

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MID ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT  
GREAT NOTLEY DISCOVERY CENTRE, ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 14:00**

**Membership**

\* *Present*

**Essex County Council (20)**

* J W Pike (Chairman)	N Hume
* J Aldridge	* M C M Lager
* R L Bass	D J Louis
G Butland	M Mackrory
R G Boyce (Vice-Chairman)	P J Martin
N Edey	P Channer
D M Finch	Mrs M Miller
* M Hutchon	T C Smith-Hughes
J Deakin	R Walters
Rt Hon Lord Hanningfield DL	J Baugh

**Partner Organisations**

**Braintree District Council (2)**

Cllr G Butland	- Leader
Chris Fleetham	-

**Chelmsford Borough Council (2)**

Councillor Whitehead	- Leader
Lucy Payne	- Strategic Property & Research Officer - LSP Lead Officer (Chief Executive's Nominee)

**Maldon District Council (2)**

Mrs A N Warr	- Leader's Nominee
Steven Watson	- Chief Executive

**Local Councils (3)**

* Tony Hayward	- E.A.L.C (Braintree)
Cllr Cole	- E.A.L.C (Chelmsford)
Mrs R M Pink	E.A.L.C (Maldon)

**Hospitals & Primary Care Trust (2)**

Sheila Bremner	- Mid Essex Primary Care Trust
Ruth May	- Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust

**Essex Police (2)**

Chief Superintendent	- Central Division, Essex Police
Michelle Dunn	

**Essex Fire Service (1)**

John Moulson	- Chelmsford Community Command
--------------	--------------------------------

**Councils for Voluntary Service (3)**

Judy Cuddeford	- Braintree CVS
Lorraine Jarvis	- Chelmsford CVS
Paul Murphy	- Maldon and District CVS

**Also Present**

*(in order of signing the attendance book – and as there described)*

John Harrison - Heybridge Resident, Phil Davis - Althorne Parish Council, Mary Davis - Althorne Parish Council, Professor Lou Schnurr - Heybridge Parish Council, Samir Pandya - ECC Mid Area Highways, Stuart Jennings - Maldon District Council, John Tompson - Danbury Parish Council, Andrew Luce - Food on Friday Torch Trust, Jane Richards - NHS Mid Essex,

**Officers Attending in Support**

David Moses	-	Head of Member Support & Governance
Kate Fox	-	Committee Assistant
Antoinette Mortley	-	Committee Officer
John Symonds	-	Mid Area Co-ordinator

**41. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Officers**

The Chairman welcomed Members to Mid Essex Area Forum.

**42. Apologies**

The Committee Officer noted that apologies had been received from County Councillors Bob Boyce, Maureen Miller, Norman Hume, Tom Smith-Hughes, Derrick Louis, Nigel Edey, Roger Walters, John Baugh and Rt Hon Lord Hanningfield.

Apologies were also received from Mike Murkin of Halstead Town Council and Janet Cloke Chairman of Althorne 50 + Forum.

**43. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

**44. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting 23 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**45. Public Questions**

The Forum heard a question submitted in writing from Graham Bushby of Hatfield Peverel Parish Council regarding the impact of the Maldon District Council 2009 Core Strategy Document on the B1019 road between Maldon and Hatfield Peverel. The Forum queried if this issue had been addressed through the correct channels to Maldon District Council and agreed to forward the issue to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation Norman Hume.

**46. Launch of the Essex Rural Commission**

The Forum noted the Executive summary of the Essex Rural Commission Report. Councillor Aldridge addressed the Forum and noted a paper on the Essex Rural Commission would be going to Cabinet on 20 October 2009 and the Economic Development and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 9 October 2009. John Symonds added that the Essex Rural Strategy was currently in

consultation and highlighted that the Essex Rural Commission report would feed into this. The Forum was advised that there was still sufficient time to offer contributions to both the Essex Rural Commission report and the Essex Rural Strategy for which enquiries should be forwarded to Councillor John Jowers, Cabinet Member for Localism, Councillor John Aldridge or John Symonds Mid Essex Area Co-ordinator.

Councillor Bass queried the extent to which debate on this is being taken forward to central government. Councillor Tony Hayward noted the issue of resources and questioned if at this time there were any ideas on timescales or priority of works. The Chair advised that this information could be presented at Future Area Forum meetings; John Symonds agreed to bring this back to the next Form meeting if it is possible to get enough information to enable a full discussion on the subject.

#### **47. Health Scrutiny and Area Forums**

David Moses briefed the Forum on the Health Scrutiny and Area Forums report to the County Councils Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) outlining how the HOSC plans to devolve powers to Area Forums for the local scrutiny of health issues.

The Forum discussed issues about centralising health services and the implications this has on local and often rural areas. Councillor Bass called for NHS Mid Essex to respond to these issues and queried if they should contribute to funding transport for those affected. John Symonds agreed to place this on the agenda for a future meeting.

#### **48. Health Inequalities in Mid Essex**

The Forum received a presentation from Jane Richards of NHS Mid Essex on Health Inequalities, the following discussions were noted.

Councillor Lager challenged the view that the state should be solely responsible for the nation's health and questioned that if people decided to smoke, drink and indeed live an unhealthy lifestyle they should be asked also to contribute to the costs incurred. Councillor Lager put it to the Forum that consideration should be made to inequalities in service citing post code lotteries and access to service as key issues. Councillor Lager continued to address the Forum and called for local clinics and minor injury treatment centres to reduce the strain on Accident and Emergency departments.

Councillor Bass noted that this was a matter of central direction however advised that to move forward we need to understand why these inequalities exist and highlighted the need to cross reference the data from Mid Essex with that of Essex, the East of England and the UK as a whole.

Mary Davis of Althorne Parish Council questioned Jane Richards on the remit of Vascular Screening and the new service for Increasing Access to Psychological Services (IAPT). Jane advised vascular screening would be offered to all those between the ages of 40 and 75 who are registered with a G.P and emphasised that this would be a roll out programme. Jane continued to note that self referrals would be accepted on the new IAPT service as well as G.P referrals.

**49. Strategic Highways and Transportation Panel**

Paul Bird, Director of Highways and Transportation gave a verbal presentation on Strategic Highways and Transportation Panels. The following key points were noted.

Paul explained that the County Council had been trying to roll out localism for over a year. Local Highways Panels are linked with Districts and Boroughs to ensure a local flavour and their remit includes road maintenance, local engagement and programme setting. Each of the four Strategic Panels will be chaired by the Area Forum Chairmen and will be populated with County Councillors and the Chairs of the Local Highways Panels with a brief to look at strategic, high level policy issues.

The Forum noted that Highways and Transportation Panels serviced by the County Council were already in existence as well as Traffic Management Liaison panels. Existing local arrangements would need to report into the Highways Panels so that there was a single view from each District Paul explained that the new panels would replace the existing ones.

The Forum queried how small Parish Councils would feed into this. Paul advised that Districts govern the make up of the panels however hoped that parishes would be represented. The Forum believed this would create more meetings and that County Council attendance would be poor unless the Terms of Reference proved to be in dynamic.

**50. Future Programme of Work**

The Forum received the forward look which outlines the future programme of works.

Councillor Aldridge highlighted the poor representation of County Members at this Area Forum citing that it was not sufficiently well attended to enable a successful debate. Councillor Lager noted a draft report by David Moses to Rt Hon Lord Hanningfield and called for this to be placed as an item on the forward look.

Professor Lou Schnurr noted the opportunity for members to submit questions for consideration.

**51. Date of Next Meeting**

The Forum was advised that the next meeting will be held on 12 November 2009 the time and venue are yet to be confirmed.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 16.00.