

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT 1.30PM ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2010 AT THE MILL ARTS AND LEISURE CENTRE, RAYLEIGH

Membership

County Councillors:

* R C Howard (Chairman)	D Abrahall
J Dornan	D W Morris
T Sargent	R A Pearson
S C Castle	Mrs I Pummell
Mrs T Chapman	* Mrs J M Reeves
* W J C Dick	* C G Riley
Mrs E M Hart	J M Schofield
A M Hedley	K Twitchen
* S Hillier	* Mrs M J Webster
	B Wood

* present

Also Present

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

Nic Beaver, Essex Fire Service; Rod Bishop, Canvey Island Town Council; Doreen Anderson, Canvey Island Town Council; John Anderson, Castle Point Council; Andy Hilsden, ECC; Natalie Szpigelman, ECC; Trudie Bragg, Castle Point BC; Steve Rogers, Castle Point BC; George Whatley, PAM; Eileen Knott, CP Stroke Club; Geoff Sharpe, CP Stroke Club; Humphrey Squires, Essex Chambers of Commerce; John Buchanan, EALC; Jackie Brown, KRAVS; Terry Cutmore, Rochford District Council; Norman Hume, ECC; N Malik, CAVS; Pam Challis, Castle Point Borough Council; W Goodway, Castle Point Borough Council; Viv Barnes, NHS SE Essex, Brian Efde, Essex Flood Forum.

Officers Attending in Support

David Moses	Head of Member Support & Governance
Ian Myers	Committee Officer
Lesley Stenhouse	Principal Planning Officer
Ian Allen	Major Scheme Co-ordinator – Highways
Sean Perry	Principal Transport Area Co-ordinator – Highways
Paul Bedwell	Business Manager – Essex Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Committee
Samantha Awcock	Committee Assistant

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed Members, Officers and members of the public to the meeting and expressed his disappointment at the low turn out.

2. Apologies and Substitution Notices

The Committee Officer reported the receipt of apologies from Councillors Tracey Chapman, Tony Hedley, Roy Pearson, Kay Twitchen, Iris Pummell and Terri Sargent. Sallyanne Thallon, ECC; Janice Rigby, Rochford Parish Council; Nancy Jaworski, Rayleigh Town Council; Paul Warren and Steve Hawkins.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman commended the following scrutiny reports to members of the forum:

- Review of Cancer Levels across the area of the South Essex Forum
- Review of Carers Support across the area of the South Essex Forum

Prior to Public Questions, the Chairman informed Members that he had agreed to an additional item which would be taken at this point in the meeting. The item was a brief presentation given by Paul Bedwell, ECC, on the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

Paul outlined the role of the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board which raises awareness and promotes the welfare of vulnerable adults. The Board ensures appropriate guidelines are in place, ensures there is effective training and communications and runs a helpline (Ask Sal) for people with concerns. It also has a quality assurance role and carries out investigations if necessary.

Paul went on to outline:

- Who is a vulnerable adult?
- What is abuse
- Who abuses and where does it happen

- What can you do?

Councillor Dick reminded the meeting that this is a very serious issue and he promoted the work of the Ask Sal helpline.

It was agreed that a more detailed report be presented to a future meeting if required.

5. Public Questions

The Chairman permitted Mr George Whatley to read and distribute a statement concerning the LPG Calor Gas Terminal on Canvey Island.

Mrs Pam Challis, Castle Point Borough Council, supported the report and stated that it was not viable to have hazardous sites on Canvey.

Mr Steve Rogers, Castle Point Borough Council, informed the meeting that the Government are presently consulting on national planning policy statements, some of which have a direct bearing on Canvey. He urged local people to make their views known to Government.

The Chairman thanked Mr Whatley for his report.

Mr Brian Efde requested it be investigated why he had been barred from asking public questions.

6. South East Essex NHS Strategic Plan Refresh

The meeting received as presentation from Vivienne Barnes, Associate Director of Corporate Governance NHS South East, on the strategic plan refresh.

Vivienne informed members that she had attended area forum meetings in the past to present on the present strategic plan. The intention was now to review the strategy by going into the community and inform about the refresh exercise.

Members noted the key headline information to be:

- Zero growth in the funding allocated to PCTs from 2011 until at least 2014
- The NHS to find between £15 and £20 billion in efficiency savings
- PCTs required to deliver a 2% recurrent surplus annually
- Work towards a 30% reduction in agency and management costs by 2013

This has resulted in very strict efficiency targets agreed and set with partners.

Vivienne went on to outline which areas had been enhanced in the refreshed plan, being:

- Care of the elderly
- Musculo-skeletal services
- Improved access to screening and treatment for blood born viruses
- Outreach service for vascular health checks

Scaling back was proposed in the following areas:

- Estates
4 primary care centres should become operational in 2009 – 2014 with the remaining 4 deferred until after 2014
- Mental health and Learning Disabilities
Some scaling back on plans for substance misuse
- Children's Services
No change
- Public Health Services
Alcohol workers based in primary care delayed and level of commitment to tobacco control scaled down
- Primary Care
Largely unchanged
- Prescribing
Unchanged

Finally, Vivienne outlined the funding available and planned expenditure, also identifying the key messages and next steps.

The impact of these measures on the area were discussed and it was agreed that a representative from the South West Essex PCT be invited to a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked Vivienne for her presentation and contribution to the meeting.

7. Minerals and Waste Development Documents

The Forum received a short presentation from Lesley Stenhouse, Principal Planner, giving a progress report on the development of the Minerals Development Document (MDD) Strategy. The following key points were noted:

- Minerals Consultations had taken place in December 2005, March 2006, January and August 2009
- Policy principles included to reduce the quantity of material used and waste generated, to use as much recycled and secondary material as possible and to secure the remainder through new primary extraction.
- Additional resources required for 2002 to 2026 included Sand and Gravel, this was the most important mineral in Essex. Other minerals required were Silica Sand and Brick Clay. There had been a 'call for sites' from landowners and the minerals industry between July 2005 and Jan 2009.
- The geology showed that in the main the North Essex area held Sand and Gravel, however there were some of the minerals in the South West corner of Essex but currently there were no sites.
- Primary extraction needed to meet the sub-regional apportionment , optimise location of sites to service local Essex markets, taking into account transportation, have regard to future major developments, regard to rail transportation and infrastructure for imports and exports and address the need for additional silica sand provision in proximity to Martells.
- Spatial Options for extraction of sand and gravel included for extensions to existing sites, dispersed sites across the county with some concentration within the centre, concentrated sites with some dispersal or a hybrid option giving a mixture of approaches.
- The public had been consulted on the spatial options and workshops for major stakeholders had been undertaken. Maps showing where sites might be in relation to the three options were explained to the Forum.
- A map showing all suggested sites was then shown to the Forum.
- A site selection criterion had been developed. The four main criteria for site selection included geographical evidence, connection to main highways networks, feasible working and restoration schemes and the site must be environmentally acceptable. Each site would be scored against the strictest criteria.
- Work to assess the site allocation consultation responses, developing a detailed site assessment process and undertaking accompanying assessments was currently ongoing. A preferred approach consultation would take place in June 2010.

Lesley offered to return to the Forum later in the year to give a further update if required.

Finally, issues related to the recycling of tyres and the energy/cost implications of the reinstatement of local brickworks were raised.

The Chairman thanked Lesley for her presentation.

8. Draft Health Scrutiny Protocols

David Moses presented to the Forum the draft protocols developed by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) to devolve responsibilities for scrutinising local health issues to the Area Forums.

It was noted that the role of HOSC is to hold the health service to local democratic account and that any local scrutiny should take into account the outcomes of any HOSC scrutiny of long term strategies of the PCTs or other health services. In addition, it was noted that local reviews should provide for consultations with local organisations and residents.

David Moses assured members that all reviews undertaken will be monitored and their impact evaluated.

Members were very supportive of this proposed method of working and the Chairman concluded by saying this work was extremely helpful and interesting.

9. Round 2 Area Forum Budget Bids

The Chairman informed the Forum that he and Sallyanne Thallon had consulted and allocated the remainder of the Area Forum Budget as detailed in the paper – agenda item 9.

Members accepted and agreed the recommendations.

10. Highways – Major Scheme Update

The Chairman welcomed Norman Hume, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, to the meeting. Councillor Hume informed members that everything possible is being undertaken to improve traffic management in the south of the county.

The Chairman then invited Ian Allen and Sean Perry to update the forum on major highways schemes affecting South Essex.

Members were informed of and received details of the four major schemes presently on the agenda:

- Sadlers Farm
- A127 Basildon Enterprise Corridor
- Roscommon Way
- A13 Passenger Transport Corridor

Other schemes mentioned included:

- Rochford Sutton Road Bridge
- South Essex Rapid Transit (sert)
- Future phases for sert

The Forum considered the positive effects these schemes will have on the road network and the impact to surrounding areas.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their contribution to the meeting.

11. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 17 March 2010 at 10.30 am, The Towngate Theatre, Basildon

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 3.40pm

Chairman