

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP REFERENCE GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.00pm on 26 February 2007**

Present: Councillors C M Dean – Chairman.
Councillors J E Menell, D J Morson and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance: M Cox, M Jones, A Stewart and T Turner.

SPR5 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B M Hughes and R M Lemon.

SPR6 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2007 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

SPR7 BUSINESS ARISING

i) Minute SPR3 – Delivering Partnership Working In Uttlesford

Members stressed the importance of close partnership working with the new PCT, although the District Council's powers on the Board had not yet been clarified. At the last Council meeting, Councillor Menell had been appointed as this Council's representative on the West Essex Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Wilcock said that the minutes of the last meeting had referred to business opportunities with Stansted Airport. He said the council needed to take a careful line on this issue in line with the Council's strategy to maximise the benefits and minimise the impact of the Airport. Most of the focus was currently on objections and Council needed a strategic view on how to develop business opportunities at the airport.

The Director of Communities said that she had written to the political groups and was waiting a response. She confirmed that the LSP minutes would be included in future editions of the minute book.

In relation to migrant workers, it was reported that an initial meeting had been arranged with the polish community at the Stansted Day Centre on Wednesday 21 March at 7.30pm. Chief Inspector Graham Stubbs said that he was involved with work to engage with hard to reach groups and would like to have an input into this meeting.

SPR8 HARLOW RENAISSANCE

It was noted that John Spence had been unable to attend this meeting, He would be asked to the speak at the next meeting and it would be useful if the members of the LDF were also invited.

SPR8 NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANELS

Chief Inspector Graham Stubbs from Essex Police outlined progress with the Neighbourhood Policing Strategy. This initiative had been put forward by the Home Office. The main emphasis was on partnership working and whole community involvement. There was a tight timescale and the structure was to be implemented by 31 March.

The plan proposed dividing the District into neighbourhood areas and putting in place policing policies appropriate for that area. This would be achieved in a number of stages. First it was necessary to establish a neighbourhood profile ie the demographics of the area. Then a Community Engagement Strategy would be produced, which would identify the major problems and concerns for that area. The views of the public would be sought by random questioning and by holding public meetings. This would be achieved by way of Neighbourhood Panels that would meet every 1-2 months and should be community driven. They would be asked to decide on the 3 main priorities for the area. It was intended that they should be a-political and elected members would attend only as observers.

The next level up from the Panel was the Joint Action Group which would comprise all the partners, including Councils, Police, Highways and other non statutory organisations. It would look at the issues identified by the Panel and see if it could find a solution. It might be that an appropriate group was already in place, for example CSAT.

Chief Inspector Stubbs said that initially there would be seven action panels for the district and officers had been appointed to these. He conceded that these would cover a wide area and it might be hard to find common priorities. It was hoped that panels covering smaller areas would be set up at a later date. It was unfortunate that the Neighbourhood Panel areas did not coincide with the Council's own Area Panels.

Members thought it was important for a representative of the parish council to be a member of the Panel as they had a good knowledge of local problems. It was confirmed that the neighbourhood profile would be made available as it mostly comprised public information.

Councillor Menell refereed to the fear of crime and said that recently there had been an increased number of crimes listed in the local paper which fuelled people's concerns. She was advised that this list did not reflect the situation in the district that had very low crime levels, defined as priority 3 in the 1-3 rating in the county. Councillor Wilcock said that the public's fear of crime would be helped by a more visible police

presence but he appreciated that the police might not feel this to be justifiable in terms of the overall policing for the county.

Councillor Menell said it was essential that young people were involved in the panels. Inspector Dodds agreed and said that many meetings were attended by the same people with the same issues. He had recently been to a meeting where young people had been invited and this had totally changed the dynamics. He was currently working with the youth service to identify young people that might like to be involved.

The Panel supported the initiative and thanked the Police for their presentation.

SPR9 LAA REWARD GRANT

Councillor Morson reported that he had recently attended a meeting at Chelmsford where it had been agreed to allocate the £45,000 to all Local Strategic Partnerships. The funds should be received by the end of March.

SPR10 UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP ISSUES

The group was updated on matters raised at Uttlesford Futures and the Essex Partnership.

SPR11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held in Saffron Walden on Monday 23 April at 4.00pm.

The meeting ended at 5.30pm