

# ECC Report February 2019

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## **National Lottery grant**

Essex has been awarded a “game-changing” National Lottery grant of £10.68 million from Sport England to increase activity levels across Essex. The three-year plan promises to tackle the inequalities which prevent 391,600 people in Essex from enjoying the physical, social and mental health benefits of an active lifestyle.

Currently, one in four (27%) Essex residents are inactive and carry out less than 30 minutes of physical exercise each week, while people on low incomes are twice as likely to lead sedentary lifestyles (source, Active Lives Survey 2016/17). Getting families, the elderly and people with poor mental health more active is the priority.

The successful bid was made by the Essex Local Delivery Pilot (Essex LDP), which is led by the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, Active Essex, and more than 20 partners including public, community and voluntary sector organisations.

### **The three outcomes for the Essex LDP are to:**

- Increase physical activity, in particular targeting people who currently do under 30 minutes physical activity per week and who live in the most deprived communities.
- Achieve wider social and economic outcomes e.g. stronger, healthier, cohesive communities and improved equality
- Achieve transformational change – a shared vision among system leaders, realignment of system budgets and using robust evidence that enables us to replicate success at scale

### **Test Areas – Basildon, Colchester, Tendring**

Three locations (containing 37% of the inactive population) have been chosen to test new whole system approaches in Essex for the pilot. The different challenges in each area will be a rich testing ground for the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot. These are:

- *Basildon*: A post war 'new town' development with pockets of deprivation and social immobility.
- *Colchester*: One of the fastest growing areas in the country which is also seeing a growth in deprivation year on year.
- *Tendring*: A coastal area suffering from chronic long-term deprivation

The Essex LDP has a dedicated team working closely with local communities in Basildon, Colchester, and Tendring to understand what support people need. It is already working with a number of community groups and citizens and is looking forward to meeting many more to bring the plans to life.

## **The seven strategic priorities are:**

1. A whole system approach
2. Community engagement and cohesion
3. Test and learn, scaling up and replication
4. Community capacity and development
5. Effective use of data and insight
6. Create active environments
7. Evaluation, learning and sustainability

Essex is one of 12 pilot areas selected by Sport England, with around £100 million of National Lottery funding being invested in the pilots over the next 3 years to build healthier, more active communities.

It is accepted that previous approaches to tackling stubborn inactivity have had mixed results and not been sustainable, so the Essex plan focuses on doing things differently and challenging the root causes of inactivity. In 2018 Essex undertook extensive research to understand what needs to change to help people live more active lives. The findings led to the development of seven strategic priorities and the plan which Sport England has approved, awarding Essex one of its biggest ever National Lottery grants.

Public sector organisations in Essex are fully committed to bring about whole system change across health, education, housing, transport and the built environment, tackling the root causes of issues so people can live and work in places which enable them to be physically active - for example cleaning up and improving poorly lit outdoor spaces so they appeal to families or older people.

Basildon, Colchester and Tendring have been chosen as the initial focus for the Essex pilot as each of these has areas where there are high levels of inactivity and associated health inequalities. The pilot will test new ideas and learn quickly, taking successes Essex-wide to supercharge Active Essex's strategy to get 1 million people active in Essex by 2021.

Essex's plans include:

- Getting local passionate people involved, who want to create activities in their areas
- Creating active parks, coastal paths and new walking and cycling routes
- Easy access small grants and support for community projects
- Investing in successful voluntary groups and charities to scale up their activities
- Training people in voluntary as well as paid roles and creating new volunteers, leaders and coaches
- Brightening up buildings, streets and parks to make them attractive places to be active

- World class measurement and evaluation which will be shared UK-wide

Anyone interested in getting involved should email [ELDP@essex.gov.uk](mailto:ELDP@essex.gov.uk) or telephone 03330 131620, or register interest on the website at [www.activeessex.org/essex-local-delivery-pilot/](http://www.activeessex.org/essex-local-delivery-pilot/). You can also visit [www.activeessex.org/essex-local-delivery-pilot/](http://www.activeessex.org/essex-local-delivery-pilot/).

### **Sport England National Lottery Grant Awards further information**

The total of the National Lottery grant awards for Essex LDP either awarded or committed in-principle by Sport England, is £10.68 million.

In 2018 Essex LDP was awarded an initial grant of £845,542 to undertake the first part of its work which is summarised in the Chapter One Report, 'Getting Ready for Systems Change'.

The additional £9.84m includes a £5.9025m award now with a further £3.9375m in principle which is subject to Essex Local Delivery Pilot's early delivery, learning and emerging impact.

Basildon, Colchester and Tendring will benefit from a share of the National Lottery award and successes will be scaled up county-wide, supercharging Active Essex's strategy to get 1 million people active in Essex by 2021.

Essex was chosen by Sport England at the end of 2017 as one of 12 areas in England to undertake this ground-breaking work because of the range of significant problems and opportunities which exist in the county.

### **Library consultation three days left to have your say**

There are just three days remaining to have your say on the Future Strategy for Essex Libraries.

The consultation into what library services could look like in the future is set to end on 20 February. The county council is encouraging all those who haven't yet completed the consultation survey to take the time to participate and have their voice heard.

There have been over 17,000 responses to the survey. This includes online, paper copy and via the Essex contact centre. Responses have been received from individuals, families, children, young people and 192 surveys have been completed by organisations

The consultation will close on 21<sup>st</sup> February, extended by one day because of a computer outage which meant people could not access the Website for one day two weeks ago.

Residents are encouraged to complete the survey online, however, if this is not possible the survey can be completed over the phone on 0345 603 7639 or a hard copy can be sent to you.

## **ECC Budget 2019/2020**

Essex's ambition to be the leading Council in innovation and efficiency is at the heart of its budget proposals for the coming financial year.

Published last week on 12<sup>th</sup> February, the Council's draft Organisation Plan and budget for 2019/20, both outline plans for significant investment in the services and infrastructure the County needs to retain its position as one of the most dynamic places in the country to live and work.

Recently rated in the top ten most productive councils in the country for productivity by iMPOWER, and celebrating an 'outstanding' rating for its children's services from Ofsted, Essex has announced capital investment of just under **£250m for homes, schools and roads** in the coming year, alongside revenue spending plans which include:

- Funding for **1,066** new primary school places, and **2,198** new secondary school places – the equivalent of five new schools - including those for pupils with special educational needs and disability
- **£117m** for maintaining and improving the road network
- **£14m** for faster broadband connections
- **40** new homes including eight for people with learning disabilities through Essex Housing.
- **Half million pound** to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, for a partnership-based approach which will aim to protect young people at risk from those who may exploit them through County Lines.
- **£1,000,000** to tackle the mental health of our young people, which is a growing concern and it will help to sustain the outstanding children's services.
- **£700,000 extra and on top of the yearly Highways budget** for pavements and footways every year, having tackled potholes last year
- **£250,000** to help prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. A new scheme will see the council recruiting mentors who will work with up to 50 people who are at risk of rough sleeping, and 150 people who are at risk of losing their homes.

With the Council's revenue support grant from central government reducing fast and set to be phased out entirely from next year, plus the impact of inflation, population growth and increasing demand for and expectation of services, the financial picture remains challenging. This has necessitated a proposed total council tax increase of **3.99%**.

Of this, **1%** would be ring-fenced to adult social care from the Government's social care precept allowance, with the remaining **2.99%** supporting the delivery of other vital local services. The council tax annual bill for a band 'D' property in Essex for County Council

services would be **£1,270.44**, a weekly increase of just **£0.94 a week**.

Cllr David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council, said that if the County Council does not find ways of doing things differently, or innovative the future will be bleak.. The challenges of ever-increasing costs and demand are real. Austerity might be over, but its effects are still very much within the organization.

This budget is about making the right decisions and to invest in the correct way for the future. Savings of over £1million a week, every week, over the past four years, have been made, which have only been done by being innovative, enterprising, and embrace internet-age opportunities.

The challenges of ever-increasing costs and demand are real; Essex has the highest percentage of elderly population in the country, and demands on adult Social Services have never been higher.

The budget reflects how the way services are prioritised, which promote economic growth, continue to support excellent education and protect vulnerable children and adults across the County.

The way things were done 10 years ago is massively different from today's world; lives, work, travel and leisure time has been radically transformed by technology.

Inflation, population growth and increasing demand and expectation have meant mean that the County Council will have to utilise the Government's 1% increase for social care which will compound council tax by a total of 3.99%.

The organisational plan and budget can be found at <https://bit.ly/2sq9T vz>

I am therefore pleased to announce Mr Chairman, that in this financial year we will be

*And our forth strategic aim - Transform the Council*

To achieve all these ambitious goals, we have been working hard to ensure we spend our money in the best way and we use our assets to support our front line services. Last year we were rated as a top 10 council for value for money and effective services.

We don't rest on our laurels though – this year

- we will commence the Property Asset Strategy to get the best return on our estate,
- we will enhance our technology to support our employees to work flexibly for the good of our services,
- we will improve our customer services and introduce digital choices to enable customers to talk to us in a way that suits them.

In short, we will further transform our council for the benefit of the residents of Essex

### **Conclusion**

Mr Chairman, Members – the purpose of this budget and organisational plan are not simply to get the council over the line for another year.

We are setting out ambitious goals for where we want to take this council and this county – that ambition is not misplaced. We have the vision to imagine: and outstanding, committed and talented staff to deliver.

- I'm proud of our county
- I'm proud of the members who serve
- I'm proud of our staff, and