



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

### MOLE VALLEY LOCALISM PILOT

08 JUNE 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 Place and Localism.

The members of the Local Committee have 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.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to note:**

- (i) Continued engagement with nominated Member Champions.

- (ii) Progress on individual projects

**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to agree:**

- 1) an options appraisal report for Bull Hill, Leatherhead and Pippbrook, Dorking be brought to the September meeting
- 2) that unallocated developers contributions as outlined in paragraph 2.1 (c) are passported to the Parish Council or an appropriately constituted community group for local spend; subject to agreement by the Mole Valley Executive and appropriate governance arrangements being established
- 3) that community proposals for spend of developers' contributions be evaluated and where possible incorporated into an overall plan for spend of such monies.

## 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 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**

The Member Champion Group (MCG) agreed its key deliverables and terms of reference. As part of this the MCG have reviewed the ownership maps prepared as part of the data gathering on property collaboration. Alongside this the MCG discussed the priorities of sites and decided the immediate focus would be on Pippbrook, Dorking and the Bull Hill island site, Leatherhead. The next suite of projects were agreed as Meadowbank, Dorking, and Rentwood Fetcham.

The Bull Hill site in Leatherhead was seen as potentially offering benefits to Leatherhead as a whole and therefore should form part of an overall planning discussion. Other wider community issues will be considered including evaluation of the need for a further education college in Mole Valley and if so where this could be located.

The MCG has tasked officers to bring forward an options appraisal report for Pippbrook and Bull Hill to the September meeting of this Committee. Local Committee are asked to agree this recommendation.

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

The aims of the Youth Transformation Project and this work stream are broadly similar and considerable steps have been taken over the past months to firmly integrate both pieces of work.

One of the key aims for the Youth Transformation project is to engage the Local Committee in the commissioning of youth services for the locality. This requires a multi agency approach over the next nine months and there is a paper elsewhere on this agenda that details the way forward.

**c) Alignment of s106 spending to maximise efficiency and impact**

At the March meeting, Local Committee commissioned officers to contact community groups to obtain suggestions for potential spend of developers' contributions. Existing unallocated developers' contributions could be allocated to support some of these proposals – pending feasibility and legal checks. The feasibility of (say) a Parish Council or Residents Association being awarded the developers contributions for local spend was also explored.

Around 80 responses were received in respect of 7 wards in Mole Valley. An initial sift has been undertaken and it is clear that in some areas there would be benefit in passporting relatively small sums of developers contributions to a Parish Council or appropriately constituted Residents' Association for local spend. Local Committee is asked to agree this decision in respect of the following, subject to the appropriate governance arrangements being established;

Locality	Category	Amount £	Total
Capel, Leigh and Newdigate	Play space	3,161	£4,652
	Community	559	
	Environment	932	
East and West Fetcham	Community	559	£3,954
	Environment	3,395	
Mickleham, Westhumble and Pixham	Play space	1,445	£2,448
	Community	376	
	Environment	627	
Okewood	Play space	1,013	£1,453
	Environment	440	

Local Committee should note that these sums are within the remit of the District Council and as such agreement from the Mole Valley Executive will also be sought for this proposal.

As there may be more than one interested community group or Parish Council in each of these areas local Members will have to assist in negotiating the most appropriate spend. With the involvement of all parties, a 'light touch' governance arrangement will be put in place.

At the other end of the spectrum there are significant sums of money and very aspirational projects. Officers are currently working through the list to check whether some proposals have already been identified and of those that are new – the feasibility of delivering them. A report will be brought forward to a future meeting detailing these proposals.

With necessary cross checks some of these proposals could be allocated existing funds and also provide an overall framework for future allocation of developers' contributions. Local Committee are asked to agree this recommendation.

The second element of the workstream is the Leatherhead High Street exemplar project. Progress continues with the final part of the urgent works coming to an end with the ordering of replacement granite for the structure at the end of the High Street. Evaluation is underway on a replacement entry system to replace the gateway.

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

The Local Education Officer's annual report is elsewhere on the agenda which gives an overview of the work with local schools. Work continues 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**

A key element of this work stream has been joint work to undertake grass cutting and cleansing on the A24. This is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> May and a verbal update will be provided at Committee.

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

Local Committee previously agreed a focus on the two Mole Valley priority places for this pilot work and all lead officers have been advised accordingly.

### 3 OTHER ISSUES

- 3.1 The Board has asked that a mid term paper be presented to the Surrey Strategic Partnership to share outcomes with a wider audience and a draft has been discussed with Members.
- 3.2 Entries were made for LGCCComms Award on Engagement and an entry for Action for Market Towns award. Unfortunately neither were short listed. There was an enquiry from BPI Weekly for a comparison piece with Shepton Mallett.

### 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.

### 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 as required to ensure timely progress is maintained.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Local Committee Report for 7<sup>th</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 3 March 2011 Mole Valley Localism Pilot

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