

Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

10:00	Thursday, 22 October 2015	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex
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Quorum: 5

Councillor S Walsh
Councillor K Bobbin
Councillor G Butland
Councillor T Cutmore
Councillor A Erskine
Councillor C Guglielmi
Councillor T Hedley
Councillor I Henderson
Councillor D Kendall
Councillor V Metcalfe
Councillor C Pond
Councillor S Robinson
Councillor K Twitchen
Councillor A Wood

Chairman

For information about the meeting please ask for:

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www.essex.gov.uk/scrutiny



Essex County Council

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Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

	Pages
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Minutes	5 - 10
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2015.	
3 Declarations of Interest	
To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct	
4 Questions from the Public	
A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting.	
On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, please register with the Committee Officer.	
5 Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management	11 - 12
To consider report PSEG/16/15 concerning briefings that have been arranged for today's meeting and the draft scrutiny report of this Task and Finish Group.	
6 Local Bus Consultation	13 - 22
To consider report PSEG/17/15 concerning the Committee's recent briefing on the Local Bus Consultation	
7 Performance Reporting to Scrutiny Committees	23 - 24
To consider report PSEG/18/15 concerning performance reporting to scrutiny committees	
8 Essex and Southend Replacement Waste Local Plan	25 - 28
To receive report PSEG/19/15 on the Committee's recent briefing on the Essex and Southend Replacement Waste Local Plan.	

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| 9 | Future of The South East Local Enterprise Partnership
To receive report PSEG/20/15 on action taken by the Committee with regard to proposals on the future of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. | 29 - 32 |
| 10 | Work Programme 2015/17
To receive report PSEG/21/15 and accompanying appendix, providing an update on the Committee's work programme for 2015/2017 | 33 - 36 |
| 11 | Future Meeting Dates
To receive report PSEG/22/15 identifying future activity dates for the Committee for June 2016 – April 2017. | 37 - 38 |
| 12 | Date of Next Meeting
To note that the next committee activity day is scheduled for Thursday 26 November 2015. | |
| 13 | Urgent Business
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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| 14 | Urgent Exempt Business
To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. |
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLACE SERVICES & ECONOMIC
GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL,
CHELMSFORD ON 23 JULY 2015**

Present:

Councillor S Walsh (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor K Bobbin	Councillor V Metcalfe
Councillor G Butland	Councillor C Pond
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor S Robinson
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor K Twitchen
Councillor C Guglielmi	Councillor A Wood
Councillor T Hedley	
Councillor I Henderson	

1. Apologies and substitution notices

No apologies were received, and all Committee Members were present.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With particular reference to Minute 7/ May 2015 concerns were raised about county councillor membership on the local highways panels (LHPs). As the Committee was taking part in a planning session later in the day and a scrutiny review of the LHPs would be discussed, there was acquiescence for the membership issue to be taken up at that session.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Twitchen reminded the Committee that she is a deputy to Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Planning, and so when the Committee may scrutinise an issue falling within that portfolio she would not take part in the consideration of that issue and would withdraw from the meeting

During discussion in respect of Minute 9, reference was made to the Youth Strategy Boards so the following Members declared personal interests as they were members of a board in their relevant districts: Councillors Hedley, Henderson, and Walsh.

4. Questions from the Public: Local Highways Panels

At the meeting John Hammond, a Chelmsford resident, addressed the Committee as follows:

'I would like to make some suggestions for best practice for Local Highway Panels.'

In the Cabinet Member Actions for Local Highways Panel Schemes it states "The Panels have been developed to support the Localism agenda and are linked to the ECC Corporate Plan objectives, including encouraging residents to influence decisions".

Districts such as Braintree, Harlow and Uttlesford helpfully provide information by putting dates of Panels on the internet, including agendas and full reports in advance of each LHP, and minutes soon after. They also allow the public to attend the meetings for questions and suggestions.

I would like to request that the same good practice should happen for Chelmsford. At the moment, dates of forthcoming LHP meetings are not revealed, and reports sometimes only appear a month after a meeting.'

The Committee concurred with the Chairman's proposal that Mr Hammond be invited to contribute to the forthcoming scrutiny review on Local Highways Panels in respect of the issues he had raised today.

5. Place Services and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015/2017

The Committee considered report PSEG/11/15 proposing topics for inclusion in its work programme for 2015/2017.

As reported to Committee in March 2015 (Minute 5) work has been ongoing to develop a manageable work programme leading up to the next County Council elections in 2017. The said report provided background on the work programme and the Committee's experience over the past year, and proposed those topics to be reviewed moving forward. The identified topics are ones where it is considered that there is an opportunity for the Committee to perform a useful scrutiny role.

The Chairman confirmed that the work programme had been developed through discussions with Group Spokesmen, Cabinet Members and relevant officers, and took account of the resources available.

In practice it is not intended to hold a formal monthly meeting, which is a resource intensive activity and may not always be the most effective forum for considering individual topics in any depth. However, the outcomes of work undertaken using other formats will be reported through formal agenda and any scrutiny reports will require the endorsement of the full Committee. Planning sessions will be arranged for Committee Members to engage in planning scrutiny reviews, and committee activity. In the first instance formal meetings have been scheduled on a quarterly basis, with visits, seminars, in depth task and finish group work, etc. being proposed on other scheduled activity days.

The work programme moving forward includes a number of projects that are already underway or were scheduled to begin this year, issues that have been identified over the past year, and emerging priorities based on local and national considerations. In summary the reviews are:

- Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management Task and Finish Group
- Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Group
- Local Highways Panels
- Recycling Centres for Household Waste
- Ringway Jacobs Contract
- Parking Partnerships
- Passenger Transport Strategy
- Pavement Parking
- Utility Companies and Highways Schemes
- LEPs
- Commissioning Strategies: Environmental Aspirations
- Bradwell Nuclear Facility
- Strategic Planning
- Essex Replacement Waste Local Plan
- Aviation Policy & Airports Surface Access Study
- Solid Recovered Fuel

With particular reference to the Passenger Transport Strategy, during discussion Members referred to last Full Council meeting and noted that Councillors Henderson and Pond had been appointed to the proposed new Bus Strategy Commissioning Board, which was due to meet the following week. However, concerns were raised about the lack of clarity regarding its terms of reference and its relationship/ impact upon the work of the Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman undertook to find out further information in this regard.

The Committee **agreed** to the proposals set out in report PSEG/11/15, and the inclusion of the topics set out above in its work programme for 2015/17.

6. Financial Inclusion Scrutiny Review Update

The Committee considered report PSEG/12/15 concerning an update from the Council's Leader on matters relating to the recommendations that arose from the original scrutiny review on Financial Inclusion.

The Committee **agreed** that no further action be taken in relation to this particular review.

7. Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, and Visit To Tovi Eco Park, Basildon

The Committee noted report PSEG/13/15 providing an overview of its recent consideration of matters relating to the Waste Management Strategy.

On 25 June 2015 the Committee's activity day comprised a visit to the new Waste Facility at Tovi Eco Park, Basildon, and a series of briefings to update its membership on matters relating to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex. Councillors Keith Bobbin, Graham Butland, Tony Hedley, David Kendall, Chris Pond, Stephen Robinson, Kay Twitchen, Simon Walsh and Andy Wood attended on the day.

The purpose of the visit was to provide an opportunity for the Committee to learn about the current position on the disposal and collection of household waste in Essex, and various influences upon the Waste Strategy in the longer term. The facility visited at Tovi Eco Park (also known as Courtauld Road) is a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility for residual waste and, although not fully commissioned as yet, it provided an insight into the key role it will perform in Essex.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all the officers involved in organising what was a very informative visit.

At the meeting there was some discussion about of the current level of recycling targets. While many Essex Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) are achieving high levels of recycling, fluctuations in the various markets for recyclates are having an impact. In some cases WCAs are now having to pay contractors to recycle, which will have important financial implications for those Councils' budgets as contracts are renewed for waste and recycling collections.

8. Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management Task and Finish Group– Progress Report

The Committee noted report PSEG/14/15 and received an oral update from the Group on this review.

The update included details of a recent visit to Sturmer to meet with the Sturmer Flood Action Group, who are part of a County Council pilot project 'Where Does Water Go?', a project to map ordinary watercourses in Essex at a local level.

Attention was also drawn to changes published recently on flood management on the Council's website, which should make it easier for the public to find out key information they may require.

It was confirmed that the Group is in the final stages of its investigation, and that a final scrutiny report will be submitted to the Committee in the autumn for its endorsement.

9. Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Group – Progress Report

The Committee noted report PSEG/15/15 and received an oral update from the Group on this review. As part of the review the following areas had been investigated:

- National Work Programme - reference was made to the fact that it is a national programme, and a lack of accountability at a local level.
- Job Centres – the Group has spent time at two job centres that has provided a better understanding of the issues under review, and the relationships between different service providers and the implications for individuals.
- Apprenticeships

- Skills
- Careers Service – there is variation in the provision and quality of careers advice and support provided by different schools. It was pointed out the Youth Strategy Groups might be a potential resource to assist children this matter, and that businesses could be encouraged to provide work experience opportunities.

It was confirmed that the Group is in the final stages of its investigation, and that a final scrutiny report will be submitted to the Committee in the autumn for its endorsement

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted the next committee activity day was scheduled for Thursday 24 September 2015

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 11.32 am

Chairman

		AGENDA ITEM 5
		PSEG/16/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
THIRD PARTY RESPONSIBILITIES AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY REVIEW (Minute 8/ July 2015)		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

The Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management Task and Finish Group has produced a draft scrutiny report based upon the evidence it has collated through its investigations, which will be submitted to the Committee for its formal endorsement at its next meeting. In the meantime a copy of that report has been circulated under separate cover to all Committee Members for their information.

As there has been a lot of activity taking place around the Council's flood management activities in recent months, it was felt that it would be useful to provide the full Committee with a progress report before the final scrutiny report is endorsed and published. By taking this approach it is hoped that all Members will have acquired a better understanding of the issues set out in the report and the conclusions reached by the Group. Given the progress being made around the topic, the briefing will also provide the Group with a final opportunity to ensure that the report itself will be fully up to date when published formally.

Two briefings are proposed as follows:

1. Lead Local Flood Authority Flood Team
 - Update on content of the draft report and progress made,
 - importance of engaging the public,
 - ECC Flood Management Website, and
 - updates on those flooding management issues and decisions identified in the Forward Plan.
2. Highways Enforcement Team
 - Update on the Maldon Highways Enforcement Pilot Project, and the implications for enhanced enforcement activity.

The briefings will also provide the Committee with an opportunity to ask questions on the content of the scrutiny report where further clarification may be helpful.

As a reminder the terms of reference for the review were deliberately chosen to narrow the scope of the review, and read as follows:

‘To consider the preventative measures available to the County Council that may be taken to enhance improvements in flood management across Essex, with particular emphasis upon the enforcement of third party responsibilities.’

Action required by the Committee at this meeting:

To note the content of the briefings, and clarify any particular issues arising from the scrutiny investigation prior to the formal endorsement of the final scrutiny report.

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PSEG/17/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
LOCAL BUS CONSULTATION		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

In June 2015 the Cabinet approved 'Getting Around in Essex – a bus and passenger transport strategy', and a key commitment in that Strategy was a review of the local bus network, which forms 15% of the overall bus network that is supported by taxpayers. Following a review of that network a Local Bus Consultation was launched on 17 September comprising an overview of key points and proposed changes to the Essex County Council (ECC) Contracted Bus Network on a district by district basis, and a questionnaire.

Given the Committee's ongoing interest in passenger transport a briefing was held on 24 September to provide Members with an opportunity to learn more about the Local Bus Consultation as well as receive an update on the development of the Strategy, and the new Bus Strategy Commissioning Board. An invitation was extended to all County Councillors to attend the briefing.

Helen Morris, Head of Commissioning for Essex Connected Infrastructure, delivered the briefing to the Committee and answered Members' questions.

At the outset the Committee was reminded that individual Members could submit their views on the development of the Strategy's work streams at any time to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation and Place Commissioning Team, so that their views can be taken into consideration as work is taken forward.

'Getting Around in Essex – a bus and passenger transport strategy'

The overall aims of the Strategy are:

1. To increase passenger numbers by delivering an attractive, comprehensive, resilient and high quality network;

2. Maximise the economic and social benefits to people, businesses and communities across Essex;
3. Ensure that what is delivered is cost effective and good value for money.

Work is ongoing around the development of the new Strategy and the eight work streams that it identifies, namely

1. Working in Partnership
2. Customer Quality Commitment
3. Better, Well Used Services
4. Support for Valuable, but not commercial, services
5. Good Customer Information
6. Tailored solutions
7. Ticketing
8. Focussed local planning

At the briefing the Committee was reminded of its previous engagement in the consideration of the new Strategy.

In June 2014 the Committee learned about the history of bus services and networks, the changing role of local authorities, the statutory framework, the changing nature of the delivery mechanism from municipal model to a largely commercial one, and the Traffic Commissioner as the main regulator. At that stage the Committee had raised various issues that Helen Morris confirmed had been woven into the development of the Strategy.

In November 2014 a workshop was held for the Committee on the planned consultation on the proposed new Strategy, and again Members were given the opportunity to raise issues and influence outcomes. A report on the outcomes of the workshop was subsequently agreed by the Committee in December 2014 (Minute 6).

In June 2015 the Cabinet approved the new Strategy, and work commenced on its delivery.

Local Bus Consultation

At the Appendix to this report is a summary of the proposed changes to the ECC Contracted Bus Network, which are proposed as the result of a review that has been conducted as part of one of the eight priority areas or work streams identified in the adopted Strategy ie Focussed local planning.

The Local Bus Consultation is the third consultation linked to the new Strategy, and Helen Morris stressed the importance of receiving feedback on the proposals that will contribute to the County Council's ability to develop a much better understanding of their impact upon people both in positive and negative terms. If Members were aware of particular groups who should be consulted, that information could be used to ensure that those groups received advice on the Consultation. Written responses will contribute to the evidence base and analysis of consultation responses.

The following key points were drawn to the Committee's attention:

- 85% of the network is commercially provided, and therefore a majority of bus services will be unaffected by this consultation. The remaining 15% of the network is supported by ECC, using taxpayers' money.
- The proposals do not include the making any wholesale budget cuts, cutting routes that are well supported or removing whole categories of service e.g. Sunday services.
- The re-design of the affected network is proposed to reflect current travel patterns, ensure rural communities are not left isolated, making best use of money (so changing routes means that taxpayers are only paying for one bus instead of two) and ensuring consistency (so ensuring similar communities have a similar frequency of service).
- A new policy is proposed that sets out the way that ECC will support services in future. This gives a priority to types of service it will support based on its corporate outcomes, and significant consultation with the public.
- ECC is only proposing to withdraw services where they have low use or there are alternatives. Low use is where the cost per passenger journey is over £5 to the tax payer, or about to go over £5 per passenger journey and we can prevent that by reducing part of the service (for example by taking off the lowest use journeys). This is a long standing policy and is based on a balanced and value for money approach. So the services which are simple withdrawals are failing or about to fail an existing policy test and would have been withdrawn in any case.
- On many routes ECC will be offering a wider service – either increased frequency or serving new communities or places. This can mean timetable and journey time changes for existing passengers.
- ECC is withdrawing some services where there are alternatives – this might include a similar service with a slightly different timetable, a short walk to a different bus stop, a new alternative with a slightly different route.
- ECC is 'commercialising' some services. This can mean some changes in route and timetable, and it almost certainly means fare increases as costs move from the taxpayer to the fare payer and become commercial.
- ECC is also changing the nature of some contracts - so that operators will keep the revenue and control the fares – to incentivise operators to grow and invest in routes. Taxpayers will be charged less up front as a result, but this also usually means fare increases – moving the share of the cost away from the taxpayer to the fare payer.
- In some deeply rural areas ECC is proposing to replace once or twice weekly services with a Monday to Saturday demand responsive service. This

actually represents an improvement in service – although also a change in how people travel. This approach is fairly new to Essex (currently there are two similar services in the Dengie Peninsula, which work well). It is dependent on communities making good use of it.

- Overall picture:
 - 105 services - no change
 - 35 services - changes to provide extended services, including responding to requests from previous consultations
 - 29 services to be replaced with Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) – representing a service improvement
 - 38 services which will change significantly to better integrate the network – the overall effect is to retain current levels of provision but make better use of resources
 - 16 services where there are minor changes
 - 18 services where there are changes or withdrawals - because alternatives are available
 - 12 services at risk of being withdrawn because of low use
 - 10 services being commercialised (being taken over and run by an operator)

It is proposed that changes arising from the Local Bus Review will be considered by the Cabinet in November 2015 for potential implementation during the April 2016 school holidays. Helen Morris stressed that the Review is a re-design and not a cost cutting exercise with the new policy being important for managing changes in the future; and the consultation was a genuine attempt to engage people in the consideration of the proposals and seek feedback.

As part of its own feedback the Committee suggested that it would be helpful to seek feedback through focus groups. The Young Essex Assembly had been a useful contributor to a scrutiny project being undertaken on Jobs, Welfare and Skills and could provide a useful perspective on school bus routes etc.

Bus Strategy Commissioning Board, and Forum

When the Committee took part in a workshop in November 2014 (Minute 6/ December 2014 refers) prior to consultation on the proposed new Strategy, reference was made to proposals for a new delivery board. As no particular consensus was reached by the Committee at the workshop, Members had been encouraged to submit their ideas separately.

At the briefing it was confirmed that the purpose of the new Bus Strategy Commissioning Board was to establish close working relationships between Essex County Council (ECC), operators and other stakeholders and to work in partnership to improve Essex transport, and to achieve the aims of the Getting Around Essex strategy. Its focus will be on delivery of the eight priority areas identified in the strategy and, supported by information from the consultation and Local Area Reviews of the services across Essex.

The Getting around Essex strategy consultation (2015) identified a strong need to work in partnership with transport operators and with other stakeholders such as other local authorities and customer groups. The Board was set up in recognition that a partnership is key to ensuring that the people who use and rely on buses, including school children, local businesses and the travelling public (including road users) receive a good transport network. It was confirmed that the Board is intended to be an advisory rather than decision making body.

In addition to the new Board that will concentrate on strategic matters, a new Bus Strategy Forum is to be set up to capture a wider range of opinions and focus upon more local and specific issues. Its membership will include County Councillors, Operators, District Councils, Bus User Groups and other interest groups.

The new Board met for the first time in July 2015. It was noted that Councillors Henderson and Pond had been appointed to the Board by the Cabinet Member, and while they were both members of the Committee their names had not been put forward as its representatives. Councillor Pond had attended meeting in July, and confirmed that being the first meeting it had focussed on more general matters relating to the Strategy.

As part of the briefing Helen Morris sought again the Committee's views on membership of the new bodies.

Councillor Kendall voiced his concern that there was not cross political party representation within the current membership of the Board, and he felt that the Liberal Democrat Group should be represented.

The Chairman undertook to give further consideration to the matter, and to formalise a mechanism for those Committee Members who were also on the new Board to report back to the Scrutiny Committee. *(NB this is reflected in the conclusions below)*

In addition it was suggested that consideration should be given to seeking representation on the new Bus Strategy Forum from the Parish Forum, and Employers/ Training sector ie to reflect the needs of people relying on passenger transport to access work and training opportunities across Essex.

General

During discussion Members did touch upon several matters that fell outside the purview of the Local Bus Consultation that formed the current focus of attention at the briefing itself. Nevertheless if Members forwarded their questions and views on other passenger transport matters to the Place Commissioning Team, then they could be taken into account in the delivery of other work streams for instance passenger growth.

At the end of the briefing itself the Chairman thanked Helen Morris for an informative briefing on the Local Bus Consultation that was now underway.

Conclusions

The briefing provided Members with an opportunity to learn more about the Local Bus Consultation. The information exchanged would assist them in their individual consideration of the proposals and their implications for local passenger transport, and could be used to inform any individual representations they might wish to submit.

With specific reference to the new Bus Strategy Commissioning Board and Forum, the Committee supported the inclusion of several outside representative bodies in discussion around the development of the Strategy as set out in the recommendation below.

In addition there was a consensus that the Committee would wish to be represented on the Board, and it is recommended that it be represented on the Board by the Chairman and Councillor Kendall.

Given the significance of the new Strategy for the way that bus and passenger transport evolves in the future, the Committee's representatives would be tasked with ensuring that the Committee be advised as necessary on any pertinent proposals as they emerge for its attention.

Action to be taken by the Committee

It is proposed that consideration be given to the following recommendation:

- 1. It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation that consideration be given to:**
 - **Seeking feedback on bus consultations through targeted focus groups including the Young Essex Assembly,**

- **seeking representation on the new Bus Strategy Forum from the Parish Forum, and Employers/ Training sector ie to reflect the needs of people relying on passenger transport to access work and training opportunities across Essex, and**
 - **that Councillor Simon Walsh, as Committee Chairman, and Councillor David Kendall be appointed as the Scrutiny Committee's representatives on the Bus Commissioning Strategy Board.**
- 2. That the Committee's representatives on the Bus Commissioning Strategy Board be tasked with reporting back to the Committee as and when necessary on the development of the Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy.**
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Appendix

Summary of Proposed Changes to ECC Contracted Bus Network by District – August 2015

1.0 Introduction

The County Council is carrying out a review of all its two hundred plus contracted bus services. All of the contracts have been reviewed in detail, resulting in there being changes proposed to the large majority of them.

In line with the principles set out in the County Council's "Getting Around In Essex" strategy, changes are being made in ways to minimise the impact on bus users wherever possible and to strengthen the overall network, so no categories of service are proposed to be entirely withdrawn (so for example it is **not** currently proposed that the County withdraws all its Sunday or evening services en-bloc as has been the case elsewhere). Rather each service has been reviewed both in its own right and as part of the overall bus network and changes proposed to make the best use of available resources and make efficiency savings wherever possible. Despite this there are some general themes:

- A move toward aligning ECC contracted timetables for evening and Sunday services with their daytime equivalents to rationalise service provision.
- The proposed use of more demand responsive options (DRT) to serve deeply rural areas.
- Some standardisation over the range of times and frequencies services are operated at.
- Better planning and use of resources to offer coherent packages of work that will employ fewer resources to achieve the same outcome, offering better value for money.
- Commercialisation of some services, so that they are run without Essex County Council funding. This is likely to result in fare increases for customers, to bring them in line with the commercial rates, over which ECC has no control and which may be substantial.
- A move toward increasing the use of nett cost contracts, whereby the operator retains the fares and sets fare levels, in return for a reduced level of support from ECC. Again this is likely to lead to increased costs to customers over which ECC will have no control. The use of longer term contracts to encourage longer term investment by operators and reduce the cost of short term contract provision to ECC. (i.e. operators may be more willing to invest in newer vehicles as they can safely plan to depreciate these and other overheads over a longer timeframe).
- Some ECC services are contracted to run until 2017. In areas where many such services are run, some additional services will be extended or let to 2017 to allow a general re-planning of services in these areas as whole over 2016/17. Negotiations are also underway with some of the operators of contracts expiring in 2017, where it may be desirable to bring forward amendments to their contracted services, to enable better alignment with particularly Commercial sector routes.

Below is a very broad summary of the major impacts in each district. Proposals for individual services within each area are included in the district level based

questionnaire.

2.0 District/Borough/City Based Summary:

Basildon

- Evening and Sunday services would be restructured to take into consideration commercial services in the area.
- A number of service number and route changes would be made to make better use of the resources employed and improve journey options for many users.
- Limited commercialisation and a move toward nett cost contracts.

Braintree

- Extensive use of DRT proposed for northern and western areas of the district.
- Proposed that some routes are rationalised to follow daytime commercial patterns or to improve use of resources.
- Some services to be reviewed in 2016/17.
- Some commercialisation of school timed services proposed.

Brentwood

- Many services unchanged.
- Some poorly performing services proposed for withdrawal.
- Some service rationalisation for better resource use proposed.

Castle Point

- Most services remain unchanged,
- Some poorly performing services proposed for withdrawal.

Chelmsford

- Some services would be reviewed in 2016/17 as contracts do not expire until 2017.
- Significant changes to current service times/frequency of operation to make better use of the resources involved are proposed.
- Some proposed renumbering of services to make the network easier to use.
- Some service routes and times would be rationalised to follow the commercial daytime operation.
- Proposed that some poorly performing services be withdrawn, where feasible these are covered by adaptations to main services.

Colchester

- Significant changes to current service numbers and times/frequency of operation to make better use of the resources involved are proposed.
- Proposed that many service routes and times will be rationalised to follow the commercial daytime operation.
- Proposed new access to Cowdray Avenue -Leisure/business /employment centres. This has been a long standing request by Colchester Borough Council.
- Some commercialisation/nett cost arrangements for school timed services proposed.

Epping Forest

- Most services remain unchanged as the contracts expire in 2017. They will be reviewed in 2016.
- Some contracts would be tendered until 2017 only, to allow joint re-planning with the above.
- It is proposed that a small number of poorly performing services are

withdrawn.

- Proposed improved Epping/Ongar connection.
- NB Separate negotiations are being carried out with Transport for London, over ECC contribution to the TfL contracted services 20 and 167 in Loughton.

Harlow

- Many services including the whole Sunday network remain unchanged as they are in contract until 2017. They will be reviewed over 2016/17.
- Some evening services will be commercialised.
- Some minor timetable and route revisions to services coming into Harlow from outside of the district.

Maldon

- Many services will remain unchanged as they are in contract until later in 2016. They will be reviewed during early 2016.
- There will be some service number/route/timetable changes to make more efficient use of resources.
- There are a few proposed withdrawals of minor poorly performing services, which can largely be accommodated by the Dengie Dart DRT Service,
- Some commercialisation has taken place already.

Rochford

- There are some proposed withdrawals of poorly performing services.
- Some services will be rationalised with route/service/timetable changes to make better use of resources.
- Improved service between Paglesham and Southend.

Tendring

- There would be significant revisions to service numbers, timetables and frequencies to make best use of the resources involved across the district.
- It is proposed that some poorly performing services would be withdrawn.
- It is proposed that some services will be revised to follow the daytime service patterns.
- Proposed improved access to Mayflower Retail Park in Parkeston during the day.
- Services also diverted to meet passenger requests.

Uttlesford

- Very significant use of DRT services proposed to replace a range of journeys in the north and east of the district.
- Proposed that school timed journeys will be preserved, but may be run commercially or as nett cost contracts.
- Some revisions to rationalise timetables and match the commercial service level are proposed.

3.0 Final note

These proposals are all made prior to the outcome of the consultation and tender processes. It may be necessary make further changes or change approaches to service provision, in light of the consultation and potential cost increases at tender.

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/18/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
PERFORMANCE REPORTING TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEES		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

The Scrutiny Board has been considering how to make best use of performance information that will be made available to each Scrutiny Committee this autumn.

Scrutiny has a key role relating to ‘post-decision scrutiny’ and scrutinising performance of the Council’s Executive. In a commissioning environment scrutiny committees should continue to be involved in monitoring of the organisation’s performance, and should start to do this through the lens of the commissioning strategy indicators and deliverables. In the language of commissioning this is about ‘reviewing’ the implementation of the strategies and ultimately the effectiveness of the executive’s commissioning decisions.

The Scrutiny Board agreed the following principles with regard to how the Scrutiny Committee Chairmen would wish to see and use performance data by the Scrutiny Committees:

- Not to overload members with too much performance data, so that they are able to engage with the data and use it to scrutinise, rather than be overwhelmed;
- To follow East Sussex’s method of editing existing corporate reports so that the committee only has to read about areas relevant to their scrutiny remit; and
- To ensure that the use of performance data encourages participation and debate rather than creating the effect of a lecture to members.

In line with these principles the following reports will be produced:

- An **annual overview report** on the progress made towards delivering ECC’s corporate outcomes as measured by the corporate outcome indicators, lifted from the Corporate Impact Report but with less commentary, will be submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- A **twice-yearly more detailed report** on performance against the corporate outcomes indicators and key performance measures will be provided for each

Scrutiny Committee. These reports will be based on part of the Corporate Impact Report that is considered by the Political Leadership Team (PLT).

Various performance monitoring by Scrutiny has taken place in the past with varying degrees of success. It is suggested that this Committee could trial a new approach to the consideration of such reports as follows:

- The circulation of the performance reports as they become available, with the onus upon Members to identify what questions they have for Cabinet Members based upon the data set out in those reports, and
- depending upon whether or not a formal meeting is imminent and the actual nature of the issues raised, then responses will be given in writing or by inviting the relevant Cabinet Members to a meeting.

In the first instance it is proposed that the Performance and Business Intelligence Team be invited to the next formal meeting of the Committee to provide an overview of the County Council's Performance Management Framework, and the information that is being produced for the Scrutiny Committees.

Action required by the Committee:

To seek an overview of the performance information that is to be provided to the Committee in due course, and

to consider the question and answer approach now proposed for the scrutiny of the forthcoming performance reports being made available to Committee.

		AGENDA ITEM 8
		PSEG/19/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
ESSEX AND SOUTHEND REPLACEMENT WASTE LOCAL PLAN		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

As part of its activity day on 24 September, Councillor Roger Hirst, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Planning and the Environment provided the Committee with a briefing on the progress of the Replacement Waste Local Plan. He was supported by Alethea Evans, Principal Planner, and Richard Greaves, Mineral and Waste Planning Manager.

Background

As part of the briefing an explanation was provided on the scope of the Plan, Consultation and governance processes through to the adoption of the final Plan, outcomes of the recent public consultation, and the next stages. The current Plan was adopted in 2001 and together with the Replacement Minerals Local Plan (adopted in 2014), these Plans provide the policy basis for determining planning applications for minerals and waste development in Essex. The new Waste Local Plan is intended to cover a fifteen year period up to 2032.

An ongoing cross party Member Reference Group is overseeing the preparation of the Plan, and there is a Joint Member Panel with Southend on Sea Borough Council as part of joint working arrangements for the Plan.

During the briefing the Committee took the opportunity to ask questions to clarify Members' understanding around the processes used to develop the new plan, and the way that sites are assessed for inclusion in the final Plan. It was confirmed that all sites are assessed on their individual merits.

In June/ July 2015 a six week consultation was undertaken on the Revised Preferred Approach, which is a skeleton document that refers to the Core Strategy, Future Waste Management Capacity Needs, Proposed Site Allocations, Proposed Areas of

Search, General Locational Policies, and Development Management Policies. As a result of that consultation 1076 comments were received, and the following key areas of work are underway in the preparation of the final Plan:

- Analysis of consultation responses and finalisation of outcome reports, including comments on the sites;
- Use of the outcome reports to inform necessary further work (for example revisiting the conclusions of current evidence, topic papers, evidence gathering particularly the site methodology and assessment study and the waste capacity gap work);
- Ongoing engagement with prescribed bodies including districts, neighbouring authorities and other key stakeholders to clarify responses and, where possible, facilitate amendments to the Plan, fully recognising the duty to cooperate;
- Preparation of a draft Replacement Waste Local Plan;
- Assessment of the draft Plan through a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment and demonstrate that the conclusions of such assessments have influenced the Plan where appropriate;
- Preparation of the final version of the final Plan, and seek approval of both Southend and Essex Cabinet and then full Councils there on after.

With particular reference to the Site Allocation Process, new evidence has come forward on several sites identified in the recent Consultation that may result in the need to review the scoring of certain sites and may affect the final selection of sites.

Feedback from the Site Methodology and Assessment is being re-considered as part of outcome reporting process. This process re-engages consultants to work with ECC specialists (traffic, landscape, biodiversity and historic environment) used in producing previous site assessment reports for the minerals and waste local plans. The preferred site allocations of Elsenham (Uttlesford), Wivenhoe (Colchester), W19 Hastingwood (Epping Forest), Morses Lane (Tendring), and Little Bullocks / Crumps (Uttlesford) were a particular focus for representations

Conclusion

Currently applications for waste development proposed in Essex and Southend on Sea are assessed against the Waste Local Plan (2001). In the absence of an up to date Waste Local Plan, waste development could be led by planning appeals, with little certainty to either site promoters or the community as to where new facilities may be located. Work on the Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan with Southend-on-Sea commenced in 2009 and has been subject to three rounds of public consultation and changes made to the emerging Plan as a result of these stages.

Once a final Plan has been prepared and, following its approval by full Council, that document will be subject to a final round of public engagement in relation to soundness and legal compliance. Prior to approval by full Council, the final Plan must be subject to assessments such as Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulation Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments.

The rigorous process by which a Waste Local Plan has to be prepared, subjected to consultation, examined and then adopted is prescribed by national planning regulations and the Statement of Community Involvement. In addition the Council has its own established governance processes in place including through the Member Reference Group and joint arrangements with Southend on Sea Borough Council. The final Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination, which itself is a thorough and detailed scrutiny process. Only once an Inspector has deemed the Plan to be sound and legally compliant will it be possible for the final Plan to be adopted.

At the end of the briefing the Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officer Team for a really useful overview of the work being undertaken to produce the Replacement Waste Local Plan. The session had provided reassurance to the Committee that the whole process was in the hands of a highly professional team, and there would be full public consultation in line with various formal procedures to fulfil legislative requirements.

Action required by the Committee:

The Committee is asked to note this report, which has been prepared as a summary of its briefing held on 24 September.

		AGENDA ITEM 9
		PSEG/20/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
FUTURE OF THE SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

Following the Committee's formal meeting on 23 July, Members met informally to receive a short update on the future of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). This report sets out the outcome of that update.

Councillor Graham Butland led the session given his knowledge of the matter as a representative on the SELEP Board and Leader of Braintree District Council.

Committee Members were already familiar with the issue as at full Council on 14 July the following motion was declared after a debate:

'This Council fully supports the Government's plans for devolution of powers to elected local authorities and calls on Ministers to help support Essex businesses and Councils deliver further prosperity to residents by expeditiously agreeing to the formation of a Greater Essex Local Enterprise Partnership (GELEP).

This will support more local and much quicker decision making, than the current South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), on schemes and projects which will help further to increase jobs, skills, wealth and growth in the Greater Essex economy.

The creation of a GELEP could also be co-terminus with plans for devolution in Essex and help return powers to local people.'

Councillor Butland confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Secretary of State on 20 July setting out a compelling case for the creation of a GELEP from Simon Brice, Chairman of the Greater Essex Business Board, and George Kieffer, Essex Vice Chair of the South East LEP. Furthermore he confirmed that all Essex Districts were in support of the proposal.

Given the ongoing interest in the issue, the Committee felt that it would be appropriate to reiterate its support for the Council's action in this matter, and therefore the Chairman undertook to write to the Secretary of State accordingly.

Consequently the following text was included in letters sent by Councillor Walsh to Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; and Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

'On behalf of Essex County Council's Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee I am writing to confirm its firm support for proposals for the Government to review the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and the setting up of a Greater Essex Local Enterprise Partnership (GELEP).

As its title suggests the Committee is a part of the Council's scrutiny structure and its broad remit includes consideration of economic growth, planning, highways and environment. When it met on 23 July a part of its activity included a briefing and discussion on the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). Although its membership was aware that the Council's Executive has already written to you following a motion passed at full Council in support of the formation of a GELEP, the Scrutiny Committee felt that given its role within the organisation it was important to emphasise the depth of County Councillor support. Over time the Committee has reviewed various economic growth and infrastructure related matters, which have provided councillors opportunities to consider the SELEP's role and that knowledge has informed their decision to support alternative LEP arrangements for Greater Essex.

The Committee supports the view that a GELEP would be more cognisant of the local economy and able to respond to the challenges that exist in practice, and in doing so would be more accountable in the delivery of sustainable economic growth. At the same time it is felt a smaller and more geographically cohesive LEP would overcome concerns that have arisen around the SELEP not least its remoteness and a lack of transparency on its activities.

While it is recognised that the LEPs are business driven, there clearly needs to be effective partnership working for them to be able to produce tangible outcomes. All the Essex Local Authorities have a democratic mandate to represent the local communities, which together with their respective roles and responsibilities, mean that they have a crucial role to play in supporting the growth agenda. A GELEP would have the advantage of being able to develop existing local partnerships as well as a better chance of forging stronger links, which may have been difficult in the broader geographical context of the SELEP. Furthermore the Committee believes that the proposal for a partnership focussed upon Greater Essex would have greater resonance with the local community, and so attract more support than the SELEP has been able to foster since its inception.

Councillors were mindful that the GELEP proposal has the support of the Essex Business Community, and there is a shared vision across Essex Local Authorities that there are opportunities for Greater Essex to be a powerhouse capable of delivering economic growth based upon its natural markets and growth corridors.'

Both Secretaries of State acknowledged the letters, and indicated that the Government is considering the proposals for Greater Essex and Kent and Medway LEPs.

In the meantime Councillor Bentley, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Infrastructure, Waste and Recycling, has advised the Chairman that Civil Servants have indicated through meetings with the Vice Chairmen of SELEP that HM Government will not consider alternative LEP arrangements for Essex, Southend, Thurrock, Kent, East Sussex.

While it is not proposed that the Committee take any further action on this particular matter at this time, Members will be engaged in any further discussion on the future of the SELEP as opportunities may arise.

Action required by the Committee at this meeting:

To note the update set out in this report.

		AGENDA ITEM 10
		PSEG/21/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
WORK PROGRAMME (Minute 5/ July 2015)		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

This report provides an update on the Committee's activities. At its last meeting the Committee agreed proposals for taking forward its work programme for 2015/17, and identified those topics where it may fulfil a useful scrutiny role.

Overall historical, current and future scheduled activity is also set out in a tracker document, a summary of which is attached at the Appendix.

The following is a summary of current topics where work is underway.

- **September Committee Activity Day**

During its committee activity day on 24 September, the Committee took part in three briefings:

1. Essex and Southend Replacement Waste Local Plan
2. Ringway Jacobs Highways Contract - 'Understanding the Essex Highways Contract'
3. Local Bus Consultation

In the case of 1 and 3 above, there are reports on those briefings set out as separate items elsewhere in this agenda. A report on the Ringway Jacobs Highways Contract will be submitted to a future committee meeting.

- **Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Group**

Arrangements are being made for this scrutiny review to be considered at the next committee activity day on 26 November.

- **Local Highways Panels (LHPs)**

A scrutiny review on the LHPs will commence in due course when resources become available as other scrutiny work is completed. In the meantime a questionnaire has been sent to all the LHP Chairmen seeking feedback to inform the planning of the review, and once all replies have been received on behalf of all twelve Panels they will be collated for the Committee's ease of reference

- **Parking Partnerships**

In the work programme schedule submitted to the Committee in July 2015 (Minute 5) it was envisaged that a briefing on the Parking Partnerships would be provided to this meeting to coincide with a broader executive review of the Partnerships as required under the formal Joint Committee Agreements, and would be followed up by consideration of the findings and recommendations of that review prior to any decisions being taken. However, as the timing of that review has slipped, arrangements are now underway for the briefing to be presented to the Committee on 21 January, with a further meeting in March. Members will be consulted on the planning of arrangements in due course.

- **School Crossing Patrols**

During the summer a briefing paper was commissioned in line with Minute 6/ July 2015 to provide the Committee with an update on the school crossing patrols. The timing co-incided with advice that a new Policy was to be agreed by the Cabinet Member in the Autumn. A briefing paper was sent to Committee Members on 10 September.

- **Long-term disposal of Solid Recovered Fuel**

In June 2015 (Minute 7/July refers) the Committee visited the new Waste Facility at Tovi Eco Park, Basildon, and received briefings on matters relating to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy including the long term disposal of Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF). The topic of SRF has also been identified in the Committee's work programme.

By way of an update the Cabinet has now considered the long-term disposal of SRF outputs from the Authority's mechanical and biological waste treatment facility (the MBT facility) at Courtauld Road, Basildon. Its decision is set out in Minute 6/ September 2015. For further information, please refer to [Cabinet agenda and minute](#)

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME

MONTH AT A GLANCE (with links to papers)	Cttee Meeting:	Cttee meeting	Activity Day	Cttee Meeting	Activity Day	Activity Day						
	22nd	26 th	17th	21st	25th	24th						
	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline						
	29-Sep	3rd	24-Nov	29-Dec	2nd	1st						
	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates						
	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC						
	SORT by Oct-15		SORT by Nov-15		SORT by Dec-15		SORT by Jan-16		SORT by Feb-16		SORT by Mar-16	
Work Programme Chairman and Scrutiny Officer	Update	Update		Update								
Local Highways Panel Cllr Bass & Johnson, Paul Bird	Provisional start of review tbc		T&F	T&F	T&F	T&F						
Jobs, Welfare & Skills Scrutiny Review Cllr Kevin Bentley, Jess Hayes	T&F	Report to Committee										
Flood Management and Third Party Responsibilities - Scrutiny review Cllrs Bass,Hirst & Johnson	Briefings and draft report to be considered by the Committee	Final report to be submitted for endorsement										
Local Enterprise Partnerships/ SELEP - Cllr Bentley	Report to Committee on the outcome of the briefing in July											
Recycling Centres for household waste - Cllr Kevin Bentley, Jason Searles	Provisional start of review delayed											
Commissioning strategies :Environmental Aspirations - Cllr Hirst	Proposed workshop tbc											
Utility companies & Highways Maintenance - Cllr Bass & Cllr Johnson												
Skills and Employment: Engagement with National Agencies and Programmes Cllr Kevin Bentley,												
Part Night Lighting Cllr Rodney Bass, Paul Bird												
Financial Inclusion The Leader												
Public Transport Network for Essex Cllr Rodney Bass, Paul Bird												
Local Transport Plan & Economic Growth Cllr Rodney Bass, Paul Bird												
Commissioning Strategies Cllrs Bass, Bentley, Jowers and Walters, Alaistair Gordon												
Highways Maintenance and Repair of Potholes Cllrs Bass and Johnson, David Forkin												
EU Funding and Brussels Office Cllr Kevin Bentley												
Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy: 'Getting around In Essex' Cllrs Bass and Johnson, Helen Morris	Report to Committee on the outcome of the briefing in September											
Country Parks Car Parking Charges Cllr Roger Hirst, Tim Dixon												

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME

	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
MONTH AT A GLANCE (with links to papers)	Cttee Meeting:	Cttee meeting	Activity Day	Cttee Meeting	Activity Day	Activity Day
	22nd	26 th	17th	21st	25th	24th
	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline	Papers deadline
	29-Sep	3rd	24-Nov	29-Dec	2nd	1st
	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates	Other activity dates
	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Stansted Airport Councillors Bass, Bentley and Hirst						
Speed Limit at Rivenhall (withdrawn call-in) Councillors Bass and Johnson						
Colchester Town Centre TRO (withdrawn call-in)						
Joint Municpal Waste Management Strategy & Visit to Tovi Eco Park Councillor Bentley						
Solid Recovered Fuel - Cllr Bentley	No furrther action/ Cabinet decision Minute 6/ September 2015					
Ringway Jacobs Contract - Cllrs Bass & Johnson		Report to Committee on outcome of the briefing in September				
Essex Replacement Waste Local Plan - Cllr Hirst	Report to Committee on outcome of the briefing in September					
Bradwell Nuclear Facility -Cllr Hirst						
Strategic Planning -Cllr Hirst						
Parking Partnerships - Cllr Johnson				Briefing on Partnerships and executive review		Consideration of proposals arising from executive review
Aviation Policy & Airports Surface Access Study - Cllrs Bass ,Bentley & Hirst						
Pavement Parking -Cllr Johnson				Briefing		
COMAH Communications Cllr Hirst, Andy Allsop, Rosanna Briggs						

		AGENDA ITEM 11
		PSEG/22/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
FUTURE COMMITTEE DATES		
Enquiries to:	Lisa Siggins, Committee Officer 033301 34594 lisa.siggins@essex.gov.uk	

Please note the future meeting activity dates for the Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year June 2016 through to April 2017.

Please can Members ensure that they reserve the whole day in their diaries as these activity dates may comprise a variety of committee work across the full day including formal public meetings, briefings, task and finish group meetings, and visits:

- Thursday 23 June 2016
- Thursday 21 July 2016
- Thursday 22 September 2016
- Thursday 20 October 2016
- Thursday 24 November 2016
- Thursday 15 December 2016
- Thursday 19 January 2017
- Thursday 23 February 2017
- Thursday 23 March 2017
- Thursday 20 April 2017

Please also ensure that you have the remaining activity dates for this municipal year in your diary as follows:

- Thursday 26 November 2015
- Thursday 17 December 2015
- Thursday 21 January 2016
- Thursday 25 February 2016
- Thursday 24 March 2016
- Thursday 21 April 2016
- Thursday 26 May 2016

