

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Together (Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership) (LLSP) Board held at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester on Monday 8 December 2008

PRESENT

Members

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

Mr J Gant CB (Vice-Chairman) – Chairman, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland (representing the Health Sector and the Health Improvement Partnership) (in the Chair for minute numbers 323-325).

Cllr D C Bill – Chairman, Hinckley and Bosworth LSP

Cllr J Boyce – Chairman, Oadby and Wigston LSP

Ms S Churchill – Vice-Chairman, North West Leicestershire LSP

Mr J E T Froggatt – Director of Planning and Development, East Midlands Airport (business sector representative)

Mr N Lambert – Chair, Stronger Communities Board

Cllr M Graham – Chairman, Melton LSP

Mr I D Ould, CC – Chairman, Children and Young People's Service Board

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

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

Ms S Quinlan – Vice-Chair of ENABLE (Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire)

Cllr R Shepherd – Chairman, Charnwood Together (LSP)

Mrs M L Sherwin CC – representing Chairman, Leicestershire Police Authority

Mr C A Stanley CC – Vice-Chairman, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority

Cllr A Swatridge – Chairman, Harborough LSP

Mr M Traynor OBE – Group Managing Director, Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce (business sector representative)

Mr J Warren – Leicestershire Volunteer Sector Network (representing the voluntary sector)

Cllr E F White – Chairman, Blaby LSP

Mr P Yates – Chair, Board of Social Responsibility (Faith Communities' representative)

Observers/Officers in Support

Ms L Aisbett – Chief Executive, Melton Borough Council.

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

Mr A Davies – representing Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council.

Ms J Doran – representing Chief Executive, Harborough District Council.

Mr M Hall – Chief Executive, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

Ms M Lyle – GOEM (Locality Manager, Leicester and Leicestershire).

Chief Supt R Nixon – Leicestershire Constabulary.

Ms S F Phipps – representing Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council.

Ms N Rickard – Policy and Partnership Team Leader, Leicestershire County Council.
Mr A Robinson – Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council.
Mr H Robinson – Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.
Mr J Sinnott – Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council.
Mr G Cave – Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council.

Also in Attendance

Mr K Liles – Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Leicestershire (minute 323)
Mr S Dibnah – Regeneration Consultant, LeicesterShire Economic Partnership (LSEP) (minute 324)
Mr A Brown – Team Leader, Performance and Improvement, Leicestershire County Council (minute 325).

319. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

320. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of:

Members

Cllr R Blunt (Chairman, North West Leicestershire LSP), Mr R Moore (Chairman, LSEP), Mr J B Rhodes CC (Chairman, Leicestershire Police Authority), Mr P Roffey DL, CC (Chairman, Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority), Mr D A Sprason CC (Older People's Partnership Board representative) and Mr J Springthorpe (Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils).

Officers

Mr B Hayes (Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council) and Ms C Fisher (Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council).

321. Minutes of the meeting of the Leicestershire Together Board held on 15 September 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2008 were agreed and signed.

322. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

The Chairman, Cllr R. Shepherd and Cllr E. F. White each declared a personal non-prejudicial interest (as members of the East Midlands Regional Assembly) in respect of the items on Sub-Regional

arrangements for Economic Development and the Multi-Area Agreement, and the proposed Pennbury Eco-Town update. These matters were considered under minutes 326 and 330 below.

(In accordance with the practice followed at previous meetings of the Board, the Chairman invited the Vice-Chairman to take the Chair during the consideration of the discussion of the discussion items numbered 5-7 on the agenda).

Mr J Gant – in the Chair

323. Voluntary Action Leicestershire – The New Countywide Infrastructure Organisation

The Vice-Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Kevan Liles, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Leicestershire – the successful bidder for the Countywide Infrastructure Organisation (CIO) following the conclusion of the procurement process. Mr Liles then gave a presentation on Voluntary Action Leicestershire's vision for the future development of the Leicestershire voluntary and community sector, the organisation's targets for improvement and how it is proposed to manage the transition arrangements. A copy of the slides is filed with these minutes. The following main points were made in the presentation:-

- The new contract with Voluntary Action Leicestershire would commence on 1 April 2009.
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire had indicated its intention to develop a strong and positive relationship with the Voluntary Action and Volunteer Centres in the County.
- Three key aspects under the contract were highlighted:
 1. Volunteering – Voluntary Action Leicestershire would seek to encourage best practice in volunteering.
 2. Supporting Groups – a first edition of a directory of voluntary groups in the County had been produced (which listed over 900 groups) and this would be circulated widely with a request for the names of other groups to be identified to enable a comprehensive directory to be produced in the future.
 3. Engagement and Representation – Voluntary Action Leicestershire was looking to work with Leicestershire Together partners on how it could deliver better services to the voluntary sector in the County.
- A series of briefing papers would be circulated before 1 April on managing the transition process.

The Vice Chairman then invited members' comments and questions and Mr Liles responded to the main points as follows:-

- All staff currently employed on VCS infrastructure work would be given the opportunity to transfer to Voluntary Action Leicestershire's employment.
- The target of £2.5m new income for local groups was an aspirational figure based upon what had been achieved in Leicester City.
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire would seek to protect the current level of service delivery and would report on a district by district basis on the delivery of services.
- It was intended that Dial-A-Ride services would continue to be delivered by Voluntary Actions.
- It was accepted that local volunteer centres (for example, the Marlene Reid Centre, Coalville) acted as important focal points for access and information.
- The separate service needs of the City and County were recognised and a clear separation of service provision would be maintained.
- A County implementation plan would be drawn up in January/February and a range of stakeholders (including Faith groups) would be involved in this process.

Mr Parsons reported that, in his capacity as Leader of the County Council, he had met recently with representatives of the Voluntary Actions and Volunteer Centres to reassure them of the County Council's continued support. At that meeting he had been asked for, and had given, an assurance that £70,000 was guaranteed for the future role of Voluntary Actions as community hubs and service delivery partners. Mr Parsons added that a follow-up meeting would be held to which Mr Liles was invited to attend. Mr Liles indicated that he was happy to do so and would also be pleased to attend a future meeting of the Board to report back on achievements in the first year.

In conclusion, the Vice-Chairman thanked Mr Liles for his presentation and responding to members' questions and, on behalf of the Board, wished Voluntary Action Leicestershire every success.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the contents of the presentation be noted; and

- (ii) that Mr Liles be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board to give a presentation on Voluntary Action Leicestershire's achievements in its first year.

324. Leicester Shire Strategy for the 2012 Olympic Games

The Vice-Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Steve Dibnah of LSEP who gave a presentation on the City and County action plan for the 2012 Games which had been co-ordinated by the LSEP. A copy of the slides and the strategy document are filed with these minutes. The presentation detailed the strategy, aims and objectives, and potential outcomes for Leicestershire and Leicester of the Games being held in Britain. Seven themes had been identified under the strategy and action plans under these themes would be prepared and distributed for comments. No extra money would be provided by the Government to assist with the delivery of the strategy. A steering group had been established to oversee its delivery.

It was reported that the County and City Councils were giving active consideration to ways of taking forward the strategy after the LSEP has been wound up in April 2009.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr Dibnah for his presentation.

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

325. Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)/Local Area Agreement (LAA) Delivery Planning and LAA2 Refresh

The Vice-Chairman invited Andy Robinson and Andy Brown to give a joint presentation on SCS/LAA Delivery and Refresh issues. A copy of the slides is filed with these minutes.

The presentation expanded upon the main issues in the report of the Strategic Senior Officers' Group on these matters; a copy of which, marked 'A', is filed with these minutes. The following main points were made:-

- It was suggested that a sub-group be established to consider the issues that had been flagged up by the Challenge Task Group in its consideration of the LAA draft delivery plans (as listed under paragraph 5 of the report).
- An extra £2½m had been identified to support LAA2 delivery. The Challenge Task Group had recommended funding in principle for some Delivery Plans for 2009/10 of £2.3m, subject to further refinements, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report that was tabled at the meeting (a copy of which is also filed with these minutes).

- It had not yet been possible to assess progress of SCS activity outside the LAA. It was now proposed to undertake delivery planning for non-LAA targets in a different way and a template would be supplied to partners for completion. A further report would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.
- Detailed work would be undertaken in December/January to finalise the LAA2 Refresh submission in advance of its consideration by SSOG on 28 January and it being reported to the next meeting of the Board.

In respect of the first bullet point above, the Board supported the establishment of a sub-group and considered it would be appropriate for this issue to be referred to the sub-group to consider membership and related issues that was recommended for establishment in the report under item 9 on the agenda.

In response to comments and questions at the meeting the following points were made:-

- In connection with the areas for the Refresh process listed in Appendix 2, it was reported that national information would be needed in order to be able properly to evaluate the local situation in respect of matters from the Children and Young People's perspective and in respect of the Places Survey.
- With reference to the proposal in paragraph 12 of the report to delegate authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board to agree the overall budgeting approach, it was clarified that this would include determination of which projects would receive funding.
- With reference to paragraph 9 of the report, it was noted that any gap in funding for the Delivery Plans would require to be underwritten by partners. It was reported that a report would be presented to the County Council's Cabinet on this matter.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that a sub-group be established to examine the issues arising from the LAA2 delivery planning process set out in paragraph 5 of the report and a report back be made to the next meeting of the Board (also see minute 327(iii) below);
- (ii) that, subject to some further clarifications, it be noted that robust delivery plans would shortly be in place across LAA2 (excluding economic targets which would be dealt

with under the separate Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) process);

- (iii) that delegated authority be given to the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board to consider the outcome of the further work being undertaken arising from the LAA2 challenge process and to agree the overall budgetary approach to ensure that the maximum number of the projects that require additional resources can now be mobilised;
- (iv) that the areas subject to the LAA Refresh process, set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted and it be noted that the outcomes would be reported for approval to the next meeting of SSOG on 28 January; and
- (v) that it be noted that a further report would be presented to the next meeting on SCS delivery planning.

(The Chairman resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting)

Mr D R Parsons in the Chair

326. Economic Development – Sub-Regional Arrangements and the Multi-Area Agreement (MAA)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Senior Officers' Group providing an update on the arrangements for economic development and seeking approval for the MAA. A copy of the report, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

Members were assured that the MAA would be delivered on a countywide basis and it contained significant schemes to benefit Leicestershire's towns and rural areas as well as the City. Mrs Pendleton, in her capacity as Chairman of the Leicestershire Rural Partnership (LRP), said the LRP would ensure that rural areas' needs were addressed.

The Board requested officers to reconsider the wording in the Foreword to the MAA to ensure it was appropriate in view of the current economic downturn.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the development of arrangements for economic development at sub-regional level be noted; and
- (ii) that the MAA be approved for submission to the Government.

327. Review of Membership and Related Issues

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council seeking approval for a review of the membership and structure of the Board and the development of proposals for the effective scrutiny of the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and the Multi-Area Agreement. A copy of the report, marked 'C', is filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that a sub-group of the Board be established to review membership and related issues and to report back to the next meeting of the Board;
- (ii) that the sub-group be comprised of the following Board members: Mr Gant (Chairman), Cllr Swatridge, Mr Lambert, Mr Traynor, Mr Ould and Mr Yates; and
- (iii) that the sub-group also be requested to examine and report back on the LAA2 delivery planning issues referred to under minute 325(i) above.

328. The Leicestershire Together Forum

The Board considered a report of Leicestershire County Council on the outcomes of the first meeting of the Leicestershire Together Forum. A copy of the report, marked 'D', is filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the outcomes of the first meeting of the Leicestershire Together Forum be noted;
- (ii) that Board members would raise awareness of the Forum within their organisations; and
- (iii) that Board members would contribute, as relevant, to the agendas of future Forum meetings.

329. Review of "Africa's Hope" Performance by Mashrika

The Board considered a report of Leicestershire County Council on the recent performance by Mashrika (an internationally – experienced youth performing arts company from Rwanda) in Leicestershire which told the story of the genocide in their country. A copy of the report, marked 'E', is filed with these minutes.

The Board was pleased to hear that the performance had been well-attended and that those present had commented afterwards on the valuable lessons learned through seeing this powerful and emotive performance.

It was AGREED to note the recent successful 'Africa's Hope' performance by Mashrika at William Bradford Community College, Earl Shilton.

330. Summary of Issues Discussed at the Meeting of the Strategic Senior Officers' Group (SSOG) on 19 November 2008

The Board received a report summarising the main issues discussed at the meeting of the SSOG on 19 November, attached to which were the minutes of the meeting and copies of the reports on the following issues: (a) Community and Neighbourhood Engagement, (b) Regional Plan – Partial Review, (c) Participatory Budgeting, (d) Sub-Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, (e) Commissioning, Localities and Citizen Insight, and (f) Pennbury Eco-Town update. A copy of the report, marked 'F', is filed with these minutes.

It was AGREED that the report summarising the issues discussed at the meeting of SSOG on 19 November be noted.

321. Any Other Business

None.

332. Dates of Meetings in 2009

It was AGREED that meetings of the Board be held at 11.00am on the following dates in 2009:

Monday 9 March
Monday 6 July
Monday 14 September
Monday 14 December

11.00am – 12.15pm
8/12/08

CHAIRMAN