



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 12th July 2010**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Michael Lee
	Michael Law-Riding
	Alan Cottam
	Chris Thayne
	David Foster
Business Sector	Mike Murray
	Peter Hobkirk
	Ilyas Munshi
	John Slee
	Mike Damms
Public Sector	Dominic Harrison
	Ian Clinton
	Neil Matthewman representing Judith Griffin
	John Jordan
	Peter Neill
	Martin Hodgson
	Peter Lawson representing Robert Eastwood
Community and Voluntary Sector	Mohammed Ilyas Patel
	Garth Hodgkinson
	Angela Allen
	Pauline Walsh
	Laurence Loft
	Yvonne Hulse
	Vidusi
Council Officers	Graham Burgess (Chief Executive)
	Rabia Gangreker (Graduate Policy Officer)
	Jonathan Tew (Head of Policy)
	Tom Stannard (Director Policy and Communications)
	Adam Scott (Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment)
	David Gavagan (Head of Partnerships and Performance)
	Ros Davies (Principal Partnerships Advisor)

	Ken Barnsley (Head of Corporate Research)
	Christopher Bradley (Legal)
	Imran Akuji (Diversity and Cohesion Manager)
	Christine Wood (Executive & Councillor Support Officer)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

As this was the first meeting held in the current Municipal Year, Graham Burgess, Chief Executive, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, asked for nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair of the LSP.

Mike Murray was nominated as Chair and Councillor Michael Lee was nominated as Vice Chair of the LSP Board for 2010/11.

AGREED – That Mike Murray be elected Chair of the LSP Board and that Councillor Michael Lee be elected as Vice Chair of the LSP Board for 2010/11.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Amar Abass, Joanne Bates, John Draper, Robert Eastwood, Tom Finn, Judith Griffin, Dominic Harrison, Garth Hodgkinson, Steve Johnson, Amanda Meachin, Carol Melia, Pete Moss, Abdul Mulla, Mohammed Patel, Dr Phillips, Gladys Rhodes, Mohammed Sidat, Sir Bill Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, Janet Thomas, Councillor Kate Hollern, Councillor Trevor Maxfield, Councillor Salim Mulla and Councillor Colin Rigby.

3 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

Ros Davies informed the Board of the following changes to membership:

Peter Moss would replace Mick Frankland who had recently retired. (Lancashire Fire and Rescue).

Martin Hodgson would replace Diane Whittingham (East Lancashire Health Authority).

Carol Melia would replace Steve Johnson (Employment Service).

Sir Bill Taylor would replace Nick Kennedy (Care Trust+).

John Draper would join the LSP Board (representing Community and Business Partners Ltd).

4 OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATION AT INDIA MILL

Joanne Osbourne outlined to the LSP, the work of the Capita TV Licensing service based at India Mill, which provided customer service, contact centre management and scheme enforcement, in relation to TV licensing.

AGREED – That the overview be noted and Joanne be thanked for her presentation.

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th APRIL 2010

AGREED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Chris Bradley, Legal Services, Blackburn with Darwen, submitted a presentation advising Members of the LSP in relation to Declarations of Interest.

AGREED – That the presentation be noted.

7 UPDATE FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE BOARD ON 8TH JULY 2010

Graham Burgess informed those present of the outcome of the Executive Board meeting of 8th July 2010. Members were informed that on 22nd June 2010 the Chancellor had presented an Emergency Budget to the House of Commons, and prior to this the Coalition Government had announced reductions in government grants to Local Authorities in 2010/11. In anticipation of the likely reductions, it was imperative that the Council took swift action. Due to the reductions in the level of public sector funding, going forward, savings would have to be made and efficiency targets in the current year budget had to be delivered.

Graham outlined a number of recommendations that had been submitted and agreed by the Executive Board to address the impact of reductions. Further reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Executive Board to address further developments.

On a positive note, Members were informed of the decision to agree to the development and implementation of a Single Integrated Management Model for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Care Trust Plus, which would involve the creation and appointment of a single Chief Executive and Executive Team to lead the two separate legal entities of

the Borough Council and Care Trust Plus. This would result in savings of approximately £2m.

AGREED – That the update be noted.

8 2030 VISION – FOR APPROVAL

Ken Barnsley, Head of Corporate Research submitted the document 'Vision 2030' to Members requesting approval. Ken advised that prior to presentation of the final draft, a consultation period had taken place including presentations to previous meetings of the LSP. The document had been drawn up with the involvement of residents, neighbourhoods and partners; considering history and development, aspirations of residents, communities and business; and the global, national and local challenges.

The four guiding principles of the vision were connecting communities, clean neighbourhoods, feeling safer and being healthier.

The eight target outcomes were to:

- Increase learning attainment
- Increase competitiveness
- Increase community cohesion and resilience
- Provide integrated affordable local transport and fast connections to Manchester, Leeds and Preston
- Deliver a low carbon locality reducing carbon emission and growth in waste
- Increase housing choice and quality and reduce levels of unfit housing
- Increase life expectancy and disability free life years
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime.

AGREED – That the LSP Board approve the 2030 Vision.

9 TOTAL RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Tom Stannard, Director of Policy and Communications introduced Neil McInroy, Chief Executive of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). Tom explained that Blackburn with Darwen had expressed an interest in taking part in a pilot process for the Centre's new resilience model.

Neil distributed copies of a draft proposal by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies and explained that CLES had recently met with representatives from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council following a call by CLES for Local Authorities who were interested in being part of the pilot process for the model.

The Council and CLES had mutually explored five key components in relation to the resilience work:

- Public service delivery and dealing with cuts
- Cohesion policy and maintaining strategic influence in policy
- Future of strategy including sub regional economic activities
- Well being and health and how this relates to and connects with strategy
- Future via LSP 2030 Vision

Neil explained that the model had already been usefully deployed in 7 other areas including Manchester, West Country (Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham), South Staffordshire, Cambridgeshire, Ashfield and Mansfield and Cherwell.

Members were advised that this subject would form part of the LSP Development Session to take place on 13th September 2010 at 9.30am at the Innovation Centre.

AGREED – That the proposal and information be noted.

10 CENTRE FOR CITIES REPORT – A NEW GEORGRAPHY OF OPPORTUNITY

A report was submitted to advise members of the LSP Board, of the main features of a recent report published by the think tank, 'Centre for Cities' and to indicate how the report might be used by partners, in planning future interventions in local economic regeneration.

The main goal of Centre for Cities was to understand how and why economic growth and change takes place in Britain's cities, and to help cities improve their performance.

The Centre for Cities report had been published on 7th June 2010, soon after the election. It was heralded as the first of three reports from them reflecting their research under the title 'Private Sector Cities: An agenda for growth'. The findings and conclusions of analysis were detailed in the report.

It was reported that two further reports to be published in the autumn would tackle 'Business Growth Policy' and 'Renewing Struggling Cities'. Members were advised that further reading of the full report was available on the Centre for Cities website at www.centreforcities.org/privatesectorcities.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

11 PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

A report was submitted by Jonathan Tew to provide the LSP Board with an update around progress on the key areas of the Local Public Service Board (LPSB) Partnership Improvement Programme, which had been endorsed by the April 2010 LSP Board. The key areas were as follows:

- The policy agenda around prevention and 'Think Family'
- A partnership improvement model that integrates resource mapping systems analysis
- Urgent consideration of collaborative intervention/fresh policy perspective in the under-performing LAA targets
- Behaviour change

Updates in relation to the four key areas detailed above were detailed in the report.

AGREED – That the LSP Board notes the progress being made against the existing four strands within the Partnership Improvement Programme.

12 REFRESHED LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Philippa Cross submitted a report, which included at appendix A, the refreshed LAA document for 2010-11, to the LSP Board for information. The document had been adopted by the Council's Executive Board in March 2010 and ratified by the LSP Board on 12th April 2010. Members were informed that the document would be formally published as an appendix to the LSP's Annual Report for 2009/2010.

Members were also reminded that the Coalition Government had recently announced, with immediate effect, the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework, which was the annual assessment of how the Council and its partners in the LSP were performing and achieving outcomes for local people.

It was reported that the achievement of the LSP's priorities continued to be of key importance, as did regular monitoring of progress against the priorities, and the annual self-assessment, already agreed by the LSP.

It was further reported that there were no proposals to amend the performance management framework at this time, and quarterly reporting would still be undertaken with thematic groups and the Executive.

AGREED -

1. That the Board notes the final refreshed Local Area Agreement as attached at appendix A; and

2. That the Board notes the changes to the national assessment framework and that quarterly performance management will continue to be undertaken with the Executive and the thematic groups.

13 LSP ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010 – FOR APPROVAL

The Chair, Mike Murray, asked the LSP Board to approve the draft Annual Report for 2009/10 which was now available on the LSP's website at www.bwdlsp.org.uk/. The report detailed the activities, of the LSP over the previous twelve months.

AGREED – That the LSP Board approve the 2009/10 Annual Report.

14 COMMUNITY COHESION – CURRENT POSITION, FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION

A report was submitted by Jonathan Tew and Imran Akuji to provide the LSP Board with an update around partnership activity in relation to community cohesion and a framework for the development of a long term strategic approach to community cohesion, for consideration.

Recent developments in relation to Strategy Development, Collaborative Working in Pennine Lancashire and Community Cohesion Taskforces were detailed in the report. A copy of the Pennine Lancashire Community Cohesion Programme Framework was attached to the report at appendix 1. It was reported that discussions were ongoing to conduct a substantial review of this programme, in light of announced financial restrictions in 2010/11 and further anticipated changes in the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.

A copy of the summary report from the Cohesion Taskforce: Education, Skills and Training was attached to the report at appendix 2, providing the first set of policy recommendations in the strategy development process from the first cohesion taskforce; with a focus on Education, Skills and Training.

It was reported that the Council's Executive Board and the previous meeting of the LSP Executive had endorsed the proposals outlined in appendix 2.

Members were advised that the Cohesion Taskforce for Economy and Employment had met for the first time in recent weeks and that Taskforce Chairs would be reviewing membership and making relevant bilateral links with key stakeholders as the focus of the group's work programme emerged.

A discussion took place around challenges that would need to be overcome, different ways of helping local businesses and looking at different ways of engaging the business community.

AGREED -

1. That the LSP Board notes the content of the existing Pennine Lancashire cohesion programme (Appendix 1) and proposal to conduct a substantial review of activity in light of announced financial restrictions in 2010/11 and further anticipated changes in the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.
2. That the LSP Board endorses the recommendations and provisional delivery model outlined by the Education, Skills and Training Cohesion Taskforce (Appendix 2).
3. That the LSP Board debates the 'narrative' for the cohesion strategy at the development session to be held on the 13th September 2010.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items

16 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

To note that:-

The LSP's Development Session would be held on 13th September 2010.

The next meeting of the LSP Executive would be held on 16th August 2010.