

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Together (Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership) Board held at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester on Monday, 19 November 2007.

PRESENT

Members

Mr D R Parsons CC (Chairman) – Leader, Leicestershire County Council
(in the Chair)

Mr J Gant, CB (Vice Chairman) – Chairman, Leicestershire County and
Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT) (representing the Health Sector)

Cllr D C Bill – Chairman, Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership
(LSP).

Cllr R Blunt – Chairman, North West Leicestershire LSP.

Cllr J Boyce – Chairman, Oadby and Wigston LSP.

Mr J E T Froggatt – Director of Planning and Development, East Midlands
Airport.

Cllr M Graham – Chairman, Melton LSP.

Cllr G Hart – Chairman, Harborough LSP.

Rev G R Jackson – Chair, Board of Social Responsibility (Faith Communities'
representative).

Mr N Lambert – Chair, Stronger Communities Board

Mr I D Ould CC – Chairman, Children and Young Person's Services Board.

Mr P Panchal – Chief Executive, Leicestershire Ethnic Minorities' Partnership
(LEMP).

Mrs L A S Pendleton CC – Chairman, Leicestershire Rural Partnership Board

Mr J B Rhodes CC – Chairman, Leicestershire Police Authority and
representative of the Community Safety Programme Board.

Cllr R J Shepherd – Chairman, Charnwood LSP.

Mr D Sprason CC – Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet Lead Member
for Adult Social Care and Health (representing Older People).

Mr M Traynor OBE – Group Managing Director, Leicestershire Chamber of
Commerce (Business Sector Representative).

Mr J Warren – Leicestershire Volunteer Centre Network (representing the
Voluntary Sector).

Councillor E Webster-Williams, Chairman, Blaby LSP.

Observers/Officers in Support

Ms L Aisbett, Chief Executive, Melton Borough Council

Mr S Atkinson, Chief Executive, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Mrs W Back, Chief Executive, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Ms C E Fisher, Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council

Mr B Hayes, Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council

Ms N Rickard – Policy Team Leader, Leicestershire County Council

Mr A Robinson – Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council

Mr J Sinnott, Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council

2.

Supt. P Smith) representing Leicestershire
Supt. D Tilley) Constabulary.
Mrs S Whiles, Chief Executive, Blaby District Council
Mr G Cave, Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council.

Also in Attendance

Mr R Green – Chief Executive, Leicester City Council (minute no. 273)
Mr H Mistry – Team Leader (Research and Information), Leicestershire
County Council (minute no. 273)
Mr J P Wright – Senior Policy and Performance Officer (LAA), Leicestershire
County Council (minute 275)

270. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

271. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the following:-

Members

Mr R Moore (LSEP), Mr P Roffey, CC (Leicestershire and Rutland
Combined Fire Authority) and Mr J Springthorpe (Leicestershire and
Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils).

Officers

Mr H Robinson (Leicestershire Fire Authority), Assistant Chief
Constable W. Yeadon and Supt. M Wilson (Leicestershire
Constabulary), and Mr D Tantum (GOEM).

272. Minutes of the meeting of the Leicestershire Together Board held on 3
September 2007

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 3 September 2007
were agreed and signed.

273. Community Cohesion

- (i) The Vice-Chairman introduced the discussion item focussing on
Community Cohesion issues. Three presentations were given
under this heading as set out below:-

3.

(a) Managing Migration Issues

Rodney Green, Chief Executive of Leicester City Council, gave a presentation on these issues. Copies of the slides were circulated at the meeting and a copy is filed with these minutes.

Mr Green began his presentation by setting the issue in context and he then examined the potential assets and threats from increased migration to the UK set out in an emerging strategy and programme for action to deal with the issues both nationally and locally.

(b) Cohesive Communities in Leicestershire

Harry Mistry gave a presentation outlining the conclusions of the Cohesive Communities in Leicestershire report which would contribute towards the evidence base for the Sustainable Community Strategy and the next LAA. Copies of the slides were circulated at the meeting and a copy if filed with these minutes.

(c) Stronger Communities Strategy

Neil Lambert drew attention to page 29 in the draft Sustainable Council Strategy (attached as Appendix 1 to paper A to this meeting of the Board) which summarised the key factors under the Stronger Communities Strategy – one of the cross-cutting themes in the SCS. He outlined the priorities being addressed in this regard.

(ii) The Vice Chairman then invited questions and comments on the issues covered in the presentation and the following main points were made:-

- Rev. Jackson referred to the need to give consideration to the numbers and needs of refugees and asylum seekers in discussions on migration issues; and also to deprived conditions amongst some migrants living in rural communities.
- Mr Panchal drew attention to the movements in the Black and Ethnic Minority Communities from the City to the County which should also be addressed in the debate on managing migration.
- Mr Boyce referred to migration issues in Oadby and Wigston and the need to address the issue of dependants who may be lacking in required skills.

4.

- Supt. Smith said partner organisations would need to consider further any changes in service delivery to reflect all users' requirements. He drew attention to the issues of gangs and firearm usage; people trafficking and identify theft which were becoming increasingly prevalent.

(iii) The Vice-Chairman thanked the speakers for their presentations and members for their comments.

It was AGREED that the contents of the presentations be received and noted.

274. Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy, the Second Local Area Agreement and Sub-Regional Arrangements/Potential Multi-Area Agreement

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council providing an update on the SCS, LAA and sub-regional arrangements. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with these minutes.

(a) Sustainable Community Strategy

Members were informed that:

- the final draft document had now been published for consultation (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).
- the SCS concentrated on 'outcomes' and the new LAA would focus on 'actions'.
- the SCS would be discussed further at the Leicestershire Together Conference on 3 December.
- The consultation period would expire on 16 January 2008 but responses were encouraged to be made before Christmas if possible.

(b) LAA(2)

Members were informed that:

- GOEM had prepared an early draft of its view of the priorities for Leicestershire (Appendix 3).
- a new draft National Indicator Set had been published for consultation (Appendix 2 to the report) and this comprised 198 indicators against which the County Council would report annually.
- Task and Finish Groups had been established to progress LAA development and delivery arrangements.
- An additional meeting of SSOG would be held on 13 December to prioritise the outcomes from the SCS for

5.

inclusion in the LAA and the results of this meeting would be reported to the next meeting of the Board.

(c) Sub-Regional Arrangements/Potential MAA:

Members were informed that the LAA Fourth Theme (economical development, transport, housing) had the most obvious cross over between the City and County Council areas and this was being examined in relation to the development of possible MAA for which governance arrangements, including a Strategy Group, were suggested in the report.

The following points were discussed:-

- It would be necessary to decide upon the outcomes from the SCS to be taken forward into the LAA. Leicestershire's progress would be measured through the LAA on around 50 targets, including 17 mandatory Children and Young People's/education targets, and the other 30 plus targets would be negotiated through GOEM between December and March. It was considered important as a next stage, to seek to identify the 10-15 most important outcomes and to fit the indicators against them. SSOG, at its next meeting, would discuss what these outcomes should be.
- Discussions would also take place on a possible MAA for Safer Communities which would consider the role of the Community Safety Programme Board.
- The possibility of having an independent Chairman of the MAA Strategy Group was raised.
- The Chairman invited the representatives of the District LSPs present to give their specific views. Cllr Shepherd asked for the contributions made by DLSPs to be recognised and identified more clearly in future reports. This suggestion was welcomed by Cllrs Bill and Hart. Cllr Boyce considered the DLSPs would shape the SCS for their individual Districts. The Chairman assured members that future papers would fully reflect DLSPs' views together with the 6Cs/9Cs' cross-border issues. It was confirmed that DLSPs could have an important role to play in achieving the outcomes. John Sinnott added that it would also be helpful if the DLSPs could provide the County Council with the timetables of their programmes for preparation of their own Community Strategies.

6.

- Brian Hayes commented that there would be activities and interventions covered by the LAA Fourth Theme which were better addressed at a local level rather than at a sub-regional level and which might therefore be more appropriately placed within the LAA rather than an MAA.

He hoped there would be a place for the District Councils in the governance arrangements. It was confirmed that this would be reflected in a future paper to the Board. It was also confirmed that a meeting was being arranged to discuss the details of the proposed sub-Regional arrangements to which District Councils would be invited to be represented.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that progress in relation to the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the proposed timetable be noted;
- (ii) that, in respect of the next LAA, developments in relation to the National Indicator Sets, the Task and Finish Groups proposed to progress LAA development and delivery, the additional meeting of SSOG on 13 December (that would report on to the next meeting of the Board) and the proposed Leicestershire risk assessment all be noted; and
- (iii) that the proposals for sub-Regional working be noted; and

275. Local Area Agreement (LAA) Quarter 2 – 2007/08

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council providing an update on key risks against the indicators within the LAA and on the reward target risk assessment exercise. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with these minutes.

The following specific comments on 'red' indicators were made:

- Mr Sprason urged that an extra effort be made to seek to achieve a higher number of eligible people claiming benefits (refs. 5-9, 5-10 and 5-11).
- Mr Ould queried the benefit of reducing the number of unopposed Parish Council seats at local Elections (ref. 3.3) and officers undertook to discuss this further with him after the meeting.

It was AGREED that current progress in relation to LAA indicator performance be approved and a fuller report on reward target risk assessment work be submitted to the next meeting.

276. Leicestershire Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Support Draft Strategic and Delivery Plan 2008-2014

(The Chairman invited Neil Lambert (in his capacity as Chair of the VCS Infrastructure Working Group) to Chair the meeting for the consideration of this item).

The Board considered a report by SSOG seeking views on the proposal in the Leicestershire VCS Infrastructure Support Services Draft Strategic and Delivery Plan. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with these minutes.

Mr Lambert introduced the report explaining that the Plan, which was currently subject to consultation (expiring on 27 November), sets out a high level vision and three possible delivery models for the sector. He then invited members' comments on the illustrated models and the following points were made:-

- Cllr Boyce considered there was still work to be done in developing a preferred option and a further report to the Board may be necessary.
- Mr Panchal hoped the needs of the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities would be prioritised in the preferred model.
- Rev. Jackson queried why the Faith Communities' role was not mentioned specifically. Mr Lambert replied that the report concentrated only on infrastructure at this stage.
- Mr Ould considered SMART targets needed to be applied to the baseline data and outcomes. Mr Lambert replied that a subsequent business plan would be produced which would address this issue.

Mr Atkinson asked if a City/County delivery model, with a related 'hub and spokes' element, could also be considered.

In conclusion, Mr Lambert said the VCS Infrastructure Consortium would be considering all responses to the consultation exercise and it would also consider a possible hybrid model (involving both a single Infrastructure Support organisation and existing VCS organisations acting as service delivery partners, community anchor organisations and representatives of the sector) and the comments made at this meeting of the Board.

It was AGREED that the comments made at the meeting on proposals for changes to VCS infrastructure be considered by the VCS Infrastructure Consortium, together with other responses received

during the consultation period and a further report be made to a future meeting of the Board.

277. Draft Leicestershire Together Engagement Framework

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council seeking approval of the draft Leicestershire Together Engagement Framework. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with these minutes.

It was confirmed that District Councils were included in the list of 'communities of geography' contained in the framework diagram as Appendix 'A' to the report.

It was AGREED that approval be given to the Leicestershire Together Engagement Framework (attached as Appendix 'B' to the report).

278. Summary of Issues Discussed at the Recent Meeting of the Strategic Senior Officers' Group (SSOG)

The Board considered a report summarising the main issues discussed at the meeting of SSOG held on 31 October 2007. A copy of the report marked 'E' and the notes of the meeting are filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED that the notes of the meeting of SSOG on 31 October 2007 be noted.

279. Leicestershire Together Annual Conference 2007

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council providing a brief summary of the contents of the Leicestershire Together Annual Conference to be held on 3 December 2007. A copy of the report marked 'F' is filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

280. National Forest Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) LEADER Application

The Board considered a report by the Leicestershire Rural Partnership providing an update on the submission of a funding application for the RDPE LEADER approach. A copy of the report marked 'G' is filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

281. Member Involvement in the Local Area Agreement and the Sustainable Community Strategy

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council providing information (as requested at the previous meeting – minute 260(ii) refers) about the role of Local Authority Members in the LAA and the SCS. A copy of the report marked 'H' is filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

282. Any Other Business: Connect 2 Bid for Big Lottery Funding

The Chairman informed the Board that the Big Lottery was reaching the final stage of competition for a single award of £50 million which would be decided by a public vote. The only national scheme was a bid by Sustrans for Connect 2, a partnership of 79 countrywide schemes designed to make connections necessary to encourage people to walk or cycle on local journeys. If Connect 2 was successful, a grant of £700,000 would be made towards works in and around Watermead Country Park to improve access arrangements. On-line voting would start on 26 November and it was proposed to send e-mails to Board members requesting them to forward voting information to their staff encouraging them to support the Connect 2 scheme. Further details of the scheme at Watermead were available at the meeting for members' information and a copy is filed with these minutes.

283. Dates of Meetings in 2008

It was AGREED that meetings of the Board be held at 11.00am on the following dates in 2008:

Monday 10 March

Monday 23 June

Monday 15 September

Monday 15 December [*Note: Subsequent to the meeting it became necessary to bring forward the date of this meeting to Monday 8 December.*]