



TERMS OF REFERENCE WEST ESSEX PARTNERSHIP (WEP)

PURPOSE

The Local Strategic Partnerships for Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford exist to promote and enhance the economic, social and environmental well being of their communities. The three LSP's have come together in the West Essex Partnership (WEP) to examine new opportunities for joint working across existing boundaries that will help them enhance 'value for money' and better deliver on behalf of their communities individually and collectively.

The partners believe that communities in all three areas suffer many similar problems, the geography and demographics suggest similar opportunities, and core service providers are facing similar challenges in terms of efficiency, cost reductions and maintaining service quality, particularly to vulnerable groups.

The partnership understands that by acting in concert more can be achieved for communities in the three areas than can be delivered acting in isolation. The partnership is interested in exploring those areas where a cross border approach can add real value to quality of life to the communities we serve, while acknowledging that not all areas experience the same problems or pressures equally, and that each LSP will remain the prime vehicle for leading partnership work in their own area.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Following objectives have been identified as a basis for developing partnership work across the West Essex area:

Examine opportunities for attracting external funds and investment

Championing the needs of West Essex with key opinion formers/stakeholders and government at a county, regional and national level

Promote and identify opportunities for innovation, shared services and best practice, pooled budgets and engagement with Total Place management

Develop research/data capacity and methods of access and exchange and clarity of 'Story of place' in a West Essex context

Develop a forum for problem solving and enhancing cross boundary working with key stakeholders.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The WEP will comprise, in the first instance, the Chairs of the LSP's and be supported by the three LSP managers. Other key stakeholders will be invited to become involved as appropriate in achieving the objectives highlighted above.

It will meet no less than quarterly, with meetings hosted by each authority on a rolling basis. Agendas will be agreed in advance by all three partners. WEP will receive performance management reports on those programmes/schemes it has initiated. Key stakeholders may be asked to present on their work on an ongoing basis including county and regional government agencies, or request items for inclusion on the agendas in relation to the above objectives.

Adopted 11/11/09