

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 SEPTEMBER 2014

AGENDA ITEM 8

Subject	ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCL'S SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS
Report by	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Purpose

To provide Members with an annual update on the work of the Council's significant partnerships.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the contents of this review are noted.

Corporate Implications

Legal:	None
Financial:	The report gives details of the budgets available to partnerships and the Council's contribution, where relevant.
Personnel:	None
Risk Management:	As outlined in the report.
Equalities and Diversity:	None
Health and Safety:	None
IT:	None
Other:	None

Consultees

Director of Public Places, Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Sustainable Communities, Public Protection Manager, Public Health and Protection Services Manager, Inward Investment, Economy & Growth Manager, ICT Group Manager, Energy Manager, Risk Manager, Audit Manager, South Essex Parking Partnership Manager, Corporate Services

Policies and Strategies

The report takes into account the following policies and strategies of the Council:

- Corporate Plan 2012-16
- Community Plan

Corporate Plan Priorities

The report relates to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan

Attracting investment and delivering infrastructure	X
Facilitating suitable housing for local needs	X
Providing high quality public spaces	X
Promoting a more sustainable environment	X
Promoting healthier and more active lives	X
Enhancing participation in cultural activities	X

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of this annual report is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Council's significant partnerships.
- 1.2 In particular, the report provides details of how their work has contributed towards the delivery of priorities within the Corporate Plan and Community Plan and the funding available to each partnership, including any financial contribution from the Council. It also offers an overview of the partnerships' achievements in the previous twelve months and lists key priorities for 2014/15.

2. The current list of Significant Partnerships

- 2.1 The current list of significant partnerships is set out below:

- One Chelmsford Partnership (a merger of the Chelmsford Partnership and the Safer Chelmsford Partnership)
- South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP)
- Essex Waste Partnership
- Chelmsford Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM)
- Essex Online Partnership (EOLP)
- Mid Essex Children's Partnership (MECP)

- 2.2 In last year's report presented to the Committee on 30th September 2013, a proposal was made to remove the Mid Essex Children's Partnership (MECP) from the list of significant partnerships. This was due to the review of its membership, constitution and governance arrangements, which was ongoing at the time of the report being written.

2.3 However, Members expressed the view that they did not wish the MECP to be removed from the list, as it dealt with a very vulnerable part of our society. The Director of Community Services confirmed that she was happy for the list to remain unchanged. Since then, the Partnership has been re-structured and the details for the new arrangements are provided in Appendix 1.

3. Progress on recommendations from the 2012 Annual Review and the internal audit review 2013/14

3.1 Since both reviews have taken place, the majority of the recommendations for improvement have been completed. The details of progress against outstanding recommendations are contained in Appendix 2.

3.2 The 'Partnership Protocol', 'checklist' and guidance notes for the 'Financial Arrangements for Partnerships' all remain in place. Training on how to use these documents was provided jointly with the Finance team and there is a dedicated section on the Intranet with further information. Each Directorate is required to maintain a list of all the partnerships that they were involved in and keep a copy of the completed checklists for audit purposes.

4. Future areas of development - update

4.1 Last year's report mentioned the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and the Essex Energy Partnership as the two areas likely to become of significant importance to Chelmsford City Council in the coming year.

Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group

4.2 Over the past twelve months Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has continued to evolve. The CCG now work to a 5 year strategic plan and a 2 year operational plan which are based around the phases of life: starting well, safe & well, long term conditions, frailty, and end of life. Chelmsford City Council is focusing on the 'safe & well' part of this work, as this is where most of the Council's services can impact on health improvement and prevention of ill-health. As part of this work the Council is represented on the CCG's Safe & Well Transformation Board.

4.3 The Council continues to be represented at the meetings by the Public Health and Protection Services Manager, who also chairs Chelmsford Health and Wellbeing Board and attends meetings of the One Chelmsford Board. Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group is a member organisation of the One Chelmsford Board and the CCG's Head of Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement is also a core member of the Chelmsford Health and Wellbeing Group. The Public Health and Protection Services Manager also represents Chelmsford City Council on a Systems Leadership Group organised by the Clinical Commissioning Group. This Group was set up to ensure changes to health delivery are implemented across the whole health system and not just at primary and secondary level. It includes officer representatives from Chelmsford City Council, Maldon District Council, and Braintree District Council.

- 4.4 These arrangements should ensure that there is an adequate representation at strategic meetings. Chelmsford City Council is not making any financial contributions, but may benefit from some funding in the future. A representative from the CCG will be providing an update presentation to the next meeting of this Committee.

The Essex Energy Partnership

- 4.6 The Essex Energy Partnership's primary aim is to explore ways to improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties and to share best practice amongst partners. The Partnership had previously intended to appoint an ECO partner to deliver improvements to the energy efficiency of homes that are hard to keep warm funded by Energy Company Obligation (ECO) monies. However due to Government changes to the parameters surrounding ECO funding in Autumn 2013, continuing with the procurement for a partner(s) became untenable. This was confirmed by soft market testing and the subsequent collapse of Kent's ECO framework. EEP is referenced in ECC's developing Commissioning Strategies under both Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Environment. EEP is currently working with the Essex CO2RE Officers group (Carbon Reduction group) to review its key focus areas.
- 4.7 As a result of the above changes, this partnership is not currently of significant importance to Chelmsford City Council to warrant inclusion on this list. However, the Council is continuing to focus efforts on reducing energy consumption from our property portfolio. Members will hear more about these efforts during a separate agenda item. A recent project at Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre halved the energy used to illuminate the main pool and improvements have also been made to the roof insulation of the Coval Lane office building. By the end of March 2015 the lighting in both Meadows Retail and Townfield Street multi storey car parks will be upgraded and these improvements will significantly reduce ongoing energy costs as well as improve the lighting levels and appearance of the car parks.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Overall it can be concluded that partnership working continues to bring benefits to Chelmsford City Council, local organisations and communities. It allows the Council to tackle challenging, cross-cutting issues with partners and provide more efficient and effective outcomes as a result. The most up to date information for each partnership is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Progress has been made with the remaining recommendations for improvements to ensure that partnerships operate effectively and transparently, as outlined in Appendix 2. This is especially evident with One Chelmsford, e.g. the introduction of improved financial arrangements and a risk assessment timetable.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Headline information on significant partnerships

Appendix 2 – Progress update on outstanding 2012/13 recommendations

Background Papers

Nil

Appendix 1 – Headline information on significant partnerships

Partnership name: The One Chelmsford Partnership	
Partnership's purpose: The One Chelmsford Partnership was formed following a merger of the Local Strategic Partnership (Chelmsford Partnership) and the Community Safety Partnership (Safer Chelmsford Partnership) in June 2011. The Partnership brings together representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to oversee high level strategic issues in Chelmsford and ensure continuous improvement locally. The Board draws together the statutory community safety functions of the Responsible Authority Group to reduce crime and fear of crime.	
Aims and objectives	
Community safety priorities 2013/14: 1. Reducing Violent Crime 2. Protecting Vulnerable People 3. Tackling Antisocial Behaviour 4. Tackling serious acquisitive crime Plus a statutory duty to reduce re-offending	Community Plan Priorities for Action: 1. Our Community is Healthy & Active 2. Our Community is Socially Inclusive 3. Our Community is Thriving 4. Our Community is Nurturing the Environment
Is CCC's involvement in the partnership statutory? (Y/N) – Yes	
What role has CCC played in the partnership this year? CCC is the lead partner. The following officers from CCC are actively involved in the partnership: the Chief Executive, the Director of Community Services, the Public Health and Protection Services Manager, the Public Protection Manager, the Community Safety team, the Partnerships and Improvement Manager and the Democratic Services Manager. Members are represented through: the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the Leader of the Council. Other officers are also involved, when relevant.	
What was the partnerships total budget for 2013/14? What contribution does CCC make to this a) Financially and b) in officer time? The One Chelmsford Partnership currently has a remaining budget of £31,007.46 held at CCC and £20,265.98 held at CVS. The Community Safety funding available for allocation in 2013/14 amounted to £85,866 (total recommended for allocation on 11 March 2014 was £25,250 with the sum of £24,391 being held in reserve for Domestic Homicide Reviews). Chelmsford CVS will be undertaking a role of an independent treasurer and will hold all funds on behalf of the Partnership to ensure financial transparency.	
How does the partnership contribute to delivering:	
a) Corporate Plan priorities? 'Providing high quality public spaces' and 'Promoting healthier and more active lives'	
b) Community Plan themes? All themes	
Brief details of the partnership's main achievements in 2013/14	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful accreditation with the ATCM for 'Purple Flag' for the management of the night time	

Partnership name: The One Chelmsford Partnership

economy in the city centre in July 2013 and embedding the ethos throughout the year by holding Purple Flag week and acting as an example of good practice by hosting night time visits to Chelmsford.

- Delivery of high profile projects such as Alcohol Outreach (DCLG funded – National Pilot), A&E Data Sharing with Broomfield Hospital (Department of Health funded) and Drug Testing on Arrest (Essex Pilot).
- Successful accreditation of ‘Healthy Cities’ status with the World Health Organisation and implement any suggested changes to reduce existing health inequalities and further improve health and wellbeing of Chelmsford’s residents.
- Developed an excellent working relationship with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Essex and the delivery of projects funded through the PCC New Initiatives Fund such as “Reducing the Strength” and academic research into Chelmsford’s night time economy through commissioning Anglia Ruskin University.
- The Board has complied with its statutory duty and commissioned its first Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which was considered adequate Home Office’s Quality Assurance Panel and also highlighted areas of good practice of national importance

What are the partnership’s priorities in 2014/15?

- To continue to comprehensively review the governance arrangements and service provisions, embrace the transforming rehabilitation agenda, and ensure financial transparency by transferring funds to Chelmsford CVS.
- To work closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner to continue delivering activities and interventions to reduce crime and make sure that people feel safe during the day and after dark. This will build on the low crime for Chelmsford and the 9.1% reduction in antisocial behaviour.
- To work with the World Health Organisation and submit an application for re-designation as the UK’s first and only “Safe Community”.
- To produce an alcohol strategy with strategic partners to ensure that all of the good work supporting alcohol misuse is effective, joined up and becomes sustainable.
- To consider the recommendations of the academic research into Chelmsford’s night time economy and implement where appropriate following the successful adoption of a Late Night Levy for Chelmsford at Full Council on 16 July 2014.

Partnership name: South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP)

Partnership’s purpose

The SEPP consists of the following local authorities: Chelmsford, Maldon, Rochford, Basildon, Brentwood and Castle Point. Its main purpose is to carry out on-street parking enforcement, signs and lines maintenance and traffic regulation order (TRO) activity on behalf of Essex County Council (ECC).

Partnership name: South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP)

Aims and objectives:

- Support the core principles and aims and objectives of Traffic Management Act 2004
- Operate the TRO signs and lines function beyond March 2015
- Achieve an overall financial account to operate parking enforcement and the TRO function at zero deficit
- Maintain a reserve fund
- Partnership lead officers take all reasonable steps to ensure individual Partnership areas reduce the level of individual deficit
- Maintain signs and lines, and TROs to an acceptable level ensuring suitable funding is available

Is CCC's involvement in the partnership statutory? (Y/N) – No

What role has CCC played in the partnership this year?

CCC is the lead authority that delivers all operational aspects of the Partnership (back office and front-line enforcement). The following CCC officers are involved with the Partnership: Director of Community Services, Parking & Highways Liaison Manager, Parking Partnership Manager, Director of Finance (Treasurer). The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities is also Chelmsford's Joint Committee Member.

What was the partnerships total budget for 2013/14? What contribution does CCC make to this a) financially b) in officer time?

The enforcement of on-street parking is self-financing. Financial accounts are based on an estimated income. During the financial year 2013/14 the Partnership's overall expenditure amounted to £1,516,610 and total income was £1,790,260, resulting in a surplus of £273,650.

How does the partnership contribute to delivering:

- a) Corporate Plan priorities? 'Providing high quality public spaces'
- b) Community Plan themes? 'Our community is well connected'

Brief details of the partnership's main achievements in 2013/14

- An overall surplus achieved of £273,650, exceeding the original 2013/14 Business Plan estimate of £156,375 and resulting in a 49% increase compared to 2012/13.
- Successful introduction of the new MiPermit system in Chelmsford, offering residents a fast and convenient method to apply for and purchase their resident parking permits using on-line facilities.
- Improved financial position of Basildon and Maldon partners. Increasing previous year's outturn by £25,870 and £14,710 (respectively) and moving into a surplus position.
- A reduction in the deficit position for Rochford by 47%.
- An improved surplus position for Chelmsford by 21% and Brentwood with an increase of 2%.
- £150,000 reserve maintained.

Partnership name: South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP)

- £328,274 TRO funding allocated during the year for maintenance of signs and lines and new TROs. Overall funding of £602,710 allocated to date.

What are the partnership's priorities in 2014/15?

- Provide the operation to the agreed budget and achieve the Partnership's aims and objectives as set out in the 2014/15 Business Plan
- Provide Traffic Management schemes which meet the aims and objectives of the Partnership.
- Prioritise maintenance of signs and lines, within the funding available and which provide greatest benefit to the Parking Partnership.

Partnership name: Essex Waste Partnership

Partnership's purpose:

The Essex Waste Partnership is the vehicle to achieve a cohesive integrated waste management strategy and encourage collaborative working between Essex County Council (the waste disposal authority) and the twelve waste collection authorities in Essex. It delivers the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex 2007–2032, and is supported by an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) between the disposal and waste collection authorities across Essex.

Aims and objectives:

- To ensure that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex is implemented in an effective and collaborative manner
- To monitor the effectiveness of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and related plans including the Inter-Authority Agreement
- To consider and review waste reduction, recycling and composting performance across the Partnership
- To increase awareness of waste as a resource and to interact with a range of stakeholders to achieve an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable resource management programme.

Is CCC's involvement in the partnership statutory? (Y/N) – No

What role has CCC played in the partnership this year?

The Director of Public Places has delegated responsibility for the development of the Council's recycling and waste collection strategy and the provision and management of recycling and waste collection services. Participation in the Essex Waste Partnership provides a vehicle for collaboration between different authorities on the planning and delivery of these services and waste infrastructure generally.

What was the partnerships total budget for 2013/14? What contribution does CCC make to this a) financially b) in officer time?

Partnership name: Essex Waste Partnership

There is no direct financial commitment to the Essex Waste Management Partnership. However, the Inter-Authority Agreement includes provisions for a funding contribution to be made by the waste disposal authority (Essex County Council) to the City Council index linked for 25 years to support a separate food waste collection. In 2013/14 this payment was £1.312m

The partners affect the governance of the Essex Waste Partnership through a Member Partnership Board, IAA Member Working Group and IAA Member Officer Group (all of which are non-executive bodies without delegated powers). These bodies consume Member and officer time, with several meetings each year.

How does the partnership contribute to delivering:

- a) Corporate Plan priorities? 'Promoting a more sustainable environment' (in particular 'reducing waste and energy consumption, whilst protecting our natural resources')
- b) Community Plan themes? Our Community is Nurturing the Environment - reduce waste through increased recycling and partnership waste initiatives

Brief details of the partnership's main achievements in 2013/14

- Construction of the new waste treatment facilities (mechanical and biological treatment plant) at the Courtauld Road site in Basildon continued [due to be commissioned in September 2014]
- New treatment arrangements put in place for organic waste

What are the partnership's priorities in 2014/15?

- The mechanical and biological treatment plant will be commissioned in September 2014 and should be in full service by the end of the year
- Commence the construction of the new waste transfer station at Winsford Way [serving Chelmsford and Maldon]
- Review the implementation of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex and re-set priorities for the next 5-10 years

Partnership name: Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM)**Partnership's purpose:**

The LDM is an informal partnership of key organisations and agencies that collectively have responsibility for the delivery of strategic infrastructure. The LDM's primary purpose is to reach consensus, align priorities and influence the delivery of strategic infrastructure in Chelmsford.

Aims and objectives:

- To bring together key strategic infrastructure providers in Chelmsford to agree shared priorities and support the delivery of future infrastructure for future housing and economic growth.
- To discuss and set priorities for infrastructure delivery, consider issues and suggest solutions between the constituent bodies
- To seek new funding opportunities

An original Memorandum of Understanding was agreed when the LDM was first established in 2007 and in

Partnership name: Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM)

late 2011 the role and objectives of the LDM were reconsidered by the partnership, brought up to date and agreed.

Is CCC's involvement in the partnership statutory? (Y/N) – No

What role has CCC played in the partnership this year?

The LDM's focus during 2014 and going in to 2015 has been/will be on the following:

- a) The delivery of the new rail station in north east Chelmsford and the mechanisms needed to put that in place.
- b) The early development of a process through which the funds secured via the Community Infrastructure Levy (adopted by the Council on 1st June 2014) can be prioritised and integrated into an Infrastructure Business Plan.

The LDM met in January 2014 and the next meeting is planned for September. The meetings are co-ordinated and administered by Chelmsford City Council and normally chaired by the CCC Chief Executive. The meetings were also attended by the CCC Leader, Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development, Director of Sustainable Communities and Planning Policy Manager, when relevant.

Beyond the meetings, the partnership operates at a number of levels, with different partners working together on different project elements. This includes specific project management of major infrastructure projects (such as the Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme); using the Growth Fund to support new infrastructure (such as Chelmer Valley Park and Ride); bidding for new funding streams and securing the necessary infrastructure to support Chelmsford's future housing and economic growth (such as through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership).

The City Council has played a central role in all these aspects of the partnership's activity.

What was the partnerships total budget for 2013/14? What contribution does CCC make to this a) financially b) in officer time?

The LDM is not a decision making partnership and operates without a specific budget – decision making is vested with the individual organisations that make it up.

Indirectly, the partnership influences spending of the Chelmsford Growth Fund (a budget of £6.8 million capital and £400,000 revenue), although final decisions on spend are taken by Chelmsford City Council. The partnership also works together to access other potential sources of funding to support agreed priorities. As the City Council manages the partnership, officer time is spent on co-ordinating the partnership meetings.

Moving forward, the LDM will have a key role to play in relation to prioritising spend and governance of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which was adopted by the Council on 1st June 2014. A report setting out the potential role of the LDM and some key principles in this context was agreed by Development Policy Committee at its meeting on 5th June 2014.

How does the partnership contribute to delivering:

- a) Corporate Plan priorities? 'Attracting investment and delivering infrastructure.'
- b) Community Plan themes: Our Community is Socially Inclusive and Our Community is Thriving

Partnership name: Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM)

Brief details of the partnership's main achievements in 2013/14

- Completion of an Economic Impact Study of the proposed new North East Chelmsford rail station
- Securing £12 m from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership towards the cost of the new rail station at North East Chelmsford
- Establishment of a project team to take forward delivery of the North East Chelmsford rail station
- Engaging with 3 local MPs to secure support for the new station in the context of Network Rail's wider investment on the Great Eastern Main Line
- Articulation of Chelmsford priorities in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan which led to funding allocations of circa £20m in the Chelmsford area as part of the Government's South East Growth Deal announced in July 2014.

What are the partnership's priorities in 2014/15?

- Agreeing the role of the LDM in prioritisation and governance of spend secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy
- Agreement to new terms of reference setting out this new role
- Completion of Chelmsford Flood Alleviation Scheme (Stage A)
- Preparing the necessary business case(s) to secure the funding of the North East Chelmsford rail station and building on the work in 2013/2014 to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with Network Rail, ECC and Countryside Zest to move delivery of the station forward
- To continue to ensure that the North East Chelmsford station forms an integral part of the long term planning process for the Great Eastern Main Line being undertaken by Network Rail
- Securing other funding as appropriate to meet Chelmsford's infrastructure priorities in the context of the SELEP Local Growth Fund.

Partnership name: Essex Online Partnership (EOLP)

Partnership's purpose:

The partnership is in place to establish, oversee, provide a steer and receive reports from the sub-groups that operate in support of EOLP's overall objectives and formally report to EOLP Management Group (EOLPMG). The EOLPMG ensures that:

- All partnership activity is agreed and included within the work programme in accordance with the high level objectives agreed with the mentor Chief Executive (currently Maldon District Council's Chief Executive - Fiona Marshall).
- All work programme activity is tracked for progress and that strategic decisions arising from these activities are taken in a timely manner.
- Finances are managed appropriately in terms of partner contributions, implemented service revenue costs and project costs.
- Risks, at both a partnership and project/initiative, are managed effectively.

Aims and objectives:

EOLP develops and monitors a work programme that is focussed on:

- Establishing an ICT capability that is capable of supporting the transformation of Essex public

sector services within the context of the ever-changing technology landscape.

- Supporting the partnership ICT aspects that result from shared service and other business initiatives across the county during both implementation and ongoing service management.
- Ensuring that national ICT requirements are tracked and, where appropriate, an Essex response is delivered in a timely manner.
- Establishing key policies and guidelines to facilitate and support pan-Essex ICT services and the relationship with national services.
- Exploring Business Continuity options.
- Undertaking research and development for the benefit of all partner organisations.
- Working in partnership, where appropriate with other agencies, to obtain hard cash savings from collaborative procurement opportunities.
- Overseeing the ongoing operational management of implemented partnership ICT services.
- Supporting public sector initiatives to improve the IT infrastructure availability to Business and Citizens across Essex.

Is CCC's involvement in the partnership statutory? (Y/N) – No

What role has CCC played in the partnership this year?

Chelmsford City Council's main role is to receive services. Our input includes providing expertise in relation to technical aspects of the work of the partnership and by officers chairing subgroups (the ICT Group Manager, Technical Services Manager, Customer Services Manager and the Information Manager).

What was the partnerships total budget for 2013/14? What contribution does CCC make to this a) financially b) in officer time?

The expenditure for 2013/14 was approximately £214,000. Each partner pays an annual subscription fee and for CCC it amounted to £17,000 in 2011/12 and £16,575 for 2012/13 and £16,161 in 2013/14. This reduced to around £4954 in 2014/15 as each Council has to purchase its PSN connection separately. In addition the above mentioned officers contribute approximately 25 working days per year in total. As a side benefit of the Partnership, Chelmsford has been able to provide management of Essex CC's GCSX email accounts for a net income of around £5,000.

How does the partnership contribute to delivering:

- Corporate Plan priorities?** This Partnership contributes across the Corporate Plan priorities, by providing more effective ICT services.
- Community Plan themes?** The Partnership helps to deliver on the Community Plan themes.

Brief details of the partnership's main achievements in 2013/14

- Provided a new framework for procurement of hardware, rather than using the government framework to ensure that we can obtain lower prices, target implementation date of November 2013
- Coordinated the transition from Government Connect Secure Extranet (GCSX) compliance to Public Services Network (PSN) compliance (to be completed in 2014 for all authorities in Essex)
- Revision of standard Information Security Policy set in line with PSN requirements
- Maintained coordinated approach to access funding for Next Generation Access (NGA) across Essex (broadband for all)
- Commence project to share Geographic Information (INSPIRE).

What are the partnership's priorities in 2014/15?

- Developing an approach towards a unified infrastructure across Essex – one potential use is the to share back up and DR services
- Running a pilot project for a single electronic identity service within Essex. An internal use could be staff working from any location within Essex. Externally customers would be able to access public services with only one set of identity credentials.
- Recruiting an IA/IS consultant as a shared resource across the partnership for 12 months.
- Maintain coordinated approach to support of NGA programme of work.

Partnership name: Mid Essex Children's Partnership (MECP)**Partnership's purpose:**

To bring together people responsible for delivering services to children, young people and their family members against a number of priority areas as stipulated in the Children and Young People's plan.

The Partnership is also in place to facilitate pooling datasets to ensure an accurate understanding of Mid Essex's families' needs, against which targets and commissioning activity is agreed.

Aims and objectives

- Enabling children and young people to aspire, learn, achieve highly and realise their potential.
- Improving the life chances of Looked After Children, young carers and all other children and families at risk of poor outcomes.
- Reducing the impact of poverty and the recession on the lives of children and young people and their families.
- Providing children, young people and families with opportunities to contribute meaningfully and be involved in the development and delivery of services in their local communities.
- To promote and deliver the local vision for children and young people in line with the Essex Children and Young People's Plan.
- To ensure the development and local delivery of an LCPB Action plan which is to be developed within the framework and priorities of the Essex Children and young People's Plan.
- To lead the work on local aligning, pooling and sharing of resources to ensure effective and coordinated collaborative activity.
- To oversee local delivery to ensure effective and efficient improved impacts and results for children and young people and their families.
- To ensure effective joint working with the Essex Children's Safeguarding Board and the safeguarding of local children and young people and their families.

Is CCC's involvement in the partnership statutory? (Y/N) – Yes, under section 11 Children Act 1989.

What role has CCC played in the partnership this year?

- The Director of Safer Communities attends meetings of MECP and has been re-elected as Vice-

Partnership name: Mid Essex Children's Partnership (MECP)

Chairman.

- The Council is actively engaged in strategic groups of the Children's Partnership, such as MECP Board, the Stay Safe Group, the Essex Safeguarding Children Board and the Children in Care Board, which are all working closely together. In each of these strategic forums the Council brings the local community perspective and supports the designing of plans against intended commonly desired outcomes.
- CCC is engaged with the Whole Essex Community Budgets in areas such as: community safety and reducing offending, domestic abuse and health & social care. Within this CCC has recently funded a post of a housing worker based within the Chelmsford Family Solutions team for a period of 12 months to concentrate on working with referred troubled families in Chelmsford.
- CCC has understood and accepted responsibility for the role they have in Corporate Parenting (Children in care). The Council is working closely with ECC to review the current arrangements for dealing with the looked after children to identify any potential improvements and blockages.

What was the partnerships total budget for 2013/14? What contribution does CCC make to this a) Financially and b) in officer time?

CCC does not contribute financially towards the MECP. However, the Council agreed to fund the post of a Family Solutions worker for a period of 12 months. The Council has also provided a venue for a meetings and large events.

Staff time includes the Director of Community Services attending all key meetings of the MECP Board, the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) and the Children in Care Board. The Partnerships and Improvement Manager occasionally attends some of these meetings on her behalf. The Public Protection Manager attends the Stay Safe subgroup.

How does the partnership contribute to delivering:

- a) Corporate Plan priorities.** This partnership contributes across all of the Corporate Plan priorities.
- b) Community Plan:** Our Community is Socially Inclusive and Our Community is Thriving

Brief details of the partnership's main achievements in 2013/14

- Re-commissioning of Children's Centres to work with children who are living within hard to reach families, and to prepare for school readiness.
- Allocation of FIF grants to local projects against specific target areas such as those who offer support to children & young people who have experienced sexual abuse, children & young people who have impaired hearing, and who are young carers.
- Influence on commissioning strategy by inputting data to ensure accurate intelligence was used to identify need.
- Strengthening of links with the ESCB and the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- Launch and implementation of the Effective Support Document and the Family Solutions service.

Partnership name: Mid Essex Children's Partnership (MECP)

- Refresh and redesign of the Threshold of Need criteria as required under the Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory Guidance.

What are the partnership's priorities in 2014/15?

- Protect Children and Young People from harm and neglect.
- Develop resilience in families to help reduce dependency on public services by enhancing their capacity to resolve their own problems.
- Improve outcomes for Looked After Children and Care leavers as well as improving support to children and young people on the edge of care.
- Support and Challenge Schools to raise Educational achievement and aspirations at all key stages.
- Enabling children to get the best start in life.
- Work with partners to provide inclusive education that meets the needs of those with the most difficulties.
- Promote good health for Children and Young People and reduce health inequalities.
- Work with partners to maximise the number of young people who are in Employment, Education or Training.
- Promote the benefits of young people making a positive contribution to their community and decisions affecting their own lives.
- Provide opportunities for reskilling and up-skilling throughout residents' working lives.

Appendix 2 – Progress update on outstanding 2012/13 recommendations

Recommendation	Progress
One Chelmsford	
Governance arrangements will be clarified once the impact of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the new public health arrangements are clear.	The updated Operating Arrangements were agreed by the Board in November 2013.
Full financial control and auditing will form a part of the new governance arrangements and a timetable to regularly assess risk will also be agreed.	New arrangements for finance include provisions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-confirm the Chief Officer of Chelmsford CVS as Treasurer for the Partnership • a transfer of all funding currently held by Chelmsford City Council on behalf of the Partnership to one fund to be held by the CVS on behalf of the Partnership A risk assessment was carried out in May 2014 and the results

Recommendation	Progress
	were reported to the Board during the June 2014 meeting.
Essex Online Partnership	
Ensure that the statement of benefits includes direct benefits to CCC.	Awaiting latest benefits statement for 2013/14.
Ask that the Terms of Reference define who is responsible for finance and auditing of the partnership.	Financial management is covered in ToR but not audit responsibilities as the fund is held separately by ECC.
Ask for confirmation from ECC that the Partnership funds are only applied to the expenses of the partnership (i.e. the ECC staff that are funded by the partnership only work for the partnership).	This has been provided verbally at an EOLP Management Meeting. The budget position is reviewed quarterly with monthly reporting of the financial position to the Management Group.
<p>Ensure a process is implemented to regularly review the Risk Register and that the status of mitigating actions is regularly reported to the EOLPMG.</p> <p>Confirm that the partners' contributions should be repaid to them in the event of partnership failure or termination.</p>	<p>Risks are reviewed quarterly.</p> <p>Return of contributions not specifically referred to in Terms of Reference; however amount at risk is low as the level of subscription has reduced to under £5,000.</p>
Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM)	
Review governance arrangements if the LDM becomes the decision making body for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spending. This should include a timetable to review risk at least on an annual basis.	CIL was adopted on 1 st June 2014 by CCC Development Policy Committee in June 2014 agreed a set of principles for the governance of CIL and the role of the LDM. This is now being developed with a new set of terms of reference for the LDM and a process through which an Infrastructure Business Plan is prepared to prioritise project spend.
If the LDM does not become the decision making body for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spending, the agreed LDM partnership Memorandum of Understanding should be issued to partners.	To be progressed as necessary.