

maldon district local strategic partnership reporting back

ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2010

Better Broadband
comes to the District!

£75,000 Marine Apprenticeship
scheme goes ahead!

Work Progresses well on a
From Door-to-Door Hospital
Transport Service

Well Done! -
some real successes

A draft Renewed Sustainable
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Welcome to the Second Annual Report of the Maldon District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)!

2010 has been a difficult year for the partnership which brings together organisations from all the sectors (public, private and voluntary and community) to work together to improve the District.

In June we heard that our core funding and the funding we had been using to fund a number of worthwhile projects had been cut. The loss of Performance Reward Grant meant that all but one of our on-going projects had to be stopped with almost immediate effect. The summer months were grimly spent phoning round organisations with the bad news and cancelling planned events.

However, this bad news has not diminished our achievements and the Annual Report aims to give a glimpse of the LSP's activities over the last year. The Report also outlines what will be happening in the next few months.



Better Broadband comes to the District!

Last year we reported that, with partners in Maldon District Council and Essex County Council, we had secured £30,000 of private/public sector money to pilot, and effectively jump-start, faster and better Broadband coverage in the District.

This year we can report the scheme, which went live on 1st June, has been a huge success with nearly 400 customers signed up or 543 units sold of Buzcom's FibreWiFi wireless system.

Rural areas, like the Maldon District, can face problems where there is a gap in this vital support for economic development and across the population people suffer from a reduced access to services where good Broadband service is lacking.

The improved connectivity is making a real difference to people here in the District with both businesses and residents benefiting. During the recent bad weather there was a significant increase in data use suggesting people have been using the FibreWiFi service at home in order to carry on working!

The service will now be rolled-out across other parts of Essex and a number of other local authorities.

£75,000 Marine Apprenticeship scheme goes ahead!

Six apprentices have started work here in the Maldon District and a further four are expected to be recruited soon.

Marine industries play an important role in the area's economy and are part of the area's rich heritage. Many of the firms involved in this type of work are very small and have found taking on an apprentice in the past difficult but this scheme links firms together to make it a more feasible option.

The scheme recognises the importance of providing a trained and skilled workforce to lay the foundations for future growth and prosperity. It is supported by Essex County Council, the British Marine Federation, the sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and the Home Counties Training Company (TCHC). So far businesses have been very pleased with the scheme and the apprentices working with them.

Work Progresses well on a From Door-to-Door Hospital Transport Service

Discussions are now well underway to develop a demand responsive service that would help patients and their families travel backwards and forwards to the hospitals in the area including Broomfield and St. Peter's in Maldon.

Unless you have your own car, transport can be a real problem for many people in the more isolated parts of the District and this work aims to try to solve this for people. Partners, including Essex County Council, a private sector provider and the Rural Community Council for Essex, are working to establish the feasibility of an inexpensive, on demand, door-to-door transport scheme.

Watch this space to see what happens next.



Well Done!

As mentioned above the loss of funding has meant that many of the projects we were supporting have had to wind-up. But not before they had been able to deliver some real successes.

Just some of the achievements of these projects are listed below:

- Hospital link worker – The project provided a unique service to over 160 carers last year in its first year and to many more in the first few months of this year. The hospital link worker provided support for carers in an acute hospital setting, working one-to-one with carers prior to discharge to provide an improved hospital experience as well as providing advocacy and training.
- Neighbourhood Dispute mediation – Fortunately this project was able to find alternative funding until the end of this financial year due to its successes. Early intervention using trained mediators can prevent disputes from escalating and spirally out of control, which would push up the costs for the agencies like the police or housing associations who have to deal with the aftermath. In one case following mediation neighbours who once lived in fear of each other are now exchanging Christmas presents!
- Digital Inclusion projects – Phase one of the project, which involved an intergenerational project to support older people in sheltered accommodation to use the internet, was completed and working well. The scheme had strong links to national programmes to improve digital inclusion and access to services especially for vulnerable groups.
- Mediation scheme for vulnerable young people – This project prevented young people from becoming Homeless. Young people who are forced to become homeless are at a higher risk of tenancy failure within the first year, family breakdown, debt and escalating problems such as mental health difficulties. Nine young people were directly helped over the course of the year but many others who declined to go through the mediation were encouraged to resolve their problems and thus prevented from becoming homeless.
- Voluntary Sector Building – A thorough assessment of need within the voluntary sector has been undertaken and developed proposals for buildings to meet this need. Alternative ways to complete the project, building a business case and looking for funding are all now being explored.
- Covert recording equipment /King Street, Maldon – The purchase of recording equipment including two CCTV cameras in King Street aimed to record and act as a deterrent to anti social behaviour.

A draft Renewed Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

The regular renewal of the Sustainable Community Strategy has coincided this time with a change of government and changes to the structure and funding of the Public Sector.

In a time of rapid change it is imperative to reassess the priority issues for the District and to ensure that whoever will be responsible for delivery or overseeing the delivery of services is aware of what is important to the people who live and work here and that will be important in the future.

Based on the results of the surveys, studies and statistics that we have referred to and the consultations we undertook over the summer with residents and organisations working in the District, we have now drawn up a draft Strategy. The document identifies 6 priority issues for the District over the next 15 years and suggests where interventions should be targeted. With so many organisations and policies currently in a state of flux, we have deferred writing an Action Plan until April when it is hoped the way forward will be clearer. This should be finalised in the New Year and will be published via the internet on our website and via e-mail.

Our Priority issues are:

- Health Inequalities and Older People
- Prosperity (including skills and training)
- Accessibility
- Affordable Housing
- Supporting Communities (including keeping people safe)
- Natural and Built Heritage



2011 – A New Beginning?

In common with all partnerships at the moment we are facing some uncertainty. Although partnership work will be more vital than ever in the future, the shape of those partnerships is still being defined. The Maldon District LSP is maintaining a watching brief over the next few months to ensure that we can dovetail with the Essex Partnership's structures and new organisations such as the Kent, Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. The LSP is considering ways to streamline and simplify its structure and to provide a clearer focus on the delivery of the SCS

Other Successful Events and Activities.....

Reporting Back event (19 November 2009)

an opportunity for people to hear what the LSP had been doing and to challenge us

Skills for the Maldon District (15 March)

a workshop looking for ways to join up work around training and skills

Knowing Your District: Health and Wellbeing in the Recession (18 March 2010)

a seminar on health inequalities

In the Red: Continuing to Deliver in Hard Times (15 June)

bringing organisations from across the district together to discuss how to work more closely in times of economic stringency

999 Day (13 June)

a family, fun day promoting safety messages from the emergency services and others

Crucial Crew (20-24 September)

All 19 of the District's primary schools and therefore more than 650 Year 6 children (ages 10-11) took part in the week long event which involved workshops delivered by the Police, Fire and Rescue, Primary Care Trust, Park Rangers, Coast Guard, Essex Youth Service and Road Safety.

Senior Crew (17 November)

Safety messages for older people were warmly received by participants from across the District

Also, the LSP has part funded the District's **Youth Participation and Development Officer** whose activities this year have included supporting the Youth Council, holding an intergenerational Halloween event and a youth conference, work in schools including citizenship projects, organising Free Running courses, working with communities, a bread baking project and other intergenerational projects.

maldon district  strategic partnership

Contact

If you would like further information please get in touch with Lynn Marston, the LSP Development Officer (lynn.marston@maldon.gov.uk)

