

Title of Partnership being assessed	Sustainable Essex Partnership (SEP)
LAA indicators	NI 4 Influencing Decisions; NI 5 Overall Satisfaction; NI 7 Thriving Third Sector; NI 156 Temporary Accommodation; LI 2.2 and NI 154 Housing, LI 5.2 Congestion, NI 198 Children Travelling To School, NI 6 Volunteering, LI 5.1 Access to Services, NI 195, NI 191 and NI 192 Environmental Cleanliness and Waste and Recycling, NI 186 and NI 188 Carbon Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, and NI 197 and LI 10.1 Biodiversity and Living Landscapes
Name and role of officer completing this assessment	Gwyn Owen, Lead Officer of SEP
Contact Telephone Number	01245 434 276
Date Assessment Completed	20/01/2009
Which Partners are involved?	The SEP Board is made up of representatives from the following: District and Borough Councils, District and Borough Local Strategic Partnerships, Essex Association of Local Councils, Essex County Council, Environment Agency, Essex Wildlife Trust, Government Office East, Rural Community Council of Essex, Essex Community and Voluntary Sector and Confederation of Passenger Transport.

**1. What are the objectives of this Partnership?  
i.e. What do you want it to achieve?**

1. To act as the governance body for LAA targets and Essex Strategy priorities relating to stronger, sustainable communities – taking on a performance management role and commissioning specific projects to deliver against LAA targets
2. To provide a partnership environment in which key issues around stronger, sustainable communities can be discussed, debating the County's long-term approach to spatial planning, social cohesion and environmental sustainability
3. As one of the 6 Thematic Partnerships, to have a voice in decision-making on the delivery of the LAA, Essex Strategy and other key county issues; and to influence the work of the other Thematic Partnerships

**2. What framework will be used to deliver the objectives?  
i.e. structure, membership, processes**

The SEP is one of six thematic partnerships within the Essex Partnership Structure and is accountable to the Essex Partnership Forum. The SEP also reports performance to the Essex Management Board, through the Performance Management Group which the lead officer attends. The partnerships and working groups that come under the SEP's thematic area are as follows:

- Carbon Reduction Officers Essex (CO<sub>2</sub>RE)

- Essex Housing Officers Group (EHOG)
- Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA)
- Essex Rural Partnership (ERP)
- Essex HECA Forum
- Joint Waste Management Committees (East, Thames and West)
- Joint Waste Management Officers Group
- Joint Waste Management Advisory Board
- LAABI
- Local Transport Boards
- Recycling Officers Group
- Stronger Essex Partnership
- Waste Managers Group
- NI 6 and NI 7 Working Group

The partnerships and working groups are represented on the SEP Board and report to the SEP with regard to Local Area Agreement targets. This process is achieved through the SEP Workplan being agreed by the SEP Board and all relevant target leads. The target leads update the Workplan on a monthly basis; this is then reported to the Board and also the EMB and PMG. The SEP is improving its links with partnerships that fall within its thematic area; this will help the Partnership to fulfil its objective of debating key issues around stronger and sustainable communities as well as providing other partnerships with a link into the wider structures of the Essex Partnership. Good governance and robust performance and risk management arrangements are integral to the SEP's structures and processes. Whilst the partnership is still new and developing, work will continue to improve these arrangements as well as the consistency the SEP has with partnerships in its thematic area.

**3.a. Think about each of the equality groups in turn. Could the objectives or framework have an adverse or positive effect on people in the group? Put a tick against any group that could be positively affected, and a cross against any group that could be negatively affected. Some groups may have a tick and a cross.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race and Culture   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion and Belief  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Disadvantage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic deprivation |

**3.b. Following on, set out the issues that you think are relevant under each equality strand, and what changes you will make to the Partnership as a result.**

a. Race and Culture

- Offering a translation service for agendas, minutes and papers (and to ensure this is booked in advance so that it will be available).
- Providing an interpretation service if required for meetings.
- Making all information available in plain English.

b. Age

- Making information more engaging and accessible to younger people.
- Making information more engaging and accessible for older people.

c. Sexual Orientation

- Making sure that images used in communications are inclusive.

d. Disability

- Ensure that communications published on websites are as accessible as possible through enabling the font size to be increased, having a clear layout, and having an audio function on the website.
- Ensure that locations of meetings have good disabled access.

d. Gender

e. Religion and Belief

- Ensure that the partnership considers accessibility to meetings, especially those open to the public.

g. Rural Disadvantage

- Accessibility to partnership meetings is already considered however, this will be revisited when the partnership holds public meetings or consultations.

h. Economic Disadvantage

**4. What data or other evidence could you use to help you to support or dispute the initial conclusions above? What already exists? How will you collect evidence or how you will check your presumptions by engaging particular equality and diversity groups?**

**Complete the tables below. Identify the evidence you need and the questions that you need answers to. If you feel that particular organisations, community or voluntary groups will be able to help you please list these too.**

## PLAN

What evidence you know already exists?	What are the evidence gaps?	Where are you going to look or which groups should be asked?
EIAs for LAA action plans	Where an EIA has not been completed for an LAA objective	The target leads that have EIAs outstanding
D&E in SEP	D&E in partnerships reporting to SEP	Ask members of partnerships reporting to SEP whether they have conducted an EIA, or if they have not, whether they need to.
Communications including agendas, minutes and papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on translation services</li> <li>Reports that are accessible (especially to younger people)</li> <li>Audio facility on website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the possibility of providing a translation service in the partnership</li> <li>Check whether website is accessible to people requiring the use of an audio facility</li> <li>Ask colleagues in SCF how communications could be made more inclusive</li> </ul>

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

What do you want to know?	Who are you going to ask?	What questions will you ask?	What will you do with the answer?
The potential impact on diversity of all LAA targets that SEP is responsible for.	Target leads	Questions to be able to complete an EIA for all targets	Use it to confirm or alter the findings of this EIA.
That following the assessment of their action plans against the 8 strands of diversity; all target leads have taken required actions to promote equality.	Target leads	Have you identified areas where your action plan can positively impact on diversity: have you taken the necessary steps to ensure that this will happen?	Integrate these into the Partnership workplan and performance monitoring these accordingly to make certain diversity issues are managed appropriately.
That following the assessment of their action plans against the 8 strands of diversity, all target leads have taken required actions to minimise any negative impacts on equality. This may require sub-indicators to be adopted to address specific areas of concern	Target leads	Have you identified areas where your action plan could negatively impact on diversity: have you taken the necessary steps to ensure that this will have been mitigated? Does the action plan need further revision?	Integrate these into the Partnership workplan and performance monitoring these accordingly to make certain diversity issues are managed appropriately.
Whether there are any diversity issues in partnerships that report to Sustainable Essex that are not being managed	The representatives that sit on the Sustainable Essex partnership of the partnerships that report to Sustainable Essex. Lead officers of partnerships that report to Sustainable Essex and all members of the partnerships themselves.	Are you aware of any diversity issues in the partnership that reports to Sustainable Essex that need to be managed better. Does the partnership need to conduct an EIA?	Work to ensure that the subpartnerships that report to Sustainable Essex have proper arrangements in place to manage diversity. This will be part of a long term process aimed at improving consistency between Sustainable Essex and the partnerships that report to it.

**5. The Essex Partnership needs a copy of this Section of your EIA in order to co-ordinate any public engagement activities. You will be given feedback by the Essex partnership on the best way to manage the public engagement activity you have identified on the form. Please send this completed section of your EIA to the e-mail address below.**

Please submit this form to the Essex Partnership team: [info@essexpartnership.org](mailto:info@essexpartnership.org)