

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
BOARD HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY 27 JUNE 2011, AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Councillor Tony Jackson (EHC) (Chairman)

Angela Alder	- Voluntary Sector
Mike Carver	- Hertford Regional College
Andy Forbes	- Hertford Regional College
Councillor Peter Ruffles	- Herts County Council
Martin Wigley	- GSK
Peter Wright	- NHS

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Andrew Godfrey	- Herts County Council
Paul Huckstep	- Housing Association
Mike Collier	- Herts County Council
Will O'Neill	- Head of Community and Cultural Services (EHC)
Mekhola Ray	- Community Projects Team Manager (EHC)
Ian Richardson	- Voluntary Sector
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services (EHC)
Jon Speed	- Herts Constabulary

Nicky Williams - NHS

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Copestake - OPM
Rob Francis - OPM
Laura Benny - Herts Young
Homeless

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Murray Foster, Chris Hayward, Tim Hutchings, John McDowall, Sally Newton and Tracy White.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Peter Wright asked to give the presentation on “It’s your NHS – Let’s use it right” at the next meeting.

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

3 RESOURCE MAPPING - OPM (OFFICE FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT)

Phil Copestake and Rob Francis, of OPM gave a presentation on their findings so far on resource mapping for the LSP Board. They had interviewed members and their colleagues and held workshops. These had shown some key areas for further work. They emphasised the need for planning, areas where value could be added by the Board needed to be identified and data needed to be shared and results monitored. They thought an annual Away Day for the Board would be useful to set priorities away from the normal routine.

They said their work was very much a “work in progress” and asked for comments from the Board.

The main headings for consideration which they gave were

identifying opportunities for joint working, translating this into action and monitoring outcomes.

It was important for all members to know what other partners were doing. The load of work needed to be spread and there needed to be support at a senior level for the work of the Board.

They noted that there had been some difficulties in engaging the community. This needed to be addressed. It could be that some things being done should be discontinued.

They had identified the following three areas for attention:

Community Safety – possibly increasing the contribution from businesses for policing the night-time economy;

Older people – increasing volunteering to take older people shopping/collect prescriptions;

Complex families – increasing voluntary help with parenting skills.

They suggested the next step could be for the LSP Board to identify small groups to work on these issues.

George Robertson suggested Officers use this information to draw up a new action plan based on the existing one.*

The Chairman asked that this be done as soon as possible. George agreed to prepare the plan and e-mail it to the Board for approval within two weeks. *

Anne Freimanis said she hoped to combine the existing theme groups into three streams to take the place of the LSP Strategy Group.*

The Chairman said the three priorities that East Herts Council was considering were: people e.g. care for the vulnerable including older people; place e.g. keeping the District safe and tidy; and prosperity e.g. night-time economy and public order.

Anne Freimanis said it was important for partners to discuss their common priorities before budgets were set. She suggested this should be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.*

Angela Alder and Jon Speed expressed support for themes including older people and the night-time economy.

Peter Wright expressed support for fewer meetings but hoped that people would be involved as necessary. The Chairman said that people could be invited on ad hoc basis when they were needed.

The Chairman thanked Phil and Rob for their presentation.

4 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman said that an interim board had been set up with Tim Wilson as Chairman for the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). He gave details of the members from a wide variety of business and representatives from County and District Councils. Priorities for the board would include faster broadband and establishing an enterprise zone. It was hoped funding would come from DEFRA once the East of England bodies had been disbanded.

5 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN AND PRG

Mekhola Ray introduced the report which gave an update on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Action Plan and Performance Related Grant (PRG). She said Ware Skatepark would be launched in October.

George Robertson said the Board needed to decide what to do with the unawarded PRG.

Peter Wright asked the Board to agree to match fund £10,000

of the PRG capital funds for the Health Inequalities Project with the NHS and the Board agreed to this.

The Board felt the remaining funds should be allocated once the resource mapping exercise was complete.

Stronger Communities

Ian Richardson from CVS gave a presentation on the ways in which funding of £25,000 had been spent to the benefit of numerous community projects. He said he could easily spend the same amount on similar items. The grant had meant that organisations could increase the events they held and many voluntary organisations were involved.

Herts Young Homeless Group

Laura Benny gave a presentation on the Herts Young Homeless Group's project to educate young people about the realities of leaving home.

She said the Group had funding from the County Council for its core work but this additional work needed donations from elsewhere.

She said the education project worked with secondary age children. They went into schools, youth projects and projects for young people who had been excluded from school.

Feedback confirmed they were exceeding the targets in their Service Level Agreement in preventing and educating young people about homelessness.

The education project used peer education, with young people sharing their experiences of homelessness. They had also set up a website with funds from the PRG to provide a teaching resource for teachers etc.

Andy Forbes from Hertford Regional College said he was interested in running some of these sessions at the college.

Members commented on the need for this preventative work, even if numbers affected were small, because of the effects on mental health and crime amongst other things.

Laura agreed to give details of the work in East Herts (numbers affected etc) to George Robertson so he could circulate this to the Board.*

The Chairman thanked Laura for her presentation.

It was AGREED that the Board notes the progress on the projects and the exceptions and agrees to wait until the resource mapping exercise is completed before awarding the balance of the PRG, with the exception of £10,000 capital for the Health Inequalities project which would be paid as match funding with the NHS.

6 FUTURE OF LSP STRATEGY GROUP AND FORUM

Anne Freimanis said the future of the LSP Strategy Group had been discussed earlier.

As regards the Forum, it was felt this was no longer meeting its purpose and numbers attending had declined significantly. However, this was the only involvement Town and Parish Councils had with the LSP. She would be speaking to Council Clerks at a regular meeting she had with them to find a way forward. George Robertson would inform the Board of the outcome by e-mail.*

7 FORWARD PLAN

It was AGREED that:

(A) Officers would update the plan and send it to Board members for comments; * and

(B) the recommendations of the Community and Public Engagement Task and Finish Group would be

circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Health and Wellbeing Board

Peter Wright outlined the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board would include representatives from County and District Councils, patients and GP practices.

Future Forum

Peter Wright said he would send details of new proposals for the NHS to the Board members. He outlined some of them and said he would give more detail at the next meeting if it was available.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was NOTED that the next meeting would be on 19 September 2011 at Hertford Regional College (Ware Campus).

* FOR ACTION - GR

The meeting closed at 11.00 am

Chairman
Date