

Dear candidate

Thank you for your interest in the role of Director of Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities at Essex County Council.

I joined the council from central government over two years ago where I ran the Levelling Up Task Force under Michael Gove and Andy Haldane. I was attracted by the drive and ambition of Members and officers and the strong commitment to addressing inequalities and levelling up life chances for residents.

I was also attracted by ECC's appetite for innovation and taking a different approach to delivering high quality services. As a prime example of this, we have placed public health within a broader economy and place directorate (called People, Policy, Economy and Public Health), which I lead. We believe that this is the best way to make a long lasting and positive impact on the outcomes of residents, communities and businesses across Essex. We have a real opportunity to be greater than the sum of our parts and develop a systems approach that ensures Essex is the place to live, work and enjoy – now and in the future.

In essence, we want to make public health everyone's business. We therefore need a Director of Public Health who can provide leadership across the system and continue to develop relationships with our many existing partners – including within our complex health partnerships and with our district and unitary councils that make up Greater Essex.

Of course, candidates will need the appropriate public health experience and qualifications – but just as importantly you will also need to fully appreciate the Essex approach and make the most of our structure and ethos to deliver long term health improvements and reduce health inequalities. This is one of the most exciting public health roles in local government; one where you will be able to make your mark, develop your experience, and work with partners, senior officers, elected Members and communities to have a huge influence across the county and beyond.

I look forward to meeting you later on in the process.

Regards

Tom Walker

Executive Director, People, Policy, Economy and Public Health