

		Agenda Item 6
		ES/023/11
Committee:	Executive Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	26 April 2011	
Transformation Programme Scrutiny Review: Interim Report		
Enquiries to:	Hannah Cleary, Governance Officer 01245 430526 hannah.cleary@essex.gov.uk	

Introduction

At the last meeting on 22 March, the Committee considered report ES/016/11, Transformation Programme Scrutiny Review: Progress Report, that contained an overview of the evidence taken in relation to this topic between December 2009 and March 2011. The Committee made a number of findings that are summarised in this report for consideration and agreement.

Action

The Committee is invited to agree the Interim Executive Summary and Next Steps as set out below:

Interim Executive Summary:

The Committee has found that the Transformation Programme is well conceived, managed and communicated, and is likely to deliver:

- Improved services for customers
- Easier access to services
- Lower cost services that will offer higher quality with lower risk
- Reduced administrative costs

The Committee has found that the projects delivered in Transition Stages 1 and 2 were beneficial and had resulted in significant financial savings.

To operate at the right level of scale in each case requires closer collaboration with other Counties and London Boroughs.

The governance and future scrutiny arrangements for potential service delivery vehicles that the Council may utilise in the future need to be carefully considered.

Partnership working had seen recent improvements, especially in relation to the influence of the Essex Leaders Board. However, the Committee found that service delivery partners should be brought into joint working at an earlier stage.

The Committee will continue to monitor the delivery of the Programme.

Next Steps

The Committee is due to continue considering a number of elements of the Transformation Programme over the course of the next few meetings, as set out in the Forward Look:

- Governance and Risk Management (including an update on financial savings)
- Shared Services
- IT Infrastructure and Cloud Computing
- New Ways of Working
- Property Strategy
- Customer Interface Development
- Target Operating Models

It is envisaged that a final scrutiny report will be presented for consideration at the 19 July meeting when the Cabinet member will be invited to attend.