

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Project and Programme Executive

REPORT NUMBER: **J140**

TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(COMMUNITY SERVICES)
COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 24 November 2009

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the significant partnerships that have been identified through the Council's Partnership Strategy and of the outcome of a self assessment of one of the two Local Strategic Partnerships in which the Council is involved.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the significant partnerships that have been identified be noted.
- 2.2 That the self assessment of the Babergh East Local Strategic Partnerships be noted and that the Committee reviews and scrutinises the challenges identified for the LSP and the actions being implemented or proposed to address those challenges.
- 2.3 That the areas identified for further improvement be reported to the Babergh East LSP and they be asked to consider addressing them.
- 2.4 That the outcomes of the self assessment be shared with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council.
- 2.5 That upon completion of the training by Zurich Insurance further work be undertaken on self assessments of the Council's remaining significant partnerships and a report submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee is able to resolve these matters.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications. The proposed self assessments can be funded with existing budgets.

4. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Business Risk No. 3 – Strategic Partnerships.
- 4.2 Key risks are set out below:-

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness or impact	Mitigation Measures
Babergh resources committed to partnerships are ineffective or inefficient and partnerships fail to deliver the required benefits to the communities served by the authority	Low but with limited resources could raise to significant	Critical	Effective monitoring and assessment of the value of each significant partnership in accordance with the Council's Partnership Strategy

5. **KEY INFORMATION**

- 5.1 At its meeting on the 17 September 2009 Strategy Committee approved a Partnership Strategy (Paper J88).
- 5.2 The Strategy is aligned with those recently proposed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council. It is intended that the strategy and its tool kits are implemented and their effectiveness reviewed in partnership with these two Councils.
- 5.3 The strategy includes a partnership evaluation self assessment which it is intended established partnerships should use on an annual basis. There is also a checklist for existing partnerships.
- 5.4 Strategy Committee agreed that these self-assessments are, on an annual basis, completed and reported to this Committee. The assessments are completed by the Council's lead officer for the partnership in consultation with the Member representative.
- 5.5 Using the criteria set out in Babergh's Partnership Strategy it has been identified that the Council is involved with six significant partnerships:
1. Suffolk Strategic Partnership
 2. West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership
 3. Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership
 4. Haven Gateway Partnership
 5. Suffolk Waste Partnership
 6. Babergh Community Safety Partnership
- 5.6 There is a considerable amount of work to undertake a self assessment for all of these partnerships. It was therefore felt appropriate to initially undertake an evaluation of one. The second reason for only undertaking one at this stage is that Zurich Insurance can offer training on self assessments. It is felt to be useful to receive this training having had the benefit of doing some self assessment work but prior to undertaking a significant amount of work on the remainder. It is also felt to be useful to share the experience of the self-assessment with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council.
- 5.7 A self assessment of the Babergh East LSP has been undertaken and a summary is attached to this report (Appendix 1).

5.8 Two case studies of successful projects delivered by Babergh East LSP are attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

6. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Self Assessment of Babergh East LSP
Appendix 2 – Case Studies

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO**

None.

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SUMMARY OF SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE BABERGH EAST LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

1. Main function: To bring together public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that initiatives and services better support each other and work efficiently and effectively together.

Cost to Babergh: £6,000 (staff costs)

2. Decision Making and Delegated Responsibilities

Strengths

- Officer role, resources and extent to which the Council can be committed to action is clear.

Challenges

- To ensure that at a time of reduced resources senior officers attend meetings and deliver partnership objectives. (Evidence: Targets of the Deputy Chief Executive and Project and programme Executive)

3. Outcomes and Clarity of Purpose

Strengths

- The LSP has delivered a number of successful joint programmes
- A range of identified issues in Hadleigh have been launched through the LSP with funding support from it using a range of delivery partners.

Challenges

- Using a range of data and other information work has commenced on delivering a new Community Plan 2010-2020 by mid 2010 which will set out clearly the aims and objectives of the LSP together with an action plan.

4. Efficient

Strengths

- The cost of the partnership is known
- Meetings are effective and timetabled
- Partners work together and communicate
- Partners reflect the views of their organisations at meetings
- Partners are aware of why they are engaged in the LSP

Challenges

- The relatively small and rural nature of the geographical area covered by the LSP is a factor but this issue will be resolved when the final shape of local government in Suffolk is determined
- In the meantime in order to improve strategic planning and efficiency of the partnership a need has been identified to establish joint programmes/projects with the West Suffolk LSP. Babergh is also a member of the West Suffolk LSP with the partnership covering a large rural area with similar characteristics to Babergh East LSP, Work has already started on this through the establishment of a joint grant panel. (Evidence – Paper to Babergh East LSP Board – 29 April 2009) and the joint planning / delivery of projects. (Proposed apprenticeship scheme – paper to Board – 21 October 2009).

5. Inclusive

Strengths

- Good cross section membership with partners having the capacity to be fully engaged
- Clear and visible leadership by the chairman
- Partnership is democratic and accountable to stakeholders
- Needs of disadvantaged areas and groups only partially addressed. Should be tackled through new Community Plan. Significantly the first LSP to raise equality and diversity issues and this has been picked up by the county wide diversity group whose work should feed into the LSP.

Challenges

- Need to ensure that scrutiny of the LSP by Babergh's Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee continues (Evidence – Paper H217 to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 31 March 2009).

6. Managing Performance

Strengths

- Monitoring and progress reports on specific projects and grant programmes have been submitted to allow the LSP to measure performance in these specific areas. (Evidence: Papers to Board meetings 29 April and 22 July 2009)
- There are processes in place for evaluating the economic, social and environmental impact of decisions. These relate at present to social impacts through evaluation of grant programmes (Evidence: Papers to Board meetings 29 April and 22 July 2009)
- The constitution of the LSP provides for conflict resolution (Evidence: Constitution of 2006)

Challenges

- The new Community Plan will provide clear aims and objectives. Performance monitoring will be included so that the LSP can effectively monitor progress against targets.
- The partnership will be asked to consider whether a risk register is needed.

CASE STUDIES

(A) Hadleigh 'NEETS'

Summary

This Study shows how Babergh, through close working with its partners in the Babergh East LSP lead to a well coordinated response to a key issue already flagged up by the LSP's own research.

The delivery of the action plan was via a local action group, led by Babergh who brought together representatives from Education, Youth and Connexions, the Police, Job Centre Plus, NHS Suffolk and Babergh Communities Together (an umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector in Babergh).

The actions agreed upon by the group were focused on young people in Hadleigh; providing positive activities, signposting young people to opportunities for education, employment and training and tackling anti-social behaviour.

Context/background and issue development

The Babergh East LSP identified the ward of Hadleigh North as an area relatively high in relation to the Babergh East area as a whole, in the levels of young people (under 19) not in education, employment or training. There was related evidence of a higher than average occurrences of crime (mainly criminal damage) and ASB (particularly linked to underage use of alcohol) in the ward.

The LSP board tasked Babergh's Community Safety and Leisure Manager to form a multi-agency group and to bring back proposals to the board, to include details of costs, aimed at tackling the issues identified.

A detailed action plan was formulated by the multi-agency group with clear outcomes and brought back to the board for approval and agreement on the allocation of resources. The board agreed the detail of the plan and the allocation of £42,000 to be split 50/50 between revenue and capital funding to help deliver the actions agreed.

This was signed off by the LSP board just before Christmas 2007 and the plan began to be implemented by partners from March 2008.

Who was involved?

This was a full partnership-based initiative. A number of partners were involved from the start of this project, from the identification of the issues, through the formation of the action plan to the operational delivery of those agreed actions. Those involved in the local action group were:

- BDC Community Safety and Leisure Team
- Job Centre Plus
- Suffolk Youth and Connexions (both youth service and careers/ training advice)
- Suffolk NHS
- Hadleigh High School
- Representative from the voluntary sector
- Neighbourhood Police Inspector for the Babergh East area

The solution

The key action identified was based on local knowledge from operational staff on the specific nature of the issues in and around Hadleigh. These were:

- Incidents of anti-social behaviour connected with groups of young people, with ages ranging from around 13 years to around 22 years (with some older individuals involved) being associated with ASB and some criminal acts (criminal damage, public order issues and some incidents of violence). The use of alcohol is a significant factor connected with these incidents.
- A culture of underage drinking in a public place is in danger of becoming embedded, with new participants being drawn in.
- With particular regard to the young people towards the younger end of the age range, there is a need to look at a whole family solution.

As a result of this analysis the following actions and objectives were identified:

(a) Action Point	Outcome Sought
Fund the provision (for three years) of a base for detached youth work in Hadleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a positive social outlet for young people • To directly engage and thereby be better informed about the issues affecting young people • To provide an opportunity to directly deliver advice and information
Provide Sports and Arts opportunities for young people, organised through BDC's BeActive project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide positive activities for young people • To divert those who have been involved in or are at risk of being involved in crime and ASB
To provide funds for the improvement of facilities at the skate park in Hadleigh, to be undertaken with a group of young people (users of the facility) already identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the public authorities to work together with young people, giving young people a stake in decision making that affects them. • To improve facilities for young people in Hadleigh
To identify and commission services for young people targeted at those not in education or employment or training (i.e. NEET) (e.g. Ipswich Town 'Team Programme')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage/direct young people into training/employment
Fund targeted use of CCTV system to monitor and ensure rapid response to ASB. To identify individuals involved in ASB and ensure effective tackling of unacceptable behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure individual's ASB is tackled through enforcement action and other longer term interventions.
To identify and commission services targeted at family intervention, seeking to address underlying issues affecting young people's behaviour and future prospects. For example Family Support services provided by Anglia Care Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek to ensure long term improvements in behaviour and life chances for young people • To seek to affect the future chances for younger siblings in the families concerned

Outcomes and impact

All the above actions have been delivered and a number of the projects continue to have an enduring impact e.g. ongoing detached youth work and Connexions advice surgeries.

One significant indicator of the impact of these and other measures outside the scope of this plan is the affect on levels of particular crime types (criminal damage in the main) related to ASB, much of these actions being designed to tackle some of the issues that may contribute to the underlying causes.

For all Hadleigh wards in a comparison of figures of the 12 months to December 2007 and the same period for the following year (when the actions were implemented) there was reduction in criminal damage of 39% year on year and for the last three months of the year the reduction was 53%.

(B) Shotley Good Neighbour Scheme

The LSP part funded the Suffolk ACRE employed scheme co-ordinator who helps villages raise a team of volunteers to run local good neighbour schemes such as that in Shotley.

20 volunteers enlisted. Approximately, 20 'jobs' per month undertaken i.e. 20 people are helped each month.

A case study from Shotley and Erwarnton was included in the Government's Empowerment White Paper. The text is as follows:-

Family crisis lead Dorothy to her Good Neighbours

Dorothy Page has found the Shotley and Erwarnton Good Neighbour Scheme to be a Godsend since the day a sudden illness in the family threw her life into confusion. Early in 2006 one of Dorothy's sons was rushed into hospital with life-threatening illness, and Dorothy, 82, who lives alone, took in her son's two boisterous Collie dogs. She was also faced with the problem of trying to visit her son regularly at Ipswich hospital while living on a basic pension. A round trip by taxi would cost £25. Dorothy turned to the Shotley and Erwarnton Good Neighbours and was soon able to visit her son, paying just £10 for each round trip to compensate the volunteer drivers. A rota of volunteers took turns to take the dogs out for a walk for an hour each day over the two-month period that her son was in hospital.

"I just don't know what I would have done without the Good Neighbour Scheme. They are all nice people, every one of them that's come to help me", said Dorothy. "They came to walk dogs come rain or hail, and they always took them for an hour whatever the weather", she said. Then scheme Chairman Tony Roberts cleaned her window, and volunteer Ron Parr took away a broken bed to get it welded up by his son. Ron's wife, like Dorothy, is an avid reader and they have taken to exchanging books from time to time. For a while the Good Neighbours fetched a Sunday paper for Dorothy each week until a mobile hairdresser who lives nearby took this over.

Dorothy has a cataract in one eye and the Good Neighbours have helped with lifts to the eye clinic and soon she is to have the cataract removed.

"You just can't say anything bad about the Good Neighbours", said Dorothy.