

REPORT TO: EPPING FOREST LSP BOARD
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LSP ACTIVITY
AUTHOR: LSP MANAGER
DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To apprise LSP Board Members of the discussions, key actions and decisions of the Steering Group meeting, Chairs actions and latest developments.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That LSP Board members comment on and endorse the actions and decisions set out in this report and agree to:
- i) Identify a new T&F Team, to replace those reporting, in the area of Shared Services and to explore with partners the opportunity to make this a joint review across West Essex.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest steering Group meeting on 27th August discussed a range of issues (minutes attached). Key outcomes and latest activities are set out below
- i) Changes were agreed to the running order of the Board agenda, reducing the time spent on operational discussions relating to Theme groups and allowing more time for general discussion and strategic items. Reports from the Theme groups will now be combined in this report.
 - ii) The Aspire to Perform report was discussed. The outcomes of the review were favourable. A detailed report will be presented to the Board for discussion.
 - iii) Final reports were received from the Credit Crunch and Improving communications Task and Finish Teams which were commended and passed to the Board for discussion and endorsement.
 - iv) It was agreed that new Task and Finish teams should be established. Given concerns about future reductions in public services, it was suggested that opportunities for better joint working/ shared services across West Essex should be explored to protect services and achieve efficiency savings.
 - v) The membership and draft terms of reference for the two new Theme Groups, Healthier Communities and Sustainable Communities were discussed and passed to the Board for final confirmation (see attached.)
 - vi) An initial meeting of West Essex LSP Chairs including lead officers from Harlow, Uttlesford and Epping Forest has been held to discuss areas of potential cooperation and better joint working. It has been agreed to meet quarterly and develop closer working relations where possible and desirable. Initial draft terms of reference for West Essex strategic partnership are being drawn up. This would not replace existing local partnerships but complement their activities.

- vii) Plans for submitting a Future Jobs Fund bid from partners across West Essex are at an advanced stage being led by West Essex Strategic Partnership. Over 60 job opportunities have been identified, amounting to 120+ placements and generating in excess of £700k in jobs funding in West Essex. The first bid will be submitted to government by the end of September.
- viii) Steps to re-establish the Waltham Abbey Young Peoples Information Centre (WAYPIC) were endorsed.
- ix) Following a successful visit from the Audit Commission to see the District and its partnership activity, it was agreed that a similar event should be organized for the Locality team at Go East.
- x) The large number of LAA Performance Indicators the Partnership will have regard to has been reduced from 63 to 25 (see appendix on attached Steering Group minutes.) This enables a more focused overview while awaiting the agreement of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Since that time the Essex Strategy has also reduced its key outcomes from 65 to 45.
- xi) The next Board Awayday has been agreed for February and a draft programme adopted.
- xii) It has been agreed to provide support to a 'Beat the Recession - Boost Sales' seminar on 22nd October at Theydon Bois Village Hall which was recommended by the Credit Crunch T&F.
- xiii) The Sustainable Community Strategy Task and Finish Team has confirmed its consultation plan for engaging key local groups and stakeholders. This includes a stakeholder conference on 11th December.
- xiv) Latest reports from the safer communities Theme group show overall crime down 4% but burglary rising significantly (see attached monitoring report.) A 'Face the Public' event is planned for November.
- xv) The review of Children's Trusts (CYPSPs) is nearing completion and a presentation has been requested for the Board to examine in particular how the new arrangements will work in practice in Epping Forest.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Since the last meeting of the Board, the new structure has become fully operational as the Sustainable Communities and Healthier communities Theme groups have been established and met. Two Task and finish Teams have been established, met and reported within the last six months. A new West Essex dimension to partnership working is being actively investigated and plans are at an advanced stage for a bid of £700k for employment support by LSPs. The new Logo and identity will be implemented as part of the SCS consultation.