

BOLSOVER LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership *Executive Support Group* held on Thursday, 6th September, 2007, at 9.30 a.m., in Committee Room No. 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.

PRESENT

Mrs. M. Chambers	-	Derbyshire County PCT (Chair)
Mr. D. Rae	-	Derbyshire County Council
Mr. W. Lumley	-	Bolsover District Council
Mr. T. Whatton	-	Community Voluntary Partners
Ms. J. Cooper	-	Health & Wellbeing Action Group
Mrs. T. Wilkinson	-	Community Voluntary Partners
Councillor A. Tomlinson	-	Bolsover District Council
Miss D. Row	-	Education & Training Action Group
Ms. C. Walker	-	Derbyshire County Council
Ms. L. Wallace	-	Community Voluntary Partners
Mrs. J. Hodsdon	-	Partnership Team
Mrs. L. Khella	-	Partnership Team
Councillor B. Murray-Carr	-	Bolsover Community Safety Partnership
Mr. R. Madin	-	Partnership Team
Mr. A. Diggles	-	Employment & Enterprise Action Group
Mr. T. Trafford	-	Housing & Environment Action Group
Mrs. P. Brown	-	Partnership Team
Councillor K. Reid	-	Parish/Town Councils

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. J. Kinch	-	Derbyshire County Council
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Mrs. M. Chambers in the Chair

ESG35/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:-

Councillor A. Western	-	Derbyshire County Council
Councillor E. Watts	-	Bolsover District Council (Vice Chair)
Ms. T. Glover	-	Cultural Forum
Insp. I. Palfreyman	-	Bolsover Community Safety Partnership

The Chair advised that Mrs. Derricott would be joining the meeting later.

ESG36/07 PRESENTATION – DIPLOMAS

Ms. Kinch advised that she was employed by Derbyshire County Council as the 14-19 Manager, and circulated a copy of the presentation for information.

The main purpose of the presentation was to highlight the changes in education and the development of Learning Communities throughout Derbyshire.

Councillor Murray-Carr queried which schools the excluded pupils would be from. Ms. Kinch advised that the schools to be targeted were those which had a high percentage of NEET and the Bolsover and Heritage Schools were in that classification. Shirebrook School would also be targeted as a considerable amount of work had already been taking place. She continued that the schools and Connexions-Derbyshire would select the young to be involved in the programme.

Councillor Tomlinson highlighted the fact that there were not many large employers within the District and this could prove to be problematic when trying to engage with the private sector. He mentioned that he had recently attended the Ashfield School as a LEGI Board representative and commended the facilities/opportunities available to pupils and queried whether this centre could be utilised cross border. Mr. Rae confirmed that the Ashfield School had developed a strong vocational centre and advised that one had also been developed in Alfreton (Genesis Centre) which provided a range of training opportunities for 14-19 year olds.

Mr. Rae reported that the Derbyshire Partnership Forum Employment and Skills Group brought together various partners to consider the most effective ways of engaging with small employers. It was intended that the District Managers would work with employers as well as schools and colleges. Ms. Kinch commented that there was already considerable vocational activities in place and the Building Schools for the Future programme would assist in ensuring that there was flexibility within the buildings to accommodate the change in demand for employment skills.

Mr. Rae reported that all funding for young people up to the age of 19 years which was currently routed through the Learning and Skills Council would, from 2010/11, become the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council. This would ensure that a more coherent approach to spend was achieved.

Mr. Lumley queried who made the decision in terms of the Bolsover and Shirebrook Schools and what processes would be put in place to ensure that the skills provided would not exceed demand. Ms. Kinch advised that the Learning Community, as a strategic group, had agreed the specialist status provision for both schools.

Mr. Rae reported that although the Building Schools for the Future programme would not commence imminently there would, therefore, most likely be capital provision at the Schools beforehand in order to develop vocational provision. A lot of partnership working between schools and colleges was taking place and Building Schools for the Future was strengthening this.

The Chair referred to the possibility of students attending schools in other parts of the District and queried how realistic this was bearing in mind the current transportation provisions. Ms. Kinch responded that it was intended to establish a Transport Integration Strategy. The Chair suggested that appropriate links be made with the Joint Transport Group which covered both the Bolsover and CHART Local Strategic Partnership areas.

The Chair thanked Ms. Kinch for her presentation.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

Ms. Kinch left the meeting at 10.17 a.m.

ESG37/07 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY, 2007

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July, 2007, be accepted as a true and correct record.

ESG38/07 MATTERS ARISING

Page 6 – ESG33/07 – Local Area Agreement – Ms. Walker referred to the end of year Performance Reporting meeting and advised that there would be no feedback.

Page 3 - ESG30/07 – Community Voluntary Partners – Compact - Ms. Wallace reported that a letter had been sent out to the voluntary and community sector advising of the date for the first Compact meeting. To date approximately nine key organisations had responded that they would be attending, some had submitted apologies. Only one representative had confirmed attendance from the public sector. It was, therefore, requested that partners try to ensure that their organisation is represented. It was hoped that one representative from each agency/organisation would be in attendance.

Mrs. Brown reported that, unfortunately, Councillor S. Gilmour, who was nominated to attend on behalf of Barlborough Parish Council, had passed away. This would be followed up with Councillor Watts.

Page 5 – ESG31/07 – Local Development Framework – Mr. Madin referred to the Special Executive Support Group Meeting and advised

that due to staffing problems within Planning Policy and the holiday period, it had proved difficult to convene. However, plans to stage the *Executive Support Group* during November were taking place.

Page 6 – ESG 33/07 – Local Area Agreement – Ms. Walker circulated a report for information entitled “Local Area Agreement (LAA) Feasibility Testing”, which gave details on progress to date, draft indicators and the next steps. This report would be submitted to the Derbyshire Partnership Forum on 7th September, 2007.

Page 7 – ESG35/07 – Any Other Business – Choosing Health Allocation – The Chair reported that there was an underspend for 2007/08 and Mrs. Derricott was currently querying the requirements for accessing the funding. This item would be discussed further at the Health and Wellbeing Action Group and feedback would be provided to the *Executive Support Group* as appropriate.

ESG39/07 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

2007/08 NRF Quarter 1 Update

Mrs. Khella advised that the 2007/08 NRF Quarter 1 Update had been provided for information purposes only.

AGREED that the report be received.

Tender – NRF Evaluation & Forward Strategy

Mrs. Khella provided an update on progress with the Evaluation of the NRF Programme. Following a rigorous tender exercise, interviews and presentations had taken place on 5th September and WM Enterprise had been appointed to undertake the Evaluation. A meeting had been arranged for 11th September, 2007, to agree a timetable. It was also intended to set clear objectives in order that the Consultants could be measured on a weekly basis.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

2007/08 NRF Commissioning

Mrs. Khella briefly explained the report.

Mrs. Khella reported that the demand for Maintenance Construction training had been low and discussions were currently taking place to try and increase awareness.

Councillor Tomlinson advised that the Alliance SSP had also funded construction training and he queried whether the market was now saturated.

Mr. Diggles suggested that Chesterfield College be invited to the next Employment and Enterprise Action Group meeting to report on the lack of progress with this project. Mrs. Khella commented that she had requested an update on current activity in order that a report can be provided to the next *Executive Support Group* meeting. Mr. Diggles and Mrs. Khella to discuss this matter further after the meeting.

Mr. Lumley requested that emphasis also be placed on the importance of not overspending.

- AGREED** that (1) the report and Commissioning Briefs be approved,
- (2) the Communities that Work initiative be commissioned by the Health and Wellbeing Action Group, utilising £35,000 NRF in 2007/08,
- (3) Community Voluntary Partners be allocated a further £13,000 NRF to match fund the Communities for Health Community Chest monies available for 2007/08,
- (4) the Business Crime Reduction Initiative be awarded a further £40,000, in principle, subject to further feedback from Chesterfield College in relation to the Construction Training project,
- (5) the Relentless II initiative be commissioned by the Bolsover Community Safety Partnership, utilising £12,500 NRF in 2007/08,
- (6) the NRF programme be over-committed up to £75,000 with the potential of increasing this to a maximum of £115,000 in 2007/08, subject to a review of projects performance, in particular the employment training contracts, at Quarter 2,
- (7) regular financial updates be provided to the *Executive Support Group* due to the potential need of taking further decisions on existing projects if necessary.

2006/07 NRF Audit Report

Mrs. Khella briefly explained the report.

Mrs. Khella reported that even though project officer training events had been organised and Monitoring Visits undertaken by members of the Partnership Team, the amount of administrative support required during the audit process was still unacceptably high. In order to

address this, a number of actions have been put in place to assist the process and two more training sessions will be organised during this financial year, with greater emphasis being placed on the requirements for audit. It was also intended to follow-up projects that had been categorised as “Unsatisfactory”. Partners with projects in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, were requested to put in place procedures and practices to ensure that improvements were made to assist the quarterly monitoring and audit processes.

AGREED that (1) the report appending the NRF Project Audit Report be noted, and

(2) the Project Managers/Chief Executive Officers take necessary actions within their own organisations to deliver improvements where necessary.

ESG40/07 LEADERSHIP PROJECT – COLLABORATIVE WORKING

Mrs. Brown stated that a report had been submitted to the *Board* on 19th July, 2007, and briefly explained the content. The *Board* had agreed that the decision be made by the Chair and Vice Chair and following a further meeting and subsequent discussions, it was agreed to participate in the project. There were a number of concerns expressed specifically in relation to the capacity of the Partnership Team and whether the Derbyshire Partnership Forum should be involved rather than the three authorities. Taking all these concerns into consideration, the Chair and Vice Chair agreed that the Local Strategic Partnership would participate via the Partnership Team. The first meeting of the Steering Group had taken place during August and the Leadership Advisor had produced a draft project plan. It was intended to organise a joint event during December and partners would be invited to participate. Minutes of a meeting held on 23rd August had been received which indicated that discussion had taken place in relation to members; it was suggested that representatives be as follows: 12 from within Bolsover and 18 from the Local Strategic Partnerships. The Leadership Advisor has requested that he attends the next meeting of both the *Executive Support Group* and *Board*.

Mr. Lumley commented that this was a learning opportunity. Mr. Diggles stated that as a member of CHART Local Strategic Partnership, he felt that there was some added value in working more closely together.

It was felt that a decision on the way forward and the most appropriate 12 representatives should be made following the next meeting of the *Executive Support Group* in October when the Leadership Advisor would elaborate more on the project detail.

Mrs. Brown asked that members read the proposal further and contact her should there be any queries in the meantime and prior to the next *Executive Support Group* on 11 October 2007.

AGREED that (1) the report be noted, and

(2) the decision on the way forward and the most appropriate 12 representatives from Bolsover LSP would be discussed and agreed at the next ESG on 11 October 2007

(3) the Chief Executive's & Partnership Manager be tasked with ensuring the involvement of key partners and to provide regular feedback to future meetings.

ESG41/07 BOLSOVER N-GAGE PARTNERSHIP/CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP GROUP – INTEGRATION AND RATIONALISATION

Mr. Rae briefly explained the report and highlighted the changes that were currently being undertaken. There was no longer a Department for Education and Skills, this now came under the remit of "Childrens, Schools and Families".

A Childrens Trust had been established which brought together all service providers for children and young people, plus representatives from the voluntary sector. A single plan had been produced for Children and Young People across the County and this was currently being inspected.

Three Officers were responsible for Children and Families, 0-11 years, Safeguarding and 11+, and this was being replicated at district level by the appointment of District Managers. It was also intended to establish a "mini" Childrens Trust for each district.

Mrs. J. Derricott joined the meeting at 11.12 a.m.

Mr. Rae queried the Education links with the Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreement and commented that it may be beneficial to look at the current structures in place. Mrs. Khella advised that a review of the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership structure would take place as part of the Evaluation and Forward Strategy process.

Mr. Whatton queried how the community and voluntary sector would be able to access funding through the Childrens Trust and Local Area Agreement. Mr. Rae stated that the District Partnership Group would be considering all provision and mainstream funding. In terms of funding for the community and voluntary sector at County level, the

Childrens Trust would be considering ways of commissioning voluntary sector provision.

Miss Row commented that this initiative seemed to be geared towards professionals and very little about consulting at grass root level. Mr. Rae stated that the framework was open for discussion and there were two aspects which could be argued – (1) how to discuss with children and young people their requirements and (2) how to consult with local communities. These matters would be dealt with by the District Managers by establishing links with key partners and local communities. One of the key aims of the Group was to ensure that mainstream services were brought alongside other provision.

The Chair queried reporting arrangements. Mr. Rae advised that the District Partnership Group would report to the Childrens Trust and at a local level, to the Local Strategic Partnership. An update on progress would be provided to the next meeting of the *Executive Support Group* for information.

AGREED that (1) the report and comments be received, and
(2) an update on progress be provided to the next meeting of the *Executive Support Group*.

Mr. Rae left the meeting at 11.26 a.m.

ESG42/07 **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – THIRD SECTOR STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – DISCUSSION PAPER 2007**

Mrs. Brown briefly explained the report.

AGREED that (1) Mrs. Brown/Ms. Wallace prepare a joint response on behalf of the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership, and
(2) any comments be forward to the Partnership Information and Communications Officer by no later than 14th September, 2007.

ESG43/07 **PERFORMANCE – MONITORING AND EVALUATION FEEDBACK**

Self Assessment Feedback

Mrs. Hodsdon circulated a copy of feedback received from Government Office for the East Midlands and briefly commented that the document was a fair reflection of the Self Assessment meeting. A request had been made to provide an informal traffic light assessment; unfortunately, this was not granted.

The Chair thanked Mrs. Hodsdon for her input into the self assessment process.

AGREED that the Government Office for the East Midlands Annual Assessment feedback be received and changes to the Forward Plans be endorsed.

Performance Management Reports

The Performance Reports had been provided by Action Groups which had met since the last *Executive Support Group* meeting.

The Chair requested that Action Groups submit Performance Management Reports to the Partnership Team as soon as possible in order that they could be considered by the *Executive Support Group*.

Councillor Murray-Carr asked that the Community Safety Officer, Jo Selby, be requested to provide the report.

AGREED that the Performance Management Reports, as provided, be approved.

ESG44/07 SSP MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME

Mr. Diggles briefly explained the report.

AGREED that the changes to the Alliance SSP Market Towns Regeneration funding application be endorsed.

ESG45/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Murray-Carr reported that he had been invited to speak at a conference organised by Government Office for the East Midlands in relation to why the Bolsover Community Safety Partnership worked better than others.

The Chair reported that as it was Mrs. Khella's last meeting prior to taking maternity leave, she offered thanks to Mrs. Khella for all her assistance and guidance and offered everyone's best wishes for the future.

ESG46/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 11th October, 2007, at 9.30 a.m., Committee Room No. 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.

The meeting concluded at 11.42 a.m.