

Basildon Borough UKSPF Investment Panel



Meeting #2: 3.00 - 5.00pm, 29th May 2022

Welcome & Introductions

Recommended Panel Member	Representatives
Representatives from the lead local authority (this may also include neighbouring authorities or constituent authorities where relevant and to maximise alignment)	Cllr. Andrew Baggot - Leader / Cllr Anthony Hedley - Portfolio Holder Economic Development
	Place representative - Paul Brace, Director of Community & Environment
	Prosperity representative – Tomasz Kozlowski, Director of Growth
Business support providers or representatives, including sectoral representatives relevant to the place (for example - cluster bodies, tourism organisations)	Jade Uko – FSB, Development Manager, Essex Chris Murphy – Cultural Sustainability Consultant, Things Made Public / CPP Programme (Culture Sector) Charlotte Horobin – Region Director – Midlands & East of England, Make UK (Manufacturing Sector)
Regional representatives of arms-length bodies of government where appropriate	Kevin Garrod – Anchor Programme Manager - Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Voluntary, sector social enterprise and civil society organisations	Simon Johnson – Chief Officer, Basildon, Billericay & Wickford Council for Voluntary Service Dr Hephzi Tagoe, Director, GHScientific & founder of Basildon Street Science Festival Matt King – CEO, Trustlinks
Education and skills providers - for example higher education institutions and further education colleges, adult learning providers	Denise Brown – Principal, South Essex College Sean McGinn – Employment & Training Manager (East Region) Clarion Futures
Nature, environmental or associated representatives	Natural England – Robert Bishop, Senior Adviser Natural England
Police and crime representatives	Dan McHugh, T/Chief Inspector 71472, District Commander Basildon – Essex Police
Local businesses and investors	Carey Jacobs – Director, Palmers Law Andy Mead – Managing Director, The Finishing Line David Barnes – Basildon Business Group (and Founder of Bitsolve)
Local partnership boards and strategic bodies where relevant (for example, Local Enterprise Partnerships or Local Skills Improvement Partnerships in England)	Louise Aitken – Skills Lead SELEP/ Skills Growth, Essex County Council
Prominent local community & faith organisations	Felix Achonu – Basildon Side By Side
Parish Council Representatives	Cllr. Jim Devlin – Billericay Town Council Cllr. Bernard Foster - Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council
Employment experts and providers - for example Jobcentre Plus representatives and employment related service providers	Sarah Hernandez – Group Partnership Manager, DWP
Public health representatives	Chris French – Head of Wellbeing and Public Health, Clinical, Lifestyles and Trading Standards, Essex County Council
Essex County Council	Russell Dalton – Localities Lead – Essex County Council Cllr. Tony Ball - Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Members of Parliament	John Baron – MP Stephen Metcalf – MP Mark Francois – MP

Draft Agenda

Item	Subject	Representative	Proposed Timing
1.	Welcome and Introductions	All	3.00 - 3.10 pm
2.	Minutes from the last Meeting	All	3.10 – 3.20 pm
3.	Nomination of Chair & Vice Chair	All	3.20 – 3.25 pm
3.	Feedback from recent consultations and 1:1 meetings	Jim Sims	3.25 – 3.40 pm
4.	Potential Gaps in current Funding/Services & Discussion	Jim Sims/All	3.40 – 3.55 pm
5.	Opportunities for Regional Collaborations & Discussion	Jim Sims/All	3.55 – 4.15 pm
6.	Sense check against the Evidence Base, Final Proposed Opportunities for Collaboration & Discussion	Jim Sims/All	4.15 – 4.35 pm
7.	Approach to bespoke interventions	Jim Sims	4.35 – 4.40 pm
8.	Project Commissioning, Public Sector Equality Duty, Risks and Admin/Overheads	Jim Sims	4.40 - 4.50pm
9.	Next Steps & date of June meeting (19/07/22 9.00-11.00pm)	Jim Sims	4.50 – 4.55 pm
10.	AOB	All	4.55 – 5.00 pm

Meeting Objectives

Issue to Agree	Approach
<p>Agree the final interventions, outputs & outcomes we want to prioritise to address the identified challenges we feel exist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review discussions at UKSPF Panel Meeting #1 (and follow-up discussions) • Review analysis of current (and future potential) market gaps • Review discussions with other LA's about possible collaboration opportunities • Review evidence base of core challenges and opportunities the plan is seeking to address
<p>Develop clear understanding of the bespoke interventions we want to propose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree aspiration to develop bespoke interventions • Agree proposed 'theory of change' underpinning the plan
<p>Start to discuss some of the principles of funding defrayal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss processes we propose for commissioning and selecting projects • Discuss how we will ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty • Discuss and agree potential high-level risks • Agree our proposals to support the ongoing delivery of UKSPF • Agree our approach to Administration and Overheads

Planned for this meeting, but currently out of scope for discussion (will discuss at the next meeting)

Budgets and Budget Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review initial UKSPF Expenditure Profile and UKSPF Indicative Deliverables
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Administration

- Minutes from the last meeting
- Nomination of the Chair and the Vice Chair

Feedback from recent consultations and meetings (1)

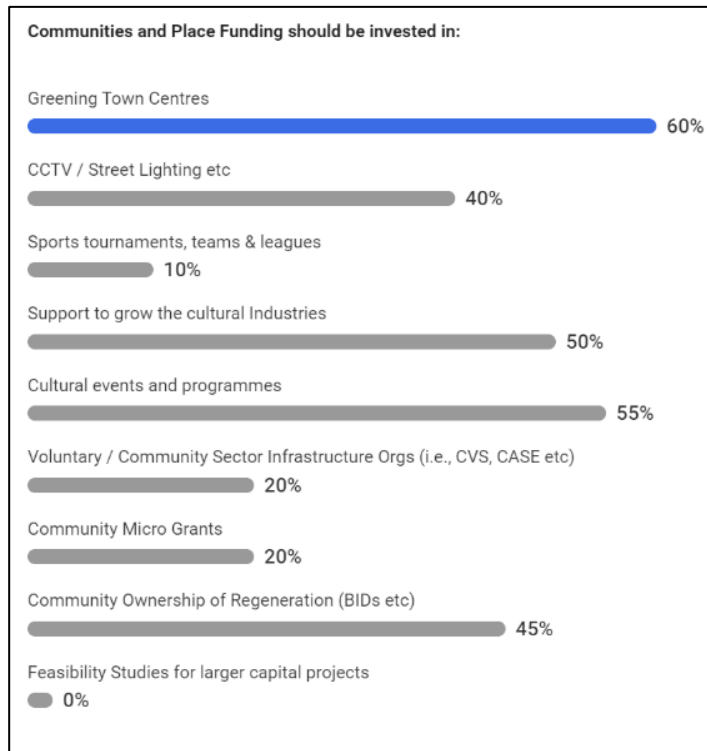
Investment Panel #1

- **Sustainability** – services/facilities that should be capable of being maintained after UKSPF should be prioritised
- **‘Seed’ funding** – given the limited amount of funding available, UKSPF should be used to lever in other, larger, pots of funding, where possible/feasible
- **Avoiding Duplication** – UKSPF should be used to plug clear market gaps and we should avoid duplicating existing services/funds
- **Collaborative** – we should work with other areas where viable/possible, particularly on skills and business support issues
- **Integration** – whilst the plan will not cite specific projects that we might support (because of time limitations), we should consider how different interventions could be integrated to create more ‘holistic’ solutions

Feedback from recent consultations and meetings (2)

Investment Panel #1

Communities and Place



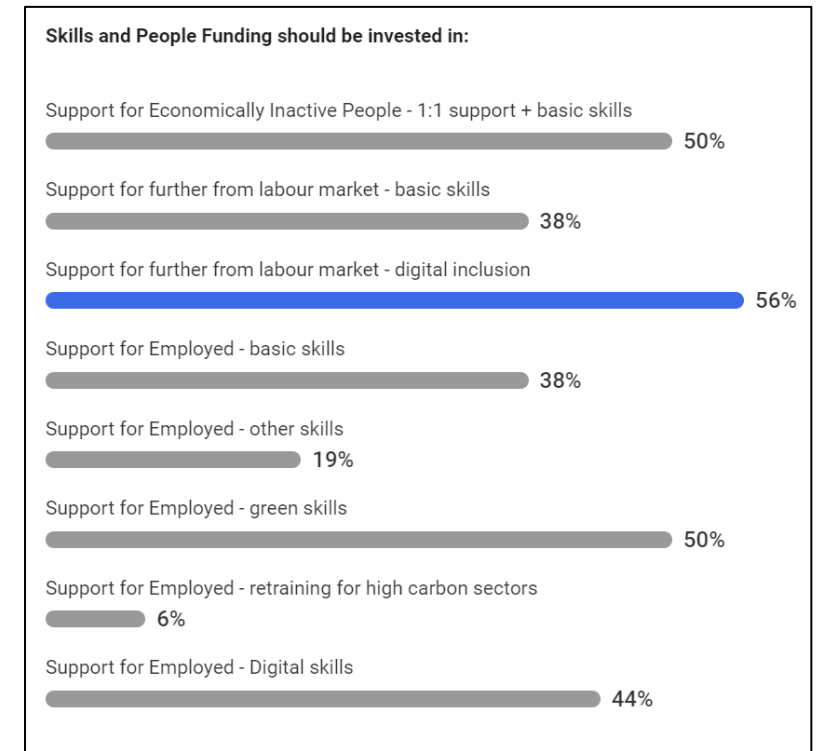
1. Greening town centres
2. Cultural events and programmes
3. Support to grow the cultural industries
4. Community Ownership of Regeneration (BIDs etc)

Supporting Local Businesses



1. Dedicated business incubation service
2. Social enterprise support
3. General business support
3. Town Centre business support

Skills and People



1. Digital skills for the unemployed
2. Green Skills for employed
3. 1:1 support and basic skills for unemployed
4. Digital skills for employed

Feedback from recent consultations and meetings (3)

Follow up emails and 1:1 conversations with panel members (and other stakeholders)

Theme	Ideas / Opportunities Proposed (Proposer)	Response/Initial Thoughts
General Comment	Audit Panel Members priorities – to understand schemes already existing which might be beneficial, gaps in provision and suggested solutions, and collect potential EOIs	Desktop audit complete. EOI approach will be challenging in time available (but could happen Aug – Sept 2022 before 1 st investment decision).
General Comment	Need to balance immediacy and long term impact - projects should either deliver a rapid and tangible result OR have a prediction of good impact, with easily trackable progress towards achieving that impact, even if the impact is long-term.	All projects need a clear intervention logic and likely be a mix of short term and long term impacts.
General Comment	Third Sector vulnerability	Evidence Base supports this is an issue across the borough
Communities & Place AND People & Skills	Therapeutic gardening and green social prescribing / Connecting people to nature (for physical and mental health and wellbeing)	Generally speaking, green infrastructure <u>outputs</u> are focussed on capital investments, with an expectation that 'number of people interacting with new infrastructure' will be a related <u>output</u> . As far as other interventions are concerned, they don't really lend themselves to being combined with green infrastructure capital investments for social prescribing (i.e., sports participation is leagues, tournaments etc.)
People & Skills	Lack of workforce skills to install green technologies – i.e., Ground Source Heat Pumps – is making goal to achieve climate change targets challenging (i.e., Green Homes Grant)	Appears to be some interest in this issue across Essex/Greater Essex.
N/A	More bikes for employees to encourage active travel	Does not really fit under any current UKSPF priority, unless linked to cycle path creation, which we cannot afford.
Communities & Place	Feasibility Studies for Active Travel Infrastructure and 15 minute neighbourhoods concept	Feasibility Studies could fund Business Cases for Cycle Paths, but capital funding would need to come from other sources to build the path.
Communities & Place	Small community led nature projects	Could be included in E2 'Community Infrastructure Projects', if prioritised. Could also form part of E12 'Community Engagement in Local Regen'. However evidence base indicates fundamental weaknesses in third sector.
Communities & Place	Green community hubs - 'greened up' local community hubs (such as food banks, libraries, health care estates) in deprived neighbourhoods in towns and cities.	Could be included in E2 'Community Infrastructure Projects', if prioritised. Could also form part of E12 'Community Engagement in Local Regen'. However evidence base indicates fundamental weaknesses in third sector. Could be a cross cutting theme across all capital projects or a feasibility study.
Various	More Young Enterprise delivery in schools	Doesn't seem to fit too well into existing UKSPF Framework. Could be included as part of a bespoke intervention – i.e. young people and careers.
Various	Multi-functional community hubs in Wickford, Laindon, Pitsea Town Centres (hosting Community Learning Facilities, Café, Hireable Workspace, Cultural Venue on an evening etc.)	Seems like a strong project, but limited funds mean we could only create one if we directly invest UKSPF. Might be better to look at options for seed funding this, and funding through follow on investment.

Feedback from recent consultations and meetings (4)

Initial, exploratory discussions with MPs

Some of the ideas explored during the discussions included:

Potential project/intervention	Comment
Strengthening careers information and guidance for young people and promoting entrepreneurial, technical and vocational pathways	This would need to be a bespoke intervention, but is consistent with the idea we discussed in Meeting #1.
Increasing tree cover and greening our main urban centres	The evidence suggests this is a community priority. I understand the challenge is not the cost of trees, per se, but the cost of works/people to install.
Investment into a single initiative, rather than spreading the jam too thinly	A single investment might be difficult, particularly given the breadth of the challenges / breadth of interests / and the approach of 'seed' funding.
Investing in higher-level skills, particularly technical, managerial and professional	Could be possible, through E38 – E41
Strengthening and encouraging the night-time economy	Could be possible through E6, E12 and E23
Marketing Campaign to promote Basildon as an investment location – 'The Peterborough Effect'	Looks to be a slight challenge, given the 41 intervention frameworks proposed. This would need to be a bespoke intervention.

Some initial reflections on issues raised from this feedback

- **Sustainability** – UKSPF is generally invested in areas of ‘market failure’ – i.e., not generally areas of high market demand that are capable of operating on a commercial basis. That said, one potential approach to trying to achieve sustainability beyond UKSPF is to bundle ‘subsidised’ services together with more commercial ones, and cross subsidise their delivery from linked services (i.e., ‘subsidised’ incubation support services with ‘commercial’ office/desk space rental). In order to maximise the chances of this happening, it can be beneficial for the provider of both services to be one and the same organisation and for the provider of the subsidised service to have a clear, coherent business model about how they can use the UKSPF funding to provide the specified services but also use it to generate income from the provision of linked services. Even then, there are no guarantees that the provider will sustain the services beyond the UKSPF. Developing such a model may also require additional subsidy, over and above what UKSPF alone can provide.
- **Collaboration opportunities** – Whilst not a universal truism, it can sometimes be harder to achieve sustainability from pan-regionally delivered services (i.e., ‘top down’, jointly commissioned services), rather than locally embedded ones, as ‘top down’, jointly commissioned services are not necessarily very embedded in localities and can struggle to establish strong linkages to more localised income generation opportunities.
- **Property led solutions** – given the limited amount of funding we have, I estimate that we could only directly invest in about three property led facilities/solutions locally (i.e., community hubs, incubation centres, skills hubs etc.), these would need to be in rented premises and require limited refurbishment and likely need to be operated by a third sector organisation (to mitigate business rates). This approach would likely use all the available funding, and would not guarantee sustainability.
- **Seed Funding** – if we are interested in exploring the potential of using UKSPF to leverage in other funding to sustain and increase the impact of the services we support, **feasibility studies (E14)** and **community ownership of regeneration (E12)** can be quite useful tools to encourage projects to develop robust/viable business models and provide access to follow on funding to help deliver them. Even then, we are going to have to put in place robust processes for ensuring applicants that submit a funding proposal for feasibility studies have a reasonably viable project idea, and we can evaluate the relative strength of different ideas (as we may not be able to fund everything). These kind of solutions also require robust partnership based governance models, with strong leadership across the public / private / voluntary / education sectors.

Possible Feasibility Studies & Community Ownership of Regen Schemes

- Physical town centre regeneration schemes (E1)
- Improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure - inc. Natural Environment Hubs (E2)
- The creation & improvement of green spaces, community gardens, watercourses & embankments (E3)
- Enhanced cultural, historic and heritage facilities (E4)
- Built/landscaped environment schemes to 'design out crime' (E5)
- Support for active travel infrastructure enhancements (E7)
- Local sports facilities (E10)

One note of caution. Full Business Cases can start from £60k and go upwards of this. We have recently secured a consultant to deliver a RIBA Stage 1 Business Case for £12k.

In reality, we may well have to work around the figure of £10-£15k per feasibility study, and consider that some of the things that we will be supporting will be Business Plans for new community facilities, bids for larger funding schemes or contributions towards larger Business Cases. In addition, we may only be able to fund a few of these feasibility studies.

Because we may be over subscribed, I would suggest that we operate this as a rolling scheme, and establish an appraisal panel, with a clearly published evaluation framework for assessing the applications we receive for feasibility funding (with three major criteria being 1. what other funding might this Feasibility Study unlock, 2. what track record do you/your appointed consultant have in unlocking this kind of funding and 3. project sustainability).

I suggest that as far as Business Improvement Districts (E12) is concerned, we try and create enough of an allocation to allow for three BIDS studies to be undertaken – for Basildon, Wickford and Billericay (and these are ringfenced – i.e., not part of the competitive pot).

Conclusions on Priorities after these discussions

COMMUNITIES & PLACE

E3: Greening town centres

E6: Advisory Support for the Creative and Cultural Industries

E12: Community Ownership of Regeneration (BIDs etc)

E14: Feasibility Studies

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

E24: Dedicated business incubation service

E26: Social enterprise support

E23: General business support

E31: Feasibility Studies

PEOPLE & SKILLS

E36: Digital skills for the unemployed

E39: Green Skills for employed

E33: 1:1 support and basic skills for unemployed

E41: Digital skills for employed

Bespoke Intervention: Strengthening careers information and guidance for young people and promoting entrepreneurial, technical and vocational pathways

E38: Funding to Support Local Skills Needs

Any comments/thoughts?

Potential Gaps in current Funding/Services & Discussion (1)

- This analysis is a little challenging to draw specific concrete conclusions from.
- Needs to take account of affordability, viability, willingness to collaborate etc.
- Need to recognise UKSPF is also only half of ERDF/ESF, so not all gaps are affordable
- Potential deliverable service gaps are shown below, (with *ERDF/ESF schemes shown in red italics*).

Communities and Place	Local Business Support	People and Skills
E5: Funding for CCTV/ Street Lighting	E23/E30: Generalist Business Support (<i>SEBB</i>)	E33: 1:1 Employability Support (<i>Heads Up & Community Connections</i>)
E3: Human resource to support tree planting	E16: Town Centre Business Support	E34: Basic Skills for Unemployed People
E4/E6: Business Support for CCI's/Heritage Orgs.	E17: Tourism Business Support	E37: Basic Skills for Employed People
E2/E11: Grants for Community Organisations	E18: Made Smarter Support (<i>Manf. Growth Prog</i>)	E38: Funding to Support Local Skills Needs
E12: Community based Regen Schemes	E19/E20: Innovation Support (<i>i-Construct, TALE & Keep +</i>)	E39: Green Skills
E14: Feasibility Studies for Large Projects	E21/E22/E24: Local Incubation Support	E40: Retraining for people in High Carbon Sectors
	E26: Social Enterprise Business Support	E41: Digital Skills for Employed People
	E28: DIT Internationalisation Grants (<i>DIT Int. Grants</i>)	
	E29: Low Carbon Business Support (<i>LOCASE2</i>)	
	E31: Feasibility Studies for Large Projects	

Conclusions on priorities after this analysis (in order of panel priority)

COMMUNITIES & PLACE

E3: Greening town centres

E6: Advisory Support for the Creative and Cultural Industries

E12: Community Ownership of Regeneration (BIDs etc)

E14: Feasibility Studies

E5: CCTV/Streetlighting

E2/E11: Grants for Community Orgs

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

E24: Dedicated Business Incubation Service

E26: Social Enterprise Support

E23: General Business Support

E31: Feasibility Studies

E16: Town Centre Business Support

E19/E20: Sector Based Innovation Support

E29: Low Carbon Business Support

E18: Manufacturing Business Support

E17: Tourism Business Support

E28: DIT Internationalisation Support

PEOPLE & SKILLS

~~E36: Digital skills for the unemployed~~

E39: Green Skills for employed

E33: 1:1 support and basic skills for unemployed

E41: Digital skills for employed

E38: Funding to Support Local Skills Needs

Bespoke Intervention: Strengthening careers information and guidance for young people and promoting entrepreneurial, technical and vocational pathways

E34: Basic Skills for Unemployed People

E37: Basic Skills for Employed People

E40: Retraining for people in High Carbon Sectors

Any comments/thoughts?

Opportunities for Regional/Sub-Regional Collaborations (1)

- Basildon Borough Council has led the discussions on potential collaborative opportunities across Greater Essex. We have invested considerable time and effort in seeking to secure agreement on collaborative opportunities.
- Whilst all authorities have collaborated in 3 meetings so far, the discussions have not been as conclusive as some might have hoped. The reasons for this are varied:
 - Authorities have felt it's important to listen to the views of local panel's about their priorities, before going into discussions with others
 - The investment plan only asks Lead Authorities to name the interventions that they intend to collaborate on - it does not require a locality to specify the scope of those services, or the nature of the collaboration
 - That means the detail can be worked out after the plan has been submitted
- That said, the initial work undertaken has identified areas that authorities might potentially be willing to collaborate on (and more importantly, perhaps discount some opportunities, based on the fact they look unaffordable/ not scale-able).
- The table overleaf illustrates the selected priorities of different authorities

Opportunities for Regional/Sub-Regional Collaborations (2)

Intervention	Region											Collaboration									
	Southend	Thurrock	Basildon	Brentwood	Castle Point	Rochford	Braintree	Maldon	Tendring	Chelmsford	Colchester	Uttlesford	Epping Forest	Harlow	Essex County	Count (All partners)	Count (Greater Essex LLAs)	Count (Essex LLAs)	Count (ASELA LLAs)	Count (NEEB LLAs)	West?
E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including accessibility for disabled people																1	0	0	0	0	
E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects																					
E3: Creation of and improvements to green spaces, community gardens, watercourses & embankments																					
E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions																2	2	2	0	2	
E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'																					
E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities																8	7	7	4	3	
E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area																1	1	1	1	0	
E8: Funding for campaigns which encourage people to visit/explore the area																5	4	4	1	3	
E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital																4	4	4	1	3	
E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together																0	0	0	0	0	
E11: Investment in capacity building/infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups																2	2	2	0	2	
E12: Community engagement to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.																					
E13: Measures to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency & combat fuel poverty																3	3	3	1	2	
E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.																					
E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.																2	1	1	0	1	
E16: Improvements to town centre retail/markets/service infrastructure, with business support																4	3	3	3	0	
E17: Development/promotion of the visitor economy incl. attractions, trails, tours and tourism products																6	5	5	2	3	
E18: Business Support Service for Manufacturers (inc. Grants Programme & Training)																2	2	2	1	1	
E19: Specialist Innovation Advisory Service for Pre-Start and Established Businesses (inc. Grants and Cluster Programmes)																4	3	3	1	2	
E20: R&D grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.																2	2	2	1	1	
E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level																1	1	1	0	1	
E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects.																1	1	1	0	1	
E23: Generalist Business Support Service for all businesses (across all lifestyles) inc. business networks																9	8	7	3	5	
E24: Funding for new/improvements to training hubs, 'incubators' and 'accelerators'																					
E25: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences																1	0	0	0	0	
E26: Specialised Social Enterprise Support Service (inc. Grants)																2	2	2	1	1	
E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks																1	0	0	0	0	
E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.																2	2	1	1	0	
E29: Specialist Low Carbon Business Support Service (inc. Grants)																6	5	5	3	2	
E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of high unemployment																4	3	3	0	3	
E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.																1	0	0	0	0	
E32: Resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions to protect areas from natural hazards																					
E33: Employment support for non-employed: 1:1 support & specialist life/basic skills (digital, English, ESOL)																6	5	5	1	3	1
E34: Courses inc. basic skills (digital, English and ESOL), and life skills and career skills and financial support																3	2	2	1	1	
E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.																2	1	1	0	1	
E36: Intervention to increase digital inclusion: essential digital skills, online safety & in community support																4	3	3	1	1	1
E37: Support for employed people to address barriers to education and training																5	4	4	3	1	
E38: Support to fund local skills needs: technical/vocational quals, up to L2 and high value qualifications																7	6	6	2	3	1
E39: Green skills courses																11	10	9	4	5	1
E40: Retraining support for those employed in high carbon sectors.																6	5	4	2	2	1
E41: Funding to support local digital skills.																7	6	6	3	2	1

Opportunities for Regional/Sub-Regional Collaborations (3)

Conclusions - of the priorities previously selected ...

- **Communities and Place theme:**

- **E6: Advisory Support for the Creative and Cultural Industries** appears an opportunity for collaboration, but we may want to be cautious about a jointly commissioned, 'top down' pan regional service (preferring a locally routed service, potentially linked to a suitable property offer).

- **Local Business Support theme:**

- **E23: Generalist business support** appears to provide an opportunity for collaboration, and it may be acceptable to jointly commission this (as it is a little difficult to see how this service could be sustained, although it would be nice to get a dedicated locally based advisor for an agreed number of days)

- **Skills and People theme:**

- **E39: Green Skills**, is a common area of interest across lots of authorities.
- **E38: Support to Fund Local Skills Needs**, provides an opportunity to tackle basic, digital and higher skills needs
- **E33: 1:1 Support for Unemployed People** , although none of our neighbouring areas have prioritised

Conclusions on priorities after this analysis (in order of panel priority)

COMMUNITIES & PLACE

E3: Greening town centres

E6: Advisory Support for the Creative and Cultural Industries

E12: Community Ownership of Regeneration (BIDs etc)

E14: Feasibility Studies

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

E24: Dedicated Business Incubation Service

E26: Social Enterprise Support

E23: General Business Support

E31: Feasibility Studies

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~~E41: Digital skills for employed~~

E38: Funding to Support Local Skills Needs

Bespoke Intervention: Strengthening careers information and guidance for young people and promoting entrepreneurial, technical and vocational pathways

Any comments/thoughts?

Sense check against the Evidence Base

ECC's Research and Citizen Insight Team worked with Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI*) to develop an understanding of communities across Essex.

The work focused on examining the position of different communities across Essex on a national 'community needs index'.

This work allows us to compare communities across Essex, assess local communities against national benchmarks, and explore some of the factors that drive different levels of community need in different parts of the county.

I have taken an excerpt from some of their slides and these next few slides set out a high-level overview of the analysis.

More information can be found at: <https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/2yqdg/assessing-the-strength-of-communities-in-essex-the-essex-community-needs-index-2020>

*OCSI is a spin-out research consultancy from the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the University of Oxford. OCSI regularly works with national governments and was commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to develop the indices of deprivation in both 2015 and 2019.

Introducing the Community Needs Index

Research has consistently demonstrated that the availability of **shared spaces** (whether community centres, pubs or village halls), and **connectivity** – digital and physical – are necessary for the development of social networks and strong communities, and that these can lead to better social, economic and wellbeing outcomes for residents. It also suggests that **active and engaged communities** are more likely to be equipped to affect meaningful change and address challenges.¹

Building on this, the **Community Needs Index (CNI)**, developed by OCSI, provides a measure of the extent to which areas have access to shared spaces and social infrastructure, social and physical connections, a thriving third sector and engaged citizens.

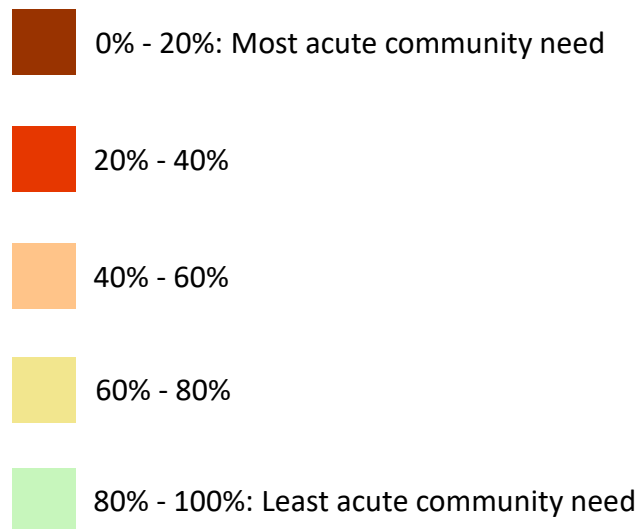
The **CNI** is composed of 29 indicators grouped into the three distinct domains. It gives a relative score and rank to each ward in England based on its position with respect to these indicators.

<i>Index</i>	<i>Domain</i>	<i>Indicators describe...</i>
Community Needs Index	Civic Assets	The area's proximity to community, civic, educational and cultural assets, (e.g. pubs, libraries, green space, community centres, swimming pools etc) – facilities that provide things to do often, at no or little cost, which are important to how communities feel about their area.
	Connectedness	The extent to which residents have access to key services, such as health services, within a reasonable travel distance. The strength of the local job market. Wider connectivity measures including digital infrastructure, car ownership and loneliness.
	Active and Engaged Community	The extent to which charities are active in the area, and to which people are engaged in the broader civic life of their community.

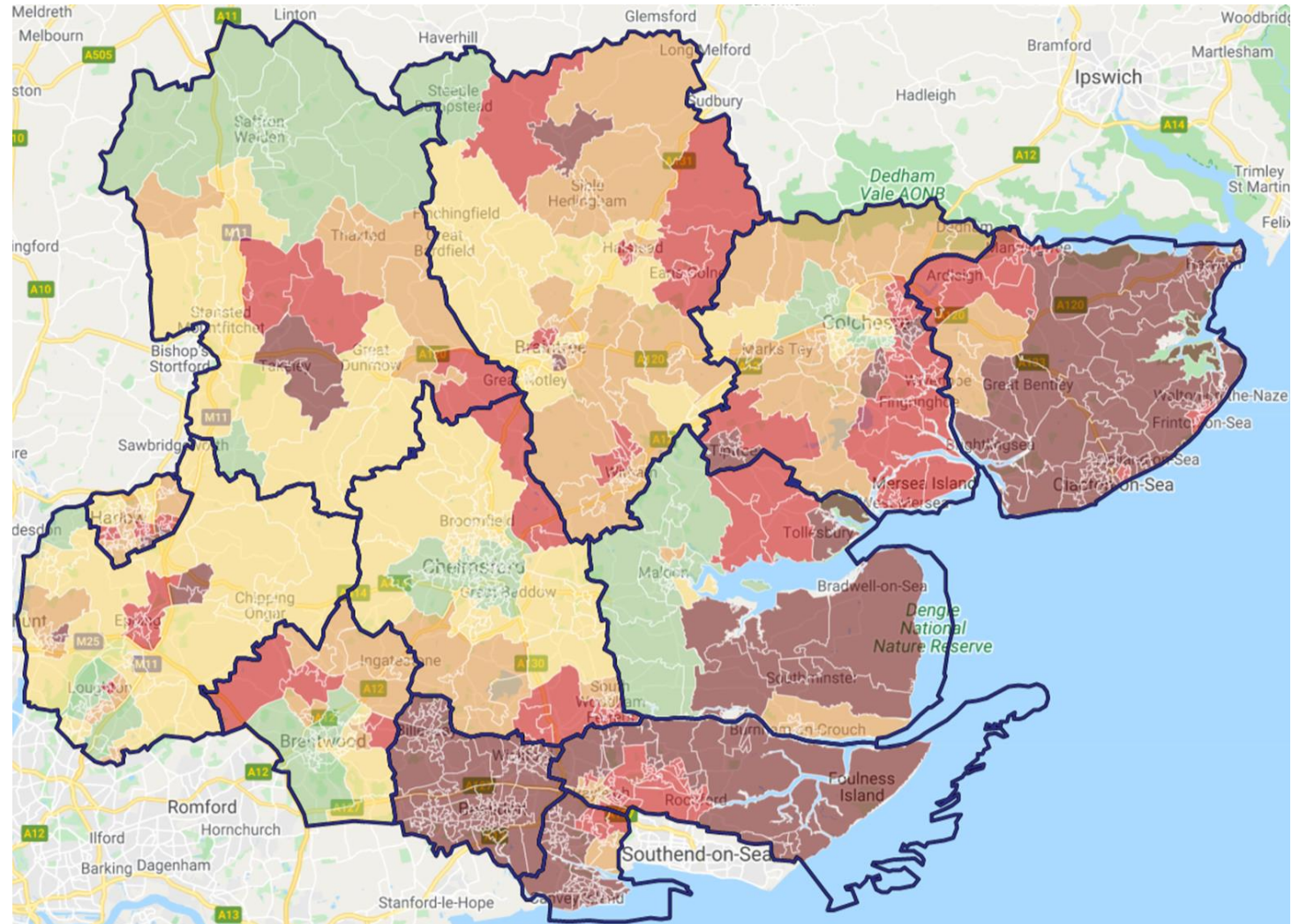
OCSI's work with Essex is based on the use of a bespoke interim 2020-based Community Needs Index designed to capture – as far as possible – changes resulting from the COVID pandemic. This is referred to as the **Essex Community Needs Index (ECNI)** throughout this report. The ECNI 2020 has not been formally published and as such is badged as 'experimental statistics'.

¹ See *Scoping Review: Social Relations* (2017) What Works Centre for Wellbeing, available at <https://whatworkswellbeing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/social-relations-scoping-review-final-jun17-corrected.pdf>; and *Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge* (2019) OCSI/Local Trust, available at <https://localtrust.org.uk/insights/research/left-behind-understanding-communities-on-the-edge/>

The challenge is most acute in coastal areas – although many inland communities experience similarly significant levels of community need (1)



Quantiles are defined relative to national benchmarks (i.e. Bottom 20% is Bottom 20% of all wards in England)



The challenge is most acute in coastal areas – although many inland communities experience similarly significant levels of community need (2)

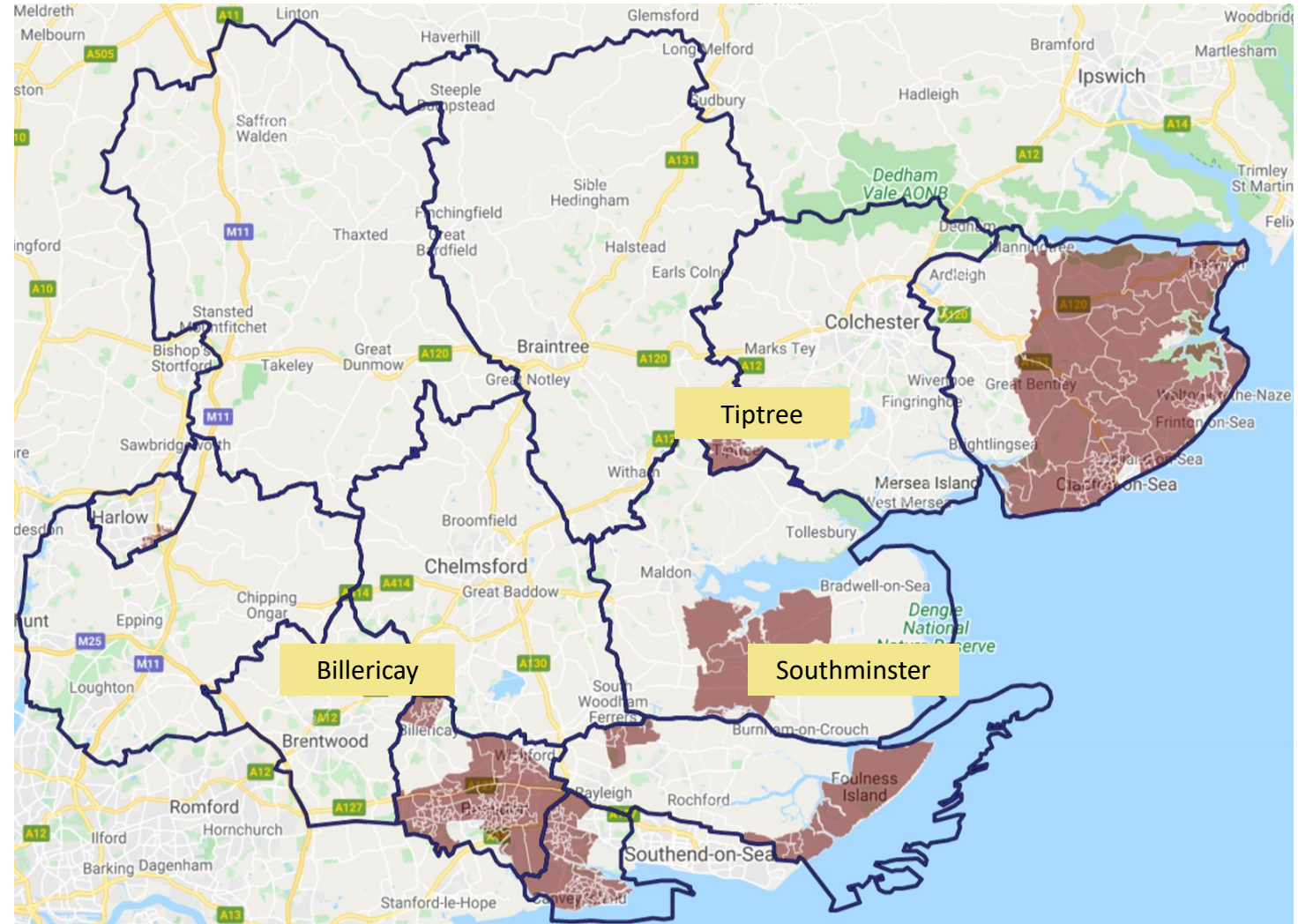


Bottom 10%: Most acute community need

Bluehouse ward in Clacton is ranked as having the highest levels of community need in England.

Bluehouse is near, but distinct from Golf Green – the ward containing England's most deprived neighbourhood.

Quantiles are defined relative to national benchmarks (i.e. Bottom 20% is Bottom 20% of all wards in England)



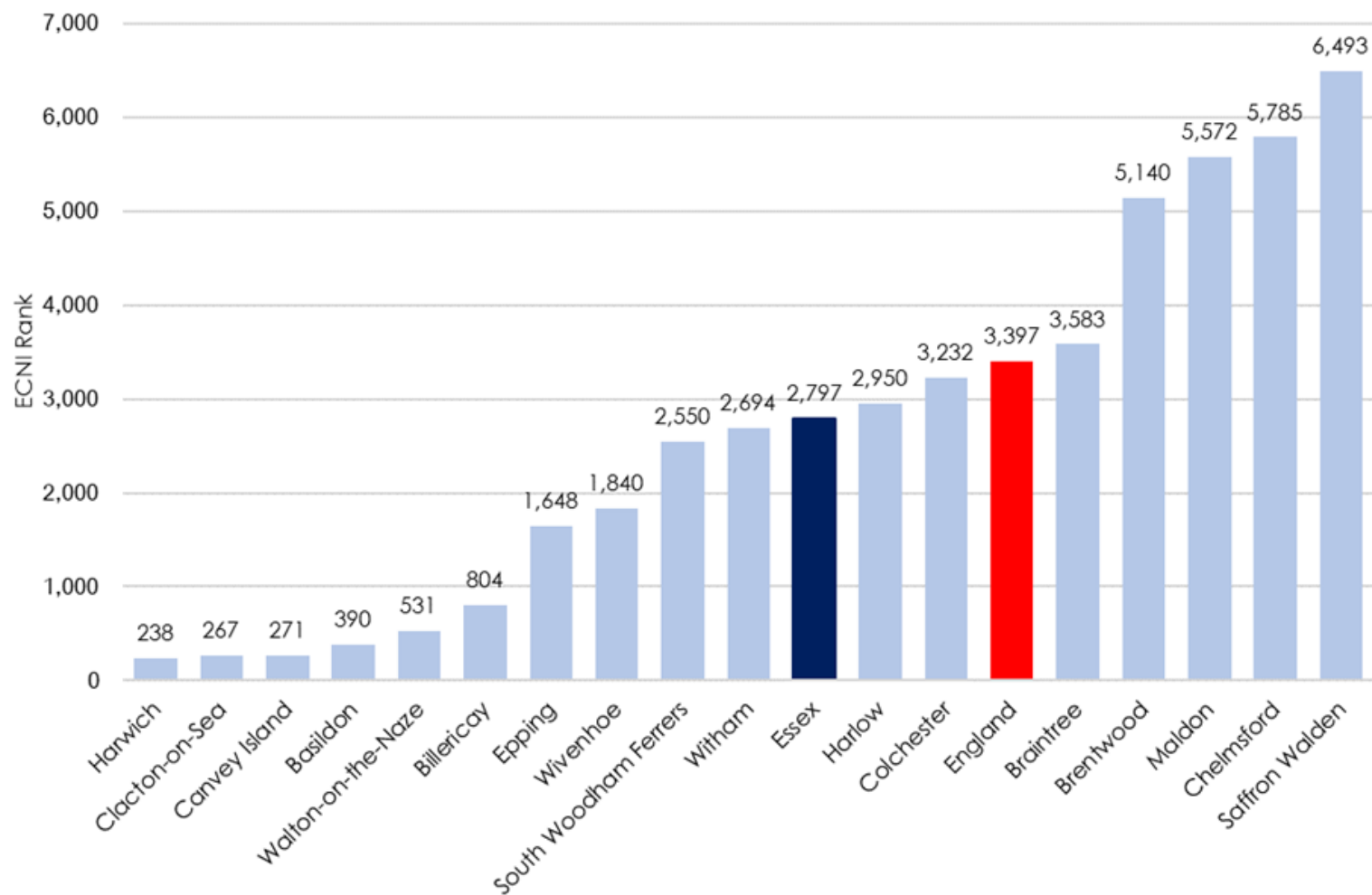
There is significant diversity in levels of community need across Essex towns, with those in Saffron Walden, Chelmsford, Maldon and Brentwood among the best equipped

The majority of towns in Essex have more acute levels of community need than the national average

Of Essex towns with a population of 10,000+ only Saffron Walden, Chelmsford, Maldon, Brentwood and Braintree have less acute community needs than the England average

Four of the five towns with the most acute needs are in coastal communities – Harwich, Clacton, Canvey and Walton

But the needs highlighted in Billericay, Epping and Wivenhoe presents a challenge to the received view that acute challenges are focused on coastal areas



*The chart compares towns based on the average ward-level rank where:

- a rank of 1 indicates the ward with the greatest community need in England;
- a rank of 7,190 indicates the ward with the lowest community need in England.

The majority of districts in Essex lack civic assets. Many also have below average levels of activity and engagement. Still others face challenges around connectedness.

The diversity of places across Essex means that there no single factor that accounts for higher levels of community need. Some places experience challenges with respect to specific themes, for example:

- communities along the Tendring coast (e.g. Clacton, Walton and Harwich) have relatively poor levels of connectedness;
- Basildon and Castle Point perform particularly badly on measures relating to the availability or civic assets (see slide 13);
- Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Tendring fall below, national and regional benchmarks across all domains of the ECNI;
- Brentwood, Epping Forest and Harlow face see relatively low levels of community engagement and activity which is partly a reflection of low levels of citizen engagement (particularly in Harlow), and partly a reflection of potential weaknesses in the local third sector (see slide 17).

District	Average ward rank		
	Civic assets	Connectedness	Active & engaged community
Essex	2,397.4	3,566.9	2,959.1
Basildon	374.0	2,524.8	1,282.7
Braintree	3,032.9	3,115.3	3,302.2
Brentwood	4,459.4	4,280.3	3,098.7
Castle Point	332.2	3,019.9	2,067.8
Chelmsford	3,856.1	4,821.6	4,177.7
Colchester	1,727.5	3,521.9	4,154.0
Epping Forest	3,376.8	5,947.9	2,729.7
Harlow	3,337.6	5,774.5	1,111.4
Maldon	3,297.9	3,379.2	4,264.4
Rochford	1,565.9	2,039.5	2,278.2
Tendring	2,105.3	469.2	2,211.8
Uttlesford	2,586.9	5,192.9	4,943.8
East	3,025.1	4,166.4	3,305.3
England	3,525.8	3,488.4	3,334.2

Areas ranked as having higher needs (vs. the national average) are shaded red, while those with lower needs are shaded green.

Civic assets (by district)

The civic assets domain looks at the density of civic assets, in different categories, in a given area. Figures reflect the number of community assets in each category per 1,000 residents.

On these measures, few Essex districts fare well relative to national averages. It is only Chelmsford and Epping Forest that there are no significant shortfalls in the availability of assets in any category. Basildon, Castle Point and Colchester districts appear to experience the greatest challenges across all categories.

Educational assets and sports and leisure assets appear to be two particularly challenging areas.

District	Density of community space	Density of cultural assets	Density of educational assets	Density of sport and leisure assets	Density of green assets
Essex	3.7	0.3	2.5	1.8	2.4
Basildon	2.2	0.1	2.1	1.3	0.1
Braintree	4.3	0.4	2.5	1.7	2.6
Brentwood	5.2	0.3	4.3	3.0	1.9
Castle Point	1.6	0.1	1.9	1.1	0.2
Chelmsford	4.0	0.3	2.8	3.4	5.7
Colchester	2.9	0.3	2.1	1.1	1.3
Epping Forest	5.2	0.4	4.3	2.8	2.2
Harlow	3.6	0.2	3.0	2.0	5.3
Maldon	4.7	0.8	1.8	0.9	3.1
Rochford	3.7	0.3	1.5	0.9	2.6
Tendring	4.2	0.3	2.2	1.2	2.4
Uttlesford	4.6	0.3	1.7	2.3	1.7
East of England	4.3	0.3	3.0	2.1	3.4
England	4.2	0.4	3.3	2.9	3.4

Connectedness: wider measures of connectedness (by district)

The connectedness domain looks at wider measures of connectedness (see table right), alongside physical connectivity: travel times to key services and access to key health assets (see following slide).

The data suggests that the availability of local jobs, broadband speeds and loneliness scores* are challenges across all areas of Essex.

*Loneliness Index is created by using GP prescription data to find areas with above-average prescriptions for five conditions where loneliness has been shown to be a risk factor.

^ Jobs density has been calculated using [Travel to Work Areas](#) (TTWA) to reflect the fact that people commonly commute outside of their local ward or district to work. TTWAs are a geography created to approximate labour-market areas, designed to reflect self-contained areas in which most people both live and work. The current ONS criteria for defining TTWAs are that at least 75% of the area's resident workforce work in the area, and at least 75% of people who work in the area also live in the area. As such they frequently cover an area larger than a single district.

Performance on key connectedness indicators						
District	Jobs density (TTWA [^])	Households with no car	Avg. broadband speed	People living alone	Loneliness Index	People feeling lonely
	Jobs / 100 working age pop	%	Mbit/s	%	Score	%
Essex	0.82	18.0	39.3	28.4	0.6	4.2
Basildon	0.72	21.9	50.4	29.5	-0.2	4.6
Braintree	0.87	16.2	25.4	27.1	0.4	4.2
Brentwood	0.87	14.9	27.3	28.9	0.5	3.8
Castle Point	0.71	16.8	41.7	26.1	0.9	3.7
Chelmsford	0.87	15.7	40.8	27.5	0.9	4.1
Colchester	0.79	20.6	45.7	29.1	0.8	4.3
Epping Forest	1.00	15.3	54.5	29.4	1.1	4.2
Harlow	1.00	24.9	66.8	30.6	0.5	5.4
Maldon	0.87	12.6	23.4	26.8	1.1	4.0
Rochford	0.71	14.5	26.4	24.2	1.5	3.9
Tendring	0.63	23.4	24.0	33.1	0.4	4.1
Uttlesford	0.96	10.1	28.6	23.5	0.3	3.6
East of England	0.88	18.5	44.6	28.5	0.6	4.4
England	0.87	25.8	45.1	30.2	0.1	4.8

Connectedness: physical connectivity (by district)

Average distance (in km) from key health assets			
Area	Dentist	Leisure Centre	Pharmacies
Essex	2.2	4.2	1.5
Basildon	1.3	2.5	1.0
Braintree	3.1	7.4	2.1
Brentwood	2.5	3.8	1.4
Castle Point	1.3	2.5	0.8
Chelmsford	1.8	3.2	1.5
Colchester	1.5	3.7	1.4
Epping Forest	1.7	3.9	1.4
Harlow	1.4	3.1	1.0
Maldon	3.9	5.6	2.5
Rochford	2.4	3.4	1.2
Tendring	2.5	6.0	1.4
Uttlesford	4.8	4.9	3.4
East of England	2.5	4.9	1.7
England	1.8	3.6	1.3

Average travel time (min) to key services by walking and public transport							
Area	Employment centre	Further Education Institution	GP	Hospital	Primary school	Secondary school	Supermarket
Essex	13	22	13	47	10	19	10
Basildon	11	19	10	36	9	16	9
Braintree	15	28	16	62	11	23	12
Brentwood	11	18	15	63	12	17	8
Castle Point	13	22	11	46	9	14	7
Chelmsford	13	18	13	40	10	18	9
Colchester	12	26	13	37	10	22	9
Epping Forest	13	24	15	43	12	21	12
Harlow	11	18	10	24	7	13	9
Maldon	15	24	18	82	14	24	12
Rochford	14	17	11	39	10	17	8
Tendring	13	21	12	64	10	19	8
Uttlesford	15	29	20	53	12	28	16
East of England	14	24	15	47	10	21	10
England	12	21	13	39	9	19	9

Activity and Engagement: citizen participation (by district)

The first element of the activity and engagement domain looks at issues around citizen participation.

Formal political engagement – captured through data on voter turnout at local elections – is lower than national and regional benchmarks in almost all parts of Essex. People in Essex are also less likely to participate in sporting activity.

But this aside, levels of citizen participation are consistently positive across measures of volunteering, civic engagement and measures on the strength of local social relationships.

Harlow and Basildon are notable outliers however, underperforming across all indicators of citizen participation.

Performance on key participation indicators					
District	Voter turnout at local elections	Formal or informal volunteering in last 12 months	Taken part in any civic engagement	Strength of local social relationships	Participation in sport
	%	%	%	Score	%
Essex	29.9	67.3	44.0	0.006	62.6
Basildon	25.6	64.5	41.6	-0.009	60.0
Braintree	30.1	67.0	43.6	0.013	63.3
Brentwood	31.5	68.4	45.3	0.010	64.8
Castle Point	28.6	68.8	43.8	0.019	57.6
Chelmsford	32.8	67.8	44.5	0.003	66.1
Colchester	32.1	68.3	44.8	-0.004	65.7
Epping Forest	26.5	66.9	43.6	-0.001	63.1
Harlow	26.3	62.6	40.0	-0.033	59.5
Maldon	31.5	69.1	45.6	0.032	63.7
Rochford	21.4	68.7	44.7	0.020	62.3
Tendring	31.2	68.0	45.0	0.022	57.7
Uttlesford	42.5	69.7	47.2	0.030	67.5
East of England	31.5	67.5	44.4	0.003	63.6
England	33.0	66.1	43.2	-0.006	63.7

Activity and Engagement: strength of the third sector (by district)

The second element of the activity and engagement domain looks at the strength of the third sector.

The data suggests that:

- the third sector is relatively small in Essex (based on the number of organisations) given the scale of the county's population, although there are concentrations of organisations in Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow and Maldon;
- the local third sector has proven to be relatively successful in securing Big Lottery funding – although this success has not been even distributed across districts; and
- the local third sector underperformed relative to national and regional averages in terms of attracting funding from other key grant makers.* Only in Chelmsford and Maldon have the funds raised per capita exceeded national and regional averages.

*This includes: National Lottery Community Fund; Heritage Lottery Fund; Sport England; Government Departments; Co-operative Group; BBC Children in Need, Charitable Trusts and Foundations; NESTA; Local Government Organisations.

Performance on key third sector indicators			
Area	Third Sector organisations	Big Lottery funding (2004-2019)	Grant funding from key grant makers
	Per 100,000 people	Per 1,000 people (£)	Per head (£)
Essex	330.2	57,827	17.0
Basildon	158.7	54,969	3.3
Braintree	342.1	29,663	12.6
Brentwood	215.5	57,186	4.2
Castle Point	219.1	32,985	8.1
Chelmsford	407.5	75,117	44.0
Colchester	462.7	112,252	25.2
Epping Forest	341.0	26,056	8.8
Harlow	647.8	77,903	10.8
Maldon	418.9	60,975	36.2
Rochford	250.7	19,399	14.4
Tendring	206.7	64,550	17.9
Uttlesford	328.6	36,479	6.8
East of England	355.9	84,377	29.9
England	352.5	38,525	35.0

Conclusions on priorities after this analysis (in order of panel priority)

COMMUNITIES & PLACE

E3: Greening town centres

E6: Advisory Support for the Creative and Cultural Industries (Collaborative?)

E12: Community Ownership of Regeneration (BIDs etc)

E14: Feasibility Studies

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

E24: Dedicated Business Incubation Service

E26: Social Enterprise Support

E23: General Business Support (Collaborative?)

E31: Feasibility Studies

PEOPLE & SKILLS

E38: Funding to Support Local Skills Needs (Collaborative?)

E39: Green Skills for employed (Collaborative?)

Bespoke Intervention: Strengthening careers information and guidance for young people and promoting entrepreneurial, technical and vocational pathways

The above interventions seek to prioritise a mix of the Panel's, MP's and neighbouring areas interests. They also seek to invest in 'seed funding' activities (Feasibility Studies and BIDs) and Support Services that could potentially draw additional funds into the area to address the challenges identified in the evidence base (but opportunities like BIDs will require strong local partnership working across public-private-voluntary sector and businesses voting for a rates uplift to invest in the area).

It also seeks to provide some specialist support services, to help stimulate key sectors of the economy which helps to improve pride of place (creative industries and social enterprise) and support the growth of the wider business sector.

As far as Skills & Employment is concerned, the above analysis is based on the concept that we might be able to collaborate with others on E38 and on E39: Green Skills for Employed. It also assumes collaboration on anything from E33- E36 will be a problem, because of the lack of neighbouring areas that want to collaborate on what is essentially a very locally delivered service.

Any comments/thoughts?

Approach to the proposed bespoke intervention

	Inputs	Activities	UKSPF Outputs	UKSPF Outcomes	Short Term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes	Impacts			
Key Influencers: Parents & Carers	Technical Skills Partnership UKSPF skills funding to influence young people, parents and teachers to promote technical careers & skills pathways	Creative-Tech (STEAM) Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of local events or activities supported Number of people reached Number of organisations organising events Number of people attending events and workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved perceptions of technical careers amongst parents Improved diversity of students entering technical careers 	Parent and Carers know about Technical Career Options	Parents and teachers have positive attitudes to Technical Careers	Parents and Carers support and encourage technical career choices for their children	More young people chose a technical career post 16 and post 18 Increased number of females choosing a technical career Increased diversity of socio-economic background of people choosing a technical career.			
		Marketing and Engagement campaigns to encourage parents to view technical careers positively			Parents and Teachers have a positive experience of technical activities						
Children & Young People		Extra Curricular Tech clubs (Coding Clubs, Fab Labs, STEM clubs, Computer Clubs for Girls etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organisations receiving grants Number of organisations receiving non-financial support Number of tech facilities supported/created Number of volunteering opportunities supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved perceptions of technical careers amongst young people Improved diversity of students entering technical careers 	Students can identify characteristics of people with technical careers	Students feel that a technical career is for 'someone like me'	Increased confidence to study technical subjects post-16				
		STEM Ambassadors: Positive Role Models to provide parents with practical experiences of technical careers			Students experience success at being a scientist, technologist or engineer						
		Key Influencers: Teachers & School Community			Primary School interventions to inspire interest in tech professions (Design Thinking workshops etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stable tech careers programme Learning from tech careers and labour market information Addressing the needs of each student. Linking curriculum learning to careers. Encounters with tech employers and employees. Experiences of tech workplaces. Personal guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved perceptions of technical careers amongst teachers Improved diversity of students entering technical careers 		Students can identify characteristics they share with people with technical careers	Students have an understanding of 'usefulness' of technical disciplines for other pathways.	Increased number choose to study A-level or vocational qualifications in technical subjects
					Primary Technical Forum				Students have increased knowledge of technical careers		
Strategies for promoting Diversity in Tech		Real world examples and careers used to teach content	Teachers incorporate technical careers information into the curriculum	Increased number chose to study A-level or vocational qualifications in technical subjects							
Technical practical experiences embedded in the curriculum		Teachers know about routes into technical careers	Increased primary teacher confidence to teach technical subjects	School environment mitigates effects of bias and stereotypes							
CPD programmes for teachers and careers leaders on technical subjects		Primary teachers of technical subjects supported to teach their subjects	School staff promote and support young people's technical career choices								
		Primary teachers of technical subjects supported to lead technical subjects in school	School staff alter practice to reduce effects of bias and stereotypes								
		School staff aware of unconscious bias, diversity and inclusion									

Any comments/thoughts?

Project Commissioning, Public Sector Equality Duty, Risks & Admin/Overheads

- **Project Commissioning**

- Default Position proposed will be to use open competitions for grant funding (which is the default approach set out in [Cabinet Office Grants Standards](#))
- Procurement, commissioning or delivery of activities through in-house Council team's will only be by exception and with prior agreement of the panel (for example Greening our Town Centres?)

- **Public Sector Equality Duty**

- Will need/want to undertake an Service Impact Assessment for this Plan, to ensure D&I issues are fully considered
- Also talking to the Community Diversity Council

- **Risks**

- Will present a more detailed Risk Register at the next meeting, but wanted to highlight key ones now, in case impacts on priorities:
 - Risk that proposals coming forward for Feasibility Studies are weak and do not offer robust sustainability
 - Risk that political tensions emerge in the development of Business Improvement District proposals and risk that businesses (and others) are not comfortable/in sufficiently strong enough financial position to vote for a rates uplift
 - Risk that there is a lack of interest/commitment in co-commissioning business support/skills interventions
 - Others?

- **Finance, Admin & Management**

- Need to undertake further sensitivity analysis to make sure all affordable
- Not proposing to request more for Admin & Management (4%)

AOB & Questions Thank You!

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