



LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MEETING


Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023
Hertsmere Borough Council Civic Offices

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| Attendees: | Councillor Cllr Newmark (Chair) | Leader, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Abigail Stevens (Minutes) | Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Arran Elkeles | Chair, Citizens Advice |
| | Carolyn Buller | Hertsmere Citizens Advice |
| | Councillor Parveen Rani | Street Scene, Parks, Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Ed Jordan | Wenta |
| | Hilary Shade | Head of Housing, Partnerships and Community Engagement, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Jyoti Bhojani | Policy Manager, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Matt Mardle | Hertfordshire County Council |
| | Rachael Robertson | Hertfordshire Constabulary |
| | Stephen Craker | Communities 1 st |

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| Apologies for absence: | | |
| | Councillor Christian Gray | Communities, Neighbourhoods, Enforcements, Economic Development and Transformation Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Councillor Paul Richards | Environmental Sustainability, Net Zero and Public Health Portfolio Holder, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Sajida Bijle | Managing Director, Hertsmere Borough Council |
| | Dr Kate Page | Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board |
| | Peter Evans | Aldenham Parish Council |

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| 1.0 | <u>Welcomes and apologies</u> |
| 1.1 | Cllr Newmark welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself to the board as the new Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council and chair of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), following the recent change in administration. The Chair explained some of the initial changes that have been made to the format of the LSP Board Meetings – the meetings had been moved into the Committee Rooms and would no longer be webcast. In addition, Board Members will be invited to attend in person. |
| 2.0 | <u>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</u> |
| 2.1 | The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. |
| 3.0 | <u>Terms of Reference / Future Working Arrangements</u> |
| 3.1 | <p>The Chair invited Jyoti Bhojani, Policy Manager at Hertsmere Borough Council to present this item.</p> <p>Jyoti share an updated version of the terms of reference for the LSP, following the change in administration.</p> <p>Key updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting will now take place three times per year instead of quarterly • Board members are now invited to attend and key partners have been included in the Terms of Reference <p>If board members are unable to attend, then they are to send a substitute who can make decisions on their behalf.</p> <p>The updated terms of reference document is attached below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>LSP Terms of Reference June 2023.</p> </div> |
| 3.2 | Cllr Newmark thanked Jyoti for her update. He opened the floor to questions and comments. |
| 3.3 | Arran Elkeles suggested adding the word ‘normally’ to 6.1 of the Terms of reference, to ensure that there is some level of flexibility around the meetings. Carolyn Buller added that it would be helpful to be able to invite external organisations as needed. This was agreed by the board. |
| 3.4 | Steven Craker said Primary Schools are represented at other LSPs that he attends. He thought that there would be benefit in inviting them to attend the Hertsmere meetings. . This was agreed by the board. |
| 3.5 | Ed Jordan suggested that it would be beneficial to have a representative of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) representative attending this meeting and if diary invites could be circulated as soon as possible for future meetings. This was agreed by the board. |
| 3.6 | Cllr Newmark commented the LSP has been a good forum for information exchange, he is keen to see the partnership come together to develop their work to deliver tangible outcomes. The Terms of Reference were agreed, subject to the amendments. |
| 4.0 | <u>Cost of Living Crisis</u> |
| 4.1 | <p>The Chair invited Matt Mardle, Hertfordshire County Council to present this item.</p> <p>Matt updated the board on the three government support grants that are currently available for residents in Hertfordshire. These included the Cost of</p> |

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| | <p>Living Payments, the Household Support Fund and the Energy Bills Discount Scheme.</p> <p>The Integrated Care Board has provided £1.06m to support with cost of living through increased staff levels across all main providers Herts Help (HH), Citizens Advice (CAB) and Money Advice Unit (MAU) over 12 months (Ending October 2023). They are looking into further funding. This funding has supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAB - 1 extra worker in Hertsmere • MAU – 0.3 extra worker in Hertsmere • HH – 1 extra worker in Hertsmere • Age UK – additional winter welfare checks across Hertsmere and gardening/handyman scheme • Extension of Citizens Advice opening hours <p>Community Spaces Hertfordshire County Council</p> <p>These will be local spaces that provide open access to people, where you can go to socialise and participate in activities. There will be different things available at community spaces, with some offering food and drinks. As part of community spaces, some spaces may also meet the requirements of a warm or cool space, where you can get some reprieve from hot/cold weather. They also have developed a free Community Space transport scheme in partnership with Community Help Hertfordshire to help people to get to Community spaces.</p> <p>Matt also talked through the cost of living dashboard. Working with partners, they have collated data to look at what impact the cost of living is having on their services, to best identify gaps and notice trends. The dashboard will continue to be developed as they receive more data and they have integrated the Healthwatch Hertfordshire cost of living data into the dashboard.</p> <p>This dashboard has been developed for professionals only. If you wish to have access to the dashboard, please email Matt.Mardle@hertfordshire.gov.uk from your professional email address, with your job role and reason for wanting access.</p> <p>The presentation that was given is attached below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Hertsmere - Cost of Living Presentation.pc</p> </div> |
| <p>4.2</p> | <p>Cllr Newmark thanked Matt for his presentation. He asked if there was capacity for staff to gather additional data, as there were some gaps around ward level data. He asked if borough councillors would be able to receive ward level reports to give real time information about their localities. Matt explained that this is difficult due to capacity and at present the dashboard is only available on Microsoft Excel. He went on to explain that it is a tool for professionals to access and export the data that they require.</p> |
| <p>4.3</p> | <p>Hilary Shade commented that she also noticed that there were gaps in the warm spaces directory, as many providers did not sign up to the Hertfordshire Directory. Hertsmere Borough Council are aware and in contact with a number</p> |

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| | of these organisations. Matt commented that the Community Spaces directory has just launched so organisations will need to recomplete the registration process. |
| 4.4 | Rachael Robertson asked if this dashboard was available to all partners. Matt commented that yes it is, please email Matt to set up a log in. |
| 4.5 | Stephen Craker commented that Communities 1 st have not yet signed up to be a Community Space but they will be signing up. Their warm spaces have now turned in to creative cafes, which are running successfully. |
| 4.6 | Ed Jordan asked when the funding for the Household Support Fund will be finishing and if there are any contingency plans in place for this. Matt explained that it is due to finish March 2024. At present, we do not know whether this will be extended |
| 4.7 | Carolyn Buller explained that it is difficult for Citizens Advice to keep giving out vouchers, without offering support around financial advice to address the underlying issues. She felt that vouchers are a short term solution. |
| 4.8 | <p>The Chair also invited Carolyn Buller, Hertsmere Citizens Advice to present this item.</p> <p>Carolyn commented that in May they helped the highest number of people on record with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Debt • Foodbank referrals • Crisis support (energy and supermarket vouchers) <p>Trends they are seeing include 100% increase in the number of people asking for help, 200% increase in the number of people asking for support with fuel debts, 35% increase in housing issues and evictions and 52% of people coming to Citizens Advice with a negative budget.</p> <p>The gap between the number of people they are seeing with cost of living issues vs other issues has narrowed. Certain groups of people they are helping are struggling more during the crisis. In March 2023, they helped a record number of disabled people with cost-of living issues. Single adults and those from a minority ethnic background are worse hit by the crisis. Finally, the effective interest rate for poorer families is 12.5%</p> <p>Carolyn commented that Citizens Advice are here to help everyone not just those struggling with the cost of living. They have 22 highly trained paid staff. 50 highly trained volunteer advisers helping over 100 people every week. Also, 13 volunteer trustees giving up their time in the evenings to support them.</p> <p>The presentation that was given is attached below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Presentation - LSP 11th July 2023.pdf</p> </div> |
| 4.9 | Cllr Newmark thanked Carolyn for her presentation. He asked if there are any concerns or contingency plans in place for added pressure on the services |

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| | <p>when the Afghan arrivals leave the hotels. Carolyn commented that they are in the process of planning for this at the moment, and there are concerns about the level to support which might be needed. The main challenge in Hertsmere is around housing, as there are a number of large families and no large homes available.</p> |
| 4.10 | <p>Cllr Newmark commented if there was anything emerging that we can act on now from both of the presentations. Stephen Craker commented that Communities 1st are supporting the cost of living crisis by running training courses on numeracy and budgeting skills called the Multiply project. He thought that there was scope to do more to move residents away from the deficit model.</p> |
| 4.11 | <p>Cllr Newmark suggested that there could be a task and finish group set up in between now and the next meeting in the November to address these emerging issues.</p> |
| 5.0 | <p><u>Feedback from the Partnership Groups</u></p> |
| 5.1 | <p>The Chair invited Jyoti Bhojani, Policy Manager at Hertsmere Borough Council to present this item on behalf of Cllr Paul Richards, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Net Zero and Public Health.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing meeting took place on 6 June 2023. The meeting received a report on the updated terms of reference for the group following the changes after May's elections.</p> <p>The meeting heard from the CEO of Hertsmere Citizens Advice, who explained that they are still seeing record numbers of clients and that for most residents the cost of living crisis continues to result in financial pressures.</p> <p>The Operations Director for Borehamwood Foodbank explained to the group that they are seeing rises in the number of clients they are supporting. Borehamwood Foodbank has a range of holistic support – Healthy Hubs, embedded Citizens Advice Worker, the University of Hertfordshire's Satellite Law clinic and a British Red Cross Support worker to ensure that clients receive the support they need. She also explained that they have been transitioning to e-voucher referrals in line with the current Trussell Trust model. It was also noted that Borehamwood Foodbank recently marked their 10th anniversary.</p> <p>Hertsmere Borough Council's Policy Manager updated the group on the work of the Hertsmere Against Cancer Project. Officers are working with local health colleagues to address the inequalities in cancer screening uptake. Calls are being made to those who have not taken up invites for breast, bowel and cervical screening. All practices have seen a rise in the number of women taking up cervical screening.</p> <p>The meeting then heard updates from partner organisations about their work in the borough.</p> |
| 5.2 | <p>Cllr Newmark thanked Jyoti for her update and there were no further questions.</p> |

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| 6.0 | Community Strategy Update |
| 6.1 | <p>The Chair invited Jyoti Bhojani, Policy Manager at Hertsmere Borough Council to present this item.</p> <p>Jyoti explained that the Community Strategy has been worked on over the last 18 months since the workshop took place back in March 2022.</p> <p>The strategy sets out the vision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership to empower our communities <p>The principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working • Early Help • Planning for the future <p>The priorities are:</p> <p>Keeping our communities healthy and well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce health inequalities in Hertsmere • Provide support for those most vulnerable in Hertsmere • Improve mental health and emotional wellbeing • Enhance our environments and increase the use of green space <p>Keeping our communities safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and protect vulnerable victims of exploitation • Identify and prevent serious violence, with a specific focus on knife crime • Prevent violence against women and girls • Work in partnership to support and promote local service that provide a holistic approach to community wellbeing • Reduce the harm caused by drugs within communities • Increase the feelings of safety and public confidence by reducing anti-social behaviour, providing early interventions and reissuance messages and robustly tackling crime <p>Building a resilient community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and empower people to have a good start in life and to age well • Develop volunteering, social enterprise and volunteering opportunities • Provide accessible opportunities for skills development and financial advice • Ensure a healthy standard of living for all and prevent homelessness <p>Officers are working with Board Members to agree the Action Plan for the Strategy. The Task and Finish Group is currently mapping interventions in the borough and will then agree next steps. The Community Safety Board will also be putting together an action plan for the delivery of their Partnership Plan ,</p> |

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| | which will seek to address the priorities, identified in the Community Strategy. The final action plan will be brought to the next LSP meeting in November. |
| 6.2 | Cllr Newmark thanked Jyoti for her update. He explained that the Community Strategy would now be taken through the Council approval process, for HBC to formally adopt it. He asked that all Board Members also take the Community Strategy through their formal processes in order to show their commitment to the document. All Board Members agreed this request. |
| 7.0 | <u>A.O.B</u> There was no further comments. |
| 8.0 | <u>Date of Future Meetings for 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 14 November <p>All meetings start at 2pm and are held at the Civic Offices, Borehamwood.</p> |