

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Grand Jury Room, Town Hall
16 June 2009 at 6.00pm

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel deals with reviewing corporate strategies within the Council's Strategic Plan, the Council's budgetary guidelines for the forthcoming year, scrutinising the Forward Plan, the performance of Portfolio Holders and scrutiny of Cabinet decisions or Cabinet Member decisions (with delegated power) which have been called in.

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda, which is usually published 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available at www.colchester.gov.uk or from Democratic Services.

Have Your Say!

The Council values contributions from members of the public. Under the Council's Have Your Say! policy you can ask questions or express a view to meetings, with the exception of Standards Committee meetings. If you wish to speak at a meeting or wish to find out more, please pick up the leaflet called "Have Your Say" at Council offices and at www.colchester.gov.uk.

Private Sessions

Occasionally meetings will need to discuss issues in private. This can only happen on a limited range of issues, which are set by law. When a committee does so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

Mobile phones, pagers, cameras, audio recorders

Please ensure that all mobile phones and pagers are turned off before the meeting begins and note that photography or audio recording is not permitted.

Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from West Stockwell Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms. If you need help with reading or understanding this document please take it to Angel Court Council offices, High Street, Colchester or telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to call, and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

Facilities

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Terms of Reference

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- To review corporate strategies
- To ensure the actions of the Cabinet accord with the policies and budget of the Council
- To monitor and scrutinise the financial performance of the Council, and make recommendations to the Cabinet particularly in relation to annual revenue and capital guidelines, bids and submissions
- To link the Council's spending proposals to the policy priorities and review progress towards achieving those priorities against the Strategic / Action Plans
- To scrutinise executive decisions made by Cabinet and the East Essex Area Waste Management Joint Committee and Cabinet Member decisions (with delegated authority taking a corporate / strategic decision) which have been made but not implemented, and referred to the Panel through call-in.

The panel may a) confirm the decision, which may then be implemented immediately, b) confirm the decision back to the decision taker for further consideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or c) refer the matter to full Council in the event that the panel considers the decision to be contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the Budget.

- To monitor effectiveness and application of the call-in procedure, to report on the number and reasons for call-in and to make recommendations to the Council on any changes required to ensure an effective operation.
- To scrutinise the Cabinet's performance in relation to the Forward Plan.
- To scrutinise the performance of Portfolio Holders.
- At the request of the Cabinet, make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of the volume of reports to the Cabinet or creating difficulty for the running of Cabinet business or jeopardising the efficient running of Council business.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
16 June 2009 at 6:00pm

Members

Chairman : Councillor Christopher Arnold.
Deputy Chairman : Councillor Dennis Willetts.
Councillors Kim Naish, Nick Barlow, Mark Cory, Mike Hogg,
Jackie Maclean, Gaye Pyman, Laura Sykes, Nick Taylor and
Julie Young.

Substitute Members : All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

Agenda - Part A

(open to the public including the media)

Members of the public may wish to note that agenda items 1 to 5 are normally brief and agenda items 6 to 9 are standard items for which there may be no business to consider.

Pages

1. Welcome and Announcements

(a) The Chairman to welcome members of the public and Councillors and to remind all speakers of the requirement for microphones to be used at all times.

(b) At the Chairman's discretion, to announce information on:

- action in the event of an emergency;
- mobile phones switched to off or to silent;
- location of toilets;
- introduction of members of the meeting.

2. Substitutions

Members may arrange for a substitute councillor to attend a meeting on their behalf, subject to prior notice being given. The attendance of substitute councillors must be recorded.

3. Urgent Items

To announce any items not on the agenda which the Chairman has agreed to consider because they are urgent and to give reasons for the urgency.

4. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman to invite Councillors to declare individually any personal interests they may have in the items on the agenda.

If the personal interest arises because of a Councillor's membership of or position of control or management on:

- any body to which the Councillor has been appointed or nominated by the Council; or
- another public body

then the interest need only be declared if the Councillor intends to speak on that item.

If a Councillor declares a personal interest they must also consider whether they have a prejudicial interest. If they have a prejudicial interest they must leave the room for that item.

If a Councillor wishes to make representations on an item on which they have a prejudicial interest they may do so if members of the public are allowed to make representations. In such circumstances a Councillor must leave the room immediately once they have finished speaking.

An interest is considered to be prejudicial if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.

Councillors should consult paragraph 7 of the Meetings General Procedure Rules for further guidance.

5. Minutes

1 - 7

To confirm as a correct record the minutes from the meetings held on 20 May 2009 and 5 May 2009.

6. Have Your Say!

(a) The Chairman to invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition at this meeting – either on an item on the agenda or on a general matter not on this agenda. You should indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

(b) The Chairman to invite contributions from members of the public who wish to Have Your Say! on a general matter not on this agenda.

7. Items requested by members of the Panel and other Members

(a) To evaluate requests by members of the Panel for an item relevant to the Panel's functions to be considered.

(b) To evaluate requests by other members of the Council for an item relevant to the Panel's functions to be considered.

8. Referred items under the Call in Procedure

To consider any Portfolio Holder decisions, taken under the Call in Procedure.

The panel may a) confirm the decision, which may then be implemented immediately, b) confirm the decision back to the decision taker for further consideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or c) refer the matter to full Council in the event that the panel considers the decision to be contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the Budget.

9. Decisions taken under special urgency provisions

To consider any Portfolio Holder decisions taken under the special urgency provisions.

10. Work Programme

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See report from the Scrutiny Officer.

11. Strategic Plan Action Plan

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See report from the Executive Director.

12. Performance Report 2008/09

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See report from the Executive Director.

13. Exclusion of the public

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) 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).

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

20 MAY 2009

Present:- Councillors Arnold, Barlow, Cory, Hogg, Maclean, Pyman, Naish, Sykes, Taylor, Willetts and J.Young

Apologies:-

1. Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Arnold be appointed Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2. Deputy Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Willetts be appointed Deputy Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

5 MAY 2009

Present: - Councillors Arnold, Barlow, Cory, P Hazell, P.Higgins, Hogg, Naish, Pyman and J Young

Substitutions: - Councillor Chapman for Councillor Taylor
Councillor Sutton for Councillor Kimberley

60. Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on the 7 April 2009 was confirmed as a correct record.

61. 2009-10 Work Programme

The panel reviewed the additional items for review in 2009-10 and the items to be carried forward from this year to 2009-10.

Mrs Pam Donnelly explained that the additional item on performance management would allow the panel, on a 6-monthly basis, the opportunity to undertake a simultaneous strategic review of the Council's performance in relation to the Strategic Plan, Local Area Agreements, National Indicators and Best Value Performance Indicators as appropriate.

Councillor Arnold said that given the Cabinet Members have now been Portfolio Holders for one year, that during 2009-10 it will be appropriate to undertake one portfolio holder review per meeting, rather than have multiple reviews in the last four meetings of the Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the panel noted the additional items and carried forward items for 2009-10.

Councillor J Young (in respect of being a member of Essex County Council) and Councillor P Higgins (in respect of his spouse being a member of Essex County Council) and Councillor Naish, all declared their personal interest in the following item.

62. A new build nuclear power station at Bradwell

Have Your Say

Mr. Newton addressed the panel, saying all nuclear power stations were located on the shoreline, facing open sea, except Bradwell, built on a peninsular within a shallow estuary. Mr. Newton spoke about the effect that the old magnox station had had on the marine life within the estuary during the years of operation and was fearful of the environmental effect of a new reactor, that he believed would have a capacity six times greater than the old reactor. Mr. Newton had heard that EDF had brought more land in the Bradwell vicinity, with rumours suggesting there could be more than one new nuclear power station built. Mr. Newton mentioned the massive volumes of heated water that will be dispersed to the estuary from a new reactor, the possible effects on marine life and Maldon salt and whether the higher rate of breast cancer reported in some local areas was attributable to the original power station. Mr. Newton concluded by expressing concern about the continual on site storage of radioactive waste for both the old and any new build reactors.

Mrs. Nolly Urquhart addressed the panel, saying that if it was understood that the location of the current Bradwell site would through climate change and storm surge, inundate by 2080, consideration should be given to the appropriateness of this site given that at this point all roads links to the site would be under water. Mrs. Urquhart also felt that given this information it would surely be appropriate to extend evacuation zones to four miles. Mrs. Urquhart said any study by British Energy on the social and economic benefits to a new build nuclear power station would only be pertinent to Maldon District, that Mersea Island would receive no benefits, only problems. Mrs. Urquhart concluded by asking whether the estuary's triple SSI (Special Scientific Interest) status provided protection to the estuary given the effects of hot water plumes and the chlorination process.

Councillor Arnold said he understood the concerns raised by Mrs. Urquhart, explaining that these issues would be considered by further review as concluded within the report's recommendations.

Mrs. Paula Whitney addressed the panel, firstly to request under the freedom of information act, the presentations given to the task and finish group in secrecy.

Councillor Arnold explained that the work of the task and finish group was not about secrecy, that the minutes of all their meetings are included in the appendices to the report for all to see. Mr. Judd confirmed that the only electronic presentation given was from Cefas, a simulation of the water conditions within the estuary with a fully operational new build reactor, a presentation owned by Cefas and not in the Council's ownership.

Mrs. Whitney continued, asking why Professor Blowers, with all his years of knowledge on radioactive waste, and a member of the the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) that provide independent scrutiny and advice on the UK's management of its solid radioactive waste, was not invited to attend one of the task and finish group meetings. Mrs. Whitney spoke about the political bias of local MPs and Essex County Council towards pro-nuclear support, whilst only one part, the Liberal Democrats, openly speak against nuclear power.

Councillor Arnold said the issue of radio active waste storage was not considered by the task and finish group as it was tasked to look at issues specific to the locality not those forming part of the national nuclear debate. Councillor Arnold said the report had addressed local issues and was one of the best pieces of work undertaken by the Council in many years and politics had not interfered with the scrutiny process.

Mrs. Val Mainwood addressed the panel, saying she understood that the Council had considered many aspects and issues of nuclear power, but given the complexes, more research was needed for the Council to make a considered judgment. Mrs. Mainwood said there still remained problems with spent nuclear fuel and as yet the Council had not addressed this issue. Mrs. Mainwood believed there are factual errors in the response by the Health Protection Agency in regards to Childhood Cancer around nuclear installations, and that in terms of Emergency Planning and evacuation, whilst there had been a history of complacency, further work was needed to resolve this issue.

Councillor Arnold responded to Mrs. Mainwood, saying that the issue of spent nuclear fuel had not been addressed, but as a feature of all nuclear power plants, was not site specific, but part of the national debate on the nuclear fuel industry. Councillor Arnold concurred with Mrs. Mainwood that further work was still needed in terms of emergency planning and evacuation.

Councillor Spyvee addressed the panel paying tribute to the task and finish group, commending the group for the work undertaken and thanking the Scrutiny Officer for supporting this process. Councillor Spyvee said nuclear power was at the forefront of national politics, so now was the time to firm up on the recommendations to the Cabinet, highlighting evacuation, impact on the local fishing industry, the local health effects of radiation and the threat of site inundation as the major issues to be addressed. Councillor Spyvee welcomed the proposals for further studies and considered there was now a need for political pressure to move these issues forward.

Councillor Arnold thanked Councillor Spyvee for his words, adding that the issues highlighted by Councillor Spyvee had been addressed in the report, and further to this, and drawing on the work of the task and finish group, would invite the Leader to respond on Government's Comment Window.

A new build nuclear power station at Bradwell

Councillor Young, in response to the issues raised on public health asked that any future work should consider the Essex County Council report on the access to cancer drugs.

Councillor Hogg, understanding that this was not a last opportunity to respond to Government consultation felt it was clear that the further work as laid out in the recommendations to Cabinet should continue, that this was an ongoing process.

In response to Councillor Higgins, Councillor Arnold agreed that the report did not give a final conclusion, but that all the local issues raised and considered by the task and finish group are addressed within the recommendations of the report, and also, that the recommendations did address the need for further work on local issues.

Councillor Cory said he understood the comment of Councillor Higgins concerning the lack of a final conclusion within the recommendations, saying he and members of the task and finish group had been alarmed and found unacceptable some of the evidence submitted, though accepting that further investigation was needed.

Councillor Arnold responded by saying he was content that the response to the Cabinet was as agreed by the task and finish group, based on a solid piece of respected work that recommended a way forward.

Councillor Sutton said the work of the task and finish group is work in progress, providing evidence for any future planning committee or consultation, rather than saying it was opposed or not opposed to nuclear power. Councillor Sutton said the report was extremely good, examining the issues that were local to West Mersea and the surrounding coastline and on a non political basis.

Councillor Young said the aim must be for members to work towards a collective view and it was evident that as recommended, more research was needed. Councillor Young said it was imperative that more research was gathered in order to provide the evidence to contest any planning consideration. Councillor Hazell concurred with the comments of Councillor Young, saying she would not be happy if the panel took a political stance, that the outcome for Colchester would be better if based on evidence and not political ideology.

Councillor Chapman said the report was one of the best he had seen for a long time, but was reluctant to go further, saying he accepted the recommendations, suggesting more evidence and scrutiny was required. At this point Councillor Arnold reiterated to the panel that there

were seven recommendations, so to identify four in particular would put the other three into the shade.

The panel agreed with Councillor Cory that the second piece of outstanding work as highlighted within the first recommendation should be expanded to include the issue of warm water dispersed to the estuary, 'thermal plumes', and the impact on wildlife of the increased water temperature, not sufficiently understood and needing further research. Councillor Arnold concurred with Councillor Cory that this had been identified as an issue by the task and finish group and should be made part of the recommendations.

The panel also agreed with Councillor Arnold that there should be one additional recommendation requesting the Leader of the Council to respond on behalf of the Cabinet to the Government's 'Comment Window' drawing on all the evidence gathered by the task and finish group.

Councillor Barlow concluded the debate by thanking the Scrutiny Officer for completing the report on behalf of the task and finish group.

RESOLVED that the panel;

- i) Considered and endorsed the proposals of the task and finish working group, to be reported to Cabinet at the meeting of 10 June 2009.
- ii) Agreed that the outstanding work as mentioned in the first recommendation should be expanded to include the issue of hot water dispersed to the estuary, 'thermal plumes', an issue not concluded during the investigations.
- iii) Requested the Leader of the Council to respond on behalf of the Cabinet to the Government's 'Comment Window' drawing on all the evidence gathered by the task and finish group.

Councillor Chapman (in respect of his current appointment as a Council nominee to the Board of Colchester Borough Homes and being the current Vice Chairman of the Board, declared his personal interest in the following item.

63. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

Councillor Lynn Barton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration attended the meeting for this item and addressed the panel.

Councillor Barton at various stages within the ensuing debate gave a brief resume of the work undertaken within the areas of sustainability, planning and regeneration.

In response to Councillor Chapman about new initiatives with sustainability, Councillor Barton said the new wind turbine at Cuckoo Farm formed part of a local partnership on renewable energy, and hopefully the partnership would consider other suitable areas within the borough. Councillor Barton said the Energy Savings Trust had provided forty hours of free consultancy on sustainable issues, over two years.

In response to Councillor Hogg, Councillor Barton said schools are working with officers on recycling issues, and primary schools in the area are awarded either gold, silver or bronze standards in respect of their efforts towards achieving eco-sustainability, with St. Mary's recently receiving a gold award.

Councillor Barton, in response to Councillor Chapman said the issue about reducing energy loss within Council homes, including sheltered accommodation, was a Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) initiative. Councillor Barton also said that an overhaul of sheltered accommodation was currently being undertaken and she was soon to receive in writing instructions from CBH, adding that we had entered into a closer working partnership with CBH.

Councillor Barton said she would provide details to panel members on eligibility of the 'Warm Homes Grant', taking Councillor Young's point that this grant scheme needed greater publicity for a broader awareness.

Councillor Barton explained that a review of the Planning Service had been undertaken and a new Head of Service was now in place. The service had recently taken on an external fee paying service for Sudbury Town Council which helps funding and boosts the reputation of the Council. Councillor Barton spoke about the new 'Developers, Agents Forum', an opportunity for officers and smaller agents to discuss issues, and confirmed that Colchester has recently been designated the best in the country for delivering S106 agreements.

In response to Councillor Hazell, Councillor Barton said the economic downturn was reflected in the dramatic decrease in planning applications, down from 175 per month, to 50 – 75 per month. Due to this drop it has been possible to review resources and redeploy staff and avoid redundancies and the loss of qualified planning officers. Officers have been moved to Planning Policy Team, and the fruits of this are now materialising in the form of new policy documents such as the Public Realm Strategy and Re-use of Garage Sites. Councillor Arnold agreed that this was a good strategy.

Councillor Barton explained to Councillor Sutton the procedures that led to the error that prevented the Planning Committee from being able to consider the application for a mobile phone mast at Lexden had now been reviewed and changed so as to avoid a reoccurrence in future. Councillor Barton said at this time O² are now looking to share sites to site masts, with other operators, but did not know what progress had been made as this was a country wide initiative that had not been completed. Councillor Barton also confirmed to Councillor Sutton that the planning policy to have a greater number of mixed developments had been addressed and would have the effect of reducing the number of flats being built whilst still meeting the Borough's strategic housing needs.

Councillor Barton confirmed to Councillor Young that she had attended a public consultation meeting on Tendring District Council's Core Strategy for the development of land butting onto the Colchester's boundary, with a possible creation of 800 new homes and 1,300 new jobs. Councillor Barton had responded to this consultation and explained that this core strategy had to be coherent with that of Colchester's. Councillor Barton said that Tendring had failed to consult with three parishes including Wivenhoe, something they are obliged to do and that will lead to a delay in the process of at least six weeks. A Joint Core Strategy was a way forward and one being considered by both authorities.

It was confirmed by Councillor Barton that there had been delays in processing the Horkesley Park application due to the receipt of 22,000 cards all requiring processing. Councillor Barton regretted the meeting deferrals for the application but given the extraordinary circumstances it was understandable.

In reference to regeneration, Councillor Barton explained that the contracts for the Hythe Station improvements had been awarded and work was to commence soon. The upgraded station would be able to receive twelve carriage trains and from the summer on, two London

bound trains would stop per hour at the Hythe, and would have a positive effect on new home purchasing in that area. Councillor Barton confirmed that the station would not be manned, but given the spate of vandalism at the station it was hoped that the aspiration for further funding to provide CCTV and more robust vandal proof ticket machines would be realised as soon as possible. Councillor Barton confirmed to Councillor Naish that the possibility of a new secure cycle park at the station was being considered.

In response to Councillor Arnold, Councillor Barton confirmed that the concept of business starter units at the University would not come to fruition, that it would form a Human Rights / Equality / Politics centre to be known as 'Knowledge Gateway', and that at present it was likely that a conference centre / hotel would be developed at this site. This said the funding for business starter units at North Colchester was almost complete, with the Weston Business Centre at the east of Colchester now open.

Councillor Young in response to Councillor Arnold believed that the new student accommodation at the Quay fulfilled the Universities requirements on affordable housing.

Councillor Barton confirmed that in regards to a new town centre bus park, any new park would need to fit in with the town centre's transport infrastructure and subsequent project, and would be addressed by the transport workshops, though in the meantime the current temporary bus park would remain. Councillor Barton later responded to Councillor Arnold confirming that a Town Centre Project Manager had recently been appointed and was fully committed to the Town Centre project, and she was confident the High Street traffic issues would be addressed, though there was no timeframe for delivery. What was confirmed was an overwhelming desire to eliminate cars from the High Street, though discussions remained on the future access to the High Street by buses, taxis and disabled drivers. Councillor Barton also confirmed to Councillor Higgins that the Vineyard Gate project had due to the economic downturn slowed right down, though Caddicks remain project managers. The Council had received an offer from a hotel chain to develop St James House (next to what was Keddies), with talks in the preliminary stage on three interlinked proposals.

Councillor Barton said in regards to the new A12 junction she would confirm to the panel the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) funding package and what it includes. Councillor Barton confirmed to Councillor Naish that a bus lane remained an integral part of the park and ride scheme that would be developed through S106 funding. Public transport and cycling would be encouraged as these traffic reducing schemes were developed and introduced and she was confident that long term all the new schemes will alleviate traffic congestion.

Councillor Arnold thanked Councillor Barton for attending the meeting and responding to the panel's questions.

RESOLVED that the panel:

- i) Noted the responses from the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.
- ii) Requested the Head of Planning and Regeneration to provide details on eligibility for the 'Warm Homes Grant' scheme.
- iii) Requested the Head of Planning and Regeneration to provide further information on the new Homes and Community Agency (HCA) funding package for the A12 Junction, and what would be included within the funding.



Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Item
10

16 June 2009

Report of	Scrutiny Officer	Author	Robert Judd Tel. 282274
Title	2009/10 Work Programme (including Empowerment Agenda)		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

**This report sets out the functions and Work Programme for
2009/10**

1. Action Required

1.1 The Panel is asked to consider and comment on the 2009/10 Work Programme.

2. Reason for Action

2.1 This function forms part of the Panel's Terms of Reference in the Constitution therefore there are no alternative options.

3. The role of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

3.1 Overview and scrutiny needs to be member-led with member engagement that will include undertaking research when considering issues prior to panel meetings and preparing questions for witnesses being called. Likewise, senior officers will play their full part in supporting the scrutiny function in a positive and participative manner. By doing this a culture of positive and meaningful challenge can be created.

4. Empowerment Agenda

Councillor Call for Action

4.1 As approved by Council in April 2009, and in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel is amended to provide for the designation of this Panel as the appropriate route for any member to refer a 'local government matter' in the context of Councillor Call for Action.

4.2 Local government matters specifically excluded from Councillor Call for Action are i) matters relating to a Planning or Licensing decision, ii) where a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal is already provided for in law, or ii) where a matter is considered vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable to be included in an agenda.

Crime and Disorder Committee

- 4.3 Again, following approval by Council in April 2009, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel has been designated as the 'Crime and Disorder Committee'.
- 4.4 The Committee's Terms of Reference includes the responsibility to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions, and to make reports and recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet.
- 4.5 Following along the same arrangements made for the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Panel and the Accounts and Regulatory Committee, the Crime and Disorder Committee will usually convene immediately following the conclusion of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

5. Reviews during 2009/10

- 5.1 The outstanding items requested during 2008/09 have been carried forward to this years work programme, and include, 'Colchester's future development and the Regional Plan Review, Climate Change and Carbon Management (update from review of 16-dec-08), Greenways Care Home progress (ref. SOSP 10-Feb-09) and the Strategic review of CYPSP.
- 5.2 For the meetings between September 2009 and January 2010, the items to be reviewed will coincide with the review of the relevant portfolio holder. Whilst it may not be possible to keep to this for all meetings, when possible, it will hopefully give some continuity to the items for review on each evening.

6. Standard References

- 6.1 There are no policy plan references or financial, human rights, community safety or health and safety implications in this matter.
- 6.2 The work of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel is a key function to ensure items within the programme are subject to full appraisal and in line with the aims of the strategic plan, and helps to check that risks are identified and challenged.

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

16 June 2009

1. Pre Cabinet scrutiny of the Strategic Plan Action Plan + Nis and LAA targets
2. Urgency – Comment form for Nominated New Nuclear Power Station Sites (13-May-09)

14 July 2009

1. Review of the Budget Strategy and Timetable (Head of Resource Management)

24 August 2009

1. Review of the Colchester2020 Partnership – Chairman of Colchester2020 to attend.
2. Strategic review of CDRP (Head of Life Opportunities)

29 September 2009

1. Street Care Strategy / Graffiti protocol (Head of Street Services)
2. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services (last review 10-feb-09)

3 November 2009

1. 'Colchester's future development and the Regional Plan Review (Executive Director I.Vipond)
2. Climate Change and Carbon Management (update from review of 16-dec-08)
3. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration (last review 5-may-09)

15 December 2009

1. Review of the Budget – Strategic update (Head of Resource Management)
2. Half yearly report on Strategic Plan Action Plan + NIs and LAA targets
3. Review of the Leader of Council, Portfolio Holder for Strategy (last review 7-apr-09)

5 January 2010

1. Greenways Care Home progress (ref. SOSP 10-Feb-09)
2. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Partnerships (last review 17-mar-09)
3. Strategic review of CYPSP (Head of Life Opportunities)

9 February 2010

1. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods (last review 7-apr-09)
2. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Customers (last review 10-feb-09)

30 March 2010

1. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Business (first year)
2. Review of the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism and Diversity (first year)

Items requested for further review

Call-ins during 2009/10



Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Item
11

16 June 2009

Report of	Executive Director	Author	Ann Wain	Tel. 282212
Title	Strategic Plan Action Plan			
Wards affected	All			

**The Panel is invited to review the Strategic Plan Action Plan for
2009/10**

1. Action required

- 1.1 The panel is asked to comment upon the Strategic Plan Action Plan

2. Reason for scrutiny

- 2.1 The Strategic Plan Action Plan is a key document that enables the delivery of the Strategic Plan to be monitored.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Strategic Plan 2009 to 2012 was approved and adopted by Council on 18 February 2009. The core plan was kept deliberately short to make it accessible to a wide range of audiences. It is supported by two additional levels of detail:

3.1.1 Each priority has a page that describes the high level actions and outcomes expected over the life of the plan

3.1.2 An action plan that is presented for comment here, that details the actions for the next year. The aim of this document is to provide a tool for performance management, to check that we are on track to deliver the strategic plan.

4. Strategic Plan references

- 4.1 This Action Plan is about delivery of the Strategic Plan and is critical to ensure that we have appropriate actions to enable us to do so.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Comprehensive consultation was undertaken in order to decide the content of the Strategic Plan, including consultation with a range of hard to reach groups.

6. Publicity considerations

- 6.1 The Strategic Plan has been widely communicated following its adoption at Council, including inclusion in the Courier.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The budget strategy for 2009/10 was approved and adopted by Council alongside the Strategic Plan in February. The delivery of the Strategic Plan is the driver for the budget strategy.

8. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Strategic Plan.

9. Community Safety implications

9.1 N/A

10. Health and Safety implications

10.1 N/A

11. Risk Management implications

11.1 There are significant risks if the Strategic Plan Action is not right, or is not used to monitor delivery. The result would be that the outcomes in the Strategic Plan would not be achieved, which would impact directly on our residents.

Background Papers

Strategic Plan
Priorities on a page

Strategic Plan – action plan 2009-10 actions

This action plan is a working document. Updated copies are issued annually. What follows here is the action plan for 2009-10, covering the year from April 2009 to March 2010.

Progress will be monitored regularly by the Council's Cabinet and by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Strategic Plan action plan – 2009-10 actions

Addressing older people's needs

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Survey, analyse and review services using existing insight from partners and top 5 issues from older people's groups	Appropriateness and focus of services tested against the local priorities for older people	Agree with partners our top 5 priorities for action in Colchester Develop action plans for these priorities	May 2009 August 2009	Matt Sterling	Essex County Council/ NHS North East Essex/ Colchester Borough Homes/ Voluntary sector partners	Customer Excellence
Create a "Younger and Older People's Community Development" resource	Officer capacity to progress the Strategic Plan priorities around younger and older people	Officer capacity within the Life Opportunities Service group secured	March 2009	Gareth Mitchell		People
Engage Essex County Council and NHS North East Essex as primary partners with strong links to named officers in both organisations	Effective partnership working with the two key statutory agencies for older people's services	Named link officers identified Establish effective communication/joint-working with named link officers	April 2009 March 2010	Gareth Mitchell	Essex County Council/NHS North East Essex	Place Shaping
Encourage take up of benefits by older people through Welfare Rights team	Increased incomes for residents aged 60+	Agree Service Level Agreement with Age Concern Help older people access £300,000 extra income	April 2009 March 2010	Matt Sterling	Age Concern Colchester	Customer Excellence

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Set up a quarterly Colchester 'Older People's Forum' that feeds into setting annual key priorities	Clearer understanding of priorities for older people's services	First meeting held Agree work plan for this forum	April 2009 July 2009	Matt Sterling	Essex County Council/ NHS North East Essex/ Colchester Borough Homes/ Voluntary sector partners	Customer Excellence
Use the assessment of older people's housing needs to prioritise investment including investigating the potential of a Care Village	Improve the feelings of safety for citizens in later life Promote independence in the home Dispel the myth that people in later life are a burden	Options paper to relevant Portfolio Holder(s) setting out needs, opportunities and constraints	March 2010	Tina Hinson	Essex County Council Adults Health and Community Well-Being, Supporting People, Service Providers.	Customer Excellence

Addressing younger people's needs

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Lead the Colchester Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CCYPSP) in focusing on priority needs	Effective local delivery of children and young people's services	PFH for Performance and Partnerships appointed Chair of the CCYPSP	March 2009	Gareth Mitchell	Essex County Council/NHS North East Essex/Essex Police/Learning and Skills Council/local Schools/Voluntary sector partners	Place Shaping
Work with key partners to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children	Safeguarding children is a priority for CBC and our partners when developing joint initiatives	Safeguarding agenda embedded in the work of the CCYPSP Completion of Section 11 (Children Act 2004) Audit of CBC's safeguarding arrangements and resulting action plan.	December 2009 March 2010	Gareth Mitchell	Essex County Council/NHS North East Essex/Essex Police/Learning and Skills Council/local Schools/Voluntary sector partners	Place Shaping
Increase collaboration between the council, local schools and their students	Effective communication and partnership working between CBC, local schools and students	CBC Cabinet to meet regularly with Colchester Young Essex Assembly members Agree with CCYPSP partners (including schools) a "Life Opportunities" target around primary school attendance	Ongoing September 2009	Gareth Mitchell/Matt Sterling	Essex County Council/NHS North East Essex/Essex Police/Learning and Skills Council/local Schools/Voluntary sector partners	Customer Excellence

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Create a "Younger and Older People's Community Development" resource	Officer capacity to progress the Strategic Plan priorities around younger and older people	Officer capacity within the Life Opportunities Service group secured	March 2009	Gareth Mitchell		People
Assist in enabling a broader provision of voluntary/charitable youth groups/activities based in local communities	More positive activities for young people	Positive activities identified in the Colchester Children and Young People's Plan and CCYPSP Commissioning themes Make Community Development officer capacity available to community/voluntary groups	September 2009 April 2009	Gareth Mitchell	Essex County Council/NHS North Essex/Essex Police/Learning and Skills Council/local Schools/Voluntary sector partners	Place Shaping
Actively work with NHS North East Essex Healthy Schools Team to implement prevention services targeted at children and families in deprived neighbourhoods.	Reduced levels of childhood obesity and teenage pregnancies	Promote anti-obesity programmes such as MEND through Healthy School workers	May 2009	Matt Sterling	NHS North East Essex/CCYPSP	Place Shaping
Review and deliver the Colchester Play Strategy	Improved access to play opportunities for children and young people	Agree revised Play Area Development Plan and begin implementation of the action plan	March 2010	Bob Penny	CCYPSP	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Ensure the work on raising skills levels in the Economic Prosperity Strategy is focused on youth skills priorities	Provide younger people with the skills to enable them to compete effectively in changing economic conditions	Work with the Learning Skills Council, North East Essex Education Business Partnership, including Heads of Schools and the Colchester Institute, to help ensure that the 14-19 agenda including the Diploma and Apprenticeship has the appropriate level of business engagement	March 2010	Nigel Myers	Learning Skills Council/ North East Essex Business Partnership/Colchester Institute	Place Shaping

Community development

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Develop a Place Shaping strategy to delegate decision making and service delivery to local communities and respond to the opportunities provided by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007	Clear CBC approach to Sustainable Communities Capacity building within Community for delegated decision making	Citizens Panel established Constitution amended to reflect new legislation Paper on strategy to Leadership Strategy adopted	October 09 October 09 June 09 Mar 10	Ian Vipond	LSP RAG	Place Shaping
Work with a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations to deliver the projects in the action plans for the sills and worklessness 'Life Opportunities' targets	Increased skills levels and decreased levels of worklessness amongst residents	Support 11 Learning Champions (ongoing) Agree Grant to Signpost	Ongoing April 2009	Matt Sterling	Learning and Skills Council Essex/Job Centre Plus/ Adult Community College/Signpost	Place Shaping
Invest in voluntary sector organisations to direct work at our Strategic Plan priorities	The voluntary sector contributes work to achieve our strategic priorities	Grants agreed Grants awarded Monitor performance	February 2009 April 2009 October 2009 and March 2010	Matt Sterling	Grassroots	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Work with communities to release resources from a range of sources to deliver tangible community provision using the community facilities audit	More community facilities	Development Team attended fortnightly by Community Development Co-ordinator Community Facilities Audit completed New Community Facilities Supplementary Planning Document adopted	Ongoing June 2009 March 2010	Matt Sterling	Parish councils	Place Shaping
Identify and work with residents to build their skills to work in their communities	Increased volunteering and pride in communities	Quarterly action planning meetings held with 11 Learning Champions Mini-conference held to support resident NAP members	April 2009 to March 2010 April 2009	Matt Sterling	Learning and Skills Council Essex	Place Shaping
Engage residents and community groups in target wards to foster increased community spirit and achieve community priorities	Increased pride in communities, increased volunteering, reduced fear of crime	Finalise proposal for a Safer Colchester pilot with Essex Management Board	July 2009	Matt Sterling		Place Shaping

Community safety

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Co-ordinate a series of 'Days of Action' to tackle crime and improve the quality of life in neighbourhoods	Reduced anti-social behaviour and fear of crime	3 days organised and delivered	Ongoing	Matt Sterling	Essex Police Essex County Council/Colchester Borough Homes/Registered Social Landlords	Place Shaping
Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre in the evening and encourage greater use by people of all ages	An increased positive perception of the Town Centre during the evening which generates a diverse range of people who are attracted by a wider range of events/activities on offer. The wider range of town centre users promotes a self-regulating approach to anti-social behaviour which reduces the reliance on enforcement activity	Final report from the Night time Economy Task & Finish Group which includes short, medium and long-term action recommendations to be fed into ongoing work related to the Town Centre. Workshop in May to gain customer insight and engage key stakeholders Peer Research to gain customer insight	Report by August 09 Workshop in May 09 Peer Research in June 09	Beverley Jones	Essex Police University of Essex	Place Shaping
Support the development and extension of the SOS and Community Bus Project	Financial sustainability for the SOS Bus	Open Road operate the Bus Friday and Saturday evenings CDRP funding for bus performance managed	Ongoing October 2009 and March 2010	Matt Sterling	Open Road	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Together with our partners enable communities to challenge anti-social behaviour and develop Neighbourhood Action Panels to ensure community issues are being actioned and resolved	Reduced anti-social behaviour and improved responsiveness by Police, CBC and ECC	15 panels serviced on a monthly or bi-monthly basis Mini-conference for participants held Border changes implemented	Ongoing April 2009 July 2009	Matt Sterling	Essex Police	Place Shaping

Congestion busting

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Devise planning policy which ensures new developments incorporate walking, cycle routes and public transport services at the initial planning stages	<p>Planning documents which articulate our plans and can be used to influence others including our partners, the private sector (developers) and funding bodies such as the HGP, EERA, EEDA</p> <p>Increase funding for transportation measures to address congestion through behavioural change.</p>	<p>Updated Transport Strategy Document for Colchester for inclusion in LTP3.</p> <p>Transportation policies included within Development Control Policies and land for transport infrastructure identified in the Site Allocations</p>	December 2009	Karen Syrett	<p>Essex County Council lead on LTP</p> <p>Highways Agency</p> <p>Transport providers</p>	Place Shaping
Set up a travel behavioural change programme working with existing communities	<p>Increase the number of people using alternative methods of travel to access the station, the town centre, schools and places of employment.</p>	<p>Residential Sign contract with "personalised travel" planning company.</p> <p>Introduce travel planning in the High Woods area linked to the Cycling Town initiative</p> <p>Education Workshop held with ECC and partners to identify priorities and actions for</p>	<p>June 2009</p> <p>2009/10</p>	Karen Syrett	<p>Cycling Town Partnership :</p> <p>Essex County Council</p> <p>Highways Agency</p> <p>Colchester 2020</p>	Place shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
		education, residential and business Business Approval of the Severalls Travel Plan	2009/10	Nigel Myers		
Work in partnership to release land and deliver the A12 junction, the Northern Approaches Road and the Busway.	Provide new access and release land for housing and economic development through delivery of the A12 Junction and relieve congestion around the North Station area.	CIF2 funding awarded Renegotiation of Severalls s106 Notice served on agricultural tenant and Land released for construction of the infrastructure	April 2009 March 2010 July 2009	Karen Syrett / Fiona Duhamel	Essex County Council lead on CIF bid and Junction construction Highways Agency English Partnership EEDA Developers Homes and Communities Agency, BP	Place Shaping
Consider a planning application and make available land to allow delivery of Park and Ride at North Colchester	Increase the attractiveness of the town centre as a place to live, work, shop and visit. Reduce greenhouse gasses produced by transport	Location and site included in LDF Site Allocation document Provide support to ECC in order to secure funding	November 2009 March 2010	Karen Syrett / Fiona Duhamel	Essex County Council	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Upgrade existing and construct new cycle routes using newly acquired Cycling Town status and improve cycle security at rail stations to encourage residents to use bikes/public transport	Increase the levels of people cycling. Reduce greenhouse gasses produced by transport	1.5km of Foot and Cycle paths improved across High Woods Country Park. 2.5km of foot and cycle paths improved through the Highwoods residential area. Launch the improved High Woods Town Centre to Community Stadium Route Improve the routes linking Greenstead to the Hythe Station area	March 2010 June 2009 June 2009 March 2010	Karen Syrett	Cycling Town Partnership : Essex County Council Colchester 2020	Place Shaping
Commence the changes to the town centre to reduce traffic and improve reliability of the bus operation	Increase the operational reliability of passenger transport especially in the town centre.	Reach agreement between CBC and ECC on key fundamentals to be agreed for delivery. Agree a programme of delivery for Town Centre Transport Project Deliver a number of	April 2009 May 2009 December	Karen Syrett / Fiona Duhamel	Essex County Council Bus operators	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Improve the environments in and around Colchester's stations, increase the length of platforms at the Hythe station to allow for improved train operation and approve a pilot Travel Plan for Colchester Station	Increase the number of people using alternative methods of travel to access the station and places of employment. Reduce greenhouse gasses produced by transport	"quick wins" to improve public realm and transport Lengthened platforms at the Hythe Improved environment to the Hythe Station Submit Pilot Station travel plan to ATOC. Set up governance arrangements with Partners Improve and increase level of cycle parking at North Station	2009 September 2009 September 2009 May 2009 May 2009 December 2009	Karen Syrett / Fiona Duhamel	Essex County Council National Express East Anglia Cycling Town Partners	Place Shaping
Work with Essex County Council to deliver acceptable sustainable changes to the A133	Provide new access and release land for housing and economic development through delivery of the A12 Junction and relieve congestion around the North Station area.	Modifications to the Albert, Colne Bank and Essex Hall Roundabout	April 2009	Karen Syrett	Essex County Council	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
LDF Preparation;	Spatial planning plays a central role in the overall task of place shaping and in the delivery of land uses and associated activities.	Site Allocations DPD	Submission November 2009	Karen Syrett	Essex CC Highways Agency Colchester 2020 Developers PCT Health Authority Environment Agency English Heritage Natural England HG Ptnership Network Rail National Express Parish Councils	Place Shaping
Site Allocations DPD – submission November 2009, examination March 2010 and adoption August 2010.		Dev Policies DPD				
Development Policies DPD - submission November 2009, examination June 2010 and adoption November 2010.		NS Masterplan	April 2010			
Supplementary Planning Documents due for adoption 2009 – 11.		Nrth Col. Masterplan Community Facilities SPD Affordable Housing SPD Backland Dev SPD	April 2010 September 2009 September 2009 September 2009			
Complete East Transit corridor Feasibility Study	Identification of feasible options to deliver improved connections between East Colchester and Town Centre	Feasibility Study Report to allow consideration of options	April 2009	Karen Syrett / Fiona Duhamel		Place Shaping

Enabling job creation

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Exploit Colchester's strategic location between London, Stansted and the Haven Gateway ports to promote international trade, secure inward investment and major infrastructure projects	Create 10 new jobs through Foreign Direct Investment Refresh 'Choose Colchester' inward investment promotion pack Launch tactical campaign directed at 200 key relocation decision makers in the UK Lobby East of England International to shortlist Colchester for all appropriate foreign direct investment enquiries Use culture led place marketing to attract inward investment	LAA2 Economic Prosperity Strategy 2007-2010 National, regional and local targeted publicity	March 2010	Nigel Myers	Essex County Council/ExDRA East of England International (EEI)	Place Shaping
Ensure the availability of sufficient quality employment land via our planning process to meet the needs of our residents	Provide policy expertise to help secure additional 3.2 ha of employment land defined as being of high quality Convert redundant rural buildings into 10 units for commercial use	LDF Economic Prosperity Strategy 2007-2010	March 2010	Nigel Myers	Haven Gateway Partnership	Place Shaping
Use planning gain and other funding streams to raise the number of apprenticeships	Adoption of Supplementary Planning Gain proposal to utilise S.106 funding for the provision of training and apprenticeships	LAA2 Economic Prosperity Strategy 2007-2010	March 2010	Nigel Myers	North East Essex Education Business Partnership	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
and increase the take up of training and employment opportunities	Create in partnership with the North East Essex Education Business Partnership an additional 100 company placements/apprenticeships as part of their 'Crossing the Gap' initiative				Learning Skills Council	
Increase incubation and grow-on space to sustain business growth	Secure funding and management arrangements for incubation and grow on space in North Colchester Influence and provide policy expertise for the development of additional incubation and grow on space at other sites such as Stane Park	LAA2 Economic Prosperity Strategy 2007-2010	March 2010	Nigel Myers	EEDA Colchester Business Enterprise Agency	Place Shaping
Support the creation of new businesses by working in partnership with other agencies nationally and regionally to market Colchester as a preferred business location	Actively support campaigns such as National Enterprise Week in November 2009 to encourage the growth of self employment and business start up activity Utilise LAA1 Reward Grant and partner contributions to increase the level of business start up particularly from those who are currently under represented in the business community	LAA2 Economic Prosperity Strategy 2007-2010	December 2010	Nigel Myers	Colchester Business Enterprise Agency Business Link	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Sustain and where possible strengthen the independent retail sector within the retail offering of the borough	Promote Colchester through targeted trade publications using editorial rather than paid for advertising Work with the Colchester Town Centre Business Planning Group to agree and implement projects in the town centre which will increase footfall and retail expenditure Identify and prioritise opportunities outside of the town centre for strengthening the retail offer Use Festival to improve Colchester's profile as a destination for visitors and businesses Contribution to other Town Centre land place marketing initiatives to improve sense of place eg night time economy	Programme of coordinated events including the Christmas Lights and Colchester in Bloom Deliver Year 1 actions from the festival development strategy and evaluate and report findings Set of principles and priorities for the Town Centre agreed and action plans in place to address key issues and opportunities Investigation into the benefits of an Area action plan for the Town Centre	January 2010	Nigel Myers/Fiona Duhamel	Colchester Town Centre Business Planning Group	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Raise the skill levels of the local workforce to obtain better paid employment by innovative collaboration with employers, educational institutions and other key partners	<p>Work with LAA partners to increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher by 1%</p> <p>Use s.106 funding to provide NVQ 2 training for up to 150 residents to secure employment with Sainsbury's and Waitrose</p> <p>Effectively signpost in collaboration with partner organisations skills and employment opportunities in the borough</p> <p>Work with the North East Essex Education Business Partnership, including Heads of Schools and the Colchester Institute, to help ensure that the 14-19 agenda including the Diploma and Apprenticeship has the appropriate level of business engagement</p> <p>Implement the Colchester internship/company placement scheme with the University of Essex.</p>	LAA2 Economic Prosperity Strategy 2007-201	November 2010	Nigel Myers	<p>Learning Skills Council</p> <p>Business Link</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>North East Essex Education Business Partnership</p>	Place Shaping

Healthy living

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Work with a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations to deliver the projects in the action plans for the Local Area Agreement and 'Life Opportunities' targets on childhood obesity, smoking and teenage pregnancy	Reduced levels of childhood obesity, smoking, and teenage pregnancies	Agree Joint Appointment with NHS NEE Review of action plans with NEE NHS With PSP partners, commission projects to contribute to this work using PRG funding	May 2009 July 2009 April 2009	Matt Sterling	NHS North East Essex/Voluntary partners	Place Shaping
Co-ordinate the Lottery-funded MEND (childhood obesity) scheme	Increased awareness of healthy eating and exercise	Secure continuation funding	June 2009	Matt Sterling	NHS North East Essex	Place Shaping
Deliver the NHS North East Essex collaboration plan for healthy lifestyles and attract funding for new health initiatives	More people leading healthy, active lifestyles, reduced levels of childhood obesity and more adults participating in sport	Deliver Bodycare Roadshows in 10 schools Deliver sports coaching in 20 schools Introduce 3 new health walks	March 2010 March 2010 September 2009	Simon Grady	NHS NEE Local schools School Sports Partnership Local sports clubs	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence
Give advice to residents on accessing grants to better insulate their homes	Warmer homes and reduced fuel bills for residents aged 60+	Provide 4-day-per-week service Advise 500 people on better insulating and heating their homes	Ongoing March 2010	Matt Sterling		Customer Excellence

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Deliver the NHS-funded fuel poverty scheme ('Warm Homes 2')	Improved healthiness amongst target group	Follow-up contact made with patients who have not responded Fund heating and insulating work in 15 homes Report on pilot scheme outcomes	April 2009 January 2010 January 2010	Matt Sterling	NHS North East Essex/New Town GP Surgery	Customer Excellence
Deliver the Community Sport Network action plan and the Development Plan for Sport	More people leading healthy, active lifestyles, reduced levels of childhood obesity and more adults participating in sport External investment in sports provision in Colchester	Launch new "Active Colchester" website to incorporate all local opportunities provided by CBC and its partners New Borough-wide development plan produced including local priorities for sport and leisure provision	June 2009 September 2009	Simon Grady	Active Colchester	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence
Work with partners to deliver the London 2012 Partnership Plan	More people leading healthy, active lifestyles, reduced levels of childhood obesity and more adults participating in sport	Co-ordinate the Colchester 'offer' to Olympic and Paralympic Committees to maximise the chances of securing a pre games training or preparation camp in the Borough	Ongoing	Simon Grady	Garrison, University of Essex, NHS NEE, School Sport Partnership	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence

Homes for all

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescale	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Co-ordinate, provide and promote an advice service with partners to make sure people get all the help they need to remain in their own homes.	More people are able to remain in their own homes	Recommendations made as part of Housing Services Review. Investigate opportunities that arise from introduction of 'Public Sector village'. Reduction in homelessness applications. Increase in homelessness prevention figures. Decrease in the use of temporary accommodation.	March 2010	Peter McDonagh	CAB Shelter Housing Forum Young Persons Housing Forum Colne HA Essex Mediation Swan HA April Centre	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence
Lead a review of private and publicly owned sites including rural exception sites to deliver new affordable housing across the borough.	Land assets are used efficiently to maximise the delivery of affordable housing. Public sector land is made available for affordable housing.	Identify ownership of land 2009/2010.	March 2010	Tina Hinson / Karen Syrett	Homes and Communities Agency, Public Authorities, Private Landowners	Place Shaping
Implement Colchester's Local Development Framework, including a robust Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document to seek 35% of all new	The Planning system is used effectively to deliver safe, secure, decent and affordable homes.	Draft policy completed March 09. Consultation completed June 09. Final document approved October 09.	October 2009	Karen Syrett	RSLs	Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescale	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
homes to be affordable on sites with 3 or more homes in rural areas and 10 or more homes in urban areas.						
Adopt a site allocations development plan document to ensure a 15 year rolling supply of housing sites.	The Planning system is used effectively to deliver safe, secure, decent and affordable homes.	Submission of DPD November 2009. DPD adopted and published August 2010.	August 2010	Karen Syrett	ECC	Place Shaping
Ensure that all Council homes meet the Decent Homes Standard.	Ensure that all Council homes meet the Decent Homes Standard by December 2012.	To complete the procurement and restart the Decent Homes programme.	October 2009	Mike Scarlett	CBH/Ridge and Partners	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence
Identify private properties to target for improvement to the Decent Homes standard and seek external funding to deliver.	Prioritized risk based inspection of all properties in New Town with completed report.	A detailed survey of properties in the New Town area to be completed. Recommendations for action reported to Portfolio Holder. Investigate possible sources of additional / external funding. Work with Fuel Poverty Officer to identify properties for work that would make them "decent".	Inspections completed October 2009 Final report December 2009	Peter McDonagh	Consultants to carry out survey	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescale	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Encourage the return of empty properties to use.	A reduction in the number of properties on the council tax register as being empty over 6 months in the borough.	Rewrite and implement 'Empty Homes Strategy' prioritising action on the longest standing empty properties first. Target: 80 empty properties bought back into use.	March 2010	Peter McDonagh	n/a	Place Shaping

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
<p>Prepare an options appraisal to identify potential future service delivery</p>	<p>Further exploration of the options identified within the appraisal</p>	<p>The establishment of a Member Task and Finish group through the Policy Review and Development Panel Recommendations to Cabinet on the option to be taken forward</p>	<p>Task and Finish group to commence April 2009 and report back to Policy Panel October 2009 Recommendations to Cabinet from panel by December 2009</p>	<p>Chris Dowsing</p>	<p>Task and Finish Group Members</p>	<p>Place Shaping</p>
<p>Extend the kerbside recycling service to all flats</p>	<p>Extended recycling facilities to residents living in flats</p>	<p>Increased levels of recycling helping to achieve the Councils recycling targets. Greater participation and levels of satisfaction</p>	<p>Procurement of materials from April 2009 with installation and extended service Summer 2009</p>	<p>Dave McManus</p>	<p>Developers and private and social landlords</p>	<p>Place Shaping and Customer Excellence</p>
<p>Carry out education and information programmes that persuades and encourages residents to reduce their waste and recycle all materials</p>	<p>An increase in waste minimisation, reuse and participation in the Council's recycling services</p>	<p>Increased levels of participation in the Council's kerbside recycling collection service Increased levels of recycling to meet LAA2 targets Reduction in the overall levels of waste arisings going to landfill</p>	<p>Door steppers project to commence May 2009</p>	<p>Chris Dowsing</p>	<p>To be selected through tender process</p>	<p>Place Shaping and Customer Excellence</p>

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Carry out cleaning blitzes and increase visibility of street based staff and resources	Highly visible street cleaning service with in depth cleansing operation. Additional resources targeting areas where routing cleaning is inadequate	Increased levels of street cleaning on specified days. Involvement of ward members and residents groups Increased customer satisfaction	Commenced January 2009. Programme currently in place until December 2009	Dave McManus	Ward members	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence
Investigate a food waste collection service	Food waste collections fully investigated and understood as part of an effective waste and recycling collection scheme	The collection of food waste will be investigated further by the Member Task and Finish group set up to look at the options in more detail.	Task and Finish group to commence April 2009 and report back to Policy Panel October 2009	Chris Dowsing	Task and Finish Group Members	Place Shaping and Customer Excellence
Provide a free recycling service to all Schools	Schools and young people are recycling more in conjunction with the Eco schools programme	The collection of recycled materials from schools Increased educational work and behavioural changes	A free recycling service is now offered to all schools who sign up to CBC as customers for residual waste The extension to the flat recycling scheme is envisaged to provide the capacity to enhance this service	Dave McManus		Place Shaping

Action	Outcome	Outputs	Timescales	GMT lead	Partners	WWW link
Investigate the potential benefits to Colchester of an Inter Authority Agreement with Essex County Council	The potential benefits of an Inter Authority Agreement with Essex County Council are explored through the East Area Waste Management Joint Committee and through 1-2-1 discussions with Essex County Council.	An agreement is reached with Essex County Council to enter into or not an inter authority agreement.	Meetings with Essex County Council will take place in March 2009. If an agreement is reached the decision will go forward to Cabinet.	Chris Dowsing	Essex County Council	Place Shaping
Work with voluntary and charitable organisations to promote and enable the reuse of a range of household items and materials	More material is taken from the waste stream and diverted for reuse rather than being sent to landfill	Support is provided by the Council to voluntary and charities willing to engage in the reuse of materials	This will be an ongoing engagement with these groups to take advantage of opportunities as they arise	Chris Dowsing	Voluntary groups and charities operating within the Borough	Place Shaping



Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Item
12

16 June 2009

Report of	Executive Director	Author	Ann Wain Tel. 282212
Title	Performance Report – 2008/09		
Wards affected	All		

**The Panel is invited to review the performance information for
2008/09**

1. Action required

1.1 The panel is asked to comment on the year end performance information for 2008/09.

2. Reason for scrutiny

2.1 The information presented with this report is the key performance data for the Council.

3. Background information

3.1 A new regime of performance indicators was introduced in 2008, with a set of National Indicators replacing the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPs).

3.2 2008/09 has been a transitional year with new arrangements having to be established for collecting data. This means that little comparative data is available, either with previous years or with other authorities. This picture will build up over time. There are some indicators where we are dependent on other agencies for information and this is not all yet available.

3.3 The information presented includes a number of different types of performance information:

1. National Indicators that Colchester Borough Council lead on that are also included in the Local Area agreement
2. National Indicators that Colchester Borough Council lead on that are not included at 1.
3. Local indicators, ex BVPs that we felt it was important to retain
4. Life Opportunities targets where Colchester Borough Council has the lead

3.4 This information is being reported on the same agenda as the strategic plan action plan, and the intention is that as we report through the year these items will continue to be reported at the same time so that the Panel will have a full performance picture.

4. Performance

- 4.1 There are some areas where performance has been particularly good:
- Both targets around waste and recycling have been exceeded
 - Sickness absence has been substantially reduced
 - Achievement of Level 3 of the Equality Standard
 - Benefits claims processed correctly (despite a very significant increase in numbers)
- 4.2 There are also some areas of concern. Several targets have not been achieved because of the impact of the economic climate:
- Households in temporary accommodation
 - Number of affordable homes
 - Council Tax and Business Rates collected

5. Strategic Plan references

- 5.1 The delivery against many of the performance indicators contributes to the outcomes in the strategic plan.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 N/A

7. Publicity considerations

- 7.1 The performance against some of these indicators allows the public to judge our how well we are doing.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Where performance is poor we need to consider if additional resources need to be moved to support an improvement. This is done as part of the budget strategy.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 9.1 The economic climate is affecting a range of customer groups and we need to ensure that the standard of service does not impact disproportionately on particular groups.

10. Community Safety implications

- 10.1 N/A

11. Health and Safety implications

- 11.1 N/A

12. Risk Management implications

- 12.1 Poor performance impacts on our residents and on the reputation of the Council. It is important to monitor performance and to take action where performance is not to the required standard. If a service was seen to be falling in performance, this would need to be managed through the risk management process.

						prevention and more detailed casework. (35 appointments per week with an average be seen. Please note our position at 31 D and is the performance we will be judged on (CLG P1E return).
NI 186	CO2 reductions per head in CBC's area	annually	9.0%	June 09	annual	The calculations of CO2 per capita are done and published annually, however data will be date. The national baseline is 2005. 2005-2009 change in CO2 emissions per capita, the national target released in June 09. ECC and GoEast issued a target in May 2009 of 9% by the end of the LAA 2 period.
NI 188	Planning to adapt to climate change	annually	level 1	level 1	green	The Council has been successful in achieving level one) in its self assessment over the first year. Level zero covers the baseline work where the threats and the next steps. Level one takes the work demonstrates that the authority is taking action.
NI 191	Residual household waste per household	quarterly	710kg	527.642kg	green	The efforts put in by the Council to reduce residual waste produced by households has led to this excellent target has been exceeded quite substantially for this year will be the figure agreed for 2009-10. The review of its whole waste and recycling operations will be a finish group who will make recommendations on how we deliver waste and recycling services in the future.
NI 192	Household waste reused, recycled and composted	quarterly	34.0%	36.9%	green	This is a good improvement on the previous year. It is unlikely to place in the top 25% of authorities in the LAA target 35% by March 2010, CBC has achieved this same period. Future targets will be set in the appraisal and task and finish group mentioned in the indicator.
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	quarterly	partner targets not agreed	Litter 6.6%, Detritus 13.3%, Graffiti 6%, Flyposting 1%	amber	The Council works very closely with Essex Council on this new indicator and annual results from Defra. Local calculation of results per results column where estimates have been used.
NATIONAL INDICATORS - which CBC has responsibility for (and are not included in LAA above)						
NI 14	Avoidable contact: minimising proportion of customer contacts that is of low or no value to the customer	annually	no target as per guidance	36.6%	started Nov	Year end figure submitted via ESD toolkit. A task and finish group has been formed to evaluate data and reduce contact in each service area.
NI 157	Processing of planning applications v targets for 'major', 'minor' and 'other' application types	quarterly	60%/65%/80%	"majors" 56% "minors" 83% "others" 92%	"majors" red ; "minors" green ; "others" green	The really good news for the period is that 'minors' and 'others' categories far exceeded targets. Unfortunately performance in the 'majors' category is below the national indicator target of 60%. This is disappointing it was not unexpected and highlighted in earlier reports. Although current performance is 56%, we are still indicating below target (60%) due to a backlog of applications which requires the negotiations. These have been hampered by the downturn and reluctance of developers to take a focussed effort on this backlog is programme.
NI 158	% non-decent council homes	quarterly	21%	18.8%	green	Following the departure of Inspace, the Decent Homes programme was put on hold until a number of key pieces of work were completed. The Council has invested resources in the Asset Management database, which enables the Council to identify properties at risk and void properties, which in turn has enabled the Council to target homes classified as non decent. A programme to improve the decent homes programme has been agreed with GoEast, CLG and CBH with a completed contract. The Council has put in place a full EC procurement process for the continuation of the decent homes work. The Council has decided to award the contract to the successful bidder in October 2009.
NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	annually	4150 = Five year supply	4150	green	6,222 sites already identified for the next five years. The total requirement is 4150 so identified supply exceeds requirement.

NI 181	Time taken to process housing benefit/council tax benefit new claims/change events	monthly	16 days	13.14	green	indicator and therefore there are no prior year data. Workload has increased by 140% year on year on same resource.
NI 182	Satisfaction of businesses with LA regulation services	annually	75%	85.0%	green	This is a brand new indicator for 2008-09 with no data for previous years with which to measure. However, discussions amongst professional colleagues indicate that 75% may be considered to be a satisfactory result. 85% is therefore an encouraging result for assessment but closer comparisons with other districts obviously be possible in future years.
NI 184	Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	annually	above 75%	91.00%	green	This is a brand new indicator for 2008-09 and no data for previous years exists. However, discussions with professional colleagues indicate that 75% may be considered to be a satisfactory result. It is therefore quite satisfactory that the compliance rate of 91% for the first year has increased over the past few months
NI 185	CO ₂ reduction from local authority operations	annually +updates	year-on-year decrease	n/a	annual	Figures will not be available for this new indicator in 2009 however, the Council has been successful in implementing projects through its member organisations Carbon Management programme. This has enabled the Council to demonstrate to other districts methods that can be applied elsewhere. A target for CO2 emissions over the next two years
NI 187	Fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with low energy efficiency rating	annually	year on year decrease in the number of properties with low energy efficiency year on year increase in the number of properties with high energy efficiency	SAP less than 35 = 6.9% SAP greater than 65 = 31.2%	green	This is a new indicator and the information available for 2008-09 equates to 6.9% equates to 35 respondents in receipt of means tested living in properties which have low energy efficiency to 159 respondents in receipt of means tested living in properties which have high energy efficiency. Progress against this new indicator will be measured when the new survey will be conducted.
NI 194	Level of air quality – % reduction in NO _x and primary PM ₁₀ emissions through CBC's estate and operations	annually +updates	year on year decrease	n/a	annual	Data not available at present time (will be available when plans should enable us to meet target.
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness-fly	annually	no benchmark	623	annual	As this is a new indicator we are waiting to receive information from other districts to judge our performance against a meaningful target. The Council will be looking to achieve clearance as part of the review of its Street Cleaning Strategy
LOCAL INDICATORS - ex-BVPIs which have been carried forward as CBC local indicators						
ex-12	Sickness Rate (average working day/employees)	monthly	9.5 days	8.28 days	green	Our performance in this area had dramatic improvement from 9.5 days in 2007/08 to 8.28 days in 2008/09. This would put us in top quartile performance
ex-2a	Equality Standard level	annually	to achieve level 3	level 3	green	Level 3 Accreditation achieved March 2009. New Framework in place from 1 April - Level 3 "achieving". New Target to be set for next year.
ex-8	Invoices paid on time	quarterly	98.6%	98.3%	red	26,400 invoices processed so the shortfall in invoices not paid on time. 75% of invoices processed on time. Standard payment is 30 days.
ex-9	Council Tax collected	annually (+ updates)	98.5%	98.4%	red	Below target due to impact of economic situation in previous financial year (98.3%)
ex-10	Business rates collected	annually (+updates)	99.5%	98.4%	red	Big impact of economic situation and completion of business. Last year 99.8%.
ex-79a	Benefit claims processed correctly	quarterly	99.0%	99.4%	green	Excellent performance given 140% increase in resources.
ex-79bi	% of benefit overpayment recovered in current year	annually (+updates)	75.0%	61.8%	red	Target not achieved in % terms as the total amount recovered was less than expected. In absolute terms the £684,000 is the highest ever achieved. Previous years were 65%.
ex-106	New homes on brownfield sites	6-monthly	60%	82.7%	green	On target
ex-204	How many planning appeals are allowed against our decision to refuse	quarterly	>35%	33.3%	green	The annual figure April 08-March 09 meets the requirements
ex-218a	Reports of abandoned vehicles investigated in 24 hours	annually	43 100%	100.0%	green	Annual target achieved

12	Reduce the number of households living in homelessness temporary accommodation by 50%	quarterly	206 (see NI 156)	235	red	<p>households in temporary accommodation. We have missed our end of year target. The reduction of all households in temporary accommodation in 2010 is at risk. We have put a number of initiatives in place to help us achieve the target. We have increased the capacity of the Homechoice Shop to take initial enquiries and have increased our capacity for housing advisers to take on more prevention and more detailed casework. We have increased the number of appointments per week with an average of 35 appointments per week with an average of 15 appointments per week to be seen. Please note our position at 31 December 2009 and is the performance we will be judged on (see CLG P1E return).</p>
13	Reduce the number of CBH tenants who are evicted due to rent arrears by 25% by providing proactive assistance to combat debt	quarterly	15 evictions	30	red	<p>We continue to try and balance the need to reduce rent arrears and collection rates with sustaining tenancies; targeted tenancies with a debt over £1,000. Our proactive assistance strategy has improved the level of rent collection and reduced the higher level of evictions. Eviction still remains a significant action following a number of different measures to resolve the situation.</p>

green = on track / on target; amber = off track, but have plans in place to hit target or have the necessary info; red = either off track or unable to fill in the return

