



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board  
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Councillors</b>	Kate Hollern
	Mohammed Khan
	Maureen Bateson
	Dave Harling
	Andy Kay
	Frank Connor
	David Foster
<b>Business Sector</b>	Mike Murray (Chair) (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Amanda Meachin (Community and Business Partners Ltd)
	Mike Damms (East Lancs Chamber of Commerce)
	Tony Furber (Capita)
	Peter Hobkirk (Blackburn & District Chamber of Trade)
	Malcolm Harrison (Daniel Thwaites)
<b>Public Sector</b>	Laurence Loft (Safeguarding Children's Board)
	Ian Kent (Job Centre Plus)
	Ian Clinton (Blackburn College)
	Mike Leaf (Blackburn with Darwen PCT)
	Paul Hinnigan (Blackburn with Darwen PCT)
	Nick Kennedy (Blackburn with Darwen PCT)
	Kevin Ruth (Social Landlords)
	John Jordon (Connexions)
<b>Community and Voluntary Sector</b>	Geoff Townsend (Interfaith Council)
	Pauline Walsh (Lancashire Voluntary Community and Faith Health and Well-Being Forum)
	Peter Neill (Groundwork)
	Garth Hodgkinson (Blackburn with Darwen CVS)
	Matthew Worden (Youth MP)
	Carron Stockman (Deputy Youth MP)
	Elizabeth Taylor (Bootstrap Enterprises)
	Ian Gallagher (Blackburn with Darwen Trades Council)
	Junaid Quershi (BME Network)
	Frank Lang (Darwen and Rural Neighbourhood)

<b>Council Officers</b>	Graham Burgess (Chief Executive)
	Andrew Lightfoot (Deputy Chief Executive, Regeneration and Technical)
	Fiona McGrath (Interim Head of Policy)
	Adam Scott (Director of Regeneration, Housing and Neighbourhoods)
	Peter Morgan (Director of Children's Services)
	Sharon Kemp (Assistant Director - Regeneration, Housing and Neighbourhoods Department)
	Habib Patel (Performance Advisor)
	Phil Llewellyn (Executive & Regulatory Support Manager)
<b>Also in attendance</b>	Gavin Redhead (Blackburn with Darwen CVS)

## **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Gifford Kerr, Councillor Colin Rigby and Bob Simpson.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mohammed Khan as being present at the meeting, Peter Hobkirk as representing Blackburn and District Chamber of Trade (not East Lancs Chamber of Commerce), replacement of 'noise' with 'raise' under item 8 – Future Agenda Items and insertion of the following paragraph in item 8:

- Peter Hobkirk suggested that a future agenda item could be the effect of changes to the road systems in the Blackburn and subsequent impact on town centre users and retailers.

## **3 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 were submitted for information.

## **4 ALCOHOL STRATEGY**

Mike Leaf submitted an update on current progress of the Alcohol Strategy which included:

- The appointment of Laura Strickland as the Alcohol Strategy Co-ordinator.

- A marketing campaign in December which would raise awareness of alcohol issues and also be educational – this would be delivered by the Environmental and Trading Standards team section.
- Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officers were also working on enforcement issues with test purchasing and an education programme focusing on both young people and staff working in the alcohol trade.
- Improved data collection across Cumbria and Lancashire was currently being investigated.

## **5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER**

Graham Burgess, Chief Executive, carried out a presentation on the key points arising from the White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' which was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government at the end of October.

The main headlines from the White Paper were as follows:

- A new relationship between central and local government, neighbourhoods and citizens
- A reduction in national targets
- More locally accountable services
- Opportunities for unitary councils and two-tier pathfinder authorities
- Stronger roles for local neighbourhoods
- New Political Leadership models
- Strengthening of LSP's and LAA's

He reported that the key implications for Blackburn and Darwen included new duties and a performance management regime for the LAA and LSP, increased responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny Committees across public services providers and an increased importance attached to neighbourhood working. Reports containing further information and proposals on these three key areas would be submitted to the LSP over the next 3 to 4 months.

## **6 LAA HALF YEAR REVIEW MEETING**

Habib Patel reported that the meeting held with Government Office North West on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006 to review progress after the first six months of the Local Area Agreement had gone well, and that the initial feedback had been positive.

## 7 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Councillor Andy Kay and Adam Scott carried out a presentation on Town Centre Regeneration in Blackburn and Darwen town centres.

The presentation outlined:

- The Blackburn Town Centre Strategy and Town Centre Masterplan
- Public realm projects delivered
- Future improvements to Blackburn shopping centre including 20 new shops, 300 extra car parking spaces, £45m investment, with shops due to open from Christmas 2009
- Blackburn market relocation proposals
- Improvements to sites such as 33 King Street, the Kings Head, Waterloo Pavilions, Fleming Square and new facelift schemes.
- Traffic and transportation issues, such as the relocation of buses from Ainsworth Street, a new car parking strategy, the focus on pedestrian and cycle access, removal of through traffic via the orbital route and Freckleton Street Bridge and the potential park and ride scheme.
- Development of the Cathedral quarter including housing, community facilities, office and shops.
- Improvement to the college campus including an investment plan of £30m, increasing the number of students and potential University status.
- The Freckleton Street Masterplan
- Darwen Six Towns strategy
- Darwen Masterplan which covered key projects such as traffic management scheme, revitalisation of the Market Square and redevelopment proposals.
- Other improvements included extending the conservation area and utilisation of Heritage Lottery fund of £2m.
- Community consultation and engagement were key, and the town centre partnerships had played a crucial role in gaining community support.

There followed a wide ranging discussion on town centre related issues. Peter Hobkirk stated that the Chamber of Trade felt that aesthetic values had overtaken commercial values, and that the car borne shopper was being deterred from travelling to Blackburn Town Centre. He also indicated that he felt Blackburn Market was struggling to compete and that the Chamber of Trade should have been consulted with more fully on the changes in the town centre, additionally he asked about the status of the agreement with the Mall for redevelopment of Lord Square. In response, Councillor Andy Kay reported that the deal with the Mall was progressing well and was approaching signature stage. He advised that Blackburn Market was not struggling and that he felt that the Chamber of Trade had been consulted with appropriately on the redevelopment of

the town centre. Adam Scott reported that a car parking strategy would be launched soon, and a review of on-street parking had shown the policy was successful. Peter Hobkirk also raised a query about the stone street art at Sudell Cross leading to fewer customers for those businesses, to which Andy Kay advised that he is not aware of any issues.

Councillor Maureen Bateson and Mathew Worden raised issues relating to the needs of young people, including provision of suitable facilities and changing facilities for disabled people. Councillor Andy Kay and Adam Scott reported that the Mall carried out surveys to gauge the views of young people and that there would be a number of youth orientated outlets in the re-developed shopping centre. In terms of other areas of the town centre such as the Cathedral, Sudell Cross, Northgate and King Street amongst others, some markets and opportunities needed to be explored. Adam Scott pointed out that young people would be positively encouraged to frequent the new developments in a safe, attractive environment. Andy Kay also reported that a disabled toilets facility was about to be completed and that discussions were ongoing with the Disabled Access Group on suitable walking surfaces.

Ian Gallagher indicated that with the exception of the A666 he found that generally there were few issues with traffic and parking in Blackburn Town centre.

Pauline Walsh advised that it was felt that there was a gap in the middle of the five neighbourhood areas and that this needed a dedicated agency. Adam Scott stated that the Town Centre Board would cover this area, and that membership was still being arranged.

## **8 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items were suggested at the meeting.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mike Murray reported that the response to recent consultation by the Post Office on Post Office franchise proposals had been dealt with by Council Officers, rather than being reported to the wider LSP membership. He apologised for this error and reassured the Board that future consultation exercises would be brought to the attention of the Board.