

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 30 MARCH 2015 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Miles (Chairman), Patten (Vice-Chairman), Amos, Hawkins, Howard and Tracey.

Also Present: Leader of the Council (Councillor Mick Page)

In Attendance: Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Deputy Management and Members' Support Manager (Sally Cornish), Executive Projects Manager (Keri Lawrence) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)

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

58. WELCOME

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all present at the meeting.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Callender and Pugh.

60. MINUTES

(a) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman; and

(b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the first bullet point on page 7 being amended to remove the words "bear some resemblance to" and that this be replaced with "be more aligned to" and to now read

"TDC Strategy should be more aligned to the Essex County Council Strategy;"

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

62. PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TENDRING LOCALITY BOARD

The Council's Executive Projects Manager (Keri Lawrence) delivered a presentation on the role of the Tendring Locality Board (TLB), and said that it was a model of good leadership, which provided a democratically accountable hub for partnership activity and also served to provide support, influence and bring about constructive challenge.

Ms Lawrence said that the Tendring Locality Board had held 17 meetings since it was established in September 2011. She added that the meetings were now open to the public in order to allow for the opportunity to raise questions and participate in the meetings.

She added that some of the key focus areas of the Locality Board was to:

- Improve skills and educational attainment with TLB being one of three Locality Boards, which had focused specifically on education;

- Support better infrastructure and roads, especially the A.120, which was a crucial corridor between Stanstead Airport and Harwich Port; and
- Improve health outcomes

Ms Lawrence said that other issues, which had been discussed, included the work of Family Solutions and that feedback showed examples of how the profile of the Tendring area had been raised.

Councillor Bentley, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council (ECC) said that since the TLB had been set up, it had led from the beginning and that it was a pacesetter for other Boards to follow. He said that he regularly travelled around the 12 Locality Boards in Essex to talk about economic growth and that he also liked to invite Parish Councils to attend Board meetings so that they could ask questions about what was going on in their particular district. He said that the TLB was becoming an influencer on issues, with transport being a major concern along with crime, and that both of these issues had been raised in a recent public meeting held in the Princes Theatre, Clacton. Councillor Bentley confirmed that he would be meeting with Abellio Greater Anglia and Network Rail shortly to raise the issue of infrastructure at stations around the Tendring district.

Councillors raised concerns around the difficulty of finding TLB-related information on the internet but despite this, had found the Board's public presentation in the Princes Theatre to be excellent. Councillor Bentley, when asked about the Essex County Council's poor reputation, responded by saying that local issues could end up as being election issues with, for example, part-night street lighting and cracked pavements, which were sometimes not repaired as quickly as these had been in the past. Councillor Bentley also confirmed that all Agendas and Minutes are sent to all 60 Tendring District Councillors as well as being published on the Tendring District Council website.

The Chairman said that she had attended the last Locality Board meeting, which had focussed upon the A.120; roads (especially potholes); Education; and also provided an update on the changes to the Care Act.

In response to a concern raised that the Board might, in due course, become political, Councillor Bentley said that, as Chairman, he had always tried to make the meetings non-political and it was intended to bring up issues that needed to be discussed. He further added, when asked about devolution, that the Locality Board would have a major part to play in devolution but that work needed to be done in strengthening Councils before looking at combined Authorities.

In response to a concern raised by a Member, Councillor Bentley agreed to look into the level of litter along the A.12 and A.120 and, if necessary, would raise the issue at a future meeting of the Board.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Bentley, the Council's Executive Projects Officer and its Deputy Management and Members' Support Manager for attending the meeting.

It was **RECOMMENDED 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.

Councillor Bentley, Councillor Page, the Executive Projects Officer and the Deputy Management and Members' Support Manager left the meeting at this time.

63. REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)

A.1 Review of the Year and Work Programme for 2015/2016

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), which provided the Committee with a review of the work it had carried out in the current municipal year and sought Members' approval to a draft Work Programme for the coming 2015/2016 Municipal Year for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 26 May 2015.

The Council's Democratic Services Manager explained that Appendix A to the report was a summary of what had been discussed and agreed by the Committee in the municipal year thus far. He stated that Appendix B was a suggested work programme for the Committee and he was happy for the Committee to add any items Members of the Committee felt were required.

In response to a question by the Chairman with regard to the frequency of meetings, it was confirmed that, constitutionally, there would usually be at least six ordinary meetings of the Committee in each year and that, in addition, special meetings could be called from time-to-time as and when appropriate.

Following discussion by the Committee it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The report on the review of the year 2014 to 2015 be noted;
- (b) The matter of how the Council's Revenue and Benefits' Section handled and managed the information received from the Department for Work and Pensions, be added to the Committee's 2015/2016 Work Programme;
- (c) The Committee propose that the following matters be considered for inclusion within its Work Programme:
 - (i) The Committee consider, in conjunction with the annual review of the policing structure and its impact on the community, a review of the achievements of the other emergency services;
 - (ii) Issues concerning the A120 and other highway matters, including the levels of congestion on some of the District's roads;
 - (iii) An Older Person's Strategy since the Council already supported an Older Person's Forum and what more could be done for this particular age group; and
- (d) The draft 2015/16 Work Programme be agreed and submitted, subject to the inclusion of (b) above, to the Annual Meeting of the Council for approval.

Councillor Patten praised the Democratic Services Manager and his team in recognition of the hard work that had undertaken throughout the year.

The Chairman said thank you for all of the Committee's hard work and said that interest and participation of all Members had kept her motivated and thanked the Officers for their hard work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8 June 2015 at the Council Offices, Weeley.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.23 p.m.

Chairman