

**THE ESSEX LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – CURRENT SITUATION AND POSITION  
STATEMENT ON BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL’S CONTRIBUTION**

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**Background Papers:-** The Essex Local Area Agreement (LAA) Refresh – May 2007 and the LAA Action Plan Supplement – both of which are in the Member’s Room

**Financial Implications:-** None at this stage although the process for allocating the ‘reward’ element which affects certain targets is being negotiated. In the meantime ECC has allocated each LSP a sum of £45k per annum for the next five years.

**Equalities Implications:-** An equalities impact assessment was carried out when the LAA was prepared

**Legal Implications:-** The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill incorporates a statutory duty on local authorities to work together to develop a Local Area Agreement.

**Options:** None

**Risks:** None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (1) That members note the report
- (2) That a ‘Braintree District Local Area Agreement’ be developed which shows the impact of the LAA in the Braintree District, the contributions of BDC and our partners and which informs the development of the next LAA which is due for completion in 2008.

**1.0 Background**

A briefing paper about the Essex Local Area Agreement which has been prepared by Essex County Council is attached at **Appendix C**. This explains:

- What the LAA is and why it is so important
- Who decides on what goes into it
- Who it is between and how long it lasts

- How much it is worth
- What it is in it
- How performance against it is monitored

## **2.0 County-Wide Performance to Date**

A copy of Essex County Council's 'Performance Dashboard' for the year-end 2006/07 is attached at **Appendix A**.

This shows the latest assessment of forecasted performance against the current targets and the latest assessment of progress in delivering the LAA action plan. Further details about each of the targets are set out in the Essex Local Area Agreement (LAA) Refresh document – May 2007 and in the LAA Action Plan Supplement – both of which are in the Member's Room.

A Performance Monitoring Sub-Group – led by Essex County Council - has recently been established which will work towards breaking the information down to, and monitoring performance at, a local level in the future.

## **3.0 Braintree District Council's Involvement**

BDC is involved in a number of different ways:

- Through our lead role on co-ordinating the work of the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership
- Through our close partnership working with other organisations in relation to those targets which we do not lead on
- Involvement in the county-wide Groups which are leading on each 'block' and on the Group which is specifically monitoring the performance of the LAA
- Through the specific actions which the District Council is carrying out to achieve some of the targets in the LAA.

## **4.0 The 'Braintree District Local Area Agreement'**

Over the course of last year Essex County Council as the lead agency on the LAA has developed a system which enables some targets to be broken down to – and reported at District level.

These will shortly be brought together by the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership into a Braintree District Local Area Agreement. This will:

- enable a better picture to be drawn of the impact of the LAA in the Braintree District and of the outcomes for local people which are being achieved as a result of it
- enable a more robust performance monitoring system to be established at District level
- enable the Braintree District LSP to engage in an informed way in the negotiations about the future allocation of the reward grants which apply to certain targets

It will be reported to Cabinet in October.

The production of this document will ensure that the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership and the District Council can more effectively influence the development of the new Local Area Agreement for Essex which is due to be published in 2008. It will also help us to prepare effectively for the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment – the proposed new national performance planning framework which is due to be introduced in 2009.

## **5.0 Braintree District Council Targets**

Those targets in the LAA for which BDC is the lead agency or in relation to which we play a major influencing role are set out at **Appendix B** together with details of performance to date where this is known.

When the Braintree District Local Area Agreement has been completed it will include performance information at District level where this is available or can be calculated. Performance will be monitored using the District Council's Covalent system and the County Council's PB views system.

Sara Moutard  
Head of Policy  
July 2007

## **APPENDIX C**

### **The Local Area Agreement: A Brief Guide**

***The Local Area Agreement is an agreement between public, voluntary and community sector partners across Essex to achieve fourteen outcomes that are regarded as being key to making Essex a better place to live and work.***

#### **What is the LAA and why is it Important?**

The Agreement is important because it is the first time that all of the agencies delivering services to the people of Essex have come together to agree on priorities, negotiate targets, and identify funding.

There is a limit to what the County Council or a district council or the Police Service can do, acting in isolation. Acting together to address, for example, issues of anti-social behaviour, these bodies can be much more effective. The Local Area Agreement supports this joint working.

It is also about achieving better value for money. Public sector bodies spend over £6 billion in Essex every year. We believe that if the bodies spending that money operated in a more joined-up way and were more responsive to the needs and priorities of our citizens then that money could be spent much more effectively. The Local Area Agreement is a first step towards achieving greater efficiency and greater democratic control over the money that is spent in this County.

#### **Who Decides on What Goes in to the Agreement?**

Every local authority brings together its key partners in a forum called a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). In Chelmsford, for example, the local strategic partnership will contain representatives from the Police Service, the Fire Service, the Primary Care Trust and the voluntary sector, as well as other organisations, all of whom have a specific remit for Chelmsford. At the Essex-wide level, the County Council brings together key partners with an Essex-wide brief from the same agencies. So, for example, the Chief Constable for Essex would be a member of the Essex LSP.

The purpose of a local strategic partnership is to try to join up services in a locality. Every LSP publishes a Community Strategy which is essentially a statement of the key issues facing an area over the next ten years and what the Partnership believes needs to be done in order to address these issues to make the area a better place. Community Strategies should reflect the views of the community and should therefore be produced after widespread community consultation.

It is the Community Strategy that is the starting point for identifying the priorities that should be set out in the Local Area Agreement. The Local Area Agreement is therefore the delivery document or action plan for the Community Strategy. Before Local Area Agreements existed, there was no formal delivery mechanism to support the Community Strategy and therefore many strategies suffered from being aspirational and visionary with no practical focus on how they might be implemented. The Local Area Agreement plugs that gap.

## **Who is the Agreement Between?**

Local Area Agreements are negotiated with Central Government. The priorities and targets identified through Community Strategies therefore have to be discussed with Government if they are to form part of the Local Area Agreement. Government's main concern is to see that national priorities which rely on local delivery are reflected in Local Area Agreements. Our concern is to make sure that the LAA reflects local priorities. On most occasions these two perspectives coincide, but if they don't, we believe that LAAs should emphasise local rather than national concerns.

Due to Local Strategic Partnerships not having any formal legal status, it is the County Council that is the body responsible in law for the LAA. However, this should not detract from the fact that all of the district and borough councils in the County, all of the LSPs, all of the PCTs, the Learning and Skills Council, the Police and Fire Service, the Essex Southend and Thurrock Infrastructure Consortium and others have all signed up to support its delivery. This is genuinely a partnership endeavour.

There is one LAA for the whole of Essex.

## **How Long Does the Agreement Last?**

The Local Area Agreement is a three year agreement. Essex's runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. However, there are opportunities during this period to change elements of the Agreement.

## **How Much is the Agreement Worth?**

One of the key issues about the Local Area Agreement is that aspirations are translated in to concrete targets and those targets are supported by the identification of the funding streams from the various agencies that support the delivery of those targets.

There are two types of funding included within the LAA: pooled and aligned. Pooled funding is money that is held in a single pot by the County Council and is money that was previously issued by Government, either to the County Council or to District Councils, as grants to achieve specific objectives. This money can now be spent on anything that supports the achievement of the LAA. However, we recognise that it takes time to shift funding from historic patterns and we are putting in place approaches that will enable us to use this money more flexibly over time. The value of this element of the funding is approximately £30million over the three year life of the Agreement.

The second element of funding is called aligned funding. This money is not held centrally but continues to be held by the partners to the Agreement. For each of the fourteen priorities in the Agreement, partners were asked to identify whether they had any money that would contribute to the achievement of the objectives. Where they have identified funding that money has been included as aligned funding. The aligned funding amounts to £1.6billion over the three year life of the Agreement. It is important to remember that aligned funding continues to belong to individual organisations. If they choose to spend that money on something other than what it is aligned to as part of the LAA, they are free to do so. Neither

the County Council nor the Essex LSP exercises any control over how aligned funding is spent.

The final element of funding associated with the LAA is 'Performance Reward Grant' (PRG). Some of the targets in the Agreement attract PRG which means that if we achieve a target we receive additional funding from Government. The PRG is paid on an individual target basis so for every reward grant target we deliver we will get additional funding in to the County. The total value of the PRG, if we were to deliver all of the reward grant targets in the Agreement, is £37 million. This money can be spent on anything and is obviously only available in 2009 once it is clear whether the targets have been delivered.

### **What is in the LAA?**

The fourteen outcomes we are trying to achieve through the LAA are:

- Reducing obesity
- Reducing the number of people who smoke
- Ensuring development promotes healthier living through design initiatives
- Helping more elderly people to live at home rather than in care,
- Strengthening our economy – through reducing congestion and increasing levels of inward investment in to Essex
- Improving the number of young people who take a job or stay on in education or training
- Raising educational attainment
- Keeping vulnerable children and young people safe
- Saving lives at risk from accidents from roads and fire
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Building respect in our communities and tackling anti-social behaviour
- Actively managing our environment
- Empowering local people to have a greater voice and influence over local services
- Improving quality of life – particularly for people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The outcomes are structured in to four blocks. The blocks are essentially high-level thematic groups that enable us to organise the priorities in to the key service and organisational areas. Each of the blocks operates through a formal working group and has a lead officer, identified below.

<b>LAA Blocks</b>
<p><b>Safer and Stronger Communities</b> Focuses on engaging with the public, tackling anti-social behaviour and supporting the development of stronger communities. This block brings together issues such as quality of life, community involvement and crime and disorder in order to provide a more cohesive approach to general community well-being.</p> <p>Block Lead is: Paul Warren, Chief Executive, Rochford District Council</p>
<p><b>Children and Young People</b> Alongside the Children and Young People's Plan, this block focuses upon improving the lives of children and young people through the five outcomes in <i>Every Child Matters</i>.</p> <p>Block Lead is: Carey Bennett, Director for Schools, Children and Families, ECC</p>

**Healthier Communities and Older People**

Focuses upon delivering healthier lifestyles and improving the well-being of people in Essex, reducing health inequalities, and ensuring that older people are supported to live in their own homes.

Block Lead is: Jenny Owen, Director of Adult Social Care, ECC

**Economic Development and Enterprise**

Focuses upon creating a more prosperous Essex by generating inward investment, tackling skills issues and congestion, and stimulating business development, innovation and international trade.

Block Lead is: Graham Tombs, Chief Executive, ExDRA

**Who Monitors Delivery of the Agreement?**

Actual delivery of the Agreement depends upon services at locality level making a difference on the ground. There are therefore three levels of performance management associated with the Agreement. First, the LSP for Essex (which is ultimately responsible for the Agreement) monitors its delivery and has the capacity to shift funding, if that is helpful, in order to secure outcomes. Second, the blocks monitor delivery on a thematic basis. Blocks are much closer to the specifics of the targets and can work with target leads to try to ensure that they are supported in the work they need to do to secure outcomes. Third, Local Strategic Partnerships are responsible for monitoring delivery of the Agreement at a locality level. To support this process we have broken down as many targets as possible to a district level so LSPs, District Councils and other agencies operating at a district level can see how the county-wide target relates to them.

**What is the Role of Area Forums?**

Area Forums are County Council meetings designed to bring together representatives of key public service agencies, Parish Councils, and citizens from across a number of districts. There are four Area Forums in the County and anyone can attend the meetings. They therefore have a key role to play in providing the main mechanism for sharing best practice across districts in terms of delivery and monitoring of the LAA; the engagement of Parish Councils and communicating with citizens about the LAA – a new statutory requirement.

Further information on Essex's LAA can be found online at: [www.essexcc.gov.uk/laa](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/laa) or you can contact Sara Ismay at [sara.ismay@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.ismay@essexcc.gov.uk) or on 01245 430458 / ednet 20458 for more information.

## HOW IT FITS TOGETHER

### LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (PACT)

The LSP brings together organisations from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors and produces the vision for an area.

Every local area must have an LSP, but they are not a statutory body.

It is however, the duty of every local authority to develop a sustainable community strategy and this is produced by the LSP.

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Local Development Framework is developed by the District Council in consultation with the LSP and others.

It is the spatial/land use planning document for a local area and provides the spatial and infrastructural plans required to achieve the LSP's vision set out in the SCS.

The SCS and Local Development Framework (LDF) are closely integrated.

In fact in the Braintree District they are developing alongside each other simultaneously and the same processes are being used to inform the development of each.

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to work with partner organisations to produce a Community Strategy.

The actions are aimed at improving the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of an area and its inhabitants.

The SCS, as it is developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, should include priorities and targets which are only achievable through the joint working of all partners involved.

The SCS sets out how local groups and organisations will work together by providing a framework through which they can do so and a focus for individual organisations long-term plans and strategies.

### THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Sustainable Community Strategy (and accordingly the LDF) feeds into the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The LAA looks at how the vision of the SCS can be achieved on the ground. It incorporates robust targets – some set at a local level, some at County level and some which are required nationally.

It informs the operational planning and delivery of services in public sector organisations across the county to ensure that the LSP's vision is achieved over a 3 year period and that plans can be put in place for the longer-term.



# Essex's Local Area Agreement

## Performance Dashboard (Mid Year review 2006/07)

Healthier Communities and Older People			Economic Development		
	Target	Plan		Target	Plan
Obesity in Essex adults (Pr1T1)	A	A	Average car journey times (Pr5T1)	G	G
Obesity in Essex children aged 5 - 10yrs (Pr1T2)	A	A	Reduction car journey times (Pr5T2)	G	G
Smoking in Essex adults (Pr2T1)	G	G	Jobs created as a result of foreign direct investment (Pr5T3)	G	G
Smoking in Essex children aged 15yrs (Pr2T2)	A	A	Expansion and retention of Essex companies (Pr5T4)	G	G
Local Development Frameworks - Health Impact Assessments (Pr3T1)	G	G	Number of business start ups - all (Pr5T5)	G	G
Districts with 3%+ homes built to lifetime homes standard (Pr3T2)	G	G	Number of business start ups - innovative (Pr5T5)	A	A
Satisfaction with home care services/direct payments (65+) (Pr4T1)	G	G	Schools below floor target KS3 Maths (Pr6T3)	G	G
Number of unscheduled acute hospital bed days (75+) (Pr4T2)	A	A	Schools below floor target KS3 Science (Pr6T3)	G	A
Ratio of helped to live at home to resid'l/nursing home (Pr4T3)	R	A	Adults with qualifications at Level 2 or above (Pr7T4)	R	R
Children and Younger People			Safer and Stronger Communities		
	Target	Plan		Target	Plan
School leavers not in educ'n/employ't/training (target schools) (Pr6T1)	?	A	All KSI (Pr9T1)	G	G
Young adults receiving training - Learning Agreement Pilot (Pr6T2)	R	A	Deaths and serious injuries caused by domestic fires (Pr9T2)	G	G
Schools below the floor targets in English &/or Maths KS2 (Pr7T1)	G	A	Traders supplying alcohol to young people (Pr10T1)	G	G
Attainment KS2 English Level 4+ (target schools) - % (Pr7T1)	G	G	Young people re-offending relating to drugs or alcohol (Pr10T1)	G	G
Attainment KS2 Eng Level 4+ (target schools) - avg points (Pr7T1)	R	A	Care leavers misusing drugs/alcohol (Pr10T1)	G	G
Attainment KS2 Maths Level 4+ (target schools) - % (Pr7T1)	G	A	Adult drug users in treatment (Pr10T1)	R	R
Attainment KS2 Maths Level 4+ (target schools) - avg points(Pr7T1)	R	A	Adult drug users in treatment for 12+ weeks (Pr10T1)	G	G
Schools with <92% pupils 5+ GCSE's, A*-G (Pr7T2)	R	G	British Crime Survey comparator crime (Pr10T2)	G	G
School attendance of looked after children (Pr7T3)	A	A	Residents who feel safe outside after dark (Pr10T3)	G	G
Children looked after achieving KS2 Level 4 English (Pr7T3)	G	A	Sanction detection rate for domestic violence (Pr10T4)	A	A
Children looked after achieving KS2 Level 4 Maths (Pr7T3)	G	A	Perception of anti-social behaviour (Pr11T1)	G	G
Children looked after achieving KS2 Level 4 Science (Pr7T3)	G	A	Ecological footprint - household waste (Pr12T1)	G	G
Children looked after with 5 GCSE's, A*-G (Pr7T3)	R	A	Ecological footprint - domestic energy (Pr12T1)	?	A
Suitable accommodation for young people leaving care (Pr8T1)	G	G	Ecological footprint - car travel (Pr12T1)	?	A
Crime where victim under 19yrs (Pr8T2)	A	A	Household waste - recycled/composted (Pr12T2a)	A	A
Acceptable behaviour contracts (Pr8T3)	G	G	Household waste - recycled/composted (biodegradable) (Pr12T2b)	G	G
Youth work participation - recorded outcomes (Pr14T4)	A	A	Land below acceptable level of cleanliness - County (Pr12T3)	?	A
Districts with a 'Play Strategy' (Pr14T4)	?	G	Land below acceptable cleanliness - gateway areas (Pr12T3)	?	A
			Satisfaction with quality of Gateway areas (Pr12T3)	?	G
			People who feel able to influence decisions (Pr13T1)	A	A
			VCS organisations representing community views (Pr13T1)	?	A
			People helping neighbours in last year (Pr13T2)	A	A
			People recorded in Volunteer Centres (Pr13T2)	A	A
			Quality of life index measure (Pr14T1)	?	A
			People who feel isolated from society (Pr14T2)	?	A
			People who feel services are easy to access (Pr14T3)	A	A
			Bus patronage (selected routes) (Pr14T3)	G	G
<i>Shading denotes those targets for which reward grant is payable</i>					

### RAG criteria (assessed by Target Lead; co-ordinated by Block Lead):

Target' - latest assessment of forecast performance against current year target

R	Cause for concern that will not meet target - action plan review/analysis required
A	On target or close to target, which can still be met, but need to keep under review
G	On target, no further action required
?	Performance data not available or difficult to assess until target agreed

Plan' - latest assessment of progress in delivering action plan

R	Cause for concern that planned actions are not being met - review/analysis required
A	Action plan largely on track, but with some areas of concern under review
G	On track, no further action required
?	Action plan to be developed and/or progress not known

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Appendix B

Block	Target	Indicator	County Baseline (year)	County 2006/07 Target (Yr1)	County 2007/08 Target (Yr2)	County 2008/09 Target (Yr3)	County 2009/10 Target (Yr4)	Braintree District Council Performance	
								2006/07 County Result	Commentary/actions where data missing
HCOP	Pr3T1	% of districts with Local Development Frameworks requiring Health Impact Assessments	0	8.33%	8%	100%		8%	The Braintree District Local Development Framework is being developed and will incorporate this requirement in 2008.
HCOP	Pr3T2	% of districts with 3%+ new homes built to Lifetime Homes Standard	50% (2005/06)	25%	50%	100%		N/a	All affordable housing in the District (and generally across the County) is designed to this standard. Current performance is 15.4% in the Braintree District. The target needs to be more challenging if it is to have a real
ED	Pr5T3	Jobs created as a result of foreign direct investment	166 (02/03-04/05 average)	249 (05/06)	290 (06/07)	332 (2009)		23	The baseline for the Braintree District is being developed. This priority requires close liaison with ExDRA and some Essex authorities are better placed to influence this target than the Braintree District
ED	Pr5T4	Expansion and retention of Essex companies	1,542 (2002-04 average)	1,588	1,603	1,620		1,588 (2005)	Ditto
ED	Pr5T5a	Number of business start ups - new	4,408 (2001-03 average)	4,628 (2005)	4848 (2006)	5068 (2009)		4,455 (2005)	BDC Corporate Performance Plan 2006/07 reports 137 business start-ups in the Braintree District in 2006/07.
ED	Pr5T5b	Number of innovative business start ups	N/a	N/a	N/a	300		N/a	Not currently measured
CYP	Pr8T3	Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	142 (2005)	149	157	164 (2008)		173	BDC's Corporate Performance Plan 2006/07 reports 24 ABC's issued in 2006/07 however this is an 'activity indicator' in the Braintree District - no targets are set
CYP	Pr14T4b	Districts with a Play Strategy	0%	N/a	100%	100%		N/a	On target for Play Strategy to be in place in 2008
SSC	Pr10T3	Residents who feel safe outside after dark	39% (03/04)	41%	41.5%	42%		47.60%	The figure for the Braintree District - taken from the LAA Tracker Survey in October last year was 54%
SSC	Pr11T1	Perception of anti-social behaviour	32%	31.0%	30%	29%		26.50%	The tracker survey asked a wider range of questions to allow a baseline to be established. However, mandatory ASB targets have since been introduced which changed the baseline requirements and which mean that future surveys need to be changed. The results are not therefore entirely consistent with the current LAA baseline but are sufficient to assess performance.

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Block	Target	Indicator	County Baseline (year)	County 2006/07 Target (Yr1)	County 2007/08 Target (Yr2)	County 2008/09 Target (Yr3)	County 2009/10 Target (Yr4)	Braintree District Council Performance	
								2006/07 County Result	Commentary/actions where data missing
SSC	Pr12T1a	Household waste collected	532kg (04/05)	542.5	544	543.5		528.4	Awaiting confirmation of end of year figures from DEFRA. Corporate Performance Plan 2006/07 reports 412.0 for the Braintree District (3rd quartile nationally)
SSC	Pr12T1b	Ecological footprint - domestic energy	1,930kg (02/03)	2,006kg	1,956kg	1,905kg		N/a	Various projects underway in the District. There are difficulties county-wide in measuring this target.
SSC	Pr12T1c	Ecological footprint - car CO <sub>2</sub>	1,632kg (2003)	1,537kg	1,514Kg	1,490kg		N/a	ECC to provide District baselines.
SSC	Pr12T2a	Household waste recycled/composted - all waste	29.8% (04/05)	35%	37%	39.5%		37.0%	Audit Commission guidance on this target is being challenged by ECC. BDC Corporate Performance Plan 2006/07 reports 35.21%
SSC	Pr12T2b	Household waste recycled/composted - non-biodegradable		8%	8.50%	10%		9.0%	Awaiting confirmation of end of year figures from DEFRA.
SSC	Pr12T3a	Land below acceptable level of cleanliness - County	23%	21%	19%	14%		<i>tbc</i>	BDC Corporate Performance Plan 2006/07 reports 7% (top quartile nationally)
District	Pr12T3b	Land below acceptable level of cleanliness - gateway areas	<i>tbc</i>	Baseline - 4%	Baseline - 8%	Baseline - 15%		<i>tbc</i>	Local baseline being developed
SSC	Pr12T3c	Satisfaction with quality of local environment - Gateway areas	62.8% (03/04)	64%	68%	71%		<i>tbc</i>	Not included in Tracker Survey last year. Most recent tracker survey has not been broken down to District level
SSC	Pr13T1a	People who feel able to influence decisions	24% (03/04)	34%	44%	51%		38.0%	BDC scored 32% in the Tracker Survey last year coming 3rd overall compared with the other Essex District and Boroughs. The highest score was 36
SSC	Pr14T1	Quality of life index measure	<i>tbc</i>	0.25	0.6	1		N/a	Priority 14 relates only to identified areas of deprivation in the District. Work has been carried out in each of those areas by the Council and its partners however it has not been possible to measure performance and outcomes at super-output area level. This is a common issue across Essex and is the subject of ongoing discussions.
SSC	Pr14T2	People who feel isolated from society	4.02% (Sep 06)	3.78%	3.54%	3.22%		4.02%	Ditto
SSC	Pr14T3a	People who feel services are easy to access: urban	82.5% (2006)	83.55	84.50%	85.50%		82.50%	Ditto
SSC	Pr14T3a	People who feel services are easy to access: rural	71% (2006)	72%	73.50%	75%		71.40%	Ditto