

**MEETING OF UTTLESFORD FUTURES BOARD held at 1.30 pm at the COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN on 21 APRIL 2010**

Present:- Councillor Howard Rolfe – Chairman (UDC)  
Councillors Mark Lemon, Janet Menell, Alan Dean (Economic Development Group), Keith Eden (Transport Group) and Eric Hicks (UCVS), John Mitchell ( Chief Executive UDC) Gaynor Bradley (Community Partnerships Manager UDC), Alison Cowie (Director of Public Health – NHS West Essex), Kerry Vinton (Partnerships Officer UDC), Fiona Gardiner (Anti Social Behaviour Officer) Graham Fletcher (Federation of Small Businesses), Paul Garland and Mike Jeffs (Sustainable Uttlesford), Ray Gooding (ECC) Hamish McIlwrick (UALC), Alyson Wilson (Essex Police) Sue Sumner (UCVS) and Yvette Wetton (ECC).

**F112 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Catherine Dean, Stuart Hare, Linda Robinson, and Toni Coles.

**F113 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 27 January 2010 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to a comment from Mike Jeffs that Minute 102 (ii) and item 10 on the agenda referred to a series of reports rather than one.

The Chairman referred to an action list prepared from the meeting on 27 January and asked about action points arising from a document “Uttlesford Futures Annual Assembly 13th October 2009”.

The Community Partnerships Manager read relevant parts of the “Uttlesford Futures Annual Assembly” document, listing the objectives of the partner organisations.

Kerry Vinton was asked to send out an organogram regarding cycle travel and to clarify the CYPSPY changed name.

In answer to a question the Community Partnerships Manager confirmed that there was nothing arising from the minutes of the Management Team.

AGREED that the issues arising under agenda item 1 (including the signing of the Compact) be referred to the next meeting. and that an item be submitted to the following meeting on the “Annual Assembly” document.

F114 **BUDGET AND FUNDING UPDATE**

The Board was referred to a balance sheet for Uttlesford Futures accounts 2009/10.. The Community Partnerships Manager said that more had been spent pro rata than before, and that the report was a prudent one as there was no absolute certainty about the Essex County Council contribution. Sue Sumner stressed that the Council had paid UCVS £15,286 and that she had pointed this out at the last meeting.

Councillor A Dean said he wished to obtain clarity about the funding of the Economic Development Group using LABGI funds. He read parts of the Economic Development Group's Response to consultation by the District Council on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (copy circulated after the meeting) and said he understood that the LABGI money was still in the Council's coffers so there was no certainty that the Group could fund what it wanted to do. He asked Futures to request the Council to assign the money to Futures.

The Chairman of the Board explained that such a request should be made to the Environment Committee with accompanying proposals as to how the money could be spent in the public domain. He asked the Board whether they would be content for such a request to be made to the Environment Committee and the meeting was content with that approach..

The Chairman then asked for the proposals, as to how the money should be spent, to be circulated to all Members of the Board in time for a request to be made to the June meeting of the Environment Committee. He added that it was important to appreciate that the finance under consideration had been allocated for business development purposes for the current year only.

Sue Sumner on behalf of CVSU spoke about anger which had arisen from the non-transparent allocation of £5,000,000 of Performance Reward grant money. Decisions were to be taken on this at the Environment Committee in June.

The Board was also informed that there was a further chance to bid for EMB awards. The Community Partnerships Manager added that the West Essex Transport Executive Partnership Forum meeting had been lively.

The Chairman agreed to write to (*the Environment Committee?*) on behalf of the Futures Board and mention that there were West Essex projects needing funds.

The Community Partnerships Manager added that the West Essex Transport Executive Partnership Forum meeting had been lively. She anticipated that the ESP lead Officers would ask for more information.

Sue Sumner referred to the request of CVSU for funding the updating of their database from which they update an older persons directory of services. The database had been updated at a cost of £18,000 so far and the current request was for approximately £10,000 for updating during 2010/11. The Chairman asked her to

provide more detail, drive down costs, advertise the database and permit the District Council to use it.

Members of the Board were content with this approach and some members were concerned about proliferation of databases.

The Community Partnerships Manager referred to the projected income of Uttlesford Futures and suggested giving each agency £1,000. The Chairman suggested that this would be inadvisable in the light of the expense of wages and other projects which might arise during the year.

AGREED that

- 1 The Chairman approach the Environment Committee about West Essex projects and, once proposals have been circulated, regarding transfer of the LABGI funds.
- 2 That the next agenda contains an indication of any substantive bids and/or saving/expenditure plans.

#### F115 **COMMUNITY FORUMS – PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT**

The Board received a report containing a recommendation that the Board agree to participate in Community Forum meetings when appropriate.

Concern was voiced whether these forums, which were used for consultation purposes, were broadly representative; there was a fear that they comprised a relatively small unchanging group which was being asked successive lists of questions.

AGREED that the Head of Community Engagement report to the Board how the suggested participation would work.

#### F116 **WORKING GROUPS UPDATES**

Updates were received about the following groups:-

##### **i) Uttlesford Locality Children's Partnership**

A document headed "Childrens' Services Improvements" was circulated before/at the meeting.

The Chairman was concerned that more talk was reported under this head than action and he withdrew discussion of the item pending the arrival of Councillor R Gooding.

##### **ii) Community Safety Partnership**

The Community Partnerships Manager agreed to ask Parish Councils about their experience of the usefulness or otherwise of CCTV monitoring in the community.

### **iii) Economic Development Skills and Learning**

Councillor Dean wished planning policies to support business growth. He felt the Council should engage with local business eg by holding events like the one he had arranged in Chesterford Park. He also wanted funding of a proposal he had received to do a feasibility study on a woodfuels project.

### **iv) Environment**

Mike Jeffs spoke at length about the need for progress on air quality improvement. John Mitchell described the Council's concern and activities in this matter.

### **v) Transport Forum**

Councillor K Eden spoke about the impact of increasing fuel costs and recent interest in a cycling sub-group keen to establish a safe path for walkers to Audley End Station. The Chairman felt this initiative should be encouraged. Councillor J Menell also raised her concern for pedestrians near Joshua's bridge and for runners on the road generally.

*(At 3.00pm the representative of Essex Police joined the meeting)*

### **ii) Healthy Communities & Older People Working Group**

Sue Sumner informed the meeting about a survey carried out resulting in unusual replies which she would put in a list. The village agents were unlikely to do this because of the cost. She explained that two parishes were being compared.

AGREED that the Head of Community Engagement be asked to prepare a press release on this piece of work.

The Chairman welcomed the representative of the Essex Police and said that since Councillor Gooding had not arrived the matter of children's services would be rolled forward to the next meeting. He also mentioned the problems of methadone abuse and asked the meeting whether they felt that a young person should be invited to attend the meeting. Alison Cowie thought that this was not a priority because they had no relevant statistics and they engaged with young people through Committees, Operation Moonscape and Reality Roadshows. Mention was made of the Council's part-time Drug and Liaison Officer, and Councillor Lemon commented that he thought young people formed a large part of the community which was left out of Uttlesford Futures.

AGREED that the Community Partnerships Manager look into this matter.

**F117 PRG PROJECTS**

A document headed "Performance Reward Grant Projects" detailing current projects and costs was circulated before/at the meeting.

The Board heard that the three childrens' centres were progressing well. The Community Partnerships Manager said that a lot of volunteers were needed to pull together with the Green Doctor scheme.

As regards the Trading Estates the Community Partnerships Manager reported that it seemed Resource Efficiency East and the Council could provide most of the services the Board was seeking for free. The funding could then be used to develop and promote the project in the area. The biggest challenge was identifying businesses in the first place and getting their engagement. Resource Efficiency East could provide these services but so could a third party company or an employed part-time member of staff on a 1 year fixed duration contract.

**F118 REPEAT VICTIMISATION AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Fiona Gardiner, the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator presented a report on this activity with data on the number and type of ASBO issued in the Uttlesford Area. She explained how the service operated in the Uttlesford Area.

Members asked for child protection statistics to be circulated.

AGREED that these statistics be provided for the next meeting.

**F119 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Board considered the report of this Group on communications and consultation strategy. In this context the Board also considered a document headed " Uttlesford Local Strategic Partnership Consultation"

Members were enthusiastic about the report and wished to be involved in activities. It was noted however that some parish councils had not responded and that the form of consultation was not necessarily appropriate for Uttlesford which might be more suited to a questionnaire.

**F120 CENTRE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGIES**

Graham Fletcher asked the Board to hear a fifteen minute presentation by a firm wishing to sell a multiplier process to influence the Council's commissioning. Some Members expressed doubt about the value of time spent on such a presentation when agencies were constantly reviewing their commissioning.

AGREED that the presentation be advertised widely and heard at the next meeting.

F121 **CARBON REDUCTION PLANS**

It was noted that only the fire services were producing plans

AGREED that such plans should be produced by Jake Roos's successor.

F122 **WEST ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Community Partnership Manager said that a further meeting had been held between West Essex Chairs and the chief executives of three local communities and the work with improvement advisers was continuing.

F123 **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman asked Councillor Ray Gooding, who had arrived at 3.45pm, to report to the next meeting on activities made available for teenagers.

F124 **NEXT MEETINGS**

21 July 2010  
20 October 2010.

The meeting ended at 4.08pm