



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C/047/2006-07.

Date of meeting: 4 September 2006.

Portfolios: Customer Services, Media, Communications and ICT Portfolio.

Subject: Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN) – Essex SNEN Partnership.

Officer contact for further information: Adrian Scott (01992 – 56 4457).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 – 56 4470).

Recommendation:

That, due to the deadline for the Single Non-Emergency Number submission to the Home Office not being compatible with the Cabinet cycle of meetings, the Customer Services, Media, Communications and ICT Portfolio Holder be authorised to make a Portfolio Decision on the final SNEN Essex Partnership proposal.

Report:

1. The Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN) is a new national service that will provide the public with direct access, through a new 3 digit number (101), to community safety advice, information and action, while freeing up 999 emergency call services to handle genuine emergency incidents. The core service will cover the following call categories:
 - Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property;
 - Noisy neighbours;
 - Intimidation and harassment;
 - Abandoned vehicles;
 - Rubbish or litter;
 - People being drunk or rowdy in public places;
 - Drug related anti-social behaviour; and
 - Street lighting.
2. The Cabinet agreed on 5 June 2006 to support the Essex SNEN Partnership by participating in the wave 2 'expression of interest'. The Home Office subsequently accepted the Essex SNEN Partnerships 'expression of interest' and has awarded the partnership £100k grant to develop a full proposal and implementation plan. The final proposal will need to be submitted to the Home Office by Midday on 6 October 2006.
3. If the Home Office accepts the final proposal the SNEN service, covering the core call categories, will be implemented across all Essex Local Authorities by June 2006.
4. The Partnership has established a Project Board to oversee the development of the proposals and the Project Team is in the process of drafting the proposal and implementation plan. However, due to the tight timetable there will not be a draft available for consideration by Members until late September 2006. Therefore with the next Cabinet meeting not scheduled until 9 October 2006 it will not possible for the Cabinet to consider the proposal until after it has been submitted to the Home Office.
5. It is therefore recommended that the relevant Portfolio Holder takes the decision to agree the final proposal on behalf of the Cabinet by way of a Portfolio Holder Decision.

Statement in Support of Recommended Action:

6. All Essex District Council's are attending the SNEN Essex Partnership project board meetings and all support moving forward with a full Wave 2 proposal and implementation plan.

Other Options for Action:

7. The Council has agreed to participate in the full proposal stage and accepted the 6 October deadline when agreeing to the 'expression of interest' so must therefore take a Member decision on the final proposal before it is submitted to the Home Office.
8. The use of a Portfolio Holder decision appears to be the only option available to the Council within the tight timetable imposed by the Home Office.

Consultation undertaken:

9. Discussions on the full proposal and implementation plan of SNEN have been made with the following groups: Management Board; Essex Police and the Essex Police Authority; Essex Local Authorities; Essex Online Partnership; and Essex SNEN Partnership Group.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: None at this stage of the programme.

Personnel: Nil.

Land: Nil.

Community Plan/BVPP reference: None.

Relevant statutory powers: None.

Background papers: Cabinet report C/007/2006-07, SNEN Concepts of Operation V2.0, SNEN Wave 2 Rolling out the service nationally.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: None.

Key Decision reference: Forward Plan 2006/7.