

Policy Team

Essex County Council
PO Box 11, County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX



Our Ref: BH/SCA
Date: 16th June 2009

Dear Colleague,

RE: Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Essex County Council is working to prepare submissions to central government under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

This Act allows local authorities to submit proposals to the Secretary of State requesting specific government action to assist them in promoting the economic, social or environmental sustainability of their local communities. There is no limit placed on the number or type of proposals that local authorities can make. Proposals might therefore include suggested changes in legislation or statutory guidance, or the transfer of functions from one body to another.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has defined a process and a timetable for submitting and short-listing proposals. All proposals must be submitted by councils to the Local Government Association (LGA) by 31st July 2009. The LGA will then shortlist proposals based on specific criteria and put this shortlist to the Secretary of State. He will then try to reach agreement with the LGA on which proposals to enact, publishing his decisions and the reasons for these decisions.

We recognise the need to consult partners and colleagues on our proposal ideas. We would like to invite you to give your views on our developing proposals. Details of our proposals, a guide on how to respond and information on the submission process can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/sca. Unfortunately, communications restrictions in the run up to the County Council elections and the government's timetable for submission has severely curtailed the time available for submitting consultation responses. We would therefore request that all responses are returned by 23:59 on 12th July 2009.

It is important that as many partners, community groups and residents contribute to this consultation exercise as possible. We want to make sure we progress those ideas that make the clearest contribution to local sustainability.

Thank you for your support with this work.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Hallam', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brandon Hallam
Director of Policy

Please respond to:

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