

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MID ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH CHELMSFORD, ON THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 2PM

Membership

* *Present*

Essex County Council (20)

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

Partner Organisations

Braintree District Council (2)

Cllr G Butland -

Chris Fleetham -

Chelmsford Borough Council (2)

Councillor M Moulds - (Leader's Nominee)
 * Averil Price - Director of Safer Communities (Chief Executive's Nominee)

Maldon District Council (2)

* Mrs A N Warr - Councillor
 Fiona Marshall - 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 Hospitals Services NHS Trust
 Graham Ramsay - Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust

Essex Police (2)

*
Chief Superintendent
Michelle Dunn

Essex Fire Service (1)

Matt Hughes - Chelmsford Community Command

Councils for Voluntary Service (3)

Judy Cuddeford - Chelmsford CVS
 Lorraine Jarvis - Maldon and District CVS

Paul Murphy

- Maldon and District CVS

Also Present

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

John W Harrison, Heybridge resident, Tony Shrimpton, Maldon Town Council, Stephen Savage, Maldon Town Council, Janet Cloke, Althorne Ladies Club & Maldon 50+ Forum, Andrew Luce, Food on Friday Torch Group, Gemma Skillern, Essex County Council, B Chamberlain, ECFRS, Ken Edwards, member of the public, M Otte, member of the public, Jane Richards, NHS Mid Essex, Angela Thomson, Broomfield Parish Council, Mark Heard, member of the public, Stuart Jennings, Maldon District Council, Robbie Jamieson, ECC Highways, Tony Hayward, EALC Braintree,

Officers Attending in Support

Samantha Ball	- Committee Assistant
Graham Hughes	- Committee Officer
John Zammit	- Mid Area Co-ordinator

43. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Officers

The Chairman welcomed Members to Mid Essex Area Forum.

44. Apologies

The Committee Officer noted that apologies had been received as follows:

Essex County Councillors

Parish/Borough/District Councillors

Councillor Bob Boyce
Councillor Penny Channer
Councillor Nigel Edey
Councillor Norman Hume
Councillor Margaret Hutcheon
Councillor Mike Mackory
Councillor Tom Smith-Hughes
Councillor Roger Walters

Althorne PC Philip Davies

Other Organisations

None

45. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

46. Minutes

- (a) The minutes of the Forum held on 16 September 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- (b) Matters Arising:

Jane Richards, Mid Essex PCT, was not present at the time of the meeting considering actions from Matters Arising but provided written updates after the meeting for items 5(i) and 5(v) in the minutes of 16 September 2010 and these are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Minute 5(ii): Robbie Jamieson from ECC Highways updated the Forum on the likely completion date of road improvements off Beehive Lane and Duffield Road in Great Baddow in connection with the Crest Nicholson development (a proposed programme for completion of the works is attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes).

Minute 5(iii): a response from Mid Essex PCT on GP services in South Woodham Ferrers had been sent direct to Councillor Moulds.

Minute 10: The results of the Snow Summit had been included in a larger Winter Service Review item at a subsequent meeting of the Economic Development and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee (EDE) in July. The EDE had been satisfied with the proposed actions for improvements to the winter service and a further scrutiny of the service would be undertaken in 2011. As a result it was considered that the earlier reference to the Snow Summit being referred to Area Forums at the June meeting of EDE had been superseded.

47. Public Questions

The following issues were raised, by those persons indicated in brackets, during a public question time:

- (i) Concern was raised that roadside drains in certain areas were not being regularly cleared and consequently caused service water to build up on roads. The issue appeared to be very site specific and those raising the issue were asked to follow-up on this directly with Robbie Jamieson, Highways Department, at the end of the meeting, who could then investigate this matter further (John Harrison, Heybridge resident, and Steve Savage, Maldon Town Council).
- (ii) A resident in Maldon raising concern about the revised switching off times for street lighting in Maldon was asked to take this up outside of the meeting with Keith Tovee, Principal Engineer – Street lighting, and the Committee Officer would provide contact details. [this item was raised at the end of the meeting but has been included here as it was a public question].

48. Policing in the Twenty First Century: Mid Essex considerations

- (a) Introduction

Chief Superintendent Michelle Dunn, Divisional Commander, Essex Police outlined the Essex Police Reform Programme which was looking to find the best way to successfully meet the budget cuts, manage resources and improve productivity. The budget for Essex Police was not due to be finalised until December.

Two key pieces of work had preceded the budget announcements by the Coalition Government in October:

- (i) *Policing in the Twenty First Century consultation paper*. – this had presented a vision for Police reform and looked to transfer more power to local communities. It recognised new challenges such as counter terrorism and serious and organised crime and proposed a new structure with directly elected Police Commissioners for each County wide force. This post would probably sit alongside the existing police authorities from 2012 for a transitional period before the police authorities were eventually phased out. Police Commissioners would be responsible for setting and monitoring local priorities and have the power to dismiss Chief Constables.. There would be efforts to increase the availability of local crime data (some categories of which were already on the Essex Police website), decrease the number of central targets being set with more devolution through local policing plans. Central government would, instead, focus on national issues such as serious and organised Crime and protecting borders. Delivering value for money would be essential..
- (ii) *HM Inspectorate Constabulary Report – “Valuing the Police Service”*: had considered the impact of a 25% reduction in the future Police budget. Police visibility was key with public confidence directly linked to it. The report had concluded that by increasing specialisation the Police had actually reduced visibility.. To meet the budgetary constraints going forward, the Police would need to redesign the way it provided its services.

(b) The Reform Programme

In relation specifically to Essex Police the current best estimate was that the force would be required to save £40-45 million over the next four years. This estimate reflected the anticipated cuts in direct and indirect grants from various central government departments that impacted on the force. Essex Police would have to become a smaller organisation considering that 83% of its current budget was staffing costs.

Michelle Dunn outlined the five strands of the Reform Programme each one focussing on a particular area of Essex Police.

- (i) Operational Policing – to reconfigure operational services across the force to improve productivity and availability and reduce costs.
- (ii) Support services – to reconfigure supporting structures across the force to improve productivity and availability and reduce cost.

- (iii) Estate Review – to reduce the size of the Essex Police Estate and therefore reduce the annual cost of maintaining the estate and deliver significant capital receipts through the disposal of surplus properties.
- (iv) Transport and travel – to reduce the need for travel on Essex Police business and therefore reduce the cost of transport and travel.
- (v) Availability and demand management – to complete a review of the demand made on Essex Police's services to ensure that the force had the right people in the right places at the right time. Essex Police were constantly reviewing their operational services so as to reflect changes in criminality.

Public perception and confidence in the police was strongly linked to visibility and impact on local crime. However, a balance needed to be drawn with other less high profile police activities that also impacted on crime prevention and reduction. Sometimes certain types of criminality supported other layers of crime (e.g. stealing to buy illegal drugs) and often Police work on preventing the latter would go unnoticed by the general public as it was not highly visible.

(c) Question and answer session

Thereafter, those present raised the following issues with those raising questions and/or involved in the discussion indicated in brackets afterwards:

- (i) In light of the cut-backs on spending it was questioned whether Essex Police would still be able to support the community speed-watch programme and where future funding decisions for it would be made. There were rumours that the programme would be cut with local rationing of sites in Braintree and that local groups could be charged for it in future. Michelle Dunn agreed to investigate further and to report back to the Forum. **(County Councillor John Baugh);**
- (ii) A member of the public highlighted that the village of Stock had lost its Police station some years previous and they had now been informed that their local police station for administrative purposes was at South Woodham Ferrers. This made little sense when the village was closer to both Billericay and central Chelmsford. It was possible that there could be Police administrative boundary changes as a result of the restructuring under the Reform Programme. Michelle Dunn agreed to update the Forum at an appropriate point in the future once all the changes were known under the proposed restructuring. **(Mrs Otte, member of the public);**
- (iii) Members of the Forum questioned whether Essex Police had considered mergers with other neighbouring forces to reduce administrative costs. This had been considered by the previous Government but the impression gained from the current Coalition Government was that collaboration with other forces rather than full merger was more likely to be supported. Michelle Dunn highlighted that Essex Police had similar approaches to administrative and enforcement policy as Kent Police, a comparable similar sized adjacent Police force, and there were already some existing

joint work programmes between the two forces so further collaboration with them was likely in the future. **(Ken Edwards, member of the public);**

- (iv) As Essex Police would be reconfiguring their service and reviewing their property estate as a result of the Reform Programme it was questioned whether it was to include sharing accommodation, for instance, with other local organisations such as ambulance, fire service and local councils. Michelle Dunn confirmed that all options were being considered and in some areas co-operation was already taking place and cited as an example, a pilot in Tiptree with the fire and library service. However, one needed to be realistic as to how far this could be extended as police accommodation had specific stringent security requirements both for physical access to buildings and also access to IT systems over and above the levels normally required and operated by other large public sector organisations. **(County Councillor Lager)**
- (v) The new proposed elected Police Commissioner for each county wide force would be publicly elected although little detail was available at present. The intention was that the Commissioner would be a local person setting local priorities. In due course it was expected that local people would be canvassing for support. **(John Harrison, member of the public)**

Michelle Dunn was thanked for her presentation. She then left the meeting.

49. Essex and Southend Waste Development Document: Issues and Options

(a) Introduction

An overview of the Essex and Southend Waste Development consultation document was presented to the meeting. The document comprised a Core Strategy, Development management policies and Strategic Site Allocations that should be adopted in 2014, and outlined the background, evidence base and various considerations in determining a long term direction for waste management and disposal in Essex.

(b) Considerations

The proposed strategy sought to reprioritise waste management by either preventing waste in the first instance, by re-using , recycling or composting it or otherwise treat it to recover some value where possible, rather than requiring disposal via landfill. It was intended that the plan reached net self-sufficiency in its waste management. Importation and disposal of London's waste was expected to reduce through an annual targeted reduction programme. It was intended that waste management facilities were located, designed and operated to minimise impacts on climate change, local amenity for residents, and the natural and built environment.

The presentation outlined alternative spatial strategies, : (i) expansion and co-location with existing facilities but this would not help existing under served areas; (ii) development in key centres of population and growth which would be heavily reliant on the three current waste management facilities (Courtauld Road, Rivenhall and Stanway); (iii) a de-centralised approach with more smaller

sites that would have to be limited in scale and less focussed on growth areas in the County; and (iv) to concentrate on areas with limited existing capacity or gaps but because these areas would be rural in most cases such new development would be harder to justify.

(d) Identification of sites

Whilst no specific further sites were proposed at this first stage of consultation the document did include an invitation to landowners, developers and interested parties, as well as industry, to respond with suggested sites which would be assessed and suitable sites integrated into a Preferred Sites Document for consultation in about a year.

The following predicted Gaps were highlighted and required a call for sites to be nominated to provide/ensure:

- (i) a network of waste transfer facilities
- (ii) further composting facilities
- (iii) additional construction and demolition waste recycling
- (v) treatment facilities if one or more major sites did not begin operating (also recognising that waste also could be a resource).
- (vi) Landfill facilities: inert, non-hazardous and hazardous landfill.

(d) Question and answer session

Thereafter, those present raised the following issues with those raising questions and/or involved in the discussion indicated in brackets:

- (i) It was queried why Essex could not have a co-ordinated and consistent household recycling programme across the county. However, whilst Essex County Council was the waste planning authority, the District and Borough Councils remained the collection authorities. Essex County Council remained in regular dialogue with them to improve co-ordination and consistency. More source segregation of waste would lead to cleaner waste and waste streams although it was noted that there was some further separation of waste at waste transfer facilities. Gemma Skillern confirmed that more consistent household waste recycling collections across Essex had been a common issue raised at the drop in sessions and workshops as part of the WDD consultation. (**Maldon Parish Councillor Steve Savage, County Councillor Michael Lager**);
- (ii) The general approach outlined in the consultation document was thought to be on the right lines, particularly given the significant anticipated increases in construction and demolition waste, although greater efforts should be made to reduce this being transferred to landfill. It was acknowledged that there was both cross border importing and exporting of waste depending on where waste facilities were located in border areas of Essex and surrounding counties/London Boroughs.
- (iii) At the request of Councillor Lager the estimated cost of the consultation process would be provided to the Forum; **Action: Gemma Skillern**
- (iv) It was suggested that the local consultation period had been too short and had given insufficient notice of public meetings. ECC would look to

improve the consultation process in future recognising, in particular, that parish councils might need more time to consider their response to a consultation.

- (v) It was suggested that ECC should seek to maximise obtaining energy and resource from waste and the Combined Heat and Power facility at Rivenhall was cited as a prime example (**Janet Cloke**).

50. Area Forums Health Scrutiny Plan Review

John Zammit updated the Forum on the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group established to review health inequalities issues in the Mid Essex area, particularly relating to access, and that the Group intended to submit its draft final report to the next meeting of the Forum on 11 January 2011 and this was **noted**.

51. Area Forum Budget

The Forum received a report (AFM/12/10) from Councillor Joe Pike, and introduced by John Zammit, Area Co-ordinator, outlining recommendations for the allocation of the Area Forum Budget for 2010/2011. For 2010/2011 the Area Forum had £50,000 to distribute. Twelve bids had been received for Forum grants totalling £47,940 and it was **Agreed** that funding be allocated to these proposals as outlined in the report. Councillor Deakin specifically highlighted the importance of the Active Families Day in the Chelmsford Borough area which had received grant money, and Steve Savage thanked the Forum for funding received by the Maldon organisations named in the paper. Ken Edwards encouraged organisations to participate in the Braintree District Council 'Meet the Funders' day; He also noted that there were other similar events providing information on funding opportunities for organisations and he encouraged further communication and co-operation between these events.

52. Community Initiatives Fund

Nominations for applications for funding from the Community Initiatives Fund were now closed. The application process had been well supported. The Braintree panel would meet on 7 February 2011 and the joint Chelmsford and Maldon Panel on 15 February 2011 to consider applications received in their respective areas. A further report would be made to the Area Forum at its meeting on 3 March 2011.

53. Date of Next Meeting

The following future meeting dates were **noted** (both to be held at 2pm at Chelmsford Baptist Church):

Tuesday 11 January 2011;
Thursday 3 March 2011.

54. Forward Look

A draft Forward look for the Committee, tabled at the meeting was **agreed** subject to stressing the opportunities offered by the Transformation item.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.31 pm.

Chairman
03 March 2011

APPENDIX 1

Written updates received from Jane Richards, Mid Essex PCT on two matters arising from the Mid Area Forum meeting on 16 September 2010.

Minute 5(i)

Alternative provision of services such as blood testing and audiology in central Chelmsford after the closure of St John's hospital at the end of September (Cllr Miller)

The information circulated by MEHT (attached) provides the most up to date information relating to the re-provision of services following the closure of St John's Hospital. Some aspects of this provision will be followed up as part of the work currently being undertaken by the task & finish group looking at health inequalities

Minute 5(v)

Staffing of Burnham Clinic over the lunchtime period (Mrs Davies)

Burnham Clinic is managed by Central Essex Community Services (CECS) who have responded to this issue as follows – unfortunately staffing levels do not allow for lunchtime cover so, while the receptionist is taking her lunch break, an ansaphone that should pick up calls after six rings has been installed. CECS were unaware that the ansaphone was not working so will ensure that this is fixed as quickly as possible