

BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (PACT – ‘PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER’) – REFOCUS AND RESTRUCTURE - PROPOSALS
Agenda Item 4a

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Background Papers:-

- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The statutory guidance ‘Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities’ published in July 2008
- Guidance for effective partnership working from the Audit Commission as outlined in ‘Bridging the Accountability Gap’ published in 2006
- The 2nd Essex Local Area Agreement (Liberating Potential) and the governance arrangements for the Essex Partnership (see the Essex Partnership web site at www.essexpartnership.org (Key Documents / LAA Governance Paper)
- Comprehensive Area Assessment – Joint Inspectorate Consultation – November 2007
- Comprehensive Area Assessment – Consultation Feedback and Next Steps – May 2008

Financial Implications:- None

Equalities Implications:- None

Legal Implications:- None

Options: The report is presented for consultation purposes

Risks: The Local Strategic Partnership needs to be fit for purpose. Local authorities are increasingly being judged on their ability to work in partnership and the new Comprehensive Area Assessment will focus on achievement of outcomes in local area through effective partnership working. This is included as a category C2 risk in the Council’s current Strategic Risk Register.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached paper was presented to the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Executive on July 22nd. It sets out proposals for the future effective operation and management of the LSP and an associated restructure of the current arrangements. It recommends:

1. That the proposed structure, membership and working arrangements set out in the report be referred to each of the partnership boards, the statutory partners and other key stakeholders for consideration and feedback to Braintree District Council’s Head of Corporate Policy by **5th September 2008**.
2. For clarity, the LSP be re-named the ‘Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership’ and that the expression ‘Partners and Communities Together’ be only used for the Assembly meetings

Members of the Executive were asked to focus in particular on the following questions:

1. Does the new structure appear to be fit for purpose from your perspective. If not, how does it need to change?
2. Is the membership and role of the LSP Executive appropriate? Should it be increased to include a representative from the Police Authority and a Non-Executive Director from the Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust?
3. Is the membership of the Steering Group appropriate and representative - and is its proposed role appropriate? If not please explain why.
4. Are the proposed terms of reference of the Executive and the Steering Group appropriate? If not, how do they need to change and/or what should be added?
5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions to make?

Comments received to date as part of the consultation process include:

- The fact that the LSP Executive needs to consist of the most senior representatives of the involved organisations.
- That the Executive should be increased to allow for two co-opted Members who live or work within the Braintree District and make, or could make, a significant different to the District by participating in the LSP Executive.
- Approaches have been made by the Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Greenfields Community Housing Association and ECC's Adult Health and Community Well-being Service to increase their participation in the LSP at strategic level as well as at Partnership Board level

DECISION

No decision is required. This is a consultation document. Members are asked to feed back their comments to the Head of Corporate Policy by the 5th September 2008.

Final proposals will be presented to the next meeting of the LSP Executive on the 9th September.

Refocus and Restructure of the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership July 2008 – Executive Summary

This paper sets out proposals for the future effective operation and management of the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and an associated restructure of the current arrangements

The proposed overall structure is shown in the chart at **Appendix 1**.

The Braintree District LSP Executive – will be responsible for maintaining a strategic overview of issues in the District and commissioning work from the Braintree District LSP Steering Group where appropriate.

The Braintree District LSP Steering Group ('the Steering Group') – will be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Braintree District LSP, monitoring outcomes, commissioning work from the partnership boards where appropriate and delivering on any work streams emerging from the work of the Sustainable Essex Partnership.

The following six partnerships and their associated boards – will be responsible for delivering the projects and actions outlined in the Braintree District Local Area Agreement, their own associated action plans, and other projects which may be commissioned from time to time by the Steering Group. Each board to include effective 3rd sector representation:

- The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (including the Responsible Authority Group and its associated sub-groups) (no changes proposed to the current arrangements)
- The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (no changes proposed to the current arrangements)
- The Economic Development and Transport Partnership (changed to incorporate transport into its remit)
- The Health, Housing and Well-being Partnership (membership needs to be extended to include 3rd Sector representation)
- The Culture and Leisure Partnership (proposed title change to reflect focus on leisure as well as culture)
- The Braintree District 3rd Sector Partnership (new group – to comprise those 3rd Sector groups which are representatives on the partnership boards and others as appropriate)

Recommendations

1. That the proposed structure, membership and working arrangements set out in this report be referred to each of the partnership boards, the statutory partners and other key stakeholders for consideration and feedback to Braintree District Council's Head of Corporate Policy by **5th September 2008**.
2. For clarity, the LSP be re-named the 'Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership' and that the expression 'Partners and Communities Together' be only used for the Assembly meetings

Refocus and Restructure of the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership July 2008

This paper sets out proposals for the future effective operation and management of the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and an associated restructure of the current arrangements

Background

The review has been informed by the following:

- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The statutory guidance 'Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities' published in July 2008
- Guidance for effective partnership working from the Audit Commission as outlined in 'Bridging the Accountability Gap' published in 2006
- The priorities identified in the Essex Local Area Agreement and those which have been subsequently selected for focus in the Braintree District
- The need to focus on delivery of associated projects and achievement of improved outcomes for the Braintree District
- The governance arrangements for the Essex Partnership which can be seen on the Essex Partnership web site at www.essexpartnership.org (Key Documents / LAA Governance Paper)
- The proposals for Comprehensive Area Assessment which will be implemented from April 2009
- Initial discussions with key stakeholders

A draft revised structure chart is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Please note that the expression Local Strategic Partnership includes ALL of the groups and partnerships set out in this structure – not just the LSP Executive.

The proposed changes are as follows:

The LSP Executive

The LSP Executive is reduced in size and it's membership changed.

It incorporates the key statutory partners in the District as specified in Part 5 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (other statutory partners are represented on the LSP through the partnership boards). Other stakeholders will be invited to attend meetings of the Executive when appropriate.

It will meet quarterly.

Its terms of reference will be to:

- Focus on high level strategic issues which affect the District
- Discuss and resolve issues referred to it from the Braintree District LSP Steering Group ('the Steering Group')(see below)
- Liaise with, and input at senior level into, the Essex Partnership and Essex Management Board
- Refer issues to the Steering Group and commission projects from it where appropriate

- Receive quarterly performance reports from the Steering Group showing how each of the Partnerships in the LSP are delivering improved outcomes for the District and to intervene if necessary and where appropriate to resolve any exceptions

The Braintree District LSP Steering Group

This Group will be larger and will comprise representatives from each of the Partnership Boards, the 3rd Sector and officers from the key statutory partners in the District.

It will meet bi-monthly.

Its terms of reference will be to:

- Develop and ensure delivery of the proposed Braintree District Sustainable Community and Development Strategy and its associated delivery plan – the Braintree District Local Area Agreement
- Co-ordinate the work of the LSP and monitor performance and outcomes – reporting on a quarterly basis to the LSP Executive
- Ensure effective communication across the LSP
- Communicate what the LSP is doing to people and communities in the Braintree District and obtain feedback and views when necessary
- Convene the Braintree District LSP ‘Partners and Communities Together’ Assembly – annually or more often if required by the LSP Executive
- Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the LSP and whether it is providing value for money
- Resolve any issues which are put to it by the partnership boards and, where they cannot be resolved, to refer them to the LSP Executive
- Refer issues to the partnership boards for action and commission projects from them where appropriate
- Manage the LSP core budget and allocate funding to the partnership boards where appropriate
- Ensure that the Braintree District LSP contributes fully to the delivery of the Essex Local Area Agreement and to liaise with the Essex Partnership through the LSP Lead Officers Group
- Be the key point of contact for the Sustainable Essex Partnership and deliver those projects and actions which emerge from it and which do not fall into the remit of any the partnership boards

The Partnerships and their Boards

The following Partnerships will comprise the operational arm of the LSP. They will be responsible for delivering the projects and actions outlined in the Braintree District Local Area Agreement, their own associated action plans, and other projects which may be commissioned from time to time by the Steering Group.

Each board is to include effective 3rd sector representation.

- **The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership** (including the Responsible Authority Group and its associated sub-groups)
 - no change from current arrangements although its terms of reference may need to be updated in light of these proposals
 - it links into the Essex Partnership through the Essex Community Safety, Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership

- **The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership**
 - no change from current arrangements although its terms of reference may need to be updated in light of these proposals
 - it links into the Essex Partnership through the Essex Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Board

- **The Economic Development and Transport Partnership**
 - changed to incorporate transport into its remit
 - the former Transport Partnership Board will merge with the Economic Development Partnership Board
 - new terms of reference will be needed
 - it’s membership will need to be reviewed
 - it links into the Essex Partnership through the Greater Essex Prosperity Forum and the Sustainable Essex Partnership (via the Steering Group)

- **The Health, Housing and Well-being Partnership**
 - no change from current arrangements other than the need to incorporate 3rd Sector representation in its membership
 - its terms of reference may need to be updated in light of these proposals
 - it links into the Essex Partnership through the Essex Community Well-being and Older People’s Board

- **The Culture and Leisure Partnership**
 - title changed to reflect focus on leisure as well as culture
 - no other changes from current arrangements although its terms of reference may need to be updated in light of these proposals
 - it links into the Essex Partnership through the Essex Strategic Board for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

- **The Braintree District 3rd Sector Partnership**
 - new Partnership to comprise those 3rd Sector groups which are representatives on the partnership boards and others as appropriate
 - replaces the Braintree District Compact Steering Group.
 - proposed focus will be on supporting the 3rd sector to become more actively involved in the LSP, delivering projects and ensuring adherence to the Braintree District Compact
 - terms of reference to be agreed
 - it links into the Essex Partnership through the Essex Association of CVS’s which is represented on the Essex Management Board.

<p>The Braintree District ‘Partners and Communities Together’ Assembly</p>

It is proposed that:

1. The main purpose of the Assembly will be to receive and comment on the proposed annual delivery plans for the Local Strategic Partnership for the coming financial year. Its membership will already have inputted into the development of the plans through the Partnerships and other forums.

2. The Assembly comprises:
 - all members of the Partnerships
 - Representatives of the proposed area-focussed citizens panels (or similar) in the localities of Witham, Braintree and Halstead
 - Representatives from the Essex Citizen’s Panel who live in the Braintree District

- The Chairs of Braintree District Council's Local Committees in Witham, Braintree and Halstead
 - Other stakeholders or interested parties if the LSP Executive convenes a meeting around a specific issue of interest
3. The Assembly be held annually in January unless the LSP Executive commissions additional meetings during the year

Democratic Representation on the Local Strategic Partnership

In order to ensure effective democratic representation on the LSP, it is proposed that (as at present) each Partnership Board will include at least one District Councillor member representing Braintree District Council. A further member will need to be identified for the proposed 3rd Sector Partnership.

Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council is the Council's member representative on the LSP Executive and he currently chairs that Group. Councillor Nigel Edey represents Essex County Council on the Executive.

Councillor Butland represents the LSP on the Essex-wide LSP Chair's Forum – which feeds directly into the Essex Partnership. He also chairs the new Sustainable Essex Partnership which is one of the key elements of the Essex Partnership.

It is proposed that Councillor Joanne Beavis, the District Council's Cabinet Member for Customers and Communications, will be the Council's member representative on the proposed Braintree District LSP Steering Group.

In the past year, Braintree District Council has established Local Committees in each of its three locality areas: Witham, Braintree and Halstead and their surrounding villages. These are chaired by BDC Councillors and are also attended by County Councillors for those areas. It is proposed that those Chairs and County Councillors become core members of the LSP 'Partners and Communities Together' Assembly.

Moving Forward

This paper will be circulated to each of the partnership boards, the statutory partners and other key stakeholders for consideration and feedback to Braintree District Council's Head of Corporate Policy by **5th September 2008**. Any questions should also be referred to her.

Contact details area as follows:

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Comments received will inform the final recommendations which will be presented to the current LSP Executive at its proposed meeting on 9th September 2008.

Subject to them being agreed it is proposed that the new working arrangements be implemented with effect from the 1st October 2008.

Sara Moutard, Head of Corporate Policy, Braintree District Council - July 2008

APPENDIX 1 - Draft BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – STRUCTURE –JULY 2008

BRAINTREE DISTRICT 'PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER' ASSEMBLY

(all members of the Partnership Boards and representatives of proposed area-focussed citizens panels in the localities of Witham, Braintree and Halstead)
 To be held annually unless otherwise required by the LSP Executive
 Chair: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Newton of Braintree OBE DL

