

## Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document


**Report No: SSC/09/09**

Contact Graham Redgwell

01245 430360

grahamr@essex.gov.uk

<b>Committee</b>	Safer and Stronger Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Topic</b>	Essex Heritage	Ref: SSC-SCR-12 File E.41.01/8/14
<b>Objective</b>	To suggest means to the Cabinet whereby the Essex Quality of Life vision, as exemplified in the historic environment, can be better met, with due regard to effectiveness and economy.	
<b>Reasons for undertaking review</b>	Concern at a lack of consistency in heritage conservation work across the county, leading to more buildings being put on the At Risk Register and potentially leading to a loss of buildings and ancient monuments and a lowering of standards in conservation areas.  Government initiative to make the most of the nation's historic assets.	
<b>Topic suggested by</b>	Councillor Chris Pond (Deputy Chairman)	
<b>Method</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial briefing to define scope</li> <li>• Task &amp; Finish Group</li> <li>• Commission</li> <li>• Full Committee</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes
<b>Membership</b> <i>Only complete if Task and Finish Group or Commission</i>	N/A	
<b>Issues to be addressed</b>	<p>What is the current split of responsibilities between the County Council, district councils and other organisations? How do other organisations become involved and which ones have any statutory status?</p> <p>What relationships exist with national and local amenity and historical societies, and with English Heritage?</p> <p>How does the split of responsibilities affect the standard of conservation</p>	

	<p>work? What can be done to improve the position?</p> <p>Are there examples of particularly good or poor practice within Essex and what can be done to raise the standard in poorer performing areas?</p> <p>What criteria are used in deciding upon setting up new conservation areas?</p> <p>What action is the County Council in particular taking to safeguard buildings and ancient monuments in its ownership?</p> <p>Is the County Council's heritage team adequately staffed to carry out the workload falling upon it?</p>
 <p><b>Sources of Evidence and witnesses</b></p>	<p>Cabinet Member (Councillor Jeremy Lucas) and County Council staff. ECC Heritage, Culture and Arts Directorate Plan. District Councils in Essex. Historical associations. Public. English Heritage document "Making the most of our local heritage".</p> <p>To include visits to areas and establishments of concern.</p>
<b>Work Programme</b>	Commence in Winter 2009/10 but not until scrutinies on street lighting and road safety have been completed.
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<p>Consistent and robust conservation policy followed throughout the county.</p> <p>Number of Essex appearances on the At Risk Register is minimised.</p>
<p><b>Meeting the CfPS Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i></li> <li>• <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i></li> <li>• <i>Own the scrutiny process</i></li> <li>• <i>Impact on service delivery</i></li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
<b>Date agreed by Committee</b>	July 2009
<b>Future Action</b>	

<b>Governance Officer</b>	Graham Redgwell	<b>Committee Officer</b>	Janet Mills
<b>Service Lead Officer(s)</b>	Barry Shaw, Head of Built Environment		