

REPORT TO CABINET

THE ESSEX LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT - 'LIBERATING POTENTIAL'

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Background Papers:- Hard copies of the current drafts of the Essex Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the second Local Area Agreement for Essex (LAA2) have been placed in the Member's Room. Further copies can be provided on request. It can also be accessed on the Essex Partnership's web site at www.essexpartnership.org.

Financial Implications:- None at this stage. Proposals are being developed by Essex County Council as to how the performance reward element of the LAA will be managed

Equalities Implications:- The LAA has been equality impact assessed

Legal Implications:- None

Options: None – the report is for information only

Risks: None at this stage

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first drafts of the new Essex Sustainable Community Strategy and the second Local Area Agreement for Essex (called Liberating Potential) were published on the 18th January 2008.

This report sets out the process for agreeing the priorities across Essex and how LAA2 will be taken forward in the Braintree District.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Members note the report.
2. That the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to sign off the final version of the Essex Local Area Agreement on behalf of Braintree District Council.

Background

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, County Councils have a statutory duty to work with other public sector partners to produce a Local Area Agreement for their administrative area. District and Borough Councils, Primary Care organisations, the Police and other public sector bodies have a statutory duty to co-operate with the County Council in developing the LAA.

Attached at Appendix 1 is a brief guide to the Essex Local Area Agreement and the LAA process generally. It has been prepared by the Essex Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for Essex).

LAA2 sets out 10 proposed priorities and outcomes to be achieved over the course of the next four years. These are set out in Appendix 2.

How LAA2 has been developed

The 10 priorities have been identified by Essex County Council using three sources of evidence:

1. Public opinion

Last year 25,000 people voiced their opinions on what was important in Essex through a variety of different mechanisms including on-line consultation, focus groups, summits, local democracy week in schools and on-going survey work carried out as part of LAA1.

2. Stakeholder opinion

This was gathered from Community Strategies for all Districts / Boroughs in Essex, the voluntary sector, views on the proposed new National Indicator set, and the steering groups which were set up to take forward LAA1.

3. Statistical evidence

This included the new statutory Strategic Joint Needs Assessment for health and social care in Essex, the 'Essex Trends' database, the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks at District level.

Further consultation and research ensued and stakeholder meetings were held late last year when the results of the above were revealed. They have informed the development of the 10 priorities.

Work is underway across Essex to establish which priorities will be taken forward in which areas and to develop associated targets and outcomes under each priority heading. The Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (PACT – Partners and Communities Together) is leading on this work in the Braintree District.

LAA2 will be agreed by the Essex Partnership and signed off by Essex County Council in May. It will then be submitted to the Government Office and will be finally endorsed by Ministers in June.

The Braintree District 'Chapter' of the Local Area Agreement

It is proposed that the LAA be broken down into District / Borough based sections so that it will be possible to see exactly what difference the LAA is making at a local level. Braintree DC and Brentwood DC have been asked to pilot this work.

A draft Braintree District LAA will be produced by the end of April and this will then be used as a model for the rest of Essex.

The Braintree District LAA will be brought to Cabinet in July.

The Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership

The Braintree District LSP Executive and the partnership boards which make up the LSP will need to be reviewed to ensure that they are fit for purpose in delivering the priorities for the Braintree District.

This review will take place over the course of the next three months and will be led by the LSP Executive. Proposals will be brought to Cabinet in July.

Sara Moutard
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Braintree District Council

APPENDIX 2 – THE 10 PROPOSED OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES IN LAA2

Our People

- (1) Fewer children and young people missing education or not in employment or training
- (2) More people supported to live in their own homes and better support for carers
- (3) Better public health and longer lives
- (4) Children and young people realise their potential in education

Our Communities

- (5) Essex roads are safer, less congested and everyone has access to essential services
- (6) More participation in sport, culture and volunteering
- (7) Essex is a safe place to live

Our Economy

- (8) Essex has a strong and competitive economy

Our World

- (9) A smaller carbon footprint with less waste
- (10) A well managed natural environment