

BOLSOVER LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

BOARD

Minutes of the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership *Board* meeting held on Thursday, 8th May, 2008, at 9.30 a.m., Committee Room No. 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.

PRESENT

Mrs. Mandy Chambers	-	Derbyshire County PCT (Chair)
Ms. Cath Walker	-	Derbyshire County Council
Councillor Geoff Carlile	-	Derbyshire County Council
Ms. Lorna Wallace	-	Community Voluntary Partners
Mrs. Janet Hodsdon	-	Partnership Team
Mr. Dave Bond	-	Connexions Derbyshire Ltd.
Chief Supt. Debbie Kelly	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Mr. David Hutchinson	-	Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service
Mr. Andrew Pidluznyj	-	Jobcentre Plus
Mr. Andrew Marsh	-	Learning & Skills Council
Mr. Richard Madin	-	Partnership Team
Mrs. Pam Brown	-	Partnership Team
Councillor Eion Watts	-	Bolsover District Council (Vice Chair)
Mrs. Laura Khella	-	Partnership Team

Mandy Chambers in the Chair

LSPB01/08 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:-

Mr. Derek Bray	-	Derbyshire County PCT
Mr. Andrew Street	-	Alliance SSP

LSPB02/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

LSPB03/08 URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

There were no urgent items to be considered.

LSPB04/08 MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY, 2008

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2008, be accepted as a true and correct record.

LSPB05/08 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

LSPB06/08 PRESENTATION – LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Mr. Pidluznyj explained that he was presenting the information jointly with Mr. Marsh and copies of the presentation were circulated.

Mr. Pidluznyj reported that Jobcentre Plus was tasked with assisting 1,500 people in Derbyshire back into employment. The Bolsover employment rate was currently above the UK average at 74.9%; there were significant areas of deprivation within District – this being the reason for the local authority qualifying for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. The current statistics for the area were as follows:

- 1,100 people on Jobseekers Allowance
- 5,000 people on Incapacity Benefit
- 900 Lone Parents

Mr. Bond referred to the Work Trials and queried whether claimants could receive assistance with travel costs, protective clothing etc. Mr. Pidluznyj advised that help would be available towards travel costs, however, further enquiries would need to be made in relation to protective clothing. He also commented that Jobcentre Plus administered a Discretionary Fund which provided financial assistance to claimants.

The Chair commented that the schemes seemed to be more geared towards Job Seekers and queried the links with Incapacity Benefit claimants. Mr. Pidluznyj answered that support was already available to Incapacity Benefit claimants via schemes such as the Derbyshire Pathways to Work Programme and Family Employment Initiative.

Mr. Pidluznyj advised that Jobcentre Plus had identified priority wards; 10 of these wards fell within the Bolsover District Council area and would fit with the requirements of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

The Chair stressed the importance of information sharing in order to ensure that work was being targeted where required. Mr. Pidluznyj advised that it was intended to share information as much as possible without breaking confidentiality.

Mrs. Khella queried whether only the 10 priority wards would be receiving support in the Bolsover District. Mr. Pidluznyj advised that more targeted support would be given to the priority wards. Mr. Marsh commented that support offered by the Learning & Skills Council was not targeted at any particular ward. Mr. Pidluznyj stated that due to the amount of activity already taking place, it was important to avoid

duplication in order to ensure best value for money. Councillor Watts commented that it was crucial to ensure that appropriate communication links were put in place. The Chair stated that the Employment & Enterprise Action Group together with the Core Worklessness Group would assist in preventing duplication of activity.

The Chair thanked Mr. Pidluznyj and Mr. Marsh for the presentation.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

LSPB07/08 ITEMS REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Overview of Implementation

Mrs. Khella briefly explained that the Working Neighbourhoods Fund was a three year rolling programme which would give partners the opportunity to develop projects that would have a big impact in the District. The funding had been awarded to Bolsover District Council who had agreed to allocate £1 million per year for three years to the Local Strategic Partnership to commission projects to assist with preventing worklessness. A Core Worklessness Group was to be established that would focus on assisting benefit claimants back into work. This Group would consist of Officers from within the Council together with appropriate representation from partner organisations.

The key themes for activity to be commissioned through the Local Strategic Partnership would be Employment, Health and Education. The funding had been allocated as detailed to themes and not Action Groups in order to encourage more cross cutting work throughout the Partnership. The aim was to commission fewer, more strategic projects, that would have an impact in the District.

The Working Neighbourhoods Fund included a significant element of reward grant. It was also noted that four of the Indicators were part of the 35 Local Area Agreement Priority Indicators, the main Indicator being NI153. There were also a number of DfES and other National Indicators that would be relevant in measuring success against reducing worklessness. Projects that demonstrated an impact on the five key areas would be prioritised for the funding.

The successful commissioning process adopted by the Partnership would be built upon and strengthened. Following the *Executive Support Group* meeting held on 24th April, 2008, Action Groups had been requested to identify relevant priority interventions for possible future commissioning.

Councillor Carlile queried the administration and managements costs. Mrs. Khella advised that the overall allocation of Working Neighbourhoods Fund was similar to the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and the Partnership Team would be providing

administration/management support to both the Local Strategic Partnership and Bolsover District Council.

Chief Supt. Kelly queried whether the administration processes would be streamlined. Mrs. Khella explained that the developmental stages of initiatives and the appraisal process would be more thorough. There would, however, be fewer more strategic projects. Therefore whilst quarterly monitoring would still need to be undertaken, the information required each quarter is likely to be less.

Councillor Watts commented that projects must meet the approved criteria in order to make an impact within the District. Bolsover District Council had no intention of failing – it was an opportunity to make a big change.

AGREED that the report be endorsed.

Local Strategic Partnership Forward Planning

Mrs. Brown briefly explained that following the recommendations contained within the NRF Evaluation and Forward Strategy and feedback from the recent review of the Sustainable Community Strategy, it would be necessary for the Partnership to consider restructuring. Another key issue to be considered was the performance management requirements of the Local Area Agreement. The draft structure had been presented to the *Executive Support Group* for consideration and Action Groups had been asked for comments.

AGREED that the report be endorsed.

Local Area Working – The County Council's Involvement in District Local Strategic Partnerships – Derbyshire County Council

Mrs. Brown explained that the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership received core cost contributions from key partners. The report as presented to Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet recommended that financial support to Local Strategic Partnerships be reduced for the current financial year to £3,125 and cease entirely from April 2009.

Mrs. Brown asked that those present also to consider Recommendation 8 – to influence the production of one Sustainable Community Strategy for Derbyshire. This item had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Derbyshire LSP Co-ordinators Group and it had been suggested that District Chapters be included.

Councillor Carlile raised his concern at the amount of Derbyshire County Council involvement within Local Strategic Partnerships and the amount of Derbyshire County Council resources required.

Councillor Watts stated that Local Strategic Partnerships were major partners of Derbyshire County Council due to the level of 'grass root' engagement with local communities. The Chair concurred that in order to have a true local voice, Local Strategic Partnerships were needed to feed into the County structure. Local Strategic Partnerships were also fundamental in achieving the Local Area Agreement targets.

Councillors Carlile and Watts left the meeting.

Mrs. Brown advised that the *Executive Support Group* had requested that a letter be sent to Derbyshire County Council raising the Partnership's disappointment at the withdrawal of financial support as the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership had always utilised its allocation.

Mr. Marsh reported that the Learning & Skills Council would not be able to contribute financially this year due to the lack of funding. He also queried Adult Services representation within the Partnership. The Chair raised her concern at the effect the lack of funding would have in providing appropriate representation within the Partnership to tackle problems faced by local residents. Mr. Bond suggested that Adult Services representation could be provided through the District Partnership Group management structure. Ms. Wallace stated that whether or not funding was available there was good reason to be involved in partnership working and a commitment to work together to address issues faced by local residents.

Councillor Watts rejoined the meeting.

Ms. Wallace stated that Community Voluntary Partners were committed to being involved in the Partnership and she had concerns if commitment from other partner organisations was not there. The fact that there was no funding should not be a reason to withdraw representation from the Partnership.

Councillor Watts stated that he was offended by the comment made and left the meeting at 10.53 a.m.

Ms. Wallace stated that she did not intend to insult or offend anyone and offered her apologies if anyone had taken offence. Her comments had not been directed at individuals; it was a public statement in relation to partnership working.

The Chair commented that maybe the discussion in relation to the financial support to Local Strategic Partnerships had been linked to other remarks. It was made clear that the discussion was not linked with the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. It was appreciated that Councillor Watts had been involved in difficult discussions at the District Council, and had put a lot of time and energy into securing the £1 million funding for three years. Ms. Wallace stated that she

acknowledged this at the last meeting of the *Executive Support Group* and reiterated thanks to Bolsover District Council. The earlier comments made were not directed to Bolsover District Council or Councillor Watts.

AGREED that the report and comments be received.

Proposed Communication Process – Derbyshire Partnership Forum/Local Area Agreement

Firstly, Mr. Madin circulated a copy of the 2007/8 Annual Review of the Bolsover Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-2020 for information. Mr. Hutchinson mentioned that the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service logo was not included on the back page. Mr. Madin apologised for the omission and stated that he would ensure the website version included the logo.

Mr. Madin began by briefly explaining the report and process being proposed and advised that Mr. Lowe, Derbyshire County Council, had agreed the process in principle, however, it would need to be ratified at the Executive Board of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum.

Ms. Walker queried whether other Local Strategic Partnerships within the County had agreed the process. Mr. Madin responded that they had via the Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnerships Co-ordinator Group.

Ms. Wallace queried the cross cutting filter group. Mr. Madin advised that this was not a Group, but a natural process of how issues are currently dealt with at a local level.

AGREED that the report and the process be endorsed.

LSPB08/08 NICE GUIDELINES – LSP FEEDBACK PROCESS

The Chair advised that NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) provided advice and guidance to the National Health Service. This organisation was predominantly involved in reviewing health care and treatment, but was now becoming more involved in public health interventions. As this was a new area for consultation, the Primary Care Trust was becoming more involved. NICE may require consultation to take place on public health interventions and it was suggested that the Local Strategic Partnership's Health & Wellbeing Action Group be the forum for this.

AGREED that the Health & Wellbeing Action Group be delegated responsibility for any consultation process in relation to public health interventions required by NICE.

**LSPB09/08 WME FINAL REPORT – BOLSOVER NRF PROGRAMME 2001-2008
EVALUATION AND FORWARD STRATEGY**

Mr. Madin reported that the final report of the NRF Evaluation and Forward Strategy carried out by WM Enterprise, was now complete. Hard copies of the report were available from the Partnership Team and accessible on the Partnership website.

The Chair queried whether it would be possible to provide a summary. Mr. Madin advised that summaries were available within each of the themes.

AGREED that the final report of the Bolsover NRF Evaluation and Forward Strategy be endorsed.

**LSPB10/08 CONSULTATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB NATIONAL
REVIEW**

Mr. Madin reported that the Department for Communities and Local Government and DBERR had conducted a consultation on Economic Development and Regeneration at Sub Regional level. Three documents were currently out for consultation and were available on the Partnership website. The deadline for comments was 20th June, 2008.

Mr. Marsh advised that this would affect the Alliance SSP and the way it worked.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

**LSPB11/08 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – (FINAL NATIONAL INDICATORS) –
NEW LAA – JUNE 2008**

Ms. Walker reported that the Indicators as presented had been finally agreed. The deadline for final submission was 30th May, 2008. Discussions were currently taking place in relation to governance arrangements for all themes. The Sustainable Communities Board was currently considering establishing five Sub Groups.

Mrs. Khella queried whether targets would be agreed for each District. Ms. Walker answered that targets would not be agreed for each District. However, it would be necessary to set up targets for Bolsover and Chesterfield in relation to NI153. Further enquiries would be made by Derbyshire County Council with regard to the allocation of the Reward Grant and fed back to the Partnership Team.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

LSPB12/08 DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM MINUTES

Mrs. Brown advised that the Minutes had been provided for information purposes only.

Ms. Walker commented that the Minutes were also available on the website and in the Derbyshire Partnership Forum Newsletter.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

LSPB13/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 17th July, 2008, at 9.30 a.m., Committee Room No. 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 a.m.