



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)**

### **MOLE VALLEY LOCALISM PILOT**

**7 DECEMBER 2010**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To note progress on the individual projects that make up this pilot, highlighting the arrangements for contributions by Member Champions and early positive outcomes of this 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. (note1)

The members of the Local Committee have previously worked with officers to identify six projects that comprise the Mole Valley pilot, identified Member Champions and given views on the outcomes which should be delivered. Officers from both Local Authorities are now taking these forward and additional resource has been secured from a colleague on secondment from GOSE to support in coordination of the overall pilot.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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 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 note:**

- (i) Actions identified and taken to engage with nominated Member Champions.
- (ii) Positive early progress on individual projects.
- (iii) That additional resource at no cost has been secured to coordinate the Localism Pilots.
- (iv) Next steps on how the Local Committee members will be engaged and updated on the Localism Pilots.

## 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 The SSP leadership group 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 strengths of 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
- 1.3 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 PROJECT OBJECTIVES, ELECTED MEMBER INPUT AND PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 2.1 The individual project outcomes were agreed at the Local Committee Meeting on 13 September 2010, and Member Champions were identified at an informal meeting of the Local Committee on 2 November 2010.
- 2.2 For ease of reference for Members, the appendix to this report identifies the following for each of the six projects:
- a) A summary of objectives
  - 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 district identified. Leads for one theme have been updated since the September meeting.
  - c) Names of identified Member Champions
  - d) Suggested key deliverables for the project
  - e) Identification of other projects or initiatives already underway that should be born in mind so as not to duplicate work
- 2.3 Progress on individual projects is summarised below and given that Member Champions may well have met before the Local Committee meeting, a further update can be given at the meeting if required. So we will need to have some quick feedback!

### **a) Smarter alignment and use of property**

This work links with the existing work on property being undertaken by the two authorities and lead officers met on 12 November to integrate all existing workplans and agreed a project brief and deliverables subject to input from Member Champions. Member Champions are being contacted with a view to organising a meeting week commencing 6 December.

### **b) Local service development and joint commissioning – Youth Services**

The project team met on 9 November and agreed a project brief and deliverables subject to input from Member Champions who they are scheduled to meet on 2 December. Lots of positive examples of localism around youth work already exist but officers have identified some possible areas where more work can be done. Offices have agreed a list of actions and are due to meet again on 15 December.

It will be important to integrate this work with the County Council Youth Transformation project.

**c) Alignment of section 106 spending to maximise efficiency and impact**

There are two streams within this theme. The Leatherhead High Street exemplar project progresses and an update on the consultation outcome for Leatherhead High Street is shown elsewhere on the agenda. The commitment to work together to develop proposals for Leatherhead High Street has been previously agreed by Local Committee and usefully tests out the challenges of aligning s106 spend.

Member Champions have not yet met as the proposals for a single mechanism for Mole Valley section 106 spend (or its successors) is still in the early stages of development between officers. Officers are clear that Members wish to influence the allocation of this money and flexibility should be built into the agreements where possible. Members are aware there are legislative constraints on the allocation of developers contributions but officers will attempt to balance these two elements.

**d) Alignment with schools confederations to support SSP and LSP objectives – including early interventions**

Officers have shared early thoughts but some further work is required in advance of a Member Champion meeting.

**e) Local service development and commissioning – Street Scene**

The project team met on 11 November and agreed project brief and deliverables subject to input from Member Champions who they will be organising a meeting with. . Officers have already identified examples of joint working they can build on. Next steps have been identified and these are now being taken forward. A meeting to look at specific scheduling of work by both authorities is planned for 25 November.

**f) Mainstreaming LSP objectives to ensure a focus on priority places**

The Member Champions were invited to the Mole Valley LSP Steering Group meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and this item was discussed. The Mole Valley Lead Officer attended the Priority Places Core Group meeting in November and updated that team on the work of the pilots and brought some issues back of use for this project.

### **3 OTHER ISSUES**

- 3.1 Members may be aware that the Surrey pilots hosted a stand at the SSP Conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> November held at Dorking Halls
- 3.2 Opportunity has been taken to release a press statement about this work

### **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 We were successful in attracting a colleague from Government Office for the South East (GOSE) to work with us. Since the beginning of November Peter Wootton has been working two days a week at no cost as the Mole Valley Total Place Pilot Coordinator as part of the GOSE secondment programme.
- 4.3 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 measures of success will be the degree of financial saving and service improvement that is achieved through this approach.

### **5 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 5.1 A further report will be provided for the next Local Committee and detailed updates on progress on each theme will be provided.
- 5.2 Though the pilot is avoiding issues of governance and procedure that does not mean that there are no rules. The role of the joint programme managers (Chief Executive of MVDC and Strategic Director of SCC) is to ensure that any governance or legal implications for each authority are understood and managed in a way that supports the pilot but does not compromise the legality of actions taken by or on behalf of either authority. Additionally this officer team with the two Member leads will meet with the theme leads to ensure timely progress is maintained.

**LEAD OFFICER:** Laura Taylor, Strategic Director, Mole Valley District Council  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 01306 879190  
**E-MAIL:** Laura.taylor@molevalley.gov.uk  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Peter Wootton, Total Place Co-ordinator  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 01306 870633  
**E-MAIL:** Peter.wootton@molevalley.gov.uk  
**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Local Committee Report 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Mole Valley Localism Pilot

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