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## ROCHFORD LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update of the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) since they last attended the Committee on 3 June 2010.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Rochford LSP is a non-statutory multi-agency partnership which brings together, at a local level, the different parts of the private, public, community and voluntary sectors. The duty of the LSP is to prepare and implement a single co-ordinated framework of its long term vision for the District, as set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Its vision: "Working in partnership to make our District a place which provides opportunities for the best possible quality of life for all who live, work and visit here". This vision is the same as that of the District Council. The objective of the SCS and for the LSP is to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the local area.
- 2.2 The LSP is currently made up of an Executive Board and five partnerships that support the delivery of the identified priorities in the SCS. The Executive Board is chaired by the Leader of the Council, with the Chief Executive as deputy, and has representatives from Rochford District Council, Essex County Council, Essex Police, National Health Service South East Essex, the voluntary and community sector, the local business community, local Registered Social Landlords and each of the Chairs of the five Thematic Partnerships.

### 3 UPDATE SINCE JUNE 2010

- 3.1 There were a range of mechanisms, local, regional and national in place designed to support the LSP and the work of the thematic partnerships through the Sustainable Community Strategy. However, following the general election in May 2010 and the formation of the coalition government, the LSP recognised that there would be significant amendments in the coming year.
- 3.2 In June 2010 the Comprehensive Area Assessments were scrapped. In October 2010, all designations of local improvement targets in the Local Area Agreements and the requirement to prepare a new agreement from April 2011 were revoked. This means that the LSP are now free to amend or drop any targets in the 2008-2011 Agreement without government approval. Where they choose to keep targets, Government will not monitor performance. There will be no payments of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) linked to the current LAA and there will be no requirement to prepare a new Agreement from April 2011.
- 3.3 The LSP receives no statutory funding but in 2009 it was awarded a proportion of the County wide Performance Reward Grant monies, reflecting

the performance of Essex against LAA 1 targets. Unfortunately, in June 2010 a significant proportion of the PRG funding allocated to Essex County Council was subsequently withdrawn by Central Government, which resulted in the recall of all unspent PRG monies allocated to Rochford LSP. As a consequence the only remaining LSP funded project is the Chief Officer post for Rayleigh and Rochford Association of Voluntary Services, this post will be funded until 31/3/2011. All other LSP funded projects have either stopped or have sought funding from alternative funding streams.

- 3.4 However Rochford LSP has continued to strengthen its involvement and leadership of key partnerships and partnership working. The LSP has been leading on a pilot 'Place Based Budgeting' project in conjunction with Castlepoint LSP. The purpose of the pilot was to examine the referral routes to services for frequent service users, to identify duplication in processes and to recommend alternative approaches. Recommendations for alternative approaches, which reduce the number of assessment meetings, produce better outcomes and make savings without impacting on service delivery. The pilot project is still progressing and a full report is being presented at a joint Rochford and Castlepoint LSP Executive meeting on 26 November 2010. The project team are now being supported by both the Government Office East and Essex County Council and will be applying for funding from the recently announced 'Community Budgets,'- for which Essex has been selected as a pilot area.

#### **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 At a time of limited resources it is vital that the Council continues to engage effectively in key partnerships. The effectiveness of the LSP is a key operational risk to the Council and the operation of the LSP and the partnerships around it are likely to become even more important as the amount of public sector funding continues to diminish.

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 At the moment the LSP funds the two dedicated LSP officers through the previously awarded PRG allocation, this funding will enable funding of the officers to continue until 30 August 2011.
- 5.2 In addition, a range of staff from across the Authority are regularly or periodically involved in the work of the LSP or its sub-groups.

#### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to note the contents of the report.

Paul Warren  
Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:-**

None

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