

Key Decision Required	No	In the Forward Plan	No
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CABINET

24 APRIL 2015

REFERENCE FROM COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 30 MARCH 2015

A.3 TENDRING LOCALITY BOARD - UPDATE
(Report prepared by Colin Sweeney)

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 30 March 2015, the Committee received a presentation from the Council's Executive Projects Manager, which provided an update on the work of the Tendring Locality Board (TLB). It was noted that TLB was one of six locality boards across Essex, the others being Basildon, Braintree, Colchester, Epping Forest and Maldon.

Members were advised that the membership of the TLB was currently made up of Essex County Councillor Kevin Bentley (Chairman), Essex County Councillor and Leader of Tendring District Council (TDC), Councillor Mick Page (Vice-Chairman), TDC Cabinet Members, Essex County Council (ECC) Members allocated to Tendring and representation from the Tendring District Association of Local Councils.

It was reported that, since it was established in September 2011, TLB had met on 17 occasions, that meetings were no longer held in private and that these were now open to allow the public to attend and to raise questions. Agendas and minutes of meetings were published on TDC's website.

TLB, whilst not a formal decision-making body, provided a democratically accountable hub for partnership activity and served to provide support, influence and constructive challenge, particularly in relation to TLB's key focus areas of:

- Improving skills and educational attainment;
- Supporting better infrastructure and roads; and
- Improving health outcomes

Specifically, TLB had considered a range of supporting subjects, which included:

- Public service reform
- Family solutions
- Educational attainment in Tendring District Council Contribution made by the Highways Panel
- Economic Growth Strategy (Local Enterprise Areas)

Arising from such considerations, outcomes have included:

- A drive for improved road and rail links around the District
- Shaping the thinking of an enterprise area
- Improved engagement with partners for joint working Providing a strategic focus to improving skills and educational attainment

In conclusion, it was reported that, since TLB had no dedicated budget, nor decision-making powers, it would continue to strive to influence and steer decisions taken by its partners.

The Committee

Members broadly welcomed the presentation and raised specific questions in relation to:

- The reputation of ECC amongst Tendring residents, despite the good work of TLB
- The composition of the Board (e.g. consideration be given to the inclusion of TDC's opposition group leaders)
- Whether there was a committee at ECC, which scrutinised the work of TLB
- Raising the profile of and promoting the work of TLB amongst the public
- Using TLB's influence to work better with key partners including Councillors from neighbouring Districts when cross-boundary issues arise

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendation of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee and determine its response if any:

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to **CABINET** that:

- (a) It considers the membership of TLB and whether it would wish to review this; and
- (b) In order to raise awareness of TLB, its function and business, a session be included within Member Induction and Training and, in particular, new Member training.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

Comments will be provided directly at the meeting.