

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
31 JANUARY 2022
REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS

A.4 ANCHORS WORK UPDATE

(Report prepared by Anastasia Simpson)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report provides an introduction to the work of Anchor Institutions and an update of the work being undertaken across Essex.

INVITEES

Laura Taylor Green, Head of Wellbeing and Public Health, Essex County Council

This presentation will include providing the Committee with an overview and update on the work of Anchors across Essex and answering questions.

Will Herbert, Stakeholder Engagement Manager , Essex County Council

This will include providing the Committee with an overview and update on the work of Anchors across Essex and answering questions.

BACKGROUND

What is an anchor organisation?

Through their day to day practices, Anchor institutions are usually large organisations which are local to place that have the leverage to maximize social value through their role as workforce developers, employers and procurers, their core business (health and education for instance) and linkages to the place they operate. They are large, typically non-profit organisations like hospitals, local councils, and universities . They have:

- ‘Sticky capital’ (i.e. are unlikely to move given their connection to the local population)
- Significant influence on the health and wellbeing of a local community through their sizeable assets.

The Essex Anchor Network

The Essex Anchor network includes approximately 20 anchor organisations from across Greater Essex, that hold meetings on a six weekly basis. The meetings are an opportunity to share best practice , link up the organisations and monitor progress. The current priorities are joining up to support recruitment initiatives such as virtual job fairs and an analysis of financial spend is currently being undertaken to identify where efficiencies can be made.

Ian Davidson is the Chairman of the Essex Anchors work and Ed Garrett Chief Executive of the ICB is Vice Chairman.

The following chart provides an overview of how Anchors can work together to shape local areas:

Workforce Developer

- Create local training opportunities
- Support people to move between sectors
- Help those who have been long term unemployed re-enter the work place

Estates and Environment

- Reduce the local environmental impact,
- Support growth in the local green economy
- Influence sustainable practices across the local system

How Anchor organisations can shape local places

Anchor organisations have a number of levers available to them to help shape the local area.

Procurement of Goods & Services

- Progressive and Responsible Procurement
- Embedding Social Value, ensuring every pound spent generates additional value

Employer

Employment Opportunities

Improve the Wellbeing of Employees

Local business and VCS incubator

- Support local business and voluntary organisations to innovate, grow to support their local community

DETAILED INFORMATION

During 2021, the Anchors movement across Essex has been developing and encouraging organisations to join and be part of the collaborative. To date there are more public sector organisations across Essex that are engaged with the Anchors, than not. Essex Anchors produced an Ideas Book (Appendix A) which has been developed to assist organisations to fully realise their potential in terms of making progress in line with a collective vision for change and to assist them in addressing the significant task of pushing forward on local recovery and reform as we emerge from the Covid pandemic.

Within the book there are a range of case studies and examples of activities taking place across Essex, including Tendring. There have also been several learning events throughout the year which have included guest speakers from other Councils across the country that have made significant progress with their own Anchors programme. For example Preston City Council has increased spend in the local area from £38m to £111m over 5 years, they developed a procurement practitioners group to identify leakage of spend outside of the local economy and Essex has started on the same journey. Ultimately, the aim is to ensure that as much spend as possible is made in the local area, which will in turn create further local jobs. The focus is to keep money and employment in Essex.

The Anchor organisations met on 10th January 2022 to review the work undertaken during 2021 and determine a work programme for 2022. Once this piece of work has been collated a report will be prepared for Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.