

BOLSOVER LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership *Executive Support Group* held on Thursday, 24th April, 2008, at 9.30 a.m., Committee Room No. 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.

PRESENT

Councillor E. Watts	-	Bolsover District Council (Chair)
Ms. L. Wallace	-	Community Voluntary Partners
Miss D. M. Row	-	Education & Training Action Group
Ms. T. Glover	-	Cultural Forum
Ms. C. A. Walker	-	Derbyshire County Council
Mrs. L. Khella	-	Partnership Team
Mr. W. Lumley	-	Bolsover District Council
Mr. R. Madin	-	Partnership Team
Mrs. P. A. Brown	-	Partnership Team
Councillor A. Tomlinson	-	Bolsover District Council
Mrs. J. Hodsdon	-	Partnership Team
Mrs. J. M. Wilkinson	-	Community Voluntary Partners
Mr. T. Trafford	-	Housing & the Environment Action Group
Mrs. S. Coleman	-	Employment & Enterprise Action Group
Councillor B. Murray-Carr (part)	-	Bolsover Community Safety Partnership

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor J. Clifton (part)	-	Bolsover District Council
Mr. I. Collis (part)	-	Bolsover District Council
Ms. K. Bailey (Observer)	-	Erewash Borough Council

Councillor E. Watts in the Chair

The Chair welcomed Mrs. Khella on her return from maternity leave and advised that he had agreed for Councillor Clifton, Bolsover District Council, and Ms. K. Bailey, Erewash Borough Council, to attend the meeting as Observers.

ESG01/08 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:-

Inspector I. Palfreyman	-	Bolsover Community Safety Partnership
Mrs. J. Derricott	-	Health & Wellbeing Action Group

Ms. J. Cooper - Health & Wellbeing Action Group
Councillor A. Western - Education & Training Action Group
Councillor K. Reid - Parish/Town Councils
Mr. A. Diggles - Employment & Enterprise Action Group

ESG02/08 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 2008

Mr. Trafford asked that his name be added to the list of attendees.

Ms. Walker referred to Page 5 – ESG82/07 – Local Area Agreement, the second paragraph and advised that it was Safer Communities not Sustainable Communities as stated.

AGREED that subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February, 2008, be accepted as a true and correct record.

ESG03/08 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

ESG04/08 WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND PROGRAMME – IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Lumley presented information in relation to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund that had been awarded to the Local Authority in order to tackle worklessness.

Mrs. Khella circulated and briefly explained a report entitled “Background to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund” which provided details of the proposed delivery arrangements for the distribution of funding through the Local Strategic Partnership. Bolsover District Council had agreed that £1 million per annum from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund be managed by the Partnership and it was suggested that an allocation of £300,000 be awarded to each of the following themes:

- Employment/Enterprise
- Education/Skills/Training
- Health

An amount of £100,000 per year would be set aside to cover administration and management costs and any other initiatives which would not fall within the above thematic categories, e.g. Transport. It was stressed that the allocations had been awarded to the themes and not Action Groups in an effort to encourage the potential for more cross cutting of projects.

As the Working Neighbourhoods Fund included a significant element of reward grant, any potential projects that demonstrated an impact on the top five indicators would be prioritised for funding. It was intended to support fewer but larger and more strategic projects in order to make a difference. Action Groups would be requested to identify relevant interventions with an anticipated commencement of September onwards. The Working Neighbourhoods Fund was not restricted to annual spend.

The commissioning process previously utilised during the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund programme had been strengthened and changes had been made to the commissioning documents as appropriate.

The Chair commented that Bolsover District Council had given its commitment to the Partnership by allocating £1 million for the next three years. It was felt that the funding would provide the opportunity to make a significant difference to the District. However, it was stressed that a condition of funding was to tackle the agreed Indicators.

Mr. Lumley advised that the Core Worklessness Group would include relevant partners, e.g. Jobcentre Plus, Learning Skills Council etc.

Mrs. Wilkinson commented that it would be necessary to ensure that duplication of projects did not occur. Mr. Lumley stated that there would be the potential for an overlap of projects, however, it must be borne in mind that the Local Strategic Partnership would be responsible for initiating preventative measures. Current projects supported by the District Council related to worklessness, e.g. LEGI, LEADER, JOBMAETS. The Chair advised that the Core Strategy Group would ensure that there was no duplication of projects.

Mrs. Coleman queried whether any funding would be available to carry out feasibility studies in order to provide the evidence baseline. Mrs. Khella advised that the funding was flexible and if there was a need to carry out that type of preliminary work, it would be considered through the commissioning process. Although feasibility studies/research projects would not score highly, it was recognised that sometimes work of this nature is necessary on occasions to inform longer term projects.

Ms. Glover raised her concerns with regard to the Education and Training Action Group especially in relation to the importance of the recently agreed 35 LAA Priority Indicators. Mrs. Brown stated that it would be necessary to review the structure of the Partnership. Unfortunately, this would take place alongside the roll out of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme. It would, therefore, be necessary to consider potential projects by theme rather than by Action Group bearing in mind the need to identify and target projects where assistance was required.

Ms. Glover commented that there would be a role for the voluntary and community sector in terms of capacity building, e.g. confidence building, interview techniques etc. and queried where the appropriate liaison should take place. Mrs. Khella advised that the Core Working Group would be responsible for reducing the number of out of work benefit claimants and the Local Strategic Partnership was responsible for implementing preventative measures. It would, therefore, be necessary to link with the Action Groups in the first instance.

The Chair stressed the importance of cross cutting with the thematic Groups.

Ms. Wallace commended Bolsover District Council for awarding the Local Strategic Partnership £1 million each year for the next three years.

Ms. Glover requested a copy of the presentation for information. A copy to be emailed to *Executive Support Group* representatives.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

Councillor Clifton left the meeting at 10.10 a.m.

ESG05/08 WME FINAL REPORT – BOLSOVER NRF PROGRAMME 2001 – 2008 EVALUATION AND FORWARD STRATEGY

Mr. Madin reported that the final draft report had been circulated for consultation and feedback. All comments received had been forwarded to WM Enterprise and the final report was now available, although not as a public document, and had been circulated to Action Group Chairs. Following endorsement by the *Board* on 8th May, 2008, the report would be available on the Partnership's website. Ms. Wallace requested a hard copy for the library at Community Voluntary Partners. Mr. Madin provided a copy of the report and reiterated that the document was not yet available to the public.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

ESG06/08 LSP FORWARD PLANNING

Mrs. Brown briefly explained the report and reminded everyone that the role and function of the Local Strategic Partnership did not revolve solely around the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. The main purpose of the Partnership was to deliver the priorities identified within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Due to the Government's agenda around the development of the Local Area Assessment and Comprehensive Area Agreement it would be necessary to consider restructuring. The draft structure as presented took into account the recommendations from the Evaluation and

Forward Strategy and feedback from the recent event staged to review the Sustainable Community Strategy. One of the key factors to consider was how the Local Strategic Partnership would fit into the overall Local Area Agreement structure – in particular how the thematic District level Groups would fit in with the thematic blocks of the Local Area Agreement as the Performance Management Framework will be a key driver for the linkage between the District Local Strategic Partnership and the County Local Area Agreement.

Mrs. Coleman advised that discussion had taken place at the Employment and Enterprise Action Group in relation to the post 14 age group and how links would be made with the District Partnership Group and the learning community in the Derbyshire area. Debate had taken place on whether it should be post 14 or 16, however, following recommendations from the Learning & Skills Council, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate for it to be post 14.

Mrs. Brown raised the importance of Action Group Chairs driving the discussion on this forward, not only through the current Action Group meetings, but also by contacting each other.

The Chair requested feedback from Action Groups for the next meeting of the *Executive Support Group*. He also stressed that the restructure should not prevent development and progress with the commissioning process.

Ms. Glover queried current membership arrangements with the Children and Young People Partnership. Mrs. Brown advised that these were an open forum.

AGREED that (1) Action Group Chairs make arrangements for the draft structure to be discussed at their next scheduled Action Group meeting,

(2) Action Groups consider whether an individual review of composition is required and how best to progress,

(3) feedback to be presented to the next meeting of the *Executive Support Group*, and

(4) the report and comments be received.

ESG07/08 **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Ms. Walker circulated a copy of the Final 35 Priority Indicators, for information. Each target had a Lead Negotiator – Mr. Mike Brittain was responsible for Worklessness. Mr. Brittain had recently met with the Employment and Skills Board and would be meeting with District Councils in the near future.

Ms. Walker advised that it was not possible to negotiate on NI172. It was hoped to obtain an update on who was the Negotiator. A final report would be submitted to Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet and Derbyshire Partnership Forum Executive in the near future. Ms. Glover referred to Culture (NI7) and queried the baseline information. Ms. Walker stated that Mr. Robert Gent was the Negotiator for Culture and he would be working with the Community and Voluntary Sector. Ms. Wallace commented that there had been discussion nationally on this Indicator regarding how to set the baseline.

**AGREED that (1) the Final 35 Priority Indicators schedule be received, and
(2) the comments be noted.**

ESG08/08 PROPOSED COMMUNICATION PROCESS – DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM/LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Mr. Madin briefly explained the report. He referred to Appendix A, which although reflected the recommendations in the NRF Evaluation and Forward Strategy, did not indicate a definite process on how information that went up to the Local Area Agreement would come back down to the Local Strategic Partnership. Following further discussion, a draft process had been prepared (refer Appendix B) which detailed the process and reflected what was currently in place. The draft report had been discussed at the last meeting of the Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinators Group and feedback had been incorporated as appropriate.

Mrs. Brown advised that the Co-ordinators had taken the report back to their individual Local Strategic Partnerships for consideration. Discussions had also taken place with Mr. David Lowe, Derbyshire County Council, who raised his concerns that he initially felt it was a new structure in addition to the one already in place. However, Mrs. Brown clarified that there were no duplications in the structure and that it was a 'process' rather than a 'structure'. Following further discussion around the detail Mr. Lowe was comfortable with the draft process and saw it as a positive way to demonstrate 'grass root' engagement. Further discussions would be undertaken at future meetings of the Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinators Group and feedback would be provided to the *Executive Support Group* as appropriate.

Mrs. Brown mentioned that further questions would also be raised with regard to Culture as this had been an additional Block included in the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement and the governance and composition were still being developed. Ms. Walker commented that she had asked to attend to next meeting as an Observer. Ms. Glover

queried membership of the Culture Block as she felt it was important to ensure that representatives from Bolsover's Cultural Forum attended meetings. Mr. Trafford raised his concern that he was unsure as to how Housing and the Environment would feed into the process. Ms. Walker advised that Sustainable Communities had organised a workshop to look at structures and governance arrangements. This would be discussed further at the next meeting in June. Mr. Lumley commented that the structure as presented provided an opportunity to take the Local Strategic Partnership's views forward.

AGREED that (1) the report and comments be received.

ESG09/08 PERFORMANCE – MONITORING AND EVALUATION FEEDBACK

Mrs. Hodsdon circulated the performance report for the Health and Wellbeing Action Group for information.

Mrs. Hodsdon briefly explained the reports.

Mr. Lumley commented that it would be necessary to relate future performance to the Local Area Agreement. It should be noted that Teenage Pregnancy and Affordable Housing were now included within the final priority Indicators.

Mrs. Khella mentioned that the reports as presented were based on Quarter 3 monitoring. Quarter 4 monitoring forms were currently being processed; a significant number of projects had spent their allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding. Any underspend would be carried over to the financial year 2008/09.

Ms. Glover reported that the Cultural Forum did not have full baseline information available. There was currently no representation for Libraries. NI9 would require baselines and targets.

Mrs. Hodsdon advised that the Government would soon be populating the "Data Hub" with information to support the National Indicators.

AGREED that the reports and comments be received.

ESG10/08 CONSULTATION ON SUB NATIONAL REVIEW

Mr. Madin reported that consultation was currently taking place in respect of the Sub National Review. An email had been sent to Action Group Secretariats providing the link on the Local Strategic Partnership website. The deadline for responses being 20th June.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

ESG11/08 **LOCAL AREA WORKING – THE COUNTY COUNCIL’S INVOLVEMENT IN DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS – DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mrs. Brown explained that the report had been provided for information and discussion. The report had been presented to Derbyshire County Council’s Cabinet for consideration; as part of the developing local agenda with the Local Area Agreement, a review of financial contributions to District Local Strategic Partnerships had taken place. It should be noted that there would be no financial contribution from Derbyshire County Council to District Local Strategic Partnerships from April 2009.

Mr. Lumley suggested that Recommendation 8 of the report also be considered. Mrs. Brown advised that the Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinators Group had recently discussed the possibility of one Sustainable Community Strategy for Derbyshire and suggested that District Chapters be included.

Mr. Lumley stated that he felt it was important that local issues not reflected in the 35 Priority Indicators be recognised.

Mr. I. Collis and Councillor Murray-Carr joined the meeting at 10.50 a.m.

Mr. Trafford raised his disappointment at Derbyshire County Council’s withdrawal of a financial contribution. The Chair commented that Bolsover was one of six Local Strategic Partnerships throughout the County and he felt that the withdrawal of financial assistance undermined and demeaned the Partnerships. Mr. Madin advised that the withdrawal of funding may be due to the fact that other Local Strategic Partnerships had not spent their allocation, although Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership had.

Ms. Glover referred to Derbyshire County Council’s proposal for one Sustainable Community Strategy and commented that she felt the Partnership would lose its local distinctiveness and the ability to deal with local neighbourhood and district issues.

AGREED that (1) a letter be sent to Derbyshire County Council outlining disappointment at the withdrawal of a financial contribution,

(2) the report be noted.

ESG12/08 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Mr. Collis briefly explained the report.

Councillor Tomlinson raised his concerns that the concentration of new build would be on Market Towns, some of which may already be exhausted. He did, however, agree with the hierarchy.

The Chair reminded those present that there had been major investment in the District and it may be necessary to consider the wider picture. Mr. Collis advised that it was intended to put forward different options, one of which would be to put more development in smaller settlements.

Councillor Murray-Carr apologised for being late and commented that the current housing market had slowed down new build. It may be necessary to consider the provision of Innovation Centres on some of the available land, e.g. Creswell, Whitwell.

AGREED that (1) the amendments to the criteria used in the study be endorsed, and

(2) the findings of the study so far and the provisional settlement hierarchy be noted.

ESG13/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Collis reported that BT had recently written to Bolsover District Council advising of the proposal to remove 20 little used telephone kiosks throughout the District. Ofcom had decided that it was the responsibility of local authorities to carry out consultation on this matter, it was, therefore, intended to contact Parish/Town Councils, place posters in the Contact Centres and Community Centres and place information on the website.

The Chair queried the timescale for responses. Mr. Collis advised that responses were required by 23rd May, 2008, in order that a report could be presented to Planning Committee on 19th June, 2008. BT required a response by 2nd July, 2008.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

Mrs. Khella referred to the Market Towns Regeneration Alliance Programme and advised that the Alliance SSP had requested a proposed list of priority market towns in the event of funding becoming available. The information was required by the end of the month.

AGREED that the four market towns of Bolsover, Clowne, Shirebrook and South Normanton be put forward to the Alliance SSP.

Mrs. Brown referred to the Leadership Project as discussed earlier in the Agenda and advised that a concluding event would be held on 1st May, 2008, at the Arkwright Centre, Arkwright, Chesterfield. Details

had been emailed out. Anyone interested in attending should contact CHART LSP direct.

AGREED that the information be noted.

Mr. Madin reported that the Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008, together with the NRF Evaluation and Forward Strategy, would be available once endorsed at the *Board* meeting.

AGREED that the information be noted.

ESG14/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 5th June, 2008, at 9.30 a.m., Committee Room No. 1

The meeting concluded at 11.20 a.m.