AGENDA ITEM NO 10
DISSOLUTION OF THE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Committee: Finance and Governance
Date: 25\textsuperscript{th} June 2012
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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To note the outcome the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership (ECSP) Board meeting on 11\textsuperscript{th} June 2012 held to consider the future of the ECSP.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 To note the two recommendations that were approved at the East Cambs Strategic Partnership (ECSP) Board meeting held on 11\textsuperscript{th} June 2012:

i) To agree an informal meeting structure arranged and chaired by an ex-LSP member (as defined in the ECSP Terms of Reference) to consider and assist in issues impacting upon the District.

ii) That members of the East Cambs Strategic Partnership Board dissolve the ECSP with immediate effect.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

The ESCP Board decided to dissolve the ECSP for a number of reasons as detailed below:

3.1 THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POSITION
The DCLG have confirmed that ‘the Duty to Involve’ is being repealed and that this will include a repeal of the requirement for Local Authorities to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy\textsuperscript{1}. The key policy driver for LSPs has therefore been scrapped. Ministers unfortunately haven't yet identified a suitable legislative opportunity so can't confirm exactly when the duties are likely to be repealed, but the repeal is imminent and is now likely to come forward in the new parliament.

3.2 RESOURCING THE ECSP
Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) reward funding was withdrawn by Ministers on 3\textsuperscript{rd} September 2010 and no new funding streams or partner

\textsuperscript{1} Required by virtue of Section 1 (a) of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by Section 7 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. District Councils have a duty to consult and seek the participation of such organisations and people as they consider appropriate when preparing or modifying their Sustainable Community Strategy.
resources have taken its place. The ECSP therefore had no pooled or central government resources for delivering added value projects to support the SCS.

3.3 THE POSITION OF THE ECSP THEMATIC SUB-GROUPS
The majority of thematic sub-groups of the ECSP are no longer delivering added value projects. The groups have either been disbanded, not set up as intended, or been replaced by alternative partnership arrangements. See Appendix A for a detailed position statement of each of the 5 sub-groups.

3.4 OTHER PARTNERSHIPS STRUCTURES NOW COVERING ECSP PRIORITIES

3.4.1 Local Children and Young People’s Area Board: Cambridgeshire Children’s Trust is a partnership between organisations with a role in improving outcomes for children and young people in the area. The Trust Board gives strategic direction and commissions county-wide activity. Area Partnerships inform the decisions of the Trust Board about the priorities in their area and commission local activity.

3.4.2 Area Partnerships have prepared local commissioning plans, (from 2011 to 2014) and started to oversee their delivery. Priorities for the East Cambs and Fenland Area Partnership include support for vulnerable children (5 to 13 years of age); children in Traveller and migrant families; and, children with mental health issues. Voluntary and Community Sector organisations play a key part in the Area Partnership.

3.4.3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP): The LEP is based on the economic areas of Cambridge and Peterborough, alongside neighbouring market towns and communities. Its Board is made up of a Chair from the business community and 13 members, including one voluntary sector/ social enterprise representative. The LEP has secured some funding and is putting in place a delivery structure, which may include local partnerships with a locality focus to help inform its plans.

3.4.4 Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for Greater Cambridgeshire
Recognition from DEFRA for ‘LNP’ status for the Local Nature Partnership for Greater Cambridgeshire is being sought. If the application is successful the partnership will cover Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The current membership of the partnership comprises organisations represented on the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Forum, Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Steering Group and Natural Networks Partnership in Peterborough. Other partners will be invited to play a role should LNP status be granted. A high level LNP Board will be created which champions the natural environment at a strategic level aiming to:

- Reverse the decline in biodiversity
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Promote sustainable growth and economic development
- Support healthy living and well-being.

The LNP plan to work with the LEP and HWB to develop measurable targets covering the economic and social benefits of the LNP plan.

3.4.5 **East Cambs Health and Wellbeing Partnership**
The emerging Local Health and Wellbeing Partnership now includes GP commissioning and picks up health and well-being issues for the District. This new group will have a wider, more strategic membership than the previous Health and Wellbeing Partnership, which was a sub-group of the ECSP, with a direct link to the County Health and Well-being Board (HWB). The work of the group will be steered by the priorities identified by the HWB and the GP Commissioning Group.

4.0 **ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 The ECSP Board recognised that there are a number of opportunities for current ECSP members to directly influence the agenda of the existing and emerging partnerships, with no obvious way for the ECSP to add extra value to these arrangements directly.

4.2 The conclusion was that partners remain committed to partnership working to deliver services and improve the quality of life for the residents of East Cambridgeshire. However, it was felt that the ECSP was no longer the most effective structure to help deliver sustainable communities.

4.3 The ECSP Board also noted that there might be gaps or new priorities that become apparent over time and wanted to ensure that there was a forum to raise these and take any collective action necessary. The ECSP Board therefore concluded that a (senior level) officer meeting/forum would be more appropriate. Any organisation previously a member of the ECSP will be able to call a meeting, as issues arise, with that agency being responsible for pulling together the agenda and arranging the venue. The meetings will not be minuted or open to the public.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The dissolution of the ECSP will result in savings for the partner agencies involved.

5.2 ECDC will save officer time attending and administering the meetings and any member expenses incurred by their attendance.
5.3 The Partnerships Officer will have a facilitation role ensuring that everyone on the old ECSP has the contact details to enable them to set up a meeting when/if they want to call one.

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required/completed.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix A – The Position of the ECSP Thematic Sub-Groups

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<tr>
<th>Background Documents</th>
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<th>Contact Officer</th>
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<tr>
<td>‘The Future of the East Cambs Strategic Partnership’ report to the ECSP Board 11/06/12.</td>
<td>Room FF101 The Grange, Ely</td>
<td>Julie Cornwell Partnerships Officer (01353) 616352 E-mail: <a href="mailto:julie.cornwell@eastcambs.gov.uk">julie.cornwell@eastcambs.gov.uk</a></td>
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THE POSITION OF THE ECSP THEMATIC SUB-GROUPS

The Sustainable Growth Partnership (SGP)
Due to declining attendance and lack of progress on delivering projects, a survey was sent to all 36 people on the Sustainable Growth Group email list in February 2012, seeking views on the value of the SGP. 16 responses were received. Some of the findings were that: i) capacity to deliver was low; ii) it would be good to identify key areas where the Partnership could work given the constraints on resources; iii) monitoring and evaluating partnership work could be improved; iv) external factors such as changing policies and climate change not being high on the political agenda make it hard to establish a direction or focus for activity.

Following on from the survey and discussion at their meeting on 17th April 12, the SGP disbanded because it was agreed that there is no ‘added value’ partnership work that could undertaken on the ‘Greener Communities’ theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy through the ECSP, with current resource levels.

Cultural Advisory Group
The Cultural Advisory group is considering whether they wish to continue meeting under the auspices of the ECSP. Whilst some members value meeting to gain an understanding of local issues and to take forward joint projects, there is a view that there is no benefit with this being linked to the ECSP. There is a County Culture Task Group that appears to have a more natural strategic alignment. The Cultural Advisory Group last met on 16th September 2011, although a group has met since then to take forward specific work on the Olympics.

Well-Served Well Connected Communities Group
The ECSP Board made a decision in June 2011, to “instruct the Partnerships Officer to set up a new thematic sub-group responsible for delivering the aims of the ‘Well-served and Well connected’ theme of the Strategy”. A meeting was arranged with key officers to discuss how to set up a group. The officers present however, strongly felt that there was no capacity to support the creation of a group or to develop new projects to meet the objectives set out within this part of the strategy. The agreement was therefore not to set up this group.

East Cambs Health and Wellbeing Partnership
The emerging Local Health and Wellbeing Partnership now includes GP commissioning and picks up health and well-being issues for the District. This new group will have a wider more strategic membership than the previous health and Wellbeing Partnership, which was a sub-group of the ECSP, with direct link to the County Health and Well-being Board (HWB). The work of the group will be steered by the priorities identified by the HWB and the GP Commissioning Group. There is no identified route for this group to link into the ECSP and no plan for this group to report performance to the ECSP.

The Local Health and Wellbeing Partnership may deliver a small number of local projects, through Task and Finish groups, to respond to pressing problems, where resources are available, but this is likely to be through commissioning, not in response to any aspirations in the Sustainable Community Strategy. There are currently discussions underway about how the VCS can most effectively link into the emerging health partnerships.
East Cambs Community Safety Partnership
The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (and subsequent related Acts) places a statutory duty on the Police, Local Authorities and Probation Service – together with Health Authorities and other agencies, to develop and implement a Strategy for reducing crime and disorder in their area. The East Cambs Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been established for over ten years to deliver this requirement within the District. Their work includes the preparation of Strategic Assessments, the delivery of their Community Safety Plans and Annual Reviews of progress in reducing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the district areas.

The work of the CSP has indirect links to part of the ‘Stronger Together’ section of the ‘Active and Inclusive Communities’ theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy, as the aims of the CSP are similar. However, the CSP’s action plan does not directly link and their priorities are set through the Strategic Assessments (crime and demographic data and public consultation). The CSP has provided detailed updates on progress against their Action Plans for the ECSP upon request. Although there is a County Community Safety Strategic Board, the duties remain with the local Community Safety Partnerships, and therefore there would be no impact on this group of the ECSP dissolved.