



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

MOLE VALLEY LOCALISM PILOT

13 SEPTEMBER 2010

KEY ISSUE

Lead officers have been identified to take forward the individual projects that comprise this pilot and the Local Committee is being asked to endorse or develop the outline briefs for these pieces of work.

SUMMARY

Mole Valley is one of two district areas in Surrey where the Surrey Strategic Partnership has agreed to pilot new approaches to improve partnership working and develop approaches that adopt the principles of Total Place and localism.¹

The members of the Local Committee have previously worked with officers to identify six projects that comprise the Mole Valley pilot. The committee's views are now sought on the suggested outcomes for each project. These outcomes are intended to deliver quick improvements to partnership working.

Though both Total Place and localism require engagement and cooperation of a wider range of partners than the two local authorities, this pilot is deliberately focused on establishing the right relationships and improved

¹ Total Place is a term used by the previous Labour government. A Total Place approach is one where the available funds and resources of all public and government sector bodies for a any given area are considered as if they were all one budget working towards common objectives. The coalition government has given indications that it continues to support the principles of Total Place but will wish to call it something different. Localism is a term used by both the previous government and the current coalition government. It aspires to have decisions about how public money is spent and how services are designed taken at as local level as possible.

collaboration between the two authorities in the first instance. It is intended that each project will build on this work to include other relevant partners and will complement other improvement approaches that Surrey public bodies are pursuing countywide.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to:

- (i) Advise on and endorse the identified outcomes for each of the six projects (appendix 1)
- (ii) Appoint four members of the Local Committee (two county councillors and two district councillors) to represent the Local Committee on a joint assets task group
- (iii) Consider whether it wishes to nominate two member champions (one county and one district) to each of the projects, excluding the property and LSP projects.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) Leadership Group has identified, and agreed to address, the challenge of increasing the effectiveness of local partnerships whilst reducing duplication and overlap at the local level. The SSP recognises that there is a need for partnership working to move up a gear to meet the current financial challenge and also to address other important overlapping agendas – in particular ‘Total Place’ and ‘localism’.
- 1.2 There have been a series of discussions in Mole Valley between district and county members and officers that have attempted to identify how to increase the impact of the Local Committee (that comprises elected members from both the county and the district councils) and how to better align it with important strategic matters locally such as the development of local infrastructure and the delivery of priorities already agreed by the local community.
- 1.3 The SSP leadership group has agreed that Mole Valley should be one of a small number of areas to pilot new approaches that move towards a “Total Place” methodology and towards a single strategic body at district level. The Mole Valley pilot is focused on building on the existing Local Committee and has the following objectives:
- a) Move towards a Total Place methodology:
 - Develop appropriate governance arrangements that will allow the two councils to pool resources in order to deliver agreed objectives.
 - Develop appropriate governance arrangements that will allow the two councils to jointly commission appropriate services locally.
 - b) Move towards a single strategic body at district level:
 - Explore the scope to build on the existing Local Committee to create a single strategic body.
 - Develop capacity of the two councils to mainstream the delivery of jointly agreed objectives

2 THE PROJECTS THAT MAKE UP THE PILOT

- 2.1 Local members have worked with officers to identify and agree six projects that comprise this pilot and which will allow the objectives outlined above to be approached in a number of different ways. These are:
- a) Smarter alignment and use of property
 - b) Local service development and joint commissioning – Youth Services
 - c) Alignment of section 106 spending to maximise efficiency and impact

- d) Alignment with schools confederations to support SSP and LSP objectives – including early interventions
- e) Local service development and commissioning – Street Scene
- f) Mainstreaming LSP objectives to ensure a focus on priority places

2.2 This list was agreed by an informal meeting of the Local Committee in June 2010 along with the following underlying assumptions:

2.3 In many cases the two partners have already agreed the strategy on a number of matters – either individually or collectively. For example, the District Council has agreed certain strategic land use matters through the LDF, the County Council has agreed a schools admissions policy and both Councils have agreed with other partners that the priority places within Mole Valley are Leatherhead Common and the Dorking LINKS priority area (Chartdown, Goodwyns and North Holmwood). It is assumed that the pilot should move forward from these starting positions and focus on how the two councils can collaborate to deliver on these agreements. It is assumed that the pilot will not focus on unpicking strategic decisions that have already been taken.

2.4 The Total Place element of this pilot will involve mapping or quantifying the existing resources and assets of the two bodies. This will also be built on to include comparable information relating to other public sector bodies and partners. However it is assumed that the pilot will be able to make tangible differences to outcome and efficiency in parallel to this mapping and analysis.

2.5 It is recognised that “Total Place” and localism have a broader base than just the work of the two authorities. This pilot is operating in the context of already successful delivery by a wider range of partners through bodies such as the Community Safety Partnership (formerly CDRP) and the Community Partnership (formerly LSP). Given that existing success, this pilot deliberately sets out to address the role of local elected members in commissioning or driving service improvements. This is considered to be an important precursor to further enhancing local working by all agencies and partners and not an end in itself.

3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND ELECTED MEMBER INPUT

3.1 The appendix to this report identifies the following for each of the six projects:

- a) A summary of the objectives as agreed by the Local Committee members at their informal meeting in June

- b) The names of the two lead officers who are responsible and accountable for the projects. In each case there is a senior officer from both the county and the district council identified
 - c) Suggested key deliverables for the project
 - d) Identification of other projects or initiatives already underway that should be born in mind so as not to duplicate work
- 3.2 Members of the committee are invited to comment on the suggested key deliverables or confirm those presented, and in so doing, commission the officers to deliver them. Members are reminded that the aim is to deliver significant but quick progress towards the Total Place and localism objectives set out for this pilot. The key deliverables are intended to support this aim.
- 3.3 The overall programme of projects that comprise the pilot is being jointly managed by Yvonne Rees (Strategic Director for Customers and Communities SCC) and Darren Mephram (Chief Executive, MVDC). The Chair and Vice chair of the Local Committee are providing ongoing member level advice and leadership to the pilot but there is a need for fuller involvement of members of the Local Committee in the individual projects.
- 3.4 In the case of the Property project it is recommended that an asset task group be established, comprising elected members of both authorities and the lead officers. This group would represent the two authorities as landowners but do so in the context of the core strategy (the articulation of community need in land use planning terms).
- 3.5 It is suggested that this group should include up to six elected members to allow for a reasonable geographic and political spread of representation. Both the county and district portfolio holders with responsibility for assets have agreed to be part of that group (councillor Tim Hall and Councillor Ben Tatham respectively). Therefore the Local Committee is invited to nominate up to two additional district councillors and up to two additional county councillors to join that group.
- 3.6 Possible Terms of Reference, to be confirmed at the first meeting of that Group could include:
- a) Consideration of a joint Property Strategy for major property assets held by both partners across Mole Valley (consistent with but not superseding either partner's individual property strategies);
 - b) Identification of joint service development opportunities across the joint property portfolio (informed by the work of the Surrey First work stream);
 - c) Consultation on site specific property initiatives to be undertaken by either partner;
 - d) Consideration of a policy for the transfer of certain categories of property assets to the voluntary/not for profit/faith sectors;

- e) Possible development of joint representations to the Local Development Framework, as and when appropriate.
- 3.7 Both authorities have already appointed lead members to represent councillors on the Mole Valley Local Strategic Partnership. These representatives are Councillor Townsend for SCC and Councillor Hunt for MVDC. It is therefore suggested that they act as member sponsors for the project that is mainstreaming the LSP and developing overall options for how we might move towards the establishment of a single strategic body.
- 3.8 In the case of the remaining four projects it is suggested that the Local Committee nominates two member champions to work with the lead officers on each project. In each case it is suggested that the committee nominate one County Councillor and one District Councillor. The role of these members would be to give advice to the project teams and provide additional communication between the project teams and all members of the Local Committee.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is no separate budget for this pilot. Both authorities have committed to make existing officer resources available to support the projects identified by members of the Local Committee.
- 4.2 The pilot is intended to develop new ways of working that would support a Total Place approach to service design and delivery. Inherent in this objective is an assumption that a Total Place approach would generate greater value for money than agencies working separately. In common with other Total Place pilots nationally, it is not possible at the outset to estimate quite how much efficiency improvement is possible but one of the ultimate measure of success will be the degree of financial saving and service improvement that is achieved through this approach.

LEAD OFFICER:	Darren Mepham, Chief Executive Mole Valley District Council
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	01306 879101
E-MAIL:	darren.mepham@molevalley.gov.uk
LEAD OFFICER:	Yvonne Rees, Strategic Director for Customers and Communities, Surrey County Council
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	03456 009009
E-MAIL:	yvonne.rees@surreycc.gov.uk

Version No. Date: Time: Initials: No of annexes: 1