

Everyone's Essex – Summary of Key Changes

At Full Council on 13 July 2021, we brought forward our draft Organisation Strategy “Everyone's Essex” prior to a further period of engagement and seeking adoption at Full Council in October. In the following 10 weeks we have engaged with partner organisations across the public, voluntary and private sector including district, borough and city councils, health and care organisations, our strategic suppliers; and our own staff. This has involved writing to partner organisations, individual meetings, open-briefing sessions, and attendance at a number of different committee and partnership meetings. Based on this engagement we have made a number of changes to the version of the plan that was presented in July, these are set out below:

1. **Formatting** – We have made the format consistent across all four strategic aims by making the Levelling-Up commitments the final commitment in each section.
2. **Adult Safeguarding** – Based on feedback from the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board we have updated commitment 12 “Promoting Independence” to include a reference to our statutory duties around adult safeguarding as follows: “we will work with key partners and the adult safeguarding board to help individuals to live free from abuse and neglect”.
3. **Young Carers** – We have updated commitment 13 “Carers” to include reference to “carers of all ages”. This follows questions from the Young Essex Assembly as to whether this commitment applied to young carers or just adults.
4. **Safety** - Based on feedback from the office of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) we have updated Commitment 18 “Safety” to provide an additional statement that covers the broad range of activities which we deliver around safety whilst also highlighting some current specific areas of focus. This is as follows: *“We will continue close working with our partners to help make our communities safer and address key issues such as violence and vulnerability, and safety for women and girls.”*
5. **Voluntary Sector Resilience** – We have updated the item on “Collaborating with partners” in the “Service Excellence” section to include the following: “continue to support the resilience of the voluntary sector as it recovers from the pandemic and adapts to new and emerging local needs”. This follows feedback from the Essex Community Foundation.
6. **Levelling-Up and Equalities** – We have included additional and amended principles for our work on Levelling-Up. This includes more explicit reference to involving partners and the process being a “shared endeavour” along with the following additional items:

- a) *It builds sustainable change – supporting aspiration, enterprise and opportunity among individuals, families and communities rather than creating dependency.*
- b) *It requires a diversity of approach – blending service delivery, strategic place shaping, local capacity building, devolution and using our convening power.*
- c) *It does not have a ceiling - nobody should be held back from opportunities to succeed in life.*

7. **Diverse Communities and Locations** – Comments from members of the Essex Rural Partnership as well as Essex County Council staff have noted the county’s diversity in terms of both the make up of our communities and our geographies. We have updated the “How we will deliver” section and the item “We are open-minded and diverse” to include the following *“We will reflect the diversity of the county with its mix of rural, urban and coastal locations, and recognise the needs of the different communities we represent.”*

8. **Community Spirit and Social Capital** – We have updated the “How we will deliver” section and the item “We empower communities, families and individuals” to include the following: *“We will build on the community spirit and social capital developed during the pandemic and will explore new models of volunteering and social action for the future.”* This follows feedback from the Essex Community Foundation, PFCC and meetings with health partners.

Where appropriate all comments have been reflected in the final draft. Some comments made were suggesting very detailed commitments which have not been included as the plan is a high-level document. Some comments related to issues for which ECC has no responsibility and which cannot therefore form part of the council’s strategy.

Other comments we received through this engagement were not directly related to the drafting or content of the strategy or were broadly supportive of our approach. A number of partners also expressed an appetite to work collaboratively on particular areas of focus. We will follow up with partners on those opportunities.