
Sustainable Essex Partnership (SEP) Executive Board

Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

Thursday, 28 January, 09:30am

Board members:

Cllr. Graham Butland	Chair, District and Borough Councils representative. Braintree District Council.
Cllr Jeremy Lucas	Representative for Essex County Council. Essex County Council.
Cllr. John Buchanan	Essex Association of Local Councils representative. Billericay Town Council.
Canon John Brown	Stronger Essex Partnership representative.
John Hall	Voluntary Sector representative and Target Lead for NI 197, Biodiversity; LI 10.1, Living Landscapes. Essex Wildlife Trust.
Margaret Read	GO East Representative.
Claire Beecroft	Environment Agency representative.
Gwyn Owen	Lead Officer for Sustainable Essex. Essex County Council.

Target leads:

Dan Gascoyne	Target Lead for NI 5, Overall Satisfaction. Essex County Council.
Ian Vipond	Target Lead for LI 2.2, Affordable Housing; NI 154, Additional Housing. Colchester Borough Council.
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 (Also representing Duncan Wood)	Essex Rural Partnership Representative and Co-Lead for NI 4, Influencing Decisions. Rural Community Council of Essex.
Nick Shuttleworth	Target Lead for LI 5.1, Access to Services. Rural Community Council of Essex.
Kevin Jones	Target Lead for NI 186, Carbon Reduction; NI 188, Climate Change Adaptation. Essex County Council.
Jason Searles	Target Lead for NI 191 Residual Waste Per Household; NI 192, Recycling; NI 195 Improved Cleanliness. Essex County Council.
Robbie Watson-Levey & Jenna Mattholie	Target Lead for NI 198, Children Travelling to School. Essex County Council.
Malcolm Knights (Also representing Jane Greer)	Co-Target Leads for NI 156, Temporary Accommodation. Brentwood Borough Council.
Liz Saville	Target Lead for LI 5.2, Congestion. Essex County Council.

Officers:

Clive Jacotine	Local Improvement Advisor. Consultant for NI 4, Influencing Decisions.
Michelle Keene	Environmental Projects Officer. Essex County Council.
Jan Plummer	Essex Partnership Secretariat. Essex County Council.

Jenny Thurkle & Mark Golledge	Performance & Improvement Officers. Essex County Council.
Richard Gravatt	ECC link for LI 5.1, Access to Services. Essex County Council.

Apologies: None.**1. Welcome, agreement of previous minutes and declarations of interest**

Cllr Graham Butland opened the meeting as Chairman. The minutes of the 5 November meeting were agreed, with apologies to be added from Jan Plummer.

Paul Murphy declared a potential conflict of interest in that he manages a volunteer centre and is the Chair of a Community Transport Group.

2. Performance update

NI 4 (Influencing Decisions) – Suzanne confirmed that progress is being made. The agreement has been finalised on the NI 4 approach and districts are submitting action plans on how to take this forward. Suzanne confirmed that in November 2009 Essex was targeted by CLG to put forward a bid for additional funding (approx. £160k - £170k) which was successful and will be discussed in item 9 on the agenda. **The Chair requested that the workplan be updated to reflect progress to date as most of the due dates are set for 2009.**

NI 5 (Satisfaction with Local Area) – Dan confirmed this is on track.

NI 7 (Thriving Third Sector) – Sue confirmed that a Commissioning Champion has been recruited. Sue commented that the target is subjective and somewhat out of our control as the survey is undertaken nationally and they select which voluntary organisations to survey. We can implement interim surveys but we would not hit the same group of people.

NI 154 (Net additional homes provided) – this is covered in item 3 on the agenda.

LI 2.2 (Affordable Housing) – this is covered in item 3 on the agenda.

NI 156 (Temporary Accommodation) – Malcolm confirmed that the figures continue to decline. The research project being undertaken by Stephen Baldry of the Partnership Delivery team is progressing well.

LI 5.1 (Access to services) – Nick confirmed the target is progressing well and on track. An exhibition is being held in the Atrium at County Hall on Tuesday 2nd February to promote activities.

NI 198 (Children travelling to school) – Robbie confirmed the target is on track. Further schemes are being implemented in the coming weeks (there was a break during the Christmas school holidays).

NI 6 (Volunteering) – Paul confirmed that a promotion campaign is being put in place and the website will be launched late February. The ECC Volunteering launch took place last week but this will have more impact on NI 7 rather than NI 6 as the volunteering needs to be more than once a month to influence NI 6. Paul expressed a concern that in order to maintain regular volunteering and raise awareness of volunteering the Volunteer Centres are key. Some centres are facing closure, redundancies and reduced funding. They receive a grant from ECC (just over £3k) and a large proportion of their funding via the local district.

NI 195 (Improved street & environmental cleanliness) – Jason confirmed this is progressing well and performance is way above target. Essex has joined in with the 'Keep Britain Tidy' national campaign and is liaising with fast food outlets.

NI 191 & 192 (Waste) – Jason commented they have seen a reduction of 3.5 – 4% across the County. Current output 45% - in excess of target.

NI 186 (CO2 reduction) – Kevin confirmed that this is on target with all actions complete for this year and they are currently working on next years' actions.

NI 188 (climate change) – Kevin confirmed that the target is on track. The thermo imaging pilot in Rochford has taken place with results due shortly. If successful the project will be rolled out elsewhere with Essex University likely to play a key role.

NI 197 (Improved local biodiversity) – John commented that the interim target is 296 sites in PCM, current figure stands at 164 sites, so it will be a challenge to reach 296 sites. John commented that the engagement of some partners (including statutory authorities) is still an issue. **Cllr Butland agreed to escalate this through the District & Borough Leaders meeting and asked Gwyn to provide him with the necessary information.**

LI 10.1 (Living Landscapes) – John confirmed the target is on track.

3. Renegotiation of NI 154, Net Number of New Homes Built & Finalisation of LI 2.2, Affordable Housing

Ian Vipond took the group through his update/progress report to set revised milestones and agree the basis for revised LAA Targets for the two housing indicators.

The Board were asked to agree the following:

1. To delegate to the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Target Lead the task of negotiating the NI 154 Target with a view to recommending a revised Target to the Essex Partnership Board having had negotiations with GO-East in February.
2. To agree the revised local indicator targets for Affordable Housing (LI2.2) for recommendation to the Essex Partnership Board.
3. To agree the revised milestones as incorporated into the Sustainable Essex Partnership Workplan for NI 154 and LI 2.2.

These proposals were agreed by the Partnership.

Cllr Buchanan queried the definition of 'effective use of public land' in which he used examples in which public land has been sold to private developers. Ian confirmed that the protocol will state that the point of bringing public land forward is so that it can be used for affordable housing.

4. Final agreement of LI 5.2, Congestion target

Liz explained that DFT introduced a new target, NI 167, and that they would provide the data in order for the authority to set a target. The data supplied is for 2007/8 and known as 'floating vehicle data' taken from a fleet of 50,000 tagged vehicles. The data had to be split into routes in Essex and reliability which reduced it from 50 routes to 25. In September 2009 the baseline was set for one figure for all routes over 1 year at 2.19 min per mile which equates to 27 mph. The internal target for this year will be to maintain the current figure.

This proposal was agreed by the Partnership.

5. Topline findings of Sustainable Essex Audit

Gwyn outlined the brief findings from the audit and discussed the advice/best practice points.

The Partnership agreed it would be useful to know who would be able to vote in the decision making process. Gwyn confirmed this is outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Partnership. It was suggested colour coding the nameplates at future meetings to identify who is able to vote.

Richard Gravatt agreed it would be useful to run an introduction session to the Partnership and queried whether other Thematic Partnerships run intro sessions for new members.

6. Additional projects to support priorities

The Partnership discussed the paper provided by Dan (attached below) and it was agreed that further discussion would take place before taking to EPF on 23rd March.



PRG Activity

Further to Paul Murphy's performance update, Sue suggested adding funding towards the volunteer centres.

Ian also suggested adding funding towards the gypsy & traveller issues to help move this forward.

7. Update on financial profiling for remainder of LAA

Gwyn reminded Target Leads that their spending profiles are due on 29th January. Paul Murphy commented that he is meeting with colleagues on 3 February and therefore the information he submits on 29th will come with a health warning until the meeting on 3rd has taken place. Sue confirmed that she has been on leave and is waiting for feedback but should be able to send something through by the deadline.

8. NI 4 – diagnostic work being undertaken



NI 4 Presentation

Clive Jacotine gave a presentation on the NI 4 consultation and asked the Partnership to suggest partners to contact.

Sue commented that the voluntary sector have knowledge of local needs and would be able to add a voluntary sector perspective.

John Buchanan confirmed that the Parish Councils have a good relationship with the public and public engagement is high/extensive. This was echoed throughout the Partnership.

Paul Murphy also suggested contacting the local LSPs who are working on raising their profiles to the public.

Jan commented that the public need to be kept involved throughout the process, ensuring that they know that their opinions have been acted upon. The public engagement website, Engage East, has examples of this.

9. Gypsy and traveller issues – a partnership response

Gwyn discussed the paper provided and suggested setting up a working group across other strands of work, i.e. health inequalities, educational attainment, etc, to drive forward and make improvements.

The Partnership agreed to this and Cllr Butland has requested that Terms of Reference be drawn up in time for the next meeting.

10. Any Other Business

Close. The date of the next meeting is 19 March 2010. This will be held at the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, 9:30-11:30.

Sustainable Essex Partnership 28th January 2010
Report from the Essex Partnership Secretariat
LAA 2008 – 11 Additional Performance Reward Grant (PRG) funded activity

Essex County Council has now claimed a total of £21.098 million in Performance Reward Grant with an additional £1.027 million earned for performance against GCSE attainment bringing the total value of PRG earned to **£22.126 million** at the time of writing.

PRG totalling approximately £19m, underwritten by Essex County Council, has already been allocated by the Essex Partnership. This leaves £2m claimed and unallocated, with a further £1.2m certain to be received in 2010/11. At its meeting on 2nd March, Essex Management Board will be invited to consider proposals from Thematic Partnerships to allocate this amount. Recommendations will then be made to the Essex Partnership Forum on 23rd March. Both meetings will also receive final reports from Thematic Partnerships and LSPs on activity and outcomes from PRG-funded activity to date.

Thematic Partnerships and LSPs are currently reviewing PRG spend and activity to date and the Essex Partnership Secretariat has considered a range of factors such as performance against targets, existing PRG-funded activity and priorities emerging from the Essex Strategy Review to come up with the following proposals for the Sustainable Essex Partnership to consider.

Proposed Project	Suggested Budget	LAA
Promote rural access and community transport throughout the County.	£250,000	LI 5.1 Access to services
Expand the delivery of sustainable energy advice throughout Essex.	£250,000	NI 186 Carbon Reduction
Promote the establishment of a new generation of community orchards and allotments in Essex.	£400,000	NI 197 Biodiversity

It is recommended that the Sustainable Essex Partnership discusses these options and makes recommendations for discussion at Essex Management Board on 2nd March.



SUSTAINABLE ESSEX PARTNERSHIP

MEETING

28 JANUARY 2010



CLG Funded Support Programme

Local Improvement Adviser

Clive Jacotine

Background – NI 4

- National Indicator (NI) 4 measures “the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality”
- Local Area Agreement (LAA) target is 40% by end of 2010/11 (baseline 30% from 2006/07) – presently ‘at risk’
- Sustainable Essex has the lead responsibility for NI 4 target

Duty to Involve

- From April 2009 a new 'Duty to Involve' applied ***(not just about consultation, but also services and outcomes)***
- Applies to local authorities and other 'best value' organisations (e.g. Police and NHS)
- CAA requires councils and their partners to demonstrate they understand what their citizens want and need
- CAA ranked Essex 'in the worst third' for NI 4



Targeted Support Programme

- Funded by Government
- To improve engagement capacity and practices to reach out to local people more effectively and respond to their concerns
- East of England regional programme being overseen by Inspire East
- Joyce Sweeney and Suzanne Harris working with the Local Improvement Adviser
- Network of Empowering Authorities (NEA) framework is key 'diagnostic tool'



NEA Framework tool

- Agencies and communities working together to identify priorities
- Strong relationships based on openness, trust and delivery
- Changing the way mainstream organisations work to make them more responsive to communities (and individual 'customers')
- Clear leadership from LSPs and councils
- Effective partnerships
- Good communications



National context

- Severe pressure on public expenditure
- Efficiency savings only likely to go part of the way, so there will be difficult service choices
- Will lead to changing the way services are delivered and to reviewing service priorities
- This will have a direct impact on the public at a national and local level
- National elections will be soon



The local challenge

Good public engagement is critical to gaining public acceptance and support

How will you go about engaging the public in planning major changes to priorities and services?



Your views?

What are the issues that you want this support programme to take into account?

What are the key links and which bodies should be involved?

What is your overall guidance?