# CWOP/48/11

Policy & Scrutiny Committee Community and Older People

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## Corporate Vision and Values Consultation

#### Introduction

Essex County Council's four year EssexWorks vision programme is coming to an end in March 2012 and the council is therefore seeking to develop a new vision. This is not a rebranding exercise; it is about responding to significant changes both in the council's operating environment and in the resources available to the authority in the future. A changing public service landscape means that a clear ambition for the county's future is vital.

All Members have been invited to comment individually on the draft vision. In addition, the terms of reference for the Community and Older People Policy & Scrutiny Committee include scrutinising council policy and making recommendations. The draft vision is therefore presented to the Committee in order for it to determine whether it wishes to submit a collective response and hence influencing policy before it is adopted.

The vision document represents a high-level direction and commitment; it does not set out the operational detail of how this will be achieved. These details will be articulated through directorate plans in conjunction with the annual budget.

## Background

Over the past few months, an extensive programme of analysis and engagement has been undertaken to identify key challenges likely to impact on Essex communities over the next ten years. Over 800 individuals have shared their views in this first phase, and all this information has now been drawn together into the draft vision. This engagement included the views of Essex residents in four sessions of the citizens' panel and from participants from the Older People's Planning Group.

Residents' key priorities have remained fairly consistent across a range of surveys: job prospects, affordable housing and public transport often being cited as the most important overall, along with education, health and crime. There was some variation between different age groups, however, with older people generally placing a higher priority on healthcare and affordable housing.

These 'tracker' survey findings were validated through a follow-up survey with the Older People's Planning Group (OPPG) and with the citizens' panel. The OPPG survey results matched the earlier tracker surveys, confirming that priorities and concerns for older residents remain similar. The citizens' panel highlighted a focus on better education outcomes and transport as being key, again confirming earlier survey results.

## **Next steps**

The Community and Older People Policy & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to make a collective response to the corporate vision consultation, and if so, to agree that response.

The consultation closes on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011, after which time all responses will be collated and considered, and the draft vision document reviewed. It is anticipated that the final vision document will be submitted to Council in December 2011.