



Essex Association of Local Councils

Including our summary & financial statement

Annual report

2021-22



Staff members

Chief Executive Officer	Charlene Slade
Executive County Training Officer	Pearl Willcox
Financial Controller	Stephanie Robinson
Communications Co-ordinator	Sophie Wolker
Grant Funding Officer	Caroline Brown

Thanks and gratitude also to those staff who represented and worked during this year of reporting, contributing to the success of the EALC.

The Essex Association of Local Councils would like to thank Essex County Council for their continued support of and financial commitment to our activities and services in the parish sector of Essex.

This report was produced and published by the Essex Association of Local Councils.
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Your EALC

Officers & executive committee members

Executive Committee Members

Chair	Cllr Peter Davey
Vice-Chair	Cllr John Gili-Ross
Treasurer	Cllr David McPherson-Davis
President	Cllr John Jowers
Vice-Presidents	Mr Mick Page
	Cllr Sheila Jackman, MBE
	Anne Brown
	Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex

Executive Committee Members

Cllr Jim Devlin	Cllr Paul Lees
Cllr Abdul Hafiz	Cllr Martin Lee
Cllr Richard North	Cllr Sheila Jackman, MBE
Cllr Stephanie Gill	Cllr Susan Martin
Cllr Mike Eldred	Cllr Angelina Marriott
Cllr Alan Townsend	Ms Beverley Rumsey

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This year in review

From your Association Chair, Cllr Peter Davey

The EALC continues to be recognised nationally for the work it carries out in support of the Parish and Town council sector within Essex. Our top priorities remain in the development and delivery of a highly professional training programme and council support services, whilst looking for new areas where value can be added for member councils. To meet the challenges presented throughout the year, it is essential that we work diligently and successfully with our primary partners to create mutual benefit. As the county association we must exploit every opportunity to work with Essex County Council, the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, the Essex Rural Partnership and the National Association of Local Councils to benefit you the membership.

The EALC in collaboration with Essex County Council (ECC) to act as the administrating agent for Grant Funding to meet the challenges faced by many Essex communities and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and has once again been the single biggest project in, awarding over £1.2 million of grants to include foodbanks supporting families across Essex during the last 12 months.

I would like to acknowledge Essex County Councils continuing support for the sector in these financially challenging times and the speed and efficiency that was evident in their quest to support the most vulnerable residents during difficult and challenging times.

The Local Council Award scheme continues to grow and within Essex we still have one of the highest number of LCA accreditations in the UK. I retain my role as Chair of the Essex Accreditation Panel and on



Our top priorities remain in the development and delivery of a highly professional training programme and council support services, whilst looking for new areas where value can be added for member councils.

the panels behalf award the Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold certificates to councils in recognition of the excellent work they undertake.

The Climate Emergency and Health & Wellbeing agendas remain a priority both in Essex and Nationally. ECC, has provided the EALC with funding to appoint officers to both roles to ensure quality and professional support is available to all member councils in these areas. I remain a member of the ECC Health & Wellbeing Board, Chairman of the EALC Health and Wellbeing Board and member of the Independent Climate Commission to help compliment and influence the work undertaken in these vital areas.

The Independent Essex Climate Action Commission completed its final report in July 2021 with strong focus on climate change and the environment which will have economic benefits for Essex, as

This year in review

well as helping the global climate and improving the environment for citizens at a local level. The commission made recommendations to Essex County Council, which were subsequently adopted, for the council to implement recommendations and policy suggestions which will be transformative, but practical.

To enhance and strengthen our capabilities, a complete review of our IT requirements has been undertaken in the last year which led to the selection of a new IT provider to seamlessly transition our IT to a cloud-based system supported by Office 365. We have also reviewed our website which we plan to migrate to Word Press and create an interactive website and in parallel we will be installing the latest remote video and audio equipment to offer quality remote and hybrid training sessions so that where practical members can choose how to participate.

EALC continues its work alongside the office of the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, the Safer Roads Essex Initiative, the Rural Crime Forum and the Essex Rural Partnership strategic initiative.

As the Vice-Chair of the NALC with responsibility for finance and a member of the NALC Management Board, the EALC has a significant influence in the

strategic initiatives that take place across the UK by the Parish and Town Council sector. My objective is that the NALC retains a strong financial position, maintains a healthy relationship with central government and provides a best value for money service to its member councils.

I would like to remind you to nominate that special person in your community whose actions often go unrecognised but make a big difference to the community. The Honours Brochure initiative launched through the offices of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst waits for your nominations.

The many EALC achievements this year, both strategic and supportive could not have been possible without the absolute commitment, hard work, dedication, professionalism and foresight given by Charlene Slade and her Staff to support its town and parish council members. I would like to thank all the EALC executive members for their continuing support and hard work during this year in ensuring that our member's voices are heard and acted upon.

I am proud to have been chosen to chair the EALC for a further year and I will continue to work tirelessly to support the EALC staff with its good work.

Peter Davey
Chairman of the Essex Association
of Local Councils



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Davey".

This year in review

From your CEO, Charlene Slade AATQB CiLCA

Finally, I can welcome you with open arms to a face to face Annual General Meeting as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, for the first time since my appointment in April 2020. It is such an honour and pleasure to welcome you all to such a wonderful venue to meet you in person to celebrate the achievements we have all made over the last year to 31st March 2022.

The Association has been successful in many ways during the most difficult of times. We have come through a world-wide pandemic, adapted to change overnight, delivered training online, created new courses, introduced new conferences on various key topics, administered grant funding like we have never done before and continued to deliver bespoke training for the sector.

The EALC have continued to support many Parish and Town Councils to achieve an award under the Local Council Award scheme. The award was designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential, recognising the outstanding work of the Clerks and Councillors. EALC is proud to lead the Country with the largest number of accreditations.

Our team, with your support, will continue to make improvements to suit the needs of the modern council. Our future vision of hybrid training will enhance the training programme and enable our tutors to deliver training at the highest level across the county allowing remote access to the training room.

Charlene Slade AATQB CiLCA
Chief Executive Officer



Treasurer's Report 2021/22

Cllr David McPherson-Davis

The Association has managed to successfully adapt to post COVID-19 by continuing to provide services to its members as well as administering funds on behalf of Essex County Council. As a result, a surplus of £44,075.45 was achieved in the year ended 31st March 2022 which increased the Appropriation Account balance to £70,607.81

The Profile and Finance Report compiled by our new Financial Controller-Stephanie Robinson explains in detail the financial performance of the Association. The Finance Committee held regular meetings throughout the year to discuss the ongoing performance of the Association and to agree reports to the Executive Committee.

I would like to thank all members of staff for their support during the year.

Risk Review

The EALC have reviewed the major risks to which it is exposed and systems have been identified to mitigate those risks. External risks regarding investments have controls in place to minimise the exposure of the Association. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of financial control and regulation procedures. These procedures are regularly reviewed

to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Association. The insurance policy of the Association is reviewed annually, as per the Financial Regulations. The EALC has reviewed its Financial Regulations and adopted a new set as of Jan 2021.

Auditors

Heather Heelis from Heelis and Lodge completed the Audit for 31st March 2022 and will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting 2022 as the Auditor to the Association's accounts for a term of one year.

Pensions

The EALC participates in a defined benefit scheme operated by Essex County Council. The contributions are determined by Essex County Council. Although the fund is a defined benefit scheme, EALC are grouped together with other similar employers. It is not possible to separately identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities and it is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. The EALC contribute monthly to the employees pension scheme as set by Essex County Council's Pension Office. Currently EALC is fully funded. During 2014 the EALC adopted a Pension Policy Statement in line with legal requirements.

Cllr David McPherson-Davis
Treasurer



Profile and Financial Report 2021/22

Stephanie Robinson ICAEW CiLCA

I joined the EALC on the 9th May 2022 and have a background in both Finance (ICAEW qualified) and also local government as I am a CiLCA qualified clerk for 2 parish councils (formerly 3).

I started working as RFO/Parish clerk 4 years ago with Herongate & Ingrave Parish Council. Prior to that I worked as Global Financial controller for MMS and more recently as Financial Controller for Rainham Steel. Since joining the EALC I have been busy finalising the 2021/22 year end accounts and preparing for the audit which was carried out on 6th June 2022.

Priory to my starting, Heelis & Lodge also carried out an internal audit into the funding streams on the adequacy of systems and controls.

Both audits confirmed that all correct procedures and policies were in place and being followed. No recommendations were made in either audit report. The year ending 31st March 2022 has been a busy and successful year for the EALC with course income back up to pre-pandemic levels at £114,525 and exceptional income of £55,356 from the administration of food support funds, lockdown support funds and the COMF fund.

Subscription income also increased by 1.6% to £83,896. On behalf of Essex County Council, a total of over £1.2million of grants have been awarded in the 2021/22 financial year including 178 micro-grants to the value of £80,299 and Community Initiative Funds to the value of £333,765.

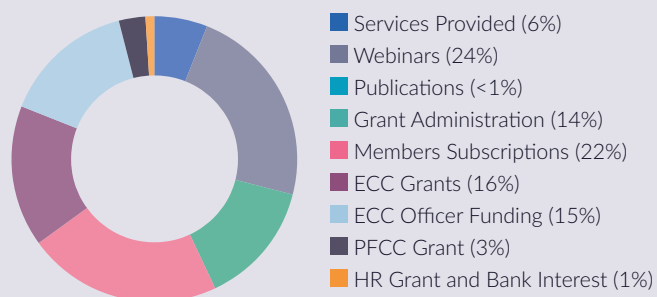
Separate accounting practices, Risk Assessments and robust Financial Regulations are in place to ensure that all the funds administered on behalf of Essex County Council are transparent, accountable and separately managed from the core purpose and functions of the Association.

**Stephanie Robinson ICAEW
CiLCA**
Financial Controller

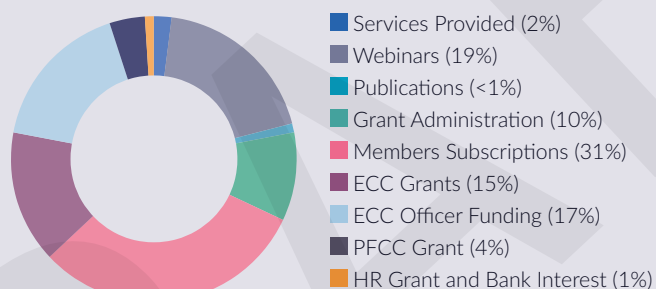


Financial summary

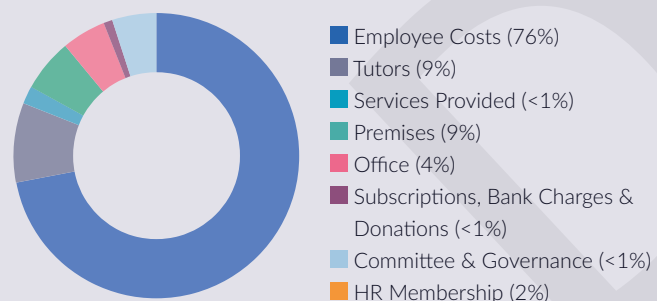
EALC Income 2021/2022



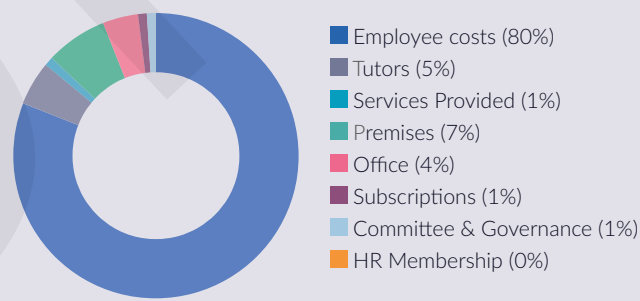
EALC Income 2020/2021



EALC Expenditure 2021/2022



EALC Expenditure 2020/2021



EALC Income	2021/22 £	2020/21* £
Services Provided	22596	5240
Webinars	91930	50570
Publications	1041	944
Grant Administration	55357	25200
Members Subscriptions	83896	82539
ECC Grants	40000	40000
ECC Officer Funding	56911	45000
PFCC Grant	10000	10000
HR Grant and Bank Interest	3230	3615
Total Income	364961	263108

EALC Expenditure	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Employee Costs	203589	183092
Tutors	24670	12393
Services Provided	1058	886
Premises	24205	15751
Office	10068	8915
Subscriptions, Bank Charges & Donations	289	1929
Committee & Governance	995	3220
HR Membership	4081	3450
Total Expenditure	268955	229636

*Income 2020/21 is restated with prior year adjustment

Executive County Training Officer Profile

Pearl Willcox, CiLCA

As Executive County Training Officer, I am extremely proud of the training programme for our members that I have successfully built up over the last fourteen years since I started working for the Association. The training programme has gone from strength to strength during this time, and has always been recognised as one of the best throughout all of the Associations in the Country. I am extremely lucky to have a team of eighteen tutors with a wealth of knowledge that deliver these courses, briefings, workshops and webinars, and most importantly who enjoy doing so.

Numbers speak volumes. That is why Essex is able to say that they have the most CiLCA trained qualified Clerks throughout the Country achieving the most pass rates on a yearly basis- something our County should be extremely proud of. This is not just a credit to the training programme that is available, but also to the dedication and hard work of the Clerks that undertake it.

I am extremely passionate about the Associations training. My position enables me to have contact directly on a first name basis with virtually all of the Clerks, Chairman & Councillors within the Districts - an area that I thoroughly enjoy and think is incredibly important to maintain an excellent rapport between ourselves and our Members.

So what is next for the Associations training? Our plans moving forward are to be able to deliver hybrid training to the Membership. After discussing this with my tutors we recognize that this will only work successfully on certain courses. I will now be working with iceConnect & Marks Tey radio along with our tutors to move forward and bring the best training facility to our Membership. With twenty years of working for an international bank in the City along with the 14 years of knowledge I have gained from working in this specialised sector, gaining my CiLCA qualification back in 2016, I believe working alongside the rest of the team at the Association I am able to support the Membership to a high standard - not just on their training requirement, but also to provide support in other areas.

Pearl Willcox, CiLCA
Executive County Training Officer



Executive County Training Officer Report

Pearl Willcox, CiLCA

EALC training is one of the most comprehensive services that the EALC runs to benefit Member Councils. The core courses are aligned to the Clerks qualification and to support and develop members.

2021 continued to be a challenging year for the Association for its training programme however we continued to deliver our comprehensive & high standard of courses, briefings & workshops to the Membership virtually. The entire training programme had to be redesigned & courses for us to be able to deliver it. Finally in September 2021 we were able to have our first training course back in the training room after almost 18 months. Clerks, Councillors and the Associations tutors were delighted to be able to get back into our training facility to deliver our training programme face to face, with a structured training calendar available for both virtual & in house courses which continued into 2022.

Throughout 2021/2022 we trained over 800 Clerks, Chairman, Councillors and Parish Council Staff on core, certificated, Clerk, Councillor & Chairman training courses. Delivering a total of 72 courses. Without the other areas of training we have provided in forums, workshops & webinars for Dementia Friends, Learning Disability Awareness, Mental Health First Aid Training, Essex Forest Initiative & Community Specials.

We are extremely proud that the Associations training programme goes from strength to strength every year. This has been achieved through our 18 most skilled and knowledgeable tutors with passion and knowledge of the area of training they are delivering.

Councillor Training Days 1 & 2 sets (12 courses in total)	6
New Clerk's Course	3
CiLCA Courses	2
Planning Briefings	4
Core courses	30
Chairman's Training Days 1, 2 & 3 sets (9 courses in total)	3
Certificated courses	7
Bespoke Course	4

Short Courses

Our bespoke short course programme remained available virtually to Parish & Town Councils for 2021 but as the pandemic eased we were finally able to go back out into our Membership in 2022 and deliver the courses in person by our tutors.

CiLCA

Our CiLCA courses have continued to run virtually throughout the year. 2021/2022 saw another great year of pass rates for the Association with 15 Clerks & Officers successfully passing their qualification. We are extremely proud at the Association that Essex leads the whole of the Country with the highest CiLCA passes for an Association. During 2021 the Association gained another CiLCA recognized trained trainer Abigail Wood to support the delivery of our CiLCA programme.

CiLCA Passes 2021/2022

Ian Brown Clerk Little Easton PC. **Charlene Slade** CEO EALC
Emma Smith Bradwell PC **Michelle Baker** Clerk Wethersfield PC
Danielle Frost HWB Officer EALC Assistant Clerk Hockley PC
Adriana Jones Clerk Stanford Rivers PC **Kate Palmer** Clerk Copford with Easthorpe PC **Shelley Boydell** Clerk Henny's, Middleton & Twinstead PC **Kate Rixson** Clerk Boxted PC **Michele Dixon** Great Baddow PC
Ginette Phillips Assistant Clerk Great Baddow PC **Vanessa Allen** Town Clerk West Mersea TC Communications Office Ringatstone & Fryerning PC **Terry Portch** Clerk Kelvedon Hatch PC

Online Training Programme

Our online training programme provided by Nimble which we launched in February 2020 has remained popular throughout 2021 & 2022. Clerk's, Officers & Councillors were able to continue and access & complete training from home during the continued pandemic. We have new courses that will be introduced to this online programme for the autumn to add to the other 8 online courses that are available.

Conferences Online

The Association continued to deliver online conferences to the Membership during 2021 and 2022. April 2021 saw our first Youth

Engagement Conference followed in January 2022 by our second Climate Crisis Conference. The conferences were both a great success with many Members attending.

Essex Clerk's Bursary

Our Essex Clerk's Bursary scheme remains eligible to all Clerk's with a Parish Council precept of below £80,000. The bursary scheme enables & supports the smaller Councils Clerks to attend training courses & to also complete their CiLCA qualification. 75% of the training costs is then refunded back to the Council upon completion of courses. During 2021 & 2022 we awarded a total of 44 bursaries totalling £7,574.00. Bursary application forms can be found on the EALC website. For all enquiries please contact Pearl Willcox for more information.

What have we planned for training in 2022/2023

Now that we have got our new IT system in place our main aim for 2023 is to make available to our Membership hybrid training. This will enable us to provide the availability on certain training for our tutors to be able to deliver courses in our training facility and also virtually accessible to members who wish to attend the course while working.

We will be working continually with our IT providers to ensure that we can provide the best possible training experience for our membership.

From September 2022 we are reintroducing our Clerk Forums that were so popular during the start of the pandemic. These forums gave us the opportunity to connect direct with the Clerks in all the districts of the County.

We will also be introducing 'Induction days' - this will be an a particular benefit for new Clerks and Councillors to come and meet the team at the Association and find out how we support our sector.

The Importance of Training for Chair's, Councillors & Clerks

Clerks

The role of a Clerk is to ensure that the Council, as a whole, conducts its business properly and to provide independent support.

A Clerk is a vital asset to the Council, making a significant contribution to the work of the Council.

It is a professional role requiring specialist knowledge and a range of skills.

As the proper officer, the Clerk performs all routine administration, Financial management, staff management (if applicable), manages the Councils procedures, raises the profile of the Council in the Local Community and implements Council decisions.

Councillors

Councillors are collectively responsible for making Council policy, for which they are accountable to the electorate. They are recognised nationally as the level of local government closest to people, or the 1st tier.

The Chairman and the Mayor are the figure heads of Councils across Essex. Playing an important role ensuring the Council conducts its business professionally.

Will your Council have a budget for training this year?

The EALC and the SLCC believe that all Councils across Essex should provide training to enable the sector to represent the communities it serves.

Clerk training should be paid for by the Council, with time allocated. Every Clerk should be able to take the CiLCA (Certificate in Local Councils Administration). The Clerks body provides training for Clerks, which sits alongside the EALC Courses.

Chairman training at the EALC, along with Councillor training are also available, for Members.

The EALC also provides training for Councils in the evening or at the weekend, delivered in your own premises or virtually.

For these reasons, any training that the Clerk or Councillor achieves, including the CiLCA, provides them with a broad knowledge of all the aspect of work – Roles & Responsibilities, the Law, Procedures, Finance planning and Community development.

A robust training and development program, ensures that the Council has a consistent experience and background knowledge of Local Government.

We believe that training for Clerks & Councillors is imperative to the efficient running of the Council and its growth.

Funding Report

Caroline Brown, Grant Funding Officer Supporting local communities in Essex

On behalf of Essex County Council, EALC continued to administer various funding streams and as we came out of the pandemic. Such as Foodbank Fund, Community Initiative Fund (CIF), Microgrant Community Chest, Microgrant Communication and Technology, Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and COMF Grassroots Roots Clubs and Activities .

A total of over £1.2 million of grants have been awarded in 2021/22. This important work stream continued to support Community Groups, Charities, Organisations, Parish and Town Councils to continue to deliver new services into the area in which they operate across Essex .

178 Micro-Grants applications were awarded in 2021/22 to the value of £80,299 These projects either sit within the Community Chest or Communication and Technology funding stream. There were 48 successful applicants to the Community Initiative Fund (CIF) awarded in 2021/22 to the value of £279,000

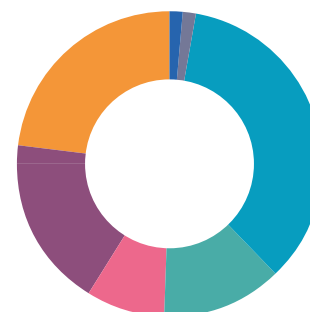
These projects have included litter picking equipment, telephone box renovation project, new shed/materials, park benches, replacement oven/banners/leaflets/laptops.

5 CIF Emergency grants were awarded to the value of £54,765. This grant has helped organisations around urgent heating repairs, replacement roofs and an all-weather tarmacked path.

The new Contain Outbreak Management Fund and COMF Grassroots Clubs and Activities launched in March 2021 and throughout the year a total of £585,808 was awarded to 83 applicants. These projects included PPE, vaccination support, hygiene hampers, emergency payments, publications, foodbank running costs and befriending service sessions.



Fund	No applications processed
Microgrant - Community Chest 7%	46
Microgrant - Community & Technology 7%	43
Contain Outbreak Management 12%	74
Adult Grassroots Clubs & Activities 5%	31
Covid Food support fund 7%	45
Lockdown support fund 25%	153
Foodbank White Goods Scheme 6%	40
CIF 2020/21 30%	189
Total Number of Applications processed	621



Fund	Value awarded £
Microgrant - Community Chest 1%	17763
Microgrant - Community & Technology 1%	16257
Contain Outbreak Management 46%	429612
Adult Grassroots Clubs & Activities 17%	156198
Covid Food support fund 11%	100000
Lockdown support fund 21%	198779
Foodbank White Goods Scheme 2%	22845
CIF 2020/21 23%	279950
Total Funds administered	1221404

Member Communications

Sophie Wolker BSc Hons, Communications Co-ordinator

My role here at the EALC is an important one. As Communications Co-ordinator I am responsible for processing all communications to our members via our website, social media sites and email. I believe that it is important that all of our members are kept up to date with the latest news and events happening in our local parish, town and district councils.

I have been living in the Uttlesford area of Essex over nine years. Originating from Londonderry, Northern Ireland - Essex is my 'home from home'. I believe I have wide knowledge of the area and like to participate in as many local events as I can, supporting the local communities.

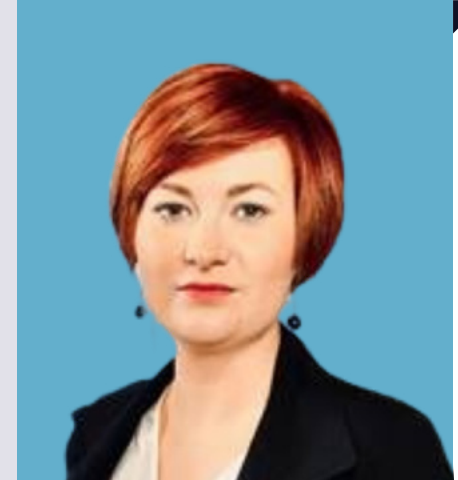
My aim is to be able to move the EALC into the 21st Century. With a background in Business and Marketing, I hope to be able to make information much more accessible to our members- along with streamlining our social media platforms.

Although the sector is quite new to me, I am keen to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of Clerks and Councillors in our local communities and the efforts put in to making sure our districts are safe, happy and thriving.

Future plans for Member Communications include:

- Re-launch of Association's Website including a member login facility;
- a more advanced communications system enabling all enquiries to be answered more quickly and effectively;
- More effective use of social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to circulate information;
- Online booking system for training and events;
- The ability to capture data from performance of our online platforms to improve future use.

Sophie Wolker BSc Hons
Communications Co-ordinator



Legal Services & Member Support

Doing our very best for development of members

Legal summary

The EALC are very proud to continue to provide member support to Clerks and Councillors on various subjects across the sector on a daily basis. Mapping the data has enabled us to understand where member councils need the support most and this means that EALC can work closely with our tutors to introduce new courses for the training programme courses. New course were delivered in 2021 as an outcome of capturing data, delivering specific training on Co-option, Planning and bespoke short courses delivered to individual councils.

Legal statistics

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022 the EALC responded to our members, giving support and guidance over the telephone and email with supporting Legal Topic Notes based on the NALC suit of guidance:

Total amount of legal enquiries - 601

Of these:

555 were resolved by the EALC (93%)
25 were referred to the NALC (4%)
17 were referred to VineHR Ltd (2%)
4 were referred to Essex Legal Services (1%)

The following table represents how many councils received support and guidance in each of the 12 districts of Essex.

Basildon	20	Epping	123
Braintree	94	Maldon	70
Brentwood	14	Rochford	18
Castlepoint	0	Tendring	38
Chelmsford	41	Uttlesford	113
Colchester	72		

Local Council Award Scheme review

During 2021 the EALC continued to support Parish and Town Councils undergo the application process to become accredited with an award at either Foundation, Quality or Quality Gold level.

Congratulations to the following members who have achieved such an award between September 2020 and 2021. We understand how much is involved in achieving this accreditation and in particular the work of the Clerk to the Council. Well done.

Local Council Award Scheme Review

Nine councils which were accredited to 'foundation level'

- Buckhurst Hill Parish Council
- Canewdon Parish Council
- Great Bardfield Parish Council
- Great Notley Parish Council
- Highwood Parish Council
- Hockley Parish Council
- Kelvedon Parish Council
- Marks Tey Parish Council
- The Salings Parish Council

Two councils were accredited to 'quality level'

- Great Baddow Parish Council
- Witham Town Council

Two councils were accredited to 'quality gold' status

- Canvey Island Town Council
- Halstead Town Council

	Foundation	Quality	Quality Gold
National figures July 2022	186	82	65
Essex Figures	40	15	6

The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Essex County Association still leads nationally, achieving the most awards in the country, with Essex attaining a total of 61 member councils achieving an award.



Health & Wellbeing

Creating a healthy culture of resident welfare

This role was unique across the Local Council sector across the country. The role was created to encourage and support the local councils across Essex to understand and engage with Health and Wellbeing. This year EALC have been responding to the increased interest in Climate Change from our members by creating and delivering with the support from our Partners at ECC and input from some of our member councils, a twelve month course covering a multiple of topics on the subject.

As expected building resilience has been a major concern and our members have been evaluating their provision, the provision available across the whole of their parish from other groups and whether this is diverse and inclusive.

EALC have championed and supported the great work being done by our Parish and Town Councils who are engaging with Health and Wellbeing, especially as part of budgeting for their provision and precept. It is important to consider each proposal you put forward not only in terms of climate efficiency but also in health, as in reality they are intrinsically linked.

The EALC created a Health and Wellbeing Board with representation from the local council sector, Councillors, Clerks and the voluntary sector, opening up a dialogue with the Alliances and other Health and Wellbeing Boards across the county, to push to have a Local Council representative member.

Forums were delivered to local councils by District and conferences created with key speakers on varying subjects to support and encourage local councils to at a minimum, signpost but also to create initiatives to support residents.

The EALC's main achievements:

- Delivered sessions on how to become Dementia Friends or dementia-friendly communities.
- Created a resource booklet to promote and support groups across the County.
- Created a Climate Crisis course with ECC with health attributes.
- Supported individual local councils with forums to create a health and wellbeing plan.
- Working with all the Alliances and Integrated Care Services to ensure Local Council representation influencing from the ground up.
- Promoting best practice for Local Councils to use as examples.
- Promoting free partner training.
- Creating conferences on Health Wellbeing, Climate and Youth Engagement.



EALC and Essex Climate Action Commission

How the Parish Sector is Addressing Climate Change in Essex?

EALC are devoted to supporting Climate Change. Our Chair, Cllr Peter Davey, has worked closely with the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) and Essex County Council over the last two years. In November 2021, the ECAC, welcomed Professor Jules Pretty OBE, Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Essex, as the new independent Chair of the Commission. EALC has worked closely with Jules to engage with its members at our conferences dedicated to Climate Change.

EALC have also input into Essex County Council's three Climate Action Advice Packs for Residents, Businesses and Schools, offering a variety of cost-effective, achievable and advantageous solutions and ideas, relevant to different audiences.

You can see the resident's pack here:

www.essexclimate.org.uk/essex-advice-pack

You can see the school's pack here:

www.essexclimate.org.uk/schools-advice-pack

You can see the business pack here:

www.essexclimate.org.uk/essex-business-advice-pack

In July 2021, the Commission published their new report: Net Zero, Making Essex Carbon Neutral, which sets out our recommendations for climate action across the county. It recognises that the natural world is our best ally in reversing climate change. It is key to absorbing and storing carbon. We face ever-increasing risks from our already changing weather systems. More flooding, over-heating, soil degradation,

subsidence and water shortage. As such the report explains that making space for green infrastructure and nurturing our natural world is the best and most effective way to manage and reduce the impacts that will continue to affect all of us. This plan brings together the work of the Commission. You can read the report here: https://ealc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/DS21_7178-ECAC_Commission_Report-Final.pdf

NALC Perspective: Climate Change & Biodiversity

Climate Change is an important topic for all 10,000 local (parish & town) councils in the UK. The National Association of Local Councils are therefore supporting members through a variety of means and are liaising with the ECAC to ensure that where possible and practical, a common approach is achieved. Their bespoke webpage on the issue of climate can be accessed here: www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-change

NALC has set up a Task and Finish Group, which comprises a group of NALC staff, Cllrs and County Association colleagues. The task and finish group aims to create a body of work to support members.

Essex Residents' Climate Advice Pack

Climate Change is one of the most critical issues facing us all. This is what we can all do to help make the difference for us and the generations to come. The Essex Climate Action Commission has therefore released a new advice pack for Essex residents. The advice pack is a collection of key guidance, tips and information to help us all

EALC and Essex Climate Action Commission

Continued

cut our carbon, reduce our impact on the planet and help us, as well as the next generation, to have a better future. So, what are the most effective individual actions that we can take? Surprisingly, the impact of certain activities can be quite different to what many of us might expect. Find out what you can do here: https://ealc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ECAC_Resident_Advice_Pack.pdf

Background

Taking climate action is at the top of Essex County Council's agenda and they intend to make ECC the most sustainable authority in the country. They have already announced:

- The planting of 375,000 trees across the County over the next 5 years, whilst encouraging other organisations to set their own targets. The trees they are planting, which started last year, are expected to capture 60,000 tonnes of carbon.
- That they are replacing streetlights with LEDs
- That they are supporting residents to purchase solar panels, saving 300 tonnes of carbon in year one alone
- That they are encouraging residents to use public transport by improving park and ride services, installing electric vehicle charging and encouraging cycling
- That they are encouraging and developing a 'Green Infrastructure Strategy'
- That they have created 63km of wildflower roadside verges
- And that 90% of materials linked to our highways' works are being recycled

Work Plan: Year One

The Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) considered 6 core areas in the first year:

1. Adapting to an Already Changing Climate
2. Transport
3. The Built Environment
4. Energy
5. Land Use, Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity
6. Community Engagement

Timeline

Now in its second year, the Commission has been monitoring the implementation of recommendations from year one, as well as providing further advice and guidance on an investment plan for Essex as it moves to a sustainable, net-zero economy. Detailed work plans for the Commission will be agreed upon by the Commission periodically.

EALC Climate Change Strategy

The EALC will look at ways the sector can support action on climate change. The chapter will look in detail at:

1. Supporting the concept of creating a plan that can be used by the Local Councils
2. The declaration of a climate change emergency by councils in Essex
3. The development of local groups to support climate change initiatives
4. The sharing of 'best practices' and the featuring of innovation.

Partnerships

Building a thriving service for our councils

nalc



Essex County Council

PFCC
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

National Association of Local Councils

The EALC are affiliated to the NALC, who work on behalf of the councils in Essex to provide services and support, including legal advice and training. The legal services, referrals for desktop advice and the provision of legal topic notes and briefings are available through the website, and are professionally provided by NALC solicitors.

The development team work hard on lobbying government over policy and influencing ministers to achieve the very best for the sector. The strong leadership of the NALC Council and the Chief Executive Officer ensure that the needs, wants and aspirations of our local communities can be achieved.

Essex County Council

For many years, Essex County Council have developed a good working relationship with the EALC and the Town, Parish, Village, and Community Councils of Essex. The partnership continues to grow with new initiatives and the EALC playing a larger role in developing new schemes and ideas.

The EALC has developed due to the continued support of ECC leaders Cllr Kevin Bentley, the newly appointed leader, deputy leader Cllr Louise McKinlay and other County Cllrs who have provided the sector with a range of financial sponsorship and support. The EALC wish to record the membership's thanks for this continued partnership. Together we can make a real difference to our local communities.

Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

When the Commissioner was first introduced into the County's policing family, a strong and supportive partnership has existed between the EALC and the PFCC. Policing and Fire and Rescue are two vital services that support Essex residents to help keep them safe, whilst having a significant impact on community and individual well-being. The EALC are proud to provide the PFCC with links to Essex communities through the EALC's communications infrastructure and fully support the work of the PFCC, the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer.

Partnerships

Building a thriving service for our councils



Essex Legal Services

The EALC has negotiated good rates from Essex Legal Services, enabling the councils in Essex to use commission work that requires a solicitor to act for the council. These services have been used during the last year and councils are encouraged to ask for a quote.



VineHR

The EALC has, through a subscription, provided the membership of VineHR to all our member councils. This is a pay for service, where any member can seek HR support for their council. This is normally at a preferential rate as part of the membership package. Referral must come through the EALC team.



Essex Rural Partnership & Rural Community Council of Essex

The RCCE is an independent charity helping people and communities throughout rural Essex build a sustainable future. They manage the ERP which brings together strategic partnerships in the public, private and voluntary sectors to co-ordinate action on the major economic, social and environmental issues facing rural Essex. Established in 2002 in the wake of the Foot & Mouth crisis, the ERP provides a forum to exchange information to encourage a collaborative responses to important policy issues. It is one of 17 member's of DEFRA's National, Rural & Farming Network, which it has used to engage directly with Government.

**Please see separate document for the
Administrative Information and the Accounts
for the EALC and EA (2013) Ltd**

**Thank you for joining us in person this year,
and for your continued support.**

The 78th AGM of the EALC is kindly sponsored by the CCLA, BHIB, Blachere Illumination, the Police, Fire & Crime Commission and Essex County Council. We wish to thank them all for their continued support.

