

## Essential Reference Paper C

### Everyone Matters - East Herts Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board

#### Progress Report on Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Action Plan 2009 – 2024 and projects funded through Performance Reward Grant (PRG)

The purpose of this report is to provide LSP Board Members with an update on the SCS Action Plan and PRG funded projects.

The report presented to the Board in December 2010 was a full update on SCS activities using traffic light signals. This report provides updates on just those projects highlighted as amber and red.

The report includes:

- Recommendations for the Board to consider at the meeting
- Exception Report on relevant themes of SCS Action plan
- Update on PRG Projects
- Good News Stories (Appendix 1)
- PRG under-spend (Appendix 2 and Appendix 3)

#### Recommendations:

- That the Board notes the progress made on all SCS and PRG projects
- That the Board further considers their preferred format for future updates and whether members would be prepared to receive short presentations on the SCS and PRG projects on a rolling basis.
- That the Board considers the request on Ware Skate Park project:
  - i. To extend the deadline for completion to 31 December 2011 rather than 31 July 2011. The project will have the final decision from the Big Lottery in June so getting it built in a month will be a bit difficult
  - ii. To grant the total £10,000 award in a lump sum rather than 2 instalments at the start of the project
- That the Board considers the request from the Community Centre project to release the full funding award to buy some items/office furniture and store appropriately or delay delivery until the Community Centre is built
- That the Board considers how best to make use of the current PRG under-spend
- That the Board agrees that officers create a webpage for all projects that enables all partners to view them easily

## **Exception Report on SCS Action Plan**

### **East Herts people and community safety**

All of the activities within this theme are generally progressing well. The Board approved the recommendation at the December 2010 meeting that from April 2011 all actions as appropriate under this ambition would be modified to reflect the 2011-12 community safety priorities and action plan.

### **Housing East Herts**

The actions under this theme are progressing well. Although, the Delivery Sub Group lead would like the board to note that due to the economic climate, affordable housing developments are currently mainly on smaller sites or on under used land owned by our LSVT housing associations, so figures are currently lower than previous years. The target achievement rate is 40% affordable housing on eligible sites. Going into next financial year there are a number of larger development sites either going or shortly to be considered by planning which may bring more affordable housing forward.

### **East Herts economy, skills and prosperity**

Progress against the activities under this theme has been mixed. At the request of the Delivery sub group lead for this theme, Members approved the activities within this theme to be reviewed in the light of current economic climate. The proposed update following the review is as follows:

#### **Changing context**

*Since the general election, The New Deal and Train to Gain programmes have been abolished and new initiatives such as "The Work Programme" are developing. The Regional Development Agencies are also exiting and elements of their function are being replaced by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's). The Hertfordshire proposal, submitted through the Herts Works Economic Partnership, has been successful in its bid to establish a LEP. The current business support model is also likely to change and the Education and Skills sectors are undergoing change. It is therefore suggested that actions within the JPS theme are reviewed and brought up to date.*

#### **Proposed key themes**

##### **Rural Development Programme for England**

This programme is making a significant contribution to the delivery of the ambitions and actions in the existing Employment, Prosperity and Skills theme of the SCS especially in relation to diversification, direct support to SME's and the low carbon economy. The programme will run until the end of 2013 and will form a key element within our strategy going forward.

##### **Business Engagement**

This is an area of work that will require more attention in order to clearly identify how we can work with local business to contribute to growth and jobs in the private sector. Exploration of uses of the RIBSIS (EEDA Database for Businesses) data base will be a helpful starting point. Regular contact with

organisations representative of business (local Chambers etc) needs to be enhanced as well as the introduction of a series of visits to local business across the district.

#### Business Support

Business engagement is the first step. Business Link will have gone by November 2011 and an alternative approach to provide support needs to be in place. A key element of support should be the care and retention of existing business.

#### Enterprise (including start up and incubator support)

This theme is linked to business support but with a particular focus on new business and the development of an entrepreneurial culture.

#### Tourism

Linked to business engagement but focused on tourism business.

#### Markets

Continue to deliver actions that will support and develop our town markets and farmers markets in line with recently adopted market policy and recommendations from the Council's Task and Finish Group.

#### Support to Town Centres

Identification of clearly deliverable projects that will help our market towns remain competitive. This will require close partnership working and a particular focus on working with the retail sector.

#### Employment Land – developing a strategy

Close working with the Planning Policy team with a view to identifying actions that will improve our industrial estates.

#### Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Ensuring that the East Herts is able to contribute to and achieve benefits from the emerging Hertfordshire LEP.

### **East Herts health and wellbeing**

The group is progressing well in all areas of its delivery. Due to recent change in personnel and the new officer representation from the PCT to the Board, this group will provide an update on progress for the next meeting.

### **Environment East Herts and Green East Herts**

The 2 projects namely 'Community Green Fund' and the 'Joint Fuel Poverty' signalled with red traffic were recommended for deletion in the last report. However, as no funding appears to be available externally at the current time for these projects it is difficult to progress either of these projects. It is therefore suggested that they remain either on hold or are deleted.

## Update on PRG projects

*The table below summaries the progress to date on each project*

<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Progress toward a selection of project milestones (outputs)</b>
Cross Herts Community Counselling	80 therapeutic sessions delivered (40 in Bishops Stortford & 40 in Sawbridgeworth) by end of December 2010. Project is delivering a month ahead of schedule. Contact with 21 clients.
Sele Fruit Trees Project	CMS volunteer group have prepared the ground and site  The project website is currently in the final phase of design  Planting trees took place on Saturday 12 Feb. Training in planting tree maintenance training will be arranged when the trees are in situ.
Next Steps Bishops Stortford Job Club – Twice weekly Job Club facilities	Promotional flyer updated  20 additional people have accessed the Job Club and provided with Individual Action Plans
Active East Herts Grants Scheme	44% (4,400) of the PRG grant has been allocated to 5 sports clubs including Hartham Masters Swimming Club, Buntingford Swimming Club, Hoddesdon Swimming Club, Bishops Stortford Hockey Club and Bishops Stortford Canoe Club among others awarded in Nov 2010.  The remainder of the available funds will be allocated at the next meeting of the Active East Herts Executive Committee scheduled for 17.3.11. A number of applications have already been received.
Homeless Prevention - Education Project "Home Truths"	561 young people have undertaken this course. This exceeds (and doubles) the projected figure made of 250.
Health Inequalities Fund	6 community organisations were allocated capital funding - Mudlarks, St Elizabeths Centre, Herts Community Health Services, CHeCC, Groundwork Herts, YMCA East Herts All projects are progressing as planned.
Stronger Communities Grant Fund	The Project has exceeded all milestones and since last report. A partnership funding panel has met twice and allocated approximately £21,000 of the £25,000 available to 27 local community organisations. The complete list of recipients so far (subject to any special conditions being met) are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 936 (Hertford &amp; Ware) Squadron</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> Ware Brownies</li> <li>• Age Concern Bishops Stortford</li> <li>• Bishops Stortford Self Advocacy Group (For people with disabilities)</li> <li>• Courtyard Arts &amp; Community Centre</li> <li>• CVS for Broxbourne &amp; East Herts</li> <li>• East Herts Citizens Advice Service</li> <li>• East Herts Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>• Friends of Guiding</li> <li>• Friends of Little Hadham School</li> <li>• Havers Action Team</li> <li>• Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme</li> <li>• Hertfordshire Young Farmers Clubs</li> <li>• HertSavers Credit Union</li> <li>• Hunsdon Village Hall</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Herts Raynet</li> <li>• Safety-Net; Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club</li> <li>• St John Ambulance Hertford Division</li> <li>• Stanstead Abbots &amp; District Evergreen Club</li> <li>• The Birchanger Wood Trust</li> <li>• The Hailey Centre</li> <li>• The Ware Museum Trust</li> <li>• Tonwell Village Hall</li> <li>• Ware And Villages Extended Schools</li> <li>• Ware Town Partnership Ware Toy Library</li> </ul>
Family Intervention Project	22 families as of 9-2-11 First sets of families having a second review meeting of their progress Further warrants executed in mid Jan 11- resulted in seizure of stolen goods, a reduced amount of drugs and several arrests.
Village Hall Broadband	1 project completed and installed at Seth Ward Community Centre in Buntingford. 9 pending installations, Include: Hunsdon Village Hall, Little Berkhamstead Village Hall, Tewin Sports Community Pavilion, Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall, Hertford Heath Village Hall Walkern Sports & Community Centre, Tonwell Village Hall Thundridge Village Hall. 8 other Halls have expressed an interest (of which we need 5).
Cardiac Rehabilitation	14 participants attended the 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 week course. New classes commenced 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 12 clients secured.
Ware Skatepark Project	Planning permission has been received from East Herts Council. The Group have been invited to submit a Stage 2 Big Lottery application for which deadline is 1/3/11
Furniture Re-Use Scheme	All revenue funding and support services are in place. The project will commence after planning permission has been received (expected March 2011)
Community Centre Project	The Nigel Copping Building is going through the process for the European funding. The next stage of the process is 6 March the group responsible for the final allocation of the hugely under spent budget for European funding. The project lead is optimistic of success.
Ozone Monitoring & Air Alert	No information submitted this quarter

### **PRG under-spend**

The Board considered a report from officers in March 2010 identifying services funded by the council which were under threat. Subsequently, the Board made the decision to sustain those services under threat by utilising £190k worth of funding from the Local Area Agreement (LAA) PRG for a further two years. The remaining amount available from LAA PRG funding was then offered to all LSP partners. It was agreed by the Board that bids could be submitted for both capital and revenue funding. Each application received from partners would be considered on its' own merit. The funding available for this process was as shown below:

#### **Capital**

£217k

Allocation to date £193,740 (*Appendix 2 - list of projects funded through this process were those that were agreed by the Board*)

***Current under-spend*** £ 23,260

**Revenue** £ 60k

Allocation to date £ 49,150 including allocation to PCSOs and Cardiac Rehab Projects (*Appendix 2 – list of projects funded through this process*)

***Current under-spend*** £ 10,850

With the under spend in mind, Memembrs way wish to reconsider funding projects provided in Appendix 3 which were submitted at the last time round. These projects/bids were rejected because there was not enough funding and/or some of them did not sufficiently meet the criteria:

- i. Supporting the vulnerable and promoting economic well be
- ii. Wider community safety

**Attached appendices:**

Appendix 1 - List of Projects funded through PRG funding

Appendix 2 - List of projects rejected for PRG funding

Appendix 3 -Good News Stories on PRG funded projects

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