
NEW ESSEX COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND THE NEW ESSEX LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report introduces the latest drafts emerging from the County Council in connection with a new Community Strategy for the County and a new Local Area Agreement for Essex. Members' views are sought on both documents, but particularly in relation to the new Local Area Agreement, on which the County are keen to hear from Partners as to which priorities they would be prepared to support and contribute to in terms of action.

2 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 2.1 At the Executive Board meetings on 5th September 2007 (291/2007) and 6th February 2008 (48/2008), Members noted the timetable and activities associated with the County Council's work around a new Essex Community Strategy and a new Local Area Agreement for the County and at the February meeting, fed back views on the initial drafts. The County have now issued further more finalised draft documents for information and comment. Copies of these latest drafts are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

Current Position

- 2.2 The latest drafts of both the Strategy and emerging Local Area Agreement have been produced from evaluating public opinion, stakeholder opinion and statistical evidence gathered from a variety of sources. They have been shaped from the comments already received from Partners, such as this District Council, and the Local Area Agreement also reflects the discussions held to date with Central Government. The County have asked for final comments on the two documents by 28th March.
- 2.3 The Essex Strategy is perceived as a 'high level' document with outcomes achieved over a 10 year period. The most important and urgent outcomes stated in the Strategy are intended for inclusion in the new Local Area Agreement and it is the latter document which will contain detailed definitions around outcomes and specific targets.
- 2.4 In connection with the new Local Area Agreement, the numbered order of priorities in no way indicates rank order. All the priorities contained within it are of equal importance. Given the timeframe particularly associated with the Local Area Agreement, the County are anxious to learn from key partners, such as the District and Borough Councils, which of the priorities included in the Agreement would Partners be prepared to support and contribute to in terms of action.

Officer Comments

- 2.5 The vision emerging in the New Essex Strategy, ‘To support Essex people to liberate their potential and enjoy the best quality of life in England’ sits well with our own vision around “the place of choice in the County to live, work and visit.” The main themes within it fit relatively well to our existing District Community Strategy and also to the themes coming forward from the Local Strategic Partnership as it starts to redraft a new District Community Strategy document – around ageing, access to services, community cohesion and integration, and the community and voluntary sector. The new County-wide Strategy also links relatively well to our own existing Corporate documentation and our six objectives.
- 2.6 In relation to the priorities in the new Local Area Agreement document, those which appear to fit best with the Council’s own Corporate documentation and priorities and actions identified through the budget process would appear to be those actions and targets around Priority 2 – more people supported to live in their own homes and better support for carers and in particular targets around NI 139 and 141; Priority 6 – more volunteering and participation in sport and culture and the targets around NI 6, NI 8, NI 11 and NI 57; Priority 7 – Essex as a safe place to live and all the targets included under that priority – NI 17, 18, 20, 39, 111, 115, 195, plus the local indicators around domestic violence and fear of crime; Priority 9 – a smaller carbon footprint with less waste and the indicators in that basket (NI 186, 188, 191 and 192); and lastly Priority 10 around a well managed environment with NI 197 and a local indicator around local landscapes.
- 2.7 It is therefore recommended that Executive Board might wish to indicate to the County Council at this stage that these are the areas we would be prepared to support in any new Local Area Agreement for Essex.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Board **RESOLVES** to support the officer views outlined above and indicate to the County Council that in terms of the new Local Area Agreement, the targets included under Priorities 2, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are those most likely to be supported and actioned by this Authority.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

Background Papers:-

None

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