



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 12th November 2007**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Alan Cottam
	David Foster
	Michael Law-Riding
	Michael Lee
	Salim Lorgat
	Chris Thayne
Business Sector	Mike Murray (Chair) (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Amanda Meachin (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Malcolm Harrison (Daniel Thwaites Plc)
Public Sector	Nick Kennedy (Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust)
	Gifford Kerr (Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust)
	Mike Leaf (Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust)
	Ian Clinton (Blackburn College)
	Phil Richards (Social Landlords Group)
	Alice Robinson (Lancashire Constabulary)
	John Jordan (Connexions)
	Liz Gill (Government Office North West)
	Fran Gosling-Thomas (Government Office North West)
	Jon Parkin (Government Office North West)
	Pat Shilliday (Government Office North West)
	Ian Gordon (Government Office North West)
	Elaine Howard (Government Office North West)
	Brenda Fullard (Government Office North West)
Community and Voluntary Sector	Geoff Townsend (Interfaith Council)
	Garth Hodgkinson (Social Enterprise Network)
	Pauline Walsh (Voluntary Health and Social Care Forum)
	Ian Gallagher (Blackburn and District Trades Council)
	Fawad Bhatti (CVS)
	Laurence Loft (Safeguarding Children's Board)

Council Officers	Graham Burgess (Chief Executive)
	Tom Stannard (Director of Policy)
	Adam Scott (Director of Regeneration, Housing and Neighbourhoods)
	Bill Lovat (Assistant Director of Children's Services)
	Steven Cochrane (Economic Regeneration)
	Philippa Cross (Policy Department)
	Sam Chapman (Community Safety)
	Ros Davies (Policy Department)
	Caroline Walmsley (Democratic Services)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair, Mike Murray, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Rigby, Councillor Kate Hollern, Mike Damms, Judith Holbrey, Alasdair Reid, Katherine Whittaker, Minhaz Khelya, Tom Finn, Ian Kent, Peter Neill, Elizabeth Taylor, Peter Morgan and Dave Mallaby.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

3 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2007

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 1st October 2007 were submitted for information.

4 LSP BOARD AWAY DAY FEEDBACK

A brief overview was given on the LSP Away Day which took place on 8th November 2007, which covered the role of the LSP going forward. A report was expected from Ian Roberts consultancy and feedback would be given to Government Office North West by January 2008.

5 LAA UPDATE

A report was tabled on Blackburn with Darwen LAA six months exceptions. The report cross referenced LSP outcomes with the thematic forums. The report was leading to a more formal submission to Government Officer North West in January, however everyone would be consulted prior to completion.

It was further reported that the area was to be one of the pilot areas for the Multi Area Agreement (MAA) working with Lancashire County Council and bringing together the two LAA's of Pennine Lancashire.

6 GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST, 6 MONTH REVIEW

Each of the Thematic Groups gave feedback on the current position and going forward.

Economic Regeneration Board

It was reported that it had been a good 6 months and was on target for each of the indicators.

Progress included over 300 jobs created and over 700 safeguarded. There had also been over £8.6M of investment recorded. There had been a number of different interventions including improving processes, grants and premises. Forty two businesses had been assisted by adopting innovation and technology. Though progress against targets was good, LEGI would also make a difference with regards to improvement.

Six out of the 35 targets had been put forward which covered the worklessness target, works target and skills target.

There was a clear need to keep creating jobs each year as many manufacturing jobs had been lost over the last few years. It is also important to ensure jobs were taken by people within the Borough.

Government Office North West voiced concern over Blackburn being consistently near the bottom in terms of it's economy and employment rates had got worse. There was currently less jobs in Blackburn than 2 years ago, with benefit claims 7th worst in region. It was reported that the average earnings of people in the Borough were high, which suggested that jobs go to people that live outside of the Borough.

It was acknowledged that though there were issues relating to the reliability of data concerning skills, there were still a high number of people with no qualifications and many companies were not investing in skills.

Issues around transport were discussed and Government Office were requested to pursue the possibility of lifting restrictions from Whitebirk Roundabout.

Community Safety Partnership

It was reported that performance on crime remained very strong with a 30% reduction, however as the year progresses it wasn't expected that the 30% reduction could be maintained.

The second quarter for repeat Domestic Violence saw the establishment of the multi area risk assessments, however it may take 6 to 9 months for any significant impact to be felt as currently the indicator was going in the wrong direction in relation to the target.

It was further reported that domestic violence related murders was not a sensible indicator locally so alternative options were being investigated.

In terms of road safety, one indicator on the LAA was doing the least well in relation to child casualties.

Deliberate secondary fires had lower results than last year at the same time. Extensive plans were in place to improve on last years overall performance.

A retention in drug treatment action plan had been developed by the Lancashire Care Trust to address the gap in retention rates.

Government Office North West congratulated the Community Safety Partnership on bringing the crime statistics down but stressed the importance of keeping the pressure on despite the reduction and not just concentrating on bigger crime.

Children and Young People

It was reported Teenage Pregnancy had now changed to the Sexual Health Partnership and was targeting hotspots in the Borough.

It was also reported that policies, procedures and practical guidance were currently being reviewed and developed for children being looked after by the authority with a plan to re-launch in January 2008.

There was focus on poverty across the borough and child poverty was a key theme in the Children's Plan Re-fresh.

Government Office North West commended the progress that had been made with some initiatives being used as national examples. There was scope to look at overarching themes such as child poverty and healthy lifestyles.

Health and Social Well Being

It was reported that since the last review the Health and Well Being Strategy had been launched. Also there had been key focus on suicide prevention with a co-ordinator now based in Public Health. This had lead to better understanding of causes and patterns and was informing a action plan.

Other key focuses included cardio vascular, of which enhancement of the current scheme was being investigated, and alcohol and substance misuse. A manifesto was being developed on improving health which was to be launched on 11th December 2007. Government Office North West stressed that it was a huge juggernaut to turn round as Blackburn with Darwen has some of the worst figures in the Country. There needed to be a partnership approach to achieve improvement.

Disappointments included physical activity as third lowest in country and smoking pregnancy, however it was reported that this required partnership working and it was expected that major integration between the Council and PCT would be announced in the next month.

Environment and Neighbourhood Forum

It was reported that highlights of the Environment Forum included good progress with recycling, moving above 30%, and with regards to Carbon Management and Climate Change the Forum had signed up to the Lancashire Climate Change Plan and working with the Carbon Trust to reduce emissions.

It was reported that Street Scene and cleanliness had seen good returns on indicators from ENCAMS but the public perception differed,

Government Office North West raised concerns over landfill in Blackburn with it being worse than the north west. Government Office would also like to see Blackburn with Darwen looking at impact and opportunities that may come from climate change. Furthermore, in terms of housing energy and efficiency, fuel poverty included in the LAA.

The housing management approach was encouraging insofar as how integrating work in sustainable community strategy was what the government wanted.

People and Communities

It was reported that further to the 100 voices event, 'Neighbourhood Voices' would now bring people together and would take place in each of the five neighbourhood co-ordination areas and in Blackburn and Darwen town centres. It provides the opportunity for people to discuss issues which are important to them in their communities and start to identify a shared understanding of their area and a shared vision of what can be done going forward.

It was further reported that it was recognised that cohesion was a key priority for the Borough and would feature heavily in the future LAA.

Government Office North West discussed demographics of the area as Blackburn with Darwen does not fit the standard north west profile.

Overall excellent progress had been made over the last six months in some key areas, however it was still critical to get it right and ensure the strong and effective partnership is maintained.

7 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Pennine Lancashire Economy – Future Trends

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Director of Public Health tabled a report on the manifesto and strategic plan for improving health and well being in Blackburn with Darwen. The Board were requested to feedback comments by the end of the following week.