



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

MOLE VALLEY LOCALISM PILOT

03 MARCH 2011

KEY ISSUE

To provide the Local Committee with an update on individual projects that support this pilot and agree various recommendations to support development of the Total Place 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 that adopt the principles of Total Place¹ and Localism.

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.

Though both Total Place and Localism require engagement and cooperation of a wider range of partners, this pilot is deliberately focused on establishing the right relationships and improved collaboration between MVDC and SCC in the first instance. Each project will look to build on this work to include other relevant partners and will complement other improvement approaches that Surrey public bodies are pursuing countywide.

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 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.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked:

- (i) To note continued engagement with nominated Member Champions.
- (ii) To note progress on individual projects
- (iii) To agree the Property Member Reference Group is established as the Property Sub Group (a key deliverable of the project) and consists of Cllrs Tatham (Portfolio Holder Mole Valley DC), Hunt, Howell, Cooksey, Watson and Hall.
- (iv) To agree that community views are sought and incorporated wherever possible within the projects
- (v) To agree that the principle of devolving responsibility for functions to Parish Councils or Resident Associations is actively explored within all Total Place projects
- (vi) To agree that the Total Place workstreams focus activity in the Mole Valley priority areas of Leatherhead Common and LINKS to the south of Dorking where appropriate
- (vii) To agree the additional recommendations in Annexe A in respect of local allocation of Developers Contributions
- (viii) To agree the additional recommendations in Annexe B in respect of engaging Members and local communities in developing a Mole Valley list of potential projects for Developer Contribution funding.
- (ix) To agree the additional recommendations in Annexe C in respect of the results of the Leatherhead High Street consultations and next steps

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Surrey Strategic Partnership (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

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. It was agreed at the 7 December 2010 meeting that details of Member Reference Groups’ meetings would be shared with all Local Committee Members, should any Member want to attend a specific meeting or contribute ideas.

2.2 Progress on individual projects is summarised below and given that Member Champions may well have met again before the Local Committee meeting, a further update can be given at the meeting if required

a) Smarter alignment and use of property

This project links with the existing work on property being undertaken by the two authorities. Lead officers have met to integrate all existing work plans and agreed a project brief and deliverables that were discussed with Members Champions on 6 December. This meeting also allowed Members to use their local knowledge to identify possible gaps in the data gathered on the property portfolios the

Officers are now exploring. The Member Reference Group planned for 17 February was due to consider revised terms of reference and initial opportunities for better use of property.

A deliverable for this project is the establishment of a Property Sub Group and this Member Reference Group propose that they take on this role. Local Committee are asked to agree this recommendation.

b) Local service development and joint commissioning – Youth Services

The project brief and deliverables have been agreed. Currently there are some challenges around how this project can best be integrated with the County Council Youth Transformation project, and the Total Place Board is providing support around this. Mapping of youth provision, especially around the voluntary sector contribution will be completed during February, and this will be a key building block in taking forward this project. The Member Reference Group meeting of 18 February was due to look at this mapping and seek clarification on some elements of the 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 attached as Annex A. 350 people visited the exhibition in late January 2011 with support expressed for a 'general tidy up' of the fabric of the High Street, improvements to the gateway and area around the Theatre and changes to the times vehicles are permitted to enter the High Street. The important element of this work is that both Councils have worked together to achieve a community led outcome. Members are asked to agree recommendations in Annexe A.

The second element of this work is the allocation of Developers Contributions/106 monies. Member Champions met on 26 January and considered a proposal for a single mechanism for Mole Valley section 106 spend (or its successors). This is attached as Annex B and proposes that allocation of developers' contributions is agreed by Local Committee. However, this is dependent on changes to the Constitutions of both Councils to implement any new mechanism. Officers from both Councils are looking at the changes and likely time table for these. Members are asked to agree recommendations in Annexe B.

Members have also expressed the clear wish to identify potential areas of spend for Developers Contributions. Members are asked to agree recommendations in Annexe C which describes a process to gain proposals for spend from Elected Members and local

communities. These proposals will be cross checked against corporate priorities and local need to create a composite list for spending any contributions. To support this a simplified table showing monies held and allocated is in preparation. Local Committee is also asked to agree that where possible and practical implementation of any works is devolved to Parish Councils or Residents Associations

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

Work has progressed with Mole Valley Secondary Head Teachers to explore how we can work better together. However, decisions around Academies and progress with Confederations will need to take priority in this workstream.

e) Local service development and commissioning – Street Scene

The project has adopted a wider definition of Street Scene, to include issues such as street furniture. As a result a link has developed with the Mole Valley Local Development Framework process and a joint authority officer group will focus on this aspect. Information is available for Dorking with 'decluttering' of Leatherhead High Street to be taken forward as part of the High Street proposals. The second Member Reference Group took place on 9 February where progress and next steps were reviewed.

With respect to Highway works, officers have a shared schedule of works and made an adjustment so that a joint grass cutting, litter picking exercise can take place on the A24 in May. Snow events in December allowed the building of stronger links with Parish Councils and Resident Associations on the sharing of information. The possibility of the District Council taking on some grass cutting duties is also being explored. Further to a meeting with Parish Councils and Residents Associations a further development could be the transfer of some duties to Parish Councils or Community Groups.

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

The Mole Valley Community Partnership Steering Group (MVCPSPG) meeting discussed this work stream on 12th January 2011. The role of the two Member Champions was explored and then a discussion on the relationship between Local Committee, this Steering Group and the debate on single strategic bodies. It was noted that all other work streams would focus effort into the Mole Valley priority places of Leatherhead Common and LINKS south of Dorking if resident

engagement was required. Members are asked to agree this recommendation.

3 OTHER ISSUES

- 3.1 An article on the Total Place Pilot will be included in the Spring edition of Mole Valley news.

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 Peter Wootton, the secondee provided at zero cost from Government Office for the South East (GOSE) to act Mole Valley Total Place Pilot Coordinator moved on at the beginning of February, and both Councils are actively exploring how this role can be filled.
- 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 measure 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 (as the Pilot Board) will meet with the theme leads to ensure timely progress is maintained. They met on the 24 January and will be meeting again on 28 March 2011.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Committee Report for 7th December and 13th September 2010 Mole Valley Localism Pilot

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