

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Together (Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership) Board held at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester on Monday 12th March 2007.

## PRESENT

### Members

Councillor M Bevins, Chairman, Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership  
Mr C Ellis, representing Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership (LEMP) (Minutes 234-239)  
Mr C Foster, Chair, Physical and Sensory Disability Programme Board  
Mr J Froggatt, Director of Planning and Development, East Midlands Airport  
Mr J Gant, Chairman, Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT)  
Councillor M Graham, Chairman, Melton Local Strategic Partnership  
Ms J Hamilton-Colcough, Chair, Harborough Local Strategic Partnership  
Mr J Haslam, Vice-Chairman of ENABLE  
Mr A Kershaw CC, Cabinet Lead Member for the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA), Leicestershire County Council  
Mr N Lambert, Chairman, Stronger Communities Board  
Mr I D Ould CC, Chairman, Children and Young Persons Board  
Mr P Panchal, Chief Executive, Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership (LEMP) (Minutes 223-234)  
Mrs L A S Pendleton CC, Chairman, Leicestershire Rural Partnership  
Mr J B Rhodes CC, Chairman, Leicestershire Police Authority  
Mr P Roffey DL, CC, Chairman, Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Combined Fire Authority  
Mr D Sprason CC, Cabinet Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Leicestershire County Council (representing the older people's sector)  
Councillor G Tacey, Chairman, North West Leicestershire LSP  
Mr M Traynor, OBE, Acting Chairman, Leicester Shire Economic Partnership (LSEP)  
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 Fisher, Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council  
Mr S F Phipps, representing Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council  
Ms N Rickard, Policy Team, Leader, Leicestershire County Council  
Mr A Robinson, Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council  
Mr H Robinson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service  
Ms S Smith, Chief Executive, Harborough District Council  
Mrs S Whiles, Chief Executive, Blaby District Council  
Mr G Cave, Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council

Also in Attendance

Mr O Goode (Minute 234)

Mr K Aubrey, Corporate Director, Melton Borough Council (Minute 235)

Mr J Harrison, Senior Policy Officer, Leicestershire County Council (Minute 236)

223. Introductory Remarks

The Assistant Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council reported that, unfortunately, the Chairman, Mr David Parsons CC, was unwell and unable to attend the meeting. He reminded members that the previous Vice-Chairman, Mr M Wells (Chairman of the then Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT), had resigned from the Board toward the end of the previous year upon the re-organisation of the PCTs and that the Board's Peer Challenge Sub-Group had noted that a new Vice-Chairman would be decided at this meeting. In this regard, the Chairman of the new Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT, Mr John Gant, had indicated his willingness to serve as new Vice-Chairman if the Board agreed.

224. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Leicestershire Together Board

The Assistant Chief Executive invited nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board.

It was proposed by Mr Traynor, seconded by Mr Rhodes and carried that Mr John Gant be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Gant then took the Chair for the meeting.

Mr J Gant – In the Chair

225. Welcome

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to those new members for which this was their first meeting.

226. Apologies for Absence

The Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Board, wished Mr David Parsons a speedy recovery.

Apologies for absence were also recorded on behalf of:-

(a) Board Members

Councillor J Boyce (Chairman, Oadby and Wigston LSP),  
Councillor J Earnshaw (Chairman, Leicestershire Association of  
Parish and Local Councils), and Reverend Gill Jackson (Faith  
Communities representative).

(b) Officers/observers

Mr B Hayes (Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council),  
Mr J Sinnott, (Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council),  
and  
Mr D Tantum (GOEM)

227. Reverend Gill Jackson

The Board was informed that Reverend Gill Jackson had recently won  
the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Woman of the Year Award.

It was RESOLVED that the Board's congratulations be passed to  
Reverend Gill Jackson on this achievement.

228. Minutes of the meeting of the Leicestershire Together Board held on 16  
November 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 16 November 2006  
were agreed and signed.

229. Notes of the meetings of the Strategic Senior Officers Group (SSOG)  
held on 3 January and 14 February 2007

The notes of the meetings of SSOG held on 3 January and 14  
February 2007 were noted.

230. Key Changes to Leicestershire Together's structure, membership and  
ways of working

The Board considered a further report of its Peer Challenge Sub-Group  
proposing a programme of activity under a number of headings in  
respect of key changes to the structure, membership and ways of  
working of Leicestershire Together. A copy of the report marked 'C' is  
filed with these minutes.

Members were reminded that, at their previous meeting, approved had  
been given for the Sub-Group, in conjunction with the Chairman, to  
finalise the changes in order for them to become operational from this  
meeting of the Board.

The following actions of the Chairman and the Sub-Group were noted:-

- (a) Membership:
- East Midlands Airport had been invited to join the Board as the second business sector representative.
  - The Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) had been informed that it was considered that the RCC was adequately represented through existing arrangements.
  - ENABLE would be the lead partnership for the "environment" on the Board.
- (b) The proposal to engage rural communities with diversity issued would be developed and diversity and cohesion would form strong components of the new Sustainable Community Strategy.
- (c) The Association of Parish and Local Councils and Connexions would be invited to become part of SSOG.
- (d) A regular series of introductory sessions would be held on a range of topics to assist members representing the new communities of interest on the Board.

It was AGREED that the final changes to the structure and membership of Leicestershire Together, developed following the Peer Challenge in March 2006, be noted and that members of the Board would work together to implement the new ways of working over the coming months.

231. Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) Update: Quarter 3 Performance

The Board considered a report on performance with the LAA to the end of December 2006 in relation to the indicators and principle risks in achieving year 1 targets, upcoming developments around the management of funding and progress with regard to neighbourhood management. A copy of the report marked 'D' is filed with these minutes.

Mr Kershaw, the County Council's Cabinet Lead Member for the LAA, drew attention to the positive overall picture under which 66 of the 119 indicators had been given a green risk rating and only two delivery areas were reported as red or amber. He also referred to a seminar taking place that morning organised through the Department for Communities and Local Government on the future of LAAs to which

Leicestershire LAA Leads and other appropriate officers were attending.

Mr Rhodes considered it important for the Board to understand the developing position on the amount of funding available through the LAA and how it was proposed to be spent. He suggested, and the Board agreed, that an updated report on LAA finance should be presented to each meeting.

In response to a query by Ms Aisbett on the refresh of the LAA, Mr Robinson explained that SSOG had considered the refresh document and agreed its submission to GOEM. The final version would be copied to Board members following GOEM's approval. He added that the timetable of future meetings of the Board would be adjusted to relate more directly with LAA reporting dates.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the positive progress made in a short time across all seven blocks of the LAA be noted and welcomed;
- (ii) that the current developments in neighbourhoods and financial management be noted;
- (iii) that reports be presented to all future meetings of the Board on the financial position with regard to the LAA;
- (iv) to note that copies of the LAA refresh document would be sent to all members of the Board following its approval by GOEM.

## 232. The Local Government White Paper

The Board considered a report of the Senior Strategic Officers' Group (SSOG) advising of proposals being considered by the Group regarding the implementation of the requirements and proposals in the Local Government White Paper and seeking endorsement of the next steps. A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with these minutes.

In introducing the report, Mr A Robinson made the following main points:-

- He drew attention to the Implementation Plan for the White Paper insofar as it related to the work of Leicestershire Together as set out in the annexe to the report.
- Diagram 1 attached to the report proposed a timetable for preparing a new Leicestershire sustainable Community Strategy to identify priorities for inclusion in the new LAA by April 2008.

- A development day for SSOG would be held on 13 March.

Mr Atkinson emphasised the issue that had been raised by the Chief Executive of Charnwood Borough Council at the meeting of SSOG on 14 February (referred to in the last section of paragraph 3 of the report) that the District Councils were not supportive of a new single countywide Sustainable Community Strategy and would each be producing their own updated strategies. In this regard, he asked that the role of the district LSPs be recognised in stages 1-3 on diagram 1 on the review of the Leicestershire Community Strategy in order to give a greater focus to the issue of “place shaping”. He added that this would also recognise the statutory role of the District Councils. In response, Mr Robinson confirmed that work would take place with the DLSPs in preparing the new sustainable countywide Strategy. Mr Rhodes commented that the tensions between the County and District Councils on this matter needed to be resolved in order to reach a satisfactory agreement.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the information provided in the report (including the District Councils’ position in respect of the production of new individual Community Strategies) be noted;
- (ii) that the resolution of SSOG to accept the arrangements for the review of the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy, as set out in diagram 1 of the annexe to the report, be endorsed, subject to recognition being included of the role of the DLSPs in stages 1-3 of the process, and accordingly work be commenced on the evidence base for the Strategy;
- (iii) that a revised version of diagram 1 be prepared taking into account the DLSPs’ role and circulated to all members of the Board;  
*[Note: a copy of the revised diagram 1 is attached to these minutes.]*
- (iv) that a further report from the SSOG, setting out further measures to address the proposal and requirements of the Local Government White Paper, be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

### 233. Community Forums Update

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Senior Officers’ Group providing an update on progress in implementing Community Forums in the county. A copy of the report marked ‘F’ is filed with these minutes.

The following two comments were made:

- Councillor Graham stated that the proposals for three Forums to cover the Melton area was subject to further officer level discussion.
- Mr Atkinson reported that the Hinckley and Bosworth LSP had recently agreed the boundaries for the three forums in its area.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) that the decision of the SSOG to support a joint member development programme to support community engagement be endorsed.

234. Development Session for the Board

Oliver Goode, who had been engaged by the County Council to assist in development events for the Board and SSOG, acted as facilitator for a development session in which members of the Board were asked to discuss and give their views on two issues: "What Board members want out of the LSP?" and "How will Board members communicate matters from Leicestershire Together meetings onwards to their own organisations?"

At the conclusion of the session, Mr Goode stated he would prepare a paper summarising the views expressed and this would be circulated to members of the Board for further discussion of the main issues.

235. Service Transformation in Melton

Keith Aubrey (Corporate Director, Melton Borough Council) gave a presentation on Melton Borough Council's proposals for changes to its revenues and benefits, social and economic development and customer services activities. Copies of the PowerPoint slides are found with these minutes. He informed the Board of the key drivers for transformational change, emphasised the ways of using ICT to transform ways of delivery (linked to the Local Government White Paper's proposals and to Sir David Varney's report on service transformation) and how these issues were being tackled in Melton Borough Council's proposals for change.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr. Aubrey for his informative presentation, the contents of which were noted by the Board.

236. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Citizens' Jury

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council providing an update on the BME Citizens' Jury project. A copy of the report marked 'G' is filed with these minutes.

Mr J Harrison highlighted for members the intention to produce a guide to Leicestershire aimed at new communities.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) that partners would continue to develop and implement their own action plans using the Citizens' Jury Action Plan as a generic framework;
- (iii) that partners would continue to work with the Citizens' Jury lead officer to develop their action plans and seek assistance and support as relevant;
- (iv) that Board members would act as champions for the Citizens' Jury Action Plan.

237. Review of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure in Leicester Shire

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council on progress in reviewing VCS infrastructure in Leicester Shire and seeking any views from members on the assessment of future infrastructure options produced by the Joint VCS Infrastructure Working Group. A copy of the report marked 'H' is filed with these minutes. The Board was informed that the SSOG had considered the report at its meeting on 14 February and had sought key partners' views on the Review's findings. The Group would consider a further report and consultation responses at its next meeting on 9 May.

Mr N Lambert (who had chaired the VCS Infrastructure Working Group) drew attention to the three proposed models of infrastructure provision (described in paragraph 6 of the annexe to the report) and said partners who fund the VCS were invited to give their views for consideration by the next meetings of SSOG and the Board.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the report on progress in reviewing the Voluntary and Community Sector infrastructure in Leicester Shire be received;

- (ii) that partners be requested to submit their views on the options proposed to the County Council by 30 April.

238. Final Position on the First Public Service Agreement (PSA)

The Board considered a report by Leicestershire County Council setting out the final position on the first PSA. A copy of the report marked '1' is filed with these minutes.

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

239. Dates of Future Meetings in 2007

It was AGREED that the next three meetings of the Board be held at 11.00 am. on the following dates:

Monday 22 May 2007  
Monday 3 September 2007  
Monday 19 November 2007

11.00 am – 1.40 pm  
12/3/07

CHAIRMAN