

**Minutes of LSP Board Meeting
Monday 8th November 2010 at Wigan Town Hall**

Present

Peter Smith
David Molyneux
Colin Greenhalgh
Carol Watson
Marion Andrews
Pam Gilligan
Susan Loudon
Gareth Cheesman
Joyce Redfearn
Trevor Barton
Miranda Barker
David Dunning
Mark Ashley

Apologies

Cath Hurst
Julie Southworth
Shaun Donnellan
Chris Ready
Khaled Amini
Joe Taylor
Jim Maloney
Les Higgins

In attendance

Lynn Kay
Simon Dale
Sian Jay
Susan Gambles
Peter Layland

1. **Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of LSP Board/LSMG meeting 17th September 2010**

The minutes of the above meetings were agreed. No updates or comments were noted.

3. **Quick information updates**

- **3rd Sector Assembly** – Partners were updated on the progress of the development of a new 3rd Sector Assembly – the steering group consisting of representatives from Council, Encompass, Borough Wide Network, CVS, Groundwork and WLCT have now developed a draft model. A series of consultations will now be scheduled to review the suggested model and its processes. The consultation and model will be brought together and shared with the Board at its January 17th meeting. It is hoped that a final model of the Assembly could be presented at the Partnership Convention.
- **Partnership Convention 2011** – Partners supported the convention going ahead and the costs were shared with Board – approx £2,900 (net). Acknowledging previous suggestions by Board members about focusing the day around roles & opportunities for our voluntary and community sectors, a steering group are developing the programme – themed around “People’s Expo” which will be shared with the Board at the January meeting.

4. **Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)**

The Chair spoke of the financial impacts on the Council from the CSR. Wigan's overall position is to make a saving of £55m over 3 years. Forward planning and other initiatives such as shared back office functions, working with AGMA colleagues on shared payroll systems, Council's Senior Management Review are intended to make at least 50% of the savings but more needed to be done. The Chair stated that "our challenge" is to support a move to a stronger community infrastructure as there is a need to explore alternative forms of delivery to services in the future and Board members were asked to think about what extent does the LSP work in our neighbourhoods? - and at what cost.

The Chair spoke about the current mechanisms of the LSP and how it's aligned around the last government's policies – he said there will be a need to review its mechanisms to ensure that it continues to work at its best and be "fit for purpose" for the future and asked for the next meeting scheduled for 17th January 2011 to be focused on this.

Members supported these points and during discussions the following comments were noted:

- Greater need to achieve outcomes for the people despite less resource – partnerships need to think and act differently, be honest and ready for the challenge.
- Big challenges ahead for all partners and we need to focus on what is really important.
- Partnerships must be ready to exploit new resources/funding opportunities.
- need to support our voluntary/community sectors to be ready to "fill the void" – some assets likely to be transferred away from public sector such as Leisure Halls etc. - look at ways of supporting communities to keep these facilities.
- We need to be in a position to remove barriers and offer support quickly to all our sectors.
- Partnerships need to "up the game" and be ready to make things happen – Govt. not taking any backwards steps – neither should Wigan.
- Highlight and promote our "community assets" and how people support each other.

5. **Developing a new Economic Framework for the borough:**

1. Performance & Progress of EECH

A presentation was given on the performance and progress to date of the EECH partnership. The presentation outlined some of the initial issues faced in merging of the 4 separate partnerships in relation to responsibilities and reporting mechanisms. Key successes of the EECH include worklessness and commissioning arrangements. With the recent scrapping of LAA indicators and CAA restrictions, it was said that EECH now had more flexibility to re-focus around the local priorities and indicators to ensure the partnership continues to build on its successes. The presentation outlined some of the initiatives, opportunities that EECH are involved with and pursuing at a regional level including the LEP, and also international links that are being pursued.

2. Update on Economic Framework:

Board members were made aware of the 10 “enablers” which have been identified to move the Framework forward:

- Next generation broadband
- High growth sectors
- Social enterprise development
- Skills development
- Increased income levels
- Increasing the number and quality of housing
- Strategic development and infrastructure
- Leigh guided bus way
- Greenheart
- Town centres – Ashton, Leigh, and Wigan

ensuring the borough is in a position to generate economic prosperity locally and regionally. In particular, members commented on 3 of the 10 enablers:–

Skills Development – focusing on improving local peoples skills will enable Wigan’s workforce to become mobile all across the region enabling opportunities wherever new development emerges

High Growth Sectors – investing and promoting what we are good at – e.g. food manufacturing – increasing quality, improving business

Greenheart – Joint commitment to promoting our spatial/environmental development opportunities – never really been joined up commitment to this – there may be opportunities through the new “green fund”

The Chair suggested that The Economic Framework should be focused around:

- Improving skills
- Improving the capacity of local business
- Re- thinking around inward investment - much of the future growth potential is global and Wigan needs to learn to work as part of GM.

There was a consensus around a better joined up commitment to marketing and promoting Wigan through the Economic Framework, promoting the borough’s environmental location not just with GM but other boundaries such as Lancashire, the South, East and West. There is a need for Wigan to keep its distinctiveness/identity even though it needs to work as part of the regional authorities within AGMA.

6. **Any other business:**

Board members were informed that Compassion in Action the community advocacy and advice service based in Lowton has been awarded the Positive Action Awards 2010 for the Northwest. Compassion in Action won for the work they do within the community for the benefit of the people and the borough. Pam was thanked for her hard work and dedication in achieving this award and was asked to pass this on to her volunteers.

7 **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 17th January 2011 at 3.00pm
Boardroom - Douglas Valley Nursery, Turner Street - Wigan