

**Minutes of Wigan Borough Partnership Board held on Monday 24th May 2010 at
St. Peter Pavilion, Hindley**

Present

Peter Smith
Liz Edmondson
Marion Andrews
Carol Watson
Sue Johnson
Shaun Donnellan
Paul Argyle
Gareth Cheesman
David Molyneux
Susan Loudon
Pam Gilligan

Ray Hutchinson
Khaled Amini
Julie Southworth
Miranda Allen
Colin Greenhalgh
Pamela Ball
Jean Garlick
Simon Dale

Apologies

Jim Maloney
Joyce Redfearn
Cath Hurst
Chris Ready
Les Higgins
Sara Utley
Pat Johnson
Trevor Barton
Joe Taylor

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Thanks noted to Liz Edmondson and other colleagues for support of the successful Wigan Life Awards campaign and awards evening.

3. Updates

3.1 LAA – 2008 / 2011

The Board received a summary update on the current performance position for the Local Area Agreement.

Simon noted that this information had been shared also with LSMG who had expressed concern about specific targets. LSMG had agreed to take immediate action to address and remedy areas of concern.

There was specific concern in relation to the risk of not achieving the Performance Reward Grant targets.

Board members were interested to offer direct support to areas requiring performance improvement – and they stressed the need for proper ownership and accountability for performance by LSMG.

It was agreed to revisit this issue at Item 7 in relation to LSP development options.

3.2 Thematic partnerships update

Miranda provided a short update on the work of the Environment Economy Culture and Housing (EECH) partnership.

She noted some good progress with the Tourism Strategy and the partnerships focus on performance tracking against LAA targets.

3.3 Big Reward Programme

Simon introduced the updated proposal for the allocation of the Performance Reward Grant (capital element) through the Township forums.

He reminded Board members of earlier agreement to use this programme to increase the perception that local people feel they have the ability to influence decisions that affect them (National Indicator 3)

Board members considered the detailed programme and methodology and made series of comments and recommendations:

It was noted that:

- It is important that the shortlist process at Township Forum level properly reflects the local priorities and the LAA targets
- We need to be mindful of the potential for lobby groups or interested parties to seek to unfairly influence the outcome of the voting process
- There is a need to commit to rigorous monitoring of any allocated funds proportionate to the total amount awarded
- The partnership with Lancashire publications and the planned publicity campaign does have the ability to promote local awareness of issues and interest in the work of Township Forums
- There is a need to ensure that support for ideas and shortlist projects can be provided effectively from Townships (mindful of staffing and resource limitations)
- There is a strong chance that different areas may choose similar projects and there is a need to enable joint projects and collaboration to develop

After discussion it was agreed that:

- There should be a single point of contact for all enquiries

- Officer support at a Township level needs to be confirmed and made available for this initiative
- Criteria for short-listing needs to be understood and applied consistently in each Forum
- After short-listing is complete – all ideas / projects should be reported to the LSP in order to validate and to consider opportunities for collaboration etc.,

4. **Township Forums**

Updated terms of reference

The Board considered the detailed report outlining changes to terms of reference and adjustments to Township boundaries.

The Board endorsed the boundary changes as described

Noting that there is already a review of Forum membership underway the Board also agreed to approve the revised Terms of reference subject to the following comment:

- There needs to be explicit support for training and capacity building at Township Forums

5. **3rd sector development**

5.1 **3rd sector commissioning: IDeA / IVAR action plan**

It was reported that several Board members had recently voiced concerns on behalf of local community organisations about the impact of new commissioning arrangements.

Simon explained that this report set out a current action plan that the local 3rd Sector Committee (chaired by the Council's Executive Director for Health and Well Being, Bernard Walker) has developed with government grant support. The action plan was seeking to improve awareness of commissioning opportunities and to make it more straightforward for all organisations to participate in the new arrangements.

The Board noted the work and endorsed the approach.
(Action: Bernard Walker / Pamela Ball)

5.2 Routes to representation: 3rd sector development

Pamela Ball introduced a detailed report outlining a proposal for the development of a comprehensive new strategy for the 3rd sector.

The report reflected on the needs of the sector and the opportunities for future growth and development.

Pamela acknowledged the strong contributions already made by the community networks and other community engagement programmes – alongside the long term role of voluntary bodies.

She noted that for the LSP community and voluntary sector representatives were often asked to come forward without a clear support mechanism (and at time without any clear contribute or mandate).

The Board welcomed the overall approach and proposal. There was strong support for an approach which sought representation from beyond the usual suspects.

There was also a call to ensure that the development avoids the “consultation overload” dilemma.

Khaled stressed the importance of ensuring that any training provided to community and voluntary sector participants should be fully accredited.

The report was accepted.

It was agreed that CVS should lead the development of this work – consulting with relevant 3rd sector stakeholders, engaging the support of GMCVO and NAVCO as appropriate

(Action – Pamela Ball / Jean Garlick)

6. TOTAL PLACE / TOTAL CAPITAL

Sue Johnson updated Board members on the current position of the Total Place approach and the development of the City Region Strategy.

She reported that Wigan had achieved Pathfinder status for the TOTAL CAPITAL programme in recognition of the good work it had completed within the Total Place pilot work.

Mapping work was now underway and although there was still some uncertainty due to political changes at a national level, there was some prospect of significant local benefits from pursuing a stronger joined up approach to management of

public assets.

Sue noted that there was a seminar planned to be held in Wigan on Thursday 27th May in relation to the TOTAL CAPITAL programme.

7. **LSP Development**

The Board considered at length the core proposals included in this report. They noted the significant discussion and consultation that had taken place following the Peer review in November 2009 and the need to ensure that a structured development and improvement approach was put in place.

There was an understanding of the need for the Board to recognise the distinction between strategic and tactical matters. This included the need for the Board to take a strong over view role to manage the overall direction and priorities for the LSP.

The Board felt strongly that it had an important role to take in relation to supporting the engagement objectives for the LSP and to support the work of the Township Forums.

In overall terms the Board agreed to:

- Adopt an annual programme of thematic and locality workshops. These will engage thematic partnerships and other stakeholders including elected members engaged in the Council's scrutiny programme. Each session will receive a concise briefing from each of the partners in relation to progress and effectiveness

The Board also agreed to:

- Host the annual convention
- Undertake the LSP annual self assessment
- Produce an annual report and conduct a formal AGM

The Board also acknowledged that:

- LSMG would take on the role of handling all business management issues for the LSP
- The Advisory group should develop a more distinct support role – including the implementation of organisational development programmes as needed to support long term improvement

The Board agreed that the next meeting on 12th July should look in detail at the likely work programme for the planned series of thematic workshops.

They also agreed that this should include time for Board members to get to know one another better and to review how the role and contribution of members might be maximised.

8. **AOB**
None

9. **Programme of meetings**
12th July 2010