

STRATFORD DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the LSP Core Group Meeting held at Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon on Thursday 9 April 2009

Present:

Charles Goody	LSP Chair
Trevor Honychurch	Stratford-upon-Avon Community Forum
Jayne Longfield	Healthier Communities and Older People
Martin Penny	Children, Young People and Families
Julia Phillips	Stronger Communities
Athena Roderick	Voluntary Action Stratford-upon-Avon
Trevor Russel	Stour Community Forum
Deb Saunders	NHS Warwickshire
Bob Stevens	Warwickshire County Council
Les Topham	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Dave Wise	Southam/Feldon Community Forum
Ian Whiting	Warwickshire Police

In attendance:

Peter Fowler Warwickshire County Council

Support Officers:

Trevor Askew	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Martin Gibbins	Warwickshire County Council
Renata Mosz	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Dave Nash	Stratford-on-Avon District Council

		Action:
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Charles Goody welcomed the representatives of the Community Forums who were attending the meeting for the first time.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Alan Bartlett (Vice Chair), Simon Jackson (Climate Change and Environment) and Kim James (Alcester/Bidford Community Forum).</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2009</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record subject to the correction of the word "covert" to "convert" in line 3 of the first bullet point under short term actions (minute 4).</p>	
2.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Item 6 – Martin Penny confirmed that the CYPF Theme Group had given initial consideration to young people's housing issues at its last meeting and will be discussing it further in due course.</p>	Martin Penny

		Action:
	<p>Item 7.1 – ABG process – the exchange of correspondence between the Chair and the Chief Executive of WCC was received and noted. The chair confirmed that work is ongoing within the Governance Group with the clear objective of reducing bureaucracy.</p> <p>Item 7.1 – Funding allocation update report – the report was received and the likely maximum allocation to the LSP of £53,000 was noted with disappointment. Concerns were expressed about the delay in being able to get projects up and running. However, it was accepted that further work is required to shape a co-ordinated programme of activity for consideration by the PSB, and, having regard to the bids previously supported, it was:</p> <p>AGREED: That representatives from Stratford College, SDC Housing Team and Voluntary Action Stratford-upon-Avon prepare a joint report for consideration at the next meeting of the Core Group.</p>	Dave Nash
4.	<p>Review of Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Partnership, in adopting its terms of reference in 2007, had agreed that they should be reviewed after two years. Furthermore, the issue of locality representation had now been clarified by the establishment of the six Community Forums. In considering the draft revisions to the Terms of Reference it was considered that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the absence of the Learning and Skills Council from the Core Group is strategically problematic and that the LSC should therefore continue to be encouraged to attend this meeting; • the Community Forum representatives need to be included in the arrangements for electing the Chair and Vice Chair; and • the clear expectation is that the Core Group and themed partnership groups meet at least four times a year. <p>Subject to their revision to reflect the above it was agreed that the Stratford District Partnership Terms of Reference 2009 be adopted.</p> <p>The updated Terms of Reference are attached to these minutes at Appendix A.</p> <p>Arising from this report, it was confirmed that nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Core Group need to be made prior to the June meeting. Dave Nash was requested to circulate a reminder to this effect.</p>	<p>Dave Nash</p> <p>Dave Nash</p> <p>Dave Nash</p> <p>Dave Nash</p>
5.	<p>Final Draft Sustainable Community Strategy</p> <p>Having endorsed a consultation draft of the SCS at its December meeting, the Core Group now received a further report detailing the response to the consultation and the proposed updates to the strategy arising from that feedback. The Group was advised that the updated strategy as now presented had been endorsed by the District Council's Cabinet on 6 April and that, subject to any amendments proposed by this meeting, would now be presented to the Council meeting on 20 April for adoption.</p>	

		Action:
	<p>Whilst welcoming the feedback, and in particular the involvement of the Citizen's Panel, the Group felt that there is an ongoing need to be more innovative in our approach to engagement.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that the Final Draft Stratford District Sustainable Community Strategy, as presented, be referred to Stratford-on-Avon District Council for formal adoption.</p>	Dave Nash
6.	<p>Interim Report from Draft Core Strategy Task and Finish Group</p> <p>A briefing note had been supplied by Ernest Amoako. However, it was recognised that the temporary absence of Alan Bartlett had caused a lack of leadership within the Task and Finish Group. It was confirmed that it is important that the Group should complete its work by June in order that any recommendations arising from its report can be properly taken into account in developing the deposit draft version of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>As such, it was agreed that Trevor Russel would ensure that the necessary meetings of the Group are convened such that a report can come forward to the Core Group on 22 June.</p>	Trevor Russel
7.	<p>Initial consultation on Housing Strategy 2009</p> <p>Renata Mosz (SDC Housing) outlined the rationale for the major review of the Housing Strategy that will be undertaken during 2009. Various partnership groups had been asked to express views on the key issues that need to be covered by the new Strategy.</p> <p>The Core Group had no recommendations to make to change the vision and overall aims set out in the current strategy.</p> <p>However, arising from the discussion it was agreed that the following observations be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing mix is important in encouraging truly rounded communities where there is good interaction between the generations; • there should be a greater focus on meeting the range of housing needs experienced by older people; and • the increased provision of affordable housing in rural settlements is vital to their sustainability. 	Renata Mosz
3.	<p>Public Service Board</p> <p>Trevor Askew provided feedback from the PSB meeting held on 3 March. It had been a frustrating meeting dominated by the Area Based Grant discussions. This apart, the meeting had involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a presentation by Mary-Ann Bruce (Audit Commission CAA lead) on the emerging key themes for Warwickshire; • an update on the preparation of the Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy; • an update on the work of the Safer Communities block; and • a briefing on the economic downturn. 	

		Action:
	Reference was made during the discussion to WCC's appointment of an Assistant Chief Executive responsible for a new Partnerships and Performance Unit. The Group expressed the wish that a report be presented to a future meeting on the role of this unit and the support it will be able to provide to the LSP.	Martin Gibbins/ Bob Stevens
9.	Draft Delivery Plans for 2009-2011	
10.1	<p>Safer Communities</p> <p>The draft was received and endorsed as a good example of a clear and focussed delivery plan. The Safer Communities team (CDRP) was asked to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarifying to links to other Theme Groups; • whether there is any correlation between crime 'hot spots' and the most deprived community areas (as defined at the last meeting), and therefore whether there is a case for targeted actions in those areas; and • whether the plan needs to take into account any issues regarding access to services. <p>As regards this latter point, Ian Whiting confirmed that the provision of home services is under investigation and is a action that potentially could be included within the delivery plan.</p> <p>Subject to any additions or revisions arising from the above, it was agreed that the draft plan be endorsed.</p>	Ian Whiting
10.2	<p>Stronger Communities</p> <p>The draft was received and the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the SCS reference should be included in plan; • lead agency responsibility needs to be clarified; and • the local targets for 2010 and 2011 relevant to National Indicators 1, 4 and 6 need to be included. <p>Subject to any revisions or additions arising from the above, it was agreed that the draft plan be endorsed.</p>	Julia Phillips
10.3	<p>Children and Young People</p> <p>Martin Penny apologised for the absence of the draft plan and advised that it is the disaggregation of the mandatory LAA targets to District level that is problematic. Whilst accepting that educational achievement is a product of a child's overall circumstances, and therefore not simply a matter for schools and colleges, the Core Group confirmed that its main interest is likely to relate to the partnership contributions required to deliver improved outcomes relative to the non-mandatory indicators. These include the emotional health of children, childhood obesity, participation in positive activities, children in poverty and NEETS.</p> <p>It was agreed that the draft would be developed on this basis and that it would be circulated to the Core Group for comment as soon as it is available.</p>	Martin Penny

		Action:
10.4	<p>Healthy Communities and Older People</p> <p>The draft was presented as 'work in progress' as it was recognised that more information was required in respect of the outcomes expected to be delivered via the Virtual District programme and the new arrangements for health and social care provision in the Alcester area, based around the redevelopment of the hospital site.</p> <p>The following additional comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the SCS references should be included verbatim; • 2008/09 actions should be deleted; • Generally, the wording should be paraphrased to simplify and improve the focus of the plan. <p>It was agreed that an updated draft be presented to the next meeting.</p>	Jayne Longfield
10.5	<p>Economy and Employment</p> <p>Trevor Askew said that the Delivery Plan is now under development and will be available at the June meeting. The group is meeting on 1 May to prepare a near final draft. It was confirmed that this will include short term actions to address the immediate challenges as well as addressing the longer term SCS vision.</p>	Trevor Askew
10.6	<p>Climate Change and Environment</p> <p>The draft was presented as work in progress and it was recognised that it needs to be broadened to address the full extent of actions identified in the SCS. One example is the need to address flooding issues. It was also agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links to other theme groups need to be identified; and • the county-level climate change outcomes need to be drawn down into the plan. <p>It was agreed that an updated draft will be presented to the next meeting.</p>	Simon Jackson/ Robert Weeks
10.	Reports from Theme Groups	
11.1	<p>Safer Communities</p> <p>A written report was tabled. This confirmed strong performance in the three areas prioritised by the CDRP, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious acquisitive crime (5.9% reduction in 2008/09) • serious violent crime (10.8% reduction in 2008/09) • anti-social behaviour (13.5% reduction in criminal damage in 2008/09 accompanied by an exceptionally high detection rate of 17.9%). <p>In presenting the report, Ian Whiting also made reference to a welcome improvement in addressing domestic violence issues. He confirmed that targets for 2009/10 would seek further improvement and will be based on pro-active and targeted policing.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	

		Action:
11.2	<p>Stronger Communities</p> <p>The written report was received. It recorded good progress against the targets established for the community gardening and rural outreach projects. Both projects are currently being supported by temporary funding with the hope that 2009/10 funding may be secured in due course.</p> <p>Two issues were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Connecting to Opportunities programme. This is an AWM programme seeking to move the 'entrenched' workless towards employment. It was agreed that this programme should be considered by the Economy and Employment Theme Group. • The WCC approach to commissioning Third Sector services. This was reported as causing great uncertainty and the timeframe for its introduction is considered unrealistic by third sector representatives. Bob Stevens advised that the revised approach is considered necessary to secure more positive outcomes and improved value for money across the county. <p>The report was received with thanks. As regards the Narrowing the Gaps projects, it was agreed that Dave Nash would coordinate a single end-of-year report to the PSB.</p>	<p>Trevor Askew</p> <p>Dave Nash</p>
11.3	<p>Children and Young People</p> <p>Martin Penny gave a verbal report and drew attention to a countywide campaign on alcohol abuse and a local campaign on road safety issues.</p> <p>He also reported that the NEETS project has now exceeded its target and has engaged 20 young people during the year. 11 of these young people have achieved positive outcomes, with the majority returning to full time education. The project is now without funding, with a potential knock-on effect in terms of community safety and other issues. It was identified that the only potential source of funding is the Learning and Skills Council.</p> <p>This matter was felt to emphasise the importance of re-engagement between the Core Group and the Learning Skills Council. The impact of NEETS both on the individual and the community was of concern both to education and police. It was agreed that briefing notes (from Martin Penny & Ian Whiting) be prepared to enable the Chair to make representations to the LSC.</p>	<p>Martin Penny/ Ian Whiting/ Charles Goody</p>
11.4	<p>Healthy Communities and Older People</p> <p>Jayne Longfield presented a written report. She advised that WCC is making funding available for carer demonstration projects and the group will seek funding for its local project from this source.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	

		Action:
11.5	<p>Economy and Employment</p> <p>The written report was presented. Reference was made to the positive vote in support of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) in Stratford town centre. This programme will now be progressed by 'Stratforward'.</p> <p>It was also reported that Job Centre Plus has recorded a significant increase in unemployment amongst professional groups. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that volunteering might be an activity of interest to this particular group, enabling individuals to maintain their skills and engage in meaningful activity whilst seeking a new job. As a result it was agreed that the manager of the Volunteer Centre should be invited to join this Theme Group.</p> <p>The Core Group felt it important that this Theme Group in particular should be recognised as playing a key co-ordinating role within the District in view of the current economic difficulties. It was agreed that assistance be sought to market this role to all potential partners and the business sector generally.</p> <p>The report was received with thanks.</p>	<p>Trevor Askew</p> <p>Trevor Askew</p>
11.6	<p>Climate Change and Environment</p> <p>No report was received.</p>	
11.	<p>Future items</p> <p>The following future items were noted:</p> <p>June 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report from the Draft Core Strategy Task & Finish Group. • Analysis of Place Survey results. • Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for 2009/10. <p>It was also agreed that 'Feedback from the Community Forums' be included as a standing item on future agendas.</p>	
13.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings:</p> <p>22 June 2009 – 10.00am 27 August 2009 – 10.00am 29 October 2009 – 10.00am 8 December 2009 – 10.00am</p>	

Dave Nash
Strategic Director