

		AGENDA ITEM 8
		EDE/05/11
Committee:	Economic Development and Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	24 February 2011	
<div>BANKING ON ESSEX (Minute 66/ December 2010)</div>		
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Last year the Committee undertook a scrutiny review on the Council's Banking on Essex project. It approved its original Scrutiny Report in September 2010 (Minute 45). At that time the Committee acknowledged that as Banking on Essex had only been launched in December 2009, it was difficult to judge its impact based upon the limited time it had been in operation and the amount of information that had been generated. Consequently it was agreed that it would undertake further monitoring of Banking on Essex in the New Year, and that as part of that exercise Members wanted the following outstanding issues to be addressed:

1. What types of business and in what circumstances was the County Council assisting business?
2. What are the specific benefits to Essex residents?
3. What is the timetable for taking the initiative forward, and the programme for its re-evaluation?
4. What risk assessments were conducted in relation to the setting up of the initiative, and what ongoing assessment is taking place?
5. What steps are being taken to keep Members informed about the initiative, and enable them to pass on clear information to local residents?

In line with the Committee's wishes Councillor Peter Martin, the Leader of the Council, has been invited to this meeting to advise upon the performance of Banking on Essex and proposals for its future, and to answer Members' questions.

In December 2010 (Minute 66) the Committee considered the attached scoping document as an outline for today's meeting with the objective 'To review the Council's Banking on Essex initiative in line with the Committee's original scrutiny report dated September 2010.'

Action required by the Committee:

To consider the information submitted by the Leader of the Council.

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

Committee	Economic Development and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Topic	Banking on Essex	Ref: EDE-SCR-23
Objective	To review the Council's Banking on Essex initiative in line with the Committee's original scrutiny report dated September 2010.	
Reasons for undertaking review	<p>At its July meeting the Committee cross examined witnesses in order to improve its understanding of the role that the Banking on Essex initiative is performing in the Council's portfolio for promoting economic development, and how it is evolving in practice. After discussion the Committee identified that there were several outstanding issues that it wished to be addressed on Banking on Essex at a future meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What types of business and in what circumstances was the County Council assisting business? 7. What are the specific benefits to Essex residents? 8. What is the timetable for taking the initiative forward, and the programme for its re-evaluation? 9. What risk assessments were conducted in relation to the setting up of the initiative, and what ongoing assessment is taking place? 10. What steps are being taken to keep Members informed about the initiative, and enable them to pass on clear information to local residents? <p>The Committee acknowledged that as Banking on Essex had only been launched in December 2009, it was difficult to judge its impact based upon the limited time it has been in operation and the amount of information that has been generated. Consequently it was agreed that the Leader of the Council should be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to report upon the performance of Banking on Essex and proposals for its future, and to answer Members' questions. In the meantime consideration would be given to providing Members' with regular updates on the scheme.</p>	

Method	Full Committee
Membership	Full Committee
Issues to be addressed	Issues identified in 'Reasons for undertaking the review' above. Also Members will be canvassed for questions prior to a progress report being commissioned for submission to a Committee meeting.
Sources of Evidence and witnesses	Councillor Peter Martin, Leader of the Council Steve Lee-Foster, Senior Regeneration Programme Officer
Work Programme	The Committee have requested regular updates on the progress of the BE initiative. The Leader of the Council has been invited to the Committee's meeting on 24 February 2011 to give a progress report.
Indicators of Success	
Meeting the CfPS Objectives	The BE initiative has been an important high profile project for the Council, and the Committee will provide critical friend challenge to the Executive on the way that it moves forward. Given the attention that BE has attracted from the media and general public, and Members will have the opportunity to reflect the public voice and concerns in performing its scrutiny role.
Diversity and Equality <i>Diversity and Equality issues are to be considered and addressed.</i>	If any of the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies are identified during the course of the review, they will be taken into account as appropriate.
Date agreed by Committee	Original review: Minutes 37/ July and 45/ September 2010 Review scoping document Minute 66/December 2010
Future Action	

Governance Officer	Christine Sharland	Committee Officer	Ian Myers
Service Lead Officer(s)	Steve Lee-Foster, Senior Regeneration Programme Officer		