

Conference/Training Services EALC 2017/2018

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex — Local Visible and Accessible Policing Conference

The 7th June 2017—brought the Parish Sector together with the Crime Commissioners Office and Essex Police to look at partnership working, operation buzzard, have updates from different officers on operational matters, and hear from the Chief Constable and the Crime Commissioner

EALC/ECC Conference AGM 2017

Working in partnership with ECC, 107 delegates gathered to support the EALC Annual meeting, to make decisions on finances and hear from speakers on crowd funding, community ownership and working together in partnership. The event brought officers and members from three tiers together.

Highways Event

95 people gathered together to attend the 1st Highways event hosted by the EALC. Senior ECC Officers gave excellent presentations on the services, Safety and Network Management, Repairs and Maintenance, and Local Highways Services. Those present were able to get an excellent overview, understand the challenges and see how we work better in partnership.

CiLCA

Essex Equals 24 saw the largest class for many years, with 13 students taking the Clerks Qualification. During the year there were 12 passes. The new system 'EMMA' means Clerks upload and get sections marked as the training progresses, ensures that they pass the final sections achieving the CiLCA. Clerks are eligible for bursary funding up to 75% of training for Councils under 80k.

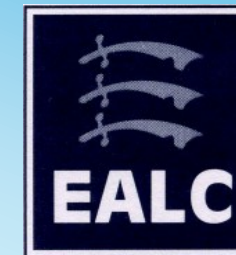
Saturday Training

When the EALC agreed to introduce Saturday Training we aimed to run 10 courses (1 per month) During the last year the EALC has managed 16 Saturday courses on the following topics, Planning, Councillor Training Days, Social Media, Chairman's Day, GDPR, Neighbourhood Planning, Marketing Plan Master Class and New Councillor. Therefore we exceeded our aim.

Other Training

- ◇ 10 courses on GDPR
- ◇ 6 sets of 2 Councillor Training Days
- ◇ 2 sets of 2 Advanced Cllr Training
- ◇ 8 Planning Briefings
- ◇ Chairman Training
- ◇ 1,122 Clerks, Councillors & Chairman trained
- ◇ 2 Burial Courses
- ◇ 13 courses were delivered to Councils at their own venue

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



No. 163

COUNTY UPDATE Special Edition

Celebrating Community

2017 - 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Local Service Fund—Launched 19th September 2017

This Innovative Fund was designed to support communities across Essex with revenue funding. This program has provided communities with an opportunity to directly prioritise, enhance, develop and grow local capability, thereby making a real difference across villages, town and communities. The funding was directly made available by the Leader of ECC, Cllr David Finch, who showed great vision and an understanding of the need for a revenue fund. The EALC was commissioned to manage the fund, with the decisions being made by a funding panel. At the first panel meeting in December 2017 35 projects were considered with 13 applications totalling £132,775 being provided to the successful applications. Applications included community gardeners, handy-man schemes, village wardens, youth projects, training cemetery worker, Repair/Reuse and Recycle project.

Regular County Updates can be found on the EALC website showing the progress of the projects. The EALC would like to thank all members of the panel, and Essex County Council for the fund.



Transparency Funding

The EALC working with 119 Councils in Essex provided £128,135.93 to enable these Councils to meet the new Transparency Regulation for Councils under £25k. This funding was from the DCLG via NALC.

Local Council Award Scheme

During 2017/18 the Essex County Accreditation Panel granted the following Councils with a Foundation Level Award, which is the standard for the sector.

Great Bardfield Parish Council, Springfield Parish Council, Great Notley Parish Council, Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council, Maldon Town Council, Billericay Town Council, Marks Tey Parish Council, Witham Town Council and Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council, Leigh on Sea Town Council and Epping Town Council were accredited with the Quality Level. Congratulations to the Councils, Councillors and the Clerks.

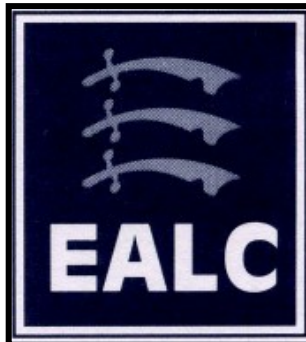
The Clerk Bursary Fund

During 2017-2018 the EALC received 61 applications for bursary funding, totalling £7950. These Councils have a turnover less than £80K. The funding is made available from the ECC to ensure that Clerks from small Councils can access training.



Essex County Council

The Essex Association of Local Councils wishes to thank Essex County Council for the continued support and financial commitment to enable services to be delivered to the Parish sector in Essex.



Staff Members

Chief Executive Officer
Joy Darby

Assistant CEO
Linda Golding

Responsible Finance Officer
Charlene Slade

County Training Officer
Pearl Willcox

Parish Support Officer
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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Partnership Working with Essex County Council



During 2017/18 the EALC and Member Councils received excellent support from ECC in respect of a number of grants. £30k for core funding and £8k for the Clerks Bursary. During the year the partnership working has continued to develop with the EALC Chair and Vice Chairman meeting with Cllr David Finch leader (ECC). New initiatives have been discussed, with the first Revenue Fund to support local communities. The EALC officially thanks the ECC for this continued partnership working and fund that make EALC able to deliver to the sector—adding value to communities across Essex.



Larger Local Council Forum

The LLCF met 3 times during 2017/2018. Marks Tey Parish Council hosted the June 2017 meeting. This was a really popular meeting with Adnams Brewery being the main presentation. This proved to be the best meeting of the year with record attendance. Springfield Parish Council hosted the October 2017 meeting when Nick Alston came to give a presentation about his time as Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex. February 2018 was hosted by West Mersea Town Council. CITIZAN gave a presentation about the archaeological digs taking place around the Essex Coastline which delegates found of great interest. These meetings are aimed at Larger Councils of 6000 electors or more, However, there is an open invitation for all Councils to attend.

National Association of Local Councils



The NALC serves the membership well with access 24/7 to the NALC website. Members are able to get the best and most up to date information available. A host of publications are available to download free of charge, or to purchase at membership rates. The introduction of GDPR, the free NALC Toolkit and briefing have been invaluable. There are 88 Legal Topic Notes plus an extensive range of briefings to support Councils and help the EALC. During the year 50 enquiries were sent to NALC for a solicitor response. The excellent NALC Conference each year provides insight to the Sector's current role and development.

Report to the EALC by the Chairman

Annual Report by the Chairman Councillor Peter Davey



The EALC continues to be recognised nationally in its own right for the work it carries out in support of the Parish and Town sector within Essex. Through our highly professional training programme and legal support services which will always remain our top priority, whilst looking for new areas where value can be added to member Councils. To meet the challenges presented during the year, it is essential that we work diligently and successfully with our partners to create mutual benefit. As the County Association we must exploit every opportunity to work on your behalf, primarily with Essex County Council and the National Association of Local Councils.

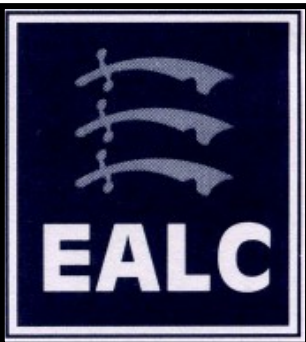
An example of this collaborative working and our ability to 'produce results' at the highest level is the confidence of the ECC Leader, David Finch, in the EALC to allow us to manage the Local Service Fund since 2017. With a £500,000 fund over a 3 year period to enable constituted community Groups, Town and Parish Councils to deliver new services into the area in which they operate. This fund is a revenue fund.

We are also actively involved with the ECC initiatives on Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health and Criminal Justice and the Safer Essex initiatives. The EALC is also continuing to work alongside the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner of Essex, the Devolution Engagement with Essex Leaders and the Essex Rural Partnership.

I was very proud to become the Chairman of the EALC in November 2017 and since this time, I have also been appointed as Chair of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee and a Member of the Management Board of the NALC. This allows the EALC to be part of, and have a major influence over, the strategic initiatives that are taking place across the UK.

The EALC was also part of the Engagement Programme with our County MPs on National Lobby Day in March where considerable influence comes to bear on major National Issues affecting the Sector. I have also retained my role as Chairman of the Accreditation Panel of Essex, this panel awards the Foundation, Quality + Gold to Councils in Essex.

I would like to thank both Cllr John Gili-Ross and Cllr Sheila Jackman MBE my Vice Chairs, for their work with our strategic partners as well as the Executive Members who ensure that our Members voices are heard and acted upon. The many EALC achievements this year could not have been possible without the absolute commitment, hard work, dedication, professionalism and foresight given to the Association by Joy Darby, our CEO, and her Staff.



Executive Committee Members (current)

Chairman
Cllr Peter Davey

Treasurer
Cllr David McPherson-Davis

Vice Chairmen
Cllr Sheila Jackman MBE
Cllr John Gili-Ross

Committee
Cllr Alan Acott
Cllr John Anderson
Cllr Linda Belgrove
Cllr Stuart Berlyn
Cllr Peter Brown
Cllr Mandy Cohen
Cllr Jim Devlin
Cllr Helen Edwards
Cllr Abdul Hafiz
Helen Symmons
Cllr Roy Martin
Cllr Hamish McIlwrick
Cllr Richard North
Kathryn Richmond
Cllr Don Smith
Cllr Michael Talbot
Cllr Alan Townsend

President
Cllr John Jowers

Vice-Presidents 2017– 2021
Margaret Grimster
Dominic Petre
Mike Page