

# **Agenda Item 4** **CS/01/10** **Policy and Scrutiny** **Scoping Document**

<b>Committee</b>	Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Topic</b>	Essex Partnership Strategy Review 2009	Ref:CS-SCR-003
<b>Objective</b>	To scrutinise proposals to refresh the Essex Strategy, particularly the consultation process. Any comments arising from this meeting will then be reported back to the Essex Management Board, where the draft refresh Partnership Strategy will be approved at the end of February 2010.	
<b>Reasons for undertaking review</b>	<p>The Essex Partnership Strategy is an 'umbrella' document for the activities of all the key partners in Essex. It has been compiled from the views of Essex people and shows a vision of the sustainable development of Essex into the medium term future.</p> <p>The Essex Partnership Strategy undertook a formal consultation with partners that opened on 15 September and closed on 27 November 2009.</p> <p>The Committee is invited to consider the consultation process with a view to presenting findings to the Essex Management Board in February 2010.</p>	

<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Initial briefing to define scope</i></li> <li>• <i>Task &amp; Finish Group</i></li> <li>• <i>Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Full Committee</i></li> </ul>	<p>A scrutiny review to be undertaken by the full Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee. In addition, Chairmen from all Policy and Scrutiny Committees, including the Area Forums have been invited to take part in the review on 25 January 2010.</p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p><i>Only complete if Task and Finish Group or Commission</i></p>	<p>Members of the Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Chairmen from all Policy and Scrutiny Committees and Area Forums.</p>
<p><b>Issues to be addressed</b></p>	<p>When the Essex Partnership Forum was set up it was agreed that a review and refresh of the strategy would be undertaken on an annual basis, with the output used as part of the Essex Partnership evaluation for the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).</p> <p>The objective of the review and refresh was to examine each of the Essex Strategy outcomes to outline what has been achieved and to identify and address any gaps. Evidence is needed to show that the partnerships reflect local needs and how these are translated into priorities, along with the governance arrangements and whether any improvements could be made in these areas.</p> <p>The Essex Strategy consultation document requested views on the draft report and specifically against five main consultation questions:</p> <p>Seven 'wicked' issues facing Essex have been identified, with seven theme-based summits taking place in October and November 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing health inequalities</li> <li>• Safeguarding the most vulnerable</li> <li>• Raising educational achievement</li> <li>• Responding to the recession</li> </ul>

- Mitigating climate change
- Improving community safety
- Strengthening communities

The summits were arranged by the Essex Management Board to discuss the priority issues and how changes to the Essex Strategy would enable these 'wicked' issues to be addressed more effectively.

The consultation document requested partners views on the draft strategy, and specifically against five questions:

1. Seven wicked issues facing Essex have been identified, and will be the focus of themed summits held in the autumn 2009. Comments are welcome regarding changes to descriptions or identification of any significant omissions.
2. The review process has seen the 64 Essex Strategy outcomes reduced to 45. This was not a radical change but rather a simplifying by joining together related outcomes. The Essex Strategy itself will be refreshed following this review and the outcomes included will be formally rationalised. Taking these 45 outcomes as a starting point your comments are welcome regarding description changes, obvious omissions or indeed suggestions to rationalise further.
3. This report discusses each outcome, identifying key achievements and future prospects, since the launch of the Essex Strategy in April 2008. Many of you will already have been involved in developing these stories. Comments suggesting changes to the text are welcome.
4. Many of you have been involved in the review process, and any comments you may have for improving this process are welcome. We also welcome constructive comments regarding future approaches to reviewing the strategy from those of you not involved in the recent review.
5. Following this review and feedback from external regulation activity undertaken this year the Essex Strategy Document itself will be refreshed (but not rewritten) any comments regarding this refresh are

welcome.

The purpose of this review is to focus on the process of the consultation, rather than the content of the Essex Strategy. Witnesses have been invited from each of the seven themed areas to give evidence on how they found the consultation process.

This scrutiny review is expected to cover the following areas:

- Why was the strategy refreshed?
- How the consultation was undertaken by the Council-how was it distributed, and who received it?
- Details of the content at the seven theme-based summits
- How many consultation responses were received?
- Do partners feel that the review and refresh process was necessary?
- Are the outcomes in the strategy that have been achieved already highlighted in the consultation document? What outcomes have already been achieved?
- Was it made clear to partners what they were expected to do with the consultation document?
- In what format were partners expected to respond to the consultation?
- Is it clear within the strategy who is responsible for each outcome?
- Can the consultation process be improved in any way?
- What is the 'review process' referred to in question 4 of the consultation? Was any improvement to this process suggested by partners?

<b>Sources of Evidence and witnesses</b>	<p>The following witnesses have been invited to give evidence:</p> <p>Dan Gascoyne, Assistant Director for Partnership Delivery</p> <p>Ian Davidson, Audit Commission</p> <p>Peter Loughton, Essex Police</p> <p>Kevin Jones, Head of Environmental Strategy, Essex County Council</p> <p>Councillor Graham Butland</p> <p>Councillor Pam Challis, Chairman of the Partnership Forum</p> <p>Sue Sumner, Voluntary Sector</p> <p>Paul Fallon, Essex Safeguarding Board</p> <p>David Johnson, Fire Authority</p> <p>Andrea Atherton, SEE PCT</p> <p>Keith Hughes, Business Link</p> <p>Sir Mike Hodgkinson, business leader</p>
<b>Work Programme</b>	<p>At the Committee's meeting on 19 October, Dan Gascoyne, Assistant Director for Partnership Delivery gave a presentation and Members agreed that the issue should be scrutinised on 25 January 2010.</p>
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<p>Submission of a report to the Essex Management Board.</p>
<b>Meeting the CfPS Objectives</b> <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</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Committee will be fulfilling its role as a Champion in the Council's Scrutiny process, and performing the role of critical friend and providing a mechanism for Councillors and Partners to voice their views and those of their constituents.</p>

delivery			
<b>Diversity and Equality</b> <i>Diversity and Equality issues are to be considered and addressed.</i>			
<b>Date agreed by the Committee</b>	19 October 2009		
<b>Future Action</b>			
<b>Governance Officer</b>	Hannah Cleary, Governance Officer	<b>Committee Officer</b>	Vivien Door, Committee Services Manager
<b>Service Lead Officer(s)</b>	Dan Gascoyne, Assistant Director for Partnership Delivery		