

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY

Present: Councillors D Miles (Chairman), M Patten (Vice-Chairman), C Amos, C Callender, J Hawkins, A Pugh and I Tracey

Also Present: Councillors M Page (Leader of the Council and Vice-Chairman of the Tendring Locality Board), N Turner (Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment and Coast Protection Portfolio Holder), N Brown and D Casey

In Attendance: Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Business Manager (Jon Barber), Deputy Management and Members' Support Manager (Sally Cornish) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)

Also in Attendance: Councillor Kevin Bentley (Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Chairman of the Tendring Locality Board)

42. WELCOME

The Chairman was delighted to welcome to the meeting, Councillor Kevin Bentley from Essex County Council, in his role as Chairman of the Tendring Locality Board (the Board), and also welcomed Councillors Brown, Casey, Page and Turner to the meeting.

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Broderick.

44. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 9 December 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

46. VERBAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TENDRING LOCALITY BOARD

The Chairman invited Councillor Bentley to address the Committee.

Councillor Bentley delivered a presentation, which explained the make-up of the Board, its frequency of meetings and the representation on it, which, from this year, includes the Chairmen of Tendring's Parish Councils. This has therefore brought together the three tiers of local government for the first time. He added that the Board was unique from other Locality Boards in that its meetings were now open to the public to attend.

Councillor Bentley said that the Board did not make decisions but provided strategic public service co-ordination and served to provide support, influence and constructive challenge as well as a strategic link across partnerships.

In his presentation, Councillor Bentley also highlighted the areas of focus of the Board, which included:

- Improving Educational Attainment and Aspirations – Tendring District Council was particularly interested in this
- Highways Maintenance (and defect reporting)
- Highways Panel
- Regeneration
 - Assisted Area and Core Status
 - A120 Upgrade
 - Energy Skills Centre
- Whole Essex Community Budget / Public Service Reform
- Rural Infrastructure and Community Builder
- Superfast Broadband
- Review of Recycling Performance

Councillor Bentley informed the Committee that Economic Growth was a part of his Cabinet Portfolio and said that the A120, which was the only road in the country that linked a seaport to a growing airport, was a very important strategic route critical for economic growth and trade.

Councillor Page confirmed to the Committee that a new overview and scrutiny committee for Education and Skills would be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting, for approval at the next full Council.

Councillor Page added that, at the last Corporate Management Committee meeting, rural infrastructure had been discussed with a Rural Projects Panel being set up to be chaired by Councillor Nicholls.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Bentley and Page for their informative and thorough presentation and welcomed the update on the work of the Locality Board. She added that she was pleased that there was going to be a new scrutiny committee for education and skills rather than this being a Cabinet Portfolio.

Members raised questions and concerns on a number of issues, including:

- Youth Strategy Group and, in particular, the issue of travel and discount cards;
- Bus Travel for young people in rural areas;
- Consultation concerning recycling centres in Essex and whether these could continue to be maintained;
- The dismantling of the Careers Service;
- A high number of first year University drop-outs, possibly caused by youngsters drifting into further education into the wrong subjects (if youngsters were given advice earlier on careers this could be reduced);
- Possible careers in hospitality rather than as a fill-in, part-time job;
- Jaywick funding issues (limited resources available);
- Dualling of the A.120 – possibility that the works could not take place for a number of years; and
- Concern that Tendring would not get its fair share of £1 million fund awarded to Essex and that most would go to Colchester

Councillor Bentley discussed the Apprenticeship scheme with the Committee and agreed that businesses needed to visit schools to engage with young people moving into growth sectors.

Councillor Bentley also informed the Committee that he would be happy to come back to update it at any time on the progress of issues raised by Members and how important it was that ideas were shared. He thanked the Chairman for welcoming him to the meeting.

47. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

The Chairman asked the Committee if they had any subjects they wished to be scrutinised by it and, in particular, the Essex County Council Councillor responsible for Highways. The issue of the future work programme was also raised and the Democratic Services Manager confirmed that the proposed work programme would be presented to the Committee and full Council in order that suggestions could be embedded into the work programme.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman