

**Committee: Scrutiny**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 3 May 2016**

**12**

**Title: Relationship between Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council**

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### **Summary**

1. This report provides information on the numerous relationships that exist between Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council.

### **Recommendations**

2. The committee decides whether it wishes to undertake a review of the district council's relationship with the county council and, if so, to decide which aspect of that relationship it wishes to focus on and how it wishes to carry out that review.

### **Financial Implications**

3. None.

### **Background Papers**

4. None

### **Impact**

Communication/Consultation	Communication between the two councils will be necessary to conduct this review
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	Depending on the decision as to which aspect of the relationship is taken forward to review, there will be an impact on some officers' time (see risk analysis below)

## Situation

5. The relationship between Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council was added to the Scrutiny Committee's work programme following the exercise to ask all councillors for suggestions of topics for the committee to consider.
6. Members' concerns centred on Essex Highways, particularly in regard to road maintenance, traffic issues, planning applications and planning policy. One member also questioned education planning in the district.
7. At the Scrutiny Committee meeting of March 2016 an initial discussion took place about this topic. The discussion was wider than the relationship with Essex Highways and members requested a list of relationships between the two authorities, which is attached as Appendix A to this report. It lists service areas within the district council and the main links each of these services has to Essex County Council. The majority of services provided by Uttlesford District Council have some link to Essex County Council.
8. The Scrutiny Committee has previously looked at Highways issues. On 4 September 2012 the committee received a presentation from the Highways Strategic Partnership. The minutes of that meeting can be found here:
9. [Minutes of Scrutiny Committee meeting 4 September 2012](#)
10. At its meeting on 3 September 2013 the Scrutiny Committee received a further presentation from the Highways Strategic Partnership. A separate agenda item at the same meeting covered Highways responses to planning consultations. The reports and minutes can be found here:
11. [Scrutiny Committee meeting 3 September 2013](#)
12. Members are requested to confirm whether there is a particular aspect of the relationship between the two councils considered appropriate for review and if so, the methodology and expected outcome of that review.

## Risk analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Planning department time is taken away from Local Plan preparation in order to meet requests for information from the committee	3	3	Scrutiny Committee is requested to take a proportionate approach to any requirements for information that require direct involvement from the Planning department

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.