

Report to LSP Task and Finish Panel

Date of meeting: 25 October 2006



Subject: Local Area Agreement for Essex

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Recommendations:

- 1. To receive a presentation from Mr Richard Puleston, Head of Community Planning and Regeneration, Essex County Council.**
- 2. To note the current situation in relation to the Local Area Agreement for Essex and the part this Council has agreed to play**
- 3. To determine the issues the Panel wishes to take into account in its review of the workings of the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership from the Council's perspective in the light of the Government's Consultation Paper and the achievement of the Local Area Agreement**

Report:

One of the aims and objectives of the Task and Finish Panel is to review the Local Area Agreement for Essex and how it should be implemented locally.

The Local Area Agreement for Essex was negotiated with the Government during 2005 and a Task and Finish Panel of the District Council met on 28 November 2005 to consider how the Council should respond.

Council at its meeting on 21 February 2006 resolved to support the principles in the Local Area Agreement in general, since all of the 14 priorities could bring about benefits for the population of the Epping Forest District. In particular Council agreed to target its activities on the following 5 priorities:

- **Priority 3** – Ensure development is designed to promote healthier living in the built environment.

There are two targets:

- All local authorities will ensure that their local development frameworks contain a policy requiring health impact assessments for relevant planning applications by 2009; and
 - The number of new homes built to the Lifetime Homes Standard in each borough/district will be a minimum 3% of annual completions by 2009.
- **Priority 8** – Keep vulnerable children and young people safe.

There are three targets:

- Increase the proportion of young adults leaving care who have their accommodation needs met to 55.5%.
 - Reduce the number of children and young people who have been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour by reducing the number of recorded selected (non-minor) crimes where the victim is aged 0 -19 by 3% year on year until 2009.
 - Reduce offending by children and young people by increasing positive attitudes and behaviours amongst those at risk of offending, especially 8-13 years old, including by increasing the use of Acceptable behaviour Contracts by 15%.
- **Priority 10** – Reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime.

There are four targets:

- Reduce drug and alcohol use by children and young people (measured by reduction in traders who will supply alcohol to young people, reduced re-offending by young people involving drugs or alcohol and reduction in substance misuse among young offenders and care leavers) and increase the number of adult drug users in treatment;
 - Reduction in crime from 2004 baseline by 16.5% across the new Essex area;
 - Reduction in fear of crime;
 - Increase charge and caution (sanction detection) rates for perpetrators of domestic violence as a proportion of the total number of domestic violence incidents recorded by the Police.
- **Priority 11** – Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

There is one target:

- Reduction in perceived anti-social behaviour (as measured by survey) from 32.2% in 2003/4 to 29% in 2008/9/
- **Priority 12** – Actively manage our environment.

There are three targets:

- Reduce or limit the increase in size of Essex's ecological footprint in terms of household waste collected per head of population and CO² emissions from domestic energy use and car travel;
- Maximise recycling and composting of household waste (BVPI 82a and 82b);

- Improve the cleanliness of and public satisfaction with Essex Gateway areas and adjoining lands based on BV 199a and BV89;

Progress against these targets is measured via the LAA process and is overseen within our Council by the Performance Management Unit and reported to Members along with Best Value Performance Indicators and Local Performance Indicators.

Since Council has resolved to sign up to the Local Area Agreement and chosen its priorities as outlined above, it is assumed that the task for this panel is to review the process in relation to the Council's participation in the Local Strategic Partnership.

To that end, Members of the Panel will receive:

- A copy of the Local Area Agreement for Essex;
- A copy of a Local Area Agreement organisation chart produced for the local Strategic Partnership which shows the four blocks of the Local Area Agreement, which priorities they include and how the Local Strategic Partnership is currently managing them.

Some changes may come about now that the Children's and Young Persons Strategic partnership (CYPSP) has been adopted as the 8th strand of the LSP.

- A copy of a letter received from the County Council Chief Executive under the heading LAA update.

Mr Richard Puleston, Head of Community Planning and Regeneration for Essex County Council has kindly agreed to accept the invitation from the Panel to attend this meeting in order to give a short presentation on the Local Area Agreement to advise Members on the current position and to answer questions.