

Minutes

HARLOW 2020 PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Friday 26th March 2010, Council Chamber, Civic Centre,
 The Water Gardens, Harlow

PRESENT:

Andrew Bramidge (AB)		Harlow Renaissance Ltd
Bill Rammell MP		MP for Harlow
Jackie Sully (JS)	(Chair)	Rainbow Services
Cllr Eddie Johnson	(Vice Chair)	Essex County Council (ECC)
Malcolm Morley		Harlow Council
Sue Young (SY)		Harlow College
Yvette Wetton		Essex County Council
Sandy Cruikshank		GO East
Keith Dobson		Essex Police

IN ATTENDANCE:

Becci Court	(minutes)	Harlow 2020 Partnership
Ian Davidson (ID)		Audit Commission
David Sprunt (DS)		Essex County Council

APOLOGIES:

Marina Sherriff (MS)	Harlow 2020 Partnership
Karen Hendry	East of England Development Agency
Keith Hughes	Business Link East
Rachael Jackson	BAA
Lynn Seward	Harlow Council/Children's Partnership
Darren Leech	Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
John Wright	Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
Supt. Simon Williams	Essex Police
Alison Cowie	NHS West Essex
Jenny Minihane	NHS West Essex
Cllr John Strachan	Harlow Council
Charles Cochrane	Essex Police Authority
Rod Gilchrist	GO East
Chris Fluskey	Harlow Education Consortium
Cllr Edna Stevens	Harlow Council
Andrew Murray	Harlow Council

ABSENT:

Jonathan Clarke	Harlow & District Chamber of Commerce
Jan Dalrymple (JD)	Harlow & Broxbourne Women's Aid

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received and noted. JS to liaise with BAA and NHS West Essex regarding representation at future meetings. *JS to action*

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT update

ID provided a presentation on the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which has reviewed ways of looking at public services. Initially that has involved inspectorates coming together and working in partnership to look at outcomes and local priorities. The CAA is based on LAA areas and provides local examples as well as County wide ones.

There are four themes: Our People, Our Community, Our Economy and Our World.

The assessment recognises how well the priorities express the community's needs in the four themes, providing a good understanding of the needs of local people and how these may change in the near future. Green and red flags signal good performance or concerns for future outcomes.

Examples discussed were services for safeguarding children in Essex being weak, with all partners having a role to play to address this. There are low overall crime rates, however domestic violence is an area of concern. The assessment in full may be referred to at <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk>.

Discussion took place regarding red and green performance flags relating to Essex overall but not necessarily reflecting the issues affecting Harlow. ID confirmed that although the safeguarding issues affect all towns in Essex, there were specific local examples within the assessment which may also be accessed online. However it is not possible to provide separate sub-area assessments due to cost implications. ID added that year two assessments will provide more localised workshops to discuss particular issues. Educational attainment percentages have dropped and this has been identified for further review.

JS added that there is limited opportunity to share good practice and have knowledge of projects that are working well. She provided an example of a health and wellbeing centre being set up at Latton Bush and being driven by ECC however local agencies are unaware of this. Working in parallel streams is neither effective nor efficient. ID advised that the website would allow specific subjects to be looked up and advised that the Government Office links are available for best practice information, including the IDeA website. Any further enquiries may be forwarded to ID directly at i-davidson@audit-commission.gov.uk.

ID re-confirmed that safeguarding is being looked into through a collective approach, with re-prioritising of referrals and working alongside OFSTED. Links to regeneration issues are available, with the Thames Gateway project providing a good example.

Year two will look into public service delivery and how it will be delivered across sectors and how areas are addressing this. ID offered to return to a future 2020 Board meeting with further local statistics and information should this be required.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Faith and BME representation on Harlow 2020 (4.1)

JS has made contact with Robert Finlay and is waiting to hear if he will be the representative for the Interfaith Forum on the Board. JS to update at future meeting.

JS to action

5. HARLOW RENAISSANCE LTD (HRL)/TOWN CENTRE/INWARD INVESTMENT PLAN

AB provided an update on the town centre regeneration and inward investment plan.

5.1 Growth Area Funds 2 (GAF 2) – Consultation is complete on the Old Harlow scheme and it is to be considered by the planning committee on 29th March. New houses will commence being built in June, subject to planning approval. The consultation has gone well with local people recognising the need for good quality housing on the Faircroft and Little Bays site.

- 5.2 Clifton Hatch – The planning application will be submitted at the end of April. Shops and houses will commence being built in September, subject to achieving planning approval in June.
- 5.3 Prentice Place – Roman remains have been uncovered in the planned playground site at Larkwood. English Heritage and ECC have been on site and have recorded the findings. The site will be covered temporarily. Details of the items are unconfirmed at present and the projected delay in progress to the project will be approximately one month. AB confirmed that the A414 building works would be finished by the time the Prentice Place works begin, to avoid further inconvenience to residents, particularly in Chapel Fields.
- 5.4 Staple Tye – The Health Centres Trust are leading on this project. HRL is undertaking a broad review of the wider Staple Tye area with regards to unused industrial areas. A complete solution is required and proposals will emerge during the summer. The Health Centres Trust will not vacate the existing site until the end of 2011.
- 5.5 Town Centre – The scheme is advancing towards the full planning application stage, and the developers have been in talks with department stores with announcements to follow in a few months' time. Discussions have taken place with the owners of the Harvey Centre to redevelop their site and they have exciting proposals to complement the Town Centre North scheme.
- 5.6 Inward Investment – The scheme is being launched on 13th April at an event which is aimed at property agents, solicitors, accountants and people who advise businesses, in order to persuade their clients to set up in Harlow. AB to circulate further details. **AB to action**

The Market Square has 14 new semi mature trees in wooden planters which will be in leaf by the end of April. AB added that he is keen to get lots of publicity on the projects this year and with the Leisurezone opening, the station refurbishment, the town centre scheme planning, the university campus works and the transport improvements, there is much to celebrate.

6. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

DS provided a presentation on local transport projects which included:

- Personalised travel planning
- First Avenue multi-modal corridor
- A414/M11 Junction 7 Southern Way dualling
- A414 Burnt Mill to Eastwick dualling
- Southern Way study
- Public transport study
- Harlow station refurbishment
- Central line study
- Epping rail parking study

AB added that work is due to start mid May on the station refurbishment and will hopefully be completed by mid July. The railway bridge is being opened to create a better waiting area for travellers. Free passenger access to lifts will be available and the exterior fascia boards will be re-painted. The work will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the station on 15th July.

The central line study will look at the feasibility of an underground link to Harlow. This has been reviewed in the past and been met with unacceptable cost implications. This study will investigate whether further exploration is required and whether funding should be pursued in the future. AB to bring draft report to next meeting. **AB to action**

Future work includes the Harlow eastern access study and the Harlow northern bypass, looking at a second access to the Harlow M11 junction (7a). Robust data is being collated to support future bids for this work. DS to report back to the Board with future updates. **DS to action**

Discussion took place on the 2010/2011 programme and whether the cycle track link network could be extended to the new school on Southern Way.

SY highlighted the need for a change in the response time on the pedestrian lights at Velizy Avenue.

7. HARLOW 2020 FINANCE

7.1 2009/2010 – the report was noted.

7.2 2010/2011 – a paper was circulated and the new budget was agreed.

8. UPDATE FROM PARTNERS

8.1 A briefing was circulated on the new Children's Trust arrangements and was noted.

8.2 JS proposed that a more convenient Board meeting day and time might need to be considered due to the low numbers of attendees. MS to co-ordinate. *MS to action*

8.3 SY advised that there are increased apprenticeship opportunities within the College and lots of incentives to undertake wage subsidy schemes with employers. The College is being well publicised within the local press. An adult learning skills group has been formed with the College, ECC, Adult Community Learning and the Cornerstone Trust. The College will have one hundred Anglia Ruskin University placements this year and promotion will take place after Easter to ensure all places are filled.

9. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 West Essex Partnership prize giving project

A paper was presented on the proposal and JS provided an outline of the scheme. It was agreed that science should be added as an additional topic. SY requested clarification on the age range of the children and this was confirmed as primary age children. A request was made that schools for those with disabilities were included in the project. It was agreed to fund the project.

10.2 Harlow Community Awards 2009

JS provided an update on the awards which were held in February. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

10.3 Harlow 2020 Structure

JS advised that the structure of the Steering group is under review and a paper will be circulated at the next Board meeting. *MS to action*

10.4 Sustainable Community Strategy

JS advised that the draft strategy will be circulated in time for the next meeting.

11. DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is diarised for Friday 18th June and will be re-confirmed via email after consultation with members. *MS to action*

The meeting closed at 11.45am.