

News from Cllr Diana Collins
Chairman of One Epping Forest

Dear Colleagues

One Epping Forest, our Local Strategic Partnership has continued to work hard over the last few months to deliver on our key priorities.

The new **Mini Observatory**, available at www.oneeppingfrest.org.uk continues to be developed with a wide range of key facts and figures about the district. This information we are told is already helping partners to understand how the district is changing and giving useful data that helps with planning services and making bids for funding. Additional health information has been listed, together with the latest tracker survey of public opinion, and a document which compares the 32 wards in the district against each other and against a basket of information such as crime, demographics and health.

The **Future Jobs Fund**, being lead by the Local Partnerships, is proving particularly successful in Epping Forest. As of the 26 April almost 80% of the 30 jobs in our district had been filled, and young people have started work. Only one post is vacant the others have appointed and are awaiting start dates. This scheme is making a real difference to the young people concerned, giving them training and work experience and giving their employers extra capacity to respond to growing local need. Employers are very satisfied with the talent and attitude of the young people they have appointed. The next round of the scheme with over 90 posts across west Essex has just been given the go ahead by central government, taking the total so far to over 170 placements approved.

The new **Sustainable Community Strategy** is progressing well and a final draft will be circulated in the coming weeks to the public and stakeholders for their views on the new vision and key objectives we have set out to govern our work long term. The objectives have been reduced from over 50 to 11 in line with what people have told us about the need to focus on a smaller number of important things. These cover the four key issues of crime, health, sustainability and young people which have emerged from our consultation.

Two other publications are now available on the One Epping Forest website, the partnerships first **Annual Review** setting out its achievements over the last year, and the **Report of the Annual Stakeholder Conference** held at Theydon Bois Village Hall. The partnership, with colleagues across west Essex has also just launched a **Primary Prize** scheme with primary schools to recognize the talent of our young people and help raise aspirations. This initiative is being supported by 14 schools in Epping Forest. And finally a new **Task and Finish Panel** is just being established by the partnership to look at the critical issue of public transport and access in our district. For more information about any of these initiatives please contact the partnership on 01992 564454.

Cllr. Diana Collins
Chairman One Epping Forest