

**Report of Local Area Agreements
Task and Finish Panel to the Cabinet**

**Report Reference: C/084/2005-06.
Date of meeting: 28 November 2005**



Subject: Local Area Agreement for Essex

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Recommendations:

(1) That the Cabinet be recommended to pursue the following LAA Priorities for sign up by the Council namely:

Priority 3 – Ensure development is designed to promote healthier living in the built environment and provide decent and affordable housing;

Priority 10 – Reduce crime and the fear of crime; and

Priority 11 - Actively manage our environment;

(2) That once finalised performance targets are known members be kept informed of the proposals as they relate to these targets;

(3) That the Cabinet be recommended to consider whether to delegate decisions on details of the proposed performance targets and associated action plans to Heads of Service in consultation with Portfolio Holders and the Management Board; and

(4) That Overview and Scrutiny be involved in any local monitoring arrangements of the finalised LAA performance targets.

Report:

1. We were requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review proposals by the County Council for new Local Area Agreements (LAA) for Essex. We met to discuss these proposals on 28 November 2005.

2. The LAA is a contract between Local and central government which is intended to secure improvement across a number of areas for a three year period. The LAA scheme was first published in June 2004 and a number of pilot schemes were run in a first phase. The second phase was announced in June 2005 which included Essex. It is clear that the Government expects every authority to participate in the LAA process.

3. Essex has now made an initial bid via a prospectus for Essex that was worked up between the County Council and participating bodies and submitted at the end of September 2005 to GO-East based upon new Guidance issued by the Government. The government had some suggestions to make about points of emphasis and detail but have confirmed that they are content with the thirteen LAA priorities set out in the prospectus. These priorities are set out in Annex 1 to this report and are grouped around four blocks: Children and Young People; Safer and Stronger Communities, Healthier Communities and Older People and

Economic Development and Enterprise.

4. The Council played no part in the preparation and submission of the prospectus. Each District/Borough Council and Local Strategic Partnership in Essex has now been asked to look at the 13 priorities and choose which ones are most relevant to their local situation. To that end the Council is being asked whether it will sign up to the Local Area Agreement, and if so what contribution it is willing to make towards a successful outcome and in particular what priorities they are prepared to support.

5. We have considered the list of priorities together with draft targets. Of the thirteen areas, we are of the view that the Council is in a position to influence three. Those being related to:

(i) Ensuring development is designed to promote healthier living in the built environment and provide decent and affordable housing (Priority 3):

Reason. It is a priority for this authority to secure the provision of decent and affordable housing. The draft alterations to the local plan already contain a target for the number of dwellings to be built to the lifeline homes standard. The requirement for developers to submit Health Impact Assessments with relevant planning applications by April 2009 is a matter we could seek to address.

(ii) Reduce crime and the fear of crime (Priority 10):

Reason. The Council has a statutory duty to participate in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and to target its mainstream services in such a way as to contribute to reductions in crime. This ranges from planning estate layout and design, to windows and doors in Council houses, to anti-social behaviour and CCTV. Just about all of the Council's Services have a role to play (if not a duty) in relation to this agenda.

(iii) Actively manage our environment (Priority 11)

Reason. The environmental agenda is an important issue for this authority. Early indications are that the targets will cover waste, domestic energy (CO² emissions) and car travel (CO² emissions). The Council's published plans set high priorities in some of these areas and the Council is making major investments on recycling and waste minimisation. The Green Belt and possible impacts of the East of England Plan are also important issues.

6. We are therefore proposing that the Cabinet should indicate to the County Council that this authority should sign up to these priorities in principle. The Essex LAA is due to submit a second submission to GO-East by the end of November 2005 which will need to include an indication of how each of the four blocks will be funded. Given that the detail of the performance targets is, as yet, unknown we are suggesting that the Cabinet give consideration to delegating agreement on the detail of the proposals to Service Heads and the Management Board in consultation with cabinet members.

7. Additionally we are suggesting that, once the agreement is in being and performance targets are known, Overview and Scrutiny should have a role in the monitoring of performance.

Statement in Support of Recommended Action:

8. It our view that, although the Council could impact upon other Priority areas in partnership with other bodies, the three highlighted areas are based upon the statutory responsibilities of the authority and are areas in which the Council could make a positive impact.

Other Options Considered and Rejected:

9. The Council could choose not to participate in the LAA. However it is clear that the Government places great emphasis on these agreements. The Audit Commission, in their Strategic Plan have also indicated that they expect that Top Tier authorities should have such LAA's by 2006/7.

10. Additionally in order to ensure the successful delivery of a Local Area Agreement, the Government Guidance holds out the prospect of significant freedoms and flexibilities.

Consultation undertaken:

11. The timescale for this process is very tight and officers have informed the County Council that our response will await consideration by members. No external consultation has been possible although we have noted that the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership has given some consideration to this matter already and given conditional notice that it is likely to support Priorities 1, 4,10,11,12 and 13.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Financing streams of the Council that are linked to the notion of pooled resources are shown in Annex 3.

The Local Area Agreement also offers the possibility of some new monies via the mechanism of the former Public Service Agreements but requires this to be negotiated as part of the Local Area Agreement. The bulk of the costs of meeting the LAA, however, are to be met through the pooling of existing funding streams and the redirection/reprioritisation of existing mainstream budgets. Essex County Council estimates that the total sum in question is in the order of £136,229,000. In addition it estimates that District and Borough Councils collectively received another £197.3 million of which £7.4 million could be pooled centrally or locally. It was noted that the Home Office had already pooled resources in the Crime and Reduction area and this would be done across Essex. The only other area that appeared to be effected was Disable Facilities Grants. The Panel did not understand how this would operate as it was means tested.

It was noted that any other resources would be from the Council's mainstream budgets.

Personnel: N/A.

Land: None identified.

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A.

Relevant statutory powers: N/A.

Background papers: Officer Report of J Scott considered at meeting on 28 November 2005, other issued papers for the meeting on the 28 November 2005 can be found at

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local_democracy

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: The nature of the LAA will positively effect the Environment and Crime and Disorder implications.

Key Decision reference: (if required) Not a key decision.

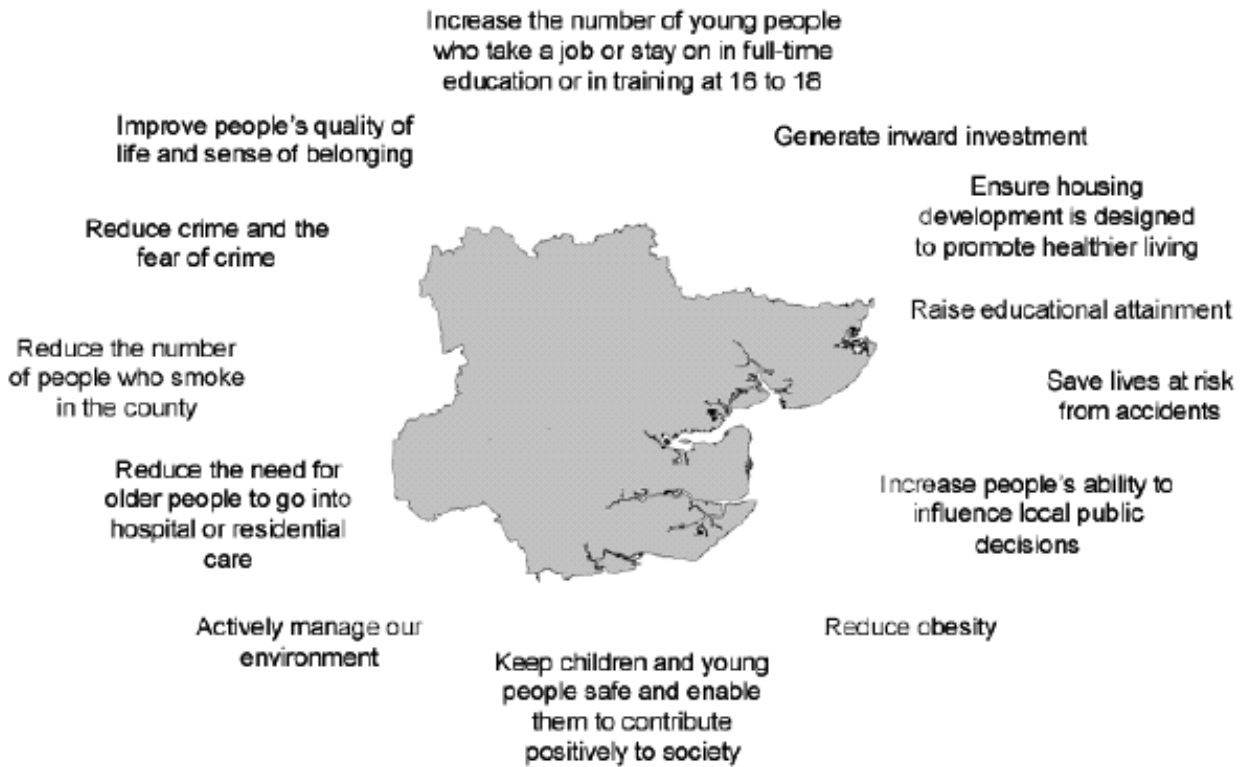
Members of the Task and Finish Panel:

Councillors K Faulkner (Chairman), M Colling, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs M Sartin, D Stallan, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse

Other members present: Councillor Mrs D Collins

HEALTH AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF ESSEX

Our 13 priorities



**HEALTH AND LAA TARGETS FOR ESSEX
OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE PEOPLE
OF ESSEX**

		Block			
		CYP	HCOP	SSC	EDE
Priority	Proposed Target				
1. Reduce Obesity	Numbers recorded of individuals Recorded Obese measured as the total number of people aged 15-75 on the GP register, recorded as having a BMI of 30 or over in the last 15 months offered a personalised weight management programme (defined as adhering to DH obesity care pathway) – reduce by 5% by 2009.		X		
	Halt the increase in obesity in children under 11 by 2009	X	X		
2. Reduce the number of people who smoke in Essex	Achieve smoking prevalence of 21% in Essex by 2009	X	X	X	
3. Ensure development is designed to promote healthier living in the built environment [and to provide decent and	All developers to submit Health Impact Assessments (HIA) with relevant planning applications by April 2009		X	X	X

affordable housing					
	X% of all new homes to be built to the Lifetime Homes Standard		X		X
4. Reduce the need for older people to go into hospital or residential care	Satisfaction with the help received from Essex Social Services by people 65 and over using home care services provided through Social Care and people aged 65 and over who directly purchased services through Direct Payments		X		
	Reduction in the number of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied by a person aged 75 or more in NHS hospitals in Essex		X		
	10% decrease in the numbers of people aged 65 and over who have previously received support from social services needing to go into residential care		X	X	
5. Generate inward investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve reliability on journey times for car users (<i>LPSA Target</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve a reliability index of 95% 				X
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve reliability on journey times for car users (<i>LPSA Target</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce average journey times per person by 1% 				X
	Increase the level of foreign direct investment in Essex			X	X
	Increase the level of UK (non Essex) inward investment			X	X

	Increase the level of expansion of existing companies in Essex.			X	X
	Increase the number of business start-ups in Essex.				X
6. Increase the number of young people who take a job or stay on in full-time education or in training at 16 to 18	To reduce the 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) group by reducing the proportion of pupils in Year 11 who leave school without entering full-time education, employment or training	X		X	X
	Increase the number of and percentage of 16-19 year olds who receive training in employment, including through the 'Jobs without Training' initiative and the national roll-out of National Employer Training Programme (NETP)	X			X
	To increase the levels of attainment in GCSE in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and in the numbers that study at A level and in higher education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X number of young people achieving GCSEs and A levels in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. 	X			X
7. Raise educational attainment	Improve attainment of all pupils in the target schools at Key Stage 2 in (a) English; and (b) mathematics	X			X
	Number of primary schools in a cohort which do not meet floor targets for pupils achieving Level 4 at Key Stage 2	X			

	Improve attainment at secondary level by reducing the number of under performing schools (indicator to be developed; may refer to secondary schools falling below floor targets for GCSE, or to value added)	X			
	Raise the achievement of looked after children (a) reduce the percentage of schools sessions missed; (b) Key Stage 2 attainment at Level 4 for English, mathematics and science; (c) Key Stage 4 attainment 5 grades A*-G GCSE or equivalent	X			
	To reduce the number of economically active adults in the workforce who do not have a Skills for Life, Level 2 or equivalent qualification'	X		X	X
8. Keep children and young people safe and enable them to contribute positively to society	Number of young adults leaving care who have their accommodation needs met	X	X		
	Of the young people receiving a service from the Leaving and After Care Service, the percentage who are misusing drugs and/or alcohol	X	X	X	
	Number of reported crimes where the victim is under the age of 18 (indicator to be refined)	X		X	
	Indicator to be developed for <i>Number of children and young people who are kept safe where they are caught up in domestic violence or exposed to alcohol or substance misuse</i> <i>Could this be dealt with by the indicators above and under Priority 10?</i>	X		X	
	Implementation across all CDRPs of revised prevent and deter strategy with a focus on intensive targeting (level 2)	X		X	

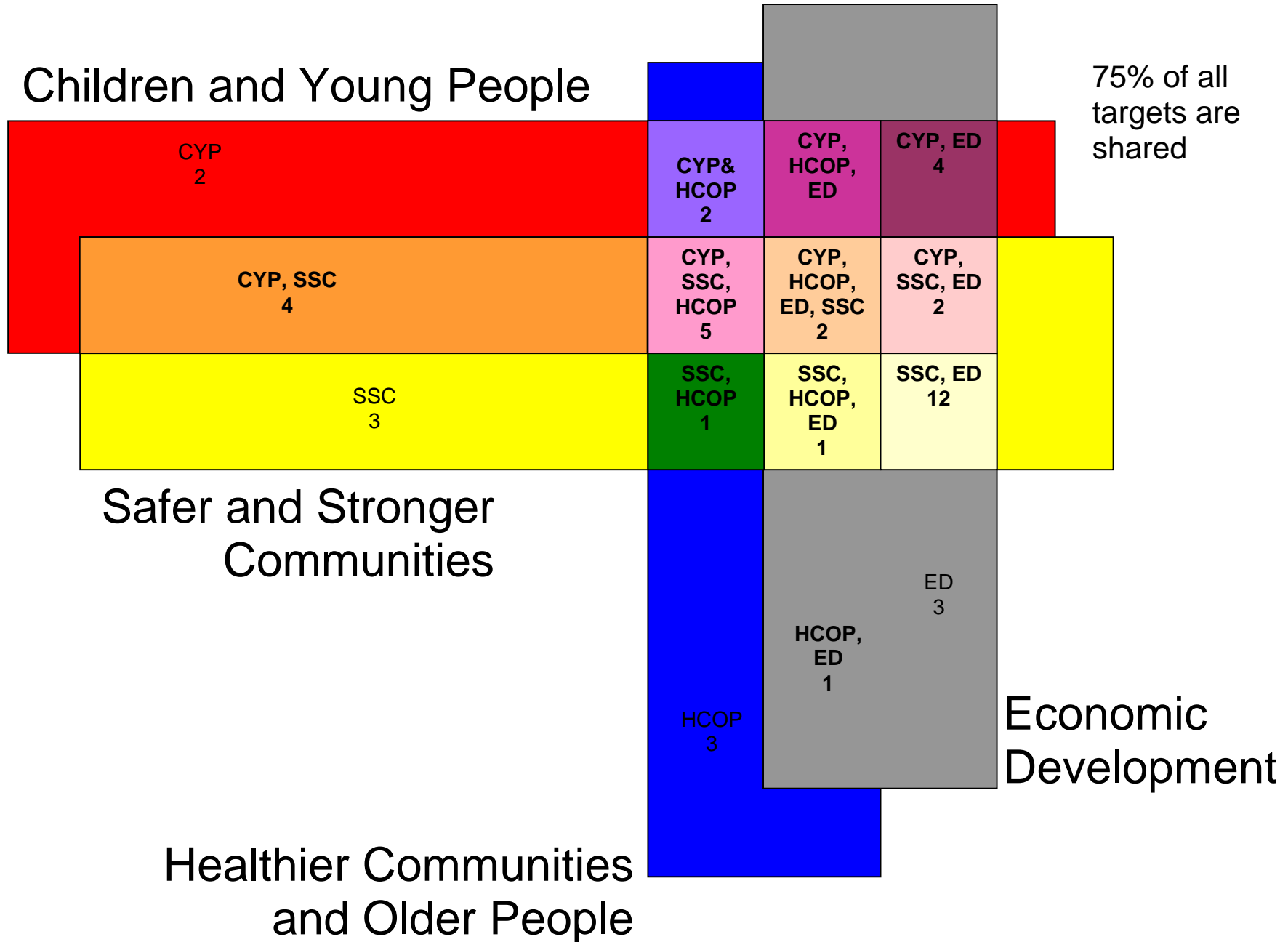
	Reduction in the number of ABCs made on young people under 18yrs, which are breached and result in an application for an ASBO. The aim here must be to increase level of early intervention support targeted at ABCs. This links with the above indicator.	X		X	
9. Save lives at risk from accidents	Reducing KSI casualties in Essex	X		X	
	Children aged under 16 killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions	X		X	
	Number of deliberate fires	X		X	
	Accidental domestic fires	X		X	
10. Reduce crime and the fear of crime	<p>Reduced drug and alcohol use by children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A - Of the young people receiving a service from the Learning and After Care Service, the percentage who are misusing drugs and/or alcohol. ○ B - Reduction in the number of traders who are willing to supply alcohol to young people in Essex. ○ C - Reduction in the percentage of young people on the books of the Essex Youth Offending Service who have re-offended with an offence relating to drugs or alcohol within two years of contact with the YOS. <p>Reduction in crime (basket of 10 crimes, with British Crime Survey data – Iquanta).</p>	X		X	X

	Reduction in perception of / fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	X	X	X	
	Increased successful prosecutions of domestic violence perpetrators	X		X	
11. Actively manage our environment	<p>Reduce or limit the increase in size of Essex's Ecological Footprint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A - Waste: kg/capita municipal waste (BVPI 84). ○ B - Domestic energy: (gas and electricity) CO₂ emissions ○ C - Car travel: CO₂ emissions 			X	X
	<p>To maximise recycling and composting of household waste and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been sent for recycling or composting 			X	
	<p>Cleaner streets and public spaces (Improving the cleanliness and public satisfaction of Essex gateway areas and adjoining lands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A - Proportion of land within the County which falls below an acceptable level (Grade B) with regards to levels of detritus and litter ○ B - Proportion of land within the targeted gateway areas which falls below an acceptable level (Grade B) with regards to levels of detritus and litter. ○ C - Public satisfaction with the quality of the local environment around the gateway areas. 			X	
12. Increase people's ability to influence local public decisions and service delivery	The percentage saying in surveys that they are able to influence decisions affecting their local area (eg, Best Value Survey 2003)			X	

	<p>The number and diversity of people of all ages volunteering and participating in community activities, both formal and informal, as measured by survey (eg, Citizen Audit 2001, Essex Citizens' Panel Autumn 2004) and/or numbers of people passing through volunteer centres (ESTIC data)</p> <p>Is this the same as the final indicator under 13?</p>	X	X	X	
	<p>Increase the voluntary and community sector contribution to delivering local services for the benefit of local communities.</p>	X	X	X	
<p>13. Improve people's quality of life and sense of belonging in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Local quality of life [note: these would serve the mandatory outcome measure]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An 'objective' basket of local quality of life/service delivery indicators (to be designed) [Comment: more important than C, since people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods may be satisfied with services that are nevertheless poorly performing objectively] ○ Satisfaction with local public services (based on Best Value Survey) <p>Note: for the 2 above to be merged into 1.</p>	X	X	X	X
	<p>Social cohesion and informal networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A - Percentage of people surveyed who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (Audit Commission PI 139) 	X	X	X	X
	<p>Community activities, Culture, arts and sport (& accessibility)</p>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The percentage of residents who think that for their local area over the past three years, the following have got better or stayed the same: activities for teenagers; cultural facilities; facilities for young children; sports and leisure facilities; parks and open spaces (Audit Commission QoL Indicator 2) ○ To increase bus patronage on selected routes ○ The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, a) public transport has got better or stayed the same, b) the level of traffic congestion has got better or stayed the same. ○ A measure on access to rural / community transport <p>Note: For above points to be merged, with a focus on accessibility of services rather than transport itself</p>			X	X
	<p>Increase the confidence and community participation of children and young people through positive leisure, cultural, recreational, volunteering and community activities (indicator to be developed)</p>	X		X	

LAA TARGETS FOR ESSEX: LINKING THE BLOCKS



EFDC Eligible LAA funding streams

Funding stream	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07
	Grant Received? Yes/No	£'000	Grant Received? Yes/No	£'000	Grant likely to be received Yes/No
a) Children and Young People					
b) Healthier Communities and Older People Disabled Facilities Grant Supporting People (assumed to be accounted for in County figures)	Yes	131	Yes	144	Uncertain
c) Safer and Stronger Communities Building Safer Communities Fund	Yes.	152 (inc. £25k ASB Grant)	Yes	152 (inc.£25k ASB Grant)	Yes. Through ECC LAA Safer Stronger Block/Working Group. Negotiations continue with GOEAST Crime Reduction Unit

Funding stream	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07
Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant	No		Yes	40	Unknown
d) Economic Development and Enterprise					
e) Funds that can be pooled or aligned locally Big Lottery Funding Communities for Health PE and School Sport Club Link Sport England/Active England Arts Council England Managed Funds Renaissance in the Regions	No No No No No No		No No No No No No		We hope to submit bids for funding from all of these streams in the near future
f) Funding Streams that cannot be pooled in an LAA					