



Essex Procurement Partnership

Introduction



What is the EPP?



A collection of six Local Authorities from across Essex who have committed to join their procurement teams together and work as one team to enable

1. **Increased Resilience** – Increasing the core team supporting the councils, enabling the team to flex to demand. This resilience is increased further through access to support from the wider ECC team.
2. **Increased Expertise** - a larger team enabling focus on specific categories of spend, so understanding these markets and enabling better value. Access to the wider ECC team will enable access to significant category knowledge and skills.
3. **Collaborative savings** – By working together the team would be better able to access procurement forward plans and contract registers, aligning commissioning and contracts to both identify opportunities and as a key step towards devolution
4. **Reduction of duplication** – Both in terms of procurement activities but also in documentation and adherence to procurement rules, allowing teams to focus on additional cost saving activity.
5. **Staff Retention** – With access to a greater range of opportunities and links with the wider ECC procurement team, this should aid staff retention and attractiveness to candidates.

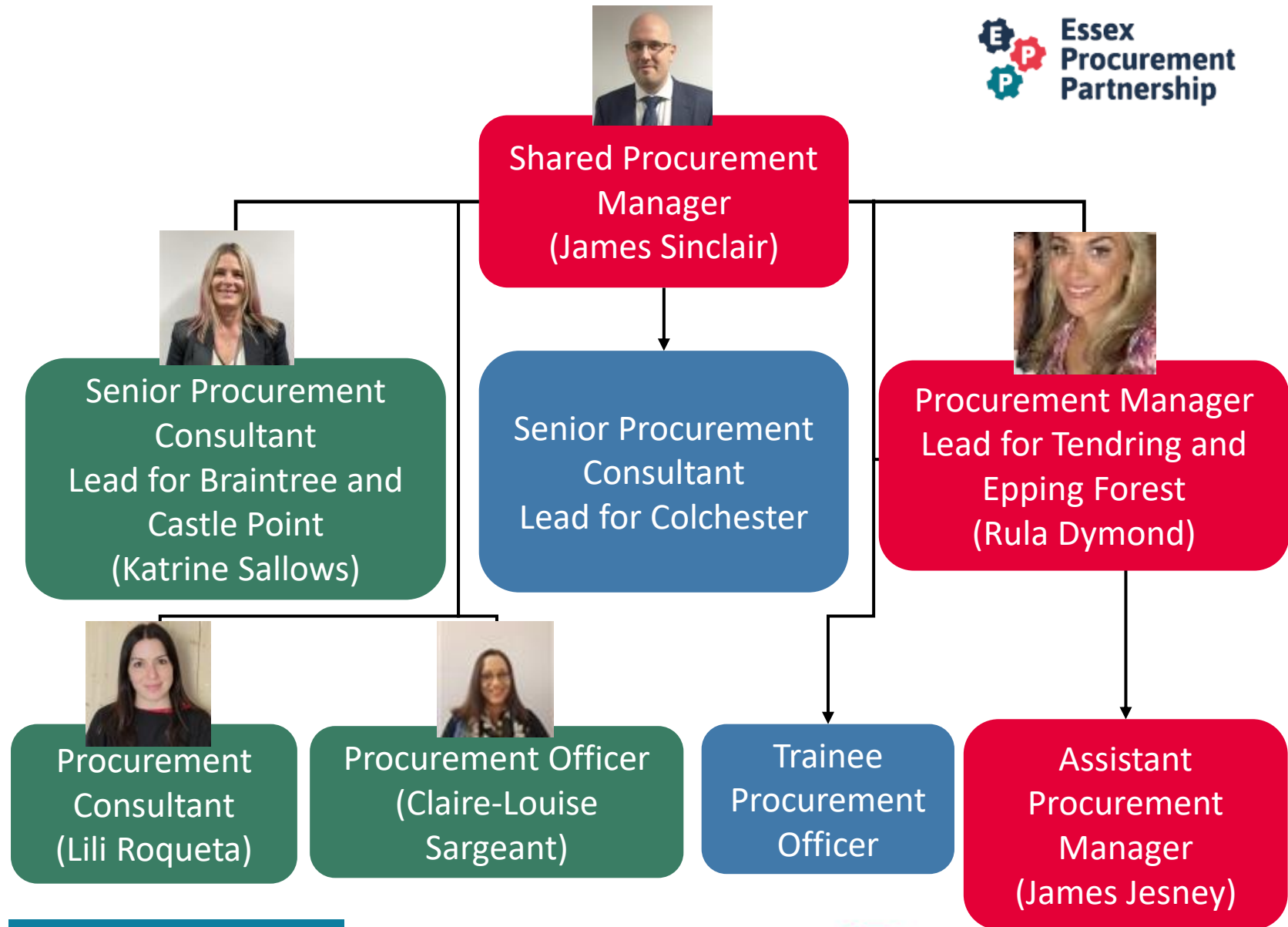
The Vision - To enable best in class procurement, maximising the value for every pound spent by local authorities to the benefit of local residents.

Who is in the Essex Procurement Partnership?



The Team

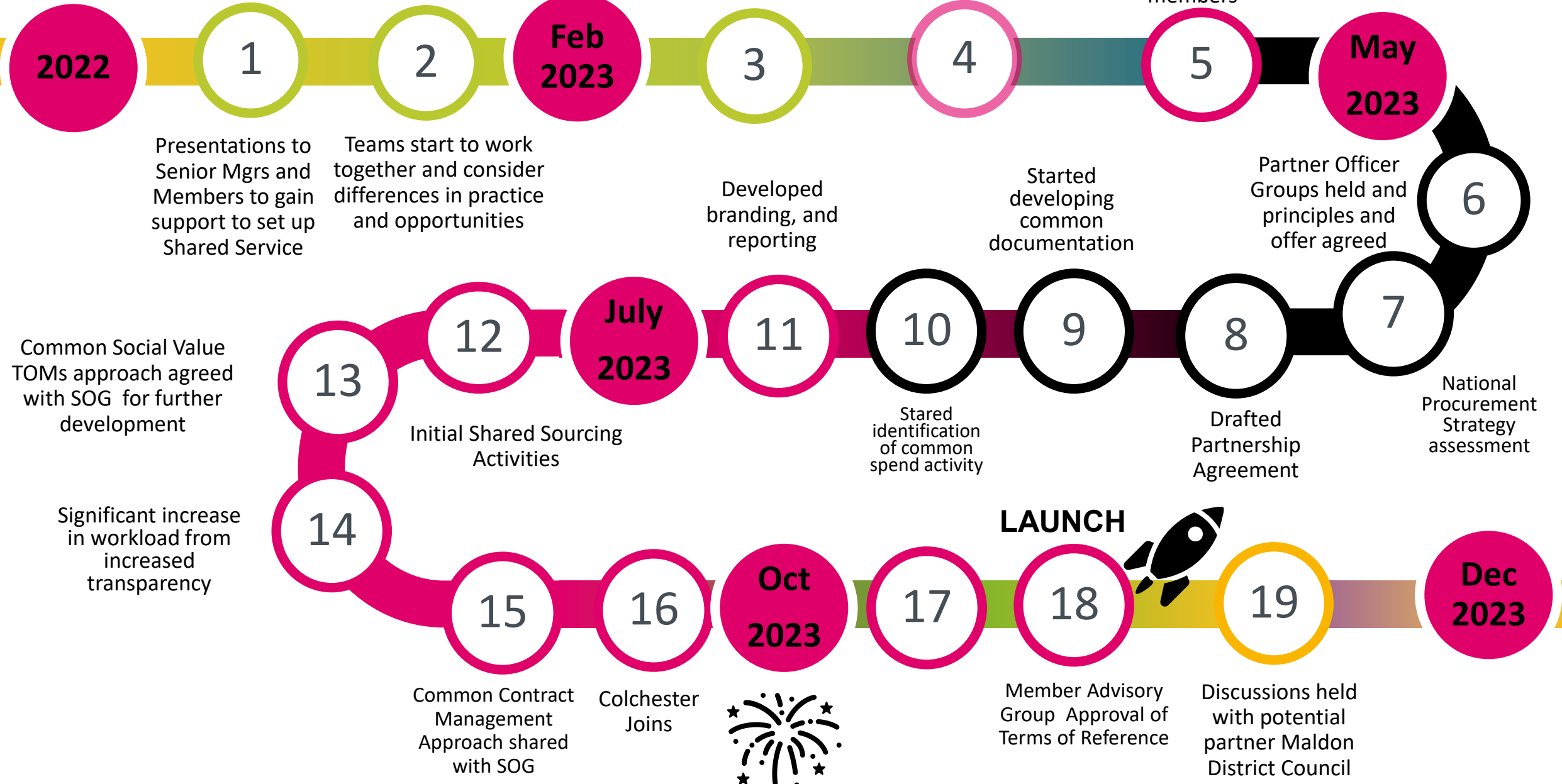
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A true partnership

Partner Working Group	Responsible officers for each authority meet to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review current procurement projects for each authority and prioritisation• Consider collaboration opportunities• Manage Issues and risks identified through operation• Review common documentation and processes pre SOG sign off
Strategic Officer Group	Senior Management representation from member organisations, to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set the strategic direction of the partnership• Agree the priorities of the partnership,• Monitor performance of the partnership
Member Advisory Group	Representation from elected members for each shared service to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the performance of the shared service• Promote approach to shared working to support growth• Our shared procurement hub

EPP Journey



Key Metrics

£55m

Approximate value of contracts across partners (excluding ECC). This is increasing all the time as we gain increased visibility

700

Approximate number of contracts based on the data we have built up this year.

111

Number of projects currently on the forward plan.

104

Number of Procurements supported since April 2023, (excludes Colchester)

Agreed Objectives

Priority	Objective
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1</p>	<p>To understand contract liquidity – Through development of a clear contract register and forward plan enabling partners to understand third party commitments, providing transparency in line with legal requirements.</p>
	<p>Undertake sourcing activity – Undertake all procurement for the members authority’s above £50k, helping to ensure legal obligations are met and delivering value for money.</p>
	<p>Systems and Processes– Create robust systems and processes across partners to ensure consistent procurement practice to reduce risk, drive value and support SME/ VCSE bids</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2</p>	<p>Create frameworks – Creating robust and effective frameworks to support partners in delivery of services whilst also creating income opportunities through the introduction of rebates.</p>
	<p>Develop the professionalism of procurement in each partner – Undertake an assessment of procurement maturity and support in developing this level of maturity in line with the National Procurement Strategy.</p>
	<p>Grow procurement and market knowledge – Provide business partners and a supporting procurement team with the right knowledge and capabilities to deliver an effective and professional sourcing service to each member.</p>

Agreed Objectives

Priority	Task
3	Introduce category management – Identifying key categories of spend across member authorities and undertaking review of this spend to identify collaborative procurement and savings opportunities.
	Support robust contract management – Introduce a new contract management approach for partner authorities to embed with guidance to enable consistent and effective management of contracts and suppliers across partners.
	Develop social value – Introduce a common approach to social value/ climate agenda to sourcing activity for members.

These objectives form the basis of the Essex Procurement Partnership Procurement Strategy which is currently being developed with the Head of Procurement for Essex County Council, with a draft to be shared at the next Strategic Officer Group.

2024 Ambitions

- Complete implementation of common documentation across EPP, ensuring a consistent and robust procurement approach for partners and supporting bidding organisations
- Deliver and record savings from
 - Common temporary agency approach
 - Common vehicles collaborative procurement
 - Collaborative corporate procurements.
- Achieve good confidence in contract liquidity across all partners
- Embed TOMs social value approach across partners and start demonstrating social value delivery for all partners
- Continue to reduce risk to partner Authorities through implementation of compliant procurement practice
- Gain agreement to savings methodology across partners to enable demonstration of commercial benefit
- Move to stable position where demand is known to enable new potential partners such as Maldon District Council to joining

Timetable

Following agreement by the Strategic Officer Group it has been agreed to initially focus on Priority 1 activities given the significant increase in sourcing activity, however some additional funding has allowed focus on social value for the coming year

QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4
Seek Strategic Officer Group Review and Approval of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement Strategy • Procurement Rules • Savings Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development plan for EPP staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Partnership Agreement • Good understand of spend across participating councils with robust contracts registers and a forward plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise common procurement documentation • Clear collaborative procurement and framework plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider growth of partnership