



Essex County Council

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

10:00	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	Council Chamber County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

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3	Finance Report for the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit - November 2023 To receive an update from Carron Nason - Management Accountant, ECC.	11 - 15
4	Rural Engagement Team Update - November 2023 To receive an update from Sgt Paul Brady, Essex Police.	16 - 16
5	Operations Performance Update which includes:	
5.1	Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Outreach Report To receive an update from the ECTU Outreach Officers, ECC.	17 - 19
5.2	Unauthorised Encampments Report from June 2023 to October 2023 (End) To receive an update from Alec Baker - ECTU Officer, ECC.	20 - 31

6 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting is to be arranged and an email will be sent once a date has been agreed.

7 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)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

8 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.

Committee: Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

Enquiries to: Freddey Ayres, Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 4)

Councillor Mark Durham
Councillor Jade Hughes
Councillor Deborah Arnold
Councillor Andy Baker
Councillor George Jeffery
Councillor Anthony McQuiggan
Councillor Jannetta Sosin
Councillor Paul Smith
Councillor Russell Savage
Councillor Chris Criscione
Councillor Lisa Newport
Councillor Keith Parker
Councillor Lynette Bowers-Flint
Chief Inspector Terry Balding

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee, held at 10am on Wednesday, 21 June 2023

Present:

Cllr Mark Durham	Essex County Council
Cllr George Jeffrey	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Anthony McQuiggan	Essex County Council
Cllr Jannetta Sosin	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Chris Criscione	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Deborah Arnold	Thurrock Council

Also present:

Freddey Ayres (Clerk)	Essex County Council
Emma Tombs	Essex County Council
Insp. Terry Jacobs	Essex Police
Sgt. Paul Brady	Essex Police
Paul Ashworth	Essex County Council
Carron Nasson	Essex County Council
Susan Enwere	Essex County Council
Nicola Coates	Essex County Council
Alec Baker	Essex County Council
Phil Carver	Thurrock Council
David Cater	Brentwood Borough Council

1 Welcome, Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The clerk opened the meeting.

The clerk noted the following changes to the membership since the publication of the agenda:

- Castle Point Borough Council representative: Cllr Russell Savage
- Uttlesford District Council representative: Cllr Chris Criscione
- Braintree District Council representative: Cllr Lynette Bowers-Flint

The amended membership, and membership as presented in the agenda papers was noted:

Apologies had been received from the following:

- Cllr Andy Baker; Tendring District Council
- Cllr Paul Smith; Colchester City Council
- Cllr Jade Hughes; Maldon District Council
- Cllr Russell Savage; Castle Point Borough Council
- Cllr Andrew Jefferies; Thurrock Council (Cllr Deborah Arnold substituting)
- Will Newman; Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Election of Vice-Chairman

In response to the clerk inviting nominations for Chairman for the municipal year, Councillor Anthony McQuiggan nominated Councillor Mark Durham, which was seconded by Councillor Jannetta Sosin. No other nominations were received and by general consent Councillor Mark Durham was elected as Chairman of the Committee and invited to take the chair.

3 Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman invited nominations to serve as Vice Chairman for the municipal year and he nominated Councillor Anthony McQuiggan, which was seconded by Councillor Jannetta Sosin. There being no further nominations, and by general consent, Councillor Anthony McQuiggan was elected Vice Chairman.

4 Minutes of 31 October 2022 and matters arising from that meeting not covered in agenda.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 31 October 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

5 Finance Update:

The Committee received a report from Carron Nasson, Management Accountant, Essex County Council.

Key information provided included:

- (i) **2022/23 Outturn Position as of 31st March 2023** – The 2022/23 forecast outturn position was a net pressure of £4,907. Contribution to the Essex Countywide Travellers Unit (ECTU) across internal partners for 2022/23 was £306,145. This outturn position assumed that legal fees and bailiff costs would continue to be managed within the allocated budget. The year-end position had reduced the reserve from a surplus position at the closure of the 2021/22 accounts of £321,980 to a surplus of £317,073 at the close of 2022/23.
- (ii) **Budget/Actuals for 2022/23, agreed Budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and the Proposed Draft Budget for 2025/26.** - The 2024/25 agreed budget assumed the following:
 - No increases to membership fees. The budget had increased to reflect the full amount of fees from both ECC, and its internal and external partners, as this was previously understated.
 - 3.25% increase for Employee budgets (2% Staffing and 1.25% NI Uplift).
 - 2.8% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets.

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- 2025/26 proposed draft budget (excluding membership contributions) had all been increased by the RPI figure which was currently 3.0% as per the latest information available.
 - A draw from reserves would be required if the costs exceed the budget.

(iii) **2023/24 Membership Fees**

The 2023/24 Membership fees were summarised. It was noted the total subscription of £413,547 was now incorrect and should be revised to be £401,547. This was due to the removal of Essex Fire and Rescue and the subtraction of their membership fee of £12,000. Membership discussions with Essex Fire and Rescue were ongoing. The Chairman stated that conversations should be held with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to stress the importance of collaboration.

(iv) **Balance Sheet – Reserves**

The opening balance of 2022/23 was £321,980. A drawdown of £4,907 was needed to balance the position due to position in the previous year. The closing balance was £317,073. It was noted that the reserves in future years did include a drawdown in reserves which was shown in a previous table. Members had queries in relation to reserve caps and it was shared that any caps would need to be agreed by this committee. The Chairman explained how each year is different and the amount spent on legal fees can differ depending on how much action is needed.

It was **AGREED** by general consent:

- To note the 2022/23 financial position.
- To note budgets for 2023/24 and future budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- To note 2023/24 Membership Fees
- To note the Balance Sheet Reserves

6 Rural Engagement Team (RET) Update:

RET Update – June 2023

The Committee received an update from Insp. Terry Jacobs and Sgt Paul Brady, Essex Police.

Key information provided included:

In the twelve months leading to June 2023 there had been 61 unauthorised encampments. All had been attended by the RET. The criteria for police eviction powers was met on 15 of these occasions. 2 of these occasions the criteria for S60 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 was met and powers were utilised. In the preceding 12 months the RET had dealt with 95 incidents. There had been a consistent decline over the past 6 years. It was reported that it was as yet unclear whether the reduction had been due to the

collaboration with the ECTU and the next 12 months would allow for the team to assess whether the new legislation and ECTU partnership has had a role to play in the reduction or whether the numbers would begin to rise again. Feedback received had shown that encampments that are disorderly are not coming to Essex due to swift enforcement. Ones that have come to Essex have been more orderly.

Unauthorised Encampments Procedure Update:

The Committee received an update from Insp. Terry Jacobs and Sgt Paul Brady, Essex Police.

The chair expressed the importance of sharing this with members in respective authorities and Essex Police expressed that they would be happy to attend any local authorities and give briefings. It was expressed that a factsheet could be provided if requested.

Members asked a question in relation to whether there seemed to be an increased level of fly-tipping and if this has been blamed on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community. It was shared that the issue seemed to be with commercial fly-tipping and that they would not be able to say with certainty that there was any correlation between the new booking system at recycling centres and fly-tipping in the GRT communities. There had been situations where the GRT community had been blamed for fly-tipping. It was expressed that members of the GRT communities may have issues with literacy and digital access to the booking system. It was shared that there were procedures in place with staff at recycling centres that they would aid GRT communities from a customer services viewpoint.

Members noted the Unauthorised Encampments Procedure Update.

7 Operations Performance Update

Outreach Report

The Committee received a report from Susan Enwere, ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC and Nicola Coates, ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC.

Key information:

The outreach team had been assisting the GRT community with form filling and data entry etc. It was reported that the team had developed GP Cards which allowed GRT's to apply for GP surgeries bypassing the requirement to provide a passport or other identification documents that they may not have had access to.

There had been 4 successful multi-agency Health Days where members off the GRT community would be seen to get help with health concerns. They have babies weighed and have dental health information for children etc. There were twelve health days booked for the year of 2023.

Education

Key information:

Education support was continuing to be provided which included completing school applications, supporting admission process etc. The amount of support needed had increased due to harder application processes. College applications had also become more difficult due to online processes. The outreach officers had been liaising with the employability and skills team to look at what information would be helpful to provide to communities. Advice had been supplied to assist with home education to help families understand the responsibilities involved. The outreach team had been working with Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) social policy team who had developed a Higher Education pledge to promote inclusivity and support to those in the GRT community. Connected communities' events had been arranged and had been attended by the ECTU team and it was expressed that collaborative work with Essex County Council, ECTU, ARU and the Traveller Movement be undertaken to co-host an event to formulate a programme with education and access to education. Employers could also be invited to assist.

The Library Outreach Bus has been continuing. It was shared that this had been received well by GRT communities. Current issues identified were supporting young people with SEND and struggles with education pathways.

In relation to a question asked about young women in the GRT community in relation to non-attendance to school. It was shared that due to cultural reasons and bullying that takes place when they are in schools it would be hard for the ECTU team to make an impact. It was explained that the best option would be to work with the schools and support GRT but to also supply home education advice.

Members had requested statistics on education attendance by gender and explore how data could be gathered in the future and the possibility that it could be referred to a scrutiny meeting to address the issues raised.

Unauthorised Encampment (UE) Report

The Committee received an update from Alec Baker, ECTU Officer, Enforcement Lead, ECC.

Key information:

Between November 2022 & May 2023, data between November to May (2020 TO 2023) of all encampments recorded by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit encampments was shared it was reported that 2022/23 and 2021/22 had exactly the same number of UE's at 46. Encampments will remain low for the second year in a row but it should be noted that this is the winter period so numbers were predicted to be lower.

The current and historic 10-year trend for UE's in partner areas in Essex was showing a continual reduction since 2019. At the time of this meeting, it was reported that the UE count sat at 37 but was likely to rise in the summer. The final amount of UE's in 2023 is predicted to be the lowest since the inception of ECTU.

Biggest hit of encampments when considering non-partner areas was Uttlesford. It was reported that there was a formatting error on figure 3 in that it states that

Chelmsford had 7 UE this number should be 3. It also stated that Colchester had 3 UE's and this should be 7.

The breakdown of encampments by landowners showed that 10 was on private land with the other highest being Colchester with 6 UE's.

It was shown that the encampment of the GRT family in the case study was left tidy. It was also explained that the vehicle of choice for GRT seems to be camper vans this was a change from the traditional vehicle with a caravan.

There are currently 1 live injunction in Thurrock Council.

Stats were provided in relation to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and it was reported that it was all positive.

A question was asked about whether it would be possible to shorten the 7-day target to a lower figure. It was explained that the timeline was established at the beginning of ECTU with the help of the legal team. It was shared that if any changes would want to be made then this would need to be formally proposed. The ECTU team explained that the timeline works in relation to KPI's and the 7-day period was reasonable.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be arranged and circulated in due course

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:41am.

Chairman

Essex County Wide Traveller Unit Joint Committee Meeting 21st November 2023

Report by Tracey Cole, Accounting Technician

Finance Report for the Essex County Wide Traveller Unit

**Enquiries to Tracey Cole,
ECC Finance Accounting Technician
Tel: 03330 131912**

Purpose	
1.	To note the financial update for the six months to 30 th September 2023
2.	To agree the proposed budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26
3.	To agree the proposed 2024/25 Membership Fees
4.	To note the Balance Sheet Reserves (subject to Joint Committee decision).

1. 2023/24 Forecast Outturn Position as at 30th September 2023

	2023/24 Budget	Actuals to 30th September 2023	Forecast Outturn	Variance
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
Employees	£317,202	£155,861	£315,341	(£1,861)
Premises	£0	£25	£25	£25
Supplies & Services	£47,712	£20,843	£64,725	£17,013
Transport & Mileage	£16,162	£10,109	£19,324	£3,162
Third Party Payments	£0	£33	£33	£33
Transfer Payments	£0	£0	£0	£0
Legal	£20,471	£6,383	£14,249	(£6,222)
Gross Expenditure	£401,547	£193,254	£413,697	£12,150
<u>Income:</u>				
Partner Contributions (inc ECC)	(£401,547)	(£310,115)	(£401,547)	£0
Gross Income	(£401,547)	(£310,115)	(£401,547)	£0
Forecast Surplus/Pressure	£0	(£116,861)	£12,150	£12,150

The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit 2023/24 forecast outturn position is a net over spend of £12,150, so a drawdown of this amount from reserves will be required to bring the service online.

To Note:

1. Essex County Councils contribution to the ECTU for 2023/24 is £310,115 across internal partners; this is 75% of the total overall contribution received.
2. This position assumes that legal fees and bailiff costs are similar to 2022/23 spend.
3. The 2023/24 budget was based on approved District/Borough/City Fees of £8,312 from 2022/23.
4. Invoices to all members will be raised during November/December 2023.
5. The opening reserve at 1st April 2023 was a surplus of (£317,073). If all things remain equal the reserve balance is anticipated to be (£304,924) at the end of the financial year (this figure could fluctuate depending on uncontrollable costs).

2. Budget for 2023/24 & draft budget for future years

	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget	2025/26 Draft Budget
Expenditure:				
Employees	£307,217	£317,202	£331,476	£338,106
Supplies & Services	£66,966	£47,712	£49,477	£50,962
Legal	£19,779	£20,471	£21,228	£21,865
Transport & Mileage	£15,615	£16,162	£16,760	£17,263
Third Party Payments	£0	£0	£0	£0
Gross Expenditure	£409,577	£401,547	£418,942	£428,195
Income:				
Partner Contributions	(£409,577)	(£401,547)	(£401,547)	(£401,547)
Draw from Reserves			(£17,395)	(£26,648)
Gross Income	(£409,577)	(£401,547)	(£418,942)	(£428,195)
Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit	£0	£0	£0	£0

The 2024/25 proposed draft budget assumes the following:

- No increases to membership fees (subject to Joint Committee decision). As detailed in 'Proposed 2024/25 Membership Fees' this is due to the current level in reserves. The budget has increased to reflect the full amount of fees from both ECC and its internal and external partners.
- Employee budgets have been increased by 4.5% for 2024/25 and 2% in 2025/26.
- All other budgets (excluding membership contributions) have been increased by the RPI figure which is currently 3.7% for 2024/25 and 3% for 2025/26, as per the latest information available.
- A draw from reserves will be required if the costs exceed the budget.

3. Proposed 2024/25 Membership Fees

The table below presents 3 options for members to consider in respect of membership contributions.

To note, the Essex Fire & Rescue service have withdrawn their membership which has been reflected in the budgets accordingly.

Option 1: A 1% increase which results in an increase of £83 per District / Borough / City member.

Option 2: A 2.5% RPI increase which results in an increase of £208 per District / Borough / City member.

Option 3: No increase, due to there being a reserve balance of (£317,073), which is more than 3 months operational costs. (Preferred option).

A decision is required from the Joint Committee to approve the membership fees for 2024/25.

Organisation	2023/24 Fee (Approved at the Joint Committee 31st October 2022)	OPTION 1 2024/25 Fee (1% Increase)	OPTION 2 2024/25 Fee (2.5% Increase RPI)	OPTION 3 2024/25 Fee (No Increase)
Essex County Council:				
ECC - Gypsy & Traveller	£221,268	£221,268	£221,268	£221,268
ECC - Highways	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Public Health	£63,911	£63,911	£63,911	£63,911
Essex Property & Facilities	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Country Parks	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Total ECC	£310,115	£310,364	£310,738	£310,115
Essex Fire and Rescue	£12,000	£0	£0	£0
Districts / Boroughs / City & Unitary:				
Uttlesford District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Thurrock Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Rochford District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Maldon District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Colchester City Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Tendring District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Basildon District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Castlepoint Borough Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Braintree District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Brentwood Borough Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Chelmsford City Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,520	£8,312
Total Districts/Boroughs/City/Unitary	£91,432	£92,346	£93,718	£91,432
Total Subscriptions	£413,547	£402,710	£404,456	£401,547

4. Balance Sheet – Reserves

Balance Sheet: General Balance	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Opening Balance (Surplus)	(£66,798)	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£321,980)	(£317,073)	(£304,924)	(£287,528)
Current Year Net Expenditure (Surplus)	£93,260	(£51,389)	(£53,428)	(£64,748)	(£42,166)	(£136,712)	£4,907	£0	£0	£0
Drawdown From Reserve								£12,150	£17,395	£26,648
Closing Balance (Surplus) / Deficit	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£321,980)	(£317,073)	(£304,924)	(£287,528)	(£260,880)

Note – Reserves balances assumes drawdown from reserves in future years as per the Draft Budgets in Table 2.

Essex Police, Rural Engagement Team Update:

Encampments	May-Oct 2023
Total Encampments	58
Evicted Under Section 61	8
Evicted Under Section 60C	5

We continue to see a decrease in the number of unauthorised encampments across the County. A consistent approach by the Rural Engagement Team working with the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit in managing all unauthorised encampments has demonstrated that anti-social and disruptive behaviour is unacceptable in Essex.

Since May there were 58 encampments and 22% of encampments were required to vacate the land under legislation due to anti-social and disruptive behaviour to communities. In the same period, the previous year, police powers were used at 33% of encampments.

The policing of encampments has become more consistent, and the enforcement is only used in proportionate circumstances where the impact is felt by communities. The change in legislation last year has strengthened Police powers but at the same time the Rural Engagement Team have provided a clear code of conduct for those involved in unauthorised encampments and levels of unacceptable conduct are explained. At the same time, less repeat visitors are coming to Essex and therefore acceptable behaviour is having to be explained and enforced where it may have been accepted outside of Essex.

Outreach Report –

ECTU Operations Board and Joint Committee
November 2023

A brief summary of areas of work is detailed below:

Health

- Support re GP and Dentist registration.
- Support with referrals to other agencies/relevant services and checking appointments etc.
- Health days/Agency Liaison. We have worked with Community Agents, Community Dental Services, Essex Wellbeing Service (Provide), Craig Tyler Trust, Terence Higgins Trust and Child and Family Wellbeing Hubs and Sensory Deprivation Team to look at engagement with Health days being used as a first step, to then be developed into a more regular and consistent pattern of outreach from the other agencies.
- Health days dates and locations – see schedule below:

Date	Site
27 th April 2-4pm	Hovefields Avenue (private) approx. 40 plots SS12 9JA
25 th May 2-4pm	Oak Lane (private) approx. 40 plots CM11 2YH
8 th June 2-4pm	Meadow Lane (private) approx. 40 plots SS11 7DX
6 th July 2-4pm	Homefields Nursery (private)
20 th July 1-3pm	Severalls (ECC site) 12 Plots CO4 5TZ
16 th May 1-3pm	Elizabeth Way (ECC site) 21 Plots CM19 5FF
15 th June 1-3pm	Wood Corner (ECC site) 21 Plots CM9 6TP
14 th September 1-3pm	Ridgewell (ECC site) CO9 4SY
22 nd June 1-3pm	Twin Oaks (private) approx. 18 plots CM77 8AB
1 st August 1-3pm	Navestock (private) RM4 1HE
21 st September 1-3pm	Hovefields (ECC site) 25 Plots SS13 1QQ
28 th September 1-3pm	Hop Garden (ECC site) 16 Plots CM5 9PT

- Leading on from these outreach visits with partner agencies, a further two outreach visits have been carried out to Wood Corner site with the Essex Child and Family wellbeing Service on 18th September and 24th October when we also arranged for the library bus to attend.
- We are planning to continue these joint visits with the Essex Child and Family wellbeing Service after the Christmas period, on a monthly basis to build engagement and promote access to services.
- Outreach Library Bus – a further 6 Outreach library bus visits were carried out to sites over the July – October period.
- Two site visits with Public Health Dental consultant, to facilitate research into dental access to vulnerable groups in the East of England, enabling interviews to take place with people from the GRT communities.

Education

- Continued support with applications to schools.
- College applications/advice
- Pre-school applications
- Close liaison with Employability and Skills team re working towards more culturally targeted provision, also to raise engagement and awareness, this is ongoing, however access to suitable courses is becoming more difficult.
- Support re issues in school/SEND, attending meetings, home visits to try to maintain children and YP in the formal education setting.
- Support to parents re challenging exclusions and SEND decisions re EHCP's.
- Referrals to and joint work with Families in Focus
- Advice re home education and joint visits when requested with Elective Home Education/Children Missing Education officers.
- Information re college/learning opportunities
- Support with attendance continuity when families travel, i.e., dual registration/temporary registration.
- Liaison with Anglia Ruskin University and the Traveller Movement to discuss arranging an event in Essex, connecting agencies and members of the GRT communities. With a focus on future provision for Young People from GRT communities this will hopefully raise cultural awareness and encourage discussion about accessible and relevant provision to enable Young People to achieve in Education – this is ongoing, and it is expected that this will take place in February 2024 dependant on availability of venue (ARU).

Applications submitted by Outreach team July – October inclusive.

Primary	56
Secondary	22
College/FE	7
School appeals	10

Case studies:

- X comes from the Travelling community; they live on a Council run site. X has struggled with their arrears for some time as the plot they are living on used to be joint tenancy with their mum and due to her mental health declining, when she passed away there was debt. X struggles themselves with depression and anxiety and was struggling to pay their rent and got confused with their Universal credit payments which caused more issues. On speaking with UC with X's permission we were able to change their rent to be paid directly to the landlord, so they no longer had to budget this money. Discussions were had with X about budgeting their monthly outgoings and helped explain how they could go forward in the future.
- A year 8 pupil, who had never attended secondary school due to anxiety went onto home education after his mother was taken to court and fined £500. The Reaching Out programme was recommended by The Traveller Movement. This provided an on-line basic skills course and the young person made rapid progress and gained confidence. The young person has now applied to secondary school at his own request.

Good news:

- 9 YP's are going back into secondary school, following prolonged absence in 4 cases.
It can be a struggle to try to maintain them in school.
- Although early days, liaison with ARU, looking to support regarding their potential outreach to the GTRSB communities in Education.



The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Unauthorised encampment report covering period from June 2023 to October 2023 (End)

Presented by Alec Baker (Enforcement Lead)

ECTU Operations Board 2nd November 2023 10:00-12:00

ECTU Joint Committee – 21st November 2023 10:00-13:00

Figure 1 - Comparison between JUNE TO OCTOBER 'END' (2021 TO 2023) of all encampments recorded by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit

NB. Please note this is not comprehensive list of all encampments in Essex, as we may not be advised of encampments on non-partner or private land. There will also be occasions where we have made an initial visit to establish location/position but not pursued if found to be non-partner/private land.

FINDINGS...

- UE numbers have been very similar for the last three years. 2023 & 2022 recorded 76 encampments & 2021 recorded 81.
- Just for contrast 2014 recorded 154 & 2018 finished with 177 for the comparable period
- UEs are holding to similar numbers

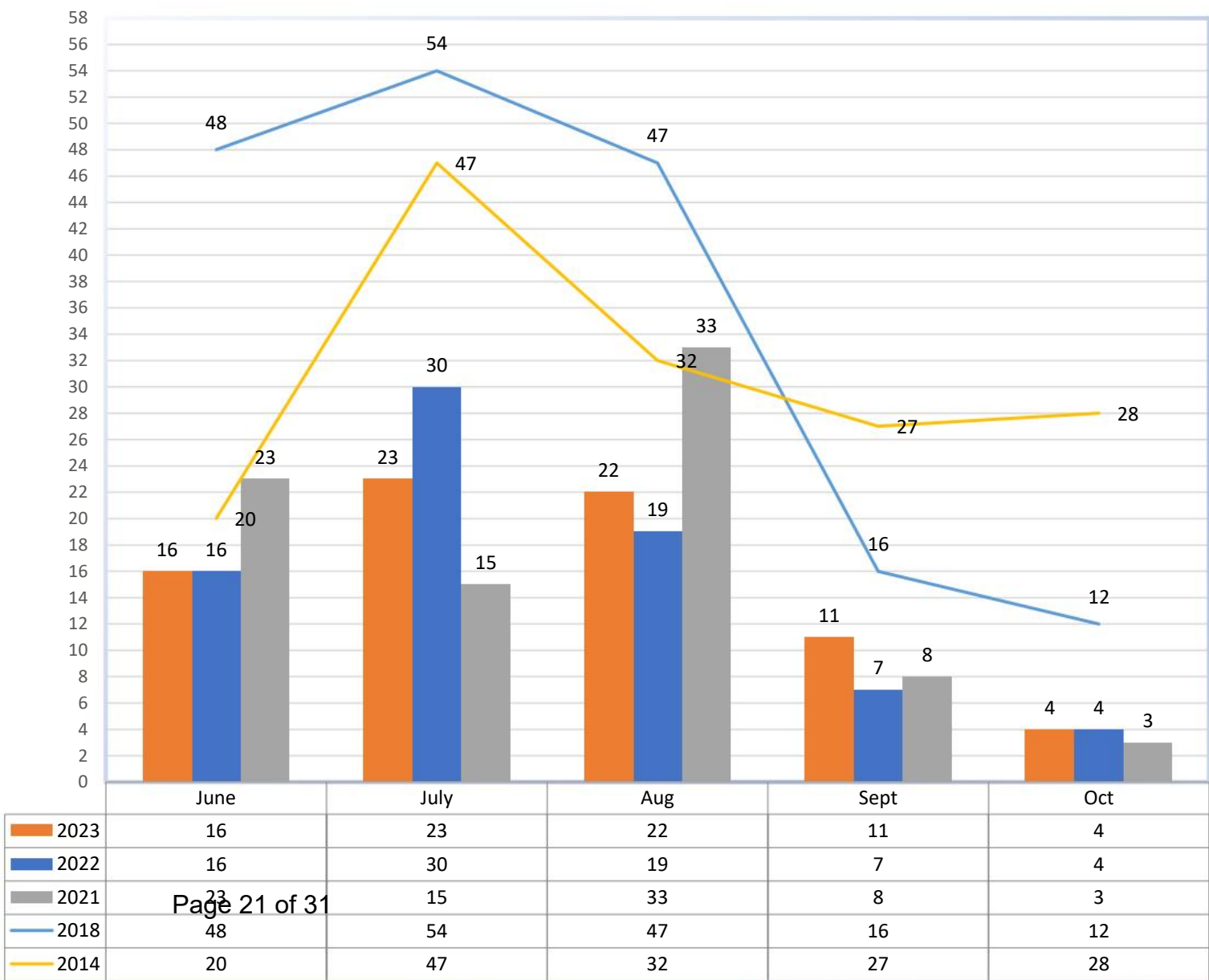


Figure 2 – Current & Historic 10 Year Trend for Unauthorised Encampments in Essex (Partner Areas)

- FINDINGS.....
- The trend since 2019 to date shows a CONFIRMED continual reduction in the number UEs within the County.
- 2023 & 2022 recorded nearly the same end year totals.
- To conclude 2023 data has confirmed the trend has projected that this year is the lowest recording of UEs since the inception of the unit in 2013.

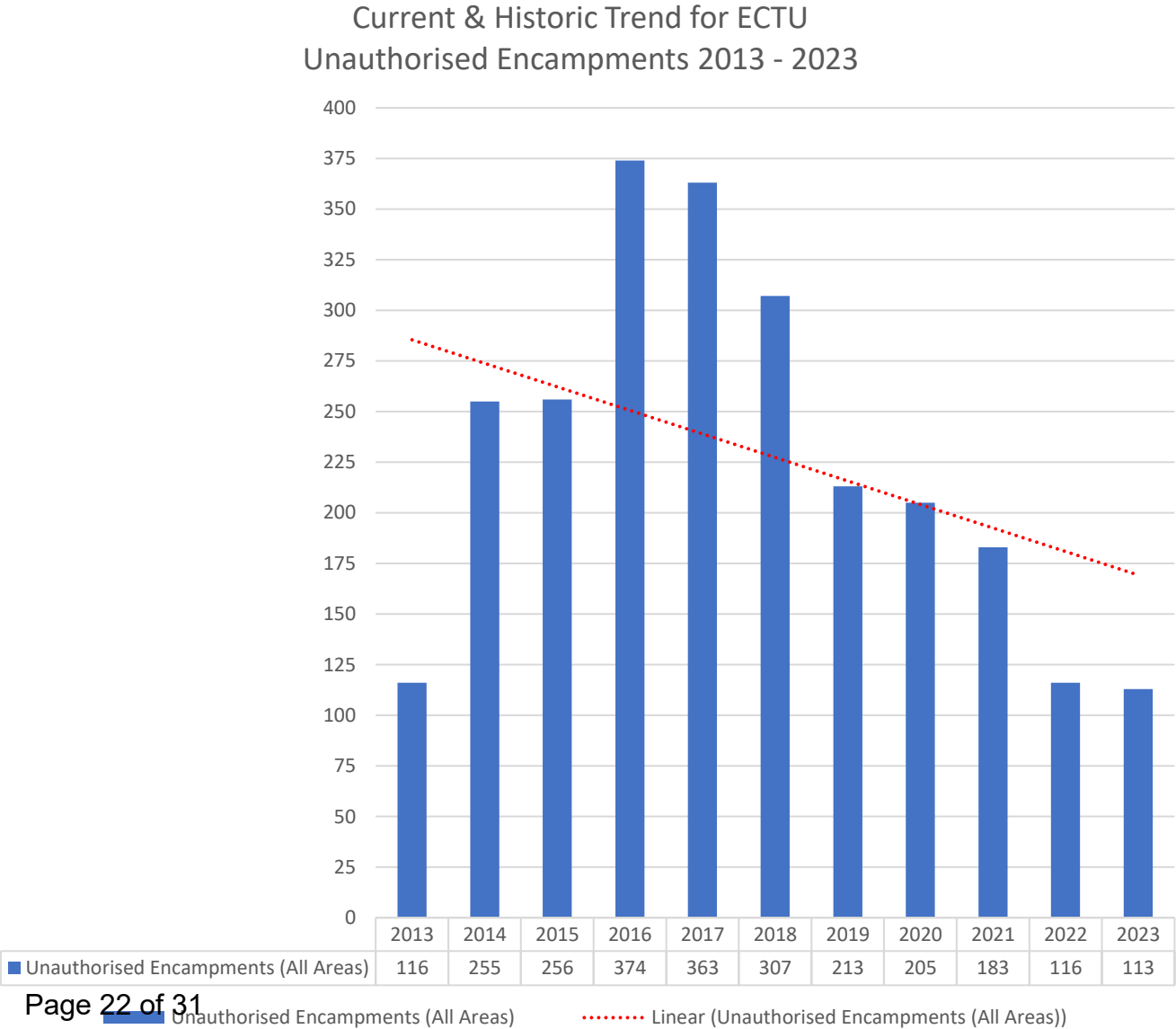


Figure 3. Unauthorised Encampments in Essex (including non partner ‘in red’) by District/Borough/City- JUNE 2023 to Date...

Stats by District	Abr	JUN TO OCT 2023
Basildon	BAS	3
Braintree	BRA	11
Brentwood	BRE	5
Castle Point	CPT	0
Chelmsford	CHE	9
Colchester	COL	10
Epping	EPP	2
Harlow	HAR	5
Maldon	MAL	0
Rochford	ROC	0
Southend	SOS	4
Tendring	TEN	14
Thurrock	THU	4
Uttlesford	UTT	9
Total		76

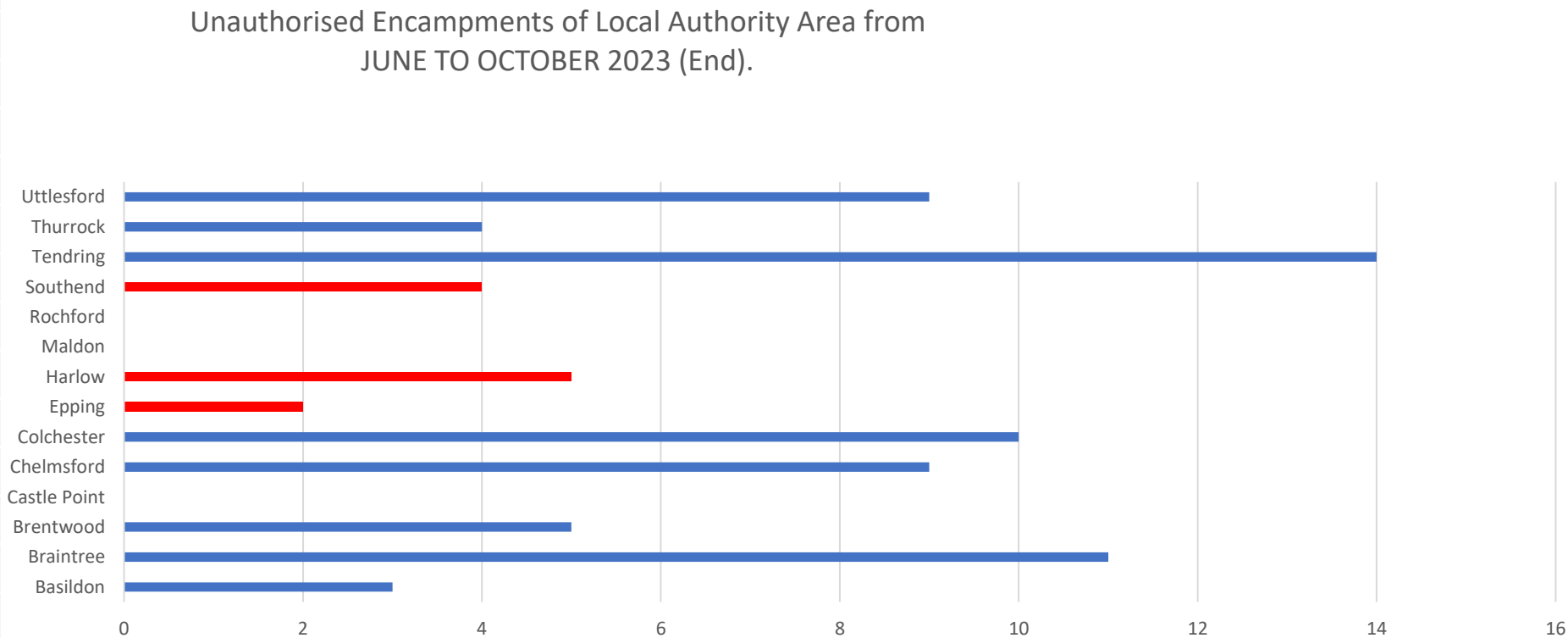


Figure 4. Breakdown of Unauthorised Encampment by Landowner – JUNE 2023 to Date (including non-partner area ‘in red’).

Stats by District	Abr	JUN TO OCT 2023
Basildon	BAS	2
Braintree	BRA	3
Brentwood	BRE	0
Castle Point	CPT	0
Chelmsford	CHE	2
Colchester	COL	6
Epping	EPP	2
Harlow	HAR	4
Maldon	MAL	0
Rochford	ROC	0
Southend	SOS	3
Tendring	TEN	8
Thurrock	THU	3
Uttlesford	UTT	2
Private	PVT	22
ECC	ECTU	19
Total		76

Unauthorised Encampments Breakdown of Land Owner from JUNE TO OCTOBER 2023 (End).

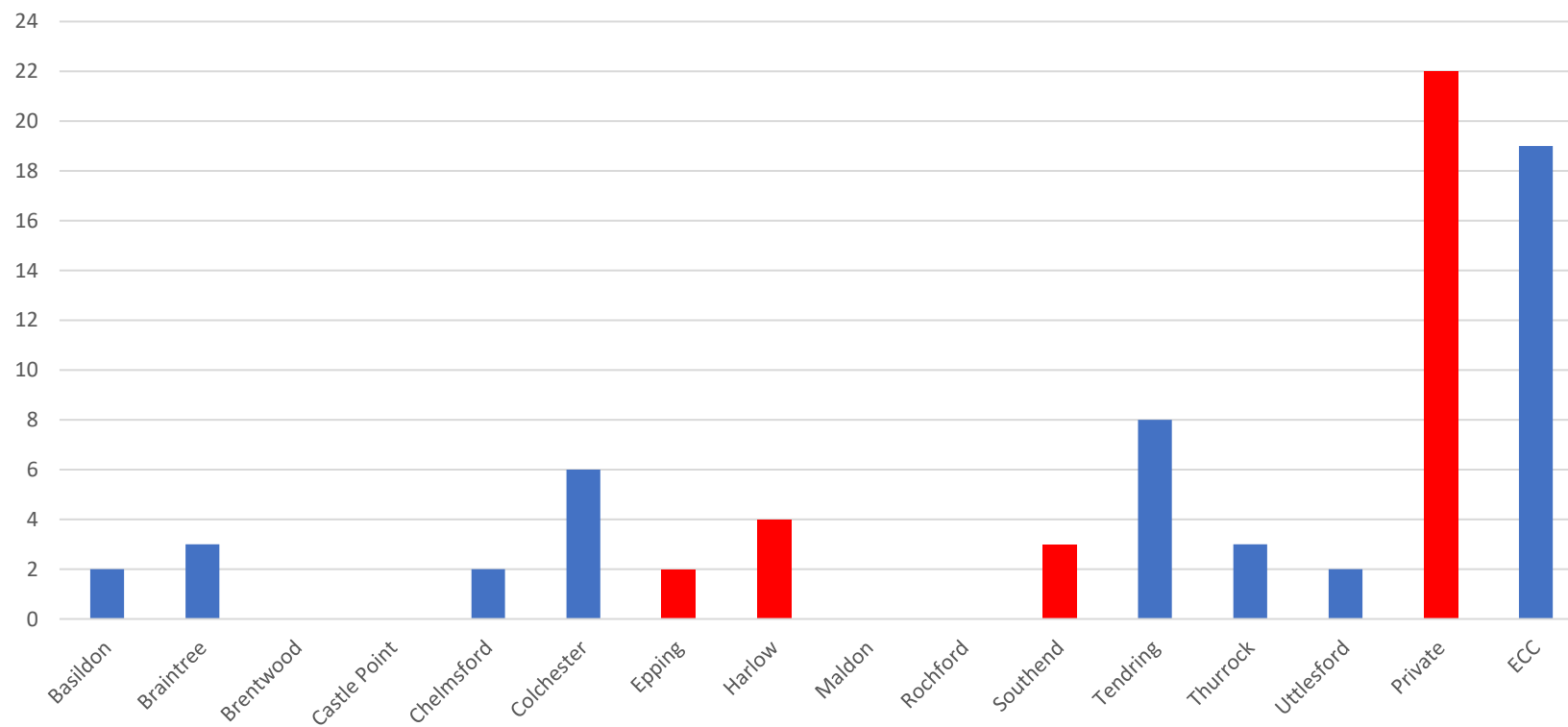


Figure 5. BREAKDOWN OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON REPORTED UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS
JUNE TO OCTOBER 2023

- Section 77/78 Criminal Justice Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA 1994) 'Local Authority Power'
- Section 61 (CJPOA 1994) 'Police Emergency Power'
- Section 60c (CJPOA 1994) 'Police Emergency Power'
- NO ACTION NEEDED ON PARTNER LAND
- UNKNOWN ACTION (NON PARTNER)

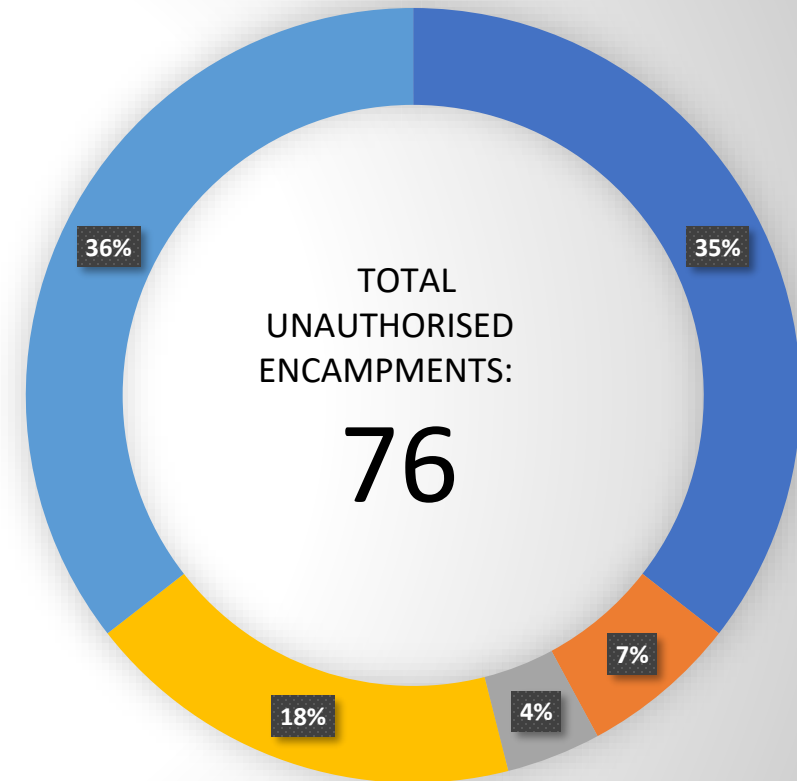


Figure 6. Types of Unauthorised Encampments Targeted stopping places (for all the UE both Partner/Non –Partner).

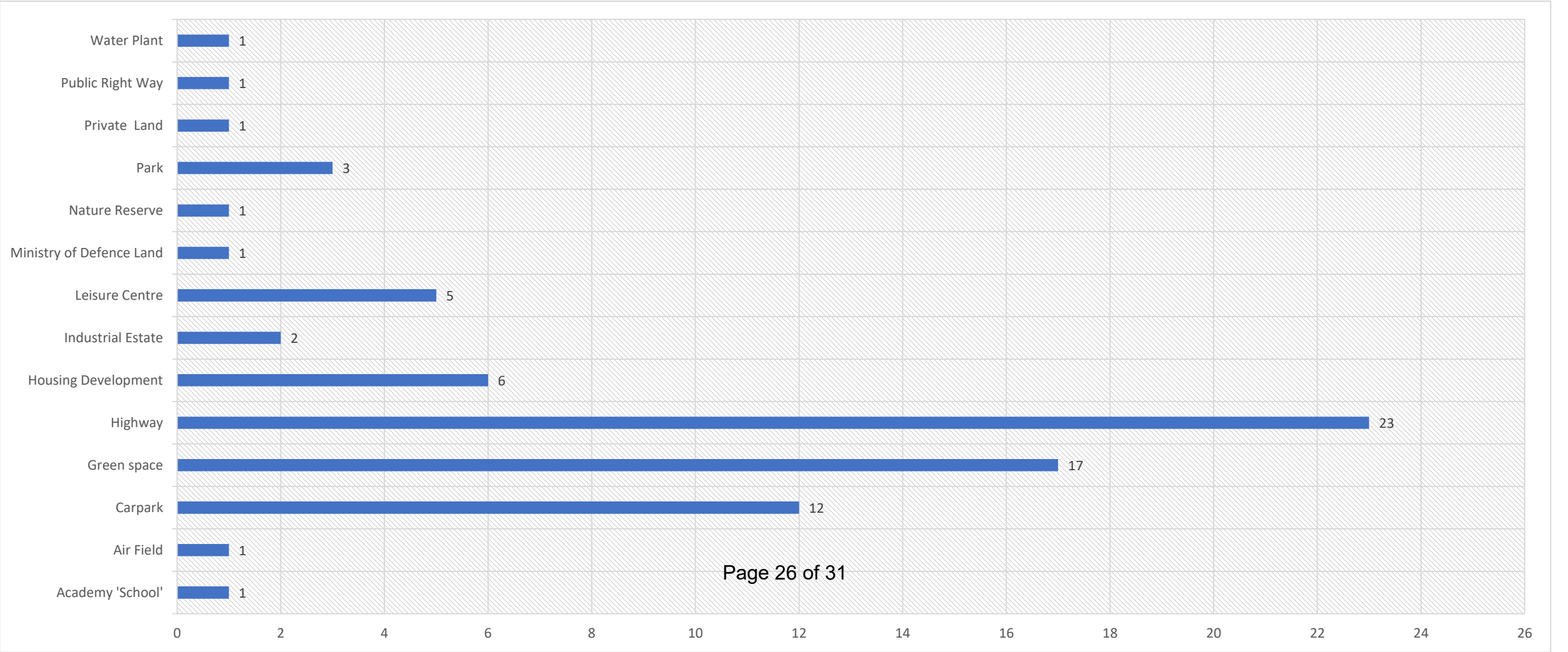


Figure 7. Types of Non - Encampment Reporting into ECTU 2023

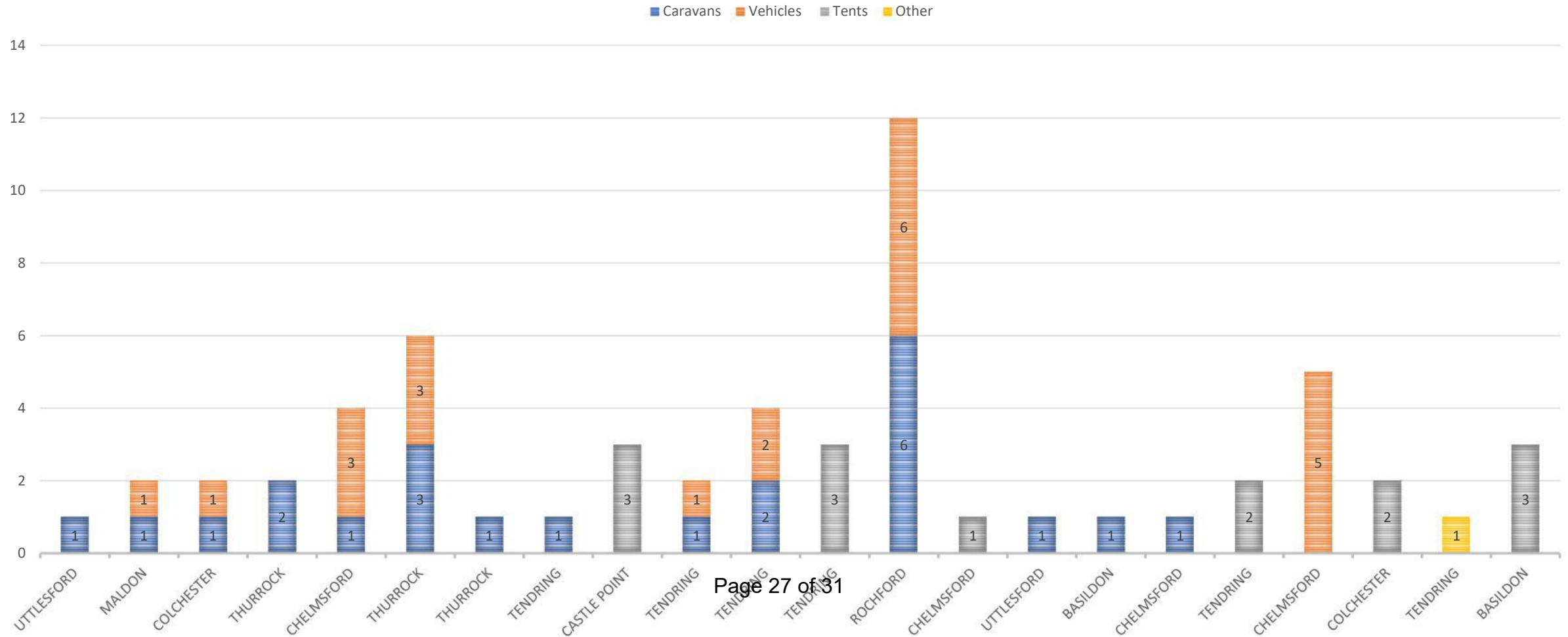


Figure 7a. Table of details regarding the Types of Non - Encampment Reporting into ECTU 2023

Date reported	Location	Local Authority Area	Owner	NOTE
12/01/2023	Chalks Green, Leaden Roding, Uttlesford (Private) Reported. 12.01.22	UTTLESFORD	PRIVATE	DETERENT BY OWNER
19/01/2023	Plot Adjacent To Castaways, Hyde Chase, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon, CM9 6TN	MALDON	PRIVATE	PLANNING
03/02/2023	Land Adjacent To Lukes Farm, Bungalow, Maldon Rd, Colchester, CO2 0LT	COLCHESTER	PRIVATE	
01/04/2023	Fort Road, Tilbury, Thurrock (Private) Arr. 01.08.22	THURROCK	PRIVATE	ONGOING
26/05/2023	Inside Belvedere Development On The Right - Billericay / Noam Bridge	CHELMSFORD	PRIVATE	
01/06/2023	Coopers Shaw Road, Thurrock	THURROCK	PRIVATE	
13/06/2023	26 Feenan Highway, Thurrock	THURROCK	PRIVATE	HOME
13/06/2023	Hazelmere Car Park Clacton	TENDRING	TENDRING	DAY TRIPPER
17/06/2023	Park Ave, Canvey Island, Essex	CASTLE POINT	CASTLE POINT	TRVAELLERS
29/06/2023	Wentworth Road, Stanford Le Hope, Thurrock	TENDRING	PRIVATE	TRAVELLERS
05/08/2023	Holland Haven Country Park, Tendring	TENDRING	TENDRING	GONE ON ARRIVAL
06/08/2023	Seafront End Of Conaught Gardens, Clacton, Tendring	TENDRING	TENDRING	NON UE
16/08/2023	Lower Road, Ashingdon.	ROCHFORD	PRIVATE	PLANNING
24/08/2023	Chelmsford Railway Station (Victoria Road Vehicle Drop Off Entrance)	CHELMSFORD	CHELMSFORD	HOMELESS/NON UE
02/09/2023	Woodside Green. Great Hallingbury, Uttlesford	UTTLESFORD	PRIVATE	PLANNING
11/09/2023	39 Carlisle Way, Basildon	BASILDON	PRIVATE	NON UE
21/09/2023	Saxon Way, Broomfield	CHELMSFORD	PRIVATE	PLANNING/ARREST
10/10/2023	Clacton Area, Tendring	TENDRING	TENDRING	HOMELESS/NON UE
11/10/2023	Galleywood Common	CHELMSFORD	CHELMSFORD	UN-DETERMINED
11/10/2023	NG Leisureworld, Colchester (Adj. Park & Ride)	COLCHESTER	COLCHESTER	HOMELESS/NON UE
12/10/2023	Harbour Crescent Harwich Essex CO12 3NL	TENDRING	TENDRING	HOMELESS/NON UE/HORSEBOX
20/10/2023	Asda, Pipp's Hill, Basildon	BASILDON	PRIVATE	HOMELESS/NON UE

Figure 8. – ECTU Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Unauthorised Encampments.

Unauthorised Encampments – Performance June 2023 to October 2023 (End)						
Objective	sub	Measure	Target	Timescale	Outcome	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	June 2023 to October 2023 (End)	100.00%	All visited within one day (including Weekend Visits).
ECTU led Encampments resolved through	Negotiated/Other	%	40%		59 %	Last meeting results: 50 % (November 2022 – May 2023) Last meeting results: 70% (June 2022 – October 2022) Last meeting results: 35% (Nov 2021 – May 2022)
	Courts	%	60%		41 %	Last meeting results: 50 % (November 2022 – May 2023) Last meetings results: 65% (June 2022 – October 2022)
Totals	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61/Sec 60c Negotiated Other	27 0 5/3 16 2	Data Only			NB. Discrepancy with Rural Engagement section 61/section 60c figures (RET Declared x13 with x8 S61 & x5 Sec 60c). Possible reasons...RET covered May 2023 in their countings. Not all info was shared and/or recording by ECTU was misinterpreted.
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	100%		100.00%	
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	90%		100.00%	Last meetings results: 100.00% (November 2022 – May 2023) 100.00% (June 2022 – October 2022) Last meetings results: 88.00% (Nov 2021 – May 2022) No issues with Legal and Magistrates' courts within this period.
% of encampments where ECTU are involved (threshold if ECTU have made a visit).		%	NA		59.00%	Last meetings results: 78.00% (November 2022 – May 2023) 57.00% (June 2022 – October 2022) Last meetings results: 51.00% (Nov 2021 – May 2022)
Number of encampments	Partner	26	NA			Last meeting: Total 56 UEs (November 2022 – May 2023) of which x25 were on Partner Land.
	Non-partner	9	NA			Last meeting: x10 UEs
	Private	22	NA			Last meeting: x10 UEs
	ECC	19	NA			Last meeting: x11 UEs

Other Points for reference.

- Overnight Stays (1 day or less) have increased during this period . ECTU have recorded 29 day stops (all Counties, including non-partner) an increase of x1 day from last report (28 days). Of this x14 where on Partner Land. NB. This data is based on vacation of UE from an area after one day!
- Weekends Landing day. ECTU registered x21 weekend reports for this period (where a UE was reported at the weekend) which is up by x7 UEs reports on previous period. Therefore leaving week-day landing figure of 55 (UEs) which is an increase of x23 UE recordings from the previous period of November to May 2022/23. (NB. Suspect Summer factor for increase).
- Most contentious UE in this period was at Bellway Homes Development, Willow Park off A131, Sudbury Rd, Halstead (PRIVATE) arr. 12.08.22 TO 15.08.23 (Left on OWN ACCORD) but ECTU received over 130 digital reports via the Website reporting tool within 24 hours & over 30 telephone messages on the ECTU OOH voicemail. Although private UE, this did show the value of partnership working with RET and Local Authority to share information and updates.
- ECTU continue to get more reports of Non UEs and have marked the increase of Tent reports and Campervan/Caravan in settled housing estate (that claim to be people residing).
- Thurrock Council currently have a live injunction in place.

- THAT CONCLUDES THE PRESENTATION FOR UNAUTHROSIED ENCAMPMENTS.

- THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND I RETURN TO CHAIR TO DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

