

Brentwood Local Strategic Partnership
Executive Board Meeting
Thursday 7th July 2011

Present:

Cr Tony Sleep (Chair)	Brentwood Borough Council
Keith Brown	Essex FSB
Brian Darwood	Lighthouse Furniture
John Fry	Brentwood CVS
Cr David Kendall	Brentwood Borough Council
Cr Anne Naylor	Essex County Council
Kishor Padki	SWE NHS
Scott Prestedge	Brentwood Borough Council
Steve Summers	Brentwood Borough Council
T/Chief S.I. Simon Williams	Essex Police

Apologies:

Jenny Hyde (Coates)	Adult Community Learning
Cr Debbie Dicker	Doddinghurst Parish Council
Des Shillingford	South West Essex NHS
Yvette Wetton	Essex County Council

1. MINUTES OF THE LSP MEETING HELD ON 12.05.11

The previous minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

2. LSP OPTIONS PAPER

TS welcomed those present to discuss and consider the LSP Options paper which had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. The LSP Options paper had been developed by SS and YW as a result of the outcome from the previous meeting on the 12th May. The paper sets out 4 clear options for the LSP to move forward from its current position in the context of many recent changes. As previously advised, Brentwood Council is unable to continue to deliver the administration for the LSP as a result of Jocelyn Jordan not returning in the LSP Co-ordinators role. As a result the LSP will need to organise administrative arrangements for the LSP should it continue. The 4 options proposed within the paper are as follows:

Option 1 Brentwood Local Strategic Partnership continues to meet in its current form	
Pros	Cons
Maintenance of existing relationships	<p>Brentwood LSP has struggled to find purpose going forward and it is unlikely that this will change.</p> <p>It is likely that the local authority will withdraw from the LSP which would mean that partnership working and decisions will be taken outside of the LSP.</p> <p>There is reduced funding for the LSP which will affect its operation and delivery of projects.</p>

Option 2 Brentwood Local Strategic Partnership considers merging with other LSPs locally	
Pros	Cons
<p>By joining together with other partnerships Brentwood would be in a stronger position to compete more effectively for ever decreasing external funding.</p> <p>Other partners are coming together over a wider geographic area i.e. GP Consortia, Health and Well Being Board, LEP and by joining with other LSPs this would help them to engage more effectively at a Countywide level.</p> <p>Opportunity to lobby more effectively and marshal resources jointly to achieve results, achieve greater economies of scale.</p>	<p>Likely to lose Brentwood focus in a larger partnership</p> <p>There is no partnership footprint immediately identified as the most appropriate as Brentwood is grouped in 'west' for crime, 'south' for health and 'mid' for economic development</p>

Option 3 Brentwood Local Strategic Partnership ceases to meet and is not replaced by anything locally.	
Pros	Cons
Partners would have time released from not having to attend meeting	There would not be a single point of contact for partners to come together to influence and advocate for Brentwood Communities

Option 4 Brentwood Local Strategic Partnership is replaced by a Localism Forum for Brentwood	
Pros	Cons
<p>Proposed Localism Forum brings partners to the appropriate table at the right level to be able to make decisions and allocate resources.</p> <p>Localism Forum would fit with structure proposed by both Brentwood Borough Council and the Essex Partnership and would have relevance in an Essex wide context.</p>	<p>Difficult to see in the proposed structures where voluntary and community organisations could actively contribute.</p>

The options paper recommends Option 4, with the existing LSP members identifying the appropriate membership for the ‘Localism Forum’. With a number of different organisations going through structural changes, this option could take some time to be realised. However this option is expected to generate extra activity locally. TS stressed that whilst BBC is currently a partner of the LSP, BBC is relied on to heavily to drive and run the partnership. This is not necessarily considered the right model and the LSP should strive to be less council lead in the future. TS will also be stepping down as chair in whatever form the LSP takes moving forward.

KB queried whether the Localism Forum has any connection with the Locality Boards coming out of ECC, or whether they will be essentially the same thing. KB stressed that the FSB would not be interested in sitting on a group purely motivated by directing funding and grants, the FSB wants to be involved in delivering for local businesses and the local economy. SS commented that it is important to make use of existing bodies, with this in mind SS stressed concern regarding the Healthy Living sub group considering the current NHS/PCT changes.

Cllr DK stressed concerns that the LSP could fall flat without strong leadership and a defined purpose. With regard to the proposed Locality Board, Cllr DK queried who the board would be accountable to, how targets and priorities would be set and where funding streams would come from. Cllr DK also highlighted the importance of maintaining a Brentwood focus in whatever form the group decide to take forward. Cllr TS informed the group that with regard to the Locality Boards, ECC is currently undertaking a consultation process with no timeline yet set for decision making.

SW supported the view that the group needs to maintain a strong Brentwood focus and considered options 2 and 4 as the strongest options for the group. However SW stressed concerns that Brentwood may not have a strong enough voice as part of a Localism Forum. With regard to option 2, Brentwood does not have any obvious partners with Brentwood sharing differing area boundaries for Police Services, Healthcare etc. KB identified the West Essex Partnership as being a good fit for Brentwood, sharing similar populations, green space etc. The West Essex Partnership is a recognised sub group of the LEP structure and as such will have major funding available. Cllr DK expressed reservations that a local focus would be lost as part of the West Essex Partnership, Cllr DK also highlighted that there is currently no public understanding of what the LSP is.

BD felt that until the group defines its purpose the meetings have no value. The LSP should decide whether to wait and see what ECC rolls out and adapt itself accordingly or pursue its own way forward. SW believes the group should be able to quickly and strategically deal with emerging issues at the highest level. SW questioned whether the group need to design a different format to take the LSP forward or simply redefine the LSPs purpose and ability to deliver against objectives.

SS reminded those present that the LSP cannot continue to resource its admin through SS and SP, the LSP currently has approximately £90k available. The Communities Infrastructure and Environment sub groups are not currently meeting and not necessarily needed, the other remaining sub-groups could continue forward. SW highlighted a lack of interaction between the sub groups and the Executive Group. Sub group minutes should be made available to the Executive group and the sub-groups should regularly present their activities to the Executive members. KB informed the group that admin for the Epping Forest LSP is provided through the voluntary sector; this could be an option for the group to investigate.

ACTIONS:

- 1) The LSP to remain in its current form retaining its present membership.
- 2) SS to liaise with JF regarding the CVS providing administrative support for the LSP in the future.
- 3) LSP priorities to be circulated.

3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Friday 16th September 2011, 3-5 pm, Committee Rooms, Town Hall.