



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board  
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair</b>	Mo Isap
<b>Local Public Service Board</b>	Harry Catherall
<b>Community Safety Partnership</b>	Garth Hodgkinson
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	Councillor Mohammed Khan
<b>Prosperous Group</b>	Khalid Saifullah
	Brian Bailey
	Mike Damms
<b>VCS Voice Forum</b>	Angela Allen
<b>Council Officers</b>	Mohsin Mulla
	Paul Conlon
	Jonathan Tew

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies were submitted on behalf of Kate Hollern, Sayyed Osman and Kevin Ruth.

**2 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013**

**Agreed** - The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

**3 Blackburn with Darwen Growth Strategy**

The board received an up-date and presentation on the plan for prosperity which was the main thrust of the Board work.

The main themes of the plan were:-

- The Borough's challenge
- Our response to date
- The new economic landscape
- What the Business survey tells us
- What we needed to do now
- The plan for prosperity
- The work underway:, and
- The Key Questions and Next Steps

The chair drew attention to the overarching strategy as outlined and that this was in place to define the plan for the needs of the borough. The amount of work that had gone on so far was acknowledged and the need to implement the plans to gain the maximum impact. Attention was drawn to the resilience of the borough and the changes that had taken place in the work place. The council had already been required to make £70m of cuts and Lancashire County Councils budget will have an effect on district Councils in turn. The need to talk up the borough was stressed and the need to instil community confidence.

The future strategy would now need to be filled out and the aspects such as the availability of suitable candidates and appropriate skills bases examined. It was suggested that the partnership should focus on areas where they could have the maximum impact in a short time. A handful of activities should be selected to achieve the maximum impact. This could be achieved by undertaking more research and delving deeper into the area and looking at the anomalies highlighted in the presentation and the roles for each of the partners. It was suggested that the aim should focus on 3 issues not twelve and aim to build community capacity.

Attention was drawn to the growth of the role for the Voluntary Sector and the need to engage in wider stake holder engagement, deliver a clear message pointing out that we can-not deliver everything and looking at investing and bringing education needs as a focus.

**It was agreed** that the presentation would now be refined and re-issued by email by the end of the month.

#### **Progress of Sub-Groups.**

The meeting was informed of the progress of the Business leaders group that now had 200 members. A number of events had been held and was positively promoting the Borough. The Manufacturing Excellence Group Had been very positive and smaller groups were being rolled out.

The Finance Group was very active and enthusiastic to put something back and invest. There was momentum and goodwill and a lot of positive work going on.

VCF voice was developing to meet the challenge and was a great success collaborating with partners. Many of the organisations were seeing growth in the town and the North West.

The Health and Wellbeing strategy had been refreshed in September and an engagement event held in King Georges Hall. The effectiveness of the strategy had been assessed by consultants and praised as heading in the right direction.

Community Safety Partnership was working well to mitigate demand and a picture was emerging.

Attention was drawn to the need to translate the work of the groups into the overarching objectives to show how these priorities produce outcomes and real benefits for the people in the borough.

**RESOLVED-**

1. That the progress of the thematic groups be noted and that reports on progress be reported to future meetings of the Board.

**4. Next Meeting of the Board**

The board were reminded that the next meeting was to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Chair.....

Date.....