



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:30	Thursday, 26 September 2019	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

Lisa Siggins, Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 34594

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	4 - 4
2	Minutes To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2019.	5 - 10
3	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 Democratic Services Officer.	
4	SELEP – PSEG update	11 - 44
5	Grass Verge Maintenance Members to receive report (PSEG/16/19) a presentation from Peter Massie, Head of Essex Highways Commissioning and David Forkin, Head of Maintenance and Operations, Essex Highways.	45 - 51

6 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next Committee activity day will be on Thursday, 17th October 2019.

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.

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is exempted business, it will be clearly marked as an Exempt Item on the agenda and members of the public and any representatives of the media will be asked to leave the meeting room for that item.

The agenda is available on the [Essex County Council website](#) and by then following the links from [Running the Council](#) or you can go directly to the [Meetings Calendar](#) to see what is happening this month.

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- Follow the instructions on your web browser

Attendance at meetings

Most meetings are held at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. [A map and directions to County Hall can be found on our website.](#)

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The Council Chamber and Committee Rooms are accessible by lift and are located on the first and second floors of County Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in most Meeting Rooms. Specialist headsets are available from Reception.

With sufficient notice, documents can be made available in alternative formats, for further information about this or about the meeting in general please contact the named officer on the agenda pack or email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

Audio recording of meetings

Please note that in the interests of improving access to the Council's meetings, a sound recording is made of the public parts of many of the Council's Committees. The Chairman will make an announcement at the start of the meeting if it is being recorded.

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Agenda item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Peter Randall, Senior 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: 5)

Councillor I Grundy
Councillor B Aspinell
Councillor T Cutmore
Councillor A Erskine
Councillor I Henderson
Councillor S Hillier
Councillor P Honeywood
Councillor D Kendall
Councillor B Massey
Councillor R Moore
Councillor C Pond
Councillor R Pratt
Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor C Weston

Chairman

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PLACE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD AT 10:00 AM ON THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST 2019:

To consider the call-in of cabinet decision FP/461/06/19: Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024

Present

Councillor Grundy	Chairman
Councillor Hillier	Vice-Chairman
Councillor Scordis	(Substitute)
Councillor Turrell	(Substitute)
Councillor Whitbread	(Substitute)
Councillor Moran	(Substitute)
Councillor Metcalfe	(Substitute)
Councillor Aspinell	
Councillor Weston	
Councillor Massey	
Councillor Moore	
Councillor Erskine	
Councillor Cutmore	

Attending in support of the call-in

Councillor Pond	Vice-Chairman
Councillor Young	
Councillor Robinson	<i>(Left the meeting at 11:58)</i>
Andrew Coburn	Chartered Librarian
Jean Quinn	Primary School Teacher

Attending in support of the Cabinet Member

Councillor Finch	Leader of the Council
Councillor Durham	Deputy Cabinet Member
Juliet Pirez	Head of Libraries
Suzanna Shaw	Director, Customer & Corporate
Liz Sutton	Senior Communications and engagement Specialist
Phil Oldershaw	Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor
Alyesha Roachford	Project Manager
Duncan Taylor	Head of Business Intelligence

Observing

Councillor Aldridge
Councillor Chandler
Councillor Goggin
Councillor Sargeant

The following Officers were also present in support of the meeting:

Paul Turner	Director, Legal and Assurance
Katie Smith	Head of Democracy & Transparency
Emma Tombs	Democratic Services Manager
Richard Buttress	Democratic Services Manager
Peter Randall	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Graham Hughes	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer
Michael Hayes	Democratic Services Apprentice

1. **Membership, Apologies, substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The committee membership remained unchanged.

The following apologies and substitutions were noted by the committee:

Apologies received from:	Substituted by:
Councillor Honeywood	Councillor Whitbread
Councillor Pratt	Councillor Moran
Councillor Schmitt	Councillor Metcalfe
Councillor Henderson	Councillor Scordis
Councillor Kendall	Councillor Turrell

A Code interest was declared by Councillor Pond, as a member of the chartered institute of librarians.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 18 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct account and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Questions from the Public**

Questions were asked by the following members of the public, all in relation to item 5: call in of decision FP/461/06/19: Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024.

At the discretion of the Chairman additional time was allocated to this item to ensure that all public speakers were heard.

For full details of public questions and response, please follow this [link](#) and listen to the audio recording.

4. **Call-in of Cabinet Decision FP/461/06/19: Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024**

(a) Summary of decision being reviewed:

On the 20 July 2019, Cabinet approved decision FP/461/06/19: Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024. This decision, amended following public consultation, focuses on developing libraries with local communities to address challenges surrounding declining public usage.

(b) The reasons for the call-in

The decision was called in by Councillors Pond, Young and Mackrory. Councillor Robinson was substituting for Councillor Mackrory on this occasion.

In this instance, the cabinet member had requested not to hold an informal meeting and instead refer straight to a full committee session.

The reasons for the call-in, as stated in the call-in notification document were:

'The strategy document approved by Cabinet and the responses to questions at Cabinet:

- *Failed to give assurances about delivery/reservation/courier service*
- *Failed to assure how suitability of volunteers will be achieved*
- *Failed to provide a development scheme for the professional development of permanent staff/library assistants*
- *Failed to address the need to have at least one permanent member of staff during opening times at all service points*
- *Failed to give assurance that all stock on catalogue/all loans reckoned for public lending right, will be available at all service points*
- *Failed to explain how the wish to sell certain existing buildings squares with the impossibility of volunteer libraries having the funds to acquire suitable premises.*
- *Failed to give clarity regarding the criteria for revisiting the strategy in the event of "continuing decline"*
- *Failed to give assurances regarding equivalent shelf and floor space in the event of a move to other premises*
- *Failed to give assurances on ECC funding assistance in years 4/5*
- *Failed to explain if community groups would receive a discounted purchase price or rental cost if taking over an ECC property*
- *Failed to give clarity around the minimum number of opening hours required to qualify for ECC support*
- *Failed to acknowledge the flawed consultation process in that the questions were 'loaded' in such a way as to lead a respondent to answer in a way that favoured the ECC strategy*
- *Failed to explain how possible arrears of maintenance will be met*
- *Failed to have any safeguards in place to ensure that library services would be continuously maintained by a genuine community operator.*
- *Disguised the intention to close and only partially re-provide Loughton Library under guise of "Land for Housing Development, Epping Forest "*
- *Misled the public and Members as to the true meaning of keeping a library "open" by quoting Ramsey Community Library, which in fact is only open on one day a week for two hours only.'*

At the meeting, the following issues were particularly highlighted for consideration:

- Ongoing scrutiny of the Future Library Services Strategy.
- The funding being made available to community groups seeking to take on local library services – witnesses highlighted that the previously categorised ‘tier 3’ libraries had an estimated running cost of £75,000 over the course of three years, but only £18,000 would be made available in grant funding from ECC.
- Availability of library stock – concerns were raised around the financial challenge of providing stock and, in some cases, premises.
- The rotation and central management of library stock will be more difficult due to isolation from a wider libraries network in community run libraries.
- Library electronic management systems and stock accounting.
- The panel stated that in the currently operating community run libraries, volunteer availability has led to shorter opening hours.
- Concerns around volunteer availability more generally – there are a number of volunteer led council schemes and, in many cases, these are short of active volunteers. This was evidenced by recent calls for further volunteers and early closures in community run libraries due to volunteer shortages. Springfield Library was specifically cited as an example.
- The accountability and monitoring of volunteers and volunteer groups.
- The expense of electronic systems and technology required to run an adequate service.
- The disproportionate use of libraries by children under the age of 9 using books to learn literacy skills.
- Accessibility issues around availability of ebook stock due to copyright concerns, as well as easy read and audio versions of library stock.
- The professional development and support of staff and volunteers.
- Unstaffed services in community run libraries will make them potentially unsafe for children and young people accessing the service.
- The open-ended nature of the strategy as it stands allows for two, very opposing outcomes: one in which the service will thrive – bolstered by a supported community sector, and one in which the service fails due to inadequate support. The key challenge was outlined as whether or not ECC was to be proactive in providing leadership, both centrally and corporately to find volunteers and support.

Following the presentation, members of the panel were invited to ask questions of those Members and their witnesses who had called the decision in. The following points were noted:

- The difficulty in providing adequate scrutiny given the high level, speculative nature of the document. This was raised particularly in relation to previous recommendations from a scrutiny Task and Finish review that took place on 30 May 2019.
- Modernisation and future-proofing of the library service. The panel raised concerns around periphery libraries and the support that these would receive compared to the more central sites with higher foot traffic and engagement.

After the Chairman had confirmed that there were no further questions, Councillor Pond re-joined the committee.

Thereafter, at the request of the Chairman the Cabinet Member responded to each of the issues raised in the call-in notice with the following attending in support:

Councillor D Finch
Council M Durham
Juliet Pirez
Suzanna Shaw
Liz Sutton

Phil Oldershaw
Alyesha Roachford
Duncan Taylor

Leader of the Council
Deputy Cabinet Member
Head of Libraries
Director, Customer & Corporate
Senior Communications and
engagement Specialist
Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor
Project Manager
Head of Business Intelligence

A short presentation (found [here](#)) was made, outlining the response to each of the issues raised in the call in.

Areas particularly highlighted for response were:

- Funding and grants availability – the three year grant funding would start from when the community group started operating the site, not from the point in which the strategy was available. This would be complimented by a support offer beyond funding, including access to central stock, development opportunities, volunteer training and libraries management and interlending software. After 4 years the community run library would be expected be fully up and running with their own plans for future funding.
- Opening hours for community run libraries – these would be set by community libraries themselves, subject to a minimum requirement stipulated by ECC.
- Permanent staff – it was noted that there was no legal requirement to have permanent, trained staff on site at all times.
- Staff development was outlined as an operational consideration and was not at this point available due to the strategic nature of the decision.
- An operational plan was nearing completion and would be made available to the committee upon completion.
- The consultation process met legal requirements and was based on best practise. It was highlighted that the strategy was changed as a result of feedback received on the initial draft strategy.
- Assurances were provided that there would be opportunities for ongoing scrutiny of the implementation of the strategy, as requested at the Places Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 18 July 2019.
- The operational budget for the libraries service would increase by £1.1 million in the next financial year, and that a one-off capital spend of £3 million had been agreed for delivering the new strategy.

Following the presentation, members of the committee were invited by the Chairman to ask questions. Key points noted were:

- ECC setting governance and operating standards with community run libraries. Assurances were provided that the intention would be for all community run libraries to follow common standards.
- Clarity around what constitutes a 'minimum service' for each library.

- The piecemeal, case by case approach to identifying opportunities and challenges when working with community groups.
- The need for service level agreements with each community run library to determine a minimum expectation of service. It was noted that this would be included in the operational plan.
- The cabinet member's response to the recommendations of the scrutiny Task and Finish review that took place on 30 May 2019. It was noted that these were focussed on operational areas and would be addressed in the operational plan.
- Limited opportunity for early scrutiny of the consultation document. It was noted that, had the draft been circulated and scrutinised well in advance of consultation, it might have minimised a number of the concerns raised by the committee.

The Chairman then confirmed that the Committee had no further questions.

(d) Motion proposed and the decision of the Committee

- i) It was proposed by Councillor Hillier that the decision be implemented without delay.
- ii) The motion was seconded by Councillor Metcalfe.
- iii) A request was made for the vote to be taken by means of recorded vote. The numbers in favour did not meet the constitutional threshold so the request was denied.
- iv) Upon being put to the meeting the motion was won by 9 votes to 4, with the Chairman abstaining.
- v) Councillors Aspinell, Pond, Scordis & Turrell requested that their votes against the motion be recorded.

Resolved:

The committee resolved that the decision be implemented without delay.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee would meet next at 10.30am on Thursday 23 September 2019 in Committee Room 1, County Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.11 pm.

Councillor Ian Grundy
Chairman
8 August 2019

Report title: SELEP – PSEG update		AGENDA ITEM 4 (PSEG/15/19)
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee		
Report author: Dominic Collins, Director Economic Growth and Localities		
Date: 26/09/19		For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Dominic Collins, Director Economic Growth and Localities		
County Divisions affected: All Essex/South East region.		

1. Purpose of report

The aim of this session is to provide members with an update on the work of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, as well as an outline of new legislation affecting the SELEP.

2. Background

During the work planning session that took place in October 2018 members requested an update from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

Joining members for this session will be:

Dominic Collins – Director, Economic Growth and Localities, ECC.

Adam Bryan – Chief Executive, SELEP

Dan Redpath - Head of Economic Growth, ECC.

3. Session aims

Members are asked to discuss the presentation attached (Appendix A) with officers, providing scrutiny and making recommendations.

4. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Joint presentation from ECC Economic Growth and Localities and SELEP.

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Adam Bryan
Chief Executive Officer
South East LEP

26th September 2019



SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

SELEP overall



- 1 of 38 LEPs
- £580m Growth Deal / Local Growth Fund
- £180m European Structural Investment Funds
- 8 ports
- 9 university campuses
- 165,000 VAT registered businesses
- 4.23m people
- £90bn GVA
- Small team in County Hall

Together: the story so far...

- **Delivery** of Local Growth Fund
- Growing Places Fund
- Innovating with our **Sector Support-Fund**
- Creative Prospectus and the success of **SECEN**
- **4 Enterprise Zones** offering a bespoke approach
- **Growth Hub** model which is locally defined at the point of delivery
- Addressing coastal challenges with joint work
- Leading two other LEPs in the **tri-LEP Energy Strategy**
- Skills Strategy and **Digital Skills Partnership** pilot
- Maximising ESIF
- **Accountability** Board

Challenges Ahead



- 2019/20 – a year of **transition**
- Changes building on **strong foundations** put in place over the last few years
- Changes necessary so that we are well positioned to benefit from new **opportunities**: EU Exit, UKSPF, etc



What we need to do...

28 Member Board to 20 (+ 5)

Move to 2/3rds Business Representation

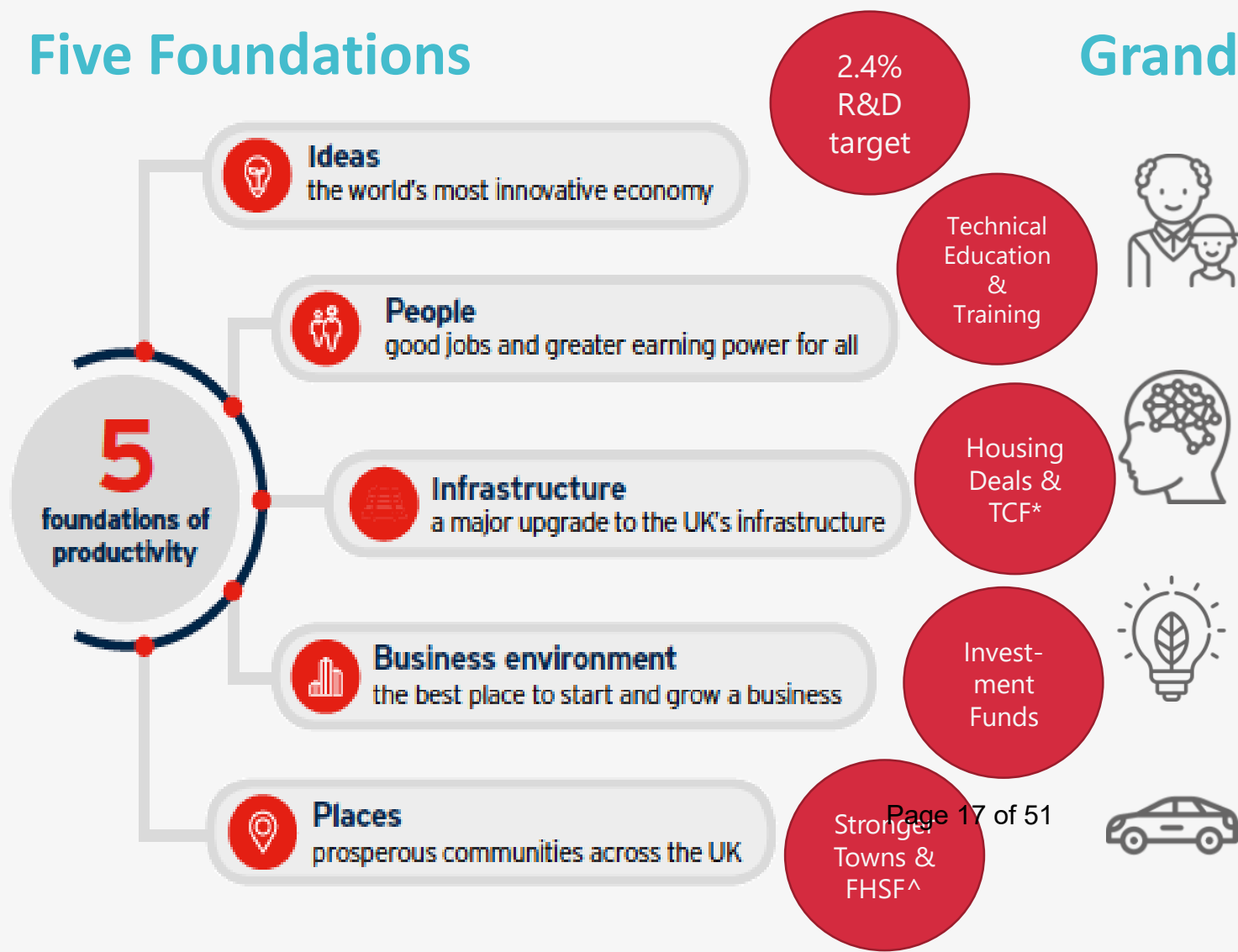
Adopt a legal personality

Improve the diversity of our representation



Five Foundations

Grand Challenges



Ageing society

Artificial intelligence & data

Clean Growth

Future of mobility

What is our productivity challenge ?



Ideas

Business capacity for innovation not as high as it could be within and across sectors

R&D expenditure is relatively low

Defining sectors with the highest productivity gain potential & how to enhance this

How to benefit from neighbouring London & being a gateway to world



People

Lower skills levels than national and regional, 175,000 with no quals & only 32% at L4+

Adults in low value jobs and unable to progress – limited opportunities to retrain – lifelong learning

Growing vacancies in key sectors requiring technical skills. No IoT

Complex skills system & flatline of apprenticeships



Infrastructure

Strong transport links to London/ continent but need investment in key arteries - priorities

Acceleration of housing and affordable housing

Improved public transport connectivity doesn't benefit all

Accelerating digital infrastructure to support productivity priorities



Business Env.

Vast majority of 165,000 VAT registered businesses are micro – isolation, skills, premises

Ability of SME's to adopt new tech e.g. green/AI

Access to finance

Supply chain collaboration & collaborations for growth

Suitable workspace/ grow on space



Place

Large & diverse, made up of cities, towns & rural

Largest LEP coastline

Housing shortages

Rural/coastal connectivity, regen & resilience

Impact of climate change

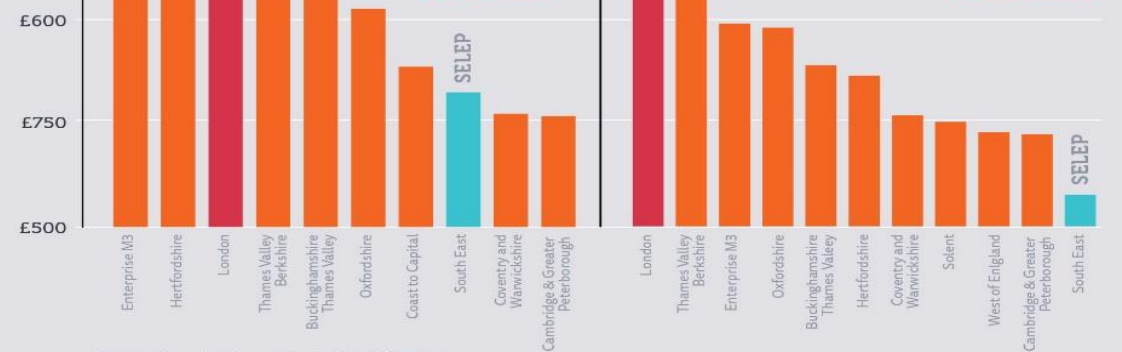
Understanding the 'economic story' of place making - data



GVA PER FILLED JOB



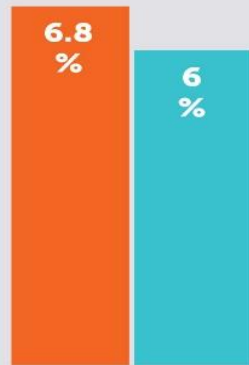
GVA PER HOUR WORKED



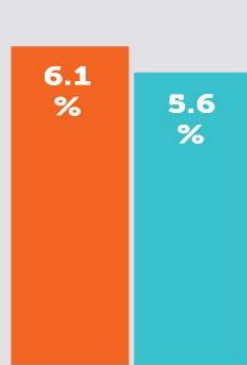
Ranked by top 10 LEPs

GROWTH BUSINESSES & SCALE UP RATES

% INCREASE



Survivor Firms
£1.2m - £3m



High Growth
Rate Firm



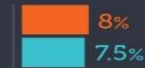
Small High
Growth Rate Firm

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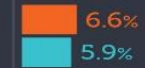


SKILLS LEVELS

No qualifications



Other qualifications



NVQ1 and above



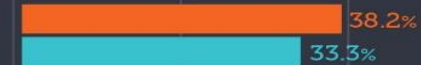
NVQ2 and above



NVQ3 and above



NVQ4 and above



Jan 2016-Dec 2016
Great Britain
SELEP



What are our key productivity opportunities ?



Ideas

Advance the role of EZ

Create an innovation board/ forum

Increase R&D spend – business & HE

Advance digital tech (application of)

Sector/cluster approach e.g. agri-tech & links to London/ Cambridge



People

Develop Leadership & Management Skills in SME's

Expand digital skills development – sectors/rural/coastal?

Support businesses with training & apprenticeship growth



Infrastructure

LTX

HS1 from East Sussex
Extension of Crossrail to Ebbsfleet
Connectivity to Garden Communities

Road and rail access for the major ports & airports

Unlock potential of our ports
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Investment in green



Business Env.

Creation of future/grow on workspace – Garden Communities, High St

Collaboration on R&D funding & commercialization of

Boosting high growth start and scale up enterprises – Growth Hubs, Universities



Place

Develop sustainable garden communities, through innovative place making & as a testbed for new design & construction innovation

Creation of a Tourism Zone (creative & cultural)

Boosting the product innovation leaders as key sectors to place making*



2018 Highlights

Spend of
£88.3m LGF

SELEP **Skills
Strategy**
and **Energy
Strategy** launch

New wave of
Sector Support
Fund projects

**SELEP Economic
Strategy
Statement** agreed

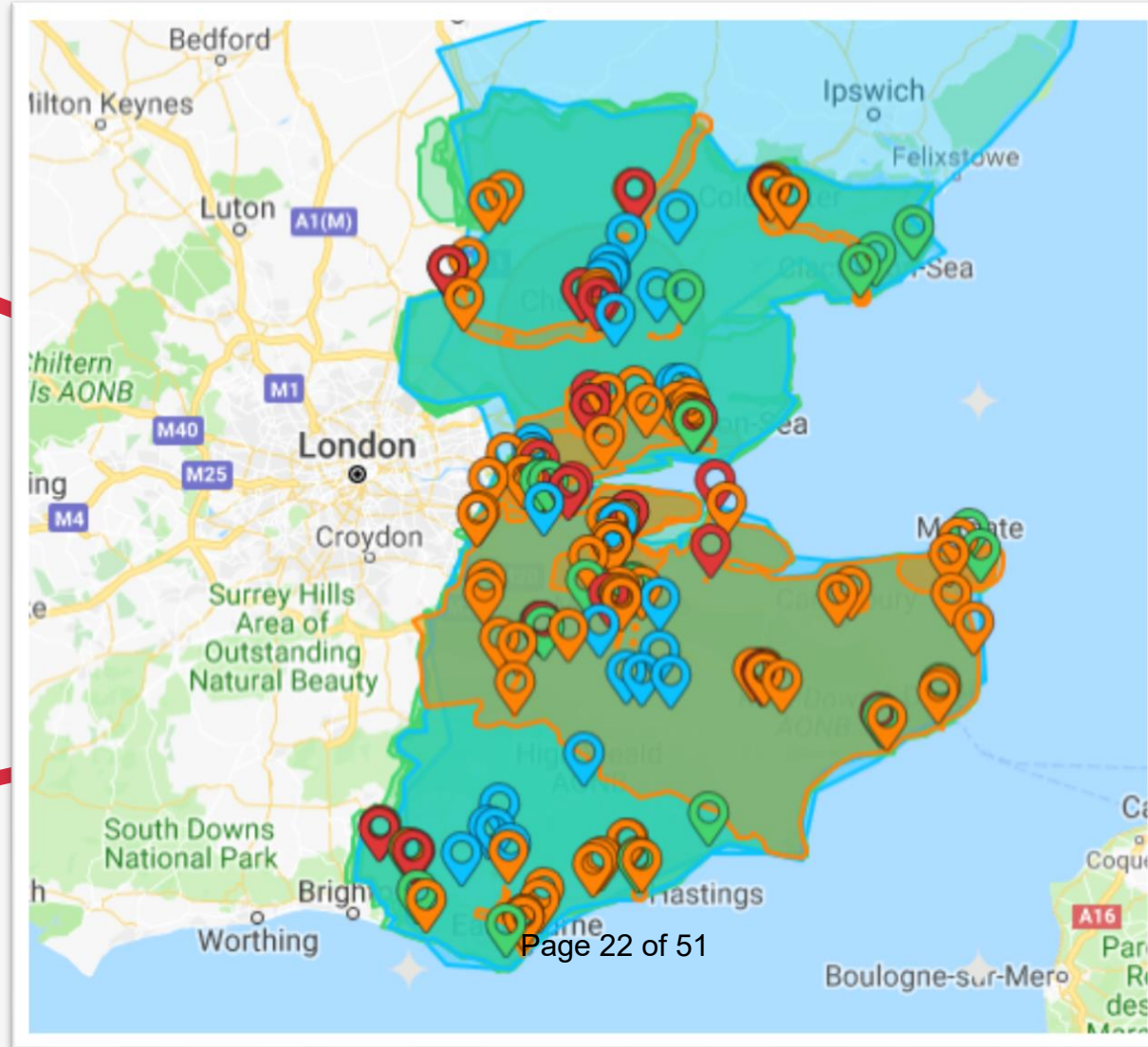


SOUTH EAST
LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

SELEP's Investment

**107 Local
Growth Fund
projects**

**21 Growing
Places Fund
projects**



**10 Sector
Support Fund
projects**

**33 Capital Skills
Projects**



Local Growth Fund (LGF)

Total LGF projects 107	Expected outcomes Delivery of 78,000 jobs and 29,000 homes
Investing in skills, transport, commercial space and business growth	Total LGF allocation £570m

Local Growth Fund (LGF)

What have we achieved to date...



Spend of **£332.5m** LGF to date

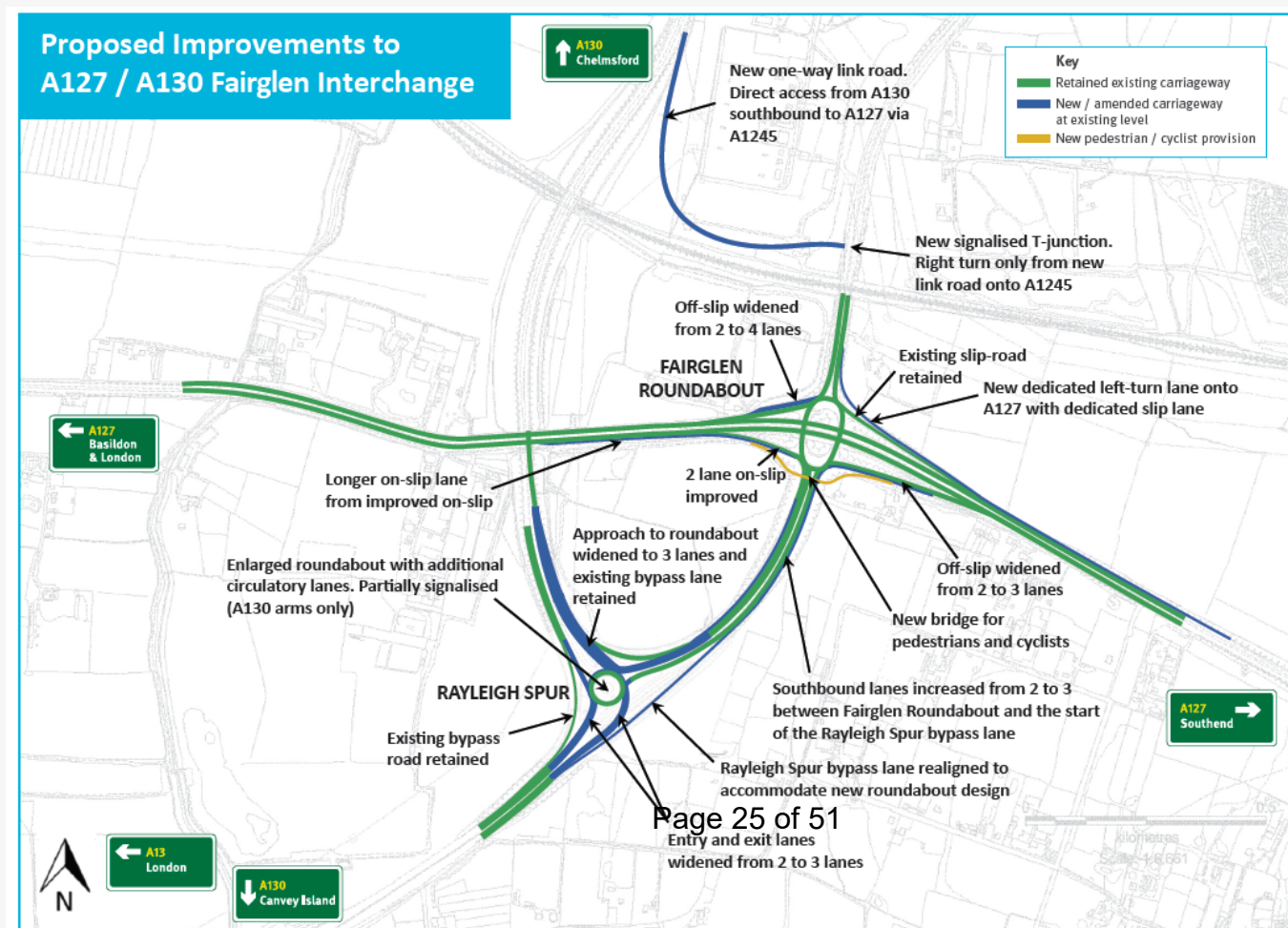


Completion of over 28 projects



Real impact on the ground
13,475 jobs and 8842 jobs

A127 Fairglen Interchange and New Link Road (£21.2m)

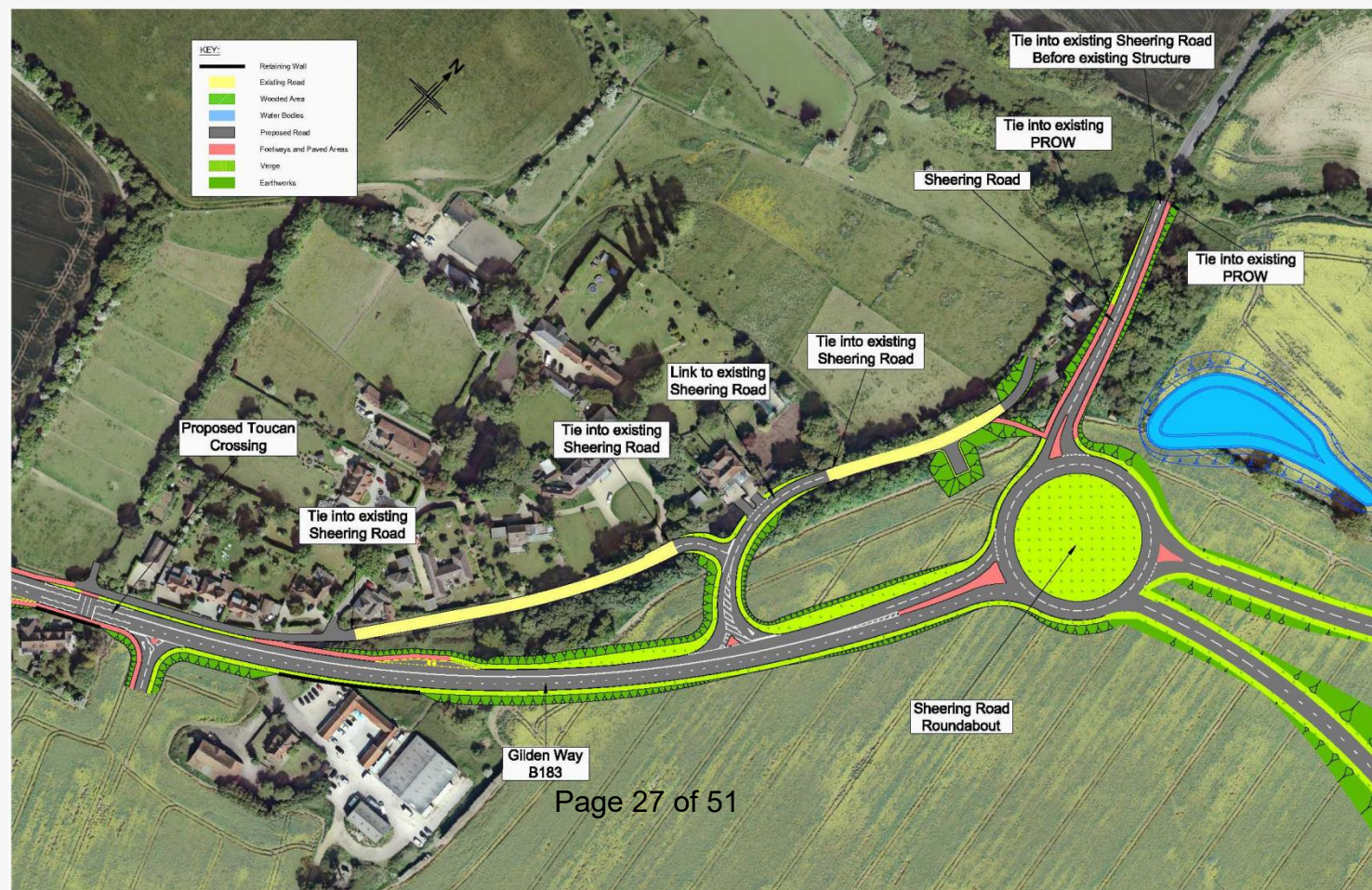


Local Growth Fund (LGF)

Beaulieu Park Railway Station (£12m LGF)



Gilden Way Upgrades, Harlow (£5m LGF)



Local Growth Fund (LGF)

Innovation Centre, University of Essex



Completed in 2018
£2m LGF and £10m
local match

Local Growth Fund (LGF)

Mercury Theatre, Colchester (£1m LGF)





Growing Places Fund (GPF)

Total GPF projects

21

Outcomes to date

1,877 jobs

1,252 homes

Repayments to date

£17.672m

Total GPF allocation

£49.2m

What comes next

- Investment in more **Essex** projects
- Delivery of **Local Industrial Strategy**
- Spend of £131.7m LGF in 2019/20
- Joint work around **Brexit** readiness
- Revolving of **GPF**
- Extension to **Digital Skills Partnership** pilot
- Influence policy around funding
- Extend working with neighbouring areas



Aims for 19/20 and beyond

- The best possible **Local Industrial Strategy** and one which is distinct
- A system of **governance** which is appropriate and respectful
- Delivery of **infrastructure** solutions which benefit us
- Securing future **investment** into the area – from all sources



Essex County Council PSEG

26th September 2019

Dominic Collins: Director for Economic Growth and Localities

Dawn Redpath: Head of Economic Growth

SELEP: Essex County Council Role

Provides:

- Legal Framework / S151 Functions

Distinct and separate to:

- Practical support: facilitation between districts / boroughs and SELEP
- Enabling role and
- Strategic leadership role

Last two points becoming more important as ECC taking on a more strategic influencing role

ECC Outcomes:

- ECC successfully submitted total of 31 applications to Local Growth Fund (LGF)
- £60m total ECC financial contribution
- ECC's total LGF allocation - £104m of which approx. £69,132,578 has been spent to date (Q1 2019/20)
- 31 ECC Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects put forward , of which 10 have been completed
- 4 ECC Growing Places Fund projects, with a total GPF allocation of £9,750,000
- EU Funds Secured:
 - Invest Essex ERDF - £603,000
 - Mercury Theatre ERDF - £1.2
 - Supply for Support for Individuals who are NEET or at Risk of NEET - £ 173,030
 - Supply of Skills Support for the Workforce £1,000,000
 - Supply of Skills Support for the Unemployed £ 858,056
 - Community Grants £ 250,000
- Dedicated support to local authorities to submit business cases
- Partnership support e.g. Essex Business board & Integrated Growth Forum

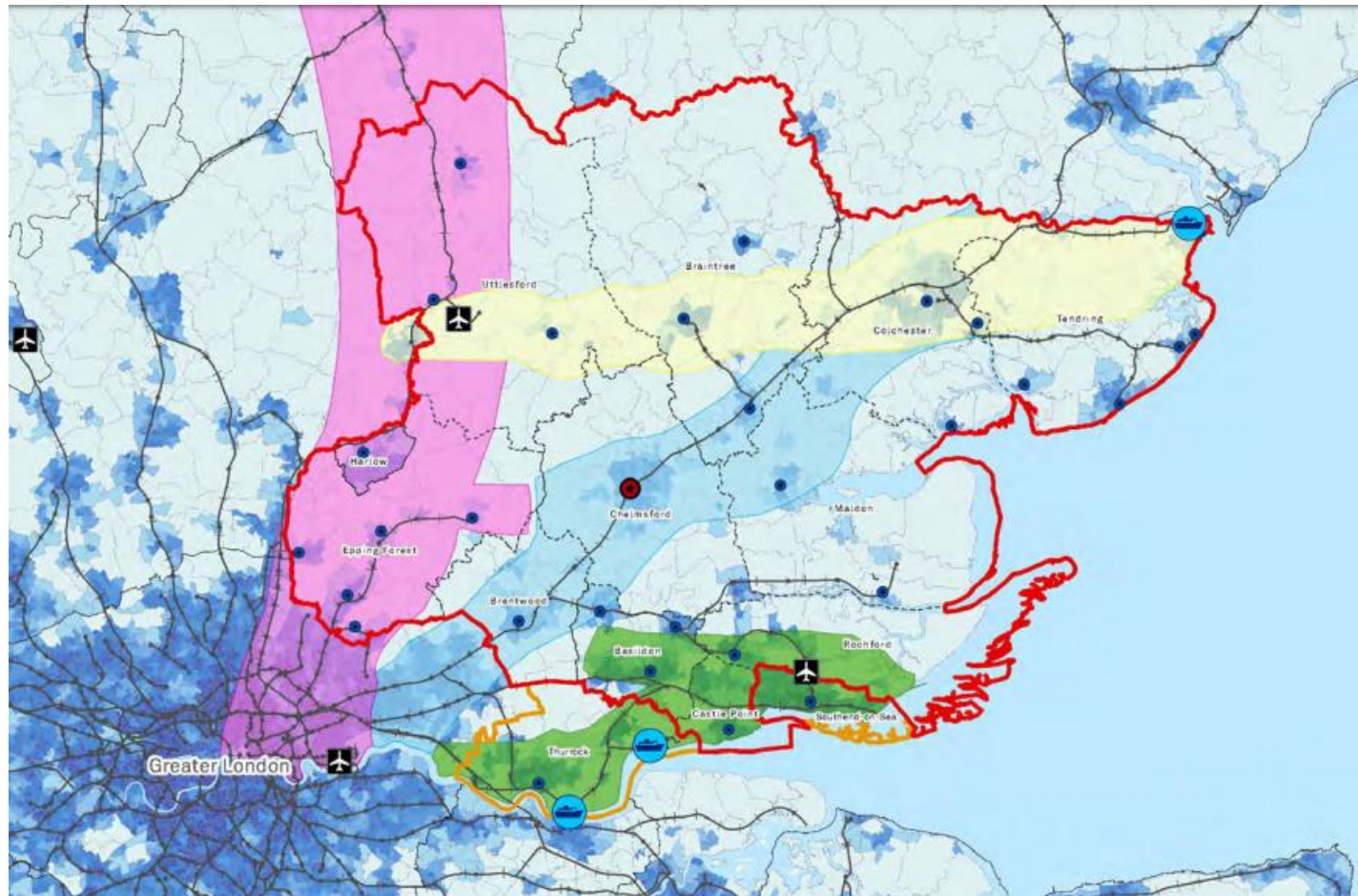
LGF AWARDS: ECC AREA





LGF Allocations			
Project Name	Upper Tier	LGF (£m)	TOTAL (£m)
Essex			
Colchester Broadband Infrastructure	Essex	0.200	
Colchester LSTF	Essex	2.400	
Colchester Integrated Transport Package	Essex	5.000	
Colchester Town Centre	Essex	4.600	
TGSE LSTF - Essex	Essex	3.000	
A414 Pinch Point Package: A414 First Avenue & Cambridge Rd junction	Essex	10.487	
A414 Maldon to Chelmsford RBS	Essex	2.000	
Chelmsford Station / Station Square / Mill Yard	Essex	3.000	
Basildon Integrated Transport Package	Essex	6.586	
Colchester Park and Ride and Bus Priority measures	Essex	5.800	
A131 Chelmsford to Braintree	Essex	3.660	
A414 Harlow to Chelmsford	Essex		
A133 Colchester to Clacton	Essex	2.740	
A131 Braintree to Sudbury	Essex	1.800	
Chelmsford City Growth Area Scheme	Essex	10.000	
Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme	Essex		
Beaulieu Park Railway Station	Essex	12.000	
Coastal Communities Housing Intervention (Jaywick)	Essex	0.667	
Gilden Way Upgrading, Harlow	Essex	5.000	
Technical and Professional Skills Centre at Stansted Airport	Essex	3.500	
Innovation Centre - University of Essex Knowledge Gateway	Essex	2.000	
STEM Innovation Centre - Colchester Institute	Essex	5.000	
A127/A130 Fairglen Interchange new link road	Essex	6.235	
M11 Junction 8 Improvements	Essex	2.734	
Mercury Rising Theatre	Essex	1.000	
Digital Technologies Campus, Basildon	Essex	2.150	
Colchester Institute	Essex	0.100	
USP College Centre of Excellence for Digital Technologies and Immersive Learning	Essex	0.900	
Flightpath Phase 2	Essex	1.422	103.980

GPF Awards: ECC Area

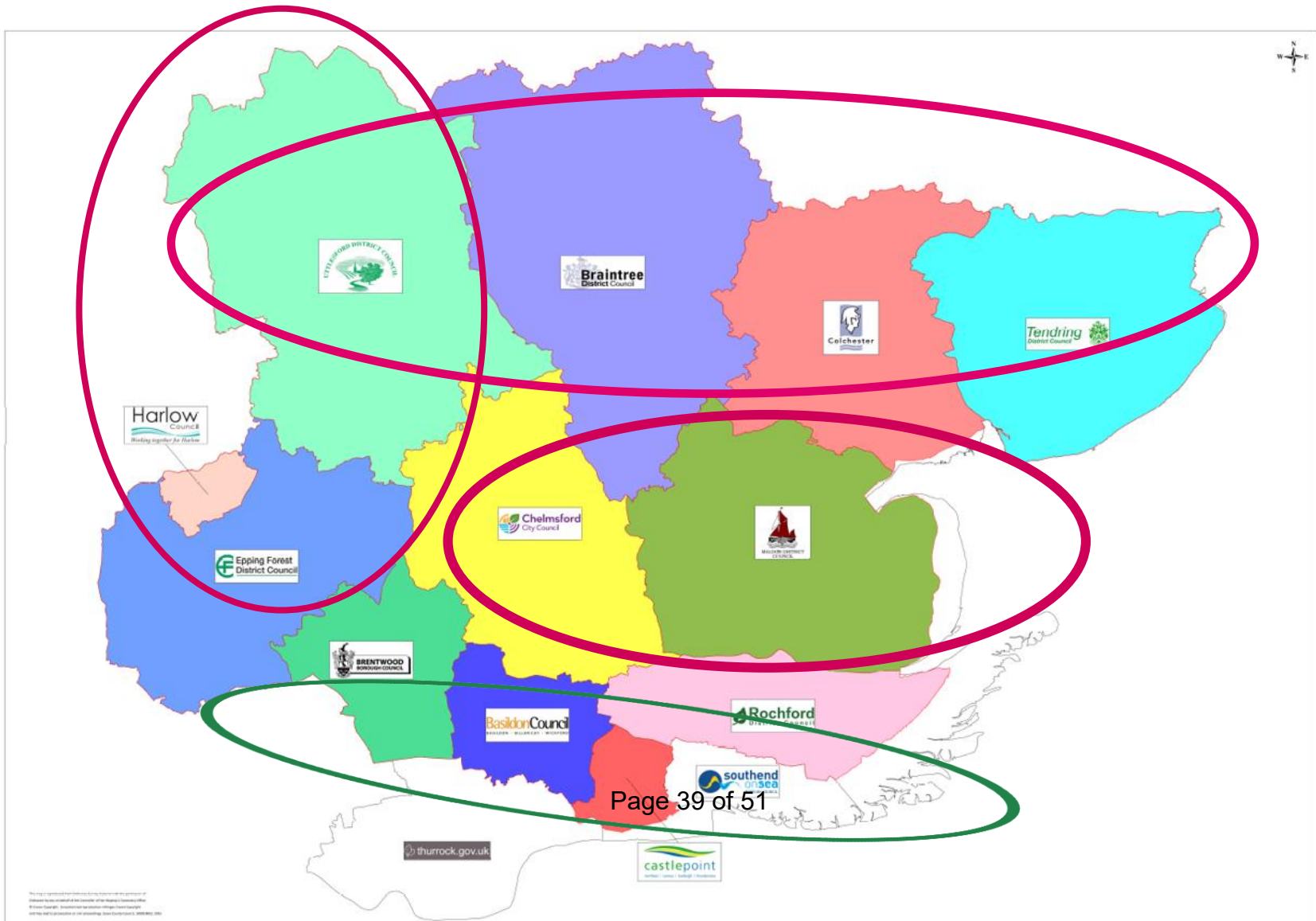
GPF Allocations						
Project Name	Upper Tier	Total Drawn Down to Date (£m)	Total Spent to Date (£m)	Total Repaid by 31st March 2019 (£m)	Total Allocation (£m)	Total Allocation for area (£m)
Essex						
Parkside Office Village	Essex	3.250	3.250	3.250	3.250	-
Chelmsford Urban Expansion	Essex	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	-
Harlow West Essex	Essex/Harlow	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	-
Colchester Northern Gateway	Essex	-	-	-	2.000	
Centre for Advanced Automotive and Process Engineering	Essex	2.000	2.000	-	2.000	9.750

Essex Growth Corridors / Roads



-  M11 / West
-  A12 / North
-  A120 / Centre
-  A13 / 127 South

Essex Economic Corridors



Current Activity:

- Supporting emergence of new refreshed federated board for Essex;
- Alignment of activity across all Essex corridors, minimising duplication and maximising benefits;
- Delivering existing pipeline of activity
- Scoping Essex landscape for key strategic resourcing opportunities
- Working with key partners to develop Essex Local Industrial Strategy aligned to SELEP

Evidence Base (SWOT analysis)

Strengths

- Recent economic & productivity growth
- High employment & low unemployment
- Above average business start up & survival rates
- 19,040 knowledge sector businesses (e.g. finance & business services (62%), ICT related, R&D (25%))
- Established cutting edge businesses
- Proximity to London & Cambridge
- International connectivity via air & sea ports
- 7 Essex districts at/above average (Vibrancy Index)

Opportunities

- Major infrastructure investments e.g. Bradwell, Lower Thames Crossing
- In 2030, local employers will require 498,726 higher, 274,088 intermediate & 40,772 low level skills
- Knowledge economy potential for growth - energy generation, space, digital & medical technologies
- Improved transport, business & IT infrastructure as a catalyst for growth & prosperity
- Housing growth of c.180k homes by 2035

Weaknesses

- Economic performance lags behind the South East & UK averages – lower productivity, growth & job density
- Below average skills levels, notably at NVQ 3 & 4+
- Skills mismatch between supply & demand
- Infrastructure challenges – congestion & housing need
- Lack of industrial space & grow on space
- Few large firms, largely micro - small businesses
- 7 Essex districts are below average (Vibrancy Index) with areas of significant disadvantage

Threats

- Future skills gaps - In 2030, we face a 51-165k higher level skills gap & 59-75k & 117-157k surpluses of intermediate & low level skills
- Some firms have set up in other areas to improve access to skills; others would not move here now.
- Ageing population - By 2035, 4% growth in working age (11% all ages)
- Investment may bypass Essex due to its relative need, strategic advocacy or unpreparedness

Essex Productivity Prospectus

- Focused on improving productivity whilst ensuring that all residents are able to contribute to and benefit from growth;
- Recognises local activity as separate from where value can be added at intermediate and cross-county level
- Grounded in deliverability and clearly linked to strategic objectives
- Innovative and celebrating strengths, tone is positive
- Shared objectives developed and owned by all stakeholders
- Both a standalone document as well as supporting access to Shared Prosperity Fund / SELEP Funds

Future role of ECC:

- Develop and enable coherence in economic strategy and delivery across Essex
- Support/ facilitation role with local authorities – coming together cross-boundary to develop shared priorities that add value
- Producing and maintaining agreed strategic project pipeline in order to lever in maximum resource
- Promotion and improving profile of Essex within SELEP context
- Strategic leadership role, at forefront of innovation in economic strategy and delivery
- Enabling strong and functional partnerships

Opportunities and Challenges

- ECC able to consolidate position and profile across geography through meaningful engagement and recognised delivery;
- A new, refreshed federated board is well positioned to maximise future funding benefits and improve Essex profile;
- Changes to SELEP Strategic Board herald change and new ways of working which ECC should capitalise on

However:

- Continuously changing national political and economic landscape present challenges;
- Local Authority resources diminishing, needs to continue to prioritise economic growth

Report title: Grass Verge Maintenance		AGENDA ITEM 5 (PSEG/16/19)
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee		
Report author: Peter Massie, Head of Essex Highways Commissioning		
Date: 26/09/19		For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Peter Massie, Head of Essex Highways Commissioning		
County Divisions affected: All Essex		

1. Purpose of report

This report is designed to inform members of current grass verge maintenance arrangements, with a view to exploring how these could be altered to create more ecologically friendly wildflower patches.

2. Background

A number of authorities across the country and in Essex have been experimenting with alternative methods of green space and grass verge maintenance to provide more safe and sustainable ecological wildlife habitats.

Attached (Appendix A) is a letter received by Gavin Jones, Chief Executive ECC, following a full council meeting at Braintree District Council on the 22 July 2019.

Appendix B is a presentation provided by ECC officers to be discussed during the meeting.

3. Session aims

Members are asked to engage with the appendices listed below, discuss the evidence provided with officers and make recommendations.

4. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Letter received by Gavin Jones (dated 21.01.19).
Appendix B – ECC officer presentation on wildflower verges.

Our ref: IH
Your ref:
Ask for: Ian Hunt
Email: Ian.Hunt@Braintree.gov.uk

Dial: 01376 552525
Extension: 2629
Date: 21st August 2019

Mr G Jones
Chief Executive
Essex County Council

By Email only
gavin.jones@essex.gov.uk

Dear Mr Jones

Motion passed at Braintree District Council

I write to notify the County Council of a motion approved at the Braintree District Council full council meeting of the 22nd July 2019.

The Motion proposed by Councillor van Dulken stated:

"Roadside verges are recognised as being increasingly important as havens for wildlife, supporting many common and rare species of wildflowers and animals, such as bumblebees, butterflies and other invertebrates, as well as lizards, amphibians, small mammals and a variety of birds. They act as ecological corridors along which wildlife can move, linking habitats and allowing wildlife to re-colonise landscapes fragmented by modern agriculture. The wildflowers that grow form an attractive feature of the local landscape. The verges make a significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and the local environment across the Braintree District."

Cllr Mrs Wendy Schmitt, in her capacity as the Essex County Council Member for Braintree Town has asked the County Council to undertake a review of the management of roadside verges, as part of its Scrutiny function. This is with a view to a more sustainable way of managing and maintaining the verges being developed that protects their value for biodiversity and conservation without compromising road/public safety."

This Council acknowledge and fully endorses Cllr. Mrs Schmitt's request to Essex County Council and eagerly awaits the outcome of their review."

I trust that you can ensure that this Member decision is appropriately noted by the County Council.

Yours sincerely



Ian Hunt
Head of Governance



Governance

Causeway House
Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB
Tel: 01376 552525
Fax: 01376 552626
www.braintree.gov.uk

Scrutiny Committee

Wildflower Verges

26th September 2019

David Forkin & Peter Massie



Agenda

1. **Explore the opportunity for planting wildflower verges in the public highway**

Discussion points

Current Essex Highways undertakings

- a) Normal verge cutting regime
- b) Special Roadside Verges

Wildflower verges as promoted by the press

- a) Rotherham example
- b) What our neighbours are doing

ECC/Essex Highways considerations

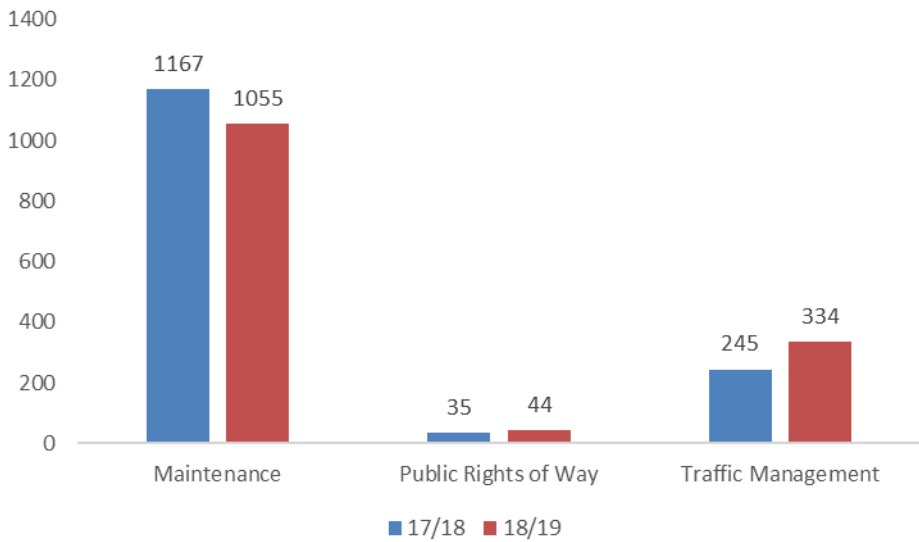
- a) Braintree DC pilot
- b) Other District opportunities

Conclusion

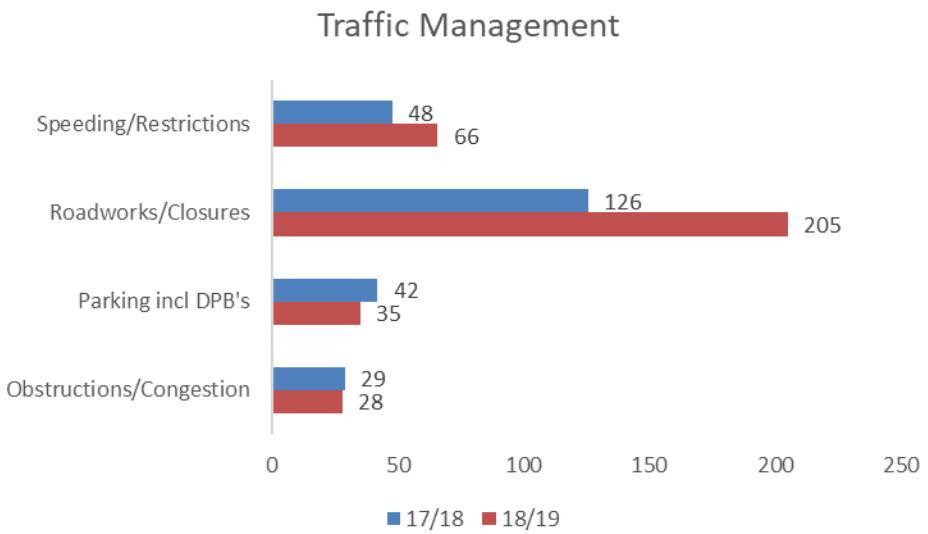
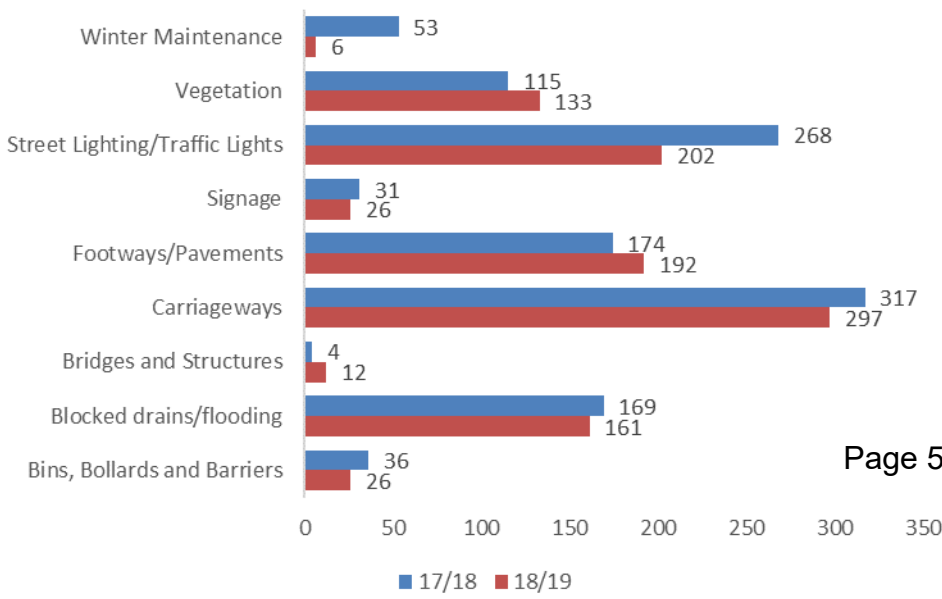
Thank you



Highways Complaints Data



Maintenance



Overall there has been a 9.6% decrease in the number of Maintenance complaints received in 2018/19 (Apr to Jan) compared to 2017/18 (full year). This has been driven by a large decrease in complaints relating to Street Lighting/Traffic Lights.