



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 10th January 2011**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Kate Hollern
	Dave Harling
	Andy Kay
	Mohammed Khan
Business Sector	Mike Murray
	Amanda Meachin
Public Sector	Sir Bill Taylor
	Dominic Harrison
	Ian Bell
	Lynn Wissett
	Peter Moss
	John Jordan
	Robert Eastwood
Community and Voluntary Sector	Mohammed Ilyas Patel
	Joanne Bates
	Fawad Bhatti
	Serge Bouno-Boko
	Ian Gallagher
	Garth Hodgkinson
	Angela Allen
	Pauline Walsh
	Laurence Loft
	Yvonne Hulse
	Vidusi
Council Officers	Graham Burgess (Chief Executive)
	Brian Bailey (Director of Regeneration)
	Gladys Rhodes White (Strategic Director, Families, Health & Wellbeing)
	Sayyed Osman (Director of Environment, Neighbourhoods & Environment)
	David Gavagan (Head Of Partnerships & Performance)
	Abdul Mulla (Healthy Living Centre Manager)
	Ros Davies (Principal Partnerships Advisor)

	Ken Barnsley (Head of Corporate Research)
	Christine Wood (Executive & Councillor Support Officer)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maureen Bateson and Michael Lee, Amar Abass, Dr Sohail Bhatti, Ian Clinton, Neil Matthewman, Carol Melia, Ilyas Munshi, Peter Neil, Kevin Ruth, Elizabeth Taylor, Janet Thomas and John Tempest

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2010

AGREED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2010 be agreed as a correct record subject to the addition of Gladys Rhodes White in attendance.

3 JESSICA (EVERGREEN) INITIATIVE

Brian Bailey submitted a report updating and providing background information to the LSP Board, of the Jessica Initiative (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) which was a European programme designed to create a “revolving door” of sustainable loans to fund business development and economic and transport infrastructure.

In the era of deficit reduction, the trend was to take the burden off the public purse and to encourage more sustainable ways to fund future growth and job creation. The private sector was being encouraged to play a greater role by incentivising development through joint ventures and partnerships via the tax system.

Jessica was the name of the EU programme which matched ERDF funds with UK domestic funds and public assets to create regional funds from which loans could be drawn down. Evergreen was the name of the North West Investment Fund which would deliver the programme in this region. It had followed a competitive process which had been won by a bid lead by the GM Pension Fund (GMPF) and was expected to go live in April 2011.

Brian outlined to the LSP Board how Jessica and Evergreen would work and be managed, how projects would be selected, the strong strategic case and process for joining, timescales and next steps.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

4 UPDATE ON THE RESEARCH ON LOCAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE BY THE CENTRE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGIES (CLES)

Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) presented to the LSP Board on the matter of 'Understanding the Place Resilience of Blackburn with Darwen'.

CLES had been asked by Blackburn with Darwen to contribute to the development of the 2030 vision by looking at the current resilience of place. This had entailed specifically concentrating on understanding the strategic relationships that existed within the public, commercial and social sectors. The findings had been based on the immediate past, but would further reflect on cuts in final work.

Neil referred to the measures of resilience and provided details in relation to them -

Measures 1-6 – size of economies and strengths of the relationships within the local economic territory e.g. public – commercial, commercial – social, public – social.

Measures 7-10 – awareness of and action taken to deal with the external factors that have an influence on the local economic territory.

Neil also advised the LSP Board as to why the resilience model was useful, the methodology used, key findings, conclusions, recommendations and that a Social Network Analysis (SNA) of relationships and greater focus on impact of cuts and change would follow.

Members were informed that a report would be circulated and made available for comments and then redrafted. A final presentation and dissemination workshop would also be held.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

5 OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUNDING SETTLEMENTS 2011

A discussion took place in relation to the funding settlements for 2011 in which it was highlighted that as a result of decisions made at the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 6th January 2011, over 1,750 staff positions at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council had been placed 'at risk'. 35% savings would have to be achieved over a period of 4 years, with a saving of £28m to be achieved in the first year. Consideration was being given to options to fill the financial gaps.

Going forward the Local Authority budget would still be £350m, with priority being given to the refocusing of spending. The emphasis was on attempting to protect frontline services.

It was highlighted that Care Trust + efficiency savings would result in the decommissioning of low level services and that a consistent approach to commissioning was necessary to avoid duplication. Cuts in welfare benefits e.g. Education Maintenance Allowance were also highlighted. The importance and relevance of the third sector was also highlighted.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Board agreed that its next meeting would take place on Monday, 14th February 2011 at 5.30pm (replacing the LSP Executive meeting). The meeting would take place in ***Meeting Room A, Town Hall, Blackburn.***