



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

MOLE VALLEY LOCALISM PILOT

14 SEPTEMBER 2011

KEY ISSUE

To provide the Local Committee with a briefing on individual projects which support the Mole Valley Total Localism Pilot.

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.

Over the past year members of the Local Committee 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. Community engagement has been a key component of the way of working.

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

- i. The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to note continued progress in the workstreams and the increased profile of the pilot following a presentation at Surrey Strategic Partnership.

1 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 1.1 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

A feasibility report for the Pippbrook site is under preparation to include a civic presence in the existing locality. Representations will be made to the Local Development Framework process and a report will be prepared for Mole Valley Executive to consider a list of options for progress in 2012.

It is likely that Local Committee will receive a report at the December 2011 meeting.

b) Local service development and joint commissioning – Youth Services

A Youth Transformation Task Group was established at the last meeting of the Local Committee and this Task Group has now met twice. This Group will advise the Local Committee and provide recommendations in terms of prioritising the spend of the Local Prevention Framework allocation. Once priorities have been identified a report will be made available for Local Committee and if agreed, the task group will proceed with identifying a suitable provider or providers from the local framework.

c) Alignment of s106 spending to maximise efficiency and impact

At the last meeting of the Local Committee, support was given to devolve S106 monies to local groups for local implementation and work continues to identify District and County Council monies that could be spent locally. Mole Valley District Council Executive has agreed to passport some S106 monies to local groups and in addition to c £12,500 to communities of Capel, Leigh, Newdigate, East and West Fetcham, Mickleham, Westhumble, Pixham and Okewood is also working with communities in Westcott and Bookham to achieve the same aim.

Further work to refine the list of potential projects for Dorking and Ashted has been undertaken with elected Members. Reports will be received by the District Council and Local Committee to ratify these proposals. These should be available for the Local Committee meeting in December, and are scheduled to go to the District Council Executive in advance of that.

Members will be pleased to note that many of the principles of this Total Place work have been incorporated in the proposals flowing from the Rapid Improvement Event held by Surrey County Council which considered use of Developers Contributions. Of particular note was the need to incorporate ideas from local communities and local Members as well as the need to ensure that pipeline projects are delivered. The approach being piloted will be of benefit when considering the implementation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The second element of the workstream is the Leatherhead High Street exemplar project. Progress continues to identify the next stage of improvements with a meeting of the working groups having considered location of parking on the High Street and street furniture as well as confirming the need to appoint consultants for some (cost effective) design work on the church street entrance. At the last meeting of the Local Committee, support was given to devolve S106 monies to local groups for local implementation and this work continues.

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

No update to report.

e) Local service development and commissioning – Street Scene

Two integrated street cleansing and grass cutting activities have been undertaken with a third proposed for October. These have proved a success in terms of integrated service delivery.

A further element of this workstream is decluttering and officers are preparing a list of items for improvement in Dorking High Street. This will be shared at a Member Reference Group for further consideration.

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

Discussions with the Mole Valley Local Strategic Partnership and Community Safety Partnership continue to explore how agendas can be rationalised to avoid duplication and improve service outcomes.

2 OTHER ISSUES

- 2.1 The Chairman of Local Committee, Councillor Clare Curran and the Strategic Director Mole Valley, Laura Taylor, attended the Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) on 6 July 2010. This proved a timely opportunity to share outcomes with a wider audience and identify next steps. Most significant would be changes to the constitution of both

Councils to make new governance arrangements that embed new ways of collaborative working. The SSP welcomed the report and commended the work undertaken.

3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 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. This approach was supported by the SSP.
- 3.2 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 measures of success will be the degree of financial saving and service improvement that is achieved through this approach.

4 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 4.1 A further report will be provided for the next Local Committee and detailed updates on progress on each theme will be provided.
- 4.2 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.

LEAD OFFICER: Laura Taylor, Strategic Director, Mole Valley District Council
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01306 879190
E-MAIL: Laura.Taylor@molevalley.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Laura.Taylor@molevalley.gov.uk
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01306 879361
BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Committee Report for 7th December, 13th September 2010, 3 March 2011, 8th June 2011 Mole Valley Localism Pilot

Version No. Date: Time: Initials: No of annexes: 0