

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW CHAIRMAN FOR ESSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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John Spence has been appointed Chairman of Essex Community Foundation, the leading independent grant making trust in Essex. He takes over from Charles Clark who remains on the Board of Trustees. John joined the Foundation's Board two years ago and has been chairing the charity's Governance Committee.

A career with Lloyds TSB began in 1973 and concluded in 2005 with John retiring as the Bank's Director of Policy Co-ordination and Risk. Currently, he combines a number of non- executive roles across the private, public and charitable sector, including being Chair of the Audit Committee of HM Revenue and Customs and holding a similar role for the Commissioners of the Church of England.

John's commitment to Essex is extensive. He is Chair of the Harlow Renaissance Ltd, is Vice Chair of the Essex Economic Board and is Chairman of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance.

In 2006, John was awarded an OBE for services to charity & Business in the Community, with whom he is still actively involved; in 2008 he became a Deputy Lieutenant for County of Essex and in 2009 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Education from Anglia Ruskin University.

John lives in Chelmsford with his wife Yvonne.

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For further information contact

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 4,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £15 million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 57 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds values at circa £220 million
- In 2007/08 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £66 million and funded 20,500 voluntary organisations and community groups