Staff's glittering CVs

MARK Briggs is still listed on the council's website as its chief information officer and head of a corporate leadership team.

He joined the council as a consultant in 2006, and was appointed to the chief role in 2009.

He was credited with successfully in-sourcing the IT operation and experience in the USA.

An expert in his field, he was the officer in charge of updating software at 300 council sites, with the money for this only agreed by the council on July 30, and making sure systems were in place to support the £300million transformation.

His wife Victoria, according to a business profile, left Essex County Council as project manager in July after just under two years service.

She was also a solutions development executive and senior programme officer at the council.

Gareth Allen's profile states he is the county's chief architect for information technology and services. It also states he is a consultant at LTM Solutions.

■ Expert – Mark Briggs

County's attempt at saving £300million

ESSEX County Council aims to make more than £300million of efficiency savings by 2013.

It aims to save £150million by buying better, £25million through improved working with partners, £10million by sharing and trading services, working smarter to save £85million and thinking ahead on IT to save a further £40million.

The project has been slammed by union leaders, who blamed it for the loss of 275 line manager posts axed in a bid to cut costs.

A Freedom of Information request last year also revealed County Hall spending on consultants rose from £14.4million in 2005/06 to £25.3million in 2008/09, mainly believed to be down to work on the "transformation" project.