

**Committee:** PERFORMANCE SELECT COMMITTEE  
**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008  
**Title:** LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT TARGETS  
2010/11  
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Agenda Item

**12**

Item for  
decision

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### Summary

1. This report provides a brief overview of the Essex Strategy and Local Area Agreement and suggests a number of priorities, indicators and targets for the district council to 'have regard to'.

### Recommendations

2. That Committee agree to 'have regard to' the priorities, indicators and targets outlined in the report.

### Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of the report:
  - Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance: Draft for Consultation [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
  - Development of the new LAA framework: Operational Guidance 2007 [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
  - An Introduction to the Local Performance Framework – Delivering Better Outcomes for Local People [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
  - National Indicators for Local authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definitions [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicator](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicator)
  - Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives: The Essex Strategy 2008-2018 VO.16 – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 [www.essexpartnership.org](http://www.essexpartnership.org)
  - Liberating Potential: The Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 VO. 9.6 – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008 [www.essexpartnership.org](http://www.essexpartnership.org)
  - Governance, Delivery and Performance Management – Consultation Paper April 2008
  - Corporate Plan 2007-09 [www.uttlesford.gov.uk](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk)

### Impact

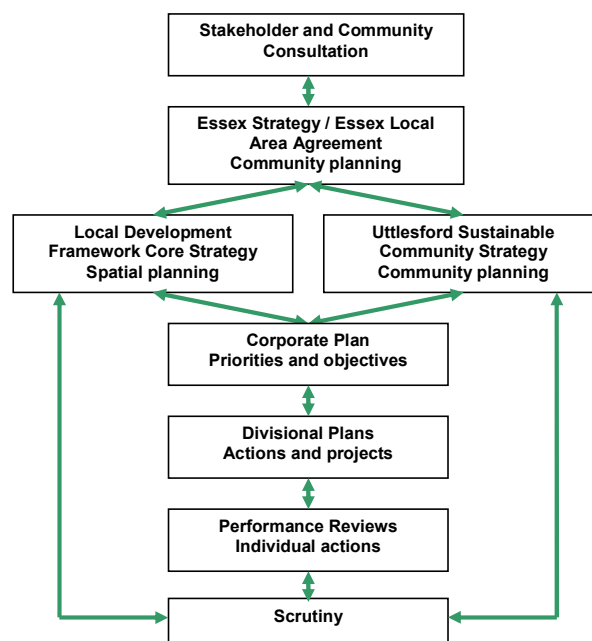
Communication/ Consultation	Heads of Division have been consulted on the national indicators and targets
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Community Safety	The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has been involved in discussions on the LAA and consulted on the community safety indicators and targets
Equalities	Equality and diversity issues will need to be recognised in action planning around the priorities and indicators chosen.
Finance	There is funding associated with the LAA but no decisions have been made on how this will be allocated
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	The Audit Commission's focus on data quality, will require consideration and quality assurance controls
Sustainability	The Energy Efficiency Surveyor has been consulted on the sustainability indicators and targets

**New Local Performance Framework**

- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the new local performance framework. The performance framework is built around a set of relationships between local authorities and their partner agencies, Government Offices in the Regions and central government.
- The starting point for delivering better outcomes is for local partners to create a shared vision and shared sense of priorities for a place – in this case the county of Essex. The vision is set out in the Essex Strategy – “Liberating Potential: Fulfilling Lives”.



## Essex Strategy

6. The Essex Strategy is the work of the Essex Partnership. It reflects the priorities of the local community and the perspectives of local government and its partners in the local public, business and third sectors. The priorities are:
  - **Our People** – fulfilling potential and enjoying life
  - **Our Communities** – belonging to strong and supportive communities
  - **Our Economy** – promoting sustainable growth with high value jobs; and ensuring adequate infrastructure is in place to support this
  - **Our World** – promoting sustainability and protecting the county's physical environment
7. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) forms the heart of the new performance framework. It helps deliver the ambitions for the county and its people, as set out in the Essex Strategy; it sets out the 'deal' between central government and local authorities and their partners to improve services and the quality of life in Essex. Essentially, it is a three-year delivery plan for those elements of the Essex Strategy identified as being of highest priority. The agreement is between the Essex Partnership and Government Office for the East of England.
8. The LAA incorporates the four themes of the Essex Strategy and a set of ten priorities. These are:

### **Our people**

1. Fewer children and young people missing education or not in education, employment or training
2. More people supported to live in their own homes and better support for carers
3. Better public health and longer lives
4. Children and young people realise their potential in education

### **Our Communities**

5. Essex roads are safer, less congested and everyone has access to essential services
6. More participation in sport, culture and volunteering
7. Essex is a safe place to live

### **Our Economy**

8. Essex has a strong and competitive economy

### **Our World**

9. A smaller carbon footprint with less waste
10. A well managed natural environment

9. Under each priority is a set of local improvement targets. These are a combination of National Indicators from the National Indicator dataset released earlier this year and Local Indicators. The targets have been proposed by the lead thematic partnership for each indicator.
10. Six thematic partnerships have been identified as best able to support the work of the Essex Partnership across the range of issues identified in the Essex Strategy / LAA. These are:

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- Community Wellbeing and Older People’s Partnership
- Essex Strategic Board for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Children and Young People’s Strategic Board
- Greater Essex Prosperity Forum
- Essex Community Safety, Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership
- Sustainable Essex Partnership

The thematic partnerships have responsibility for delivering the targets, and action plans are being developed.

11. There is a duty on the district council to co-operate and agree the LAA targets. In addition, all statutory partners should indicate which priorities “relate” to them i.e. which they will ‘have regard to’. This means that:
- The priority features in the partner’s business planning and performance management (i.e. Corporate Plan; Divisional Plans)
  - Resource allocation addresses the priority
  - Data is provided to the LSP and thematic partnerships
  - Performance targets are communicated to staff
  - Partners agree to consider whether additional value can be added by more effective use of existing resources or partnership working.
12. It is proposed that the district council ‘has regard to’ the following priorities, indicators and targets, which reflect the council’s priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. These are a combination of National Indicators which the council is required to collect and Local Indicators measured via the Place Survey which the district council is required to undertake every two years.

**Priority 2 More people supported to live independently in their own homes with better support for carers**

**NI 156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation**

This indicator is important as temporary accommodation is an indicator of deprivation.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Baseline 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007	27	1526
Target (2010/11)	20	1175

**Partnership delivery and indicative actions**

- Action plan to follow
- Council Priority: Partnerships - Working to deliver effective and co-ordinated services with partners*
- Objective: Working in partnership to improve the safety, health and well-being of our communities*

## **LI 2.2 Affordable housing**

This is recognised as one of Essex's biggest priorities. The definition will focus on numbers of new build affordable houses delivered. Members of the Essex Housing Officers Group have been asked to provide baseline and target information for their respective districts. This information will then be aggregated to form a county baseline and target.

### **Partnership delivery and indicative actions**

- Action plan to follow

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: Managing development and delivering affordable housing for local people*

## **Priority 5 Essex roads are safer, less congested and everyone has access to essential services**

### **LI 4.1 Access to services**

Development of this measure will be led by the Rural Community Council for Essex, with specific proposals introduced at the November Essex Partnership Forum.

### **Partnership delivery and indicative actions**

- Action plan to follow

*Council Priority: People – Consulting and engaging with staff and customer*

*Objective: Develop the customer service centre and improve access to services*

## **Priority 6 More participation in sport, culture and volunteering**

### **NI 6 Participation in regular volunteering**

This indicator is important because high levels of volunteering are one sign of strong, active communities and are vital in supporting the range of activity undertaken by third sector organisations.

This is a new indicator for which a baseline will be collected through the Essex County Council's next Tracker Survey in June, which will then allow district level targets to be set. Performance against these targets will be measured through this six monthly Tracker Survey. It is also proposed that questions are included in the new **Place Survey**.

### **Partnership delivery and indicative actions**

- All partners could adopt framework for improved communication with the third sector
- All partners could adopt and implement the Essex and district compacts. This includes protocols on funding relationships, direct liaison with the third sector and representation mechanisms

- Develop Time Banks
- All partners adopt employee volunteering policies
- Stabilise and strengthen funding of VCS through grants and procured services.

*Council Priority: Partnerships - Working to deliver effective and co-ordinated services with partners*

*Objective: Improve access to sport, leisure and cultural activities*

### **NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation**

This indicator is important because participation sport is a significant contributor to positive physical and mental health. A target of 1% p.a. increase in participation has been set for all districts, except Basildon, Castle Point, Harlow, Rochford and Tendring which have been set a stretch target of 1.5% p.a. as these are the lowest performing district areas and so will require extra focus and resources.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Baseline (%)	23.1	20.20
Target (2010/11, %)	26.1	24.1

#### **Partnership delivery and indicative actions**

- Develop programme to Increase physical activity and sport in and through the workplace (both public and private sector)
- To roll out the Active+, Bodycare and new programmes across Essex to increase participation in sport and active lifestyles for the over 55s
- Engage with local clubs and service providers increase the number of people in Essex becoming active members of a sports club
- Sportessex to seek leverage from the Sport England Community Investment Fund.

*Council Priority: Partnerships - Working to deliver effective and co-ordinated services with partners*

*Objective: Improve access to sport, leisure and cultural activities*

### **Priority 7 Essex is a safe place to live**

#### **NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour**

While levels of crime in Essex are relatively low, anti-social behaviour is an issue that causes significant concern for communities and therefore actual levels and perceptions need to be addressed. Targets will be measured by the new **Place Survey**.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Baseline LGUSS	15.2	21.5

(2006/07, %)		
Target (2010/11, %)	13.7	19.4

**Partnership delivery and indicative key actions**

- Improved communication to engage, inform and reassure the public about work that is taking place to reduce ASB targeted in areas identified as having high perceptions of ASB
- Develop new consultation methods and improve existing consultations and community meetings to increase understanding of the factors that influence perceptions of ASB in order to inform and direct resources.

*Council Priority: Partnerships - Working to deliver effective and co-ordinated services with partners*

*Objective: Working in partnership to improve the safety, health and well-being of our communities*

**NI 195 - Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting)**

This measure records the levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting in an area, incidences of which can seriously affect the liveability of the area and have a detrimental effect on fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Baseline (% based on BVPI 199a)	5.6	13.4
Target (2010/11)	This is a new indicator and it is not appropriate to set district level targets until June 2008	9.8

**Partnership delivery and indicative key actions**

- In consultation with partners develop a single county wide approach to improving environmental and street cleanliness, undertake environmental quality surveys, coordinate marketing campaigns to encourage behaviour change and share resources and expertise
- Work with the local community to focus targeted action on hot spot areas where litter, detritus, graffiti and/or fly posting are seen as a significant problem and a barrier to people feeling safe in their local surroundings
- Neighbourhood police teams and extended police family, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other partners to develop joint approach to improved street and environmental cleanliness
- Collaborate with ENCAMS to develop a Cleaner, Greener network involving all partners in Essex that will develop a single approach to improving environmental and street cleanliness, undertake environmental quality surveys, coordinate marketing campaigns to encourage behaviour change and share resources and expertise between partners

- Work with the local community to focus targeted action on hot spot areas where litter, detritus, graffiti and/or fly-posting are seen as a significant problem and a barrier to people feeling safe in their local surroundings.

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: Improving environmental management and enforcement against environmental crime*

### LI 6.2 – Feeling safe

Essex residents display disproportionate levels of fear of crime compared to actual crime statistics. This indicator contributes significantly to the Quality of Life agenda and will benefit significantly from effective Essex partnerships. It measures the percentage of people saying they feel safe after dark. Targets will be measured by the new **Place Survey**.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Baseline (2007/08, %)	62.2	44.9
Target (2010/11, %)	67.8	50.8

### Partnership delivery and indicative key actions

- Launch a campaign to raise awareness and understanding of the criminal justice system across Essex so that people can have confidence that the system is meeting local needs
- Focus tactical crime reduction campaigns on areas where fear of crime is highest
- Improve the visibility of neighbourhood policing and the extended police family
- Work with neighbourhood action panels and other community and voluntary groups to engage and empower communities.

*Council Priority: Partnerships - Working to deliver effective and co-ordinated services with partners*

*Objective: Working in partnership to improve the safety, health and well-being of our communities*

### Priority 9 A smaller carbon footprint with less waste

#### NI 188 - Planning to adapt to Climate Change

This indicator is important because it recognises the importance of taking action to adapt to climate change as well as working to mitigate against its effects, by managing the risks to local communities that will arise as the climate changes. The levels of performance are graded 0-4; the higher the number the better the performance.



Level 3 is defined as: comprehensive action plan and prioritised action in all priority areas, with climate impacts and risks embedded in decision making. Action plans include steps to achieve the existing objectives in all priority areas. Leadership and support is provided to local strategic partnerships in taking a risk based approach to managing major weather and climate vulnerabilities/opportunities.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Baseline (Level)	0	0
Target (Level) 2010/11	3	3

**Partnership delivery and indicative key actions**

- Develop local area profile toolkit to quantify economic, social and environmental risk
- Share best practice to develop co-ordinated action plans to address risks.

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: Developing energy efficiency policies to reduce our carbon footprint*

**NI 191 - Residual household waste per household**

This indicator is important because it encourages waste minimisation, an important part of the waste hierarchy that that can be achieved by reducing and reusing waste before it needs to be recycled. Cutting down on waste sent to landfill reduces the impact we have on the environment and reduces the likelihood of financial penalties.

	Uttlesford	Essex	Total
Baseline (per household, kg)	543	122	788
Target (2010/11, kg)	421	92	675

**Partnership delivery and indicative key actions**

- Develop and implement district specific action plans for waste and recycling including single framework for partners to plan and implement service expansion and enhancement; and spread best practice
- Develop capacity of community and voluntary sector to support and deliver waste minimisation and recycling initiatives
- All partners agree countywide approach to maximising participation in recycling programmes, capture of recycle and reduction in contamination.

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: Improving environmental management and enforcement against environmental crime*

### NI 192 – Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting

This indicator is important because significant progress has been achieved to increase recycling and composting rates during the lifetime of LAA 1, but there is still more that can be achieved to ensure that resources are used sustainably through increased recycling.

	Uttlesford	Essex	Total
Baseline (per household, kg)	42.8	50.4	34.2
Target (2010/11, kg)	57	62	42.5

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: Improving environmental management and enforcement against environmental crime*

### Priority 10 A well managed natural environment

#### NI 197 - Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

This indicator is important because achievement against it would help conserve and enhance Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) which although adequately protected within the local planning system quickly lose their interest and biodiversity value in the absence of appropriate management. LoWS are essential to the protection of the county's wildlife, for example for every legally protected SSSI there are 20 LoWS. In addition they often represent the only 'wildspace' within easy reach of local communities. Consistent with the national indicator implementation of PCM serves as a cost effective proxy for assessing improvements in biodiversity. A small number of Local Geological Sites (LoGS) also need to be included.

\* The definition of PCM follows that set out in the National Indicator. However, for the purposes of establishing the baseline, only LoWS with DEFRA, Natural England or Forestry Commission management schemes have been included. Collation of information relating to 'site management plans' or 'management guidance' will be available and encouraged by partners through this indicator.

		Uttlesford	Essex
LoWS		281	1440
Baseline	PCM	29	247
	%	10	17
Target 2010/11	PCM	113	679
	%	40	47

**Partnership delivery and indicative key actions**

- Explain PCM to each LoWs owner
- Determine current status of each LoWs against PCM
- Offer PCM Statement by qualified partner
- Write PCM Statements for all LoWs
- Run annual high profile Workshop for Owners of LoWs
- Obtain funding of indicative actions.

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: None applicable*

**LI 10.1 – Progressing the Living Landscapes vision: the number of Living Landscapes Areas with a Management Vision**

This local indicator is important because the Living Landscapes vision is to establish large areas of quality countryside through out Essex which are good for wildlife, recognise the importance of history and culture and which integrate social and economic benefits for people. Living Landscapes are ecologically functioning landscapes (such as river catchments, woodland mosaics, diverse estuaries) that are large enough to provide resilience and connectivity for wildlife, access and enjoyment for people, sustainable, low carbon contributions to the economy and are able to adapt to climate change. Such Living Landscapes bring great quality of life to local people and great interest to visitors and hence bring important social and economic as well as environmental benefits. The most important Living Landscape Areas are identified on a GIS layered map - there are between 2 and 9 in each district or borough. The important target is to get a Management Vision in place and to begin work to improve and promote the great value of these areas to Essex. Some Visions are in place – Dedham Vale, Colne Valley, Lee Valley, Epping Forest, Blackwater Estuary, Hatfield Forest, Galleywood Common, Hockley Woods – most are not – and these targets would aim to support those visions being in place so that further support and funds can then be secured.

	Uttlesford	Essex
Total no. of Living Landscapes	9	65
Baseline (Current no. of Living Landscapes Visions)	1	8
Target 2010/11 (No. of Living Landscapes Visions)	4	41

**Partnership delivery and indicative key actions**

- Deliver a workshop for to explain the rationale of Living Landscapes, and their value to Local Development Frameworks and communities

- Identify which Living Landscape areas are the most important for each Local Development Framework
- Identify funding to assist Local Authorities writing Management Visions for Living Landscape Areas then write for consultation
- Agree support for BRIE to hold all detailed data
- Include Living Landscapes in Local Development Frameworks
- Publish annual report and run annual celebration.

*Council Priority: Environment – Protecting and enhancing the environment*

*Objective: None applicable*

### Local Strategic Partnership

13. In addition to the above, it is suggested that Uttlesford Futures (the local strategic partnership) will 'have regard to' the following LAA priorities, indicators and targets. These will be finalised at the next Board meeting in May.

**Priority 1 Fewer children and young people missing education or not in education, employment or training**

NI 117 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)

**Priority 2 More people supported to live independently in their own homes with better support for carers**

NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information

**Priority 3 Better public health and longer lives**

NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6

**Priority 5 Essex roads are safer, less congested and everyone has access to essential services**

N 47 People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

NI 198 Children travelling to school – mode of transport usually used

LI Access to services

**Priority 6 More participation in sports, culture and volunteering for the benefit of the whole community**

NI 6 Participation in regular volunteering

NI 11 Engagement in the arts

**Priority 7 Essex is a safe place to live**

NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour

NI 39 Rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm

NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17

NI 115 Substance misuse by young people

LI 6.1 Repeat incidents of domestic violence

LI 6.2 Feeling safe

**Priority 9 A smaller carbon footprint with less waste**

NI 186 Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local authority area

NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change

**Priority 10 A well managed environment**

NI 197 Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

LI 10.1 Adoption of the Living Landscapes vision – the number of Living Landscapes Areas with a Management Vision.

14. Once agreed, the LAA priorities and indicators will be captured in the council's performance management framework and actions outlined in the new divisional plans for 2008/09. Similarly, the LAA priorities and indicators Uttlesford Futures 'has regard to' will be captured in the new Sustainable Community Strategy and action plans.

**Risk Analysis**

15. The following has been assessed as the potential risk associated with this issue.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigating actions</b>
That the relevant systems and procedures will not be in place by 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008 to effectively monitor and report on the indicators	1	3	Work on establishing the necessary procedures and systems is already underway and will be under constant review  Divisional plans will be developed outlining the priority actions to be progressed in the forthcoming year