

## **LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks Member approval to Officers undertaking preliminary discussions with Essex County Council Officers in respect of the above.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will recall from previous reports in respect of proposals for the new funding arrangements of local government the mentioning of local Public Service Agreements.
- 2.2 In essence, Government are offering additional funding where Authorities enter agreements which will result in achieving targets in excess of set standards.
- 2.3 These agreements will only be available to County and Unitary Authorities. With regard to County Councils, they will need to work with Districts in order to be able to secure some of these agreements.

### **3 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

- 3.1 A letter has now been received from Essex County Council as they are in the process of trying to secure additional funding from this source.
- 3.2 The County have identified twelve areas where they may be able to make a bid, these are:

#### National Targets

- Educational attainment at GCSE
- Educational attainment at Key Stage 3
- (Probably) Life choices for care leavers and/or children in care
- Independence for older people
- Condition of local roads
- Recycling
- Cost effectiveness

#### Local Targets

- E.government and community information network
- Access to services in rural areas
- Improving the environment
- Economic issues and the image of Essex

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- Reducing the number of young people in the Criminal Justice system
- 3.3 It is intended these will be part of an overall package with a theme along the lines of raising Aspirations and Releasing Potential, and will reflect the overall priorities for Essex.
- 3.4 If the County is successful, they could attract additional Government grant of up to 2½% of their revenue budget and have greater financial freedom. The County can not achieve these without partnership working with the Districts and are prepared to include District budgets in the deal.
- 3.5 The County Council is required to enter into negotiation with Government Office at the end of October with agreements being concluded by Christmas.
- 3.6 They are therefore looking for input from Districts as soon as possible.

#### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Participation at this stage will require Officer time. It is therefore suggested that contact be made to establish what resource would be required and report back to Members prior to any significant level of work being undertaken.
- 4.2 The extent to which the Council becomes involved in any projects will dictate the resource requirements, together with the amount of any additional grant received from Government.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That Officers determine the appropriateness of working with the County Council on Local Public Service Agreements and report back to this Sub-Committee should additional resources be required.

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**Background Papers:**

Letter from Essex County Council dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2001.

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