



Essex County Council

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

10:00	Friday, 10 June 2022	Council Chamber County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
--------------	---------------------------------	---

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Freddey Ayres, Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 39825

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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.

Members of the public will be able to view and listen to any items on the agenda unless the Committee has resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting as a result of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

ECC Guest Wifi

For members of the public, you can now access free wifi in County Hall.

- Please log in to 'ECC Guest'
- 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.](#)

Access to the meeting and reasonable adjustments

County Hall is accessible via ramped access to the building for people with physical disabilities.

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.

Accessing Documents

If you have a need for documents in, large print, Braille, on disk or in alternative languages and easy read please contact the Democratic Services Officer before the meeting takes place. For further information about how you can access this meeting, contact the Democratic Services Officer.

The agenda is also available on the Essex County Council website, www.essex.gov.uk From the Home Page, click on 'Running the council', then on 'How decisions are made', then 'council meetings calendar'. Finally, select the relevant committee from the calendar of meetings.

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.

If you are unable to attend and wish to see if the recording is available, you can find out by checking the [Calendar of Meetings](#) any time after the meeting starts. Any audio available can be accessed via the 'On air now!' box in the centre of the page, or the links immediately below it.

Should you wish to record the meeting, please contact the officer shown on the agenda front page.

		Pages
1	Welcome, Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	4 - 4
2	Election of Chairman To elect the Chairman for the municipal year.	
3	Election of Vice-Chairman	
4	Minutes of 23 November 2021 and matters arising from that meeting not covered in agenda.	5 - 10
5	Operations Performance Update which includes:	
5.1	Outreach Report To receive an update from Susan Enwere - ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC and Nicola Coates - ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC.	11 - 14

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------------|
| 5.2 | Unauthorised Encampments Report
To receive an update from Alec Baker - ECTU Officer, ECC. | 15 - 20 |
| 5.3 | Rural Engagement Team Update
To receive a report from Sgt Paul Brady, Essex Police. | 21 - 35 |
| 6 | Finance Update
To receive an update from Carron Nason - Management Accountant, ECC and Donna Norman - Assistant Accountant, ECC. | 36 - 39 |
| 7 | Date of Next Meeting
To consider future meeting dates in 2022. | |
| 8 | 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.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9 | 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 Jane Fleming
Councillor Robert Gledhill
Councillor Paul Honeywood
Councillor Godfrey Isaacs
Councillor George Jeffery
Councillor Anthony McQuiggan
Councillor Keith Parker
Councillor Wendy Schmitt
Councillor Jannetta Sosin
Councillor Maggie Sutton
Councillor Arthur Williams
Chief Inspector Terry Balding
James Palmer (Essex Fire & Rescue)
Colchester BC representative: TBC

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee, held in the Chamber of County Hall, Chelmsford on Tuesday 23 November 2021

Present:

Cllr Mark Durham	Essex County Council
Cllr Jane Fleming	Maldon District Council
Cllr Godfrey Isaacs	Castle Point District Council
Cllr George Jeffery	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Anthony McQuiggan	Essex County Council
Cllr Keith Parker	Brentwood Borough Council
Cllr Jannetta Sosin	Chelmsford City Council

Also present:

Paul Ashworth	Essex County Council
Alec Baker	Essex County Council
Gemma Bint	Essex County Council
Adrian Coggins	Essex County Council
Paul Downes	Essex Police
Matthew Harkness	Essex Police
Carron Nason	Essex County Council
Sally Mills	Essex County Council
Emma Tombs	Essex County Council

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

The report of the Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest was received and noted.

Apologies had been received from the following:

- Councillor Colin Day, Uttlesford District Council
- Councillor Robert Gledhill, Thurrock Council
- Councillor Paul Honeywood, Tendring District Council
- Councillor Beverley Oxford, Colchester Borough Council
- Councillor Wendy Schmitt, Braintree District Council
- Chief Inspector Terry Balding
- Colin Batchelor, Braintree District Council
- Tim Clarke, Tendring District Council

- Jane Gardner, Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of 1 July 2021 and matters arising from that meeting not covered in agenda.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 July 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising.

3. Operations Performance Update:

Outreach Report

The Committee received an update from Sally Mills, ECTU Outreach Officer, Essex County Council.

Employment: There had been a struggle with employment during the pandemic as there were high levels of people in the GRT communities that were self-employed, as a result of this a high number went onto Universal Credit and other benefits. However, recently a number of those people were starting to come off of those benefits as they had started work again.

Accessing benefits and services online was still a problem due to many from the GRT community having low literacy levels and limited access to the internet, multiple choice options over the phone could also be difficult resulting in them being unable to reach certain services such as housing and GP services.

Health: Weekly health days had started earlier this year on sites across Essex, six organisations were involved. The health days would help connect these organisations and the GRT community, building trust and cultural awareness. Unfortunately, some health days were cancelled due to a lack of staff or other access issues.

Concerns were raised in relation to the GRT community registering with GPs. It was confirmed that most of the GRT community were registered, but there was an issue with registering people who had moved into Essex. The majority of GPs refused to register them if they could not provide ID or proof of a permanent address, as this was not a requirement by law the ECTU was arguing this with GPs. It was highlighted that it was important for hospitals to not be overwhelmed and that GPs should deal with issues in the first instance if possible. It was also noted that within the GRT community there was a tendency to not go to a GP and instead present at hospitals with conditions that were then beyond treatment. The health days were set up to help resolve this issue, health professionals would be going onto the sites and to try and lower the number of hospital admissions.

Education: Many children from the GRT community were now back in school, although due to fears of Covid many did not return back until September. Many of the children were struggling since returning and were behind most of their peers due to not being able to access online learning during lockdown, either because of lack of devices or internet access or lack of parental guidance because of parents' own low literacy skills.

In response to questioning, it was confirmed that unfortunately a lot of the GRT children did miss out on the laptops that were distributed during lockdown, this was due to not knowing about the distribution scheme, the lack of Wifi and also parents not being able to log into the schools' systems. Where possible some schools were able to send paperwork out to the children. It was confirmed that the ECTU were supporting schools as much as they could in helping the GRT children catch up.

Most colleges had gone online which was also increasing barriers in regard to accessing college places. Due to a high number of applications, some colleges now required a basic level of Maths and English skills to get into basic college courses, this was an issue as some Travellers were now not getting a place due to the standards being changed.

The ECTU had continued to provide support via phone during lockdown, it was confirmed that this was slowly starting to go back to in person contact, appropriately socially distanced.

The Outreach Team were working on an Education project with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Essex and five other counties across England to try and help GRT communities access education, including work on raising the number of GRT pupils transferring from Year 6 into Year 7. The Outreach Team were also developing e-learning packages in respect of cultural awareness to go out to schools and other services and organisations.

Unauthorised Encampments Report

The Committee received an update from Alec Baker, ECTU Officer, Essex County Council.

The comparison between the June and October periods in 2020 and in 2021 showed that there was not much correlation between the encampments, the only similarity was in August for both years. There had been a reduction in the number of unauthorised encampments this year, particularly in September and October 2021.

The five-year trend showed a marked reduction of unauthorised encampments within Essex. The main reason for the reduction was likely that since ECTU had been established, the 6 main travelling families still travelled around the county but recently had not travelled to Essex. Other possible reasons for the reduction were Police engagement on Unauthorised Encampments and the impact from Covid.

In terms of Unauthorised Encampments, the four main places that were targeted between January and October 2021 were Basildon, Colchester, Chelmsford and Tendring.

In response to questioning, it was confirmed that Thurrock had not yet provided an update on the High Court 'full injunction' hearing that took place on the 25th October 2021.

Rural Engagement Team Update

The Committee received an update from Sgt Paul Downes, Essex Police.

There had been a reduction in unauthorised encampments since the Rural Engagement Team had started. The RET's application of legislation and national guidance had remained consistent and as a result there had been a firm but fair approach to the management of unauthorised encampments. Essex Police were involved in every encampment but would only intervene and use Section 61 powers when appropriate and justifiable.

In regard to new legislation, there had been a proposal of changes in relation to unauthorised encampments and proposed changes to Section 61 I which could address some of the issues that certain areas within Essex had been experiencing. An Essex working group as well as a national working group had been set up.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that the RET reports back to the ECTU and vice-versa in regard to encampments and that there were good working practices in place for sharing information. The ECTU send daily updates to the Customer Services team which get posted and there was an out of hours service for the weekends that dealt with encampments.

Members queried whether councillors could be kept more informed when there was a particular incident; a suggestion was made that a mailing list was set up for particular locations for councillors to receive basic information such as what was being dealt with, what was going to court and hearing dates.

Members expressed thanks to the Rural Engagement Team for their work and support across the county and thanked Sgt Paul Downes who was retiring from Essex Police for his support.

3 Finance Update

The Committee received an update from Carron Nason, Management Accountant, Essex County Council.

Key information provided included:

- (i) **2021/22 forecast outturn position as at 30th September 2021.** There was a forecast underspend of £42,697.
- (ii) **Essex County Council's contribution to the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit for 2021/22 was £306,145 across internal partners.** This was 77% of the total overall contributions received.
- (iii) **The 2021/22 budget was based on approved District/Borough Fees of £8,312 from 2020/21.**
- (iv) **Budget for 2021/22 and proposed budget for future years.** The assumptions around the 2022/23 proposed draft budget were outlined which included a 3.25% increase for Employee budgets (2% staffing and 1.25% NI Uplift) and a 4.1% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets.
- (v) **Supplies & Services budgets had been reduced to show an overall net-nil budget.**
- (vi) **The 2023/24 budgets, excluding membership contributions, had all been increased by the RPI figure which was currently 3.5%.**
- (vii) **Proposed 2022/23 Membership Fees.** It was proposed that there would be no membership fee increase and no increase to the Essex County Council contribution and the Essex Fire and Rescue contribution.
- (viii) **Balance Sheet – Reserves –** The opening balance for 2021/22 was a surplus of £185,26, as at 30th September 2021 there was a forecast underspend of £42,697, if all things remain equal then the closing balance for the year was anticipated to be £227,966.

It was **AGREED** by general consent to note:

- The financial update for the six months to 30 September 2021.
- The proposed budgets for 2022/23 and 2023/24
- The proposed 2022/23 Membership Fees
- The Balance Sheet Reserves.

It was **AGREED**, having been proposed by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Councillor McQuiggan that there would be no increase to the membership fees for 2022/23.

4 Meeting Dates in 2022

The next meeting date would be circulated in due course.

5 Urgent Business

A concern was raised regarding low attendance levels of Members attending the Committee meetings and a suggestion was made to send a letter to the Leaders of the District and Borough Councils to highlight the importance of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee in terms of partnership working and the need for Members to send a substitute if they are unable to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15:05.

Chairman

Outreach Report 2022

Updates on Outreach

Since the last report we gradually build up levels of outreach visits although still not at previous levels.

During covid- Families became more accustomed to using phones, whatsapp, email to some level, families have continued to engage in this way.

We continued to support with various range of services such as.

- School Applications
- Nursery Places
- Access to FSM Vouchers
- Tracing missing pupils
- GP registrations/ Dental services
- Referrals to housing support services
- Referrals to domestic violence services
- Applications to colleges
- Support with benefits/ Forms

We continue to make referrals to specialist agencies to ensure families get the best services e.g., Peabody, Compass, Counselling services, Families and focus, SENDIASS.

Once a referral is made families can struggle to continue access the service, so we often support with on-going engagement.

We work with other agencies such as.

Health and Wellbeing

For example: We carry out joint visits with Health-visitors.

- We feed into Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnerships inequality workshops, also Suffolk NHS inequality workshop.

- We also planning to work in collaboration with the Local Delivery Physical pilot project to improve activity level and health outcomes.
- We are also supporting with enabling young people and children voices to be heard regarding healthcare delivery and services. This a joint project run by the council and NHS. (Mid and South Essex Partnership).
- We have designed and are planning to distribute GP registration cards; basically, trying to facilitate families from the GRT Communities registering with GP.
- We have liaised with the West Essex CCG to deliver COVID vaccines to Travellers in Harlow and Nazeing.

Education

- We continue to support access to pre-school, school and further education.
- Education- joint visits regarding missing education and home education.
- We support regarding attendance issues, attending meeting to support parents, school-based meeting in regarding to the child's behaviour and engagement.
- We also carry out joint visit with regards to missing education and home education.
- We Also support with college application online and attend with the young person with enrolment.
- We work closely with SEND Teams to liase between them and parents to try and ensure effective communication channels.

Projects

Education project-

- The Project focuses on supporting pupils from the GRT communities in year 6 across Essex to raise transfer rates to year 7, by the provision of a dedicated

secondary development worker who will work with parents and schools and support with school applications.

- So far, all primary Schools on the data provided by ECC with Traveller pupils in year 6 have been emailed and parents who have given permission have been contacted. Secondaries have been contacted to help support the current traveller pupils they have, and we are currently working with more than 5 families.
- Slots for FFT Training and E- Learning that is helping raise cultural awareness in schools are being booked up.
- The Project also provides an NEET six-week programme in two areas, Basildon, and Braintree. That will provide career and education advice, alongside accredited courses that are in high demand within the GRT community such as Hair and Beauty and will be starting in June.
- We are working with the social media team to develop a Facebook page which will hopefully extend our reach and be a valuable source of information for Essex GRT residents.
- The Team Leader of the GRT division, alongside other teams of the council such as the evaluation and planning team and housing will be coming to visit our schools and sites to review project and see how it is progressing.
- A challenge we have experienced is engagement with the community which is why we changed the Drop ins in Wickford and Braintree to visiting sites so we could get that face-to-face contact and outreach.

Health Days

- We are continuing through the summer; this will be a multi-agency provision.
- We are conducting 10 Health Days where we will be having external agencies on sites to support the community with health and education.

E-learning

We have developed an e-learning package, which we hope to get feedback on from people in GRT Communities before sharing with education and other services.

Challenges with Outreach

With regards to education many Travellers were disproportionately impacted, a lot of children couldn't access distance learning and therefore the attainment gap is likely to have grown.

This can lead to challenges in behaviour and attendance issues.

Education process has changed, school application process has become more complex with some applications haven't to go schools while others go to county.

Travellers' families are more impacted as many families struggle with online application process, and people from Travellers communities are more likely to need frequent mid-year school applications.

In Addition, College application all online, which is often a barrier to the Traveller's communities.

There disproportionately amount of people in the Traveller's Community affected by poor mental health and they often struggle to talk about this and access support.

Trying to get people to access right service needed is a challenge due to vast amount of waiting list.

A lot of support is needed with regards to housing, People from GRT Community often forced to move into housing because lack of alternative accommodation. (there's not enough plots).

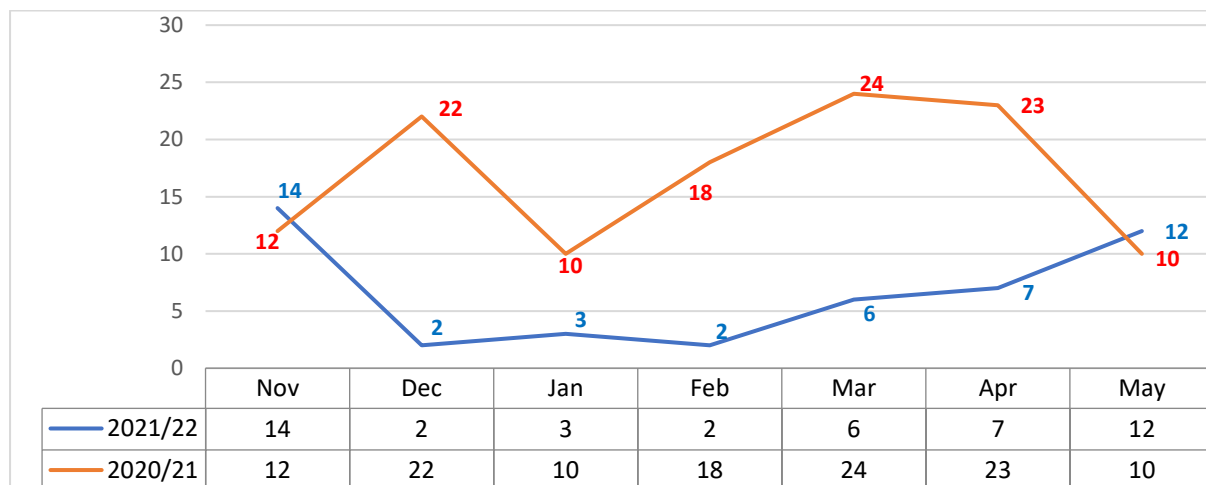
Unauthorised encampments

Encampments from November 2021 to May 2022 (End)



NB. Please note the following are stats are acquired by ECTU.

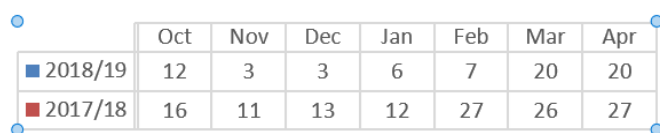
Figure 1 - Comparison between Nov to May (2020/21 & 2021/22)



The data shows that only for that only November and May bare any correlation to the comparison match ups.

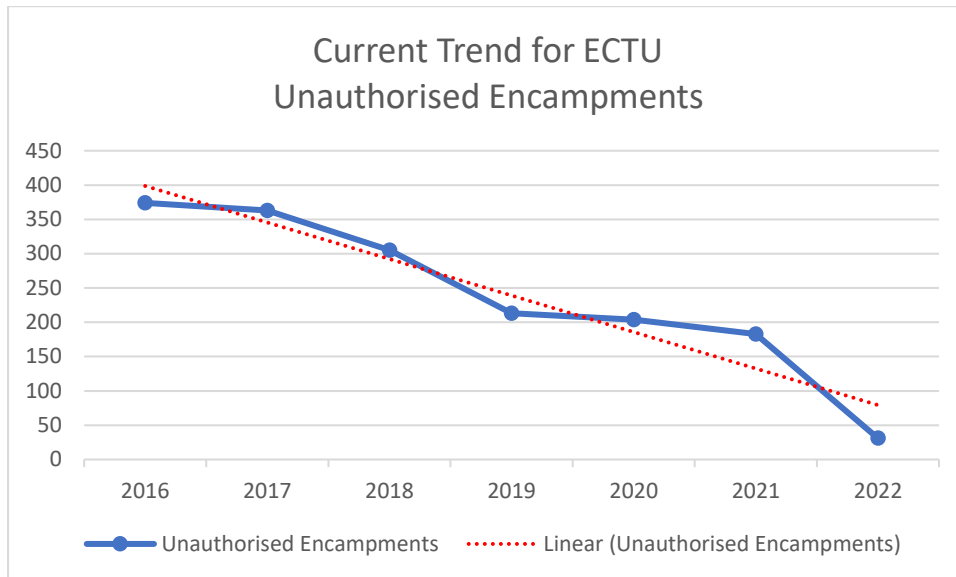
The other remaining months are dramatically down to single figures for the main winter periods.

Overall 2021/22 figures are in line with previous years as shown below for 2018/19 bar the spring months and so historically this can be very quiet.



Further this period we did not have any family group as we did in December 2020, into January 2021 – that resided in the Chelmsford industrial areas (both private & highway).

Figure 2 – Current Trend for Unauthorised Encampments

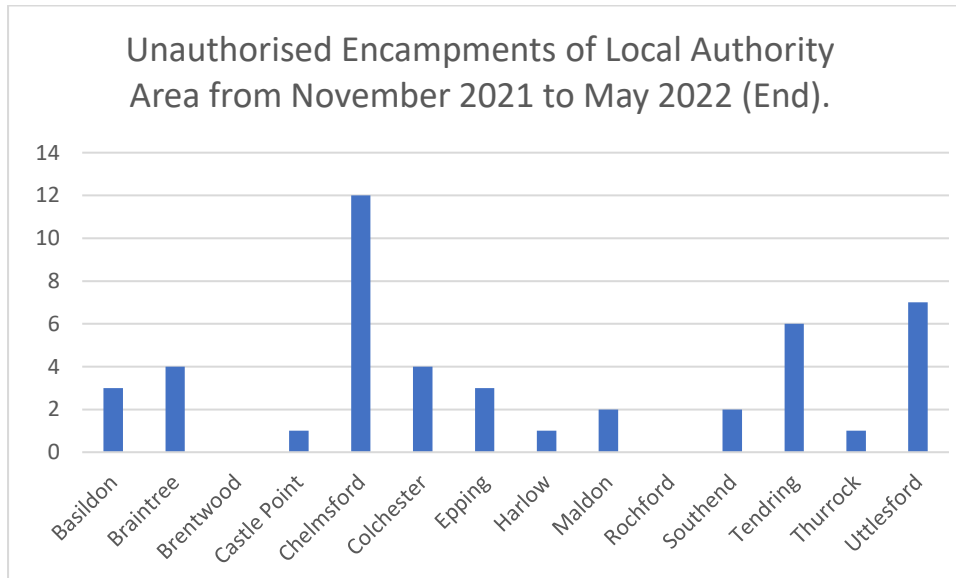


The overall trend shows that the current year 2022 is likely to result to continue in a downward trajectory but unless the coming summer is very busy, the outlook seems to be a quietest summer and lowest encampments since the inception of the ECTU.

Reiteration for possible reason for this downturn:

- a. Fewer regular family groups have not travelled around the county of Essex than previously (possibly exhausted all locations and earning capacity).
- b. Gypsy/Travellers are now tending to stop at private rental locations over the winter months rather than be mobile.
- c. Past Injunctions legacy.
- d. Police engagement on UEs (maybe RET can expand, if valid).
- e. Covid-19 After affect of 2020 & 2021 (not as much trade in town centres).
- f. Cost of Living – settled community not having the surplus to support traveller trade.

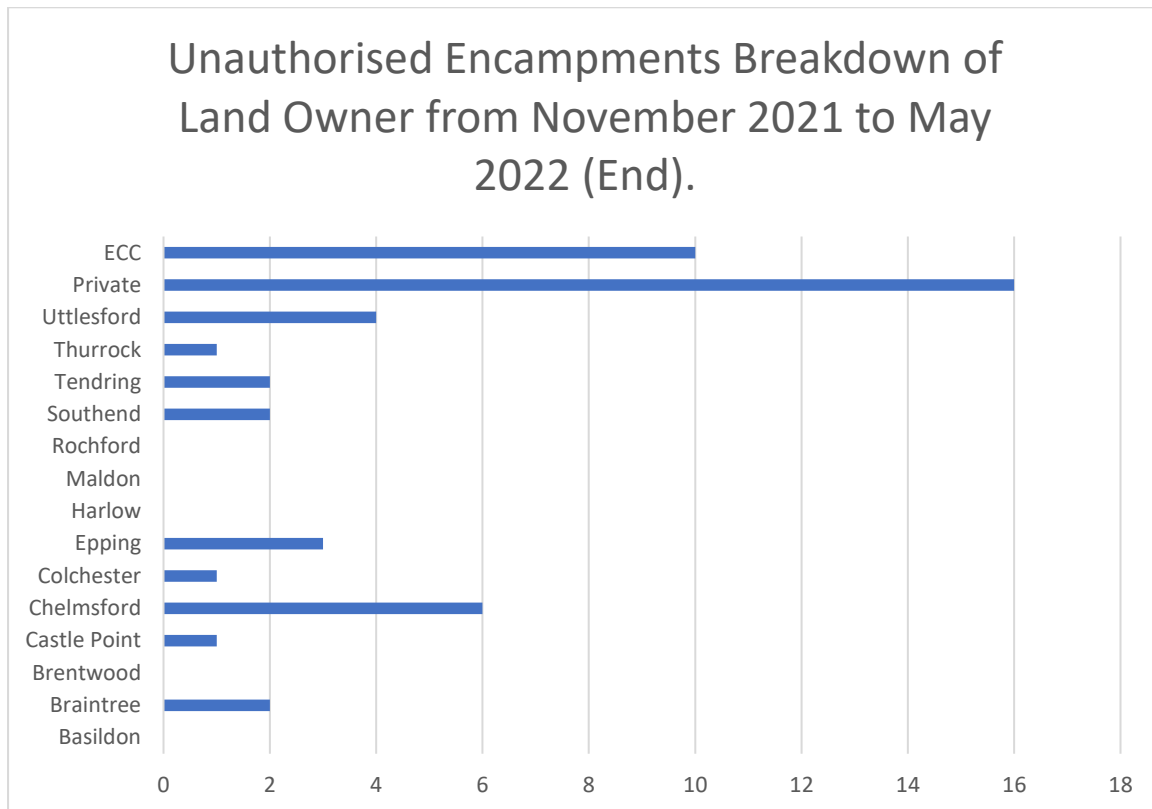
Figure 3. Unauthorised Encampments in Essex by District/Brough- November 2021 to Date.



The following charts show UE activity: -

- by district/borough which will include Highways & Private encampments under the district heading – Total encampments for this period [47](#)

Figure 4. Breakdown of UE's by Landowner - January to May (end) 2021



Other UE related topics.

Reiteration Injunction update (for Operations Board, unless any significant update for Joint Committee).

1) Expired:

- a. **Basildon** – ‘interim injunction’ no longer enforced as of 18th November 2020.
- b. **Harlow** - injunction expired at on 14th July 2020 (originally granted on 14th June 2017).

2) Live:

- a. **Update from Thurrock Council** – ‘interim injunction’ active since 4th September 2019. Still intention to go for full injunction.
- b. **Epping (Non Partner)** - ‘interim injunction’ active since 23rd April 2021 (Carparks only).

Unauthorised Encampments – Performance November 2020 to May 2021 (End)						
Objective	sub	Measure	Target	Timescale	Outcome	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	Nov 2021 to May 2022	100.00%	
ECTU led Encampments resolved through	Negotiated/Other	%	40%		35%	Last meetings results: 42.50%
	Courts	%	60%		65%	Last meetings results: 46.43%
Totals	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61 Negotiated Other	11 0 6 6 0	Data Only			NB. All x6 Section 61s were on private land (taken from the whole data range).
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	100%		100.00%	Longest processing day 8 days.
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	90%		88.00%	Last meetings results: 80.36% Legal and Magistrates' courts are seemly processing back to normal action and achievement times. Previously: slight delay issues with Magistrate Court– owing to virtual court hearings and admin returns (DLT, Summons/Court Orders). Court experiences staffing supplier!! Not currently impacting on the 10 days completion target.
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		%	NA		51.00%	Last meetings results: 52.50%
Number of encampments	Partner	26	NA			
	Non-partner	5	NA			
	Private	16	NA			

RET Update – Unauthorised Encampments & changes to legislation on “Trespass without Consent”.

Below are some numbers to show the number of unauthorised encampments and the use of S61 over comparable time periods.

1st December 2020 to 30th April 2021

80 UE of which 7 were moved on using S61

1st December 2021 – 30th April 2022

9 UE of which 1 was moved on using S61

We are working through the legislation changes and await final drafts of NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) guidance. Force policy is being amended and Inspector Terry Jacobs has formed a working group to share findings and set expectations moving forward. The changes in legislation will have a huge impact on the everyday policing of unauthorised encampments. From policy to the forms, we need to complete (that we have to re write), everything needs to be considered to provide a proportionate policing response that encompasses legislation, policy and NPCC guidance. Mr Jacobs intends to keep the working group up to date with findings and set clear direction once this work is done. This is a huge task and work is well underway to ensure we are ready to go once the legislation goes live on 24th June.

The unauthorised encampments that we are having and have had over recent history have been good in nature as well as being far smaller in number as the data above shows.

We are told by members of the travelling community that Essex is considered a ‘no go’ for those that travel with the intention of being involved in crime and disorder. Crime and ASB are not a regular feature of the unauthorised encampments across the county.

Whilst we do not aim in any way to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments, we do have high expectations of behaviour and will use the powers given to us when these expectations are not met.

Trespass without consent

2022 Changes in legislation

Date: 10/05/2022

Unit: Local Policing Support Unit

Contact: Insp Terry Jacobs

Working Group Purpose

- To understand the changes in legislation on 28th June
- To understand the impact on organisations and communities
- To discuss any partnership response or changes
- Manage public expectations around multi-agency response

Local Authority Responsibilities

- “It remains the case that the response to unauthorised encampments requires a locally driven multi-agency response, led by local authorities and supported by police.”
- “The Government expects local planning authorities to assess the need for sites in their area and make provision accordingly. Local authorities are best placed to make decisions about the number and location of such sites locally, with due regard to national policy and local circumstances. Local Authority officers can make an agreement for negotiated stopping and for basic facilities to be provided by the council.”

– Home Office guidance

“Criminalisation” of Trespass

Fareham council leader Sean Woodward speaks out about traveller 'invasions' and welcomes Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

Traveller camp 'didn't drop out of the sky', says councillor as he slams response

- Terminology
- Trespass has not been criminalised
- Significant incidents whilst trespassing has been criminalised
- Sensitive subject that receives significant interest from communities and community representatives

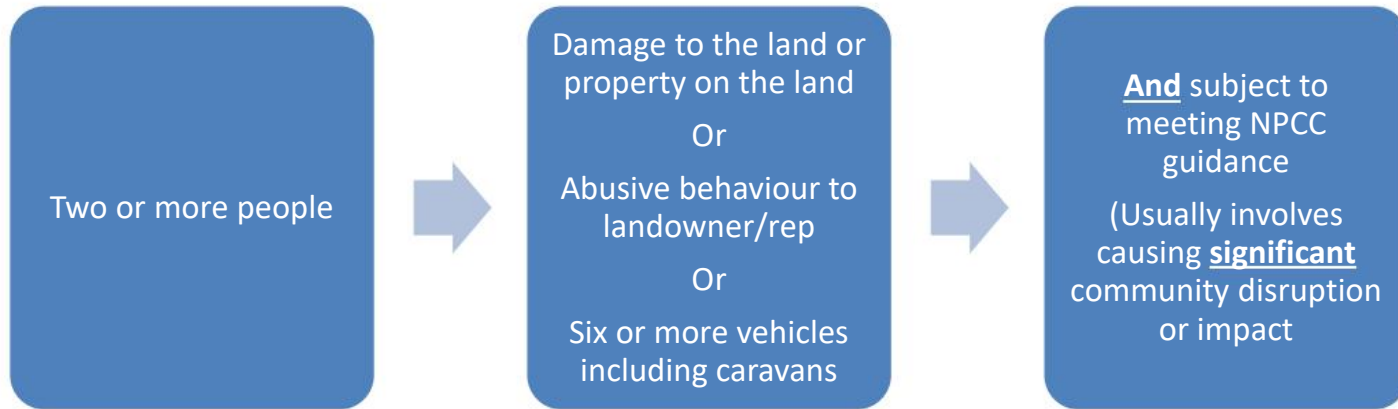
shown support to the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#) calling it a 'sensible law' for criminalising trespass of public open spaces.

'If travellers did genuinely pitch up for a couple of days, leave the site clean and tidy when they left there would probably be far less of an issue,' he said.

'We've had many invasions or whatever you want to call it - it's called an unauthorised encampment.'

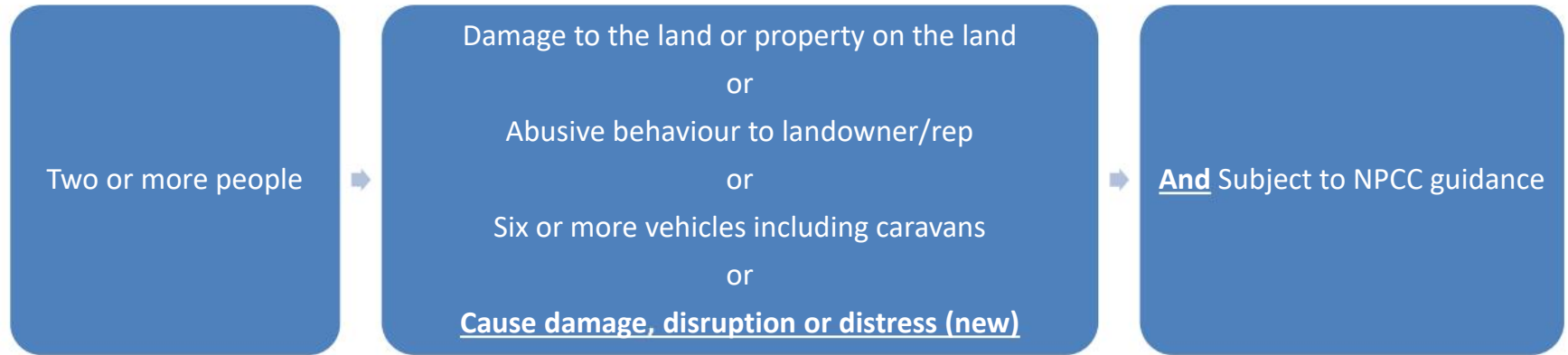
Current Position

- Summary of current S61 CJPOA and policing powers



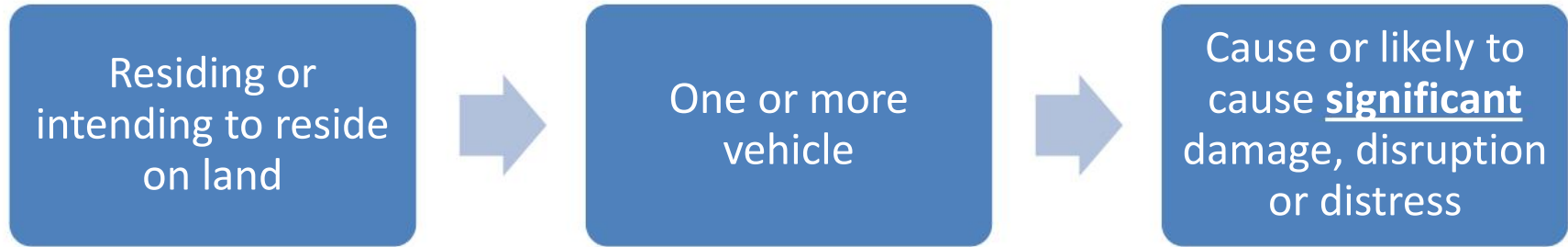
What is changing to S61?

- Changes to S61 CJPOA will now include a condition that they have caused damage, disruption or distress.
- Broadly this will lower the current threshold removing the word significant which was in NPCC guidance



Residing on land without consent S60c Offence 2022 act

- Creation of new offence (S60c 2022 Act)
- Offence will be committed when the act is complete as opposed to S61 offence where failing to leave or return creates the offence



- Must be requested to leave by landowner, representative or police

Significant (S60C 2022 act)

- Statutory Guidance - police decision as to whether significant
- Threshold for significant will be outlined in statutory guidance
- Neither law nor guidance provide definition of significant
- Dictionary - “large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed.”

Highways

- A direction under S61 can be issued now on land that forms a highway but only whereby certain conditions are met
- Suggests that residing on a highway will now fall into scope for S61.
- How might we identify the 'landowner'?

What's the key changes then?

- S60c 2022 will be for more serious incidents
- S61 adds damage, disruption or distress and no longer needs to be “significant”
- Police can now make the request to leave S60c
- Highways now covered under S61

Anticipated policing issues

- Policing response will always be proportionate and consider public sector equality duty
- Likely increase in number of S61 evictions due to lower threshold
- There remain no transit sites within Essex to direct people to move on to
- Managing expectations around what practically these changes will mean
- Managing welfare provisions if arrest becomes necessary – children, vulnerable people.

Anticipated partner issues

- Managing public expectations around what practically these changes will mean
- Informing key stakeholders, partners and communities
- Shared understanding of the legislation and practical applications of eviction

Next Steps

- Essex Police reviewing and amending policy and guidance
- All trespass without consent will be overseen by the Rural Engagement Team (Consistency)
- We await final NPCC guidance
- Essex Police chief officers to agree our policing position.
- Partners asked to identify any issues for follow up meeting
- Partners asked to consider appropriate briefings within their organisation and local partners e.g councillors, parishes etc

Questions?



Essex County Wide Traveller Unit Operations Board 27th May 2022

Report by Donna Norman, Assistant Accountant

Finance Report for the Essex County Wide Traveller Unit

**Enquiries to Donna Norman,
ECC Finance Assistant Accountant
Tel: 03330 131902**

Purpose	
1.	To receive the 2021/22 financial position.
2.	To receive the budget for 2022/23 and to note the proposed budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
3.	To note the 2022/23 Membership Fees.
4.	To note the Balance Sheet Reserves.

1. 2021/22 Final Outturn Position as at 31st March 2022

	2021/22 Budget	Actuals to 31st March 2022	Outturn	Variance
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
Employees	£297,547	£275,833	£275,834	(£21,713)
Premises	£0	£98	£98	£98
Supplies & Services	£70,000	£26,120	£26,120	(£43,880)
Transport & Mileage	£19,000	£14,643	£14,643	(£4,357)
Third Party Payments	£0	(£63,911)	(£63,911)	(£63,911)
Transfer Payments	£0	£87	£87	£87
Legal	£15,000	£23,167	£23,167	£8,167
Gross Expenditure	£401,547	£276,037	£276,038	(£125,509)
<u>Income:</u>				
Partner Contributions (inc ECC)	(£401,547)	(£412,750)	(£412,750)	(£11,203)
Gross Income	(£401,547)	(£412,750)	(£412,750)	(£11,203)
Forecast Surplus	£0	(£136,712)	(£136,712)	(£136,712)

The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit 2021/22 outturn position is a net surplus position of (£136,712).

To Note:

1. Essex County Councils contribution to the ECTU for 2021/22 is £306,145 across internal partners.
2. This position confirms that both legal fees and bailiff costs (budgeted under Supplies & Services) continue to be managed within the budget allocated.
3. The year-end under spend position has increased the reserve from a surplus position at the closure of the 2020/21 accounts of £185,268 to a surplus of £321,980 at the close of the 2021/22.

2. Budget/Actuals for 2021/22 and agreed Budget for future years

	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Budget	Actuals	Draft Proposed Budget	Draft Proposed Budget
Expenditure:				
Employees	£297,547	£275,833	£307,217	£317,202
Supplies & Services	£70,000	£26,219	£58,936	£47,713
Legal	£15,000	£23,167	£15,615	£16,162
Transport & Mileage	£19,000	£14,643	£19,779	£20,471
Third Party Payments		(£63,824)		
Gross Expenditure	£401,547	£276,037	£401,547	£401,547
Income:				
Partner Contributions	(£401,547)	(£412,750)	(£401,547)	(£401,547)
Gross Income	(£401,547)	(£412,750)	(£401,547)	(£401,547)
Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit	£0	(£136,712)	£0	£0

The 2022/23 agreed budget assumes the following:

- No increases to membership fees.
- 3.25% increase for Employee budgets (2% Staffing and 1.25% NI Uplift)
- 4.1% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets
- Supplies & Services budgets have then been reduced to show an overall net-nil budget.
- 2023/24 budgets (excluding membership contributions) have all been increased by the RPI figure which is currently 3.5% as per the latest information available.

* Future year budgets are subject to change following proposal and discussions at a later date.

3. To note 2022/23 Membership Fees

Organisation	2022/23 Fee (Approved at the November 2021 Joint Committee meeting)	% Contribution per member
Essex County Council:		
ECC - Gypsy & Traveller	£221,268	54.02%
ECC - Highways	£8,312	2.03%
Public Health	£59,941	14.63%
Essex Property & Facilities	£8,312	2.03%
Country Parks	£8,312	2.03%
Total ECC	£306,145	74.75%
Essex Fire and Rescue		
	£12,000	2.93%
Districts / Boroughs & Unitary:		
Uttlesford District Council	£8,312	2.03%
Thurrock Council	£8,312	2.03%
Rochford District Council	£8,312	2.03%
Maldon District Council	£8,312	2.03%
Colchester Borough Council	£8,312	2.03%
Tendring District Council	£8,312	2.03%
Basildon Borough Council	£8,312	2.03%
Castlepoint Borough Council	£8,312	2.03%
Braintree District Council	£8,312	2.03%
Brentwood Borough Council	£8,312	2.03%
Chelmsford City Council	£8,312	2.03%
Total Districts/Boroughs/Unitary	£91,432	22.32%
Total Subscriptions	£409,577	100%

4. Balance Sheet – Reserves

Balance Sheet: General Balance	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Opening Balance (Surplus)	(£66,798)	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£321,980)	(£337,595)
Current Year Net Expenditure (Surplus)	£93,260	(£51,389)	(£53,428)	(£64,748)	(£42,166)	(£136,712)	(£15,615)	(£16,161)
Closing Balance (Surplus) / Deficit	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£321,980)	(£337,595)	(£353,756)