

West Essex Alliance
Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2013
Civic Centre, Harlow

Present

Peter Andrews	Harlow & District Chamber of Commerce
Quentin Buller	Epping Forest College
Cllr Jim Kitteridge	Uttlesford District Council
Marcella M'Rabety	London Stansted Airport
John Price	Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Chris Whitbread	Epping Forest District Council

Officers Present

Graeme Bloomer	Harlow Council
Helen Code	Essex County Council
Alison Fox	Harlow Council
Jane Greer	Harlow Council
Roger Harborough	Uttlesford District Council
John Houston	One Epping Forest
John Preston	Epping Forest District Council
David Sellings	Harlow Council

Also Present

John McGill	London Stansted Corridor Consortium
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Apologies:

Cllr Tony Durcan	Harlow Council
Steve Flanagan	Bupa Home Healthcare
Cllr John Jowers	Essex County Council
Jemma Little	Anglia Ruskin University
Malcolm Morley	Harlow Council
Michael Murray	Department for Work & Pensions, Jobcentre Plus
Will Parkes	London Stansted Airport
Derick Whyte	Synthomer

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Graeme Bloomer, Harlow Council (GB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Malcolm Morley (Chief Executive, Harlow Council) was due to chair the meeting, however unfortunately has had to give apologies and therefore GB will be standing in a chair as Will Parkes, Deputy Chair has also sent apologies.

Apologies for absence were recorded as above.

2. Membership update

GB reported that following the sale completion of London Stansted Airport to the Manchester Airport Group (M.A.G.) Nick Barton is no longer Chief Executive of London Stansted Airport and has therefore resigned in his role as Chair of the West Essex Alliance.

The group formally thanked Nick Barton for his role as Chair and supporting the work of the Alliance.

The appointment of WEA Chair is on the agenda of the meeting and there were no further membership updates.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20 November 2012 were agreed as true and accurate record and there were no matters arising.

4. Appointment of Chair

As previously reported, GB explained that there is now a vacancy for West Essex Alliance Chair. Malcolm Morley has been involved in various discussions regarding the vacancy and an opportunity has arisen and an approach has been made to Greg Clark.

A copy of Greg Clark's CV had been circulated prior to the meeting and GB explained that there is a close relationship between the Alliance and Greg's role as Chair of the London Stansted Corridor Consortium, as well as a Board Member of the London Enterprise Partnership.

GB proposed that a formal invitation be made to Gregg Clarke in respect of becoming Chair of the Alliance. Cllr Chris Whitbread seconded the proposal and the Board unanimously agreed.

Action: GB to formally invite Greg Clark to become Chair of the West Essex Alliance.

Delivery

5. London Stansted Corridor Presentation John McGill, Director, North London Strategic Alliance.

John McGill (JM) gave a presentation on the London Stansted Corridor Consortium, a private led partnership bringing together key business representatives and local authorities along the M11/Lee Valley corridor with the key aim of promoting growth and supporting diversification of the economy.

The benefits of the LSCC means that a broader economic and employment story is being articulated, support better engagement with LEP's and more weight in attracting infrastructure and investment opportunities.

Cllr Jim Kitteridge (CJK) ask for clarification on LSCC's aspiration for growth opportunities at Stansted Airport, in that does this include a second runway as UDC would oppose any such plans.

JM explained that the LSCC would look at options and scenarios for aviation growth and would work with local authorities, JM also pressed that this is not a backdoor to encourage a second runway.

John Houston (JH) reported that the agenda for growth should be based on growth appropriate to the people who live in the district and not forced growth; and that it appears that the LSCC provide an opportunity to have a greater voice in working in partnership to have more control over growth, but also help obtain the correct infrastructure that supports growth.

Discussions took place around WEA becoming a formal member of the LSCC.

It was agreed that this would not be necessary as the three local authorities were already members and if Greg Clark was to become WEA Chair that would ensure a joint-up approach; and therefore there were sufficient opportunities to stay updated.

6. Enterprise Zone

Enterprise Zone Officer Update

GB gave a brief presentation on the background and current context of the Harlow Enterprise Zone (EZ), whilst Jane Greer provided an update on funding awards and applications that have been made to support the delivery of the EZ.

Harlow Enterprise Zone Board

GB explained that the Harlow Enterprise Zone Board will be set up as a sub-group of the Alliance and it is hoped that its first meeting will take place in the next couple of months and asked for the draft Terms of Reference to be considered.

It was noted that there was a lack of land owners listed on the group membership.

JH raised that it was originally a West Essex Enterprise Zone when bid and that it is now difficult to see a role for EFDC and UDC in the proposed membership and asked if the three local authorities could be represented. Cllr Chis Whitbread agreed with this suggestion.

John Preston asked for clarification on which Essex County Council Director would be a member.

The Terms of Reference were agreed with the proposed membership subject to the following issues being discussed and clarified with the new Chair:

- a) Clarification and decision on the involvement of land owners,*
- b) Clarification and decision on the representation of West Essex local authorities.*

7. Skills

Alison Fox (AF), Skills Partnership Officer ran through the Skills Update paper including the production of the Enterprise Zone Skills Plan published in March 2013, which is subject to approval by the Alliance.

AF explained that if approved, the next steps are to address delivery of the Skills Plan, working with partners and the West Essex Skills and Learning Forum.

Members asked what was required in getting the Skills Plan and the skills agenda across West Essex understood, especially in getting the LEP's involved. JM suggested that a very short summary is produced conveying the key messages that can be circulated and presented by members in order to raise the profile and get the Plan understood.

The Skills Plan was approved by the Alliance and can be viewed, as well as supporting studies at www.westessexalliance.org/skills.

8. Business Support

JH ran through the Business Support Update paper that had been produced by the West Essex Economic Development Officers, noting the business support activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

The recommendations listed in the paper were agreed and the West Essex Enterprise Group be recognised as best placed to address business support across West Essex in partnership with the local authority economic development teams.

Campaigns

9. M11 Junction 7a Update

Discussions are currently taking place with the Highways Agency with regards to the provision of a M11 Junction 7a into Harlow and the proposals are moving into the design phase with public consultations possibly in the autumn.

10. Stansted in 30

Marcella M'Rabety provided a brief update on Stansted in 30 and reported that the campaign is gaining momentum and lobbying of government continues and includes lobbying to extend Cross Rail to Stansted Airport as well as the airport being considered in future negotiations as part of the Greater Anglia franchise.

11. AOB

LSCC Conference – 11 June 2013

JM provided details of the forthcoming LSCC conference taking place on Tuesday 11 June 2013 and will be an opportunity for the private and public sector to hear and take part in discussions on how collaboration can help the south east economy.

Action: Details of the conference will be sent to all Board members.

Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce Youth Chamber

John Price updated that the Chamber of Commerce had successfully launched the Epping Forest Youth Chamber at the LSP Conference. The Youth Chamber is for young people aged 13 – 25, and as well as support youth employment is working on a number of different projects.

Discussions will be taking place with Harlow & District Chamber of Commerce to develop a Youth Chamber in Harlow.

Cross Rail 2 Consultation

John Preston reported that the Cross Rail 2 consultation is due to start soon and EFDC will be looking at the documents to consider the impacts to the district.

It was agreed for the Board to discuss Cross Rail 2 at the next week and consider any impacts for West Essex.

13. Date of Next Meeting

CJK asked if the Board meetings had to start at 8am and following discussion, the general consensus was for the meetings to start around 9am.

Giving consideration to the approach of a new Chair, it was agreed to discuss meeting dates and times with Greg Clark.