



Essex County Council

# Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

14:00	Thursday, 01 July 2021	Council Chamber County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
-------	---------------------------	---

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

Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer

**Telephone:** 033301 36276

**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](http://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.

		<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>4 - 4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Election of Chairman</b> To elect a Chairman for the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Election of Vice-Chairman</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of 13 November 2020 and matters arising from that meeting not covered in agenda</b>	<b>5 - 9</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Finance Update</b> To receive an update from Donna Norman, Assistant Accountant, ECC.	<b>10 - 14</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Operations Performance Update which includes:</b>	

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Outreach Report</b> To receive an update from Nicola Coates, ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC.	<b>15 - 17</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Unauthorised Encampments Report</b> To receive an update from Alec Baker, ECTU Officer, ECC.	<b>18 - 22</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Rural Engagement Team Update</b> To receive a report from Sgt Paul Downes.	<b>23 - 35</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>High level risk assessment</b> To receive a report from Paul Ashworth, Wellbeing, Place and Communities Lead incorporating the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, ECC.	<b>36 - 36</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Meeting dates in 2021</b> To consider meeting dates in 2021.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Urgent Business</b> 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.**

<b>10</b>	<b>Urgent Exempt Business</b> 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:** Gemma Bint, 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 Colin Day  
Councillor Mark Durham  
Councillor Jane Fleming  
Councillor Robert Gledhill  
Councillor Paul Honeywood  
Councillor Godfrey Isaacs  
Councillor George Jeffery  
Councillor Beverley Oxford  
Councillor Keith Parker  
Councillor Wendy Schmitt  
Councillor Jannetta Sosin  
Councillor Arthur Williams  
Chief Inspector Terry Balding  
James Palmer (Essex Fire & Rescue)

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee, held as an online video conference on Friday, 13 November 2020**

### **Present:**

Cllr Susan Barker	Essex County Council
Cllr Colin Day	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Mark Durham	Maldon District Council
Cllr Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council
Cllr Paul Honeywood	Tendring District Council
Cllr Godfrey Isaacs	Castle Point District Council
Cllr Michael Lilley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Wendy Schmitt	Braintree District Council
Cllr Jannetta Sosin	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Mike Webb	Rochford District Council
CI Terry Balding	Essex Police
James Palmer	Essex Fire & Rescue Service

### **Also present:**

Steve Andrews	Essex County Council
Paul Ashworth	Essex County Council
Colin Batchelor	Braintree District Council
Gemma Bint	Essex County Council
Tim Clarke	Tendring District Council
Adrian Coggins	Essex County Council
PC Neil Fenn	Essex Police
Damien Ghela	Maldon District Council
Will Newman	Essex Fire & Rescue Service
Ali Purdy	Essex County Council

## **1 Welcome, Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

1. It was noted that incorrect membership was shown in the agenda. The correct membership of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee was confirmed as:

Cllr S Barker  
 Cllr G Callaghan  
 Cllr Colin Day  
 Cllr M Durham  
 Cllr R Gledhill  
 Cllr P Honeywood  
 Cllr G Isaacs  
 Cllr M Lilley  
 Cllr K Parker

Cllr W Schmitt  
Cllr J Sosin  
Cllr Mike Webb  
CI Terry Balding  
James Palmer (Essex Fire and Rescue)

2. An apology had been received from Jane Gardner, Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner.
3. There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of the names of the Members who proposed and seconded the nomination for the election of the Chairman.

## 3 Finance update

The Committee received a report from Ali Purdy, Financial Controller.

Key information provided included:

1. **2020/21 outturn position.** Based on the actuals at 30 September 2020, the forecast surplus was a net overspend position of £13,161, which was a variance of £24,331 on the budget figure.
2. **Budget for 2020/21 and future years.** The budgeted surplus for 2020/21 was £11,170, and this would decrease to £2,160 in 2021/22 and then increase to £2,231 in 2022/23.
3. **Proposed 2021/22 Membership Fees.** There were three options – option 1 was a 1% increase of £83, option 2 was no increase and option 3 was a 2.2% increase of £183.
4. **Balance Sheet – Reserves.** The potential impact of an agreed 0% increase to membership fees for 2021/22 on the reserves figures was noted – raising the surplus from £156,432 for 2021/22 and £158,663 for 2022/23. It was advised that there had been adjustments to the reserves due to legal costs and the updated information would be circulated to Members.

It was AGREED, having been proposed by Councillor Durham and seconded by Councillor Isaacs –

That membership fees for 2021/22 would remain unchanged.

## 4 High level risk assessment

Steve Andrews, Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Manager confirmed that there had been no changes to the risk assessment except for the reference to COVID restrictions.

## 5 Operations Performance Update

The Committee received an update from Steve Andrews.

Education: COVID had significantly impacted on the ability to deliver certain services as a lot of the work would normally involve face to face visits; some services however had been delivered remotely. This included supporting families in getting children into school, transport applications and providing reassurance about returning to school in September after the first lockdown. Support had also been given around further education where possible and with the free school meal vouchers during lockdown. Post lockdown, work had started with young Traveller people with regards to doing work experience in preschools.

Health and Welfare: There had been continued welfare support with families to ensure they were getting the correct support and benefits and had access to health services. There had been more engagement with Gypsy / Traveller men who required support due to being unable to get to work during lockdown. Work was taking place with MARAC (Multi Agency Assessment Conference) to help support Gypsy Traveller victims of domestic violence. There had been continued support to other agencies working with the Gypsy Traveller community.

Fire: It had not been possible to complete home fire safety visits due to the current restrictions.

Unauthorised Encampments: There had been a slower start to the year due to lockdown; increases were seen in May and by August/September last year's numbers had been exceeded, before declining in October. It was advised that rates were likely to be lower overall in 2020 due to COVID but had this not been the case it was likely the numbers would have been at the same levels as previous years. For the first time a repossession order had been refused, with the magistrate deciding that Traveller should not be moved during lockdown.

Injunctions: It was advised that Harlow Council did not proceed with their extension application.

In response to questioning, Members were advised that although Traveller live on sites in relatively close proximity, social isolation had been very good within the Traveller community. There had been a couple of small outbreaks however the Traveller community had been a model example of how to effectively socially isolate.

Adrian Coggins, Head of Wellbeing and Public Health, confirmed that he was continuing to speak with Harlow Council about joining the ECTU.

## 6 ECC/ECTU Review

The Committee received a verbal update from Adrian Coggins, Head of Wellbeing and Public Health.

The review had been undertaken over the past 12 months, with the aim of establishing what was Essex County Council's best role in the Gypsy and Traveller agenda, relative to other agencies.

A paper was taken to the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee in June 2020. The Committee had been keen to understand how good accountability for site management would be achieved, and the view expressed that this would be best achieved if a public body was responsible.

One of the recommendations of the review was that ECC would divest of the sites, passing responsibility to another provider subject to assurance around good management and accountability. COVID and the local government review had both had an impact on the review, and it had been decided that ECC would currently be retaining the sites but a different approach may be taken in future. It was confirmed that multi agency site specific management plans were needed for the ECC sites, involving all the agencies who were stakeholders in the sites.

ECC's primary role is to improve health and education outcomes of families in Essex, including the Traveller community who had far worse outcomes in respect of health and education than the rest of the population.

The review had also considered the role of ECTU reference the management of unauthorised encampments. It was considered that ECTU worked very well as a partnership and had received good feedback in terms of how it had worked. The rationale that drove the establishment of ECTU remained just as strong as it did in 2012.

Finally, the review had considered what could be done to improve the health and educational outcomes of the wider Gypsy and Traveller community. COVID had impacted on what was intended to be done, but work had been undertaken on the sites to ensure that people were supported during the pandemic.

## **7 Member/partner question**

The following question had been put to the Committee: "Should ECTU be providing support (in accessing key services including schools, GPs etc) to residents on unauthorised developments/ encampments".

Adrian Coggins, Head of Wellbeing and Public Health, informed Members that a key consideration was the provision of sites and pitches within the appropriate Local Plans throughout the County and this was being addressed at the ECTU Operations Board. It was still early in the process and it was understood that officers were currently focussing on pandemic mitigation work.

CI Terry Balding and PC Neil Fenn, of Essex Police, were invited to provide an update regarding policing. It was advised that the Rural Engagement team now had two Sergeants and eight Constables, soon to be nine, with recruitment for another constable also underway. A representative from the Police Gypsy Roman Traveller Association had recently attended a training day, and another

training day was scheduled shortly where there would be contributions from Travellers in respect of domestic violence. Neighbourhood policing was being explored in respect to the sites, it was still early in the process, but the approach was very much based on joint working principles.

There had been no major issues at the ECC sites. In terms of unauthorised encampments, the pandemic had not caused any disruptions in dealing with these encampments and the use of Section 61 was still applied where necessary. Essex Police were spending more time with Traveller families and building effective rapport with them.

It was suggested by a member of the Committee that it was important to effectively engage with non-Traveller communities in respect of unauthorised encampments to prevent tensions arising. CI Terry Balding reassured Members that the aim of the rural engagement team was to deal with unauthorised encampments consistently taking a “fair but firm” approach. Police officers attending unauthorised encampments would engage with both groups and deal with any criminal offences impartially.

## **8 Meeting dates in 2021**

The next meeting date would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.10pm.

**Chairman**

**Essex County Wide Traveller Unit Joint Committee 01<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

**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**

<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>1.</b>	To receive the 2020/21 financial position
<b>2.</b>	To receive the budget for 2021/22 and to note the proposed budgets for 2022/23 and 2023/24
<b>3.</b>	To note the 2021/22 Membership Fees
<b>4.</b>	To note the Balance Sheet Reserves

## 1. 2020/21 Final Outturn Position as at 31st March 2021

	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actuals to 31st Mar 2021	2020/21 Full Year Variance
<b>Expenditure:</b>			
Employees	£273,710	£271,327	(£2,383)
Supplies & Services	£113,972	£51,499	(£62,473)
Support Services	£0	£20,437	£20,437
Transport & Mileage	£21,873	£16,118	(£5,755)
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>£409,555</b>	<b>£359,381</b>	<b>(£50,174)</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
Partner Contributions	(£420,725)	(£401,547)	£19,178
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>(£420,725)</b>	<b>(£401,547)</b>	<b>£19,178</b>
<b>Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>(£11,170)</b>	<b>(£42,166)</b>	<b>(£30,996)</b>

The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit 2020/21 outturn position is a net surplus position of £42,166, a favourable variance compared to budget of £30,996.

To Note:

1. Essex County Councils contribution to the ECTU for 2020/21 is £310,115 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 2019/20 accounts of £143,103 to a surplus of £185,268 at the close of the 2020/21 accounts.

## 2. Budget for 2021/22 and proposed budget for future years

	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Agreed Budget	2021/22 Draft Proposed Budget	2022/23 Draft Proposed Budget	2023/24 Draft Proposed Budget
<b>Expenditure:</b>						
Employees	£273,710	£271,327	£279,732	£297,547	£307,366	£317,509
Supplies & Services	£113,972	£71,936	£116,480	£85,000	£87,805	£90,703
Transport & Mileage	£21,873	£16,118	£19,000	£19,000	£19,627	£20,275
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>£409,555</b>	<b>£359,381</b>	<b>£415,211</b>	<b>£401,547</b>	<b>£414,798</b>	<b>£428,486</b>
<b>Income:</b>						
Partner Contributions	(£420,725)	(£401,547)	(£420,725)	(£401,547)	(£414,798)	(£428,486)
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>(£420,725)</b>	<b>(£401,547)</b>	<b>(£420,725)</b>	<b>(£401,547)</b>	<b>(£414,798)</b>	<b>(£428,486)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>(£11,170)</b>	<b>(£42,166)</b>	<b>(£5,514)</b>	<b>(£0)</b>	<b>(£0)</b>	<b>(£0)</b>

The 2021/22 proposed draft budget assumes the following:

- No membership fee increases and no charge to Essex Fire & Rescue
- 2.2% increase for Employee budgets
- 2.2% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets

\*2021/22 budgets have been amended to reflect spend in line with last year's actuals.

Proposed future year (\*) budgets contain the following assumptions:

- 3.3% Employee budget increase
- 3.3% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets
- 3.3% membership fee increase

\* Future year budgets are subject to change following proposal and discussion at a later date

### 3. To Note 2021/22 Membership Fees

Organisation	2021/22 Fee (Approved at the November 2020 Joint Committee meeting)	% Contribution per member
<b>Essex County Council:</b>		
ECC - Gypsy & Traveller	£221,268	55.65%
ECC - Highways	£8,312	2.09%
Public Health	£59,941	15.08%
Essex Property & Facilities	£8,312	2.09%
Country Parks	£8,312	2.09%
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>£306,145</b>	<b>77.00%</b>
<b>Essex Fire and Rescue</b>		
	<b>£0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Districts / Boroughs &amp; Unitary:</b>		
Uttlesford District Council	£8,312	2.09%
Thurrock Council	£8,312	2.09%
Rochford District Council	£8,312	2.09%
Maldon District Council	£8,312	2.09%
Colchester Borough Council	£8,312	2.09%
Tendring District Council	£8,312	2.09%
Basildon Borough Council	£8,312	2.09%
Castlepoint Borough Council	£8,312	2.09%
Braintree District Council	£8,312	2.09%
Brentwood Borough Council	£8,312	2.09%
Chelmsford City Council	£8,312	2.09%
<b>Total Districts/Boroughs/Unitary</b>	<b>£91,432</b>	<b>23.00%</b>
<b>Total Subscriptions</b>	<b>£397,577</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Balance Sheet – Reserves

The surplus positions included within the table below for 2021/22 onwards are subject to change:

<b>Balance Sheet: General Balance</b>	<b><u>2017/18</u></b>	<b><u>2018/19</u></b>	<b><u>2019/20</u></b>	<b><u>2020/21</u></b>	<b><u>2021/22</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23</u></b>	<b><u>2023/24</u></b>
Opening Balance (Surplus)	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£185,269)	(£185,269)
Current Year Net Expenditure (Surplus)	(£51,389)	(£53,428)	(£64,748)	(£42,166)	(£0)	(£0)	(£0)
<b>Closing Balance (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>(£24,927)</b>	<b>(£78,355)</b>	<b>(£143,103)</b>	<b>(£185,268)</b>	<b>(£185,269)</b>	<b>(£185,269)</b>	<b>(£185,269)</b>

## **Outreach Report**

### **Covid 19 - Impacts on the GRT Communities: -**

#### **Employment**

High levels of people in the GRT communities impacted by covid with regard to earnings.

Many people from the GRT communities are working on a self-employed basis and were not protected in the same way as employees in many cases.

Also many working men in the GRT communities rely on going door to door to get work and this has not been possible during the lockdown periods this has meant an increase in the need to claim universal credit, which also has barriers as this is all on line.

Families have told me that they have had to claim benefits to make up shortfall in income, also have had to move to other areas try to seek work.

Women who are employed are often in low paid work, which cannot be done from home, these have also been impacted.

#### **Accessing benefits and services**

The Pandemic has triggered a speeding up of the transition to on line access to many services, face to face support has largely stopped for services where this has been deemed possible to do on line or over the phone, some services have no longer kept any option of direct contact, telephone contact has also often been ceased with regard to getting or discussing services.

This has made accessing services more difficult for people from the GRT communities as they may have low literacy levels, limited access to the internet and also in some cases struggle to understand over the phone processes, this is so for example for GP services, housing services, domestic violence support etc.

#### **Education**

During lockdown, many children were being educated at home via laptops/devices through zoom or work being set online. Many children from the GRT communities will have had difficulty accessing the online learning, either because of lack of devices, lack of internet access or lack of parental guidance as some parents will find reading through work set impossible. This means that many Traveller pupils will be returning to school further behind than their peers and it is likely the gap in attainment will be even wider.

The move to online application and interviews for colleges is also greatly increasing barriers to GRT Young People accessing college places. Often the young people of parent may not have an email address, once on the website for a course, navigating the application process is very difficult. Without support to access many YP wanting

to get onto courses will be unsuccessful and lose their places if they do not respond on-line to further requests for information etc.

The relative success for some organisations of moving to mostly if not all, online service, will probably mean that this is not reversed, leaving many people from the GRT communities at greater disadvantage when trying to access services.

### **Outreach during lockdown period**

- We have continued to support via phone where possible with: -
- School applications
- Nursery places
- Tracing missing pupils
- Access to FSM vouchers
- Referrals to foodbanks
- GP registrations
- Referrals to housing support services
- Referral to domestic violence services
- Applications to colleges
- Supporting families re accessing education during the lockdown, liaising with schools to support with distance learning, provision of IT equipment etc.
- Support with benefit claims
- We have also met with service users outside if necessary, with appropriate PPE and social distancing, but this has been minimal.

On a strategic level the Outreach Team has: -

- met and worked with Mid Essex and North Essex Health workers to contribute to their equality impact assessment regarding delivery of the covid vaccine.
- Liaised with West Essex Health to enable some site residents to book in for their Covid vaccines.
- Met with members of the digital media and sports department to support with their development of campaign to counteract misinformation regarding the vaccine within the GRT communities.
- Worked with West Essex Health to access sites and facilitate resident's access to the covid vaccine.
- Supported people working on the Census with regard to access to sites.
- Been working on an Education proposal to the MHCLG, including work on raising the number of GRT pupils transferring from Year 6 into secondary school, delivery of cultural awareness training to secondary schools and also working with the Youth Service to deliver sessions for Young People not in education, training or employment to support them into college places, apprenticeships or employment. We hope to be able to update regarding this if the proposal is accepted.
- The Outreach Team has also started to work on the development of e-learning packages which could be delivered to other agencies/professionals,

developing and collating material that will be used to also provide targeted e-learning to the needs of different agencies/organisations.

- 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.

As Covid restrictions lift, we are starting to be able to return to attend schools and colleges to support students when necessary, with regard to any issues re attendance and behaviour.

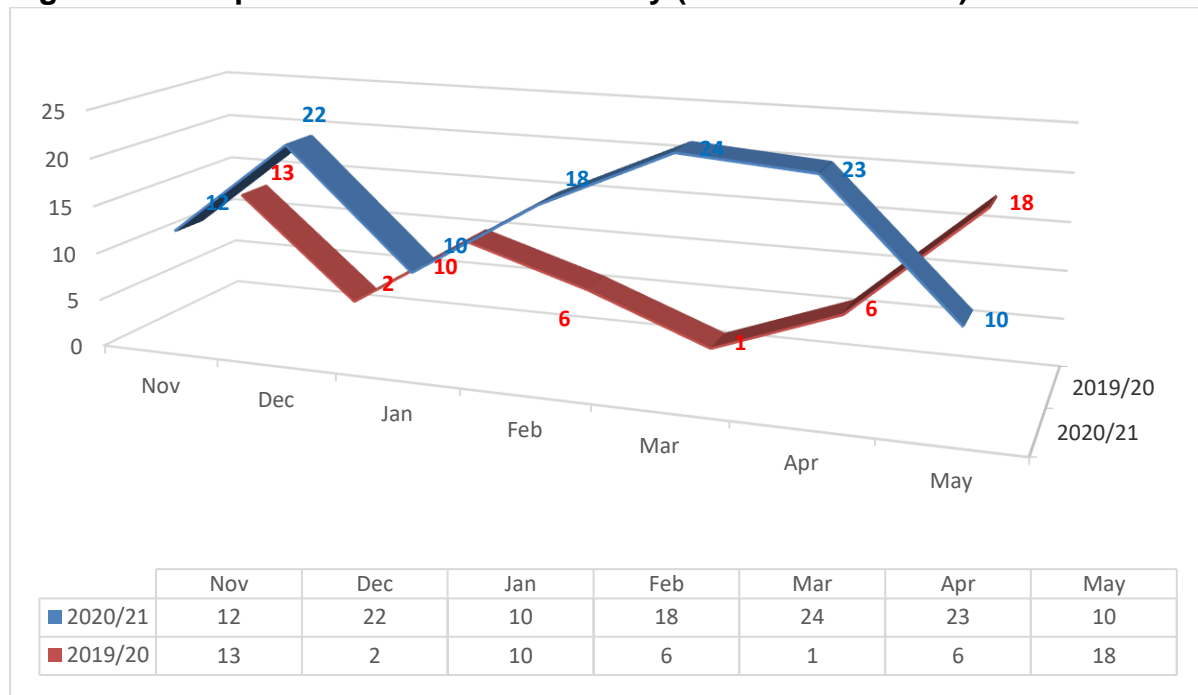
Although we have tried to maintain contact and support during the Covid restrictions, what cannot take place is visits to sites and knocking on doors, which is what enables the Outreach Team to pick up on new families in the area and make them aware of our service. Also, many families we do know, will discuss issues when visited in person, which they may not think to contact about by phone, or may find discussing some issues over the phone difficult.

## Unauthorised encampments

Encampments from November 2020 to May 2021 (End)



**Figure 1 - Comparison between Nov to May (2019/20 & 2020/21)**



The data shown marked difference between the periods outlined in Figure 1 covering Unauthorised Encampment (UEs) totals that nearing doubled the amount of UEs for 2020/21 (119 UEs) compared against 2019/20 (56 UEs).

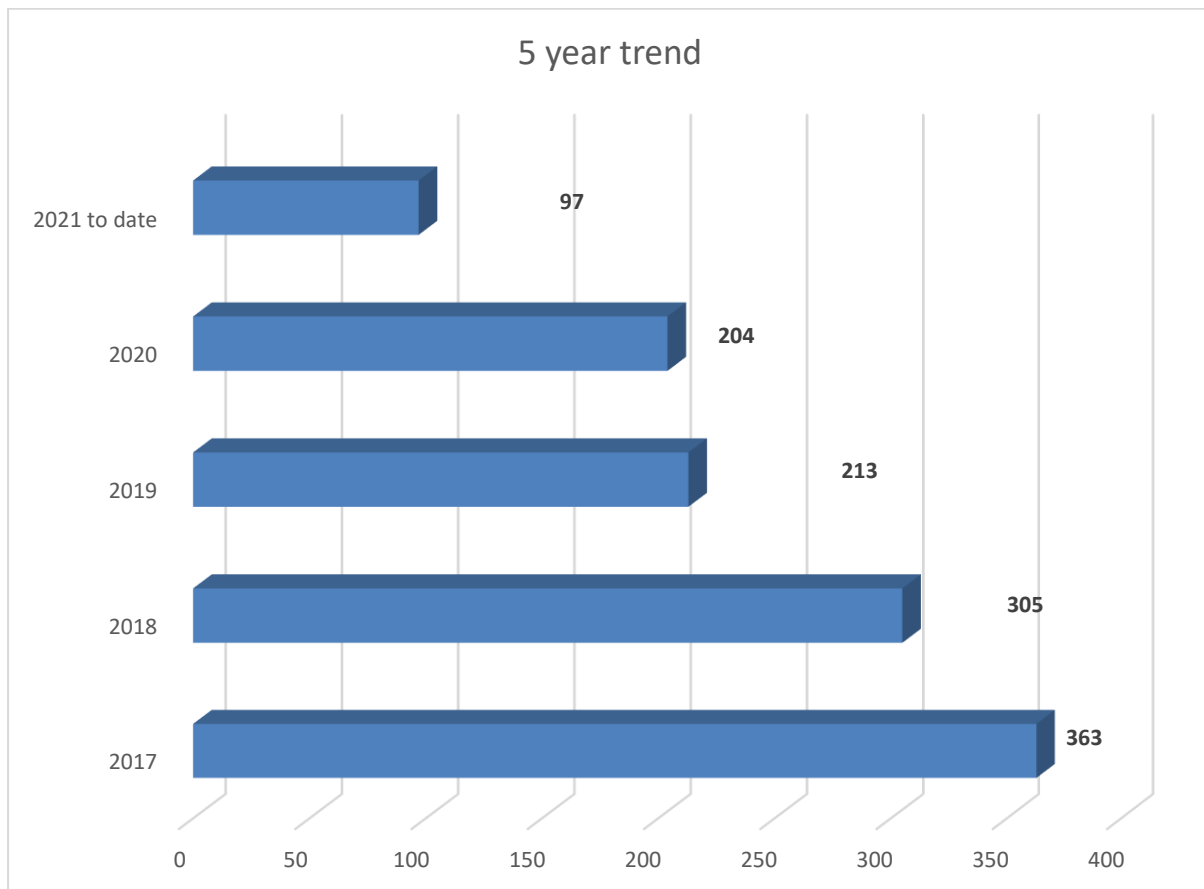
2019/20 (Nov to Feb) was fairly similar to previous years and so obviously from (March to April) the first government enforce isolation was set in motion and impacted on numbers.

Overall 2020/21 figures are in line with previous years as shown below for 2017/18 & 2018/19 table.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
2018/19	12	3	3	6	7	20	20
2017/18	16	11	13	12	27	26	27

Looking at December 2020 – the main reason for the seemingly un-natural number was one known family migrating around Chelmsford industrial areas (both private & highway).

**Figure 2 – Last 5 Year Trend for UEs**



The overall trend shows that the current year 2021 is likely to result in the same final count as 2020 & 2019.

If this is the case this it would be the third year of consistent impact of UEs across the county and could be a new baseline gage moving forward.

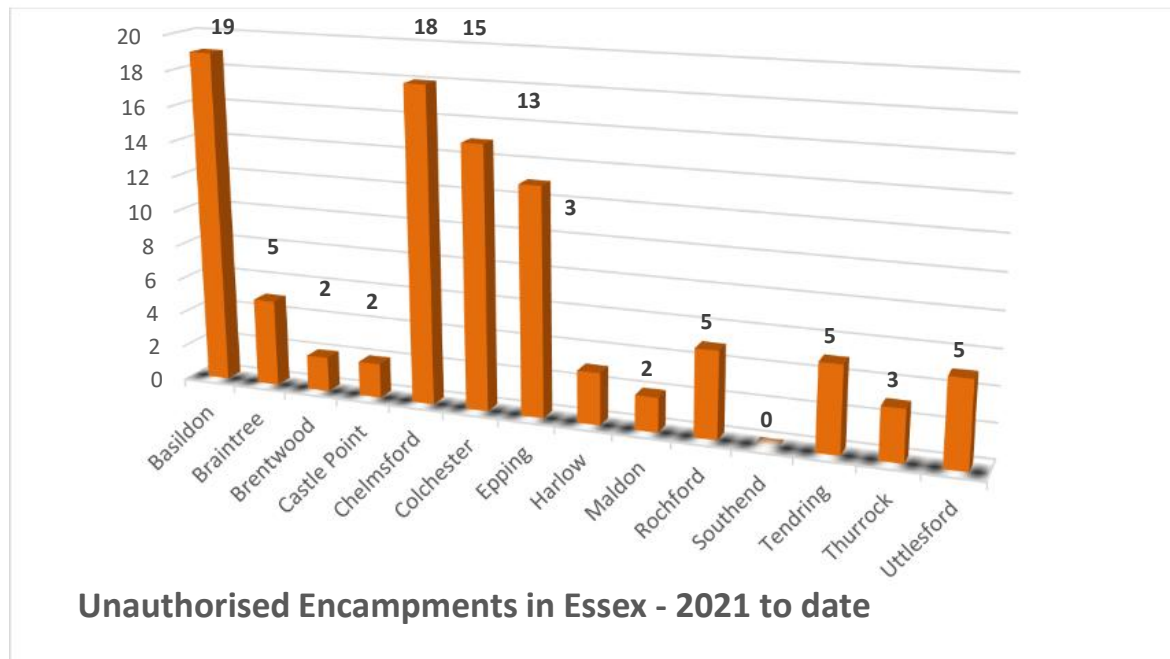
Possible reason for this downturn:

- Fewer regular family groups have not travelled around the county than previously.
- Injunctions in previously favoured/targeted district/boroughs (Basildon, Thurrock, Harlow, Epping) may have deterred the above regular groups.
- Police engagement on UEs (maybe RET can expand, if valid).
- Covid-19 (for 2020 & 2021).

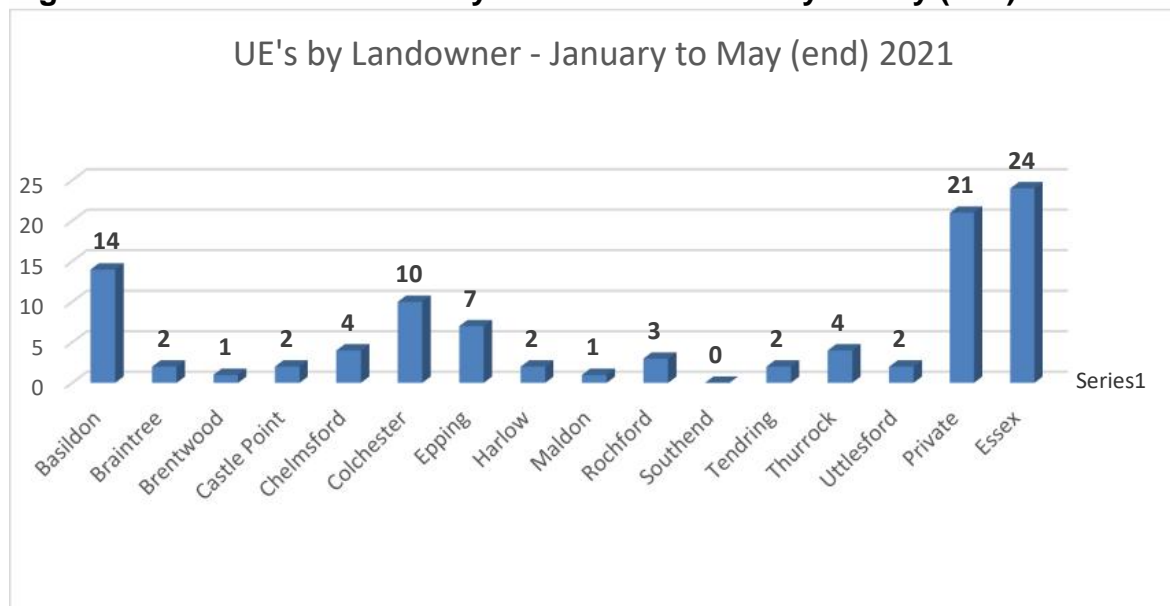
**Figure 3. Unauthorised Encampments in Essex by District/Brough- 2021 to date**

The following charts show UE activity: -

- by district/brough which will include Highways & Private encampments under the district heading – Total encampments for this period 100



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



## Other UE related topics.

Injunction update.

### 1) Expired:

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

### 2) Live:

- a. **Thurrock** – ‘interim injunction’ active since 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.  
Still intention to go for full injunction.
- b. **Epping** - ‘interim injunction’ active since 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 (Carparks only).

### 3) New ruling puts an end to wide anti-Traveller injunctions use of “persons unknown”.

From 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 – application cannot name “persons unknown”.



FRIENDS, FAMILIES  
AND TRAVELLERS (FF)

Full Injunction: [London Borough of Barking and Dagenham & Ors v Persons Unknown & Ors \[2021\] EWHC 1201 \(QB\) \(12 May 2021\) \(bailii.org\)](#)

### 4) Government Policy update:

Government to give police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments –  
From: Home Office and The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Published: 8 March 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-give-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments>

Unauthorised Encampments – Performance November 2020 to May 2021 (End)						
Objective	sub	Measure	Target	Timescale	Outcome	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	Nov 20 to May 21	98.33%	
Encampments resolved through	Negotiated/Other	%	40%		42.50%	
	Courts	%	60%		46.43%	
Totals	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61 Negotiated Other	56 0 4 51 9	Data Only			
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	100%		98.21%	
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	90%		80.36%	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		52.50%	
Number of encampments	Partner	79	NA			
	Non-partner	12	NA			
	Private	29	NA			



# RURAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Who are we and what do we do

# **THE TEAM HAS 2 SERGEANTS AND 10 CONSTABLES**

- Our delivery plan sets out that we will deal with
- Poaching offences
- Fly tipping and large scale waste
- Trespass and unauthorised encampments
- Provide quality policing to the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller & Rural Communities
- Theft of major equipment and plant

## POACHING WITH ADDED FOCUS ON HARE COURSING

- It is organized crime, often with large amounts of money bet on the outcome.
- Offenders drive across crops
- They will use or threaten violence
- The farming communities feel isolated, threatened and financially impacted.



# WHAT DO WE DO

---

We work in partnership with policing colleagues in other forces to bring about a regional approach with good information sharing

---

We use Community Protection Warnings and Notices as well as Criminal Behaviour Orders,

---

As well as national operations such as OP Galileo, we have Essex days of action. Op Xray.

---

We engage with the farming community to encourage the reporting of crime

---

We provide a high visibility rural presence within hot-spot areas.

---

# FLY TIPPING AND LARGE SCALE WASTE



# OP FUME

- ▶ We have arranged a joint working plan between the Rural Engagement Team, Local Authorities and the Environment Agency
- ▶ We have monthly operations to target waste carriers
- ▶ We share information with our partners to ensure an effective approach
- ▶ We provide crime prevention advice through social media, farm visits and partnership working with the National Farmers Union.
- ▶ We provide support to the Environment Agency when they wish to visit offenders to ensure compliance with their directives.
- ▶ We provide high visibility patrol to high risk areas



## Trespass and Unauthorised Encampments



# We will take ownership of all unauthorised encampments

- We will work in partnership with the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit & Local Authorities to bring about a prompt resolution
- We will engage with the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities to promote community cohesion
- We will deliver training to Community Policing Teams to ensure best practice is followed
- We will manage expectations and engage with community leaders
- We will ensure that any action by Essex Police is lawful, proportionate and necessary

# **PROVIDE QUALITY POLICING TO GRT & RURAL COMMUNITIES**

---

We continually develop knowledge of policing needs of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller and Rural Communities by meeting with partners who represent the needs of these communities, such as the Traveller Movement, Rural Community Council of Essex, Farm Watch and the PFCC's Rural Crime Forum.

---

We visit hard to reach communities to raise awareness of domestic violence and vulnerability

---

We provide regular patrols within those communities to improve access to Police and build trust and confidence in policing

---

We work with stakeholders to increase engagement opportunities.

---



# **THEFT OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND PLANT**

## **THE RURAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM WILL...**

- Examine vehicles and caravans at every unauthorised encampment
- Conduct days of action, for example, OP Charlotte at Harwich Port in partnership with Border Force.
- Effectively use our intel system to identify offenders and ensure the recovery of stolen equipment
- Identify patterns of offending
- Provide crime prevention advice
- Support Community Policing Teams
- Perform quality assurance checks on athena

# WILDLIFE & HERITAGE CRIME

- Two of our officers are responsible for Wildlife and Heritage crime matters.
- They are a single point of contact for Government and non-Government organisations.
- They investigate complex or high priority offences
- They offer advice, guidance and training to staff in relation to all other Wildlife & Heritage matters.
- They provide national training to Police Forces & metal detectorists.
- They are involved in national and international forums.
- ACC Nolan (Essex Police) is the national lead on Heritage crime

# **OTHER OPERATIONS AND AREAS OF BUSINESS**

- OP chronos – unlawful metal detecting
- Spoc for the British Museum regarding Treasure Act matters
- Work with pro and anti Hunt groups to develop good working relationships with police
- Op Proud. Road safety operation in rural villages
- Op Ani – Domestic abuse and crime prevention within GRT communities
- Manage the recovery of stray horses for Essex.

# **BUSINESS RISK ASSESSMENT**

RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

DATE

Reviewed and updated June 2021

FUNCTION / SERVICE / TEAM formal commitment

PROJECT / PROGRAMME (if appli Joint Committee high level risks)

Risk No.	Details of Risk Event	Cause / Triggers	Impact / Consequences	Review period	Current Assessment of Risk			Risk Owner	Mitigation Approach	Mitigating Actions / Controls	Review period	Control Owner	Controlled Assessment of Risk		
					Current controls in place				Treat Tolerate Transfer Terminate				With ALL controls in place		
					Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
1	Unable to deliver on partner outcomes.	Demand for service outstrips resource including business support, and outreach.	Partners withdraw from service		4	4	16	PA	Treat	Ensure additional resource is funded/recruited if req Prioritise and reduce service levels in liaison with partners		PA	3	1	3
2	Insufficient funding to deliver service	High demand on chargeable resource legal and external agencies	Part or all of the service will stop delivering		6	2	12	PA	Treat	Ensure resource available to manage encampments and where possible negotiate departures Access reserve where necessary Seek additional member contribution to offset increased costs where necessary Secure new partners		PA Partners PA PA	4	2	8
3	ECTU perceived as not delivering expected service by stakeholders, lack of robust controls by ECTU.	Politicians / members of the public do not understand the service provided by ECTU and powers available to us.	Reputation loss, pressure for partners to break away. Service is no longer viable		5	3	15	PA	Treat	Inform members of service/regular comms and unit and cultural awareness training Ensure SPOCs are informed to help manage expectations of stakeholders Comms strategy/press releases for wider stakeholders Potential development of service for private landowners Ensure robust administration of powers via process/audit		PA PA PA PA PA	4	1	4
4	Negative public / member opinion of the Gypsy/Traveller Community based on the publicity/actions of the minority, is applied to the community as a whole	Negative behaviour of small number of Traveller families receiving high profile attention. The majority of the Traveller population who are normal law abiding residents, are not considered.	Increase tensions, Travelling families treated unfairly, encourages negative behaviours		5	3	15	PA	Treat	Education of Members, public on the true picture and culture Good news stories in the media Improved web site/information resource for general access Address ill informed / derogatory / racist comments / communications quickly, honestly and robustly		PA SA PA PA	3	3	9
5	Insufficient partner buy in/funding to deliver service	Partners choose not to renew continue with their membership of the unit from April 2019	Service levels reduce or unit ceases to be viable		6	3	18	PA	Treat	Ensure commitment to sign up to a new 3 year agreement prior to expiry of existing agreement in March 2019 Reduce resource/service levels to match any change in partner buy in/participation		SA PA	3	1	3
6	Unable to deliver fully on partner outcomes.	Impact of COVID 19 restrictions prevents the direct contact with the community to deliver the full service requirements	Community do not receive the levels of support required. Partners dissatisfied with service /withdraws		6	4	24	PA	Treat	Where possible deliver at least part of the service remotely Ensure partners understanding of the limitations/restrictions cause by COVID and acceptance of the reduced levels/alternative ways of delivery		PA PA PA	6	2	12