

Minutes
HARLOW 2020 PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Friday 25th June 2010, Council Chamber, Civic Centre,
The Water Gardens, Harlow

PRESENT:

Jackie Sully (JS)	(Chair)	Rainbow Services
Cllr Eddie Johnson	(Vice Chair)	Essex County Council (ECC)
Sarah Arnold		GO East
Adrian Coombs (AC)		Essex Police
Keith Hughes		Business Link East
Jenny Minihane		NHS West Essex
Chris Fluskey		Harlow Education Consortium
Cllr Margaret Hulcoop (MH)		Harlow Council
Jonathan Clarke		Harlow & District Chamber of Commerce
Raine Hunt		Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
Rev Robert Findlay		Inter Faith Forum

IN ATTENDANCE:

Malcolm Morley (MM)		Harlow Council
Yvette Wetton		Essex County Council
Lynn Seward (LS)		Harlow Council/Children's Partnership
Becci Court (BC)	(minutes)	Harlow 2020 Partnership
Marina Sherriff (MS)		Harlow 2020 Partnership

APOLOGIES:

Andrew Bramidge (AB)	Harlow Renaissance Ltd
Robert Halfon MP	MP for Harlow
Sue Young	Harlow College
Darren Leech	Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
Alison Cowie	NHS West Essex
Marcella Mrabety	BAA
John Wright	Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
Jan Dalrymple	Harlow & Broxbourne Women's Aid

ABSENT:

Karen Hendry	East of England Development Agency
Cllr John Strachan	Harlow Council
Charles Cochrane	Essex Police Authority

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received and noted. JS passed on congratulations to Simon Williams on his new role and welcomed AC and MH to their first meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

JS and KH declared an interest in item 6 Performance Reward Grant (PRG).

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2010 were agreed as an accurate record. CF added that the statement in the last paragraph in item 3 with regards to educational attainment was particularly misleading and this was noted as an addendum to the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Future Board meetings (8.2)

With the last two Board meetings receiving poor attendance, MS checked that Fridays remained convenient for members and this was confirmed.

3.2 West Essex Partnership School Prize Giving (10.1)

Harlow primary schools have excelled in their engagement with this particular project and the school assemblies have provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight their successes. An event has been planned on 5th July for all successful students, their parents and teachers to come together and celebrate their achievements. 2020 Board members will also be invited.

BC to email further details

BC to action

4. HARLOW 2020 STRUCTURE – IS OUR LSP FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

MM circulated a paper and provided an outline to the proposal which will ensure that collaborative working continues to support the partnership. The proposal will enable a more streamlined and economic approach be taken forward by replacing the current structure of Harlow 2020. The recommendations are that the Steering Group be replaced by an Executive Management Group and that the Chair be authorised to explore and agree the creation of sub-regional working with local partners.

It was confirmed that neighbouring districts, ECC and Essex Police have been approached and consulted on the proposal. The Operational Delivery Group will consist of key operational managers who will be brought in for individual items as they arise. The group will be focused and flexible in its approach, driving forward and implementing items directly from the Executive Management Group. Comments were made on the pooling of budgets by partners and how a lack of aligned funds can limit objectives being achieved. It was agreed that the new structure would potentially be a good way of supporting this challenge.

5. DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

A draft copy of the 2020 Vision (Sustainable Community Strategy) was circulated supported by written comments from Board members unable to attend the meeting. JS provided an introduction to the document that has been produced in the hope it will include local aspirations, that it reflects all other plans and strategies, and is the 'golden thread' to tie everything together. This is the first draft presented to the Board for its comments, those of which included:

- The Regional Spatial Strategy no longer exists – strategic context needs to be updated
- There is no overall Vision
- The Vision and action plan appear to be combined. Key elements need to be drawn out
- Too much scene setting – evidence base required
- Appendices are needed
- In the public document – the Vision needs to be clearly stated, objectives clearly measurable and measures needs to be tangible
- We want something that shouts Harlow and a Vision to reflect the town
- Who are the audience? Should this document meet the needs of all audiences? Extract a key summary without losing data
- Is the data accurate, for example page 14 – where has this information come from?
- Use of phraseology to ascertain what key issues are, for example page 26 – Harlow 2020 has no influence over the Building Schools for the Future programme
- Extract key issues for engaging the public with and keep information concise
- There is a need to be bold about what Harlow needs will be in ten year's time

LS proposed that the pre-existing sub group take these comments on board and look further at developing the Vision. Clear objectives that are measurable in the LAA need to be linked to provide more clarity. MS to co-ordinate meeting

MS to action

JS asked members to make any further comment by Friday 2nd July and forward to MS/BC via email and added if anyone wished to participate in the working group, all are welcome

All to note

6. PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT (PRG)

6.1 DCLG announcement

A paper was circulated which listed the options for reducing the allocations of PRG made by the Essex Partnership. It is not clear what LSPs are required to do as yet, but it appears that unspent funds are to be returned. Thematic Partnerships and District LSPs will make the final decision on which projects are to be withdrawn. The three main issues are:

- Impact on withdrawing a project (cascading effect on other services/projects)
- Leverage (match funding that has been sought to help provide the project)
- Saving assumption – what the realistic savings will be (including residual costs)

MS provided an outline of the projects being operating through the current funding stream and confirmed that Harlow has received full funding in advance. Discussion took place regarding the current agreed allocation to both Thematic Partnerships and District LSPs (referring to table 1 of the paper) and comments included a possible reduction in NI targets should resources be withdrawn. JS advised that some targets are being 'parked'. Further information is required as to the contractual commitment of partners and more clarity is needed as to what is required. Resources will need to be re-aligned to priorities and clarification is awaited in order to understand the context.

It was agreed that JS write to Cllr Peter Martin and copy in Cllr John Jowers and Dan Gascoigne at ECC, circulating a copy to all partners. *JS to action*

MS highlighted that the PRG reduction would affect the overall 2020 budget for 2011/2012. It was agreed that sustainability and functionality of the LSP are different issues, and we need to concentrate on immediate priorities for now.

6.2 NI 4 – funding and request to reduce target

MS advised that the County Lead for each LSP had previously agreed to provide £10k for work around NI4 (% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality). Harlow 2020 has commissioned the draft strategy and was hoping to hold a marketplace type event for members of the public for information sharing with partners, and to run a survey. The full offer of funding has been withdrawn and some of the 2020 budget will have to be used in its place, with any funding from PRG which might be available.

There has been a request from the County Lead to lower the target for NI4 from 35% to 32% across the board. This was agreed.

7. REGENERATION STRATEGY – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

A paper was circulated and LS provided background information. There is a high level of need around the Staple Tye area and a joined multi agency allocation group (MAAG) approach is needed to address both the social and physical regeneration issues that exist. It is proposed to refresh the data and host a workshop to identify the priority issues as well as the services that are available. The workshop will take place within the next few months and the Board will be updated with regular progress reports. The work will take place in partnership with Harlow Renaissance. This was agreed.

8. HARLOW RENAISSANCE

AB's paper which had been previously circulated was noted.

9. LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST AND SAFEGUARDING

A paper was previously circulated for noting. MS provided a summary on the safeguarding arrangement.

10. HARLOW 2020 FINANCE

A paper was previously circulated for noting.

11. UPDATE FROM PARTNERS

Harlow Education Consortium (HEC)/Education Trust

The ten schools who have been pursuing a change of status to Foundation & the acquisition of a Shared Co-operative Trust have now made a final resolution to do so. Partners to the Trust will be Anglia-Ruskin University, Harlow College, Harlow District Council, Kier Harlow, Harlow Chamber of Commerce & The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust. The Trust will legally come into being on 1/9/10.

It is envisaged that the Trust group will work in close liaison with the remaining forty schools which are members of HEC. The ten schools will continue to be members. The Trust is being set up as a model which will allow any other school or other partner to join by invitation or request.

HEC faces a challenging future due to the loss of £2million of funding from 1/4/11 and other factors which may put pressure on sustaining a full collaborative partnership. HEC as the representative voice of the Harlow schools on strategic multi-agency groups such as 2020 and may subsequently find its capacity to engage is limited.

12. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

14. DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 17 September 2010 at 10.00am in Committee Rooms 2A/B at the Civic Centre, Harlow.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.