



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 18th September 2006**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Kate Hollern
	David Foster
	Andy Kay
	Dave Harling
	Frank Connor
Business Sector	Mike Murray (Chair) (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Peter Hobkirk (East Lancs Chamber of Commerce)
	Mike Damms (East Lancs Chamber of Commerce)
	Alasdair Reid (Capita)
Public Sector	Laurence Loft (Safeguarding Children's Board)
	Ian Kent (Job Centre Plus)
	Nick Kennedy (Blackburn with Darwen PCT)
	John Jordon (Connexions)
	Mike Leaf (Blackburn with Darwen PCT)
	Rob Bellingham (East Lancashire Hospital Trust)
	Kath Knowles (Social Landlords)
	Tim Jacques (Lancashire Constabulary)
Community and Voluntary Sector	Junaid Quershi (BME Network)
	Peter Neill (Groundwork)
	Geoff Townsend (Interfaith Council)
	Garth Hodgkinson (Blackburn with Darwen CVS)
	Pauline Walsh (Blackburn with Darwen CVS)
	Bob Simpson (Disability Issues Network)
	Ian Gallagher (Blackburn with Darwen Trades Council)
	Elizabeth Taylor (Bootstrap Enterprises)
	Matthew Worden (Youth MP)
Council Officers	Andrew Lightfoot (Executive Director Corporate Resources)
	Peter Morgan (Director of Children's Services)
	Fiona McGrath (Interim Head of Policy)
	Sharon Kemp (Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) Regeneration, Housing and Neighbourhoods Department)

	Phil Llewellyn (Executive & Regulatory Support Manager) Mike Kinsella (Economic and Regeneration Manager)
Also in attendance	Ian Gordon (Government Office North West) Sue Hayward Gavin Redhead (Blackburn with Darwen CVS)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair, Mike Murray, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new Youth MP, Mathew Worden.

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Clinton, Graham Burgess, Dave Cresswell, Tom Finn, Gifford Kerr, Malcolm Harrison, Councillor John Milburn, Councillor Colin Rigby, Nisha Ismail, Amanda Meachin, Ibbey Master, Paul Hinnigan, and Harry Catherall.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 12th June 2006 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Peter Hobkirk as being present at the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 7TH AUGUST 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 7th August 2006 were submitted for information.

4 PRESENTATION BY THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FORUM

Peter Morgan, Director of Children's Services, reported on the achievements of the People and Communities Forum over the past year, and on its strategic objectives going forward.

The People and Communities Forum had been formed in 2005 by bringing together the LSP's Building Stronger, More Involved Communities Forum and the Community Cohesion and Social Inclusion Forum and work undertaken to date included:

- Establishing the Forum's structure and maintaining an active overview of the work of the three sub-groups including progress on action plans.
- Refresh of the Belonging campaign and the launch of the Belonging website.

- An expansion in the number of major LSP employers on the Work force Representation Group from 11 to 19 members.
- A very successful “Voluntary not Amateur” event at King George’s Hall at the end of 2005 attended by over 800 people to raise the profile of the voluntary, community and faith sector, encouraging partnership working and promoting volunteering.
- Performance of ‘Denial’ and discussion thereon with Unison’s North West Regional Secretary and Regional Convener and again for young people on the eve of the Holocaust Memorial.

The strategy for 2006 -2009 was outlined in the Strategy Document 2006 – 2009 and Annual Report 2005 – 2006 which had been circulated to all members of the Board.

The presentation stimulated a debate on the LSP approach to Community Cohesion generally and the appropriate way to focus on an appropriate strategy.

AGREED (1) That the Presentation and Strategy document 2006-2009 and Annual Report 2005 – 2006 be noted and:-

(2) That the Chair would discuss with Officers the best way to approach the targeting of Community Cohesion in all aspects of the LSP’S work, which could include the arrangement of a special meeting to discuss the topic.

5 CITY STRATEGY PATHFINDER BID

Mike Kinsella, Economic Regeneration Manager, and Ian Kent from Job Centre Plus, carried out a presentation on the recent success of Blackburn with Darwen in being selected as one of 13 pathfinders across England, Scotland and Wales under the City Strategies initiative. This would involve maximising the effects and resources of local agencies to create one Employment Service in the Borough, with the key aim of getting 3,800 people (made up of Lone Parents, people on Incapacity Benefit and Income Support) into work over a three year period.

It was expected that the initiative would be formally launched in January 2007.

6 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Peter Morgan carried out a presentation on the latest position relating to Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – a national programme for transforming secondary education, not just buildings. He reported that Blackburn with Darwen would be in Wave 4-6 of the 15 year programme which commenced in January 2007, with a projected allocation of £147 million.

The proposals would include all secondary schools including VA schools, secondary special schools and PRU, and it was intended that BFS investment should complement other local investment in Children's Centres, FE, leisure, health etc, and was a huge opportunity to provide infrastructure to really improve outcomes for children, young people, families and communities.

Peter also outlined the core criteria for Estate Strategy and Planning and the core criteria strategy for change. A shadow Local Educational Partnership Board had already been established and stakeholder engagement was continuing.

The bid from Blackburn with Darwen had to be submitted by October 13th 2006 and once it had been agreed by the Council's Executive Board. the Council would be advised by December 2006 if the bid for inclusion in Wave 4 had been successful.

7 LSP ANNUAL REVIEW

Habib Patel advised that it was anticipated that the "traffic light assessment" for the LSP under the Annual Review process would be "green".

Ian Gordon reported that the focus of the Review would be on delivery and narrowing the gap rather than on capability and capacity as in previous years.

8 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation by the Health and Social Well-Being Group
Nick Kennedy suggested that a presentation that a presentation to noise awareness of the issues around vulnerable adults would be of use at future meeting of the Board or Executive.