

## **ESSEX LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: UPDATE**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Further to the report to the last meeting of this Committee on the Local Area Agreement (LAA) process (min 386/2005), this report provides the latest update and seeks Members' initial views on those areas of particular interest to the Authority. Whilst no details as to resource availability are as yet apparent, it is important for this year's budget process to take into account the potential resource requirements covering those areas in which the Council may wish to participate.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Local Area Agreement prospectus for Essex submitted to Government, which was considered at the last meeting of this Committee, has now been the subject of further discussion and refinement.
- 2.2 A copy of the latest version outlining the work around the 13 target areas is appended for Members' information and consideration.

### **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 As the detailed work continues on developing the key actions and specific targets under the 13 target areas, it is opportune for this Council to consider:
- which of the target areas it would wish to participate in given its existing resource allocations?
  - has the Council got any particular projects in mind which may come under any of the 13 target areas identified?
  - which of the target areas would the Council wish to participate in if the resources were available, and what type of resources are required e.g. funding, people, skills?
  - who do the Council think are the key partners in the process and which agencies and partnerships in particular would the Council wish to work with?
  - If the LAA process does lead to additional freedoms and flexibilities, what freedoms and flexibilities would the Council wish to see?
- 3.2 The LAA process is still very much an evolving one. It is important that these matters are considered in the context of the budget process and if there are any areas of specific interest at this stage, these need to be flagged up to ensure that they are factored into the LAA discussions.

**4 RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That, subject to any particular comments and suggestions at this stage, the progress on the Essex Local Area Agreement process to date be noted.
- (2) That the detailed implications from the evolving LAA process be considered within the context of the Council's budget process.

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