity sessions becoming self-sustainable per annum.		
	Progress Report (31.3.07)						
		The 'Active Life' programme has been ex Unfortunately, the West Essex Primary C elderly. Alternative external funding option possible for a number of the seated exerc	are Trust has withdrawn funding are currently being explored	g for cardiac rehabilitation classes and to but may affect the achievement of part	the seated exercise scheme for the ticipation targets for 2007/8. It may be		

		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		The 'Life Walks' and 'Bodycare' programmes are still running and have been supplemented by external funding of £140k over the next four years to deliver a wide range of health improvement Initiatives jointly with neighbouring authorities, called 'Active Health'. Participation targets should be reached., and the seated exercise programme is largely self-financing.					
		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		The Active Health Programme continues assist elderly people to exercise, and an residents.					
		Progress Report (31.3.10)					
		ACTION COMPLETED The 'Active Health Programme' is very successful in the district and currently attracts in excess of 400 people per month through its seated exercise, movement classes and' Lifewalks' programmes. Qualitative evaluation also indicates significant improvement in participants' quality of life and physical well-being for many elderly people that were previously in-active.					
FL4	To work more closely with the local Primary Care Trust to ensure that the activities that the Council carry out in environmental monitoring and inspection contribute fully to improving the	To review the Council's environmental, inspection and enforcement arrangements and policies along with the Primary Care Trust.	Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	The alignment of the Council's inspection, enforcement and awareness activities with the relevant public health objectives of the Primary Care Trust	The adoption of a jointly agreed public health policy with the Primary Care Trust by 31 March 2007.		
	overall health of the community, including specifically the promotion of anti-smoking initiatives.	Progress Report (31.3.07)  Due to the significant changes in the structure of the local Primary Care Trust (PCT), there has been no progress in this regard. However, with respect to the new 'no smoking' legislation, joint action with the PCT and Harlow District Council is to take place in June 2007 with the holding of a business seminar. The PCT's newly appointed Director of Public Health is keen to work with the Council and this will be progressed.					
		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		The 'no smoking' seminar for businesses difficulties and the temporary no smoking wider strategic health agenda and workin promote healthy eating.	post has not be reappointed fo	llowing the postholder departing. There	has been very little progress on the		
		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		The Council has now entered into a partn who has been tasked with promoting the Essex Public Health Committee has been the West Essex PCT. Its purpose is to ad The restructuring of the Epping Forest Lo in 'Fit for Business' initiatives.	Essex Environmental Health Of formed which is a partnership dress the wider issues of public	fficer's healthy eating award and to carry with the Council, Harlow DC, Uttlesford c health and explore opportunities for join	out smoke free visits. The West DC, the Health Protection Agency and nt working and information sharing.		

		Progress Report (31.3.10)			1		
		ACTION COMPLETED The jointly funded health promotion officer continues to work to identify premises eligible of the Essex Healthy Eating Award. Less work is being carried out in relation to the smoke free legislation due to the very high levels of compliance. The Essex Public Health Committee continues to meet and an officer of the council was invited to comment on deep cleaning procedures undertaken at St. Margaret's Hospital. A large fire in Nazeing prompted joint action by the council and the Primary Care Trust to help to allay the fears of local residents					
FL5	To implement the requirements of forthcoming legislation dealing with smoking in the workplace.	To incorporate the enforcement of workplace smoking into the Council's existing environmental health inspection regime.	Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder/Director of Environment and Street Scene	The achievement of a reduction in coronary heart disease, lung cancer and other smoking related diseases.	(a) To undertake appropriate public information campaigns to bring the requirements of workplace smoking legislation to the attention of employers, employees and users of public premises in the district, within six months of the date of the new legislation coming into force being known;  (b) To monitor reductions in smoking related illnesses within the district in liaison with the Primary		
					Care Trust.		
		Progress Report (31.3.07)					
		Government funding has been made ava appointed, and a local business seminar Monitoring of reductions in smoking related	has been arranged in conjunction	on with Harlow District Council and the F			
		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		The new legislation came into force with increase in smoking related litter, which v successfully held in conjunction with Harl and consideration is being to whether the	will be dealt through an Encams low District Council and the We	assisted publicity and education campa st Essex Primary Care Trust. The Coun	ign. A business seminar was cil's Smoke Free Officer has resigned,		
		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		As part of the partnership with Harlow DC, Brentwood BC, Basildon DC and Thurrock Council mentioned above, the Council's jointly funded health promotion officer is carrying out smoke free visits to premises within the district. The smoke free legislation has been generally well received and there is widespread compliance.					
		Progress Report (31.3.10)					
		ACTION COMPLETED As mentioned ab being undertaken. This now been incorp			n has resulted in less targeted work		

		E	CONOMIC PROSPERITY		
EP1	To continue to remain a low tax authority.	To set Council Tax increases for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 of no more than 2.5% per annum by no more than the rate of increase in the Retail Price Index.	Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder/Director of Finance and ICT	Council Tax levels for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 will increase by no more than 2.5%.	The actual level of Council Tax increases for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  The Council's adopted policy (Cabinet - 6 rather than to not increase it by more that increase in Council Tax below the increas 3.54% at a time when the rate of increas	in 2.5% as set out in this Counc se in the Retail Price Index was	il Plan action, which therefore requires c achieved for 2007/08. For 2007/08 the	orrection. The target for keeping the
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  The Council's adopted policy continues t keeping the increase in Council Tax belo increased by 2.5%, at a time when the re-	w the increase in the Retail Price	ce Index was achieved for 2008/09. For 2	
		Progress Report (31.3.09)  At its meeting on 15 December 2008, the exceed 2.5%. This was achieved for 200			es to be that increases should not
		Progress Report (31.3.10)  ACTION COMPLETED The policy of not Financial Strategy. This was achieved fo	r 2010/11, as the increase was	1.5%.	
EP2	To enhance the town centre areas at Loughton High Road and Loughton Broadway to provide improved environments for the users of the centres and the providers of services.	To complete the agreed programme of town centre enhancement works and improvements.	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The achievement of enhanced town centre environments, providing improved facilities for all users of the town centres.	(a) The completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the Loughton High Road town centre enhancement scheme by 31 December 2006;
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				(b) The commencement of Phase 1 of the Loughton Broadway town centre enhancement scheme by 31 July 2006.
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  Phases I and II of the Loughton Town Cocurrently being implemented. Final finant completed by Christmas 2006, although highway infrastructure, and revised propressions.	icial outcomes for the scheme a Phase II of the scheme has bee	re presently being analysed. Phase I of an delayed due to technical problems as	the Loughton Broadway TCE was

		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		Phases 1 and 2 of the Loughton TCE have n at present looks to have remained close to its. The Broadway scheme remains in abeyance the vicinity of their medium pressure gas mai Broadway Design Study Brief to consider the Cabinet will consider the recommendations of	s budget, but further data is a e, although agreement has be in. Cabinet are to consider in e longer term development of	awaited from the statutory undertakers reen reached with National Grid Gas as to mplementation of the scheme shortly. T	egarding monies owed to the Council. o how the works can be undertaken in the Council has commissioned a		
		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		Phase 1 of the Broadway TCE scheme, comprising the refurbishment of the Burton Road car park, is complete. Phase 2, of the scheme conthe works to the Broadway itself, were agreed by Cabinet and are now well underway and are scheduled for completion in July 2009. Esse Council are currently undertaking some basic feasibility studies in relation to phases III and IV of the Loughton High Road TCE, although the no commitment to deliver a scheme. The removal of the fifth arm at the junction of the High Road and Brooklyn Avenue has been deferred local consensus on an acceptable scheme could not be achieved.					
		Progress Report (31.3.10)					
		<b>ACTION COMPLETED</b> The Broadway TCE scheme was completed with overall savings, after sharing with the contractor, in excess of £500,000 Cabinet has agreed to invest £100,000 of the savings to provide new and upgraded CCTV for the Broadway area. Public response to the scheme been favourable, although there remain some concerns around parking provision and the manner in which power has been made available for the provision of Christmas lighting.					
EP3	To co-ordinate land use and planning policies, and housing, transport and local infrastructure.	district Local Plan to ensure the planning and development policies for H	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The coordination of land use, planning policies, housing, transport and infrastructure to promote sustainability, economic prosperity and tackle areas of deprivation.	The completion of the coordination of all relevant policies by 31 August 2006.		
		Progress Report (31.3.07)					
		All relevant policies coordinated within the Lo	ocal Plan.				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		All relevant policies coordinated within the Lo	ocal Plan. No further update	required to the 31 March 2007 progress	report.		
		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		All relevant policies coordinated within the Local Plan. No further update required to the 31 March 2008 progress report.					
		Progress Report (31.3.10)					
		ACTION COMPLETED All relevant policies of	coordinated within the Local	Plan. No further update required to the 3	31 March 2009 progress report.		

		(b) To secure the inclusion of a statement in the new Local Development Framework emphasising need to co-ordinate land use, planning policies, housing, transport and infrastructure in a way that ensures economic prosperity and tackles deprivation, taking account of what has been secured in alterations to the Local Plan.	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The coordination of land use, planning policies, housing, transport and infrastructure to promote sustainability, economic prosperity and tackle areas of deprivation.	The completion of the coordination of all relevant policies by 31 August 2006.		
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  As explained in relation to objective GU4 East of England Plan, and cannot be ach	l above, work on the Local Devenieved within the originally identi	elopment Framework is delayed, pending fied timescale.	the issue of the final version of the		
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  The Local Development Framework has	been delayed pending the final	approval of the East of England Plan.			
		Progress Report (31.3.09)  See also Objective GU4 above. The development of the Local Development Framework has been delayed for several reasons, including adoption of the East of England Plan and the legal challenges thereto, and the direction placed on the Council in relation to the production Development Plan Document concerning gypsies and travellers, which has necessarily had to take priority.					
		Progress Report (31.3.10)  ACTION COMPLETED See also Objecti	ive GU4 above.				
EP4	To ensure that young people can express informed views on issues that affect them and actively take part in the democratic process.	To support the work of the Essex Youth Assembly and local youth councils to enable young people's voices to be heard.	Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	The empowering of young people to influence decisions on those matters that directly affect them.	The achievement of full representation for the district on the Essex Youth Assembly and youth councils by local young people by 31 December 2006.		
		Progress Report (31.3.07)					
		A number of local young people have been elected to represent the district on the Essex Youth Parliament, with one individual also now se National Youth Parliament. The Young Persons Officer and the Head of research and Democratic Services supported the elections. Since appointment in November 2006, the Young Persons Officer has been actively engaged in working with secondary schools and young peop advocacy and citizenship issues with the expectation that a formal Youth Council for all/parts of the district can be established in 2007/08.					
		Progress Report (31.3.08)					
		The Epping Forest Youth Council was es regular basis, with training and support p					

		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The 'Big Youth Debate' was held in November 2008 and was attended by some 250 Young People. The Panel comprising local Members of parliament, Senior Police Officers, the Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust, the Leader of the Council and Essex County Council Youth and Transport representatives, all of whom were questioned on a range of topics of concern to young people. An action plan is being developed and implemented by the Local Strategic Partnership and the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED Over two thousa group of Youth Councillors. The new You Councillors to talk with young people about	uth Council held a 'Promoting Lo	ocal Democracy' youth conference on 12	March 2010, to enable the Youth	
EP5	To respond to issues of deprivation in the district, based on the results of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.	(a) To continue to identify measures to alleviate specific deprivation problems identified through an analysis of the 2004 Indices of Deprivation; and to work with partner agencies to tackle deprivation issues;	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The development of targeted programmes of action to address the needs of local communities.	The deprivation indices are also relevant to actions indicated in the Essex Local Area Agreement and the action plans in the Community Strategy.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  An analysis has been undertaken of a nu relevant to a number of existing or potent development schemes that have been ur	tial programmes, ranging from to			
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  The Council has agreed to appoint consuprogressing. Public consultation on the consultation of the			n, and work on this has been	
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The development brief for The Broadway area of Loughton has been agreed, although the current economic climate is influencing what can be progressed at the present time. The Healthy Communities Group of the Local Strategic Partnership are targeting health inequality actions in the Super Output Areas, and community awareness events have been held at Waltham Abbey and Debden area of Loughton.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		The development brief for The Broadway progressed at the present time. The Heal leadership of the Primary Care Trust. The commissioned research into the pattern of	Ithy Communities Theme Group e group is just beginning its wor	o of the Local Strategic Partnership was k, but has however, agreed a focus on h	established in autumn 2009 under the ealth inequalities, and has	

		(b) As a partner agency to the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership, to establish children's centres within the district.	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	The development of targeted programmes of action to address the needs of local communities.	The establishment of six children's centres within the district by 31 March 2008.		
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  The Council has a duty to co-operate in ragenda, although it is not the lead author officer representatives to the board of the plans for seven children's centres across and services. The Council has recently d granted, whilst the application for the Ald	rity for the provision of children's Children and Young Persons S the district, some in new build etermined planning applications	s centres. To meet its obligations, the Co Strategic Partnership (CYPSYP) and its a accommodation, whilst others will be virt s for the first two new build centres. The	ouncil has appointed member and associated working groups. There are ual centres based on existing facilities		
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  The CYPSYP is now Chaired by a council member. New children centres have been constructed at Hillhouse School and Alderton School. Provision for children's centre services also exists at Shelley Primary School and Waltham Abbey Community Centre, and new provision is planned for Limes Farm during 2008.					
		Progress Report (31.3.09)  The Council remains fully engaged in the	work of the CYPSP and partici	pated in the Joint Area Review of Childro	en's Services in Essex.		
Progress Report (31.3.10)  The Council fulfils its obligations under the Children's Act 2004, which enshrines a duty to co-operate with the Children's Serv County Council). The Council fully participated in the former Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) before incorporated into the new West Essex Local Children's Trust Board. The Council has Member and senior officer representation of Council also chairs the Epping Forest Children's Partnership, which has replaced the local CYPSP Board and is a thematic subtract Local Strategic Partnership. Through these means the Council is consulted on and participates with other partners on the preparamonitoring of the Strategic Children and Young People's Plan for Essex. It is also responsible for ensuring that the needs of location people are addressed through bids for commissioned funding.					p (CYPSP) before it was dissolved and er representation on the Board, and the is a thematic sub-group of the Epping ners on the preparation, publishing and the needs of local children and young		
EP6	To maintain and improve the links between the Council, local town centres and the business community of the district.	To further develop the Town Centre Partnerships, or other appropriate local business forums, to encourage participation by local businesses.	Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder/Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The achievement of stronger links between the Council and local business communities across the district.	The achievement of full local business community representation on the individual Town Centre Partnerships or other appropriate local business forums.		

The six partnerships that the Council helped to establish, and for which it provides basic funding, are Buckhurst Hill, Epping, Loughton Broadway, Loughton High Road, Ongar (now called a forum) and Waltham Abbey. Each partnership tends to go through cycles or high points of activity and interest, followed by lower points. A Town Centre Manager post was funded from June 2004, although this arrangement is due to end in 2007/08. The principal focus of the Town Centre Manager post has been in Buckhurst Hill and the two Loughton partnerships, however each of the partnerships have been given special project grants of up to £2,000, and these have supported activities ranging from a green fayre (Buckhurst Hill), the howzat cricket festival, (Loughton High Road), the Debden day (Loughton Broadway), a promoting local shopping event (Epping), a town sign (Ongar) and priming funding to seek to get a statue of King Harold in Waltham Abbey. It is also clear that the business community struggle to have long-term involvement with organisations that hold day (trade) time meetings, and various steps have therefore been taken by the different partnerships, varying from breakfast to evening meetings. In contrast, the Federation of Small Businesses is actively involved in the Economic Prosperity Action Group of the Community Strategy.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

The Council has agreed to fund a Town Centre Officer position for three years commencing in 2008/09. This post will assist the six Town Centre Partnerships in their ongoing work, and a three year increase in the special projects fund has also been agreed.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation in respect of the work of the local Town Centre Partnerships at its meeting on 16 April 2009.

## Progress Report (31.3.10)

Progress during the last year was limited by the sickness absence of the Town Centres Officer, although ongoing workload was covered by the Economic Development Officer. Extensive work has been undertaken on a Task and Finish Panel set up by the Local Strategic Partnership, which involves business representatives and has led to many new links with the Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small I Businesses. Several events have been undertaken and promoted jointly, and the Council also took various actions such as the holding of parking charges for 2009/10 and 2010/11, and the appointment of the Finance Portfolio Holder at the authority's Business Champion.

	IMPROVING OUR PERFORMANCE									
IP1	To implement the Customer	(a) To identify and agree the	Customer Services, Media,	The achievement of improvements	The resource requirements for the					
	Services Transformation	appropriate resource requirements for	Communications and	in answering telephone calls and the	Customer Services Transformation					
	Programme.	the implementation of the Customer	Information Technology	implementation of consistent	Programme are currently being					
		Services Transformation Programme;	Portfolio Holder/Director of	telephone answering standards; the	assessed by the consultants					
			Finance and Information and	provision of customer access to	engaged by the Council to devise the					
			Communication Technology	Council services through 'self	programme. Specific targets and					
				service' electronic channels; the	performance measures will be					
			Corporate Support Services	provision of customer access to the	developed as the implementation of					
			and ICT Portfolio	majority of services in a single	the Customer Services					
			Holder/Deputy Chief	ground floor reception area at the	Transformation Programme is					
			Executive	Civic Offices; and the provision of	progressed.					
				extended opening hours to meet						
				customer demand.						

The implementation of the Customer Services Transformation Programme has been deferred until further capital funding is available.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

As a result of the corporate restructure, customer contact is now a responsibility of the Deputy Chief Executive. A fresh review is being conducted of the Council's requirements, through the Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel established for 2008/09.

#### Progress Report (31.3.09)

The Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel has completed its review and has reported to the Cabinet, as a result of which extra resources have been allocated to develop the Council's website. Other recommendations in relation to the development of a customer relationship management system and the introduction of a contact centre are to be prioritised. The 'Forester' magazine has been reviewed, with recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny in June 2009 with respect to the development of a wider role for the publication.

#### Progress Report (31.3.10)

The Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel has requested a further report on the development of a customer relationship management system, once the second year (2009/10) outturn position for National Indicator 14 (Avoidable Contact) in respect of the Council's telephony systems is known. The inspection of the Council's Benefits Service undertaken by the Audit Commission during 2009/10 was critical of existing access to the service, and the development of co-located services as at the Limes Farm Estate in Chigwell and as part of the development brief for The Broadway in Loughton, will need to be considered as part of this review of customer access.

(b) Subject to (a), to establish a corporate customer contact centre as the first phase of the Customer Services Transformation Programme.

Customer Services, Media, Communications and Information Technology Portfolio Holder/Director of Finance and Information and Communication Technology

Corporate Support Services and ICT Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive The achievement of improvements in answering telephone calls and the implementation of consistent telephone answering standards; the provision of customer access to Council services through 'self service' electronic channels; the provision of customer access to the majority of services in a single ground floor reception area at the Civic Offices; and the provision of extended opening hours to meet customer demand.

The resource requirements for the Customer Services Transformation Programme are currently being assessed by the consultants engaged by the Council to devise the programme. Specific targets and performance measures will be developed as the implementation of the Customer Services Transformation Programme is progressed.

#### Progress Report (31.3.07)

As IP1(a) above. The implementation of the Customer Services Transformation Programme has been deferred until further capital funding is available.

#### Progress Report (31.3.08)

As IP1(a) above. As a result of the corporate restructure, customer contact is now a responsibility of the Deputy Chief Executive. A fresh review is being conducted of the Council's requirements, through the Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel established for 2008/09.

		Progress Report (31.3.09)					
		The contact centre proposal has been considered as part of the work of the Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel. The project has been agreed in principle, subject to prioritisation exercise.					
		Progress Report (31.3.10)  As IP1(a) above. The inspection of the Council's Benefits Service undertaken by the Audit Commission during 2009/10 was critical of existing access to					
		the service, and the development of co- Broadway in Loughton, will need to be o	located services as at the Limes	Farm Estate in Chigwell and as part of t	the development brief for The		
IP2	To achieve and maintain top quartile district council performance for the speed of processing of new Housing Benefit claims and changes of circumstances, and to maintain current top quartile performance for the accuracy of benefit assessments.	(a) To implement an Electronic Records Document Management System for the Benefits Division;	Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder/Director of Finance and ICT	(a) Time currently lost on searching for paper files will be able to be devoted to more productive activities and medium term efficiency gains secured.	(a) The achievement and maintenance of top quartile district council performance for the speed of processing of new Housing Benefit claims and changes of circumstances. The necessary hardware and software for the Electronic Records Document Management System are already ion place and funding of £15,000 has been allocated to aid the implementation of the system.		
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  This target has been achieved as the Benefits Division has now gone live with Anite at Work, the corporate Electronic Records and Document Management System.					
Progress Report (31.3.08)  The corporate Electronic Records and Document Management System has been implemented. No further update is require progress report.  Progress Report (31.3.09)					te is required to the 31 March 2007		
		Processing was disrupted during 2008/09 by the conversion to a new Revenues and Benefits ICT system, a problem made worse by the deteriorating economic climate leading to an increase in benefits caseload. To deal with the backlog that arose during the ICT conversion, additional resource was made available for a 'Hit Squad'. A report is planned to be made to the Cabinet in July 2009, which will set out options for a restructuring of the Benefits Service and detail any additional resource requirements necessary to achieve top quartile status.					

		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		<b>ACTION COMPLETED</b> The Benefits Service was restructured during 2009/10, and this led to improvements in customer services and reprocessing times. However, the improvements were not recognised by the Audit Commission and a service inspection took place towards the year. It is anticipated that the report of the inspection will be issued in late May 2010, and an action plan will be developed to respond any recommendations.				
		(b) To investigate the use of information technology to enhance performance by mobile working, in partnership with other appropriate local authorities.	Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder/Director of Finance and ICT	(b) Benefit Visiting Officers to be provided with tablet personal computer equipment containing benefit information that can be used to check and verify benefit entitlement during the course of a visit. Eventually claims will be able to be processed during visits, which will assist claimants and improve performance.	(b) To maintain current top quartile district council performance for the accuracy of Housing Benefit assessments. A grant of £133,000 has been awarded by the Department of Work and Pensions to enable this initiative to commence in partnership with two other local authorities.	
Progress Report (31.3.07)  A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to get the necessary infrastructure in place and functioning. Go I				. Go live for mobile working		
		arrangements is now scheduled for June 2007.				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)  Mobile working arrangements were implemented from June 2007 and are operating successfully. No further update is therefore required to the 31 March 2007 progress report.				
		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		Mobile working arrangements were implemented from June 2007 and continue to operate successfully. No further update is therefore required 31 March 2007 progress report.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)  ACTION COMPLETED Mobile working arrangements were implemented from June 2007 and continue to operate successfully. No further update is therefore required to the 31 March 2007 progress report.				
IP3	To achieve and maintain top quartile district council performance for the determination of all planning applications.	To fully implement agreed proposals for planning performance improvements, including new information technology systems, a planning 'hit squad' and the service restructure.	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder/Director of Planning and Economic Development	The achievement of improved determination times for all classes of planning application.	The achievement of top quartile district council performance by 30 June 2006, and the maintenance of top quartile performance thereafter.	

		Progress Report (31.3.07)				
		Planning Services has implemented the main building and planning modules of the Building Control, Local Land Charges and Planning integrated ICT system, and work continues on moving the Land Charges system to the latest full specification, and on further enhancements of the overall system that has changed many business processes. The Anite @work document management system has also been rolled out, but does not yet offer a complete "back catalogue" and is not yet seamless. However, the upgrading of systems and the provision of transformational access for staff and customers has been achieved in a short timescale. Planning Services have also successfully reduced a backlog of planning cases, and implemented a restructure. The combined effects of those measures has moved planning application performance from a poor position to one which is well above Government targets, and where the top quartile position (which is also moving higher) is close to achievement on BV109 (a) and (b) and has been achieved on 109 (c). Three particularly long serving and/or senior staff in an etablishment team of twelve professional officers left the authority last year and although they have been successfully replaced with more junior and presently less experienced staff, this has inevitably impacted upon performance.				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		In considering performance against the top quartile, an action plan was agreed for 2007/08. Some important points in that action plan required decisions of Members, and in turn the involvement of local councils to move to a position where there is a three weekly cycle of Plans Sub-Committee meetings, and where there is the shortest gap in the cycle of meetings around election time. Whilst those steps have now been agreed, they did not commence such that they could have an impact in 2007/08. Performance in the top quartile has only been achieved in one of the three indicators so far, but is now very close to the challenging top quartile position in the other two indicators.  Progress Report (31.3.09)  The changes introduced in 2007/08 have proved helpful, but in a rather volatile year, performance for 2008/09 was slightly below target. The improvement plan developed for 2009/10 will be challenging, in particular concerning those planning application cases determined by committee.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED Improvement Plans were completed for all elements of National Performance Indicator (NI) 157. Turnaround of planning applications in time under officer delegated powers was achieved in target, which has resulted in top quartile performance. The number of applicate determined by the Area Plans Sub-Committees holds back top quartile performance for the other elements of NI 157. The three-week cycle of Are Plans Sub-Committee meetings introduced in 2008 has helped, although other possible improvements (two-week committee cycle and suggested further delegated powers) have not been implemented, and targets will still be challenging.				
IP4	To deliver customer-focused services which meet the needs and aspirations of the diverse communities of the district.	To develop and adopt a corporate Public Consultation and Engagement Policy and Strategy.	Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder/Deputy Chief Executive	The establishment of meaningful opportunities for residents and customers of the Council to inform and influence policy development and service provision.	The adoption of new Public Consultation and Engagement Policy and Strategy by 31 October 2006.	
Progress Report (31.3.07)				1		
		Action achieved. A new Public Consultation and Engagement Policy and Strategy was adopted by the Council in April 2006.				
		Progress Report (31.3.08)				
No further update required to the 31 March 2007 progress report. The Council's public consultation and engagement function tracket Relations and Marketing Unit as part of the corporate restructure in 2007/08.				ment function transferred to the Public		

		Progress Report (31.3.09)				
		The first national 'Place Survey' was undertaken in late 2008, with the results to be reported in June 2009. A Corporate Equality Working Group has been established and the feasibility of the establishment of a Citizens' Panel is currently being explored jointly with Local Strategic Partnership.				
		Progress Report (31.3.10)				
		ACTION COMPLETED The Council's Public Consultation and Engagement Policy and Strategy sets out the standards expected of services when undertaking consultation, to ensure all sections of the community are heard. The strategy is supported by guidance for managers, an annual programme of consultation and a consultation database which enables the Council to coordinate consultation activity, reducing duplication and fatig The Place Survey explores key service issues and perceptions of the district as a place to live, and the results are used to inform the Council's key objectives and targets, budget development and service planning and delivery. The Place Survey is due to be repeated in 2010/11, and a 'Tracker' survey coordinated by Essex County Council is run across Essex in the years between the Place Survey, to ensure the availability of a reliable and consistent set of local data.				
IP5	To achieve top quartile district council performance for each Key Performance Indicator identified by the Council on an annual basis.	(a) To develop annual improvement plans in respect of all Key Performance Indicators;	All Portfolio Holders/All Directors	The achievement of top quartile district council performance in the service priority areas identified by the Council each year.	The achievement of top quartile district council performance in priority areas by 31 March each year, based on quartile data published by the Audit Commission.	
		Progress Report (31.3.07)  Improvement plans in respect of all Key Performance Indicators for 2006/07 were completed and considered by Management Board. The success of improvement actions was monitored on a quarterly basis throughout the year by the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel.  Progress Report (31.3.08)				
		Improvement plans in respect of all Key Performance Indicators for 2007/08 were completed and considered by the Corporate Executive Forum success of improvement actions was monitored on a quarterly basis throughout the year by the Finance and Performance Management Scrutin Progress Report (31.3.09)				
	Improvement plans in respect of all Key Performance Indicators for 2008/09 were completed and considered by the Corporate Executive Forus success of improvement actions was monitored on a quarterly basis throughout the year by the Finance and Performance Management Scrut  Progress Report (31.3.10)					
ACTION COMPLETED Improvement plans in respect of all Key Performance Indicators for 2009/10 were completed a Executive Forum. The success of improvement actions was monitored on a quarterly basis throughout the year by the Management Scrutiny Panel.						

(b) To monitor progress towards the achievement of top quartile district council performance for each Key Performance Indicator on a quarterly basis.	All Portfolio Holders/All Directors	The achievement of top quartile district council performance in the service priority areas identified by the Council each year.	The achievement of top quartile district council performance in priority areas by 31 March each year, based on quartile data published by the Audit Commission.
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The overall year-end position with regard to the achievement of top quartile (or other relevant) targets set for 44 of the KPIs (excluding 7 indicators for which performance cannot be measured against targets, and one that reflects a base-line position brought forward from the preceding year) was as follows:

- 22 (50%) achieved the performance target for 2006/07;
- 7 (16%) did not achieve the performance target for 2006/07, although outturn performance was within 5% of the target for the year; and
- 15 (34%) did not achieve the performance target for 2006/07 and outturn performance was not within 5% of the target for the year.

## Progress Report (31.3.08)

The year-end position with regard to overall improvement and the achievement of top quartile (or other relevant) targets for the KPIs for 2007/08, was as follows:

- 3 (53.5%) achieved the performance target for 2007/08;
- 6 (13.9%) did not achieve the performance target for 2007/08, although outturn performance was within 5% of the target for the year;
- 14 (32.5%) did not achieve the performance target for 2007/08, and outturn performance was not within 5% of the target for the year;
- 23 (53.5%) improved in performance compared with 2006/07, or maintained the level of performance achieved for 2006/07; and
- 20 (46.5%) worsened in performance compared with 2006/07.

## Progress Report (31.3.09)

The year-end position with regard to the achievement of top quartile (or other relevant) targets for the KPIs for 2008/09, was as follows:

- 14 (41.2%) achieved the performance target for 2008/09;
- 13 (38.2%) did not achieve the performance target for 2008/09:
- 6 (46.1%) of those (13) that did not achieve the performance target for 2008/09 were within 5% of the target for the year;
- 6 (17.6%) cannot currently be reported. These indicators comprise survey or other measures for which finalised outturn data is due to be reported by other organisations, and which has not yet been published; and
- 1 (2.9%) was subject to a revised National Indicator definition that removed the Council's responsibility to report.

The introduction of the new National Indicator set from 1 April 2009 has meant that it is difficult to assess overall levels of KPI improvement between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

The year-end position with regard to the achievement of top quartile (or other relevant) targets for the KPIs for 2009/10, was as follows:

- 31 (53.4%) achieved the performance target for 2009/10;
- 20 (34.5%) did not achieve the performance target for 2009/10;
- 8 (40%) of those (20) that did not achieve the performance target for 2009/10 were within 5% of the target for the year;
- 4 (6.9%) cannot currently be reported;
- 1 (1.7%) was not required to be measured in 2009/10;
- 1 (1.7%) was not required to subject to a performance target; and
- 1 (1.7%) was not reported during 2009/10.

Four indicators comprise measures for which finalised outturn data for 2009/10 is due to be reported by other organisations and which has not yet been published. The overall outturn position could obviously increase once performance for the outstanding four indicators is known.