



Policy Panel Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ**

Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 18:00

The Policy Panel provides legislative, improvement and policy advice to Cabinet and Portfolio Holders on issues that may affect executive functions. The Panel considers issues at the request of Cabinet and Portfolio Holders and must seek approval from Cabinet on whether and how issues proactively identified by the Panel are examined. The Panel also considers initiatives for review from members of the public.

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Policy Panel – Terms of Reference

- (1) To consider strategies, policies and legislative changes identified by Cabinet that may require review and improvement and to seek Cabinet's agreement as to whether and how they should be examined.
- (2) To review issues at the request of a Portfolio Holder and to make recommendations back to the Portfolio Holder for decision.

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
Policy Panel
Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 18:00

The Policy Panel Members are:

Councillor Jocelyn Law	Chairman
Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell	Deputy Chairman
Councillor Kevin Bentley	
Councillor Sue Lissimore	
Councillor Sam McCarthy	
Councillor Rhys Smithson	
Councillor Julie Young	

The Policy Panel Substitute Members are:

All members of the Council who are not members of the Panel.

AGENDA
THE LIST OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
(Part A - open to the public)

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 5 are normally dealt with briefly.

1 Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors to the meeting and remind those participating to mute their microphones when not talking. The Chairman will invite all Councillors and Officers participating in the meeting to introduce themselves.

2 Substitutions

Councillors will be asked to say if they are attending on behalf of a Committee member who is absent.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the item or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other registerable interest or non-registerable interest.

- 4 **Urgent Items**
The Chairman will announce if there is any item not on the published agenda which will be considered because it is urgent and will explain the reason for the urgency.
- 5 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The Councillors will be invited to confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023 are a correct record.
- Policy Panel Minutes 29 November 2023** 7 - 12
- 6 **Have Your Say!**
The Chairman will invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition on any item included on the agenda or any other matter relating to the terms of reference of the meeting. Please indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.
- 7 **Asset Based Community Development and Asset Mapping Update** 13 - 34
Within this Policy Panel report is an overview of the ongoing work in relation to Asset Based Community Development / Communities Can within Colchester City Council. This includes actions that have taken place and consideration for future actions and use of training we have access to. Alongside this there is an overview of the Asset Mapping work which has been undertaken in a system wide space – this overview has been provided by Todorina Hammond (Community 360) detailing progress to date and how this information both links to Asset Based Community Development / Communities Can as well as the future plans for implementation within Neighbourhood / Domain & Place Partnership work.
- 8 **Essex Procurement Partnership** 35 - 48
The Council is working towards being part of an Essex Procurement Partnership, which aims to bring together services to enable more effective procurement activity, value for money and efficiency and to improve category management.
- 9 **Work Programme 2023-24** 49 - 50
This report sets out the dates of the Work Programme for 2023-2024 for the Policy Panel and gives the Panel an opportunity to consider what subjects for which it may wish to request Cabinet approval for the Panel to consider in the 2023-24 municipal year, and to formally make recommendations to put these to Cabinet for approval. Cabinet may also wish to consider what subjects it might want the Policy Panel to consider during 2023-24.

10 **Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive)**

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Part B
(not open to the public including the press)

POLICY PANEL

29 November 2023

Attendees: Councillors Bentley, Law, McCarthy, Scott-Boutell, Smithson and J. Young.

Substitutes: Councillor Sunnucks for Councillor Lissimore.

Also in attendance: Councillor King

86. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

87. Future of Sports and Leisure Strategy [verbal update]

Mr Chilvers addressed the Panel, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1), to argue that fitness and leisure activities did not just happen at dedicated premises and give his view that too much time and money was being spent on the Northern Gateway sports facilities. Mr Chilvers explained that he had previously used Leisure World, before moving to a commercial gym and spa, and asked whether sport and leisure provision would be more reactive to needs in the future. Mr Chilvers argued that the Council should not try to guide people's health and fitness efforts and to reduce the health and fitness services it provided.

Rory Doyle, Associate Director of Alliance Integrated Strategic Partnerships, gave assurance that the briefing would cover much of what Mr Chilvers had asked. The Associate Director gave a verbal update, explaining that the National approach was to review and reframe the public sector sports and leisure offer. Sports England and DCN had published a review on leisure provision and the roles played by councils, alongside the contribution this made to wellbeing and health. Challenges were presented by operating in a post-Covid situation whilst trying to decarbonise. Local authorities were challenged to think differently now that previous models had become unsustainable. There had been a clear steer to expand offers and focus on active wellbeing services, creating healthier, more active communities with alignment in place-based ambitions. The current financial model for Colchester was unsustainable, with facilities having a high cost, especially the pool and facilities at Leisure World, which was also the largest source of emissions in the Council's portfolio.

Transformational work was needed to create a sustainable model for the future, with feedback having noted a lack of clarity and purpose in the current model, with some feedback stating that the Council did not currently have a holistic view. The Associate Director highlighted the importance of services to tackle health inequalities and the need to better understand barriers to fitness, with improved data to show the

social value provided by services, collected by working with communities to understand needs. Work with stakeholders was discussed, including in the health services, to create a wider health offering in partnership with others. Services provided needed to have a positive and measurable impact on Colchester. Resources were needed to create a transformed model, with project management support which was being sought, as this could not be provided in-house at a sufficient level. The transformational work needed was linked to the Council's asset management strategy and moves to the corporate landlord model. Local authorities across the country were looking at similar challenges and had a good record of collaboration with other organisations. The Council was working with Wolseley on proposals as to what could be improved and to map out what investment may be required. Outreach work was carried out within communities and with other parts of the UK to gain ideas. Sport England funding was being sought to help develop this further.

The Panel discussed various parts of the Council's leisure offer, including the facilities in Tiptree and the plans for the Heart of Greenstead project. A large concentration of the Council's work had been in Castle, New Town and Mile End wards. A Panel member argued that there was a good opportunity for a workshop session to work on future priorities. Another Panel member praised the proposed approach and urged cooperation with other local authorities, including town and parish councils, and shared service potential with neighbouring districts to identify what to offer, whilst avoiding duplication.

Concern was raised by one Panel member as to the size of Leisure World Tiptree being too small, and the cost associated with use of the main Leisure World site in Colchester, including charges for parking in comparison to other leisure venues with free parking. The potential competition with other providers was raised as a concern.

The Associate Director was asked what numbers of residents there were who exercised by dog walking, and whether dog agility equipment could be provided for this, which would also encourage responsible dog ownership, potentially linked into the Landscape, Nature and Waterways Strategy, along with potential for wild swimming if water is clean enough. A Panel member asked whether money from Section 106 agreements could be used to provide equipment, and whether residents across all wards would be consulted before the Sport and Leisure Strategy comes back to Policy Panel for review. The Assistant Director agreed with the points made on Section 106 funding and the importance of locality regarding assets, working with partners and communities.

The Panel considered the corporate landlord model being pursued by the Council, considering which services cost money and which funded themselves. The Assistant Director was asked whether the social value of services/activities had been calculated and the location of problems ascertained. Concern was raised that the approach proposed would take time and a Panel member urged swifter action and consideration of the issues at play. The Assistant Director informed the Panel that granular work was being carried out to examine sites and services, with Leisure World as the best performing site. More could be done to maximise social value provided and new software had been purchased to show who was using each element of the Council's assets and services. The challenge to work quickly was accepted, balanced by the need to not lose a strategic view.

A Panel member argued that Leisure World had always been the more affordable option, compared to comparable private sector facilities and that, with the cost of living crisis, the private sector alternatives were unaffordable for many residents.

The Panel discussed the link between physical and mental wellbeing, and the importance of a place-based and asset-based strategy for providing sport and leisure options, giving a sense of community, a place for people to come together, and a home for sports clubs. The Assistant Director agreed and highlighted that Adam Britton, Head of Sport and Leisure, had a rich background in private sector sport and leisure provision, and was examining where the Council needed to position itself to have maximum impact, deliver pilot work and to connect with partners and provide activities in partnership. The Head of Sport and Leisure described the sense checking on what the private sector offer was, noting that private sector providers either charged at a higher rate than the Council, or at a lower rate that was based on levying multiple charges. The private sector was a competitive market, and the Head of Sport and Leisure explained that his work would be to take a community based approach to the Council's sport and leisure offer, rather than an asset based approach.

In response to questions as to what services the Council should be providing, and one Panel member's view that the Council should only provide sport and leisure options which did not compete with private sector alternatives, the Assistant Director emphasised the question as to who the Council was looking to support, and which public sector partners it would want to support. The Assistant Director was keen to have elected members conduct site visits, which would be facilitated as soon as possible, expected in the next municipal year. The importance of involving elected members was stressed, linking in to their communities and to gain necessary feedback.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that: -

- a) A workshop be organised for all Elected Members on the Future of Sports and Leisure
- b) All Elected Members be invited to engagement events for the future Sports and Leisure Strategy

RESOLVED that an update be returned to the Policy Panel on the future of Sports and Leisure Strategy at its meeting scheduled for 6 March 2024 and that officers will consider the interdependencies with other strategies.

88. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

Councillor Natalie Sommers, Portfolio Holder for Communities, introduced the Policy. The Council was subject to the equality duty and aimed to go beyond this to cover diversity within its policies, supporting colleagues and residents, reflecting the People Strategy. There were areas where improvements could be made, which were being identified by staff surveys and meetings with managers. The Policy was being reviewed, an Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity [EDI] Group had been created and set in the context of a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

Jess Douglas, Head of People, underlined equality and diversity as a priority for the Council, reflected in its vision. Inclusivity was a priority, including safe working spaces, tackling discrimination and providing services that help residents to be sage in their communities. Stephen Kane had been in post for the past 12 months working on this.

Stephen Kane, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Specialist, outlined the work to ensure that colleagues and communities felt secure. Lunch and Learn sessions had been held, with the first being about autism awareness and the second on deaf awareness. The third session would be on black history awareness, and it was hoped that the programme would be maintained at a successful level. Not all could attend, and so attendance via Teams was being enabled for a future session. The Town Hall assessment audit showed that the building had positives, and work was being examined to seek improvements. The Council aimed to go above and beyond its equality duties, with a commitment from management that this would include the Amphora companies. The EDI working group had been reinstated and was meeting bi-monthly. EDI training and online learning was instrumental in improving knowledge. Different training types and styles were used and included modules on different protected characteristics.

The Panel was told that awareness was of critical importance regarding the different ways in which people lived their lives. More 'lunch and learn' sessions would be held, and monthly EDI updates circulated. The Local Government Association [LGA] and Equality Frameworks were described, in context of meeting the Council's equality duty, offering a peer challenge and using metrics and surveys to ascertain whether the majority of colleagues felt the council was inclusive.

Different equality measures which had been introduced were described. These included a trial provision of sanitary items, which had been a success, and the introduction of a gender-neutral bathroom. The Council was seeking to build an internal EDI website, enhanced policies and training, and introducing champions. The Race Charter was to be adopted and used to help remove unconscious biases. Ongoing work on improving accessibility would continue.

Mark Healy, Community & Partnerships Officer, described the work of the Partnership and Community Team to promote more compassionate communities, improve lifespans and enable conversations about difficult subjects such as loss and death. The City of Sanctuary project was described, creating a safe space for refugees, and work was ongoing towards becoming a dementia-friendly community. The Council was focussing on people, place, and policy, with audits including looking at work to create dementia-friendly environments. Examples of work with partners in communities were given, including with Stanway Together.

The Inclusion Charter was explained, with the Council's work towards instituting and expanding such a charter.

A Panel member asked why Colchester Borough Homes [CBH] required a separate policy on EDI. It was explained that CBH dealt with tenants, and it was thought that a dedicated policy was needed to cover this and improve ways to bring people together. A joint approach would, however, be taken by CBH and the Council together, working on the framework of policies. Councillors would be included in this

work.

A Panel member who had attended the deaf awareness 'lunch and learn' session described the keenness of participants, and thanked officers for the work they had been carrying out to seek to make Council business accessible for those who experienced deafness. The Panel member advocated greater inclusion of councillors in EDI work, improving councillors' awareness and understanding. The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Specialist asked for views as to how officers could help facilitate councillor participation in EDI work, and what councillors would like to see happen. Richard Clifford, Democratic Services Manager, answered questions on making EDI training mandatory for councillors, to explain that this was already mandatory training. A Panel member requested that councillors be given the same training as officers, in group sessions, and suggested that there be a councillor appointed to be EDI Champion for the Council.

Another Panel member congratulated the presenting officers on the work focussing on dementia, and urged similar work to be done in regard to mental health issues and conditions such as AIDS, to improve affected residents' quality of life. The Panel member agreed that councillors could often find themselves forgotten about, and that they should be better included. Officers were asked to consider how the Council shared information and learning with other local authorities.

A Panel member stated that there had been much EDI training in the past, but less in recent times, with online training being tedious and scenario/dramatization style training being more effective.

The Panel discussed the accessibility challenges experienced by the deaf community and the mitigating measures which could help overcome these. The limitations of captioning were discussed, and members raised the Stagertext system, which was in use at the Mercury and which had been booked for the upcoming Full Council meeting.

The Panel discussed accessibility issues for Council buildings, and for parish councils and parish halls. Mandy Jones, Strategic Director, explained that the corporate landlord model would look at the strategic issues regarding accessibility, and that EDI would be put alongside other priorities and regulatory ambitions. People and partners would be advised of their responsibilities and roles in terms of community enabling. Enabling was a key approach for the Council to take.

RESOLVED that the Policy Panel commends the quality of the report.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that: -


- a) The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion [EDI] Policy is worded to cover the entirety of the Council, and its subsidiaries and partners
- b) Cabinet encourage Group Leaders to work with the Member Development Group to ensure their Members are trained in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- c) Cabinet direct officers to review the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training for Members from its current online form and explore other options included

'lived experience' training

- d) Cabinet explores the creation of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Councillor Champion
- e) The Council works with its system partners to share best practice on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.
- f) Cabinet direct the Monitoring Officer to remind Parish Councillors and their staff of their duties under EDI legislation.

89. Work Programme 2023-24

RESOLVED that the Panel approved its work programme for 2023-24, subject to the addition of an update on the drafting of a Sport and Leisure Strategy, to be presented at the Panel's meeting scheduled for 6 March 2024.

	Policy Panel		Item 7
	10 January 2024		
Report of	Head of Health Partnerships & Wellbeing	Author	Tom Tayler (CCC) Todorina Hammond (Community 360) 07890 397164
Title	Asset Based Community Development and Asset Mapping Update		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Within this Policy Panel report is an overview of the ongoing work in relation to Asset Based Community Development / Communities Can within Colchester City Council. This includes actions that have taken place and consideration for future actions and use of training we have access to. Alongside this there is an overview of the Asset Mapping work which has been undertaken in a system wide space – this overview has been provided by Todorina Hammond (Community 360) detailing progress to date and how this information both links to Asset Based Community Development / Communities Can as well as the future plans for implementation within Neighbourhood / Domain & Place Partnership work.

2. Action Required

2.1 For the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel to consider the current work programmes in place and planned activities and provide feedback where appropriate.

3. Reason for Review

3.1 As a key priority for the Council, Policy and Public Initiatives Panel requested an overview of work carried out and plans going forward.

4. Background Information

4.1 Colchester City Council (CCC) received funding as part of the Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) programme administered by Sport England & Active Essex with a key aim to ensure that Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) was built into each of the pilot areas to explore sustainable community led initiatives. Colchester City Council wanted to specifically use this resource to explore how this concept could be embedded throughout the organisation across service delivery to enable a consistent approach from the local authority.

4.2 As part of the package from Sport England & Active Essex, Nurture Development were commissioned to work with Colchester City Council to embed this work through a range of training packages suited to a variety of audiences. This training began in 2021 and has continued until mid 2022 where it was decided that it should be paused in line with the organisational restructure until a more settled period. To date over 80 members & officers have received training from Nurture Development.

- 4.3 There is still a considerable amount of resource left in relation to training packages on offer with Nurture Development and discussions are ongoing with both SLB and neighbouring authorities to explore the best way to utilise this in a now restructured and reorganised local authority. As part of this we would like to ensure that this training is varied in terms of delivery style and output and including staff, councillors and system partners where appropriate.
- 4.4 Colchester City Council officers have used the “Communities Can” ethos, which is a system wide initiative to embrace Asset Based Community Development principles, and brand to package up Asset Based Community Development Training to make this more accessible to staff and partners whilst creating stronger links between the training objectives and outcomes for our communities residents. An example of this in practice is Community 360 have hosted a “Communities Can Officer” to work with residents, community groups and charities to encourage sustainable grass roots initiatives through the physical activity lens to encourage improved health and wellbeing. (Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot Funded). We are also aware of numerous system partners embracing this ethos through their own individual methods as well as sharing within the community.
- 4.5 Staff feedback to date has been varied with some dependencies on the format / method of training however there have been largely positive accounts from some of our front facing staff (Community & Partnerships / Digital Access Teams) as to how the training has helped to shift mindsets for how we work with our residents and communities.
- 4.6 Ongoing monitoring and evaluation is taking place to assess the effectiveness of this ABCD training, most recently staff and system partners have undertaken Ripple Effects Mapping workshops to identify the direct impacts, outcomes and links to the training and there is a follow up workshop in February 2024 to assess the results.
- 4.7 We feel that there is a need to be clear that this approach is not CCC abdicating responsibility by including these concepts within their practices and service delivery but instead enabling residents and communities to design and deliver their own change assisted by us as CCC where appropriate. The ability to harness the community power and spirit as shown during the Coronavirus pandemic evidenced why hyperlocal decision making and ownership capability is so essential to our communities. This approach is not a short term one with instant financial benefits or solutions however, this is a long-term behaviour change approach which if implemented effectively can lead to sustainable benefits to hyperlocal areas, communities and residents to improve the sense of place and ownership.
- 4.8 Asset Mapping
Asset Mapping information provided by Todorina Hammond (Community 360)
- 4.9 What is Asset Mapping - The Community Assets Mapping report, commissioned by the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance, highlights the strength of the community through the numerous assets found across our three neighbourhoods – Colchester Central; Colchester South and Colchester North. The intention of the map, which was refreshed in 2020, was to acknowledge the valuable role that assets play in the lives of local citizens but with particular reference to their health and wellbeing. Assets, as defined by the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model, can be individuals, associations, institutions, place-based, and connections. By understanding the assets, local commissioners are better placed to support community organisations, build partnerships and consider funding options.
- 4.10 The Alliance is committed to the ABCD approach, ensuring work is done with, not to local citizens. Consequently, understanding the strength and resilience of these assets, as well

as acknowledging those areas requiring support or help with sustainability, is fundamental to achieve the Alliance objective – to work together to help everyone live well locally. C360 is working in partnership with Healthwatch Essex and Tendring CVS on a series of reports to be published as companions to the Community Assets Mapping refresh of North East Essex, published in Spring 2021. These companion reports, also known as deep dives, have been created in collaboration with a steering group, including representatives from district and county councils, Essex Fire and Rescue, the Local Delivery Pilot, North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and ESNEFT. The aim is to gain a deeper understanding of what facilitates and what presents barriers to access to services and how to address them.

- 4.11 Where / How / Why is it done - A clear outline for the reports was shaped through consultation with the Steering Group and the Domains – Start Well, Stay Well, Feel Well, Be Well, Age Well and Die Well. It was agreed that the work would consider key drivers and influences on people, using learning from the last 12-18 months and gathering information through a literature search and primary research which accurately reflects:
- A deeper understanding of what facilitates and what presents barriers to access to services and how to address them
 - key challenges facing the specific groups that the reports are exploring
 - local cultural factors and limitations

It was agreed to focus the citizen's voice work in specific areas, taking into account demographics, levels of deprivation, etc.

Start Well – *Children & young people have the best start in life.*

Prioritised Children, Young People and Families as the first area for analysis by supporting commissioners and local organisations to build on the strengths of what already exists, and fill identified gaps in services. The scope was agreed in consultation with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, the Start Well Domain Workstream and the Community Assets Steering Group.

Stay Well – *Adults with health or care concerns are supported to maintain health, productive and fulfilling lives.*

This report follows the 'Right Care, Right Time, Right Place' principles and considers key drivers and influences on people who are living with long-term conditions or awaiting hospital treatment.

Work to underpin this report found a range of issues which are highlighted within. The need to improve communication, information, and language to support people to be able to take better care of themselves including more support to help people to adjust to living in a more digital world. The need to involve and support carers and other peer led groups and more generally a need to increase awareness of community assets and how to access them.

Be Well – *Adults are empowered to make healthy lifestyle choices.*

The report provides case studies and spotlights examples of good practice. It has a particular focus on quality of housing standards; the impact of physical activity on health and wellbeing; and access to sustainable, affordable and healthy food.

Feel Well – *People enjoy mental wellbeing.*

The aim was to gain a deeper understanding of what facilitates and what presents barriers to access to services and how to address them, the key challenges facing people with mental ill health (especially those aged between 18 and 55 years of age), local cultural factors and limitations, and transitioning from children to adult services.

Age Well – People live safely and independently as they grow older.

As we age we are more likely to be faced with age-related conditions, increased isolation and challenges with physical and mental wellbeing. The Age Well report aims to highlight the strength of the community through the numerous assets found across our neighbourhoods.

Die Well – Individuals nearing end of life have the choice around their care.

Highlights the strength of the community through the numerous assets found across our neighbourhoods. This individual report considers key drivers and influences on people determined to be at or near end of life. There are a range of report findings, some of which include: the need to improve communication information and language around end of life; awareness and death literacy to remove stigma around dying and encouraging people to plan ahead.

Findings So Far – Each report has an extensive list of Call to action/Recommendations specific for Domain. However, the cross-cutting themes that appear through each report are: transport, unpaid carers, community safety, a general awareness/understanding of what is available, advocacy (especially for people with LD and sensory disabilities)

The details from these asset mapping reports are available to system wide partners to utilise the databases, spaces and information on clubs and groups for signposting and supporting as part of engagement work, as well as system initiatives such as the neighbourhoods programme being able to utilise this mapping work.

The asset mapping work is due to be reviewed in line with the Colchester & Tendring place based plans which are being drafted currently to be implemented within the coming months. Place based plans are a new health alliance-based initiative currently in development that will integrate with the Domain & Neighbourhoods way of working to provide a location focused plan to improve health outcomes using the wider determinants of health and system partners as part of this in a non-clinical approach.

5. Recent Actions and Next Steps

ABCD / Communities Can

- SLT Presentation of progress made to date with training roll out withing CCC through staff and members (September 2023)
- Ripple Effect Mapping sessions facilitated by Active Essex Evaluation Team conducted in November 2023 and planned for February 2024 follow up.
- Planning and scheduling of remaining ABCD content to take place early 2024. This will include working with Nurture Development (Training Organisation) to ensure that courses are bespoke to CCC and place based system need.
- CCC Induction Information Development – Officers will work to pull together information to become part of the onboarding process for new staff / members to ensure they are aware of the approach at the commencement of their employment. This will include a refresh of the current internal video to include all recent information / changes.
- There is a desire within CCC to use the current Community & Partnerships Team to support with cascading this information internally whilst also supporting this work to assist in embedding within service delivery to increase community engagement and ownership through the ABCD lens. This work will be part of a refocusing of priorities for the current Community & Partnerships Team who have current strong links with organisational partners as well as numerous CCC service areas.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications

- 6.1 Although there are no particular references to equality, diversity and human rights. The work to support residents will be promoted as widely as possible, with a particular focus on groups that would previously not engage with or needed support from the Council and wider systems partners.

7. Standard References

- 7.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 We have strong evidence and support from system partners around the benefits of Asset Based Community Development and Asset Mapping and through the work we do as a Community & Partnerships Team with residents, communities and system partners (such as SNEE ICB / Community 360) we are testing and learning directly with these approaches throughout our places. We are always striving to coproduce with our residents and communities and opportunities through resident panels, ward member discussions and community engagement work provide us with platforms and insight to help tailor our methods to ensure they are appropriate.

9. Publicity Considerations

9.1 *Communications and Website*

- 9.2 Currently the majority of our work is ongoing internally with staff and members within Colchester City Council and the publicity of this has been to a minimum. An area of development for this work is how we share the learning and awareness of this more widely using the channels we have at our disposal and from our partners.
- 9.3 Asset Mapping communications is shared through Alliance / System partners with the sharing of the planning, reporting and evaluation of findings. These communications are then to be distributed through organizations as and where necessary to support ongoing work and programmes.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 Colchester City Council has received external funding from the Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot for this specific work on Asset Based Community Development to the sum of £35,000 which is commissioned to be delivered through an organisation called Nurture Development who have an ongoing relationship with Active Essex.

Asset Mapping work is funded through the North East Essex ICB and has been undertaken by Community 360 and Alliance system partners.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 This work is aimed at supporting residents and communities by enhancing their local places and spaces and utilising the assets (buildings, institutions, people, skills) to create stronger more active communities. Colchester City Council and system partners support this collaboratively through awareness raising, networking and building in the principle of ABCD and Asset Mapping into our ways of working as BAU.

12. Appendix

Please see the below listed appendices to provide additional background information.

Communities Can Information Document (September 2021)

Communities Can...

A collaborative approach | 2021



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ONE Colchester

The **ONE Colchester Partnership** takes a **System Leadership** approach bringing public and voluntary sectors together with key partners and citizens, to ensure a collaborative approach maximising opportunities for **Colchester**, with a focus on **Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety and an Inclusive Economy**.

The development of our Approach

2020 was a challenging year, yet the response to the pandemic showed **the strength of our communities** and the effectiveness of the relationships built within the ONE Colchester Partnership.

The future holds challenge for all sectors and for a fairer more inclusive society. ONE Colchester partners recognise the need to listen, learn and collaborate.

Our aim is to develop an approach that puts improved health and wellbeing at its heart.

Communities Can. The response to the pandemic proved this with an approach that mobilised the strengths and assets that exist within our communities around a common goal and we aim to build on this approach for the future.

Stages of development

Research and Insight, including:

- ▶ “Asset mapping” undertaken by Community 360
- ▶ In-depth research on community assets in our area led by Anglia Ruskin University
- ▶ The State of Life survey on the impact of the pandemic on our communities
- ▶ The latest data from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Public Health England and others

Engagement and collaboration between partners

Our Strategy for Connected Communities



Introduction

Strong and resilient communities are and always have been fundamental to the wellbeing and prosperity of our Borough.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have a profound impact on our communities and the way in which we work together to serve them.

Just prior to the pandemic, the report **'Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years on'** highlighted that across England, inequalities have continued to grow and blight communities such as ours.

This situation has been compounded by COVID-19: existing inequalities in Colchester are likely to be exacerbated. The pandemic has not affected all equally.

The way in which communities themselves and organisations that serve and represent our communities were able to come together, put boundaries aside and work to a common goal, provided clear evidence of the strength and effectiveness of this approach.

This collaboration, in tandem with our focus on reducing inequalities, will allow us to, echoing the title of the December 2020 COVID-19 Marmot Review, to "build back fairer".



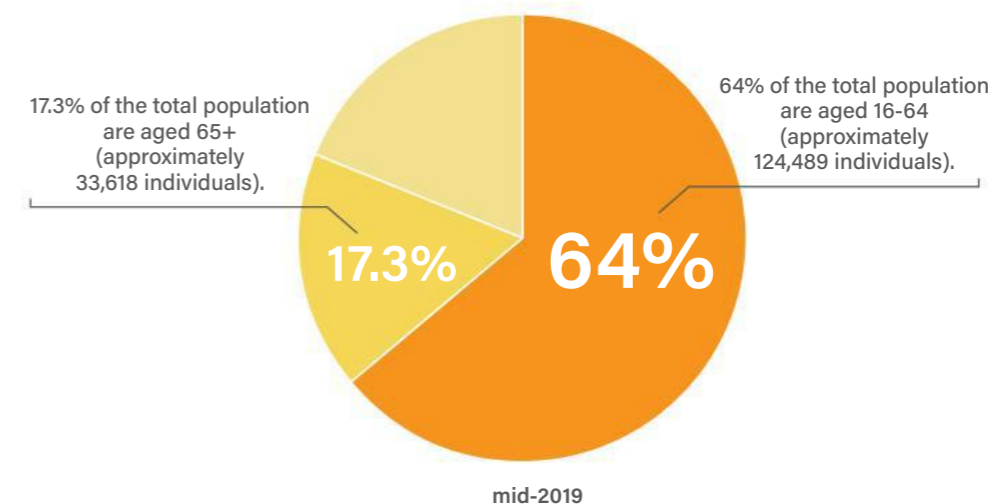
Case for Change - Our Communities

Colchester's communities are multiple and overlapping. Communities may include small geographic neighbourhoods, allegiances based on shared characteristics or associations based on common interests.

Some communities are long-term, while others may rise in response to an issue or concern. Residents are likely to be members of many different communities with varying degrees of commitment and / or attachment.

Different communities face different challenges, challenges often multiplied by the pandemic which, for example, disproportionately affected our black and minority ethnic communities and those already impacted by inequalities.

Colchester remains one of the fastest growing boroughs in England, and, with that growth has come change in the demographic profile of the Borough, which is evolving into a less ethnically homogenous location.



Source: Office for National Statistics 2019 mid-year estimates

The Borough remains roughly in the middle, nationally, in terms of **deprivation**, but this overall average hides stark differences within Colchester, with the most and least deprived areas often bordering one another.

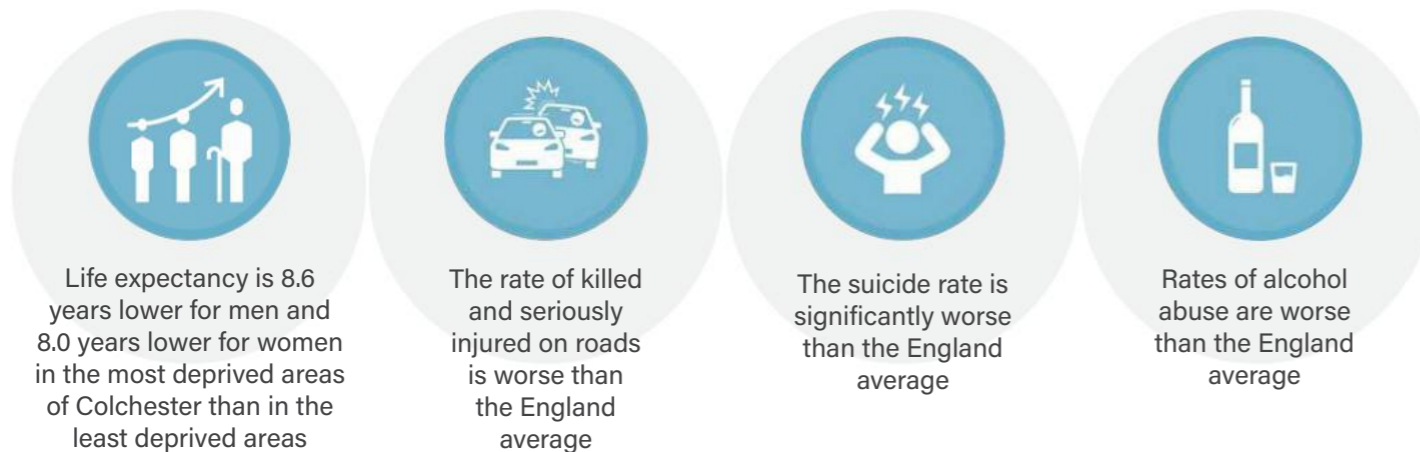
English Indices of Deprivation 2019 COLCHESTER

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Source: MHCLG - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall picture of health and wellbeing across the Borough was mixed with specific concerns around mental wellbeing, as well as inequalities in health outcomes for different localities and communities.



Source: Public Health England, 2020]

Case for Change - Our finances and Service Demands

The effects of the pandemic are likely to hit the finances of One Colchester Partners hard, at the same time as our services are going to face increased demand.

Likewise, the resource challenges facing our **health and social care services**, other **statutory bodies** and our **local voluntary community services** is significant.

A worsening of the financial and wider resource situation, in combination with a likely increase in demand, means we have no choice but to **do more with less**, to **work smarter**, and to **work together**. The pooling of our resources, where ever possible, will provide maximum impact.

Furthermore, while the pandemic has created challenges for the future that are still not fully known, it has also brought communities together, increased volunteering, and has transformed the way services are delivered. We can learn from this and ensure this cohesion helps our most vulnerable communities to further develop resilience during the challenges ahead.



POPULATION GROWTH OVER THE LAST DECADE

21,606 **11%**



COLCHESTER HISTORY
BRITAIN'S FIRST CITY WITH A HISTORY DATING BACK OVER **2000 YEARS**

POPULATION GENDER SPLIT

Male 97,008 Female 97,687



49.8% 50.2%

PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

372.69
ACRES ACROSS THE BOROUGH



COUNTRY PARK SPACE
1,051
ACRES ACROSS THE BOROUGH



£18M
FOR TOWN BID

FOR TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS, FACILITIES FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE, IMPROVED DIGITAL PROVISION INCLUDING 5G AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WALKING AND CYCLING



HOME TO ESSEX UNIVERSITY

15,000 STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 130 COUNTRIES



HOME TO THE NEW NORTHERN GATEWAY SPORTS PARK WITH A 1-MILE FLOODLIT CYCLING TRACK



COLCHESTER POPULATION
194,706



NUMBER OF MUSEUMS/HISTORIC SITES

20 ACROSS THE BOROUGH



PERCENTAGE OF SOCIAL RENTED PROPERTIES IN COLCHESTER

14%



65 HALLS, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND FAITH CENTRES SERVING AS WIDER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

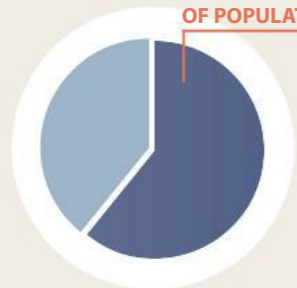


42 MILES OF RIVER / COAST



124,489 WORKING AGE POPULATION (16-64)

64% OF POPULATION



24 ALLOTMENT SITES ACROSS THE BOROUGH



14 SPORTS AND PLAYING FIELDS ACROSS THE BOROUGH



35,000 ADULTS VOLUNTEER AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH



COLCHESTER ORBITAL
14-15 MILE CIRCULAR WALK AROUND COLCHESTER



NATURE RESERVES
396.79 ACRES ACROSS THE BOROUGH



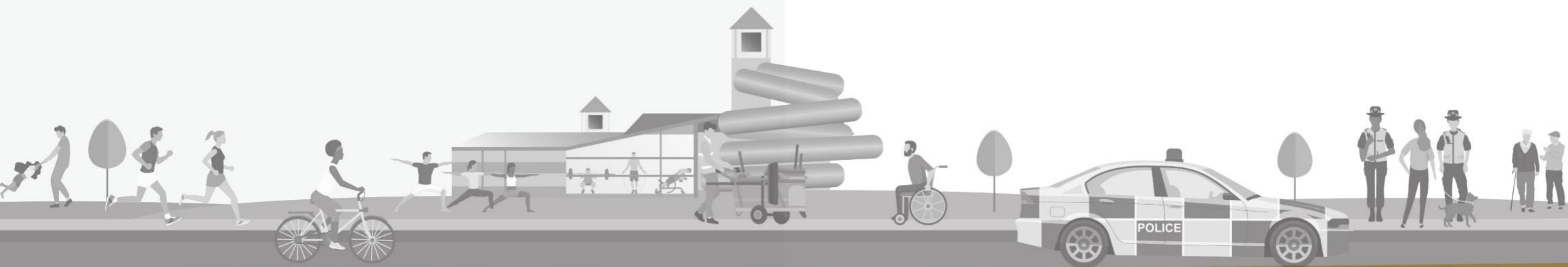
Our Aim

Our aim is to support the growth of inclusive, bottom-up, community-driven and citizen-led change that lessens the impacts of pre-existing inequalities.



We recognise the power that already exists within our **communities**. We want to facilitate our communities to reach their **full potential**, create and lead change for themselves, be **more resilient** and make greater use of the **assets and strengths** that exist within. The potential for asset-based approaches to help build connected and resilient communities has been underscored by the system-wide pandemic response.

The purpose of this document and approach is also to define agreed principles that inform how we aim to work together and alongside communities in the future. A **coordinated** and **consistent** approach, making full use of all the resources available across partnerships, reducing duplication and co-producing so communities they feel **connected** and **empowered**.



Our Approach:

Together we Can

Working together, as **ONE Colchester**, is a strength. Organisations and agencies in Colchester are working together with a much greater focus on problem prevention and reducing inequities - the unjust and often avoidable differences affecting peoples' wellbeing based on personal circumstances and where they live.

Systems thinking in our place, now more than ever, recognises the need to shift from a **'deficit' to a 'strengths' based approach**. It is no exaggeration to recognise this as a paradigm shift in the way local government and its partners operate. To make this work this we need

to broaden the conversations and relationships beyond the usual institutions such as local authorities and health services and work with individuals and community groups on their terms, and in their places, actively seeking to nurture and grow what is strong in everyone.

This approach - an **Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)** approach - focuses on creating positive social change by identifying and building assets within a community. **'Assets' include community associations, local services, informal groups and networks, and local businesses as well as the skills, knowledge and commitment of residents.**

ABCD places emphasis on strengthening relationships within communities and on community-initiated activities, as communities themselves are regarded as the primary building blocks for change.

The more familiar 'deficit' approach focuses on problems, needs and deficiencies in a community. It tends to lead to the design of services or interventions led by organisations and institutions that fill the gaps and attempt to fix the problems. Evidence suggests this approach can draw people into statutory services at the expense of helping them build independence and resilience.

Research commissioned by the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance in 2020 showed **the strength of community assets** in our Borough and the crucial role they play in helping build resilience among our communities.

We believe that a key role of the public and voluntary sector is to **support citizens and communities** to discover, connect and mobilise the assets that exist, and to encourage the development of new assets where there are gaps.

The health of our physical environment is essential to the health and wellbeing of our communities too, and our approach is one that seeks not only to protect our environment, but to encourage active involvement of our communities in **protecting and using our natural assets**.



LEVEL 0 - fragmented

LEVEL 0

Deficit model, focused on what's wrong.

'Demand' rather than 'needs' led services

Leadership is centralised; power and accountability with professionals and institutions

Money/funding seen as the key resource

Success is service outcomes, measured mostly by institutional stakeholders

LEVEL 1 - focussed

LEVEL 1

Identification and enhanced understanding of primary community assets (local and within community control)

Discover existing community connectors

Inclusive learning conversations and listening campaigns

Pilot participatory budgeting

'Step down' the servicing of unnecessary demand and false supply

ROADMAP | SERVICE DRIVEN APPROACH THROUGH TO ABCD

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 2 - enhanced

Primary assets made visible and supported to mobilise and connect with each other

Leadership is local with a widening circle of volunteer citizens accountable to the community

Widespread participatory budgeting

Services considered secondary to community based solutions and 'needs' led

LEVEL 3 - transformed

LEVEL 3

Empower and enable communities to use internal assets, resources and skills to find solutions and build self-reliance

Strength based and citizen led model, where services are

minimised or co-produced

Community fosters a sense of independence, pride and possibilities, commanding or generating its own income

Our Core Principles

Our approach has **four Core Principles** which act like a compass and guides our work with Communities :

Relationships build a Community

Connect, build and link to multiply the capabilities of individuals.

Asset-based approach

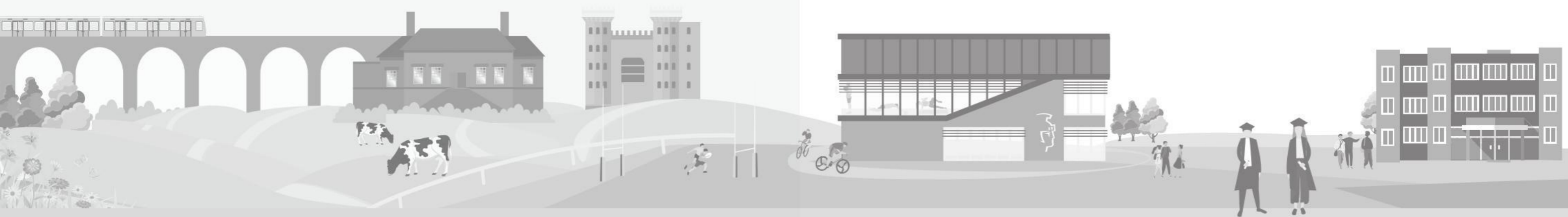
Focus on what is 'strong not wrong' so start with strengths and examples of what works, this helps to inspire and motivate people.

Citizen-led approach

Focus on what people can do for themselves and what help they need, this involves identifying community builders, organisers and connectors.

Inclusive approach

Everyone has a voice and opportunities to create space for those who are most marginalised.



Our Partnership in Action

Along with all the incredible effort and activities throughout the pandemic we have a **strong foundation** on which to build our approach. There are some existing programmes and partnerships that are aligned and will play an important part of our approach going forward, these include:

- ▶ **The North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance** which, brings together authorities, commissioners and providers of health and wellbeing services. Working together to tackle the causes of ill health, focus on prevention and looking to adopt a Neighbourhood approach to improved health and wellbeing. This **'Live Well'** approach also places ABCD at its heart.



- ▶ **The Essex Local Delivery Pilot (LDP)** is a new and exciting initiative, led by Active Essex, to build healthier, more active communities in three Essex districts, including Colchester. An active lifestyle creates huge benefits for the **health and wellbeing** of individuals and families, as well as making local communities more vibrant, connected, and resilient.
- ▶ Work that has been undertaken to **Map the Assets** that exist within **Communities** so we understand what we have and where it is. It is also includes qualitative research into the importance of those Assets to the people who use them.
- ▶ **Digital Transformation** that is shifting how customers can access services across the Council and Health providing wider accessibility and access to information and advice.
- ▶ **Climate Emergency Declaration** by the Council driving a new approach to environmental sustainability which includes community led initiatives and behaviour change.
- ▶ **Build Back Fairer** philosophy being included in the Economic Strategy with emphasis on **jobs, housing and opportunities for all**.
- ▶ Co-produced, community led activities with key **Cultural Sector partners**.

Looking to the future:

Next steps

We will spend time and resource ensuring that our people are trained and aware of what ABCD is and how to help support our ambitions.

We will consider our approaches and policies and how much they reflect this citizen-led approach and where they don't we will work to change them.



We will focus funding opportunities to activities and initiatives that support this approach.

We will look to co-produce what we do with communities and local leaders and work collaboratively with each other.

We will look at more pooling of assets across Colchester, be they people, funds or buildings.

We will continue to engage with our most vulnerable and marginalised communities, working to reduce the inequalities that exist among and between them.

Ultimately, we will work towards, in Marmot's words, a "fair distribution of health and wellbeing" for our communities.



1

ABCD spreading the knowledge....

The LDP comprehensive 2021 training programme in Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is well under way. The training is provided by our LDP partner Nurture Development. The first Essex-wide course made up of 8 live learning modules finished at the end of March,

and the second course started this week. Each course trains 20 organisations, and by the end of 2021 over 100 organisations will be trained in how to apply ABCD methods to enable local communities to use their own energy and passion to become more active.

2

Working together for cleaner air

The main source of Colchester's pollution is exhaust fumes which impact on the health of local people and have been linked to 1 in 20 deaths in the borough.



The Council, together with Clean Air Colchester, a local voluntary group have brought together passionate people to build Clean Air Colchester's network of volunteers and develop resources to support their work going forward.

A community led initiative including work to understand and listen to what people know and feel about air quality in Colchester and the impact it has on health. In total over 3,000 people shared their views and helped shape how to move forward.

An local Group, determined to make a difference has formed to bring together Clean Air Colchester, local residents and representatives from businesses and community groups, including Our Colchester, EnForm and the Mosque.

They have been key in developing the look, feel and direction of a borough wide engine switch off campaign - CAREless Pollution and are supported by a network of

52 stakeholders who are helping to spread the word. A team of local volunteers have received training on delivering engine switch off activity to enable them to confidently carry out their own activities.

As part of the CAREless Pollution campaign community resources such as posters, car stickers, a school's toolkit and a short film have been developed. Training workshops and mentoring sessions are being planned to provide practical support and advice to local groups on delivering clear air communications and organising activities.

These efforts are harnessing local passion into a collective voice and the development of training and resources will enable communities to act now and in the future.

What is exciting is this is just the beginning, a first step in working towards cleaner air for everyone! To find out more about the project and what's happening next visit colchester.gov.uk/cleanair.



3 Reducing isolation and exclusion through digital access

The Digital Access Support Team based at Colchester Borough Council provide a front facing service within the community, where individuals have a person to go to in order to gain assistance with using smart technology and online services. Here, CW tells of her experience.

“I am very lucky the Digital Support Group help me to understand they are patient, kind, don't tell me off, teach me however many times I ask... I used to sit at home and wait for the phone to ring... Now I do not stay at home on my own, I am not lonely at home all the time, now I talk to people, visit people and laugh with people, life is good and all due to the digital groups help.

I am more confident, I have lots more confidence, before I wouldn't do anything, wouldn't touch anything, in case I break it

now I can have fun with it, I have lots of confidence and will try it and I know if I break it, they will help me fix it and teach me so I can do it for myself next time.

But the most important learning for me has been on the mobile phone and being able to talk to my brother who is in Malaysia, I have not seen him since 2012 but now I talk to him all the time, especially video chatting, so I get to see him as well.

I didn't even have a mobile phone before, now I don't know what I would do without it.”



4 Community 360: Providing essential support through the pandemic

Community 360, the umbrella organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Colchester rose to the challenge of helping support the borough's most isolated during lockdown.



“JB lives with her daughter who has cerebral palsy and her son who has mild cystic fibrosis. JB has several chronic health conditions herself including severe arthritis, diabetes and IBS. Together they manage, but when the lockdown hit, they were worried about how they would get shopping and pick up prescriptions.

JB is one of many helped through the pandemic by Community 360.

Regular prescription pick-ups were organised straight away which was a huge relief.

However, accessing food then became an issue. JB received 9 food parcels, she has become one of our regulars and always like a good chat when completing her food order. She particularly liked the Easter Eggs at Easter. From time to time JB has been a bit strained financially so it was agreed that payments would be delayed to accommodate, with all shops paid for at set later dates.

During this period JB also took up the offer of welfare calls and

has received 9. She is always jolly when she is called her even though she was finding staying indoors tough. She is a real character and in particular loves to go to the Clacton Theatre and is an avid pen pal writer!

By June it was agreed that JB no longer needed the calls as the 'new normal' was emerging and she was feeling less isolated. Put in touch with a gardener and cleaner. Has said that she can now actually see out of her windows now without the weeds getting in the way. She was starting to feel worried because her neighbours had started to complain and she didn't know what she was going to do. She said her new gardener was tip top and she wouldn't hesitate to recommend him.

JB is very grateful for the support received her during the pandemic [or the pandemonium as JB calls it!] and will continue to use the welfare pack and prescription pick-ups until she feels more confident about going out in her wheelchair again.”



5 Giving back to the community: Project Nova

Project Nova supports Colchester's military veteran community. In this 'I-Poem', created from interviews with one Project Nova client by researchers at Anglia Ruskin University we hear about SM's story and how we has journeyed from being helped to helping others in his community.

“I felt like a human being, support from everybody else in the group was incredible
I'm struggling with a lot of it I was doing gardening and landscaping
I've done lots of projects and designs - I felt so chuffed
I volunteered to do the reading and the gardening because that's something I can do
I've got the social taking me for everything I've got because I'm 'fit to work'
I might not be alive in 13 months' time I can't do too much, working in the shop is allowed because it's counted as therapy.
I'm lucky if I can get into town and back without getting out of breath and in pain.
I would have committed suicide I'd have checked out long ago.
I've been stopped 5 times
I fight to stop committing suicide every day
I have fucking killed people
I've been in positions where I've had a gun at someone head
I shoved a gun in somebody else mouth

I've been lucky that I got picked up by Nova
I fight to stop committing suicide every day
I've got to justify why I want to be alive
I have to keep telling me every day I normally prefer flight - if I do fight I know what's going to happen
I was diagnosed in 2013 with kidney, liver failure and COPD
I'm living on borrowed time; they say 'you've got 3 years left'
I've been dry and haven't smoked for six and a half years
I got past that time
I'm a stubborn bugger
I was determined to prove them wrong
I like being alive
I've got a lot to look forward to I'm very lucky in a lot of ways
I try to help other veterans where I can
I recently got an award for helping people who are suicidal or depressed.”

6 Giving residents the power to decide on funding decisions: The Colchester Borough Homes Community Fund

“The Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) Community Fund makes grants and awards to local charities and community groups throughout the Borough. All monies awarded are considered by our Resident Panel to select the projects they feel would be most beneficial to their local community. Throughout each calendar year, the Community Fund helps distribute £40,000 of funding to local projects and organisations. All applicants need to ensure CBH tenants and leaseholders can access the project the applicant aims to provide. CBH can help applicants connect with tenants and leaseholders, should they require it.

This year we introduced the “Support in the Community” page to the CBH website. All recipients of the Community Fund share various details including what their service provides and how local people can access it.

This new approach offers reassurance that CBH Customers can access projects, makes available this information to the CBH Customer and informs all internal and external partners the impact of CBH activity in the local community.”



Together We Can



Policy Panel

Item

8

10 January 2024

Report of	Operational Finance	Author	Sam Preston
Title	Essex Procurement Partnership		☎ 07966237492
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council is working towards being part of an Essex Procurement Partnership, which aims to bring together services to enable more effective procurement activity, value for money and efficiency and to improve category management.
- 1.2 A joint Procurement Strategy is being developed which will be adopted by all partners.
- 1.3 A PowerPoint Presentation will be given for the panel, including information on the goals of the partnership as well as progress and next steps.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 To review and comment on progress on the Essex Procurement Partnership.

3. Reason for Review

- 3.1 As requested by the Policy Panel

4. Background Information

- 4.1 A significant amount of work has been undertaken to improve procurement processes internally within the Council, not only to help ensure value for money is achieved, but also to maximise the benefit of social value locally.
- 4.2 In early 2023 discussions started with a number of other local authorities to develop the Essex Procurement Partnership, supported by Essex County Council. A presentation has been included to provide more information on the partnership and its overall goals.
- 4.3 Although progress had been made locally to create a new Procurement Strategy, the plan has now moved towards agreeing a joint strategy for partners of the Essex Procurement Partnership.

5. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 5.1 Work continues to improve social value within procurement activity for the Council. A full impact assessment will be complete once the new Essex Procurement Partnership Strategy has been finalised.

6. Standard References

- 6.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

Appendices

Essex Procurement Partnership PowerPoint

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.

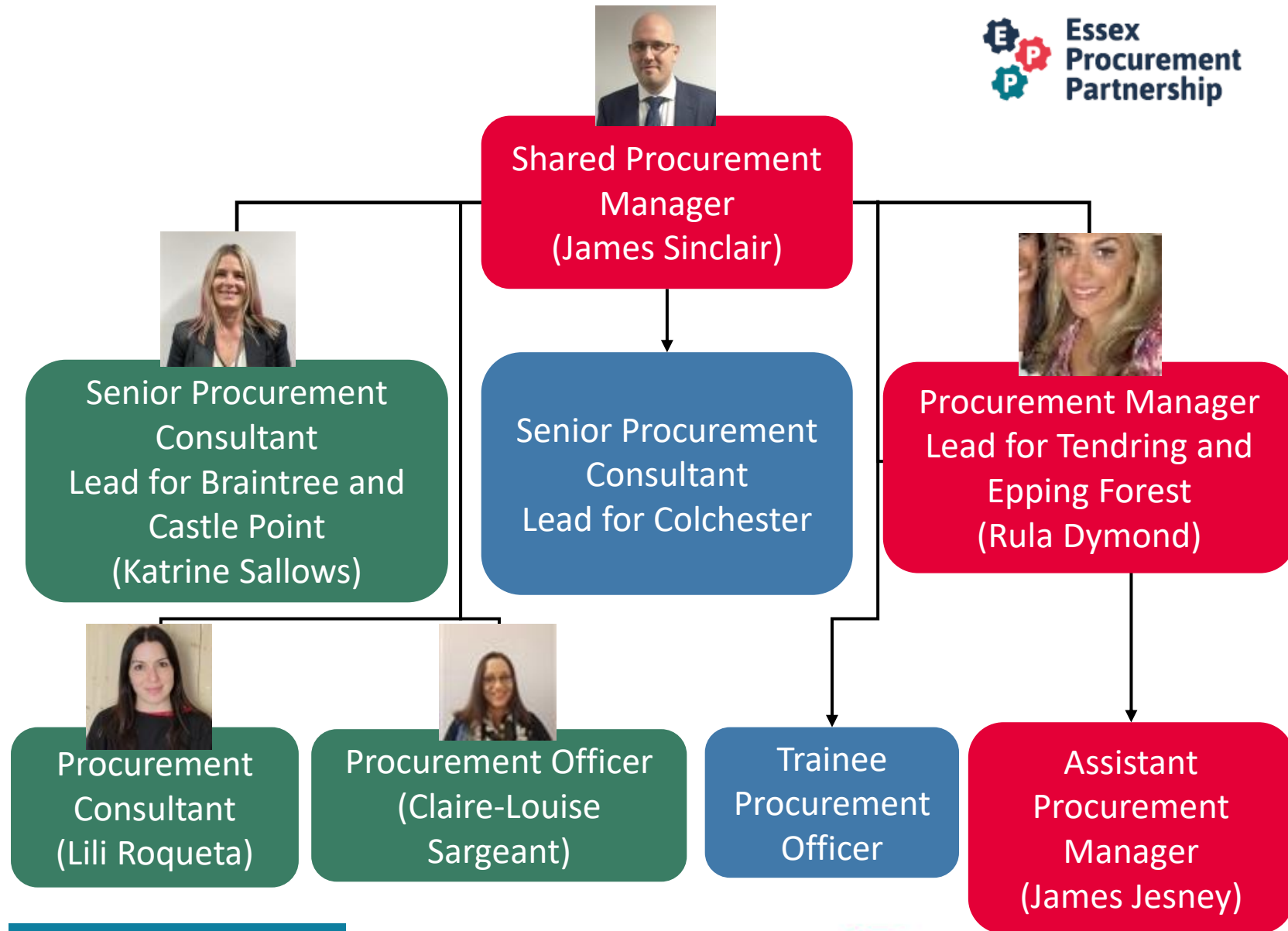
The Vision - To enable best in class procurement, maximising the value for every pound spent by local authorities to the benefit of local residents.

Who is in the Essex Procurement Partnership?



The Team

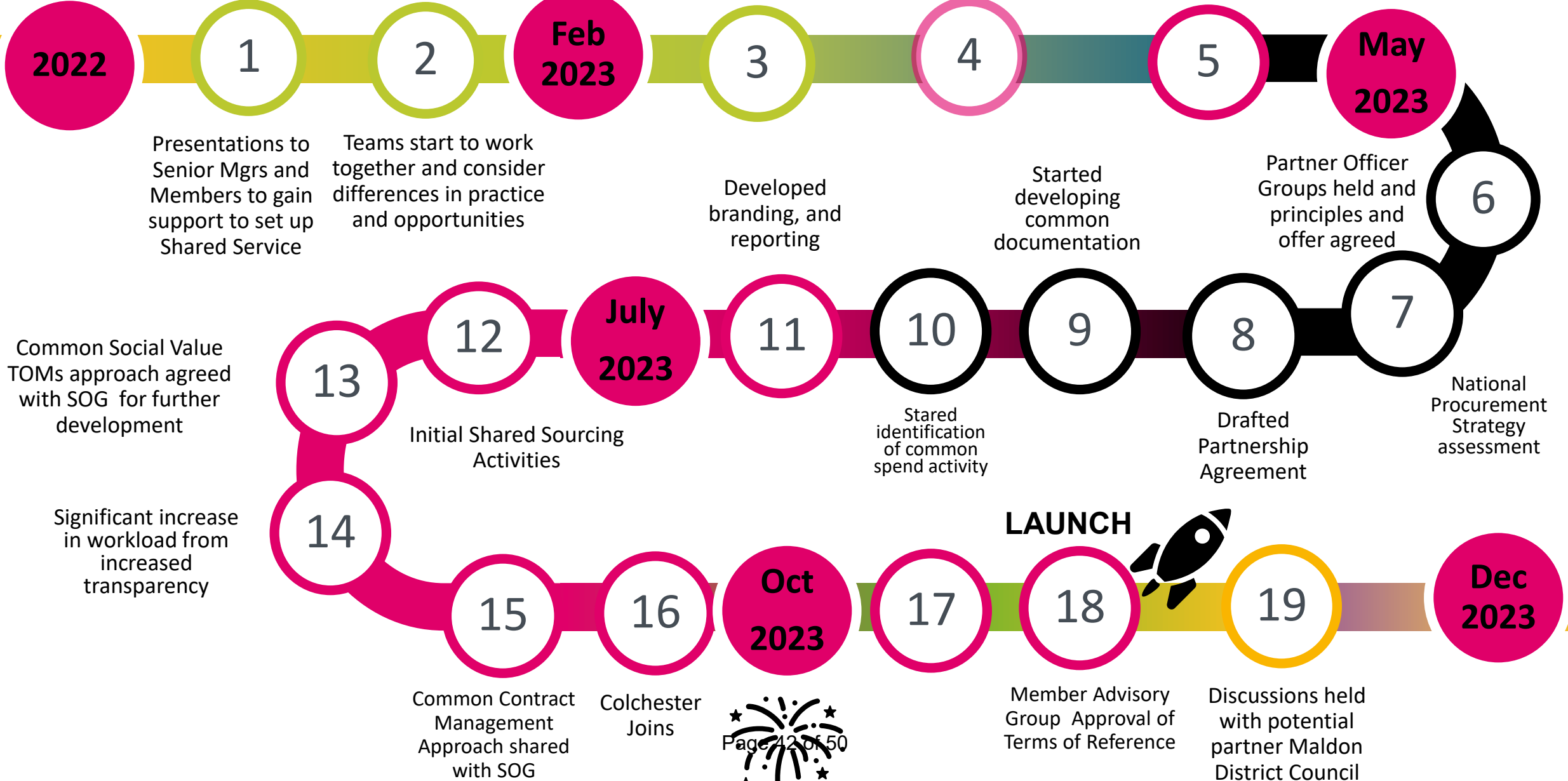
The Vision - To enable best in class procurement, maximising the value for every pound spent by local authorities to the benefit of local residents.



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



Policy Panel

Item
9

10 January 2024

Report of	Group Manager – Neighbourhood Services	Author	Owen Howell ☎ 282518
Title	Work Programme 2023-24		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the dates of the Work Programme for 2023-2024 for the Policy Panel and gives the Panel an opportunity to consider what subjects for which it may wish to request Cabinet approval for the Panel to consider in the 2023-24 municipal year, and to formally make recommendations to put these to Cabinet for approval. Cabinet may also wish to consider what subjects it might want the Policy Panel to consider during 2023-24.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the dates of the Panel's Work Programme for 2023-2024 as set out below and to consider the proposed scheduling and whether it wishes to request Cabinet approval for work items to be added.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 This function forms part of the Panel's Terms of Reference and, as such, no alternative options are presented.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 The Policy Panel's Work Programme will evolve as the municipal year progresses. Items can be added to the Work Programme by request of Portfolio Holders and/or Cabinet requesting policies, strategies or other issues to be reviewed.

5. Standard References

- 5.1 There are no specific references to publicity or consultation considerations; or financial; equality, diversity and human rights; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

6. Strategic Plan References

6.1 Policy review is integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan's priorities and direction for the City as set out under the themes of:

- Respond to the climate emergency;
- Deliver modern services for a modern city;
- Improve health, wellbeing and happiness;
- Deliver homes for those most in need;
- Grow our economy so everyone benefits;
- Celebrate our City, heritage and culture.

Policy Panel Work Programme 2022-23

28 June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work Programme 2023-24
2 August 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grounds Maintenance Contract update• Landscape, Nature and Waterways Strategy development update• Work Programme 2023-24
27 September 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial inequalities and cost of living• Future of Retail Vision• City Centre: Marketing and Inward Investment• Work Programme 2023-24
29 November 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equality, Diversity and Inclusion• Future of Sports and Leisure Strategy• Work Programme 2023-24
10 January 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council's Policy on Procurement• Mapping and examination of community assets and asset-based community development approach;• Work Programme 2023-24
6 March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking Policy• Sports and Leisure Strategy• Approach to local commemorations, including benches, flags and statues