

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Date: 28 February 2014

Time: 2.00 – 3.20pm

MINUTES

Members Present:

Cllr Chris Whitbread (CWh)
Cllr Richard Bassett (RB)
Dr. Kamal Bishai (KB)
Andy Fusher (AF)
John Houston (JH)
Cllr Helen Kane (HK)

Derek Macnab (DM)

Chairman – LSP Board
Chairman – Lee Valley Food Taskforce
Chairman – Healthier Communities Theme Group
Essex Police (attending for Tracey Harman)
LSP Manager
Assistant Portfolio Holder - Asset Management and
Economic Development (attending for Cllr Grigg)
Deputy Chief Executive EFDC

Apologies:

Quentin Buller
Julie Chandler
Jacqui Foile
Cllr Anne Grigg
Tracey Harman
Cllr Gary Waller

Vice-Chairman Tourism Taskforce
Chairman – Children's Partnership
Vice-Chairman – LSP Board (VAEF)
Chairman– Sustainable Communities Theme Group
Essex Police
Chair – Community Safety Partnership

Also Present:

Vivien Kelly

CSP Support Officer (minute taker)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr Helen Kane, who was attending on behalf of Cllr Anne Grigg. Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

All matters arising from the last meeting would be dealt with under the relevant agenda item.

4. Draft Minutes of the Last LSP Board Meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 13 December 2013 were noted.

5. Draft Agenda for Next LSP Board Meeting

The draft agenda for the next Board meeting on 14 March 2014 was noted.

6. Community Safety Partnership Update

DM gave an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It was noted that a new Domestic Homicide Review – the second in the district, was being carried out. The case concerned a murder which had taken place in Waltham Abbey in October 2013.

Members of the Steering Group expressed concern at a recent article in the local press, which incorrectly reported that Epping Forest and Brentwood had seen the highest number of burglaries in Essex during the last 12 months. Such reports were damaging and increased fear of crime amongst vulnerable residents. DM indicated that discussions would be taking place with the publication concerned, regarding incorrect reporting and negative editorial attitudes. It was unlikely that a retraction would be printed, but the Council was considering submitting a letter for publication, setting out its concerns. AF advised that, prior to publication of the article, he had spoken at length to the journalist concerned and explained that the figures quoted were incorrect.

It was **AGREED** that an item on Community Safety would be included in the agenda for the next Board meeting on 14 March, to present accurate information on levels of crime in the district. **Action: JH/VK**

7. Sustainable Communities Update

The Steering Group noted that the Sustainable Communities Theme Group had not met for some time, due to a lack of administrative support. However, it was hoped that this issue would be resolved shortly.

Cllr Kane presented a report on 'Economic Strategy for the District and Resources', which had been agreed by EFDC's Cabinet on 3 March. The report set out the ten high level themes which would form the basis of an Economic Development Strategy, outlined work which was currently being carried out and identified areas where further work was required in order to fully understand the local economy. The report also referred to the work being undertaken by the Lee Valley Food Taskforce and the initiatives which had been identified by the Tourism Taskforce as the next steps for the development of tourism in the district. It was noted that Cabinet had agreed funding of £30k to support the Food Taskforce and £25k to fund a one year post to support the Tourism Taskforce, which would become a standing committee of One Epping Forest.

With regard to tourism, the Steering Group considered the opportunities offered by the visit of the Tour de France to the district on 7 July 2014 and also noted some of the impacts the race would have on local businesses. These included lost trade due to the closure of roads and Epping market.

JH advised that wider strategic economic development issues also needed to be addressed, including how West Essex issues could be highlighted to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), which covered a very large area. Funding applications for projects in the district had recently been submitted to SELEP.

8. Lee Valley Food Taskforce

Cllr Bassett reported that membership of the Taskforce was widening and now included six local authorities, as well as a range of public and private sector organisations, including the Department for Work and Pensions, the National Farmers Union and representatives of the local food-growing industry. The work of the Taskforce was focussing on several different strands, including the provision of training to assist local people to find employment in the food-growing industry and the development of consistent policies for the development of glasshouses. A Food Summit was planned for September 2014.

JH advised that funding of £10k had been received from the London Borough of Enfield to support the work of the Taskforce and a bid for further funding had been submitted to SELEP.

9. Children's Partnership Update

DM presented an update on the work of the Children's Partnership, including the progress of the Epping Forest Youth Strategy Group (EFYSG). At its last meeting in December 2013, the Partnership had agreed three key priorities for action:

- Young people - improving their engagement within the wider community and employment opportunities;
- Early years and parenting – skills training to help support families with young children; and
- Safeguarding - improving safeguarding awareness and access to training

Other issues raised at the meeting had included concerns regarding:

- The effects of domestic abuse on children's behaviour in school and the need for schools to be made aware of such family related issues;
- Difficulties reported by schools in accessing support for pupils from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS);
- Difficulties faced by schools in releasing staff to attend safeguarding training.

Following a consultation exercise at the end of 2013, Essex County Council had agreed to reduce the level of proposed cuts to the Youth Service and had promised ongoing, targeted provision and support for community groups. It was therefore hoped that EFYSG would be able to continue its work supporting local youth provision and, in particular, the successful Epping Forest Youth Futures project, for a further year.

AF advised that Essex Police could offer assistance with Safeguarding training.

10. Healthier Communities Group Update

KB advised that a meeting would be held shortly with the Chief Officer of West Essex CCG to discuss how the Healthier Communities Group could work with the CCG. Once this had been established, the group would become more active.

11. LSP Manager's Report

JH reported on the following issues:

Investors in Youth Awards

An officer group was currently planning the awards event, which would take place in November and would be attended by Eleanor Laing MP. Support for the event was being sought from local businesses.

Annual Stakeholder Conference

The conference had been due to take place on 21 February but had been postponed due to a lack organisational support. A new date had yet to be arranged and the original subject of 'Welfare Reforms' was no longer considered appropriate. When help could be found to organise the event, it would take the form of a 'State of the District' conference, to review progress on the issues being dealt with by the LSP's theme groups and taskforces.

Superfast Broadband

The Superfast Essex Broadband initiative would be holding a Superfast Business Breakfast in April. Essex County Council had received £10m of funding to roll out the superfast broadband programme across the county but match funding was needed. The provision of superfast broadband was important to businesses and also to health care providers, as it would enable the introduction of new services such as consultations by Skype.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 23 May 2014 at 2:00pm in the Chief Executive's Office, Civic Offices, Epping.

Actions from this Meeting

01	Item on Community Safety to be included in agenda for Board meeting on 14 March.	JH/VK
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