

Title of action plan being assessed	GEPF
Number of Action plan being assessed (e.g COL 3)	GEPF 1, GEPF 7
LAA indicator	NI 171 and NI 166, LI 8.1, LI 8.2
Name and role of officer completing this assessment	Lynn Ballard
Contact Telephone Number	01245 702 470
Date Assessment Completed	10 Oct 2008
Which Partners are involved?	Keith Hughes, Business Link East Peter Cook, ExDRA David Adlington, ExDRA

1. What are the aims and objectives of this action plan, in addition to achieving LAA indicator target? i.e. What do you want to achieve?

The aims of these two plans are to implement three of the five strategic priorities set out in the Essex Economic Framework, namely:

Priority Two: We want a competitive economy which is an international leader rather than a follower - *to ensure that the economy stays competitive and the number of high value jobs increases, there should continue to be a focus on inward investment, business retention & expansion, tourism and helping companies to trade internationally.*

Priority Four: We want to be a leader in environmental technology and in helping our businesses to increase their competitiveness by reducing their carbon footprint - *this should be done through encouraging environmental technologies and helping existing businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.*

Priority Five: We want to build on the Essex entrepreneurial spirit by helping companies to, start-up, innovate and grow - *this will require ongoing intervention and tailored help but will be necessary in creating an economy which can compete with its international counterparts and create a more self sufficient economy, which draws benefits from, but is less reliant on, London.*

2. What are the processes used to deliver the action plan?

Each of the Target Leads will work with a series of project groups set up under the auspices of the GEPF Task & Finish Groups that include local authorities, public sector organisations, business support agencies, individual businesses and the voluntary sector.

3.a. Think about each of the equality groups in turn. Could your action plan 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.

√	Race and Culture	√	Disability
√	Age	√	Gender
?	Sexual orientation	?	Religion and Belief
√	Rural Isolation	√	Economic deprivation

3.b. Set out the issues that you think are relevant under each equality strand, and what changes you will make to the action plan as a result.

a. Race and Culture

We will ensure that with regard to race, culture, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender, religion and belief, all participants in programmes are treated equally. Where necessary, we will look at accessibility, i.e. making information available in larger prints/different languages and ensuring that locations are accessible by wheelchair and public transport.

BL East and ExDRA have Equality and Diversity Policies that will be applied to the design, delivery and monitoring of individual actions set out in the plans.

b. Age

See above

c. Sexual Orientation

See above

d. Disability

See above

d. Gender

See above

f. Religion and Belief

See above

g. Rural Isolation

There may be some issues around access to business services for people living in rural parts of the county. We will therefore seek to mitigate against these

h. Economic Disadvantage

Some of the actions will focus on assisting people in disadvantaged communities, such as in Braintree (support to manufacturing companies) and Maldon (engineering project in St Peter's school, Burnham).

4. What data or other evidence could you use to help you to support or dispute your initial conclusions? How will you collect this evidence and/or how you will check your presumptions by consulting with particular equality and diversity groups?

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

DATA PLAN

What evidence do you want?	Where are you going to look or who are you going to ask?	How will you use the evidence?
That businesses in rural areas can access support form BL East and the IFM manufacturing support project.	Rural Community Council for Essex	To adjust communications channels to promote these services to rural businesses.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

What do you want to know?	Who are you going to ask?	What question will you ask?	What will you do with the answer?	Name of planned source (if known)
That target companies are aware that the IfM manufacturing support action is available to them	Direct contact with manufacturing companies and through Essex Chamber of Commerce	Does your company need support to grow the business and become more competitive?	Direct IfM to have an initial meeting with the company.	

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 feed back 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