



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 10th March 2008**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Alan Cottam
	Kate Hollern
	Michael Lee
	Salim Lorgat
	Colin Rigby
	Chris Thayne
Business Sector	Mike Murray (Chair) (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Amanda Meachin (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Malcolm Harrison (Daniel Thwaites Plc)
	Alasdair Reid (Capita)
	Mike Damms (Chamber of Commerce)
	Peter Hobkirk (Chamber of Trade)
Public Sector	Nick Kennedy (Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust)
	Judith Holbrey (Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust)
	Alice Knowles (Lancashire Constabulary)
	Liz Gill (Government Office North West)
	Debbie Corcoran (Lancashire Learning & Skills Council)
	Dave Cresswell (Lancashire Learning & Skills Council)
Community and Voluntary Sector	Geoff Townsend (Interfaith Council)
	Garth Hodgkinson (Social Enterprise Network)
	Pauline Walsh (Voluntary Health and Social Care Forum)
	Derek Estill (Interfaith Council)
	Fawad Bhatti (CVS)
	Laurence Loft (Safeguarding Children's Board)
	Ivy Oglesby (Darwen & Rural Neighbourhood Area)
	Peter Neill (Environment Network)
	Bob Simpson (Disability Issues Network)
Council Officers	Harry Catherall (Deputy Chief Executive, Community and Personal)
	Tom Stannard (Director of Policy)

	Adam Scott (Director of Regeneration, Housing and Neighbourhoods)
	Peter Morgan (Strategic Director of Children's Services)
	Philippa Cross (Policy Department)
	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 David Foster, Councillor Michael Law-Riding, Graham Burgess, Arif Iqbal, Mike Leaf, Phil Richards, Ian Clinton and Dave Mallaby.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2007 were agreed as a correct record subject to the change in name on the attendance from Alice Robinson to Alice Knowles of Lancashire Constabulary.

3 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2008

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 7th January 2008 were submitted for information.

4 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT UPDATE AND PROPOSED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2008/09

A report was submitted which provided the LSP Board with an update on the LAA development, including:-

- Updated Story of Place
- Updated proposals for an outcomes framework including designated (up to 35); non designated (local) indicators and the 16 statutory DCSF indicators.

A document was circulated which listed the LAA current designated set and the designated and the designated set with Government Office proposals and outlined which were agreed in principle, subject to formal confirmation and which required further discussion.

The report also provided the LSP Board with a summary of proposals for the governance of the Area Based Grant for 2008-2009 and moving forward to 2009-2011.

In addition to the report a presentation was given which also updated on the LAA development and outcomes framework including proposal for change to 2020 visions and also:-

- Development Timescale
- Financial Governance 2008/09
- Financial Governance – future years

Concerns were raised over the timing of Government Office North West's intervention. In particular it was highlighted that indicator 142, number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living, should recognise everyone's work not just the local authority and not to lose it from the designated set. Government Office stated that they were not suggesting the indicator be dropped, just that others are considered in addition.

Concerns were also raised over Area Based Grant. The current NRF project is to complete Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) as part of the Gateway process. Projects that are identified as meeting Working Neighbourhood Fund criteria could receive up to 100% of their current allocation, whilst those that contribute to other LAA priorities could receive up to 75% of their current funding. Government Office North West stated that the Area Based Grant came from Government with few restrictions however it was necessary to look how it had been used to address priorities. It was acknowledged that this was a transitional period and this shouldn't be repeated next year.

Lastly it was reported that the representation for the LAA Board had not yet been finalised.

AGREED - (1) That the LSP Board considers the updated story of place and feedback any comments to Philippa Cross by 31st March 2008;

(2) That the LSP Board considers the updated outcomes framework and feedback any comments to Philippa Cross as soon as possible, and by 17th March at the latest;

(3) That the LSP Board approves the proposals for financial governance as outlined in the report;

(4) That the LSP Board approves the proposals for the LSP Finance Sub Group to meet in either 27th or 28th March to agree the funding proposals for 2008-2009, with representatives confirming their availability to Philippa Cross as soon as possible;

(5) That the LSP Board notes the information concerning potential performance reward grant arrangements.

5 PENNINE LANCASHIRE AND MAA UPDATE

A presentation was given on the Pennine Lancashire Multi Area Agreement (MAA) initial proposals for discussion and comment.

The presentation covered the:-

- Guiding principles for the Pennine Lancashire MAA
- Pennine Lancashire Geography
- Profile of Pennine Lancashire
- History of Collaborative Working
- Priority Areas for the Pennine MAA:-
 - Economic and Physical development
 - Transport Planning
 - Skills and Worklessness
 - Spatial Planning and Housing Strategy
- Governance

It was reported that the MAA and LAA were running side by side until June. A meeting with Government Office North West that morning had been quite positive and it was possible to have targets within the MAA that are in the LAA.

In terms of governance, the third sector still felt excluded with regards to the governance diagrams. It was acknowledged that though progress was being made the third sector were still not visible. Concerns were also expressed over social enterprise not appearing under economic and physical development, and mental health being potentially overlooked which would be looked into.

It was reported that the Multi Area Agreement is complimentary with much of Pennine Lancashire sharing similar challenges.

6 OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP AND STRATEGY

'Positive About Age', an Older People's Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen, was submitted to the LSP Board for information. The strategy formed the basis for ongoing consultation with older people, relatives, colleagues, friends and neighbours and both the strategy and action plan would be regularly updated.

Thanks were given to Bernard Styan, Older People's Partnership Co-ordinator, for all his work on the strategy.

It was further reported that a report back from the sub groups would be submitted to a future meeting.

7 UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

It was reported that the inspection was due to take place in September 2008. An internal working group was needed to complete the self assessment document, which would come back to the LSP for comment. Janet Gauld from the Audit Commission would be the team leader for the inspection.

Work of the Local Strategic partnership would be a key part of the inspection and would be discussed again at forthcoming meetings. A presentation from the Audit Commission's Relationship Manager that was given to the Council's Scrutiny Members would be given to the LSP Board.

8 LSP COMPACT WITH THE THIRD SECTOR

A report was submitted which requested the Board to approve and adopt the Compact with the third sector and requested Members to take it back to their own organisations for formal adoption and dissemination to ensure maximum buy in and commitment to implementing its provisions.

The Compact constituted a framework for relations between the Local Strategic Partnership and the third sector in Blackburn with Darwen.

It was proposed that the Compact Working Group should continue in existence with the remit of:-

- Developing an Action Plan to give the Compact life;
- Developing the necessary codes of practice and protocols and standards, including those that define those services that are subject to commissioning, etc, subject to LSP approval;
- Carrying out the Annual Review of the Compact;
- Reporting the results of the Annual Review to the LSP.

It was requested that it be made explicit in the glossary of terms, that the third sector includes voluntary and faith sectors.

AGREED - (1) That the Compact be approved and adopted;

(2) That all Members of the LSP take the Compact back to their constituent organisations for formal adoption and dissemination to ensure maximum buy in and commitment to implementing its provisions; and

(3) That thanks to the Compact Working Group be placed on record and that approval be given to its continuation as an entity for the purposes outlined above, subject to the LSP approving the codes of practice and protocols and standards which the Working Group

develops, including those that define those services that are subject to commissioning.

9 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items suggested at the meeting.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Congratulations were to be passed on to Garth Hodgkinson on the birth of his son.