

Sustainable Essex Partnership (SEP) Executive Board
Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

Friday 30 July 2010, 09:30am

Board members

Cllr. Graham Butland	Chair, District and Borough Councils representative. Braintree District Council.
Cllr. John Buchanan	Essex Association of Local Councils representative. Billericay Town Council.
Canon John Brown	Stronger Essex Partnership representative.
Cllr Jeremy Lucas	Essex County Council representative.
Matt Butcher (Representing David Knagg)	Environment Agency representative.
John Hall	Voluntary Sector representative and Target Lead for NI 197, Biodiversity; LI 10.1, Living Landscapes. Essex Wildlife Trust.
Richard Inman (Representing Sandy Cruikshank)	GO East Representative.
Sue Sumner	Target Lead for NI 7, Thriving Third Sector. Essex Association of CVSs.
Paul Murphy	Target Lead for NI 6, Volunteering. Maldon CVS.
Suzanne Harris	Essex Rural Partnership representative and Co-Lead for NI 4, Influencing Decisions. Rural Community Council of Essex.
Duncan Wood	Co-Lead for NI 4, Influencing Decisions. Essex County Council.
Nick Shuttleworth	Target Lead for LI 5.1, Access to Services. Rural Community Council of Essex.
Malcolm Knights	Target Lead for NI 156, Temporary Accommodation. Brentwood Borough Council.
Matthew Searle	Essex County Council Lead for orchards and allotments workstream.
Liz Saville	Target Lead for LI 5.2, Congestion. Essex County Council.

Officers:

Gwyn Owen (Also representing Dan Gascoyne)	Lead Officer for Sustainable Essex. Essex County Council. Target Lead for NI 5, Overall Satisfaction. Essex County Council.
Richard Gravatt	Essex County Council Lead for LI 5.1.
Justine Atterbury (Also representing Janice Willsher)	Performance & Improvement Officers. Essex County Council.
Louise Crew	Essex Partnership Secretariat. Essex County Council (minutes).
Shannen Kinsella	Essex Partnership Secretariat. Essex County Council.
Nicoli Thompson	Cabinet Advisor. Essex County Council.

Apologies:

Ian Vipond	Target Lead for LI 2.2, Affordable Housing; NI 154, Additional Housing. Colchester Borough Council.
Michelle Keene	Target Lead for NI 186, Carbon Reduction. Essex County Council.
Robbie Watson-Levey	Target Lead for NI 198, Children Travelling to School. Essex County Council.
Jason Searles	Target Lead for NI 191 Residual Waste Per Household; NI 192, Recycling; NI 195 Improved Cleanliness. Essex County Council.
Jan Plummer	Essex Partnership Secretariat. Essex County Council.
Jayne Bulman	Target Lead for NI 188, Climate Change Adaptation. Essex County Council.

1. Welcome, agreement of previous minutes and declarations of interest

Cllr Graham Butland opened the meeting as Chairman.

Sue queried why item 7 of the May minutes did not include the debate around the PRG allocation process. The Chair suggested this was discussed at the March meeting which was why it was not in the May minutes. The Lead Officer has since checked the March minutes and can confirm this is correct, therefore the minutes of the 10 May meeting are approved as a correct record.

No Declarations of Interest were received.

2. Revision of terms of reference in light of recent changes to the membership

Gwyn confirmed that the membership section of the ToR has been updated to reflect new members and changes within organisations. The decision making process has also been amended so that substitutes are able to vote on behalf of members unable to attend the meeting.

Sue commented that at the end of the financial year she may need to look to the partnership for reimbursement of expenses as the voluntary sector funding will not continue.

Suzanne suggested that 'Essex Rural Partnership Representative' be added to her role under membership. John Hall commented that he is a voluntary sector representative as well as a target lead.

The changes above were agreed by the partnership.

3. Impact of PRG upon Sustainable Essex workstreams

Target Leads were invited to share the impact of the funding reduction on their indicators.

Paul commented that he received the notification of revised allocations last night and was pleased to see a process was undertaken to take into consideration the view points of those affected. However, John Hall was disappointed with the overall process and feels there was little consultation before this notification was issued. Cllrs Lucas and Butland agreed that the process and consultation was sufficient given the urgency of the situation.

Sue confirmed that the voluntary sector survey is still going ahead in September which indicates that the NI 7 target is still being pursued. Due to the PRG cut, the Commissioning Champion post will not be recruited to.

John Hall stated that we should hit the target for NI 197 and partner engagement within this process is positive. However, due to the grant being taken away, we are unlikely to hit the target for LI 10.1 and this should be changed to amber on the scorecard/workplan.

Malcolm commented that the numbers of households within temporary accommodation may rise as we come out of the recession and due to the PRG cut.

Duncan confirmed that the PRG cut should not have a significant impact on NI 4.

Paul stated the NI 6 promotional activities were kicked off early so should not be affected by the PRG cut. The volunteer centres have seen an increase in volunteering, due to the recession people are looking to volunteer while they are unemployed, however many volunteer centres are at risk of closure.

Matt commented they are looking at ways to explore alternative funding from Partners for the orchards and allotments pledge.

Nick confirmed they are working with Passenger Transport at ECC to review the workplan for LI 5.1 and are confident they will meet the target.

It was agreed that Gwyn will circulate a note to all target leads confirming their proportion of the £843,648 total allocation.

4. Sustainable Essex's input into the Integrated County Strategy (ICS)

On behalf of Ian Vipond, Gwyn took the partnership through a presentation on the proposed ICS which required input from the partnership to identify the key priorities for Sustainable Essex and the level of involvement the partnership wish to have.

Matt commented that this is an economic led spacial plan with buy in from districts and boroughs. He sits on the Steering Group and offered to provide a link between the two groups.

Richard Gravatt stated that it is unlikely the regional strategy will continue so the ICS is the County's version of this. It will act as an underlying development plan for Essex.

Cllr Buchanan queried when the ICS was established and how is it funded.

Cllr Butland confirmed the partnership is unable to comment on the proposal as they have limited awareness of the project. **Gwyn agreed to feed this back to Ian when he returns from leave.**

5. Discussion regarding the impact of the new coalition government

Richard Inman commented that the new government has a different philosophy towards government and governance, with Big Society being a radical restructure of society as we know it. The Government Offices and Regional Development Agencies have been abolished with further announcements to follow in October. The main message is that it is for local authorities to decide what's right for them.

6. Any Other Business

It was decided that the Chair will take a view nearer the time as to whether the meeting on 23 September is necessary as there is an additional meeting on 26 October to look at the future of the partnership. This meeting will take into consideration the announcements being made on 20 October.

Close. The date of the next meeting is 23 September 2010. This will be held at the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, 9:30-11:30.