

# Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Thursday, 28 May 2015</b>	<b>Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex</b>
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## **Quorum: 5**

Councillor S Walsh  
Councillor K Bobbin  
Councillor G Butland  
Councillor T Cutmore  
Councillor A Erskine  
Councillor C Guglielmi  
Councillor D Harris  
Councillor T Hedley  
Councillor I Henderson  
Councillor D Kendall  
Councillor V Metcalfe  
Councillor C Pond  
Councillor S Robinson  
Councillor K Twitchen  
Councillor A Wood

Chairman

## **For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer

Lisa Siggins Committee Officer

**Telephone:** 033301 34594

**Email:** [lisa.siggins@essex.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.siggins@essex.gov.uk)

**[www.essex.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.essex.gov.uk/scrutiny)**



**Essex County Council**

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Please note that an audio recording may be made of the meeting – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded.

## **Part 1**

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

		<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Membership</b> To note the membership of the Committee, as listed on the front page of this agenda.  Councillor Simon Walsh was appointed Chairman of the Committee at Full Council in May 2015.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies and Substitution Notices</b> The Committee Officer to report receipt (if any)	
<b>3</b>	<b>Appointment of Vice-Chairmen</b> To appoint two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes</b> To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2015.	<b>5 - 8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct	
<b>6</b>	<b>Questions from the Public</b> 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 Committee Officer.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Local Highways Panels</b> To consider report PSEG/08/15 and accompanying appendix (comprising of a briefing paper), concerning the Local Highways Panel. At the meeting Andy Turner, Head of Project Delivery (Highways) will give a presentation to the Committee.	<b>9 - 26</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Call In Colchester</b> To note Report PSEG/09/15 setting out details about the recent call in that was subsequently withdrawn.	<b>27 - 30</b>

- 9 Work Programme** **31 - 32**  
To receive Report PSEG/10/15 concerning an update on the progress of planned Committee activity and work being undertaken to develop the programme going forward.
- Oral updates will be given at the meeting on ongoing work being undertaken by the Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management; and Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Groups
- 10 Date of Next Meeting**  
To note that the next Committee activity day is scheduled for Thursday 25 June 2015.
- 11 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)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- 12 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.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLACE SERVICES & ECONOMIC GROWTH  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON 26  
MARCH 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor S Walsh (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor V Metcalfe
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor C Pond
Councillor Guglielmi	Councillor S Robinson
Councillor D Harris	Councillor K Twitchen
Councillor T Hedley	Councillor A Wood
Councillor I Henderson	

**1. Apologies and Substitution Notices**

Apologies were received from Councillor Butland.

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

With reference to Minute 5 Councillor Walsh declared a personal interest in that he is a trustee of a Stansted Airport Community Trust.

With reference to Minute 6 Councillor Hedley declared a personal interest in that he is Chairman of the Essex Fire Authority.

With reference to Minute 9, Councillor Kendall declared a personal interest in the Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy in that he is Secretary of the Brentwood Bus and Rail Users Association, and a Trustee of Brentwood Community Transport in his capacity as a Brentwood Borough Councillor.

**4 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions raised by members of the public

**5. Stansted Airport**

The Committee considered report PSEG/01/15 concerning a recent visit to Stansted Airport, the publication of the Airport's Sustainable Development Plan (SDP), and an overview of the County Council's own strategic Aviation Policy.

On 26 February 2015 the Committee's activity day comprised a visit to Stansted Airport including a tour of the Airport Terminal and a presentation on the Operator's SDP. Councillors Dave Harris, Valerie Metcalfe, Chris Pond, Kay Twitchen, and Simon Walsh attended on the day.

At the Committee meeting Dominic Collins, Head of Commissioning Growing Essex Future Development; and Zhanine Oates, Principal Spatial Planner, provided an overview of the County Council's work around Essex Airports, and the Stansted Airport SDP by way of a PowerPoint presentation and answering Members' questions. The presentation covered the following key areas, which are summarised in report PSEG/01/15:

- Davies Commission – Independent Airports Commission
- Essex County Council's (ECC) Long Term Strategic Aviation View
- Partnership Working
- Stansted SDP

During discussion it was pointed out that the Airports Surface Access Study, currently being undertaken by ECC for both Stansted and Southend Airports, may be referred to the Committee for its comments in due course. Furthermore consideration will be given to the inclusion of a future visit to Southend Airport in the Committee's work programme.

The Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Committee to those Officers who attended the meeting and for their part in organising the highly informative visit to Stansted Airport. He further wished to put on formal record the Committee's appreciation to those Airport staff involved in the said visit.

## **6. Third Party Responsibilities & Flood Management**

The Committee considered report PSEG/02/15 concerning the progress of the Task and Finish Group undertaking this scrutiny investigation, and confirmation that once it has completed gathering evidence then its findings and conclusions will be set out in a scrutiny report for the Committee's consideration. In addition arrangements had been made for the full Committee itself to consider the roles of home and landowners in the mitigation of flooding.

Lee Sencier Watercourse Regulation Engineer ECC, supported by Natasha Taylor Essex Legal Services, provided the Committee with a briefing by way of a PowerPoint presentation on home and land owner responsibilities around flood mitigation. They explained the legislative background of the Land Drainage Act 1991 and how the Flood and Water Management Team is developing the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

During the course of the presentation Members asked various questions, which were answered by those Officers present.

Information obtained at this meeting would be incorporated in the final scrutiny report, which will be produced by the Task and Finish Group in due course.

## **7. Jobs, Welfare and Skills TFG Progress**

The Committee noted report PSEG/03/15 on the progress of this scrutiny investigation review.

At the meeting the Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Group comprising Councillors Walsh, Kendall and Henderson, shared with the Committee their observations so far and referred to the key lines of enquiry involved:

- The Careers Service
- Skills Funding
- Welfare to Work Programme

The Group has met various contributors including:

- National Work Programme providers
- Job Centre Plus – two sites
- Harwich Skills Centre
- Teen Talk, Harwich
- Employment and Skills Board

The Group emphasised that this is a very worthwhile area to investigate and wished to acknowledge the support provided by the Officers involved.

## **8. Work Programme**

The Committee considered report PSEG/04/15 by the Scrutiny Officer updating Members on the work programme.

During discussion a number of matters were raised:

- Highways Maintenance – Councillor Kendall advised that a briefing for Members, including criteria guidance, would be provided by way of seminars in June.
- Parking Partnerships – It was suggested that it would be useful if a detailed briefing could be provided for the Committee prior to consideration of the outcomes of the Cabinet Member's review.
- Part Night Lighting – With reference to the Committee's Scrutiny Report on Part Night Lighting and in particular recommendation 6 (Minute 9/October 2014 refers), it was agreed that an update be sought from the Cabinet Member on his consideration of devolving the ability to vary part night lighting where there have been local requests for a variation to the existing scheme, including suggestions that others would cover the cost of the extra energy
- Pavement Parking – Councillor Pond raised this as a potential item to be included in the Work Programme

**9. Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy**

The Committee noted report PSEG/05/15 setting out the response of the Cabinet Member to its scrutiny report on the proposed Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy , together with an update on the ongoing Consultation.

**10. Country Parks Car Parking Charges**

The Committee noted report PSEG/06/15 concerning the Cabinet Member's update on the outcome of the consultation on proposed changes to country park car parking charges.

**11. Call In Of Speed Limit at Rivenhall**

The Committee noted report PSEG/07/15 setting out the details of the Call In relating to a speed limit on the approach to St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall, which was subsequently withdrawn following an informal meeting with the Cabinet Member.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed that the next activity day scheduled for 23 April 2015 be cancelled. The next scheduled committee activity day would be on 28 May 2015.

**13. Urgent Business**

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12:45 pm

Chairman



		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/ 08/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	28 May 2015	
LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANELS		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

Last year when the Committee agreed its work programme it was envisaged that a review of the Local Highways Panels (LHPs) would be initiated this Spring so that it could draw upon the three years of experience since the LHPs were first established. Also a review would be able to reflect upon changes that were in the process of being made at that time.

The LHP framework was introduced in 2012 and has evolved in response to experience. Each district has its own individual LHP, and a variety of local practice has arisen. The Committee will provide a means to review what may or may not have worked well and what changes have been made to address any problems, compare their operation as well as address any criticisms, in order to identify good practice.

It is proposed that the overall terms of reference could be 'to consider if the Local Highways Panels have achieved their original objectives, and what lessons have been learned by individual Panels so that good practice may be shared across the Panels'.

As a first step in the planning of the review a briefing has been arranged for today's Committee meeting to provide a strategic overview of the LHPs, and the following questions have been forwarded to today's contributors to shape the content of the briefing:

1. What were the original objectives behind the LHPs?
2. What are the current role and responsibilities of the LHPs?
3. How have they been set up including their governance arrangements?
4. How is the work of the LHPs managed by the Highways Authority?
5. What lessons have been learned from operational experience, and what changes have been made since the LHPs were set up?

6. How has funding been allocated to the LHPs?
7. In summary what is the range of approaches taken by individual districts and lessons learned countywide?\*

Andy Turner, Head of Project Delivery (Highways), has been invited to give a presentation to the Committee today, and he has provided a briefing paper by way of background that is attached at the Appendix.

In June the Committee will consider its work programme moving forward until 2017. If it is agreed to proceed with a more in depth scrutiny review of the LHPs as set out in the above terms of reference then it will be necessary to consider a common framework of appropriate questions to be posed to the twelve individual LHPs.

**Action required by the Committee:**

**The Committee is invited to consider the information exchanged during the briefing, and whether or not in due course an in depth review be conducted on the twelve LHPs in order to identify and share good practice.**

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# Scrutiny – LHP Briefing Note

Highways/Project Delivery Team

May 2015



## Document Control Sheet

Document prepared by:

Andy Turner  
Head of Project Delivery

Highways  
County Hall A2 Annexe  
Chelmsford  
Essex. CM1 1QH

**T**  
**E**  
**W**

0845 603 7631  
andy.turner@essexhighways.org  
www.essex.gov.uk/highways

<b>Report Title</b>	Local Highways Panel – Briefing Note
<b>Project Number</b>	N/A
<b>Status</b>	Draft
<b>Revision</b>	-
<b>Control Date</b>	01/05/15

## Record of Issue

Issue	Status	Author	Date	Check	Date	Authorised	Date
1	Draft	AT	May	AT	May	AT	May

## Distribution

Organisation	Contact	Number of Copies

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Annex A: LHP Future Strategy ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

# 1 Local Highways Panel (LHP)

## 1.1 Budget Allocation

The LHP is operated in accordance with the Terms of Reference and Members Guide.

An extract from the document is shown below to set out the scope:

*This document is intended as guidance for Members on the general principles governing Local Highway Panels, the terms of reference, budgets and the delivery of schemes.*

*The guide contains a number of Topic Papers which are intended to be informative and to aid LHP Members in prioritising and recommending schemes to the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation for approval. The Topic Papers are not definitive but provide general guidance on the types of measures that the LHPs will typically be required to consider when prioritising schemes for recommendation.*

*Officers will endeavour to provide detailed reports and data to support proposals that are put forward for the LHPs for consideration.*

*In setting priorities for local scheme selection, Members will need to have due regard to the responsibilities of the Council. These will include, amongst other things: its statutory duties, standing orders and financial regulations.*

*The scope of works that can be prioritised by the Panel is broad and will include the following service areas:*

- *Traffic Management improvements*
- *Tackling congestion*
- *Safer Roads (including casualty reduction)*
- *Public Rights of Way improvements*
- *Cycling schemes*
- *Passenger Transport improvements*
- *Minor improvement schemes e.g. new signing provision*
- *School crossing patrol infrastructure improvement schemes*

*Excluded from LHPs scope:*

- *Tree planting*
- *Shrubs and border planting*
- *Maintenance work*
- *Any schemes covered by the Parking Partnerships*

The following is a further extract which explains the budget split per district:

*The overall budget for LHPs is approved and allocated to the Panel as part of ECC's budget procedure. The budget allocations have been made on an equitable basis and therefore each Borough/City/District does not receive an equal amount. A formula has been used to divide the funding in such a way that it takes account of a number of influences including road length, population and road type. The table shows the current allocations:*

Table 1 Local Highways Panel Budget Allocation

**Capital budget allocation to the Highways Panel – 2015/16**

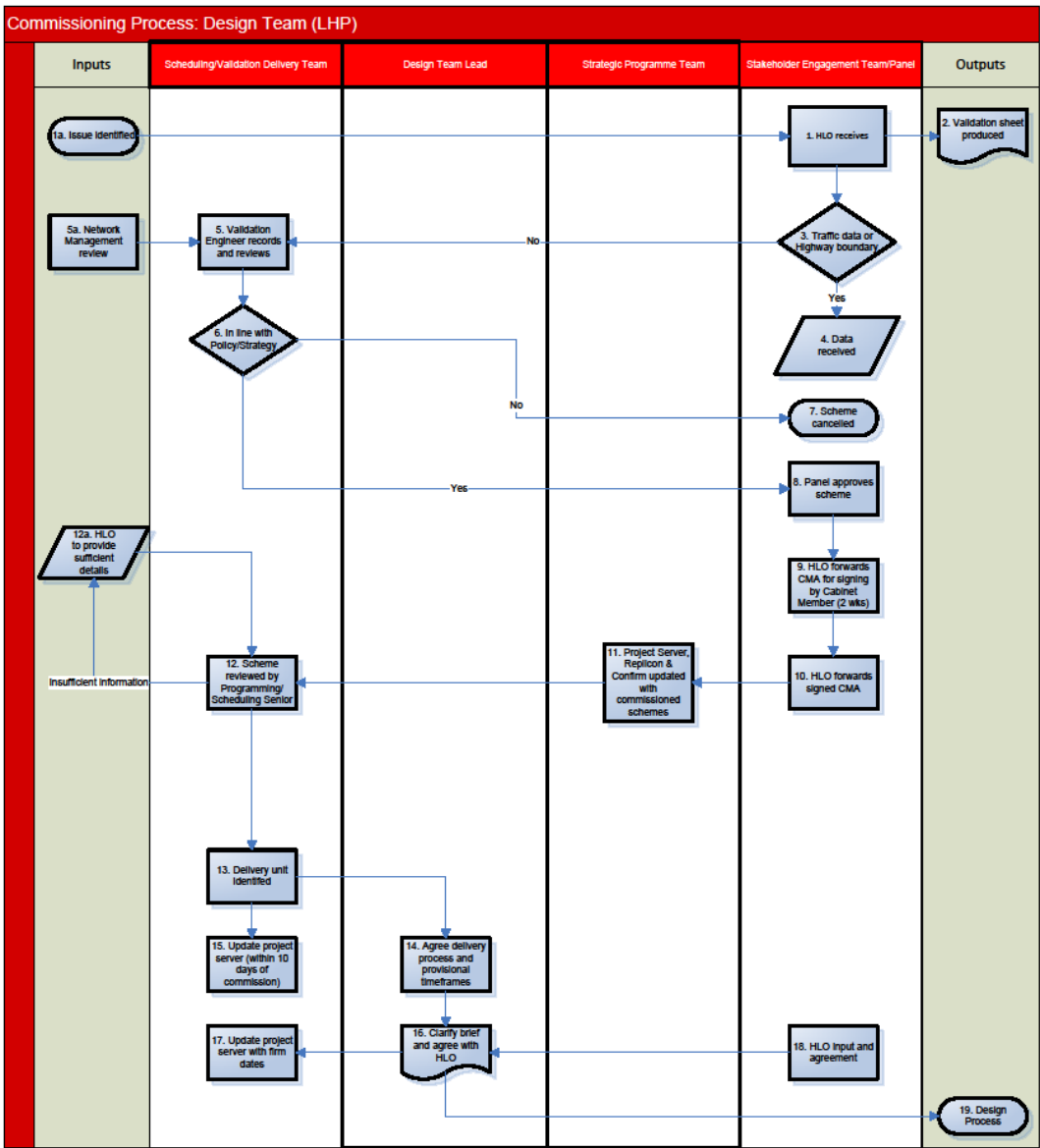
<b>LHP</b>	<b>Percentage split (%)</b>	<b>Allocation per district (£)</b>
Basildon	12.50%	£ 1,000,000
Braintree	10.19%	£ 815,578
Brentwood	5.62%	£ 449,876
Castle Point	5.72%	£ 457,351
Chelmsford	12.50%	£ 1,000,000
Colchester	12.50%	£ 1,000,000
Epping Forest	8.74%	£ 699,550
Harlow	6.09%	£ 487,315
Maldon	5.00%	£ 400,000
Rochford	5.35%	£ 427,808
Tendring	9.88%	£ 790,481
Uttlesford	5.90%	£ 472,041
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£ 8,000,000</b>

There are revenue budget allocations to fund the Highway Rangers and also to undertake surveys required to validate whether schemes identified fall within ECC policy.

## 1.2 Scheme Identification

The schemes delivered through the LHP are identified to address a certain need/issue. These issues are formed into commissions which go through a formal process to identify the proposed solution as shown in figure 1.

Figure 1: Commissioning Process





If a proposed scheme does not meet ECC policy the Panel will be advised. They have the option to request for the HLO to take the scheme to the Cabinet Member through a Cabinet Member Action (CMA) whereby he will have the final decision on whether to proceed with the scheme against policy.

### **1.3 Panel Decisions**

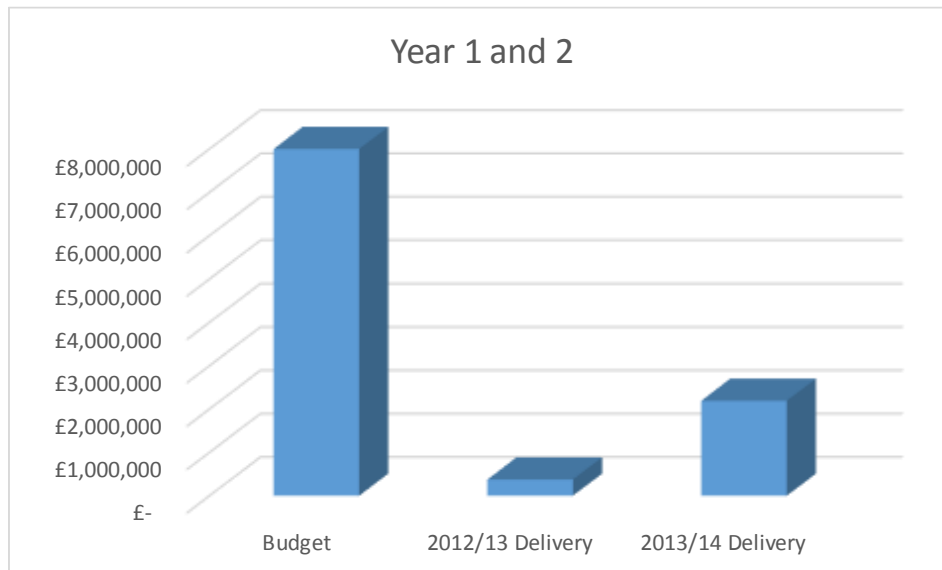
The Panel meetings are held on a quarterly basis. Therefore, due to the meeting cycle, a scheme can be identified in meeting one and may not be commissioned until meeting 3 or 4.

## 2 Years 1 and 2

### 2.1 Delivery

The LHP budget was not delivered in Year 1 and Year 3 with significant underspends reported which attracted significant reputational damage and lack of trust in the Service. This is shown in Figure 1 below.

*Figure 1: Year 1 and 2 Delivery against Budget*



There were a number of root causes for the failure to deliver which required addressing, a summary of which as shown below:

- Lack of process for end to end delivery of schemes
- Panels' being established and learning the commissioning process
- Late commissioning of schemes
- Highways Liaison Officers operating outside of Essex Highways
- Blame culture embedded into internal teams
- Panels working outside of the terms of reference
- Political influence
- Constant fire fighting
- Lack of transparency
- Lack of management information
- Lack of control/internal governance
- Elongated governance adding significant delay to scheme delivery
- Lack of accountability
- Lack of a 'just' culture
- Lack of support/direction for the team

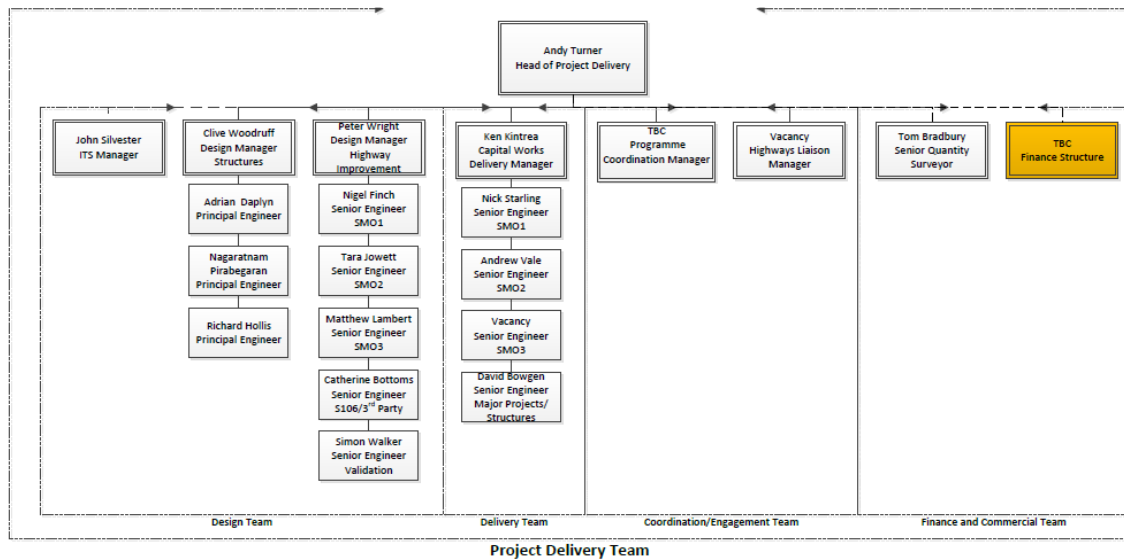
## 3 Year 3

### 3.1 Change to achieve Service Improvements

To address the challenge, a new department within Essex Highways was formed in Year 3 called the Project Delivery Team which was intended to realise improvements across the whole Capital programme delivered by Essex Highways.

The department is an integrated model cradle to grave responsibility for LHP delivery including the transfer of the Highway Liaison Officers (HLO's) into Essex Highways.

Figure 1 – Project Delivery Team Management Structure



There has been a shift change in approach to the accountability/responsibility and members of the team have clear accountability and given empowerment to make the necessary decisions/actions to remove blockers and proceed. In the past, issues became immovable obstacles which had not been escalated/communicated to the Panels effectively which caused further angst.

### 3.2 Shift Change

The Year 3 (2014/15) Programme was an opportunity to change the approach to the LHP, through the newly integrated team. A paper was presented to the Cabinet Member to further present to the Panel Chairs'. The paper (Annex A) was set out to demonstrate that there were issues with a number of schemes which needed to be understood in order to either deliver, or advise the Panels that they are not deliverable with adequate justification.

The paper was broadly accepted and a commitment was given to the Cabinet Member in June 2014 setting out a total value of £6.9m broken down by District against the allocated budget. This commitment was given against individual schemes in each

district and monitored over the course of the year reported directly to the Cabinet Member.

*Figure 2 – Essex Highways Commitment for Year 3 LHP*

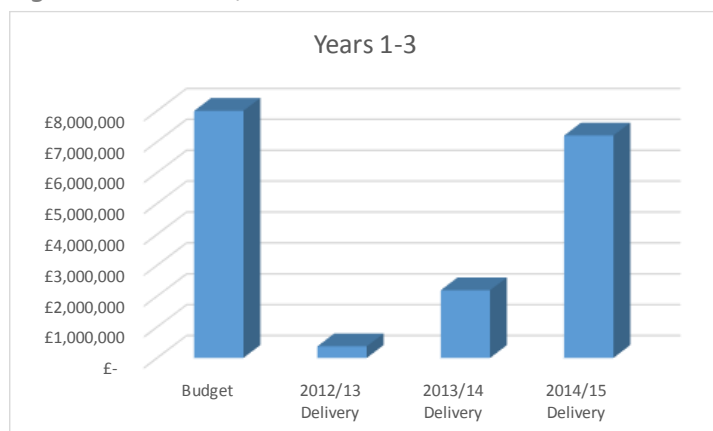
District	Budget	14/15 June Commitment
Basildon	£1,150,742	£985,378
Braintree	£840,037	£764,502
Brentwood	£559,807	£327,760
Castle Point	£528,599	£464,125
Chelmsford	£716,717	£791,164
Colchester	£1,203,623	£836,086
Epping	£760,528	£483,351
Harlow	£586,910	£554,681
Maldon	£385,356	£476,270
Rochford	£523,699	£362,900
Tendring	£815,519	£343,800
Uttlesford	£552,114	£490,500
	<b>£8,623,651</b>	<b>£6,880,517</b>

### 3.3 Outturn

The finance reports at the end of Year 3 has demonstrated that the team has delivered well against the original target. There have been certain schemes which have not been delivered due to various issues, most notably Steam Mill Road in Tendring which suffered land acquisition issues which remain in the hands of legal.

The delivery in Year 3 provides a real foundation to build on towards the full delivery of the £8m LHP budget in Year 4.

*Figure 3 – Years 1,2 and 3*



## **4 Summary**

The delivery of the LHP has been difficult over the first two years of the Contract. There has been significant progress made in Year 3 with further improvement opportunities to implement.

Year 3 was ultimately aimed at delivering more schemes/budget. Year 4 is set to continue in the same vein but with emphasis on streamlining processes, realising consistency across the 3 Service Management Offices across the County and realise efficiencies.

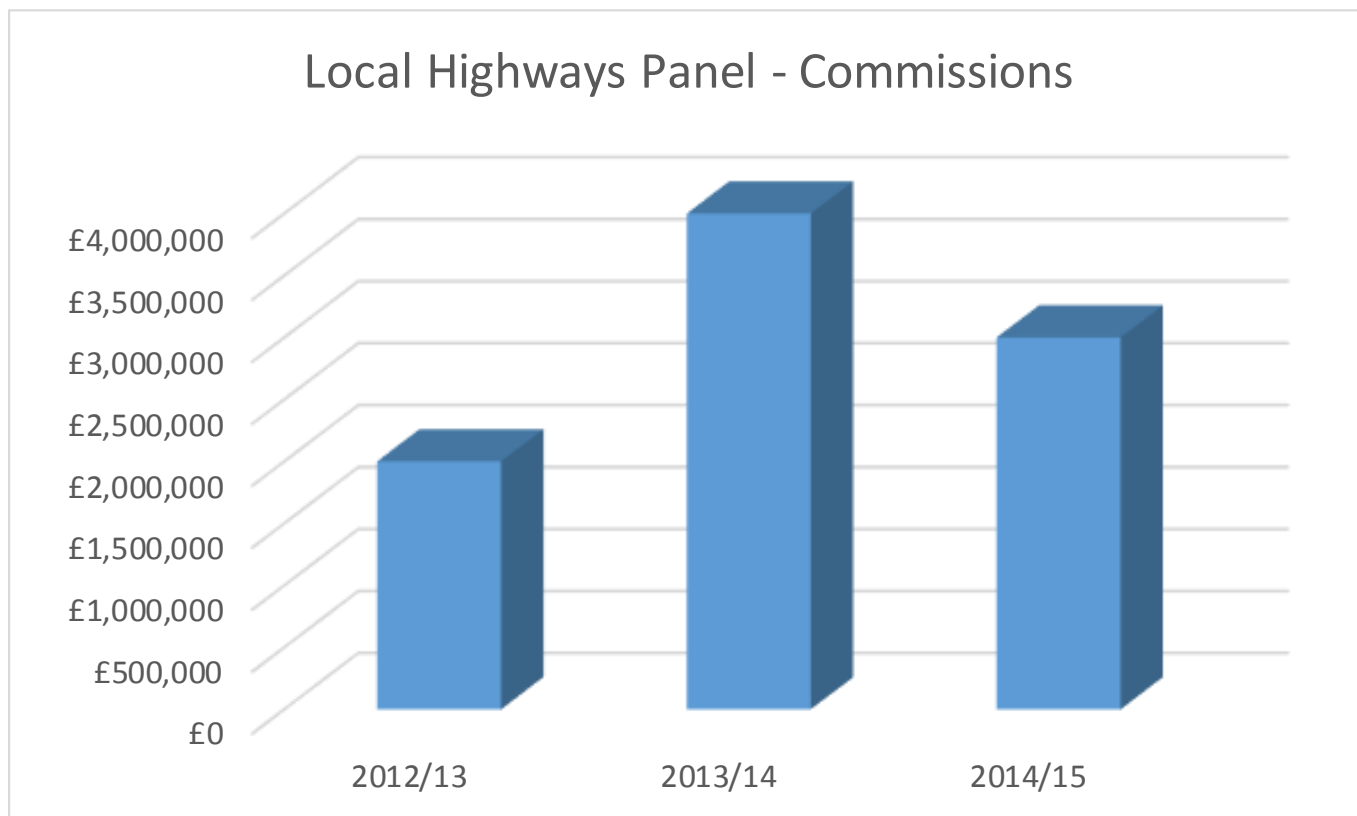
# Annex A

## Local Highways Panel Budget – Introduction and Proposal Meeting with Panel Chair's

### Current position:

The Local Highways Panel (LHP) budget has underspent in the two previous financial years. The cause for the under delivery is varied and across the organisation.

There is currently circa £9m of allocation across the County through the LHP with a number of historic schemes from previous financial years.



Demonstration of current allocation of LHP commissioned schemes

There are various types of works which are designed and delivered through the LHP. There are schemes which can be designed and delivered on the ground relatively quickly dictated only by the frequency of LHP meetings and subsequent sign off at the Commissioning Board. Other, more complex works require a two year cycle (year 1 design and year 2 delivery) to provide real assurance/confidence in delivering the budget to time and appropriate quality.

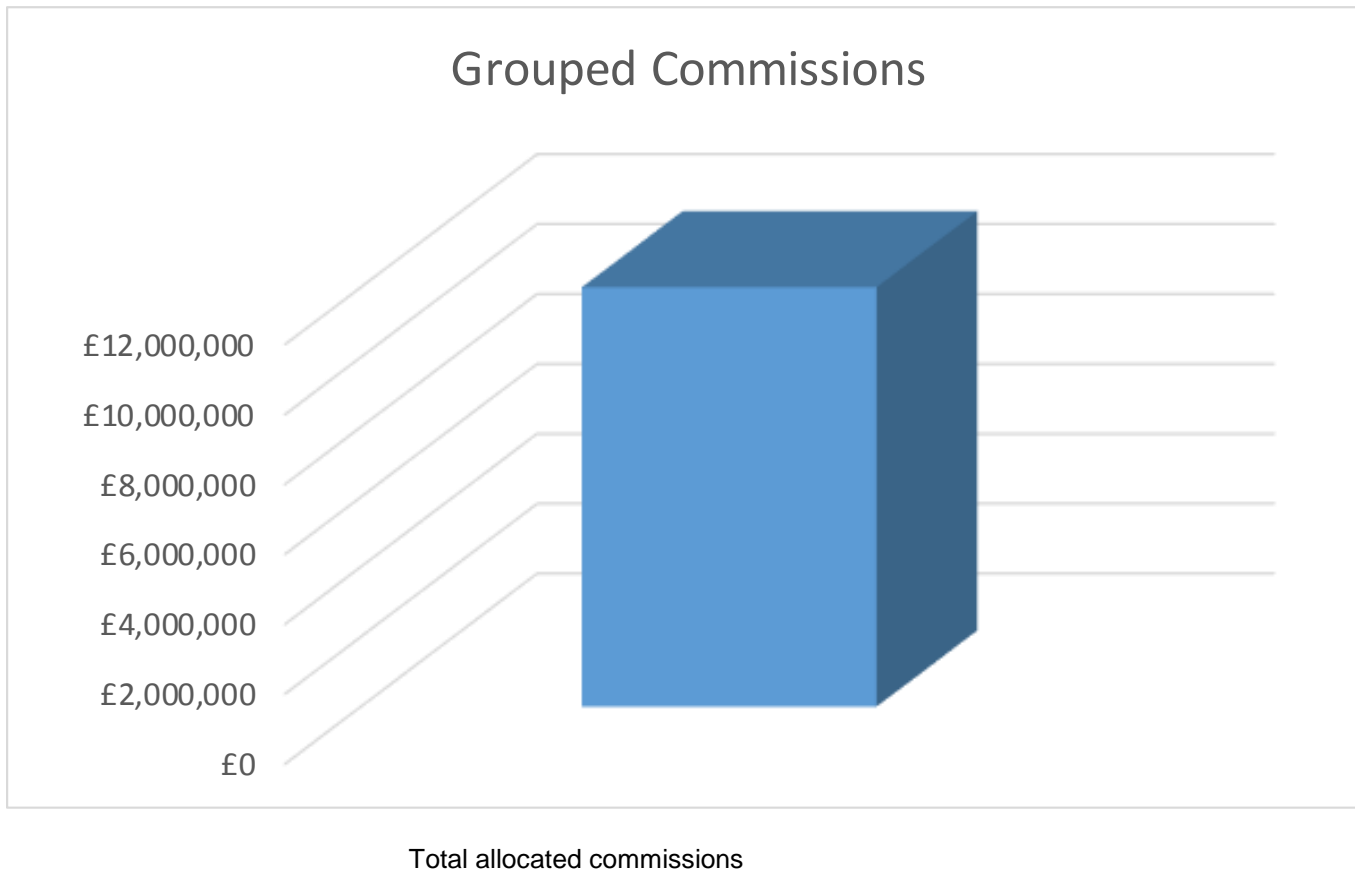
#### **2014/15 and beyond:**

The LHP delivery will be through the newly formed Project Delivery Team. The team is being set up to work in a completely integrated way to improve programme visibility and robustness. The Highways Liaison Officers (HLO) have been transferred to Essex Highways and have joined the team and recruitment for a Highways Liaison Manager is underway to improve consistency and provide the HLO's with the necessary support.

The current total allocation of LHP schemes is higher than the budget for 2014/15. There has been a push for panels to fully allocate/commission schemes to their total budget for 2014/15 to create a bank of work to be positioned to commence a 12 month rolling cycle.

#### **Proposal:**

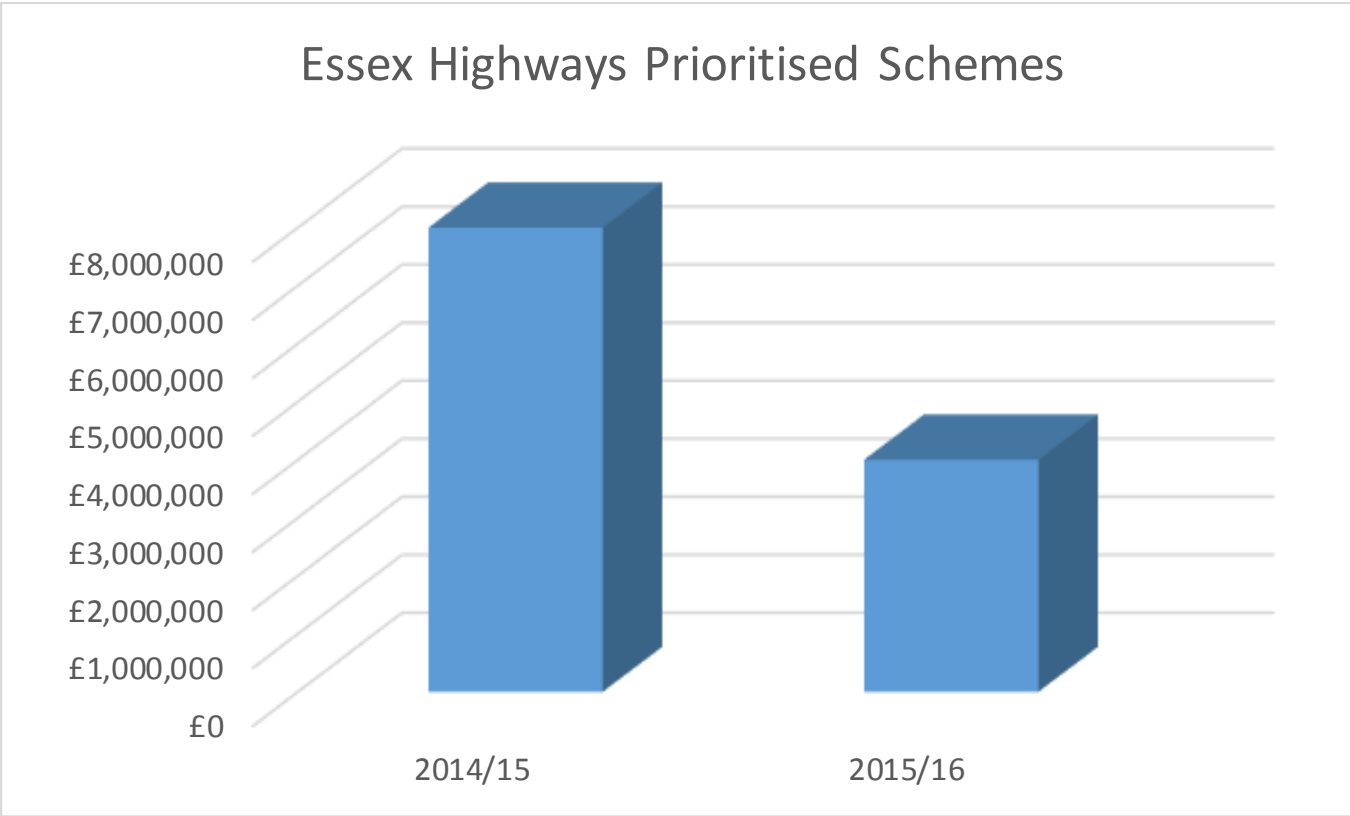
To treat the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 scheme list as one, 2014/15 and 2015/16 programme on a rolling 12 month programme.



The team are currently reviewing the total bank of work and identifying the deliverable schemes for 2014/15 to fit with the £8m budget which includes overhead, fee and Essex County Council pro-rata. The remaining schemes will be designed in 2014/15 for delivery in 2015/16. This approach is being taken to increase the confidence of delivering the total LHP budget and avoid an underspend scenario experienced previously.

This list will be presented to Councillor Bass for sign off for the 2014/15 programme and form the annual plan. This will put us in a position to map out £4m of schemes for 2015/16 accurately and add to this programme as more schemes are commissioned.





Scheme Lists to be prepared to match budgets

This will mean that certain schemes commissioned for 2014/15 will not be delivered until 2015/16 and we are seeking support from the panels in this approach. A fundamental shift in approach is required to minimise risk of delivery and improve the reputation of the LHP budget for all parties. We recognise that the Panels will have some priorities and we will work with them to identify these and accelerate where possible but respectfully request that these are kept to a minimum.

**Andy Turner, Head of Project Delivery**



		<b>AGENDA ITEM 8</b>
		<b>PSEG/09/15</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>28 May 2015</b>	
<b>CALL IN OF DECISION FP/081/04/15: COLCHESTER TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS</b>		
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer</b> 01245 430450 <b>Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk</b>	

On 13 April 2015 Councillor Stephen Robinson called in decision FP/081/04/15: Colchester Town Centre Traffic Regulation Orders and in particular the making of traffic regulation orders including the introduction and revocation of various waiting and loading restrictions, dedicated disabled parking bays, and no stopping restrictions except for buses in Queen Street, Head Street and High Street, Colchester. A copy of the decision is published on the [Council's website](#)

In line with the procedure for handling the call in of a decision, an informal meeting was held on 22 April. A formal note of that meeting together with a copy of the Notification of Call-In form is attached at the Appendix.

At the informal meeting Councillor Robinson agreed to withdraw his Call In on the basis of the explanation given by the Cabinet Member.

**Action required by the Committee:**

**The Committee is invited to note the action taken in this matter.**

**Appendix**  
**Note of Informal meeting held on 22 April 2015 regarding the Call In of**  
**decision reference FP/081/04/15: Colchester Town Centre Traffic**  
**Regulation Orders**

In attendance:

Councillor Stephen Robinson (Councillor responsible for calling the decision in)  
Councillor Theresa Higgins (Councillor on whose behalf decision was called in)  
Councillor Simon Walsh, Chairman of Place Services and Economic Growth  
Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Rodney Bass, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Andrew Cook, Director for Operations: Environment & Economy  
Katrina Davies, Cabinet Advisor  
Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer  
Alex Polak, Scrutiny and Corporate Governance Officer

Councillor Walsh welcomed everyone to the informal meeting that had been set up as part of the County Council's Call In procedure for the consideration of proposed decision reference FP/081/04/15 namely the making of traffic regulation orders including the introduction and revocation of various waiting and loading restrictions, dedicated disabled parking bays, and no stopping restrictions except for buses in Queen Street, Head Street and High Street, Colchester. Details were set out in the report accompanying the decision.

Councillors Robinson and Higgins were then invited to explain the reasons for calling in the decision as set out in the Notification of Call In as attached at Appendix A to this note. Councillor Higgins expressed her concern at the loss of disabled facilities in the High Street and described how the proposed changes could affect individuals with disabilities. While she was aware that objections had been lodged to the proposals, she had not been able to trace published versions of those objections. When she had looked at the County Council's website Appendices A and B to the decision were missing. She acknowledged that pedestrian crossings were not set out as a part of the decision, but drew attention to local opposition to proposed changes.

In response Councillor Bass began by acknowledging that the Appendices A and B should have been published with the decision from the outset, and stressed that it had not been his intention to withhold information. Councillor Walsh confirmed that the Appendices had been subsequently published on 15 April.

Decision FP/081/04/15 was one of several individual highways decisions affecting Colchester town centre. It did not contain any proposals relating to pedestrian crossings, and therefore such proposals fell outside the purview of the call in.

Various traffic management measures were being proposed in Colchester town centre to support the new Park and Ride Service. With particular reference to the loss of disabled parking spaces in High Street, it was accepted that there would be a loss of seven disabled parking bays without the replacement of four new bays as envisaged originally. At the meeting Councillor Bass identified existing broader disabled parking provision within the vicinity of the town centre as well as seventeen new bays at the Park and Ride facility. There are no regulations that stipulate that there should be a given level of disabled parking spaces in a town centre. In practice it was not possible to sustain parking bays in High Street while work was being undertaken at a local departmental store, as well as address local loading and unloading needs.


Overall Councillor Bass confirmed that close attention was being given to the effects of the new Park and Ride Service in Colchester, and the new Northern Approach Road. The situation was being kept under close observation so that traffic management measures could be introduced and varied as appropriate to ensure their fine tuning in response to changing circumstances.

On the basis of the Cabinet Member's explanation of the decision in question Councillor Robinson, on behalf of Councillor Higgins, agreed to withdraw formally the call in of decision FP/081/04/15.

*Addendum: Following the meeting Councillor Bass engaged in discussion with Councillors Higgins and Robinson on the introduction of broader traffic measures in Colchester, and in particular those relating to pedestrian crossings.*

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## Appendix A - Notification of Call-in

<b>Decision title and reference number</b> FP/081/04/15 Colchester Town Centre Traffic Regulation Orders	
<b>Cabinet Member responsible</b> Councillor Rodney L Bass	<b>Date decision published</b> 02/04/2015
<b>Last day of call in period</b> 13/04/2015	<b>Last day of 10-day period to resolve the call-in</b>
<p>I am calling in the decision on Colchester Town Centre Traffic Regulation orders because:</p> <p>(1) The promised 4 replacement disabled spaces in the High Street have been dropped from the proposals.</p> <p>(2) The removal of pedestrian crossings will adversely affect people with mobility / sight problems. This has been highlighted by the Tourist Guide Association as well as the Access Group.</p> <p>(3) The TROs do not mention the pedestrian crossing opposite Cowdray Crescent.</p> <p>(4) Appendices 1 and 2 are not attached on the report circulated to members, on the version online or on TRO reports on the Essex Highways website and, therefore, the Equality Impact Assessment cannot be checked.</p>	
<b>Signed:</b>  Cllr Stephen Robinson	<b>Dated:</b> 13 April 2015
Called in on behalf of: Cllr Theresa Higgins	
<b>For completion by the Governance Officer</b>	
<b>Date call in Notice Received</b> 13 April 2015	<b>Date of informal meeting</b> 22 April 2015
<b>Date of Audit and General Scrutiny Committee Meeting (if applicable)</b>	<b>Date call in withdrawn / resolved</b> 22 April 2015

		AGENDA ITEM 9
		PSEG/10/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	28 May 2015	
WORK PROGRAMME (Minute 7/March 2015)		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of planned committee activity, and to provide an update on the development of the work programme going forward.

- **Current Task and Finish Group Activity**

Oral updates will be given at the meeting on ongoing work being undertaken by the Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Management; and Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Groups. It is intended that those Groups will submit scrutiny reports to the Committee in the summer.

- **Roll Forward of the Committee's Work Programme**

At the last meeting an outline was provided on work being undertaken to investigate topics for potential inclusion in the roll forward of the Committee's work programme, and consider how scrutiny resources may be allocated to maximum effect. An important aim of planning committee activity is to provide scrutiny councillors with a greater sense of purpose and an opportunity to influence what happens in Essex, and they will be engaged in that process so that consensus may be reached for managing the Committee's priorities. A draft work programme will be submitted to the Committee in June.

In the meantime the following matters are drawn to the Committee's attention:

Additional meeting

- **Highways Maintenance**

Members who took part in last year's site visit on potholes and highways maintenance, indicated that they would be interested in another site visit to learn more about the practical application of surface dressing and micro surfacing. Both these treatments are referred to in the Committee's scrutiny report that was published in November 2014. Officers have been liaising to identify a date for that visit and it is expected that arrangements will be finalised shortly.

- **Visit to the Waste Facility at Tovi Eco Park (formerly known as Courtauld Road), Basildon**

Arrangements are being made for the Committee to visit the waste facility on 23 July, which is a scheduled committee activity day. It will be a full day visit that will be focussed on a range of issues relating to the Waste Strategy including the Recycling Centres for Household Waste Service.

- **Ringway Jacobs Contract**

A seminar on the Ringway Jacobs Contract is being planned for 24 September. The seminar will be designed along the lines proposed last year when the topic was included in the Committee's work programme. Its purpose will be to develop a better understanding of the Contract, and its management and operation. In turn, it will assist the Committee planning any further reviews and contribute to Members' general highways knowledge. In the summer the Committee will be asked to input into the planning of the review.

- **Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy**

At the last meeting the Committee received an update from the Cabinet Member on the Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy: Getting Around Consultation. As part of the topic selection process the Strategy will be considered for inclusion in the work programme.

In the meantime the Project Team is progressing work on analysing responses to the Consultation, and the setting up of the Bus Strategy Commissioning Board. While details of the new Board are not yet available, there is an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to be represented on that Board. An update will be given at today's meeting.

- **Local Highways Panels**

There is a separate item elsewhere in this agenda regarding a briefing to be given on the Panels to this meeting.

**Action required by the Committee at this meeting:**

**To note the content of this report.**