

## Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel Agenda



### **Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Panel Wednesday, 25th October, 2006**

**Place:** Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Democratic Services Officer:** Simon Hill - Research and Democratic Services  
Tel: 01992 564249 email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

**Members:**

Councillors Mrs M Sartin (Chairman), Mrs P Smith (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Clapp, Mrs A Cooper, J Demetriou, Mrs J Lea, A Lee, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse

**MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING TO THE MEETING THEIR PACK ON THE  
LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

**A PRE – MEETING OF THE PANEL WILL BE HELD AT 7.00 PM**

---

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

**4. NOTES OF LAST MEETING - 27 SEPTEMBER 2006 (Pages 5 - 10)**

Attached.

**5. TERMS OF REFERENCE/WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 11 - 14)**

Attached.

**6. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT - PRESENTATION FROM MR RICHARD PULESTON, HEAD OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND REGENERATION, ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL. (Pages 15 - 18)**

(Joint Chief Executive (Community)). To consider the attached report.

Together with this agenda, Members of the Panel should also have received a separate pack containing the following documents. Members will need to bring these to the meeting for consideration.

- (i) A copy of the Local Area Agreement for Essex;
- (ii) A copy of a Local Area Agreement organisation chart produced for the Local Strategic Partnership which shows the four blocks of the Local Area Agreement, which priorities they include and how the Local Strategic Partnership is currently managing them. Some changes may come about now that the Children's and Young Persons Strategic partnership (CYPSP) has been adopted as the 8<sup>th</sup> strand of the LSP.
- (iii) A copy of a letter received from the County Council Chief Executive.

**7. TRAINING SESSIONS - FEEDBACK**

To receive feedback from Councillor Mrs Penny Smith on the LSP training course run by the East England Regional Assembly on 3 October 2006.

**8. LSP CONFERENCE REPORTS (Pages 19 - 24)**

To consider the attached notes of the following conferences:

- New Local Government Network LSP Conference 2006 – Shaping the future of Local Services (14 June 2006)
- Local Government Association Conference – Local Strategic Partnerships – Ready to Govern? (14 July 2006)

To assist Marina Sheriff (Community Strategy and Partnership Manager) and Chris Overend (EFDC Policy and Research Officer) will be present to report and answer questions.

**9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

TBA

This page is intentionally left blank

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF A MEETING OF LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH**  
**PANEL**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2006**  
**IN CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING**  
**AT 7.30 - 9.15 PM**

**Members Present:** Mrs M Sartin (Chairman), Mrs P Smith (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Cooper, Mrs J Lea and Mrs J H Whitehouse

**Other members present:**

**Apologies for Absence:** Mrs S Clapp, J Demetriou, A Lee and J M Whitehouse

**Officers Present** J Scott (Joint Chief Executive), A Hall (Head of Housing Services), J Preston (Head of Planning and Economic Development), C Overend (Policy & Research Officer) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant)

**Also in attendance:** Marina Sherriff (Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership), Francis Haste (Fit for Life) and Matt Roberts (Green and Unique)

---

## **13. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

None reported.

## **14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor Mrs M Sartin declared a general personal interest by virtue of being one of the Council's Member representatives on the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership. She declared that her interest was not prejudicial and she would remain in the meeting.

## **15. NOTES OF 24 JULY 2006 MEETING**

Noted.

## **16. TERMS OF REFERENCE/WORK PROGRAMME**

The Joint Chief Executive (Community) anticipated that none of the items should require funding bids. In relation to item 10 it was envisaged that the recommendations of the Panel once drafted would be reported to the LSP Board for consideration and comments. It was envisaged that the review would aim for completion in May 2007 to take effect in the new Council year.

Agreed that a review of the Local Area Agreement be timetabled into the programme.

## **17. DISCUSSION WITH CHAIRMEN OF ACTION GROUPS AND REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Joint Chief Executive (Community) reminded the Panel that at its last meeting, members requested a discussion with the Chairmen of the various LSP Action Groups to explain their role, membership, relationship with the main Board and

Steering Group and identify how District Members might become more involved in the process.

Accordingly, he welcomed to the meeting, the District Council's Head of Housing Services (Chairman of the Homes and Neighbourhoods Action Group), the Head of Planning and Economic Development, (Chairman of the Economic Prosperity Group), Francis Haste of the District PCT, (Chairman of Fit for Life), and Matt Roberts of the Corporation of London (Chairman of Green and Unique). He also welcomed Marina Sheriff the Community Strategy and Partnership Manager.

#### **(a) Overview**

Marina Sherriff reported some background to her role, the duties performed and current projects.

(i) she advised that she had held the role for over three years and was the first appointee to the position. Her contract lay with Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF) therefore some of her duties was around working with this agency including attending team meetings, line management and staff working groups. She was supported by and worked closely with the LSP, Partnership Action Groups, the Children and Young Peoples Services Partnership (CYPSP) and the Crime and Reduction Partnership (CDRP);

(ii) she had supported special events held by the Epping Forest College and was involved in an event at Oakwood Hill, Loughton to be held this week. With the Green and Unique Action Group, she had assisted with the organisation of the Buckhurst Hill Fair and would be working on another seminar with the Action Group. She had also supported special one off projects such as a recent youth community conference and the six month health challenge supported by Sports Management Ltd.;

(iii) she sat on the LSP Steering Board, the Local Area Agreement Groups, provided updates on the East of England Plan, attended meetings of the LSP Chairmen and had been involved in arranging the Partnerships annual conference. She referred to the LSP away day and what it involved. Her role was also to provide external links for the LSP;

(vi) she worked to coordinate the current LSP Action Plan and ensure that the targets secured effective outcomes and were 'smart'. A review would be carried out to prioritise the aims to ensure they added real value to LSP work. She explained that the Community Strategy comprised two parts. One was a set of long term visions. The other was a 'living action plan'. There might be a need to make changes in response to the need for sustainability. There was an LSP website and steps would be taken to publicize events

The Head of Planning and Economic Development highlighted some of Marina's key achievements specifically in relation to promoting and raising awareness of the District LSP at a regional level.

It was recognised that Marinas post was funded by the partnership through contributions. It was suggested that consideration should be given to providing more support for the partnership from both the Council and the other constituent agencies.

In response to questions, Ms Sherriff referred to the government consultation paper seeking to pass responsibility for LSPs to Local Councils. She stated that the partnership greatly benefited from the perception that it was independent and

envisaged that this would continue into the future. It was also acknowledged that the Health Services and PCT had been strongly involved in partnership working. Aidan Thomas the Chief Executive of the Epping Forest PCT supported joint working had worked to ensure that his directorate was locally focused and not diluted by the newly enlarged West Essex PCT.

#### **(b) Homes and Neighbourhoods**

The Head of Housing Services, the Chairman of the Homes and Neighbourhoods Action Group reported on the history and work of the group. He advised that as Chairman he sat on the LSP steering group. An important aim of the forum was to identify and seek to address any overlap on services. The group comprised twelve members including the Housing Association, the Tenants and Leaseholders Association and the Essex County Council. Last years meetings were attended by EFDC Portfolio Holders. He referred to the type of issues considered by the group. Discussions had explored the East of England Plan and the alterations to the Housing Chapter of the Local Plan. The group also monitored progress with the delivery of affordable housing and the housing aims of the LAA. The group discussed their action plan setting out the actions required to meet the relevant objectives in the Community Strategy which were listed. The Action Groups Housing Association Partners had agreed to jointly fund the groups website. At the forthcoming conference, the Homes and Neighbourhoods table would be looking to identify issues for consideration when exploring future housing numbers and locations.

The Chairman of the Group acknowledged that, as a great deal of joint working was carried out in housing services outside the LSP, its members might not benefit as much as some of the other participant groups from the collective approach afforded by the partnership. On the other hand, the group did allow partners to understand each other issues and the user point of view. Furthermore, the group had changed thinking on issues like the alterations to the Housing Chapters of the Local Plan.

The Group had liaised with the Housing Association existing Tenants and the Tenants and Leaseholder Federation to input into and support homelessness initiatives.

It was clarified that central government would only consider bids that had been commented upon and agreed by the LSP.

#### **(c) Fit for Life**

Francis Haste, the Chairman of the Fit for Life Action Group reported on her work. She advised that she had chaired the forum since January this year. Its membership comprised Voluntary Action Epping Forest, Leisure Services, Mental Health Charities, schools representatives and groups representing others aspects of mental health. The main focus of the group was around the development and provision of local services, improving preventative services, promoting healthier lifestyles and integration for a seamless service. The group had five LAA targets. The group were currently undertaking projects around healthy living and with the VAEF had considered a number of funding bids for projects. The group had applied for funding to support a parenting support initiative in Waltham Abbey.

The group liaised with other organisations to stop any duplication of work. The Head of Planning and Economic Development advised that he had met with Francis to support this aim. He advised that within the LAA there was an expectation that planning policy would incorporate policies for health improvement. The partnership

had raised the credibility of this. Moreover the LSP local network had provided groups with new contacts which should facilitate the achievement of this aim.

In response, Francis undertook to identify the services available for disabled adults. Consideration was being given to formalising the relationship between Children's and Young Peoples Partnership (CYPSP) and the LSP. It was possible that they could become the eight strand of the partnership.

**(d) Green and Unique**

Matt Roberts of Green and Unique reported his views. He advised that he had only recently taken on the Chairmanship of the group. He expressed support for the past achievements of his group and successful outcome achieved by others. He reported that he had relayed such positive information back to the Corporation of London and recommended that priority be given to his group. In his view the issue was not so much about what was done but how it was achieved. In terms of activities, he advised that the group worked with agencies such as the Lee Valley Park, the Environment Agency, DEFRA, Natural England. Approaches had been made to farmer and County landowner groups who were currently not represented to invite their involvement.

The group was involved in the North East Green Arc for London and held quarterly meetings. It was recommended that the Director of this latter project be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give a presentation.

Matt reported that at the forthcoming LSP conference, the group he would be chairing would consider the problem of litter. He expressed a commitment to identifying the cause of problems and recognised that litter and the cleanness of streets affected the wellbeing of the community.

The Policy and Research Officer reported that the Panel might wish to consider whether Portfolio Holders should become more involved in the partnership and proposals for this.

**(e) Economic Prosperity**

The Head of Planning and Economic Development reported on the work of his group. He reported the membership of the group included Business Link for Essex, the Epping Forest Learning Partnership, the EFDC Town Centre Manager. There was a high turnover of attendees at meetings. The Partnership had enabled his planning services team to build up a regular network of contacts which they might not have been aware of otherwise. He reported the business conducted by the group meeting held on 16 May 2006.

In terms of the aims for enhancing Town Centres, it was reported that the Council's Town Centre manager, Shona Pollack was initially appointed to develop the Town Centres around the Loughton Sainsbury's store where she was based, Loughton High Road, Loughton Broadway and Buckhurst Hill. However, as her contract progressed, she had become involved with the other three town centres in the District and worked to the principle that her work must not adversely affect these centres. The contract however was coming to an end. Shona was involved in a range of community activities. It was clarified that she worked within Planning Services and amongst other things imputed into the process for updating the Council's planning policies.



A member suggested that the Town Centre Partnerships should involve a wider range of interests such as voluntary groups. The view was expressed that the communication arrangements between the Members on the partnership and other Members needed to be improved. The meeting noted recent activities to facilitate the provision of 2012 Olympic events and hospitality arrangement. It was suggested that emphasis should be placed on existing facilities rather than new ones and that there should be collaboration to identify the District's aspirations in this respect and that a more reactive approach should be taken.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chairmen of the Action Groups be thanked for their presentations on the work of their groups.

**18. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Noted that the next meeting had been arranged for 25 October 2006 at 7.30 in CR1.

It was noted that the next meeting of the LSP Board would be held on 28 October 2006 at 2.00pm at the Civic Offices, Epping.

It was noted that the next meeting would consider the Local Area Agreement

Marina Sheriff reported that she wished to attend all future meetings on the Panel and would be added to the agenda distribution list.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Term of Reference:**

To consider the set up and operation of the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership and formulate recommendations on its future in light of the government consultation paper 'Local Strategic Partnerships: Shaping their Future' and the Local Government White Paper expected in November 2006.

**Aims and Objectives**

1. To identify the purpose of the Epping Forest LSP, its work, structure, way in which it is held to account, current strengths and weaknesses and the partner agencies involved.
3. To consider the current and future role and involvement of the Council.
4. To consider the nature of the work to be carried out by the Partnership including how the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy is to be linked into the Local Planning Development Framework and other local plans in the context of the government guidance.
5. To consider who should be involved in the organisation, who should attend meetings; ways to increase involvement from residents and groups and publicity arrangements for initiatives.
6. To review the Local Area Agreement and how it should be implemented locally.
7. To consider the District LSP's relationship with the County and other LSP's in the region.
8. To consider available resources, secretariat support, performance monitoring targets and arrangements.
9. To consider how to ensure greater Portfolio Holder and 'back bench' Member involvement in the Partnership and the future role for Scrutiny.
10. To consult and agree with the partner agencies any recommendations for change.
11. To identify by the end of September 2006 any recommendations that require extra spending.
12. To consider the Council's involvement with other Partnerships and how any issues identified could be applied to these relationships

TASK AND FINISH PANEL PLANNING FORM:

**Information required:**

Epping Forest LSP Community Strategy 2004-2020  
 LAA – updated copy of Local Area Agreement  
 LSP response to consultation paper  
 Induction pack for new Members  
 Details of Structure showing relationship of LSP Board to Steering Group and Action Groups and Membership of each.  
 Constitution Terms of Reference for LSP Board, Steering Group and Action Group.

<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>ESTIMATED</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
Commencement	July 2006	
Finish		
Report.	May 2007	

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH PANEL: WORK PROGRAMME

Proposed Date	Item	Current Position
24 June 2006	Scoping and Terms of Reference setting.	Terms of reference and work plan formulated
30 August 2006	Discussion with LSP – Chief Executive David Butler, Aiden Thomas and Marina Sheriff	
27 September 2006	Discussion with EFDC officers involved in LSP sub - groups and representatives of partner groups.	
25 October 2006	Local Area Agreement	

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Report to LSP Task and Finish Panel**

**Date of meeting: 25 October 2006**

**Subject: Local Area Agreement for Essex**

**Officer contact for further information: John Scott (01992 564050)**

**Democratic Services Officer: Zoe Folley (01992 564532)**

---

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. To receive a presentation from Mr Richard Puleston, Head of Community Planning and Regeneration, Essex County Council.**
- 2. To note the current situation in relation to the Local Area Agreement for Essex and the part this Council has agreed to play**
- 3. To determine the issues the Panel wishes to take into account in its review of the workings of the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership from the Council's perspective in the light of the Government's Consultation Paper and the achievement of the Local Area Agreement**

### **Report:**

One of the aims and objectives of the Task and Finish Panel is to review the Local Area Agreement for Essex and how it should be implemented locally.

The Local Area Agreement for Essex was negotiated with the Government during 2005 and a Task and Finish Panel of the District Council met on 28 November 2005 to consider how the Council should respond.

Council at its meeting on 21 February 2006 resolved to support the principles in the Local Area Agreement in general, since all of the 14 priorities could bring about benefits for the population of the Epping Forest District. In particular Council agreed to target its activities on the following 5 priorities:

- **Priority 3** – Ensure development is designed to promote healthier living in the built environment.

There are two targets:

- All local authorities will ensure that their local development frameworks contain a policy requiring health impact assessments for relevant planning applications by 2009; and
  - The number of new homes built to the Lifetime Homes Standard in each borough/district will be a minimum 3% of annual completions by 2009.
- **Priority 8** – Keep vulnerable children and young people safe.

There are three targets:

- Increase the proportion of young adults leaving care who have their accommodation needs met to 55.5%.
  - Reduce the number of children and young people who have been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour by reducing the number of recorded selected (non-minor) crimes where the victim is aged 0 -19 by 3% year on year until 2009.
  - Reduce offending by children and young people by increasing positive attitudes and behaviours amongst those at risk of offending, especially 8-13 years old, including by increasing the use of Acceptable behaviour Contracts by 15%.
- **Priority 10** – Reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime.

There are four targets:

- Reduce drug and alcohol use by children and young people (measured by reduction in traders who will supply alcohol to young people, reduced re-offending by young people involving drugs or alcohol and reduction in substance misuse among young offenders and care leavers) and increase the number of adult drug users in treatment;
  - Reduction in crime from 2004 baseline by 16.5% across the new Essex area;
  - Reduction in fear of crime;
  - Increase charge and caution (sanction detection) rates for perpetrators of domestic violence as a proportion of the total number of domestic violence incidents recorded by the Police.
- **Priority 11** – Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

There is one target:

- Reduction in perceived anti-social behaviour (as measured by survey) from 32.2% in 2003/4 to 29% in 2008/9/
- **Priority 12** – Actively manage our environment.

There are three targets:

- Reduce or limit the increase in size of Essex's ecological footprint in terms of household waste collected per head of population and CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from domestic energy use and car travel;
- Maximise recycling and composting of household waste (BVPI 82a and 82b);



- Improve the cleanliness of and public satisfaction with Essex Gateway areas and adjoining lands based on BV 199a and BV89;

Progress against these targets is measured via the LAA process and is overseen within our Council by the Performance Management Unit and reported to Members along with Best Value Performance Indicators and Local Performance Indicators.

Since Council has resolved to sign up to the Local Area Agreement and chosen its priorities as outlined above, it is assumed that the task for this panel is to review the process in relation to the Council's participation in the Local Strategic Partnership.

To that end, Members of the Panel will receive:

- A copy of the Local Area Agreement for Essex;
- A copy of a Local Area Agreement organisation chart produced for the local Strategic Partnership which shows the four blocks of the Local Area Agreement, which priorities they include and how the Local Strategic Partnership is currently managing them.

Some changes may come about now that the Children's and Young Persons Strategic partnership (CYPSP) has been adopted as the 8<sup>th</sup> strand of the LSP.

- A copy of a letter received from the County Council Chief Executive under the heading LAA update.

Mr Richard Puleston, Head of Community Planning and Regeneration for Essex County Council has kindly agreed to accept the invitation from the Panel to attend this meeting in order to give a short presentation on the Local Area Agreement to advise Members on the current position and to answer questions.

This page is intentionally left blank

To: Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership

From: Marina Sherriff, Community Strategy & Partnerships Manager

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006

Title: New Local Government Network LSP Conference 2006: Shaping the Future of Local Services, Wednesday 14th June 2006, Barbican Centre, London EC2 and Local Government Association Conference – Local Strategic Partnerships: Ready to Govern?, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2006, Smith Square, London SW1

## 1.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 This report has been written to provide LSP members with an overview of the discussions and presentations that took place at these conferences and to outline the recommendations that were made.

## 2.0 PROCEDURE

- 2.1 Evidence for this report was collected in the following ways:
- 2.1.1 Note taking by Marina Sherriff and Chris Overend
  - 2.1.2 Copies of presentations

## 3.0 CONFERENCE CONTENT - Shaping the Future of Local Services

### 3.1 Session One – Shaping the Future

#### Shaping the Future of LSPs

*Cllr Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart OBE, Chairman, Local Government Association*

#### Keynote Address

*Phil Woolas MP, Minister for Local Government & Community Cohesion, Department for Communities and Local Government*

### 3.2 Session Two - Governance

#### Panel Discussion

*John Findlay, Chief Executive, National Association of Local Councils (NALC)*

*Carol James, Head of Strategic Projects & LSP Co-ordinator, Bolton LSP*

*Toby Blume, Chief Executive, Urban Forum*

*Dr Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council*

### 3.3 Session Three - Seminars

- *Outcomes from the DCLG Consultation*
- *Sustainable Community Strategies*
- *LSPs and Neighbourhood Engagement*
- *The Impact of Local Area Agreements*

### 3.4 Session Four - Accountability

#### Panel Discussion

*John Hemming, MP for Yardley*

*Cllr Sir David Williams CBE, Vice Chair, Improvement Board, LGA*

*Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)*

### 3.5 Session Five - Capacity

#### Closing the Skills Gap

*Professor Peter Roberts, Chair, Academy for Sustainable Communities*

#### Capacity Building

*Henry Peterson, Consultant to the Local Government Association*

### 3.6 Session Six - Seminars

- *Two-Tier Authority Working*
- *Lyons Inquiry: Lessons from LSPs*
- *Better Performance Management*

3.7 Briefing papers on the majority of the above are available on request from Marina Sherriff.

3.8 Hard copies of presentation slides available, on request from Marina Sherriff, on the following:

- Sustainable Community Strategies: Case study from Manchester LSP
- Sustainable Community Strategies: Case study from Basingstoke and Deane LSP
- Engaging with Rural Communities – South East Cornwall LSP
- The Impact of Local Area Agreements – Department for Communities & Local Government
- The Impact of Local Area Agreements – London Borough of Waltham Forest
- Closing the Skills Gap – Academy for Sustainable Communities
- Capacity Building – Local Government Association

- Better Performance Management - Department for Communities & Local Government
- Two-Tier Authority Working – Lancashire County Council

Also available are speaker biographies.

#### 4.0 CONFERENCE CONTENT – LSPs: Ready to Govern?

##### 4.1 Session One

###### The LGA Vision for LSPs

*Cllr Sir Simon Milton, Chairman, LGA Improvement Board*

##### 4.2 Session Two

###### The Government's Proposals in the context of the White Paper

*Catherine Doherty, Department of Communities and Local Government*

##### 4.3 Session Three

###### Political Leadership in LSPs

*Stephen Bullock, Elected Mayor of Lewisham and Chair of Lewisham LSP*

*Cllr Margaret Eaton, Bradford Metropolitan Council*

*Dorothy Thornhill, Elected Mayor of Watford Borough Council*

##### 4.4 Session Four

###### Community & Voluntary Sector and Neighbourhood Involvement in LSPs and approaches for effective partnership working

*Neil Cleveley, Director of Information and Policy, National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service*

##### 4.5 Session Five

###### LSPs in Two-Tier areas and city regions

*Louise Richardson, Head of Policy, Stockport City Council*

*Sally Richardson, Senior Policy Officer, Lancashire County Council*

- 4.6 Notes taken at this conference are available on request from Chris Overend.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CONFERENCES

5.1 There are many changes in the near future for LSPs. Shared objectives, achieved through partnership working, will solve problems, giving more power from Government to Local Authorities and helping the Government become more 'joined up'.

5.2 There were mixed thoughts among those in attendance as to whether the Council should lead or chair LSPs but a duty to co-operate from all members and accountability is crucial.

5.3 LSPs need to bring major players together, be inclusive and have solid neighbourhood structures. Youth councils and interfaith forums were highlighted as necessities to community engagement.

5.4 Generally, it was thought that it is important for people to know about their LSP in order to be involved and engaged. Local initiatives bring people in.

5.5 VCS engagement is particularly difficult – the sector is complex and groups need time for deliberation.

Predictability with LSP funding is essential, as is sharing finances between partners.

5.6 The role of the LSP needs to be clearer as does the role of Councillors within LSPs – some are engaged, some are not.

5.7 LSPs need to define their own structure – there is no ‘one size fits all’.

5.8 LSPs will need a different set of skills when making the shift into delivery e.g. implementation, negotiation, performance management. LSPs will also require sustainable community strategy skills and knowledge or they will struggle to engage their communities. LSPs are the way forward but are not yet ‘fit for purpose’.

5.9 Capacity is a big problem for LSPs and few are resourced for the new role of delivery that they will be undertaking. Staff support is limited and turnover is high.

5.10 Establishing clear roles and responsibilities in two-tier areas can be problematic. A county partnership can address issues that have no clear ownership as well as regional issues.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Once the results from the consultation paper ‘LSPs: Shaping their future’ has been published, the LSP should hold an away day to plan for the way forward, building on the Partnership Improvement Plan, for example:

6.1.1 LSP structure and membership

6.1.2 Performance management

6.1.3 Delivery

6.1.4 Local initiatives

6.1.5 Finance

6.1.6 Partnership agreements

6.1.7 Accountability

6.1.8 Skills shortages

6.1.9 Admin support

6.2 Discussions should be held on re-establishing the Epping Forest Youth Council. Also, looking at an Interfaith Forum and other means of engaging local people.

6.3 The LSPs VCS representative, working with the Community Strategy and Partnerships Manager, should explore ways in which the VCS can become more involved with the LSP and make recommendations.

6.4 The LSP should continue to develop its relationship with GO-East, the regional LSP network, Essex County Council and the Essex Partnership, retaining its strong presence at meetings and events.

6.5 The LSP should discuss developing its relationship with both district and local councillors, particularly Portfolio Holders and Scrutiny, and how this can be achieved.

This page is intentionally left blank