

**MALDON DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
MINUTES of  
Steering Group – 23 September 2010**

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**PRESENT**

Terry Collin (TC)	Vice Chairman
Fiona Marshall (FM)	Co-opted LSP Member
Hazel Berrett (LM)	Chief Executive, Maldon District Council
Cllr Lew Schnurr (LS)	Strategic Director, Maldon District Council
John Zammit (JZ)	Heybridge Parish Council (EALC representative)
Carl Pullen (CP)	Area Co-ordinator for Mid Essex, ECC
Dale Robinson (DR)	Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Glenn Mayes (GM)	NHS Mid Essex
Peter Woollard (PW)	Chairman, Maldon Business Partnership
David Stephenson	Vice Chairman, FSB Branch
Sean O'Callaghan (SO)	Essex Probation
	Chairman, Local Delivery Group
	Essex Police

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lynn Marston (LM)	LSP Development Officer, Maldon District Council
Sarah Lascar (SL)	Maldon and District CVS attending for Paul Murphy
Susan Hylands (Minute Clerk)	PA to Strategic Director, Maldon District Council

**1. Welcome**

- 1.1 Terry Collin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs P Channer, Paul Murphy, Sarah Lascar attended on his behalf, Jennifer Candler and Jenny Lewsey

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

- 3.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 August 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

- 4.1 There were no matters arising outside those included on the agenda for discussion.

**STRATEGIC BUSINESS**

- 5. Feedback from LSP Chairs Forum 2/9/10 and Essex Partnership Forum 14/9/10 as regards the Future of Partnership Working in Essex**

- 5.1 HB had attended the LSP Chairs Forum with LM and provided a verbal update. The key message had been around lack of detail following recent Government announcements which was proving a challenge to LSPs. Most had decided to try to maintain structures in place as far as possible and keep a watching brief on developments. The importance of place based budgeting as a follow on from Total Place was discussed. A workshop is being arranged for 2/2/11 to consider the outcome of the review by ECC on LSPs and future structures.
- 5.2 LM had attended the Essex Partnership Forum with the Chairman of the LSP and reported that the message had been similar. LM had received a copy of the presentation and will circulate this to LSP members. There was support expressed for the potential of LSPs to exist as the formal mechanism of communication and delivery mechanisms in terms of place based budgets.

**Action: LM to circulate a copy of the presentation from the Essex Partnership by e-mail.**

- 5.3 In response to a question it was advised that it was thought there would be Health and Well Being Boards at county level to address health improvement and that the LEP will be Kent and Essex. Sustainable Community Strategies will probably continue and there will need to be a mechanism to coordinate the development of this at a strategic level across partners. FM advised that there is a lot of current discussion at Leader and CE level about county level structures. On 11/11/10 there will be a facilitated session for all Essex Leaders to try and get a feel for what offers may be politically acceptable. DR advised that there are some local discussions happening around Health and Wellbeing Boards but he has not heard that there is much going on from ECC. JZ advised that there are some conversations with the PCT but ECC is also trying to get a feel of the landscape around the GP Commissioning Consortia which should come into being next April as a shadow consortia. At the moment it isn't known how many GP commissioning consortia there are likely to be and whether they will engage with a Health and Well Being Board. It was confirmed that there will not be a set size for consortia although there is a certain size below which they will not be viable. This could result in a commissioning group that devolves its responsibilities to another commissioning group, being called "super localism". JZ will feed back that it would be useful to have local discussions with ECC around Health and Wellbeing boards.
- 5.4 FM advised that the District Council should receive its financial settlement details at the end of November/December. The Council is planning for the worst case scenario.
- 5.5 The meeting discussed the risk that public bodies will become more introspective in the face of cuts. DS advised that in education more schools are moving towards cooperation and formalised links between different educational organisations as they won't be able to afford services individually, but that as more schools become academies, local authorities will have less control of budgets and the centre is actually weakening. SO advised that the Chief Constable is planning for the worse case scenario of a reduction over four years of potentially up to 1000 officers against a current establishment of 3,600 officers. Conversely it was noted that the HMRC push is towards uniformed officers on the frontline. CP advised that the Fire Service is reviewing its command centre and looking to lose a level of middle management and support staff. Any support staff on fixed contracts have been told that these won't be renewed. It is also rumoured that the community safety aspects may be reverting to being delivered centrally and

CP expressed a concern that this could be at the detriment of local partnership working. There is a danger that organisations will draw back to their core business and the partnership working will be lost. JZ also noted that there will be resource implications for place based budgets as organisations will need to work in partnership to deliver services. There will also need to be some kind of governance and accountability.

## **6. Financial Update**

- 6.1 The report had been circulated with the agenda and was discussed. LM advised that Appendix 3 shows the current financial position. The Maldon LSP has not had to call on the contingency fund and has a small amount left plus £5k PCT funding. The option to decide whether to spend the remaining PRG/core budget was discussed. JZ advised that he felt it was unlikely that the LSP would be asked to repay this and the members felt that in as such the remaining PRG/core funding should be spent.

**AGREED: The remaining PRG/core budget to be allocated and spent.**

- 6.2 LM left the meeting for the discussion on this item. Options had been provided as to how to allocate the PCT and PRG/core budgets. HB advised that LM has been issued with her redundancy notice and as it stands will be finishing on 31/12/10 with MDC funding the post until this date. One of the options provided is to use the remaining combined funding to keep the post from 1/1/11 to 31/3/11. In response to a question DR confirmed that the PCT funding was provided to promote health and wellbeing in the District and he felt that option B would fulfil this. SL provided Paul Murphy's view that he would advocate that the remaining money be spent on actual project delivery as he had some concerns about what the role could achieve. The meeting discussed the concerns and SL advised that in light of these and the earlier discussions around the importance of maintaining partnership working she felt Paul Murphy would be in agreement with Option B.

**AGREED: It was the unanimous decision of those members of the LSP present that Option B – to allocate £5,000 of the PCT money to support health and wellbeing in the district and use the remaining PRG/core budget to keep the LSP Development Officer in post from 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 be supported.**

## **OPERATIONAL BUSINESS**

### **7. Sustainable Community Strategy Update**

- 7.1 LM rejoined the meeting. LM advised that the consultation work is now completed and the responses are being collated. The final document will be much more succinct and will be a summary document available electronically on the website. There will also be signposting to the evidence on the website. The priorities will be listed and can be developed as ideas about how to deliver them are formed. It was intended to have a draft available by the end of this month but this is slightly behind schedule and will be circulated by e-mail for comment as soon as possible. In response to a question it was confirmed that the evidence has not shown that there is any significant changes to the priorities. FM noted that it would be important to include some information on the potential impact of public sector cuts. It will also be important to be very clear about economic development and what the District

wants to see from the Essex and Kent LEP and include this in the background to the SCS. GM advised that the Maldon Business Partnership had held a useful meeting and developed a list of bullet points to feed into the LEP discussions.

- 7.2 LS advised that a meeting of the Place Shaping Sub Group is being arranged for the last week of October.

## **8. Performance Updates**

- 8.1 LM advised that TEN is being updated and tabled a performance update report. It was noted that alternative funding for the rest of 2010/11 has been found to enable anti social behaviour mediation to continue until the end of the year.
- 8.2 The LSP is ending the TEN contract and negotiations are taking place around keeping the material although this will not be able to be directly imported onto the website. LS asked whether the MDC website links into this, it was advised that at the moment TEN is stand alone and the LSP website is through the Essex Portal. It was noted that the options to link to the new MDC website should be looked at.
- 8.3 LM is pulling together the Annual Report and will highlight "good news" stories.
- 8.4 There was a discussion around the voluntary sector building project and SL will clarify with Paul Murphy the status of the working group. FM advised that consideration around whether to keep the building will be a budget option and the focus of the working group should be to look at options and alternative buildings. It was also noted that there is a regional asset management project being undertaken at County and it would be useful to see what has been highlighted in Maldon. SO noted that Essex Police is looking at what buildings it can sell.
- 8.5 HB advised that Crucial Crew is taking place this week and partners would be welcome to call in.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1 In response to a question from HB, DS advised that the Blackwater Vocational Partnership will be meeting and Helen Russell from ECC will attend the next meeting of the group on 12/11/10 which will look at the way forward. There are currently enough funds to pay for the administrative work around checking vocational qualifications and courses are continuing at different locations. There is an increasing need. After discussion it was agreed that it may be useful to re-start the Skills and Training Task and Finish sub group following the November meeting.

**Action: LM to schedule a meeting of the Skills and Training Task & Finish Group to follow the November meeting of the BVP.**

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

- 10.1 The next meeting is scheduled for **16/11/10 at 3.00 pm**. The Audit Commission report on Health Inequalities has been published and will have been discussed at a workshop on 14/10/10 and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next LSP meeting. Details of the workshop have been circulated to members of the LSP. A further meeting will be scheduled for the second week in February.

**Action: LM to schedule a further meeting of the LSP Steering Group for the second week in February 2011.**