

Committee: Council

Date: 7 December
2017

Title: The Future of Essex

Report Author: Dawn French, Chief Executive

Item for decision:
No

Summary

1. Together with a wide range of Essex partners from the public and voluntary sectors, Uttlesford has contributed to 'the Future of Essex' which aims to set out the kind of Essex we want to live in, to channel the change forces positively wherever possible and ensure Essex benefits from the opportunities such change presents.
2. 'The Future of Essex' contains seven ambitions which provide all those with an interest and stake in Essex a framework within which to target our individual and collaborative work activities.

Recommendations

3. That Council notes 'The Future of Essex' and supports the principles contained within it.

Financial Implications

4. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

5. None.

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	The Essex Plan was produced following an extensive consultation process.
Community Safety	Community safety is integral to the vision and ambitions with the Essex Plan
Equalities	Equality is integral to the vision and ambitions with the Essex Plan
Health and Safety	There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Sustainability	Sustainability is explicitly referenced in one of the ambitions contained with the Essex Plan
Ward-specific impacts	There are no ward specific impacts
Workforce/Workplace	The Future of Essex will be used as a reference document by staff and examples of good practice, particularly in collaborative working, will be shared by and with staff.

Situation

7. 'The Future of Essex' resulted from partnership working across the county, initially driven by the Essex Partnership Board. The aim was to seek to capture the essence of the diverse geography known as Essex and agree what needs to be progressed to ensure that residents and communities enjoy the best quality of life and businesses (new and existing) can prosper for the benefit of our residents. It is attached at Appendix A.
8. The purpose of 'The Future of Essex' is to provide a vision and framework of ambitions within which public sector agencies, voluntary and not for profit organisations, communities, businesses, etc. can collaborate in addressing the long term needs of residents and businesses.
9. It was produced following extensive consultation with residents, businesses, community and voluntary organisations as well as interviews with public sector 'leaders' from all parts of the county.
10. Seven shared ambitions are outlined that aim to guide the county's evolution to 2035. They are:
 - Unite behind a sense of identity
 - Enjoy life long into old age
 - Provide an equal foundation for every child
 - Strengthen communities through participation
 - Develop our county sustainably
 - Connect us to each other and the world
 - Share prosperity with everyone
11. The Future of Essex is not a top down directive; it does not place any responsibility or requirements on the council or any other organisation, community or individual. It does not require any additional resources. It is intended to identify and share the long term needs of Essex and to motivate everyone with an interest to think about what is currently being delivered and how working more collaboratively and/or better, might be achieved. In essence it is encouraging a new approach to system-wide challenges that no single organisation can address alone.

12. The collaborative approach advocated by the Future of Essex is entirely consistent with Uttlesford District Council’s vision of working together for the well-being of our community and to protect and enhance the unique character of the district. The seven ambitions are also entirely consistent with the council’s priorities.
13. By identifying and aligning the work already planned and/or underway to deliver the Council’s visions to the Future of Essex, a coherent narrative for local people can be created to show how different levels of local government and wider public services are working together towards a common set of aims.

Next steps

14. In future, the work of the council will be referenced, where appropriate, to the ambitions within the Future of Essex. Together with other councils and public sector organisations, this will give greater visibility of local priorities and activities on a county wide basis, to enable stronger collaboration between those areas undertaking similar work and dealing with similar issues. This will also facilitate shared learning and a stronger network between officers and members with common aims and remits. This in and of itself has the potential to realise greater value through improved outcomes - the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.
15. The work being undertaken by UDC together with partners around social isolation is a good local example of this. This collaborative work is being undertaken with the Young Foundation and is piloting a different approach to working with communities. Other local authorities may be undertaking similar work or be facing the same issues and by aligning this to the Future of Essex ambitions, others will be able to follow the best practice that emerges, saving time and cost and further improving outcomes.

Risk Analysis

16.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If the council does not reflect the Future of Essex document in its communication, opportunities for sharing best practice and working collaboratively may be missed	Significant	Some	Adopt the Future of Essex plan as a reference to enable visibility of the work of the council and that of others in support the Council’s vision and priorities that are consistent with the Future of Essex vision

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.