

Executive Scrutiny Committee

10:00	Tuesday, 11 September 2012	Committee Room 2, County Hall, C Block
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Quorum: 4

Membership

Councillor M Mackrory
Councillor G Butland
Councillor S Candy
Councillor W Dick
Councillor N Edey
Councillor A Hedley
Councillor S Mayzes
Councillor V Metcalfe
Councillor G Mitchinson
Councillor M Page
Councillor J Pike
Councillor I Pummell
Councillor J Roberts
Councillor A Turrell
Councillor B Wood
Councillor J Young

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Robert Fox, Governance Officer
Vivien Door , Committee Officer

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Email: vivien.door@essex.gov.uk



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)

	Pages	
1	Apologies and Substitution Notices The Committee Officer to report receipt (if any).	
2	Minutes 240712 unapproved	5 - 12
3	Declarations of Interest To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members.	
4	ES01612 The Changing Pattern of Finance within Local Government The purpose of this presentation is to update the Committee on the Changing Pattern of Finance within Local Government. Enquiries to: Anna Casbolt, Senior Financial Analyst 01245 431463 anna.casbolt@essexcc.gov.uk	13 - 36
5	External Communications Task and Finish Group Update Report To receive a verbal update from Councillor Pike and Robert Fox, Governance Officer.	
6	ES01712 Forward Look	37 - 44
7	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.	
8	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2. Dates of Future Meetings 2012/1.	

The following dates have been reserved for this Committee:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 4 December	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 22 January	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 25 February	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 26 March	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 23 April	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2

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.

9 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 EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON 24 JULY 2012

Present

S Candy	M Page
W J C Dick	J W Pike
N Edey	Mrs I Pummell
A M Hedley	J Roberts
M Mackrory (Chairman)	A Turrell
Mrs V Metcalfe	B Wood
G L Mitchinson	J A Young (Vice-Chairman)

The following Councillors were also in attendance for the item on Capita Resourcing: Councillors S Barker and G McEwen.

The following officers were present in support of the meeting:

Robert Fox	Governance Officer
Vivien Door	Principal Committee Officer

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

The Committee Officer reported apologies for absence from Councillors G Butland, S Mayzes and R Walters.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hedley declared a personal interest as the Chairman for the Essex Fire Authority.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

Minute 8, Work Programme 2012/13, Health and Safety at Work, the word "not" should be deleted from the minutes as the Committee **Agreed** that it would review this item.

4. 2011-12 Annual Report

The Committee considered the 2011-12 Annual Report, (ES/011/12), presented by Councillor Peter Martin, Leader of the Council and Joanna Killian, Chief Executive.

The Annual Report provides information on how the funding had been spent, and the progress on the delivery of the 2011/ 12 EssexWorks Pledges and Priorities. The Council had foreseen the change to the economic climate alongside the future increased demand for services and took early action with the Transformation Programme in 2008. The Customer First programme drives out

inefficiencies and reduces costs. £101 million savings were made to enable the Council to stay within its 2011/12 budget and it was on track to provide £370 million savings within the four year period ending in 2013. An additional £7 million savings were made above the £101 million target. It had been a remarkable achievement to provide effective services with reduced funding.

Eight of the EssexWorks Pledges have been fully met. There had been an increase in young people living with Foster Carers (approximately 200) which provides the best quality of life for the young people. 59 percent more people with dementia, or their carers, choose to manage their care packages through personal budgets. Extra resources have been provided for potholes from savings from back office efficiencies. Work took place to procure one contractor for highways (Ringway Jacobs) in 2011/12 which provided £5 million savings. Ofsted met with the Children's Services recently and had moved the Council out of the Improvement Notice; it had been a difficult journey although there was still room for improvement. Primary School absence rates fell to 4.8 percent taking Essex into the top quartile of Councils. Twelve school infrastructure projects have been completed resulting in 600 additional primary school places to relieve the pressures on school places across the County.

There were six key achievements in 2011/12. Six major highways schemes were successfully delivered with significant impact for Essex residents and the local economy. £262,555 was saved as a direct result of Essex Trading Standards intervention. 1,153 jobs created or saved by Essex County Council, compared to 1,104 in 2010/11. Over half of Essex household waste was recycled, reused or composted. Over 17,000 tonnes less household waste was sent to landfill, compared to 2010/11, saving over £900,000 on Landfill Tax expenditure. There was 90 percent reduction in the number of days spent 'waiting' in acute hospitals for a social care service, compared to 2010/11.

There would be seven areas of focus over the next year. Development would continue for future Transformation activities for the on-going financial challenges. An enhanced Customer Services provision had been developed to enable more customers to be able to self-serve the services or information they required via the website. The list of telephone numbers to access services has been simplified. The Council was a pilot for the "Whole Place Community Budgets", working with partners to meet local needs collectively and control key spending. Funding had been secured through Social Investment to provide more intensive support to children and young people and families with complex needs. Improving performance in schools work was taking place with Academies. Opportunities will be maximised for economic growth including work in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. The County is continuing to build upon the good progress it has made towards the transfer of Public Health responsibilities to the Local Authority by April 2013 and the development of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- That the extra funding for highway repairs comprised of £8 million from the Capital Budget and £3 million from the Revenue Budget. The weather

had impacted on the road surfaces, this funding should bring the roadway up to a good state;

- Members noted a discrepancy between the Annual Report and the Corporate Plan, which would be corrected;
- There would be a priority to improve the major networks as 85 percent of the traffic used the A and B roads;
- Joint meetings have taken place for the Health Watch and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Council was further ahead than other Local Authorities;
- The Council had saved £900,000 on land fill waste;
- The wording in the Annual Report should say the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to reflect all partners;
- As the school budget was overspent and less funding was being awarded to the Council it would be a challenge to improve schools especially as more schools became Academies;
- There were currently 50 Secondary and 40 Primary Academy schools, the Council would work with these schools to improve education by linking underperforming ones with high performing schools to raise standards;
- Historically pre-school and nursery education had been weak in Essex, with 52 percent of Essex children reaching the required standard against 60 percent of its statistical neighbours children reaching the standard. The Troubled Families Programme should help provide communities with aspiration for children and families by encouraging children and parents to think that education was a good tool;
- Members suggested that it would be useful to have the census information as soon as it was available;
- Members noted that the figures for the Chelmer Park and Ride were subject to amendment;
- Members were involved with appointments of School Governors but did not take part in reappointments, but noted that there was no process to remove poor performing Governors.

The Committee **Endorsed** the Annual Report.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Martin and Joanna Killian for their information.

5. **2012/13 Financial Overview as at the First Quarter Stage**

The Committee considered the 2012/13 Financial Overview as at the First Quarter Stage, (ES/010/12), presented by Councillor David Finch, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme.

Councillor Finch highlighted items from the report. There was an overspend of £1.577 million set against an underspend which includes several Business Cases awaiting approval. Funds have been drawn down from reserves. £64,000 from the Grants Equalisation Reserve in relation to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) which had not been spent. Funds have been drawn from the general balance, for example, £1.040 million in respect of rationalising property by providing hubs in Harlow and Braintree.

Health and Wellbeing had an overspend of £555,000 which was mainly due to risks involved in delivering efficiencies in the Mental Health programme. Children's Services had an overspend of 1.604 million mainly due to the Intensive Family Support Service (IFS) which should reduce the prospective referrals in the future. Other Operating Cost of £4.567 million results from reduced borrowing to support the 2011/12 capital programme. The £199.296 million in the Capital budget refers to the revised forecast.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- The review of Home to School Transport produced £1.8 million savings for the academic school year rather than the financial year. More work was taking place to find more savings in this area;
- When schools were designed and built the sprinkler systems should be included, one example of savings being made was by not installing the sprinkler system during the school build, Councillor Finch would investigate to see if funding could be provided for it.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Finch for the information.

6. 2012/13 Corporate Plan Progress Report as at the First Quarter Stage

The Committee considered the 2012/13 Corporate Plan Progress Report as at the First Quarter Stage, (ES/012/12), presented by Councillor David Finch, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme and Mark Golledge, Head of Information and Intelligence.

There was a 9.9 percent decline in Library use which included virtual and physical visits; nationally the decline on these visits was approximately 21 percent.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- More use could be made of Libraries by using the space for Citizen's Advice Bureau and Credit Unions. District Councils already use Libraries in some areas, and the Police use Dunmow Library;
- More computers could be placed in Libraries located in deprived areas to enable more public internet access;
- Members would be provided with more information on the "Gap for Children with SEN at Key Stage 2", as to whether this statistic was for children in SEN schools or mainstream schools;
- Members were concerned regarding the economic conditions affecting employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. Mark Golledge agreed to produce a report for the Equality and Diversity Board;
- There were a variety of ways for public engagement across the Council for involvement with local democracy although not all Districts have set up Locality Boards;
- Members suggested that 3.8 should include the word "reuse", which would be added to the next quarter report.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Finch and Mark Golledge for their information.

7. Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Committee considered the Customer Satisfaction Survey, (ES/013/12), presented by Mark Golledge, Head of Information and Intelligence and Duncan Wood, Head of Research and Analysis.

The Ipsos Mori survey satisfaction score had reduced from 55 percent to 46 percent, which was probably due to the credit crunch and the economic climate. The tracker enabled the service to see where gaps in surveys and would help to rationalise the number of surveys. Directorate Leadership Teams (DLT) receive the directorate scorecards on a regular basis looking at the finance and performance of the service.

The satisfaction element would be built into procurement of services.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- The Blue Badge Service and the Coroner's Service were not included in these surveys;
- It would be useful to streamline the surveys to combine the Corporate Services surveys into one;
- Face-to-face responses obtained the highest scores but were the most expensive surveys to run. The Council relies on postal surveys with a response rate of approximately 30 percent;
- Members asked for comparison information but were informed that not all the information was available nationally but other Local Authorities may collect the same information;
- The majority of parents were not given a chance to participate in a survey, discussion would take place with Schools Children and Families Directorate regarding how to capture/engage with the majority of parents;
- The number of people using Libraries was lower, therefore work was required as to how to survey people who did not use the Library to find out their reasons for that decision, this would be included to the tracker system in the autumn;
- The tracker survey does not include complaints which were monitored separately at DLT, although they could be included in the future;
- Any part of the survey which had a 100 percent satisfaction would be checked again.

The Chairman thanked Mark Golledge and Duncan Wood for their information.

8. Capita Resourcing

The Committee considered the Capita Resourcing report, (ES/014/12), presented by Adam Bowles, Head of Human Resources and Maxine Taylor, Head of Corporate Human Resource Services.

New starters had been surveyed on the service they had received, 316 from 915 new starters had responded. The Capita contract had been extended to 31 December 2013. More applicants would prefer to send their CVs rather than fill

in an application form. The recruitment establishment procedure was under review. Capita Resource Managers have raised concerns regarding addressing recruitment issues early on in the process. A service would be provided to enable new starters to visit the Council with their relevant information either early or late in the day outside office hours.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- Previously the CRB checks were taking a long time, but this had improved;
- The questions on the two surveys remained the same;
- Considerable improvements have taken place since the beginning of the review, when Members took information from officers in confidence and were very concerned with their findings;
- New starters were asked three times to respond to the survey, of which, 35 percent did respond. Of these 35 percent more rated the Council as very good unlike the earlier response where the Council had a bad recruitment service;
- Members noted that some people would always be unhappy regardless of the service they received;
- New starters could be sent the survey by email before they start at the Council;
- The service had improved but more improvements could take place.

The Committee **Agreed** that this item be reviewed in one year to monitor its improvement.

The Chairman thanked Adam Bowles and Maxine Taylor for their information.

9. Forward Look

The Committee considered the Forward Look (ES/015/12).

The Committee **Agreed** the Forward Look with the following additions the Coroner's Service review should be brought to the Committee earlier than originally agreed. The Governance Officer would liaise with the service;

10. Dates of Future Meetings 2012

The Committee **Agreed** the following dates:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 11 September	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Wednesday, 24 October	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 4 December	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 22 January	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 25 February	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 26 March	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2
Tuesday, 23 April	10 a.m.	Committee Room 2

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12:20 pm.

Chairman
11 September 2012

The Changing Pattern of Finance within Local Government

Executive Scrutiny Committee

September 2012



Essex County Council

Introduction

- The funding arrangements for local government are changing
- Key material issues relate to NNDR and Council Tax Benefit changes
- There is still much uncertainty around these changes, hence a light review here, with further detail when its available and appropriate to bring
- Innovative funding opportunities are becoming available, but all come with a cost – we need to be clear about our investment priorities



Timetable for key changes

- NNDR localisation consultation released July 2012 (closing end September)
- LCTS local decisions (billing authorities) in progress July 2012
- LCTS public consultation required September 2012
- Government response to LCTS grant distribution consultations December 2012
- Funding settlement December 2012
- Implementation of changes for April 13



How the revenue budget is currently funded

Funding Source	2012/13 Original £000	%
Council Tax (incl. collection fund surplus/deficit)	580,986	62%
Formula grant		
•National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)	269,574	29%
•Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	5,226	0.6%
General Government Grants	79,764	8%
Contribution from General Balance	2,356	0.4%
Total funding	937,906	100%



NNDR localisation - theory

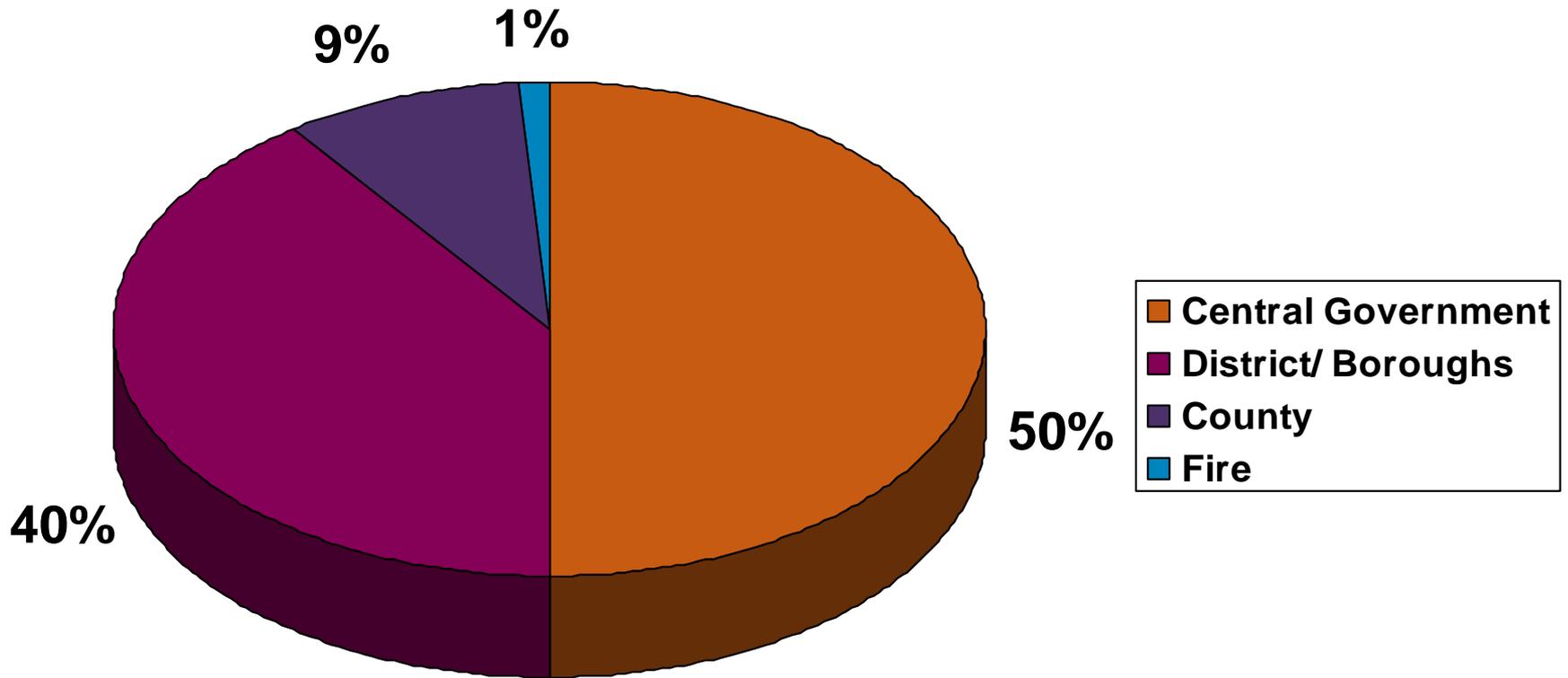
- At present, NNDR is collected by BC/DCs and share comes back to Counties via grant from central government (it is amalgamated with Revenue Support Grant and collectively called Formula Grant)
- From April 2013 NNDR will no longer be received as a grant
- “multiplier” will still be set centrally
- In principle, L.A.s will benefit from increased economic growth in their areas. Incentive is therefore to support businesses
- Start-up baseline position will be calculated broadly based on assumed ‘need’
- System of “tariff” and “top-up” will broadly preserve the baseline (i.e., there will be adjustments for local NNDR collected v baseline ‘need’)
- “levies” and “safety nets” will be introduced to offset disproportionate levels of change (e.g. from loss of a single major business in the area)

NNDR – in practice – the story so far

- All NNDR must be used to support local government
- 50% of total business rates will be retained by central government to cover “other grants”
- 80% of the “local share” will be retained by DCs/BCs
- 20% will be passported to counties (i.e. 10% of the overall tax) – this reduces to 18% where the Fire Authority is a separate body
- County Councils will therefore be “topped up” to cover base level of need
- RPI increase is assumed against all variables (central govt will retain the determination of annual rate increase)
- Protection from losses will only apply to changes against starting position, whilst levies will apply to projected growth



NNDR distribution



A worked example (1)

- Assume our assessed level of required spend (Need) is £100m, and our share of NNDR is £20m. Our “top-up” will therefore be £80m.
- **RPI stands at 3%; NNDR growth is in line with this**
 - Need = £103m (£100m + 3% RPI);
 - NNDR = £20.6m (£20m + 3% growth);
 - Top-up = £82.4m (£80m + 3% RPI)

Need = £103m (increase by RPI)

NNDR = £20.6m
(increase by growth)

Top-up = £82.4m (increase by RPI)

Overall growth in spending power = 3%, same as RPI



Worked Example (2)

- Growth above RPI

- If NNDR growth is 5%, and RPI is 3%,
 - Need = £103m (£100m + 3% RPI);
 - NNDR = £21m (£20m + 5% growth);
 - Top-up = £82.4m (£80m + 3% RPI)
- **Excess** funds for use by ECC = £0.4m

Need = £103m

NNDR = £21m

Top-up = £82.4m



Worked example (3)

- Growth below RPI

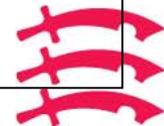
- If NNDR growth is 2%, and RPI is 3%,
 - Need = £103m (£100m + 3% RPI);
 - NNDR = £20.4m (£20m + 2% growth);
 - Top-up = £82.4m (£80m + 3% RPI)
- **Deficit** to be funded by ECC = (£0.2m)

Need = £103m

NNDR = £20.4m

Top-up = £82.4m

The impact of variations on NNDR collected is therefore damped (for ECC) by the receipt of top-up



Protection from disproportionate change

- **Levy** – the government will decide what proportion of increase to spending power is appropriate for L.As to keep. Anything above that will be deducted.
- **Safety net** – to protect L.As from disproportionate losses in income, a safety net will be set at X% below **BASELINE** (i.e. starting position, not compared with previous year). At the moment, this is likely to be between 7.5% AND 10% which for Essex will be in the order of £8m - £12.5m
- **Baseline is likely to remain constant for 10 years!**
(So could have 10 years of growth between us & protection)



Summary on NNDR changes

- Introduces a significant level of uncertainty in financial planning
- As a top-up authority, impact of volatility of rate collection will be damped for ECC
- It is unclear what the 50% “central share” will cover – we could lose other grants in this mix
- Should we be pooling arrangements with other Essex authorities? There is a potential of up to £2m benefit to ECC of pooling with other Essex authorities
- We will also have to ‘provide’ for appeals by setting aside funds to recognise that some of NNDR may be lost at a future date through appeals





Local Support for Council Tax: Current Council Tax Benefit System

- Council tax benefit (CTB) feature of council tax system since latter introduced in 1993
- CTB is a means tested benefit that reduces council tax liability of low income households
- CTB administered by billing authorities on behalf of Department of Work and Pensions with billing authorities receiving cash payments based on actual CTB liabilities



Spending Review 2010 Proposals

- Spending Review 2010 followed by DCLG consultation in summer 2011 announced abolition of CTB from April 2013
- Replaced by local schemes run by billing authorities using unringfenced grant
- 10% cut in CTB funding also announced – reality of cut to be nearer 15% due to
 - distributional effects
 - caseload growth – easier to claim and economic climate
 - contingencies





DCLG Proposals & Implications

- DCLG published consultation in summer 2011 followed by further consultation and statements of intent in May 2012
- Schemes must be agreed by 31 January 2013
- Pensioners to be protected with nationally determined regulations
- Vulnerable groups should also be protected – CLG will not define what these groups are
- Schemes should also protect work incentives





DCLG Funding Proposals

- May 2012 funding consultation paper states funding will be based on:
 1. 2013-14 national projections of CTB spending; and
 2. 2011-12 subsidised CTB expenditure for England billing authorities as % of national total
- Funding allocation for Essex (excluding Southend & Thurrock) is £94m of which £67m is to be allocated to ECC
- Funding allocation will not be finalised until autumn 2012 _December settlement?
- Actual size of funding cut is c. 15% because of caseload growth and required contingencies
- Actual impact of cut upon working age claimants to be cuts of > 20% because of pensioner protection



Essex Implications – Scheme Components

- Essex Benefits Managers Group including ECC formed Pan Essex council tax support group in February 2012
- Group is developing common framework and components for council tax support schemes in Essex that ECC Cabinet considered today:
 1. Common consultation approaches
 2. Joint consultation working between billing & precepting LAs
 3. Standardised approaches to processes such as claims
 4. Common components to scheme designs



Other Funding Opportunities



Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- Has been in place since April 2011
- L.A.s can choose to levy a charge on development in their area
- Similar to old S106 arrangements, but...
- Charge is generic, not negotiated
- Levy can be used to support any infrastructure development
- Authorities may apply different levy rates to different areas to encourage / discourage development



Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

- NNDR payers within an area can vote for an additional levy
- The levy is to be used to implement specified projects or initiatives within that area
- Will be for a specified time only
- Can only be implemented if approved in a ballot of the business ratepayers in the area
- Money collected through this route must be kept separate and must be used for the specified purpose
- None currently existing in Essex
- More likely to be used by District Councils than County Councils due to the more localised nature of the implementation



Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

- TIF allows L.A.s the freedom to borrow money against future growth in business rate income
- Borrowing can be used to invest in local schemes that will support business growth in an area
- TIFs have to be approved by government



Social Investment Bonds (SIB)

- Investors seek a financial return alongside positive social impact
- Investors are not just financially motivated
- Essex is entering SIB in relation to Children's services ("Edge of Care")
- Payments to providers are linked to outcomes, not inputs
- Should lead to lower ongoing costs as outcomes improve and demand for services reduces
- We are exploring other options for SIB funding within Community Budgets work



General Landscape

- Although there are multiple new investment models becoming available, it is important to remember that the key material changes to funding for local government are around NNDR changes and LCTS
- It is important to remember that all sources of funding have to be paid for!
- Under our prudential borrowing scheme, we set a limit of £32m borrowing for 2011/12, against which we did not take any loans. We have resources available to us already – how do we make best use of that?
- We need to be clear about what we want to achieve with the funding and find the right solution for each project, rather than looking for a project to fit the opportunity.
- Essex Funding Team has assisted organisations in greater Essex bringing in over £25m of EU funding since 2008. There is potential for this to be increased significantly and preparations are underway



		AGENDA ITEM 6
		ES/017/12
Committee:	Executive Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	11 September 2012	
<u>FORWARD LOOK/ WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13</u>		
Enquiries to:	Robert Fox, Governance Officer 01245 430526 robert.fox@essex.gov.uk	

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the Committee's latest work programme for its consideration. A report outlining other potential future scrutiny items will be circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

**Executive Scrutiny Committee:
Schedule 2011/2012 (provisional)**

Meeting	Topic	Approach	Current status
2012			
Ongoing throughout 2011/12	Transformation Programme Scrutiny Review (ES-SCR-003)	Full Committee and Task and Finish Groups	This Forward Look document sets out the proposed timetable for consideration of further topics as part of the ongoing review, and the arrangements for monitoring the Transformation Programme: Beyond 2012/13.
Date to be agreed	Transformation Programme Scrutiny Review: Shared Services	Full Committee	To consider the Essex Shared Services Strategy 2011-16. A scoping document will be prepared by Mark Hobson, Shared Services
Date to be agreed	Transformation Programme Scrutiny Review: Beyond 2012/13	Full Committee	To consider the future plans for the Transformation Programme beyond Transitional State 3, scrutiny arrangements for commissioned services including the different types of delivery vehicles and Target Operating Models. Commissioned Services are key in terms of checking the arrangements and scrutiny adding value to the commissioned services.
Autumn 2012	Transformation Programme: Property Strategy and Fixed Assets Register	Full Committee	Councillor David Finch to attend Committee (Scoping Document to follow)
Ongoing	Absence Management	Task and Finish Group	The Community Wellbeing and Older Persons Policy and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review into Absence Management for its' relevant Directorate. The Executive Scrutiny Committee awaited the outcome of this scrutiny before continuing with their review. The final scrutiny review report was agreed at the Community

			<p>Wellbeing and Older Persons Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 9 December. A copy of this report was presented at the 25 January 2011 meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee, along with absence figures for all service areas. The Committee agreed (25 January, minute 6) that the topic would be referred to the Scrutiny Board, with a view to discussing each Policy and Scrutiny Committee reviewing their respective directorate absence statistics. The Scrutiny Board has subsequently agreed that the Community and Older People P & SC undertakes this task on behalf of all P & SC's and has established a Task and Finish Group which will report to Executive Scrutiny. This Task and Finish Group has now met twice and will provide updates to the Scrutiny Board, in the first instance.</p>
Ongoing	Coroner's Service	Full Committee	The Committee considered report ES/030/11 on 24 May, and received a report at its 31 January meeting.
3 April 2012 and ongoing via T&F Group	External Communications	Task and Finish Group	The Committee considered a scoping document (ES-SCR-01/12) and agreed that a Task and Finish Group be convened. This Group has met twice to date, and it is anticipated there will be at least two further meetings. The Committee will receive an interim report in the autumn of 2012.
October 2012	Procurement Strategy	Full Committee	The Committee agreed at its 30 May 2012 meeting that the Deputy Leader be invited to attend the Committee to present on the strategy which is to be revised in September 2013 to ensure the strategy, as it exists and in future, ensures the procurement of cost-effective, high quality services for the residents of Essex (Scoping

			Document to follow)
November 2012	Developing the Localism Agenda	Full Committee	The Committee agreed at its 30 May 2012 meeting that an update be invited from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning on the Big Society Revenue and Capital Fund. The review should also include elements of Partnership working, the elected Member as a Community leader, the General Power of Competence and communities being given the right to run services. The ECC Petitions Policy should also form part of the review. Partnerships and the Impact of the Localism Bill, Locality Boards and the Essex Partnership Forum refresh will also form part of this agenda item.
September 2012	The Changing Pattern of Finance within Local Government	Full Committee	The Committee agreed at its 30 May meeting that it receive a presentation in how the Local Government Finance Bill will affect ECC; what approach the County will be taking to the changes and the areas which might be affected. The review should include The Community Infrastructure Levy, Business Improvement Districts, Localism Benefits, National Non-Domestic Rates, and Tax Increment Financing. This report will be received at the 11 September meeting of the Committee.
November /December 2012	Health and Safety at Work	Full Committee	The Committee agreed at its 30 May 2012 meeting that as assessment of whether ECC fulfils its H&S legislative requirements in a scrutiny review which will look at the approach the Authority takes to H&S; and to ensure the Authority is fully compliant with relevant H&S legislation. (Scoping Document to follow).

Standing Items			
Ongoing	Quarterly Budget Reports	The Committee will receive quarterly financial reviews.	The quarterly 2011/12 Financial Reviews were presented throughout the year. The 2012/13 quarterly reviews will be presented to Committee throughout the year.
3 April 2012	Performance Management		The Executive Scrutiny Committee takes an overview of the performance scorecard and referrals to other Policy and Scrutiny Committees. At its 15 February (ES/005/11, minute 7) and 26 April (ES/022/11, minute 33) meetings the Committee considered the new arrangements for reporting performance. Quarter One Performance Report will be presented in July 2012; with Quarter Two following in October 2012.
	Equality Impact Assessments (ES-SCR-004)	Full Committee	A scoping document setting out the suggested areas of focus for this review was agreed on 23 June 2011 (ES/041/11). Committee received an update on 29 November 2011. A further update will be received in the spring of 2013.
	Refresh of EssexWorks Corporate Vision (ES-SCR-006)	Full Committee	The Committee considered the refreshed EssexWorks Corporate Vision on 29 November 2011, following previous consideration of this topic at the 23 June meeting.
	Member support, development and effectiveness (ES-SCR-005)	Full Committee	The Executive Scrutiny Committee considered this topic at its 29 November 2011 meeting. The main areas of focus were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Development Charter • Member effectiveness • Support for Members

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and communication for and with Members <p>A scoping document setting out the suggested areas of focus was agreed on 23 June 2011 (ES/045/11). An update will be received during 2012 in advance of the County Council elections.</p>
1 May 2012	Capita Resourcing		<p>The final report prepared by a Task and Finish Group convened from the Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee was presented for consideration on 25 January 2011. Report ES/024/11 containing an update from the Task and Finish Group was presented on 26 April 2011 where it was subsequently agreed that the topic would be brought to the 1 May 2012 meeting for continued monitoring. This report was received in July 2012.</p>
26 June 2012	Customer Satisfaction, Complaints and Public Relations		<p>The Executive Scrutiny Committee considered report ES/029/11 at its meeting on 24 May meeting, with Duncan Wood, Head of Research and Intelligence in attendance to introduce the report, answer questions and provide an update. The Committee agreed that a report providing details of the current performance in this area was brought to the July 2012 meeting (minute 42, 2011). The Committee will receive annual customer satisfaction reports. The first of which will be July 2013.</p>
Completed Scrutiny Reviews by the Executive Scrutiny Committee			
3 April 2012	Corporate Human Resources issues	Full Committee	<p>The Committee will considered a scoping document (ES-SCR-02/12) was considered by the Committee at</p>

			its 31 January 2012 meeting and a report was received on 3 April 2012 and the Committee agreed that the scrutiny review of this item was complete
25 January 2011	Facilities Management Overspend	The full Committee agreed the summary report	At its 30 November meeting the Committee requested further information about the Facilities Management Service overspend detailed in the Financial Review as at the Half-Year stage 2010/11. A summary report containing details of the overspend was presented at the 25 January meeting.
24 May 2011	Risk Management and contracting arrangements (report ES/33/10)	The full Committee undertook the review.	The Committee monitored the scrutiny review recommendations at 24 May 2011 meeting and received a response from Councillor Louis, Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Commercial Services (ES/031/11). The Committee found that the recommendations had all been accepted, and good progress had been made against them. The Committee agreed that no further action was required in relation to this topic.
29 November 2011	Essex People Strategy 2012 and beyond including staff survey results (ES-SCR-007)	Full Committee	Adam Bowles, Head of Corporate HR and Keir Lynch, Executive Director for Transformation were in attendance to provide an update on the Essex People Strategy, focusing on 2012 and beyond, and include details of the staff survey results and collection methods. A scoping document setting out the areas of focus for this review was agreed at the 23 June 2011 meeting (ES/044/11). The Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee originally considered the Essex People Strategy at its September 2009 meeting.

