



**Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership Board
Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 14th February 2011**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Kate Hollern
	Maureen Bateson
	Dave Harling
	Andy Kay
	Mohammed Khan
	Tony Humphrys
Business Sector	Mike Murray
	Amanda Meachin
	John Slee
	Ilyas Munshi
Public Sector	Sir Bill Taylor
	Dominic Harrison
	Ian Bell
	Lynn Wissett
	Peter Moss
	John Jordan
	Robert Eastwood
	Janet Thomas
	Kevin Ruth
Community and Voluntary Sector	Mohammed Ilyas Patel
	Joanne Bates
	Fawad Bhatti
	Serge Bouno-Boko
	Ian Gallagher
	Garth Hodgkinson
	Angela Allen
	John Sturgess
	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)
	Tom Stannard (Director of Policy and Communications)
	Ken Barnsley (Head of Corporate Research)
	Imran Akuji (Diversity and Cohesion Manager)
	Rabiya Gangreker (Policy Officer)
	Anisa Patel
	Christine Wood (Executive & Councillor Support Officer)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dave Harling and Michael Lee, Ian Clinton, Mike Damms, Chief Superintendent Robert Eastwood, Peter Hobkirk, David Kerambrum, Carol Melia, Sam Morris, Peter Neill, Dr Phillips, Simon Pierce, Gladys Rhodes, Mohammed Tayyab Sidat,

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2011

AGREED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2011 be agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment that Mohammed Tayyab Sidat had submitted apologies.

3 MATTERS ARISING

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

Members were advised that a draft report had been issued and would be considered at the next meeting of the LSP Board.

4 REVIEW OF LSP STRUCTURE

A report was submitted to report the findings of a review of the LSP's structure, in the light of the revised priorities, that had emerged from the updated vision for 2030, and to make recommendations for change.

Background to the review was outlined in the report. Members were advised that a consultation paper had been circulated in November 2010 which had illustrated four options to generate discussion on how the LSP might function in the future. The consultation had invited comments on

the four options, or for further variations to be submitted for consideration. The four options were as follows:

Option 1 – To maintain the existing structure (as attached to the report at appendix 1).

Option 2 – To dramatically reduce the structure to four thematic groups aligned around the new priorities of the 2030 vision and a merger of the LSP Board and Executive into a single body.

Option 3 – A variation of option 2 that retained a Children and Young People's Trust and 50+ Partnership to consider cross cutting issues, facilitate collaborative working and act as advocates, linking with the thematic groups to ensure that adequate consideration was given to the needs of their respective populations. Also under this option, would be arrangements for neighbourhood engagement.

Option 4 – To abolish the LSP altogether.

It was reported that twenty-six responses had been received and that option three had been the preferred choice with a slight majority. Details and specific comments in relation to the responses were outlined in the report.

Attached to the report at appendix b, was a proposed structure based on an amended option 3 incorporating separate 'Safe' and 'Healthy' thematic groups, recognising the requirement for statutory Crime and Disorder Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Members were advised that the Council had already determined that Neighbourhood Boards were to be replaced with new neighbourhood engagement arrangements. This had also been reflected in the proposed structure.

Members were further advised that the proposed structure would significantly reduce the number of partnership meetings required, in particular the number of LSP Board/Executive meetings would reduce from 9 or 10 annually to 4 or 5. The number of thematic groups would also reduce from 8 to 5 plus 2 age related groups. The new thematic groups would have further opportunity to reduce the number of sub-groups they created, especially if they adopted a task and finish approach to managing their workloads.

Support to the proposed LSP Board would be provided by a new integrated policy, performance and scrutiny team. Lead Officers and support for the thematic groups would need to be reviewed as no single service/agency could be identified to, as the natural lead to any of the themes of the vision.

The proposed structure together with the work ongoing to produce a new partnership plan would reduce the performance monitoring and reporting requirements of the LSP. This would enable the LSP to be more focussed in its approach and be able to demonstrate added value from partnership working.

A discussion took place around the issue in which it was highlighted that the LSP could request a further review of structures if, and when considered appropriate.

AGREED –

1. That the proposed structure, as attached to the report at appendix B, be approved.
2. That the Council be requested to review the membership of the LSP, the support arrangements for the proposed thematic groups and prepare a revised constitution in order that the new structure can be implemented in April 2011.

5 VISION 2030 – PRIORITY DELIVERY WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

A report was submitted to report the progress achieved in the first round of delivery planning workshops; to present recommendations for changes to the outcomes to be achieved in implementing the 2030 vision, and to establish a timetable for the production of a 'Partnership Plan' for the next three to five years.

The vision, which had been formally approved by the LSP in July 2010, was made up of four priority themes and eight initial target outcomes which had been identified to be achieved as a result of working towards the vision. Details of the themes and outcomes were outlined in the report.

Members were advised that a development day had taken place followed by delivery planning workshops for each of the priority themes. The format applied for the workshop group works, was attached to the report at appendix 1. Details of workshop suggestions for outcome definitions were attached to the report at appendix 2.

All suggestions from workshops had been analysed, and where suggestions appeared to improve the original definition, these had been incorporated into proposed revised target outcomes and were outlined in the report. Some of the groups had also suggested additional target outcomes which were outlined in the report. All the groups had produced recommended measures but at the current stage, there were too many than could reasonably be monitored. Further work would now be undertaken and reported to the next meeting of the LSP in the form of a proposed partnership plan.

Based on the analysis of the delivery planning workshop results, a proposed revised target outcomes framework was outlined in the report, which the LSP was requested to approve.

AGREED –

1. That the proposed target outcomes be approved with the exception of the outcome – *“increased availability of digital networks that are accessible by all”* for which the Head of Partnerships and Performance was asked to look again at the wording and report back to the next meeting.
2. That the further work required to produce a partnership plan be noted.

6 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

A report was submitted to:

1. Advise the Strategic Partnership of the progress made on the LSP Sustainable Procurement project and;
2. To seek endorsement of the sustainable procurement policy and pre qualification questions, (as attached to the report at appendix 1) and ask public sector members to incorporate the policy objectives into their internal procurement processes.

Members were advised that the LSP had acknowledged in summer 2009, that sustainable procurement was the key to tackling climate change and that with the right procedures in place, members organisations could cut carbon emissions from purchases, construction and commission of services.

Members were further advised that a project team comprising representatives from partner organisations had been formed in February 2010, to review current procedures, and draw up the necessary sustainability criteria that public sector partners would use in the procurement and commissioning of goods and services. The work had been funded by CLASP (Climate Change Local Area Support Programme).

A sustainable procurement policy had been produced with pre qualifications questions to enable purchasers to test the environmental credentials of the supplier and the goods being purchased at an early stage in the process.

It was reported that Blackburn College was currently trialling the pre qualification questions on tenders under £50,000. Feedback would be used to revise the questions as necessary.

Whilst endorsement of the policy and questions was sought from the LPSB and Strategic Partnership, it was recognised that each public sector organisation had its own procurement processes and frameworks that it had to work within. Consideration had therefore been given to any potential constraints to procuring sustainably at a local level. The outcome of the exercise in relation to East Lancs Hospital Trust, PCT, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service and Blackburn College were outlined in the report.

A discussion took place in relation to the policy and pre qualification questions in which concerns were raised about the social value of the policy. It was confirmed that social value would form part of the next half of the contract.

AGREED –

1. That the LSP endorse the policy and short form pre qualification questions; and
2. That public sector partners incorporate the policy objectives in their internal procurement processes.
3. That further work takes place in relation to the social value of the policy.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

WELFARE REFORM

Dominic Harrison referred to the recent pilot scheme that had recently been introduced in Burnley for recipients of Incapacity benefit. Those deemed fit enough for work, using a points-based system would be moved to the Job Seekers Allowance. Following implementation of the scheme, by medical review, 30% of claimants had been transferred to Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

It was suggested that a representative from the Department of Work and Pensions be invited to a future meeting of the LSP to advise on the implications of the initiative.

TRANSITIONS FUND

Tom Stannard referred to the Government announcement in relation to the Transitions Fund stating that it was, as yet, unclear what funding Blackburn with Darwen would receive.

ROS DAVIES

Tom Stannard advised members that Ros Davies, Principal Partnerships Advisor, Policy Department had recently left the Council under the Early Retirement Scheme. Tom expressed thanks to Ros, for her hard work

and many years of diligent service to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board agreed that its next meeting would take place on Monday, 11TH April 2011 at 5.30pm. The meeting would take place in ***Meeting Room A, Town Hall, Blackburn.***