

**BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

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**Background Papers:** 'One District – One Vision – A Strategy for People and places in the Braintree District to 2025' (the combined Sustainable Community Strategy and Core Strategy of the LDF for the Braintree District)  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex

**Financial Implications:** None for BDC at this stage. The projects in Appendix 1 will be funded through Performance Reward Grant

**Equalities Implications:** The projects outlined in the Appendix to this report have all been equality impact assessed

**Legal Implications:** None

**Options** Not applicable

**Risks** None at this stage

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The projects which will ensure the delivery of the One District – One Vision Strategy for the Braintree District will be set out in an action plan called the Braintree District LAA (BDLAA). They will be delivered by the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Some of those projects will also contribute to the delivery of the Essex Local Area Agreement and details of those projects (which are being funded with monies from the Essex Partnership) are attached at Appendix 1.

The BDLAA will be drafted during the Spring and further details will be reported to Cabinet in May.

The future role of elected members in partnership working, the LSP and delivery of the BDLAA will be considered as part of the work programme of the Local Government Reform Cabinet Sub-Group.

**DECISION**

Cabinet is asked to note the content of this Report.

## **Delivering the Vision for the District**

The key strategic document for the Braintree District ('One District – One Vision – A Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2025') is currently in draft form and has been the subject of a consultation exercise which concluded at the end of last year.

The draft Strategy sets out the collective Community Priorities of all of the key partners on the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and explains that a partnership Action Plan (called the Braintree District Local Area Agreement (BDLAA)) will be prepared which shows the projects and actions that the Partnership will deliver in order to address them.

## **Delivering the Essex Local Area Agreement in the Braintree District**

The priorities in the Strategy reflect those in the Essex Local Area Agreement which are of most relevance to the Braintree District. The BDLAA will also therefore set out the projects which the Braintree District LSP will be delivering in order to contribute to the Essex LAA.

## **Funding of the Essex LAA Related Projects**

Funding has been made available by the Essex Partnership to enable District and Borough Councils to deliver those projects. The funding is called Performance Reward Grant (PRG) funding and is based on the population of each area. The amount of PRG which has been allocated to the Braintree District is £516,000.

The Braintree District LSP has now agreed the projects which will be delivered using that funding and details are attached at Appendix 1.

## **Finalising the Braintree District LAA**

Further work is underway with the LSP to identify and develop other projects which will ensure the delivery of the One District – One Vision Strategy. These will be added to the PRG funded projects and will together comprise the Braintree District Local Area Agreement. The document will be finalised during the Spring and the draft BDLAA will be brought to Cabinet in May.

Those projects which Braintree District Council will be leading on or playing a major part in delivering will be included in our Annual Plan for 2009/2010.

A diagram which shows the links between the Partnerships and the Council and how the documents link together is attached at Appendix 2.

## **The Role of Elected Members in Partnership Working**

The role of elected members in partnership working will be considered by the Local Government Reform Cabinet Sub-Group as part of its work programme. Proposals will be reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Sara Moutard  
Head of Corporate Policy  
February 2009

## APPENDIX 1

### Projects in the Braintree District which are being funded by Performance Reward Grant through the Essex Local Area Agreement

| Project Ref:                | Project Title and Details  | PRG Funding<br>£K |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| LAA Priority 7<br><br>BRA06 | <p><b><u>Creative Communities</u></b></p> <p>To reduce perceived anti-social behaviour and create more integrated communities in areas where there is growing tension amongst residents. Community cohesion will be developed by addressing key themes that impact on the quality of life for residents. These themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ environmental awareness,</li> <li>➤ intergenerational relationships and</li> <li>➤ cultural awareness</li> </ul> <p>This approach will be achieved by professionals and volunteers working with residents of all ages from the affected community using arts and cultural activities to develop community cohesion in areas of tension between residents.</p> <p>Partnership Responsible: - Braintree District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership<br/>Lead Organisation: Braintree District Council<br/>Target Lead: - Alan Gooden – Essex Police<br/>BDC Lead Officer – Charmaine Dean / Helena Goodwin</p> | <b>£106,000</b>   |
| LAA Priority 8<br><br>BRA08 | <p><b><u>Funded Business Advice and Mentoring</u></b></p> <p>Work with stakeholders and funding agencies to identify opportunities to support new and emerging enterprises, existing businesses and vulnerable businesses and business sectors. Provision of funded one-to-one business advice and mentoring to young and small existing businesses in the Braintree District.</p> <p>Partnership Responsible: - Economic Development and Transport Partnership Board<br/>Lead Organisation: Braintree District Council<br/>Target Lead: - Brian Cutmore (Chair)<br/>BDC Lead Officer: Russell Everard</p>   | <b>£95K</b>       |
| LAA Priority 8<br><br>BRA14 | <p><b><u>Learning and Skills Council Project</u></b></p> <p>Create a focus for the investment of resources into addressing comparatively low levels of community and workplace qualifications and vocational skills. Support the Learning and Skills Council's project – 'Test The County' – which will assess Skills for Life and NVQ 2, 3 qualifications, monitor district level 4 qualifications and seek funding for more projects. It will also support the LSC apprenticeships project.</p> <p>Partnership Responsible: Economic Development and Transport Partnership Board<br/>Lead Organisation: Braintree District Council<br/>Target Lead: Brian Cutmore (Chair)<br/>BDC Lead Officer: Russell Everard</p>  | <b>£50K</b>       |

|                |  |        |
|----------------|--|--------|
| LAA Priority 2 | <b><u>Village Agents</u></b> (final name of project to be determined)  |        |
| BRA18          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project will ensure that support and information is provided to older and vulnerable people in the more isolated rural areas.</li> <li>• 'Agents' based in the community will be recruited locally and trained to provide information and promote access to a wide range of local services. Help will be provided on issues such as health, social care, personal safety, fuel poverty, benefits and pensions. Once a need is identified, partnership work with both internal and external organisations will take place when the Village Agents signpost people to other services.</li> <li>• Braintree Community Transport will have the resource of an additional fully accessible minibus, which can be utilised in the areas highlighted by the Village Agents. People would be able to utilise this service for local health related appointments, lunch clubs, day centres, shopping trips, visiting friends etc.</li> <li>• In addition, a Hospital Service would provide a rapid response for older patients to return home but needing re-assurance and practical support within the safety of their own home.</li> <li>• The Village Agents will also focus on identifying older people not currently receiving or necessarily known to service providers.</li> <li>• It is proposed to operate an initial pilot in the rural areas of Braintree with the potential for future expansion into other areas. An Older People's Needs Assessment is currently underway to determine how to help people to live independently at home. This research will inform the development of the project.</li> </ul> <p>Partnership Responsible: - Health, Housing and Well-being Partnership Group<br/> Lead Organisation: NHS Mid-Essex<br/> Target Lead: - Zahieda Khanom – NHS Mid-Essex<br/> BDC Lead Officer – Charmaine Dean</p> <p><b>*PRG funding of £190K has been allocated as part funding of the total cost of the project (£150k start up and training and £40K for the Community Transport element).</b><br/> NHS Mid Essex have also allocated £100,000 funding to the project and propose to increase this by an extra £50,000, which is due to be confirmed by the end of January 2009. If this is confirmed, the PRG allocation will be reduced by £50,000 and reallocated to the BRA 07 project (Teenage Pregnancy - Under 18 Conception Rate – see below)</p> | £190K* |
| LAA Priority 2 | <b><u>Preventing Homelessness in the Braintree District</u></b>  |        |
| BRA 20         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on prevention of homelessness.</li> <li>• Establish a Braintree District Homelessness Strategy Steering Group to be implement the Strategy and associated actions over the next five years.</li> <li>• Appoint a Housing Advisory Officer (Partner Agency Co-ordinator) working with vulnerable people and families to prevent homelessness.</li> </ul> <p>LSP Partnership Responsible: Health, Housing and Well-being Partnership Board<br/> Lead Organisation: Braintree District Council<br/> Lead Officer: Zahieda Khanom – NHS Mid Essex<br/> BDC Lead Officer – Joanne Albini</p>   | £75K   |

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>LAA Priority 3</p> <p>BRA07</p> | <p><b><u>Teenage Pregnancy – Under 18 Conception Rate</u></b></p> <p>This project will aim to improve outcomes for teenage parents and their children across the Braintree District, through wide and meaningful, on-going consultation with young people who are pregnant, at risk of becoming pregnant or those who are already parents.</p> <p>The project objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To complete the local service mapping exercise - work with young people to enable them to maximise their effectiveness as a peer group e.g. the setting up of a teenage parent board to advise and influence service delivery</li> <li>• To work with local agencies and partners to develop services that are dedicated to young people ensuring that services that are successful can be mainstreamed. Such services could include postnatal contraceptive service, teenage advice worker.</li> <li>• Develop peer led initiatives and accreditation activities e.g. young parents trained as trainers and peer educators to deliver training to professionals and young people to raise awareness of teenage parents and conception.</li> <li>• Develop a range of ways of working with young people including 1-2-1 support, advice groups and parenting courses.</li> <li>• Develop forms and procedures that young people can use on their own.</li> </ul> <p>The project costs include funding for a full-time post to be based within NHS Mid Essex but working on an outreach basis to ensure services are accessible across the District, and a high level of presence within Connexions centre and the network of local Children's Centres.</p> <p>Partnership Responsible: - Braintree District Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership<br/> Lead Organisation: NHS Mid-Essex<br/> Target Lead: - Craig Horner (Chair)<br/> BDC Lead Officer: Charmaine Dean / Craig Horner</p> | <p><b>Project to receive PRG funding only if £50,000 PRG funding is freed up from Project BRA 18 – see above</b></p> |
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**APPENDIX 2 – HOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER**

