



## STEERING GROUP

13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Channels Golf Club

Present	Representing	Orgn	Initials
Canon John Brown	Vice Chair	RCCE	JB
Cllr John Buchanan	EERF	EALC	JBu
George Courtauld	EERF	RCCE	GC
Joy Darby	CAG	EALC	JD
Suzanne Harris	CAG & EERF	RCCE	SH
Paul Hinsley	EnvAG	ECC	PH
Cllr Roger Hirst	Chair	ECC	RH
Revd Julie Nelson	EERF	EALC	JN
Dominic Petre	EcAG	Visit Essex	DP
Nick Shuttleworth	Facilitator	RCCE	NS
Philip Wilson	EcAG	ECC	PhW
Cllr Wendy Scattergood	ELG Rep	Braintree District Council	WS
<b>Apologies</b>			
Cllr Peter Chillingworth	ELG rep	Colchester BC	PC
Cllr Mick Page	EERF	ECC	MP

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Chairman Cllr Roger Hirst welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were read (see above).

It would be a short meeting as the Steering Group had held a substantial discussion in January. The focus would be on follow-up from the Full Partnership meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the ERP Steering Group Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014

#### Accuracy

Agreed as accurate.

#### Matters Arising

Essex Police should be approached to attend the next Full Partnership meeting.

SH

### 3. South East LEP

- ESIF Rural Chapter
- EAFRD – Call for Applications

#### SE LEP Rural Strategy – *draft circulated with minutes*

GC felt that ‘rural’ was a side-lined subject within the SELEP.

JBu sought clarification of Simon Brice’s role within the SELEP; it was confirmed that he is Chair of the SELEP’s Greater Essex Business Board.

NS suggested we acknowledge things have moved forward, accept frustrations and work proactively to demonstrate the demand in rural Essex.

Discussion followed about the draft documents and processes used to create them.

It was agreed that all comments should be sent to Suzanne by Monday; she would collate them and respond formally to SELEP on behalf of ERP.

**ALL**  
**SH**

It was agreed that Tourism statistics would be useful; Suzanne would approach Lisa Bone for data.

**SH**

PW would seek statistics regarding broadband for inclusion.

**PW**

WS would seek statistics regarding AONB.

**WS**

Page 12 demonstrated a bias to other counties.

Over emphasis on Wilkins – and need for name to be corrected.

No info on vineyards or oyster industry.

The Chairman proposed that ERP support and endorse the SELEP call for applications in March. This motion was seconded by GC and agreed unanimously. Suzanne would inform Lorraine George of this support.

**SH**

It was suggested that our communication to the SELEP convey the message that we will promote ‘*despite reservations about the short timescale*’.

The question of how the SELEP rural strategy might dovetail with the Essex Rural Strategy was raised; it was agreed that we would do our own thing. We would keep SELEP informed of progress with our own strategy.

### 4. Essex Rural Strategy Review

- Findings from Full ERP meeting
- Next Steps
  - events
  - drafting
  - data/research

It was agreed that the morning session had been successful.

The SG was in favour of holding consultation events.

- Who should attend events?
- Timing?
- How will they be run? (EALC might host something for parishes)

PW proposed that a drafting committee should be established. This was agreed.

- PW NS SH JD JBr + appropriate external support – SH to convene.

PW would convene an internal ECC meeting with commissioners and data teams.

It was agreed to retain a 10-year vision length and a 5 year strategy.

It was agreed that some hard copies of the new strategy would be produced.

SH  
PW

It was acknowledged that the Steering Group could benefit from a membership review.

The 'position' of the Steering Group was debated; it was agreed that the current role is as an executive body – this is helpful to make quick decisions.

The concept of an online library to access public sector documents, regardless of which local authority they are owned by, was debated and felt to be of huge potential benefit. Cllr Hirst agreed to lead on pursuing this idea.

RH

## 5. Schedule of Meetings

- **Dates**

*The next Steering Group meeting would be on 15<sup>th</sup> May (provisional)*

*The next Full Partnership meeting would be held in early July.*

- **Agenda items**

***(Post Offices, Flooding & Policing already noted for Full ERP)***

Credit unions and poverty in rural areas might be explored in future.

The next full ERP would consider issues and options for the revised Strategy

Looking ahead, the strategy would cover the period 2016-20 and a refresh should be diarised for 2019.

## 6. AOB

- **Items notified in advance** – *There were none.*

- **Other items**

JBu reminded the SG that ECC had launched its 'getting around in Essex' transport consultation.

EALC reported that the new Standards of Practice had been introduced and was proceeding well. Councillor training was planned.

Braintree District Council would be running Parish Council courses for planning.

The SG was sad to learn that Revd Dr Julie Nelson would be retiring and moving away. The SG thanked Julie for her contribution to ERP and wished her well in her retirement.