
ESSEX COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION – ‘SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ESSEX’

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members’ comments on the Essex County Community Strategy as part of the community consultation. Community consultation on the Strategy is taking place from January to 31st March 2003.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Essex County Council has developed the County Community Strategy following a series of ‘Shaping the Future of Essex’ Seminars held during 2000, from the views expressed at the November 2001 Local Strategic Partnership Conference and from a partner consultation process throughout the Summer 2002. Members’ comments at that time were given to Essex County Council. (Min 233/02)
- 2.2 The Community Strategy identifies the priorities for the County for the next 20 years.
- 2.3 Consultation has also been undertaken by Essex County Council at Rayleigh Library. This included consultation on the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan Review, which has been separately reported to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19th March 2003.

3 Shaping the Future – Challenges and Vision

- 3.1 The document identifies nine key areas of life for the future of Essex:

1. Feeling safe
2. Being healthy
3. Creating opportunities
4. Getting around
5. Being part of a community
6. Having a sense of place
7. Being served well and fairly
8. Conserving our environment
9. Having fun

- 3.2 In addition, it identifies some challenges for Essex:

- a) Changing the Image of Essex: overcoming the negative image of Essex.

- b) Balancing pressures for development with the need to protect the quality of our environment: balancing high house prices in Essex, large scale housing developments, the need for improved road infrastructure and more runways at Stansted Airport, with the need to protect our environment.
 - c) Promoting Active Citizenship in Essex: to increase the participation in voting, community groups and taking action on local issues.
 - d) Developing Essex's Relationship with London: making the best of the opportunities and pressures of the proximity of Essex to London.
- 3.3 The consultation identifies key issues for each of the nine key areas and some ideas on actions that could be taken. These were presented to Members at a special meeting on the 19th February 2003 by representatives of Essex County Council.

- 3.4 A copy of the full consultation document is available in the Members Library, Civic Suite or can be accessed electronically at shapingthefuture.essexcc.gov.uk

4 OFFICER COMMENT

- 4.1 The Strategy is aspirational for the next 20 years, and has some suggested actions which could be taken forward by groups of stakeholders with interests in these areas.
- 4.2 An action plan to achieve measurable results will be developed once the Community Strategy and its vision has been fully consulted up on and working groups considered the most appropriate actions.
- 4.3 The headings used are similar to those being developed for the Rochford Community Strategy, in the hope of gaining some links between the two plans.
- 4.4 The County Strategy aims to address issues which are prevalent at a County level, and includes partners who work at this level, whereas the Rochford Strategy aims to address local issues and work with local partners. In this way the two Strategies should avoid duplication, but should complement each other.
- 4.5 However until the detailed actions are developed, resourced and costed it is difficult to provide more meaningful comment. The stated actions are quite general, they do not for example identify specific areas where the actions would take place.

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- 4.6 Contributions may be requested from this authority and others throughout the County in the working groups, however, as each district is producing its own Community Strategy, Essex County Council has been made aware that contributions from the districts will be limited based on the capacity available.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The priorities for Vision 1 – ‘Feeling Safe’ are consistent with the Rochford Crime & Disorder Reduction Plan.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The priorities for Vision 8 – ‘Conserving our Environment’ are consistent with Rochford District Council policies.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Production of a Community Strategy is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2000.

8 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To agree the officer comments, subject to any further observations by Members for submission to Essex County Council as the Councils response to the consultation.

Paul Warren
Chief Executive

Background Papers:

County Strategic Partnership Consultation – Shaping the Future of Essex – January 2003

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