
Sustainable Essex Partnership (SEP) Executive Board

Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

Wednesday 10th November 2010, 09:30 – 11:30

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.
John Hall	Voluntary Sector representative and Target Lead for NI 197, Biodiversity; LI 10.1, Living Landscapes. Essex Wildlife Trust.
Ian Vipond	Target Lead for LI 2.2, Affordable Housing; NI 154, Additional Housing. Colchester Borough Council.
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.
Michelle Keene (Also representing Jayne Bulman)	Environmental Projects Officer. Essex County Council. Target Lead for NI 186, Carbon Reduction; NI 188, Climate Change Adaptation. Essex County Council.
Malcolm Knights	Target Lead for NI 156, Temporary Accommodation. Brentwood Borough Council.
David Knagg	Environment Agency representative.

Officers:

Shannen Kinsella	Essex Partnership Secretariat. Essex County Council (minutes)
Gwyn Owen (Also representing Dan Gascoyne)	Lead Officer for Sustainable Essex. Essex County Council. Target Lead for NI 5, Overall Satisfaction. Essex County Council.

Apologies:

Cllr Jeremy Lucas	Representative for Essex County Council. Essex County Council.
Sue Sumner	Target Lead for NI 7, Thriving Third Sector. Essex Association of CVSs.
Matthew Searle	Lead for orchards and allotments workstream.
Justine Atterbury (Also representing Janice Willsher)	Performance & Improvement Officers. Essex County Council.
Jason Searles	Target Lead for NI 191 Residual Waste Per Household; NI 192, Recycling; NI 195 Improved Cleanliness. Essex County Council.
Liz Saville	Target Lead for LI 5.2, Congestion. Essex County Council.
Jan Plummer	Essex Partnership Secretariat. Essex County Council.

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

Cllr Graham Butland opened the meeting as Chairman.

John Hall, Paul Murphy, Suzanne Harris, Michelle Keene and Malcolm Knights made declarations of interest with regards to the allocation of PRG.

2. The Future of Sustainable Essex

There was a discussion around the future of the Partnership, given the various Government announcements.

Michelle commented that the Climate Change Groups are rolling together NI 188 & NI 186. She also stated that she would like to add Sustainable Essex to their distribution lists.

Duncan suggested that the Partnership might meet as an annual conference rather than regular board meetings and that it could usefully move from an Executive Partnership to a facilitating one.

The Partnership agreed to finalise a decision on its future in March 2011.

3. Target review in light of recent changes and partnership working going forward

The Partnership considered whether or not to review targets in light of recent Government changes. Cllr Buchanan questioned whether all targets had been withdrawn by Government, Gwyn confirmed that they are no longer compulsory, but it is for the Partnership to decide whether to continue using them.

The Partnership agreed to revise the forecast of LI 10.1 to off-track (red) due to the reduction in PRG. All other targets are to be monitored on an ongoing basis.

4. Allocation of remaining PRG

The group discussed the three bids for the remaining PRG funding. The key facets of the bids were as follows:

- NI 197, Percentage of Local Wildlife Sites in Positive Conservation Management - the LAABI Steering Group has agreed to put their best efforts into NI197 Local Wildlife Sites, as there is a reasonable chance of hitting the target. The most important thing lost from NI 197 is the ability to award grants to landowners to encourage them to get their Management Statements completed and to encourage practical work to be done. If the remaining funding is allocated to support those grants this is likely to get another 15 to 20 Local Wildlife Sites into Positive Conservation Management.
- NI 156, Temporary Accommodation - an extra £15,000 would result in approx. 20 further deposits being able to be granted through the project.
- NI 186, Carbon Reduction - a small grant of £267.81 would enable the printing of information cards to accompany the training of Housing Officers and health care professionals in fuel poverty and spotting inefficient homes. The artwork has already been prepared and paid for through PRG funds (at a cost of £1540) so by spending a little more the project can be completed, rather than shelve the artwork.

The following allocations were agreed:

- NI 6, Volunteering - £378 (finalise existing project)
- NI 186, Carbon Reduction - £268 (finalise existing project)
- LI 2.2, Affordable Housing - £5,000 (finalise existing project – Essex Land Use Protocol)
- NI 156, Temporary Accommodation - £24,354 (move an additional (circa 33) households out of temporary accommodation)

5. Future meeting dates

The Partnership agreed to meet after the next Essex Partnership Forum which is scheduled for February 2011.

6. Brief performance update from target leads

John Hall stated that the target for NI 197 is 530 and his team are currently working at 493. He also commented that the target for LI 10.1 will not be achieved due to loss of PRG and because he thought it was most important to focus on NI 197.

Paul stated he is unsure whether NI 6 will hit its target, but stated that since the promotional activities began there has been an increase in hits on the volunteering website.

On behalf of Sue Sumner, Paul commented that the Third Sector Commissioning Champion post for NI 7 will be going ahead, probably with January start.

Duncan stated that he is sceptical whether NI 4 will reach its target.

Nick stated that the revised allocation for LI 5.1 was made available to support Essex County Council's Pledge on access to community transport and LI 5.1's targets. He also announced that the first cash point in a rural pub will be installed soon.

NI 186 - Michelle commented that the team have mapped activity for District Councils and Borough Councils around carbon reduction. They have also mapped the barriers. She also stated that she would circulate this information to anyone who requests it.

Ian stated that he is unsure whether NI 154 will meet its targets, but he is optimistic about affordable housing.

John Hall suggested that the success of the Partnership should be celebrated and other Partners should know about it. Cllr Buchannan commented that plans should be made to highlight all the goals for the Sustainable Essex Partnership at EPF in February.

7. Any Other Business

Michelle announced that the Sustainable Essex Partnership won a national award for Environmental Excellence, related to the work done to date on NI 186, Carbon Reduction

Close. The date of the next meeting will be advised in the New Year.