



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 16th February 2009**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Alan Cottam
	Tony Melia
	Salim Lorgat
	Michael Lee
	Chris Thayne
	David Foster
	John Slater
Business Sector	Mike Murray (Chair) (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Amanda Meachin (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Peter Hobkirk (Chamber of Trade)
	Kevin Ruth (Twin Valley Homes)
Public Sector	Nick Kennedy (Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust)
	Sheila Battersby (Government Office North West)
	Steve Johnson (Job Centre Plus)
	David Kirkham (East Lancs Hospitals NHS Trust)
	Mick Frankland (Lancashire Fire and Rescue)
	Peter Neill (Groundwork)
	John Jordan (CXL)
Community and Voluntary Sector	Bob Simpson (Disability Issues Network)
	Garth Hodgkinson (Social Enterprise Network)
	Pauline Walsh (Voluntary Health and Social Care Forum)
	Derek Estill (Interfaith Council)
	Yvonne Hulse (Older Peoples Forum)
	Ivy Oglesby (Community Association Forum)
	Laurence Loft (Local Safeguarding Children Board)
	Fawad Bhatti (BwD CVS)
Council Officers	Graham Burgess (Chief Executive)
	Gladys Rhodes (Deputy Director of Children's Services)
	David Gavagan (Policy Department)
	Tom Stannard (Director Policy and Communications)
	Philippa Cross (Policy Department)
	Angela McIntyre (Democratic Services)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Clinton, Ian Gallagher, Elizabeth Taylor, John Slee, Judith Griffin, Peter Morgan, Liz Gaulton, Ros Davies and Geoff Townsend.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Michael Lee was elected as Vice Chair of the LSP Board following Councillor Colin Rigby stepping down from this post. The Chair thanked Colin for all his hard work on behalf of the LSP.

- AGREED -**
1. that Councillor Michael Lee is elected the Vice Chair of the LSP Board.
 2. that the LSP Board thanked Councillor Colin Rigby for all his hard work

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2008

Peter Hobkirk raised the issue of the closure of Canterbury Street to through traffic which had been discussed at the meeting but not minuted. Traffic flow through the centre of Blackburn continues to be monitored.

- AGREED –** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

4 MINUTES OF THE LSP EXECUTIVE MEETINGS HELD 2nd DECEMBER 2008 AND 12th JANUARY 2009

The minutes were noted by the Board.

AGREED - That the minutes be noted.

5 REFRESH OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

A review of the LAA had been held with Government Office of the North West (GONW). The review concluded that Blackburn with Darwen has made some progress with developing and bedding down delivery arrangements across key designated targets, and that there is an emerging performance culture and some evidence of innovative practice. Only 10 targets had at the time performance data that could be reviewed. Whilst progress in some areas is faster than in others, there is a good understanding of the need to bring the rest up to the standard of the best.

The Council is awaiting further guidance on the reward monies for meeting performance indicators. Some changes have been made to the ownership of the indicators and some targets are linked to other

indicators, e.g. school travel which has been moved to the designated set.

The Borough is performing very well on some indicators e.g. NI7 is performing significantly above the national average of 16.2%.

The final version of the LAA will be agreed at the beginning of March 2009.

AGREED - That the update be received with thanks.

6 FINANCE SUB GROUP

Philippa Cross gave an update to the Board. The results of the funding round have not yet been finalised. The next meeting of the Finance Sub Group will take place shortly when the funding round would be finalised.

AGREED - That the update be noted with thanks.

7 ATTENDANCE OF THE CHAIRS OF THE LSP AND THEMATIC FORUMS AT THE POLICY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE ON 25th FEBRUARY 2009 – ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED.

David Gavagan updated the Board as to the role of Scrutiny and Overview within the Council function and the issues that this may present to the partners of the Council. The Council uses the scrutiny function as a “critical friend”, as a way of ensuring that the policies and processes adopted are fit for purpose. Partners of the Council may not be familiar with this process and the benefits it can bring. As the LSP will not be subject to scrutiny until May 2009, the lead up will give an opportunity to familiarise partners within the LSP with the scrutiny function.

AGREED - That the update be noted with thanks.

8 CPA INSPECTION RESULTS

Tom Stannard briefed the Board regarding the results of the CPA Inspection which took place September 2008. The Council has maintained its 4 star rating and is in a very good position to go forward. He formally thanked the LSP for all the assistance they gave to help secure the results.

AGREED - That the thanks of the Council to the LSP be noted.

9 BLACKBURN COLLEGE MASTERPLAN

Lisa Leoghlin, Vice Principal of the College, gave a presentation on the College’s masterplan. This includes refurbishing existing buildings as well as committing to new build which is contributing to the regeneration of the centre of Blackburn. This is also contributing to the strategy of increasing the capacity of the College to meet the challenges ahead.

The College also plans to offer free training to local businesses as a response to the current economic downturn which was received positively by the Board.

AGREED - That the presentation be noted with thanks.

10 MEETING DATES FOR 2009/2010

The dates for the forthcoming year were discussed. The Board requested that the Development Sessions for the LSP commence at 1 pm to give enough time to explore future developments for the partnership. The meetings will take place across the Borough to allow residents the opportunity to bring items to the meetings. The following dates were agreed for the Board and it's Executive:-

LSP Board

Monday 6th April 2009 (Development Session 1.00 pm start) Blackburn Technology Management Centre
Monday 14th September 2009 Blackburn College
Monday 16th November 2009 Blackburn Town Hall
Monday 11th January 2010 (Development Session 1.00 pm start) Whitehall Country Club Darwen

LSP Executive

Thursday 2nd April 2009 (with Local Public Service Board) Blackburn Town Hall
Monday 8th June 2009 Community Centre Blackburn
Monday 17th August 2009 Community Centre Darwen
Monday 26th October 2009 Guide Business Centre
Monday 15th February 2010 Prospect House Blackburn
Monday 12th April 2010 Darwen Resource Centre

AGREED - That the dates and venues be noted.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

United Utilities

Councillor Thayne stated that United Utilities complete a number of major and minor projects within the Borough every year. These projects have a huge impact on the Borough and it would be advantageous to increase the number of private sector representatives on the Board by one to allow a representative from United Utilities to sit on the LSP Board.

AGREED –that the number of private sector places on the Board be increased from 8 to 9 to allow United Utilities to be represented on the LSP Board

Challenge BwD

Gladys Rhodes gave an update as to the effect of the recent issues

within Children's Services and the economic downturn. Referrals to Children's Services have increased substantially following heightened public awareness of child abuse cases which have appeared in the media.

The impact of poverty and deprivation within the Borough has seen an increase in both the number of young people with issues of drug and alcohol misuse and those who have been exposed to domestic abuse. This may also lead to an increase in the level of anti social behaviour within the Borough.

The Board discussed this matter and it was proposed that a Task Group be set up to examine this problem and contribute to suggested solutions. The LSP Executive would also contribute to this issue. The Board requested that Peter Morgan and Gladys Rhodes give a presentation on the suggested proposals at a future meeting.

- AGREED** –
1. that a Task Group be formed from members of the Partnership to look at the issues highlighted by Children's Services.
 2. that Peter Morgan and Gladys Rhodes give a presentation on the suggested proposals at a future meeting.