

**AGENDA ITEM 6  
CS/17/09**

<b>Committee</b>	Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Date:</b>	19 October 2009	

**EssexWorks/Corporate Plan Referrals to Policy and Scrutiny Committees**

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The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Corporate Plan and Local Area Agreement Scorecards, a reminder of what they are, what they include and for what purpose and to provide the information on how referrals are made to Policy and Scrutiny Committees.

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**EssexWorks Corporate Plan/ Local Area Agreement Scorecard Referrals to Policy and Scrutiny Committees**

Report by: Mark Golledge, Performance and Improvement Officer  
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**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Corporate Plan and Local Area Agreement Scorecards, a reminder of what they are, what they include and for what purpose and to provide the information on how referrals are made to Policy and Scrutiny Committees.

**Background**

Monthly Performance Scorecards are currently produced showing performance against delivery of the agreed priorities and target performance levels in the **EssexWorks Corporate Plan** (2008-2011) and **Local Area Agreement (LAA)** (2008-2011). Most of the indicators included in our Corporate Plan are also included in our Local Area Agreement although the latter highlights the priorities we have agreed with our partners and shows which LAA Thematic Partnership is responsible for delivery. The LAA Scorecard also include any remaining Reward Indicators from our first LAA.

The performance indicators within the Corporate Plan and Local Area Agreement are either local indicators (LI xx) or locally important national indicators (NI xx) which are taken from the National Indicator Set (NIS). The National Indicator Set was introduced nationally from April 2008 replacing the previous Best Value Performance Indicators although in reality cover more than just Local Authority operations.

Scorecards are currently produced on a monthly basis using information gathered from Directorates across Essex County Council. These are produced for the Corporate Leadership Team, Cabinet Members with an alert made to all Members made each month when these are published on the Intranet (alongside explanatory commentary of actions that are underway and actions that are planned).

There was no Scorecard in July 2009 although Members were alerted to the publishing of the 2008/09 Performance Outturn Report showing outturn performance for the EssexWorks Corporate Plan, Local Area Agreement and LAA1 Reward Indicators. As well as showing performance against target for 2008/09 the report also shows historical trends and comparative performance where this is available. This was taken to Audit Committee in September 2009. Due to delays nationally in releasing comparative results, it is also intended that this be updated later this year.

## Performance Scorecards

The Performance Scorecards are intended to show an 'at a glance' view of our performance in delivering our priorities. They also show accountability – which Directorate and Cabinet Member is responsible for delivery as outlined within the EssexWorks Corporate Plan.

A screen shot from the Scorecards is shown below with an explanation of each of the fields:

Overarching Priority 1 - R									
		Data Frequency	Year Ended	DoT Actual	Data Actual 2008/09	DoT Forecast	Forecast 2008/09	Year Ending 09/10	Forecast 2009/10
LH/JK	(LI 2) Overall satisfaction with our service (To be introduced 09/10)	TBC						Mar-10	INT-DEV
LH/JK	(NI 4) % of people who feel they can influence decisions	Annually	Yes		Jul-09		R	Sep-09	R
LH/JK	(LI 10) Access to services (First reported against target 10/11)	Annually							
Priority 2 - Increasing Educ.									
LH/GT	(NI 89a) Number of schools in special measures	Annually	Yes	Final	R-		R	Jul-09	A
LH/GT	(LI 3) % parents receiving 1st or 2nd school choice in comprehensive school	Annually	Yes	Final	G		G	Mar-10	G
LH/GT	(NI 87a) Persistent absentee pupils in secondary schools	Termly	Yes	Final	G		G	Jun-09	G
LH/GT	(LI 87b) Persistent absentee pupils in primary schools	Termly	Yes	Final	G		G	Jun-09	A
PM/GT	(NI 101) Proportion of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C Eng&Maths at KS4	Annually	Yes	Final	G+		G	Jul-09	A
PM/GT	(NI 99) Proportion of looked after children achieving level 4+ in Eng at KS2	Annually	Yes	Final	R-		R	Jul-09	A
PM/GT	(NI 100) Proportion of looked after children achieving level 4+ in Maths at KS2	Annually	Yes	Final	R		R	Jul-09	A
LH/GT	(NI 72) Early Years achievement for all children aged 5	Annually	Yes	Final	R		R	Jul-09	A
LH/GT	(NI 73) Achievement at Level 4 or above English and Maths KS2 (Threshold)	Annually	Yes	Final	R		R	Jul-09	A
LH/GT	(NI 74) Achievement at Level 5 or above in English and Maths at KS3 (withdrawn from NIS)	Annually	Yes	Final	R		R		
LH/GT	(NI 75) Proportion achieving 5 A*-C grades English and Maths (Threshold)	Annually	Yes	Final	R		R	Jul-09	A
LH/GT	(NI 78) No. of schools <30% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades of GCSEs Eng & Maths (Floor)	Annually	Yes	Final	G+		G	Jul-09	G

**Data Frequency** – this covers how often the data will be available to show progress in achieving this priority.

**Year Ended** – this shows the last month at which we can influence performance (such as an Academic Year or Calendar Year measure).

**Actual Performance** – this shows actual performance against target with an index calculated from current performance and target performance. This is then given a colour depending on whether it is significantly above target (G+); on target (G); below target (A); significantly below target (R) or seriously below target (R-).

**Forecast Performance** – this is an assessment by Directorates on whether the end of year target is likely to be met.

## Referrals to Policy and Scrutiny Committees

Based on the Performance Scorecards referrals are made to the relevant Policy and Scrutiny Committee. Executive Scrutiny Committee have also asked to take an overview of the referrals made each month.

Based on the forecast assessments made by Directorates, the agreed procedure for making referrals is currently as follows:

1. A referral is made when the likelihood of meeting the current year target has been assessed as 'red' for three months or more within the current financial year
2. The target has been or is very likely to be missed as the year progresses
3. The target for the same indicator was missed last year and the likelihood of meeting the current year target has been assessed as red for the first time in the current financial year.

### **Guidance to support Policy and Scrutiny Committees**

Supporting guidance for Policy and Scrutiny Committees has been developed and this is included alongside this report. Where a performance area needs to be considered by Policy and Scrutiny Committees the guidance note provides questions which Committees may wish to be considered.

These questions are structured around the following areas:

- a). What difference will performance make?
- b). Why is performance at the current level?
- c). How can be make sure things get better?
- d). What next – what do we need to do review this progress and what can we learn?

A new Head of Performance (Paul Abraham) started with Essex County Council in July 2009. As a Strategic Performance Team we are keen to support Members either individually or collectively in reviewing and challenging performance across the organisation.