

West Cheshire Together

Working in partnership for local people

Date: 28 January 2010
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Frodsham Community Centre

In Attendance:

Mike Jones - Chair	Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Helen Bellairs	NHS Western Cheshire
John Betts	Chair – Ellesmere Port Area Partnership Board
Eric Bowers	CHAWREC
Moirra Chapman	Cheshire Police Authority
John Church	NHS Western Cheshire
Avril Coady	Chester Communities Together, Urban Communities Representative
Brain Crowe	Cheshire Fire Authority
John Davidson	Cheshire Probation Service
John Denny	Chair – Chester Area Partnership Board
Ricardo Gomez	Visit Chester and Cheshire
Craig Guildford	Cheshire Constabulary/ Safer Stronger Thematic Group
Steve Hoy	Connexions
Steve Jennings	Cheshire Housing Alliance
Mike Jones	Chamber of Commerce
Chris Koral	North West Development Agency
Sara Mogel	Business Enterprise and Culture Partnership
John Reilly	Further Education Colleges
Chris Rowbottom	Chair – Northwich and Rural North Area Partnership Board
Phil Royle	Job Centre Plus
Alison Roylance-White	Chair - Rural West Area Partnership Board
John Salt	Chair – Winsford and Rural East Area Partnership Board
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability Partnership Chair
Jackie Weaver	ChALC
Julie Webster	Health and Wellbeing Thematic Partnership

Apologies: John Barber, Mark Cashin, Andrew Jones, John Stephens, Arthur Neil, Janet O'Connor, Steve Robinson

Support Staff: Alistair Jeffs, Alison Armstrong, Andrea Mageean

Visitors: Peter Baines (English Heritage)

Item No. 1	Welcome, introductions and apologies
	Mike Jones welcomed partners to the meeting and introduced Avril Coady as the Urban Communities representative following an election organised by the Third Sector Assembly. Avril is currently Chair of the Chester Communities Together group.
Item No. 2	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.</p> <p>Points relating to accuracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Mogel asked for it to be noted that she had been present. • On page 6 reference to the Third Sector Assembly having subgroups relating to domestic violence and mental health problems should have stated that the TSA has identified a number of gaps in representation, including domestic violence and mental health. Work is being undertaken to address this by bringing on board existing networks or supporting the development of new ones as appropriate. • On page 6 reference to the ‘Green Doctors’ scheme should have stated that the scheme is operating in Cheshire West and consideration is being given to extending this to the East. <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Third Sector Assembly – Urban Communities Representative: Avril had been welcomed as the newly elected representative. Her Deputy or ‘alternative’ is Rachel Rathbone who is a Trustee and Manager at Winsford Community Action Project (WINCAP).</p> <p>Local Area Agreement Performance: items relating to the review and performance management of the LAA were deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>A limited response had been received following the request for partners to share details of their climate change adaptation officers to ensure that LSP organisation are maximising opportunities to reduce CO2 emissions. Partners were again encouraged to respond.</p> <p>An update on the Economic Recession Action Plan would be given to the February LSP meeting.</p> <p>An update on the Community Cohesion Strategy and ‘Connecting Communities’ project would be given to the February LSP meeting.</p>
Decision:	Subject to the amendments noted, the minutes were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting on Thursday 29 October 2009.
Action:	Partners were reminded to send details of their climate change adaptation officers to Peter Bulmer (peter.bulmer@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk).

	<p>Items relating to LAA performance management, the Economic Recession Action Plan and Community Cohesion Strategy would be brought to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Item No. 3</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council – Consultation on Budget Proposals 2010/11</p> <p>Mike Jones and Alistair Jeffs gave a joint presentation on the Councils current budget consultation. As Mike was presenting this as Leader of the Council, Moira Chapman agreed to chair the meeting during consideration of this item.</p> <p>The current consultation has run from 17 December 2009 to 29 January 2010. A range of events and activities have been held with business leaders, the Third Sector and the public. The proposals will be finalised by the Councils Executive on 10 February and agreed by full Council on 25 February.</p> <p>The budget is being set in the context of some major financial challenges: reductions in income alongside an increase in demand for services and a commitment to keep Council tax increases below inflation. This has resulted in a £30 million budget gap to be met over the next 3 years.</p> <p>Each Directorate has put forward proposals which both meet these challenges and meet shared vision and priorities. Mike emphasised that working in partnership was the key to achieving this vision.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed the following points were raised:</p> <p>John Betts: Substantial savings are expected relating to a review of leisure facilities and a review of bus services. What will be the impact on our communities?</p> <p>MJ/AJ: Savings will be generated in the short term through improved service management and reduced inefficiencies. Longer term savings will be made through the replacement of inefficient leisure facilities in Chester and Ellesmere Port with smaller community based facilities. The bus review is not about service reduction but delivering things more efficiently through improvements in contracts and looking at underused services.</p> <p>Chris Rowbottom: Will the ring fence around Supporting People budgets be maintained?</p> <p>MJ/AJ: Yes probably. Further details will be brought back to a future meeting.</p> <p>Avril Coady: How will the sale of assets be managed? Will there be public discussion?</p>

	<p>MJ/AJ: Further consideration of capital budgets and the sale of assets will be given in June 2010. Based on the premise that everyone should have access to leisure facilities within three miles of where they live, consideration was being given to whether it makes sense for the Council to own farms and retail units. These resources could be translated into facilities more aligned to community needs and wants.</p> <p>Alison Roylance White: Is the review of cultural facilities only at Borough level?</p> <p>AJ: The wider impacts of the cultural offer were acknowledged and consideration is being given to how decisions should be integrated at a regional and sub-regional level around tourism and leisure issues.</p> <p>Steve Hoy: There needs to be closer integration between services for children and young people, adults and leisure services, and the development of the Capital Plan.</p> <p>MJ: It would be a good idea if Connexions could help inform this work. This would be suggested to Chris Cook.</p> <p>Moira Chapman: All partners are facing reduced budgets and need to make savings. How can we all work more effectively and creatively together in the future?</p> <p>MJ: A workshop with the public sector chief officers led by Steve Robinson took place a few weeks ago to look at this. Further progress can be made with vehicles such as the Area Partnership Boards employed to look at how local efficiencies can be generated.</p>
<p>Decision:</p> <p>Action:</p>	<p>Partners' views would be considered as the budget proposals are finalised.</p> <p>Further consideration be given to how best use be made of partner resources in the future, particularly at budget setting.</p>
<p>Item No. 4</p>	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy: Development of the Final Draft</p> <p>Andrea Mageean presented the final draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy for discussion and comment.</p> <p>Partners were reminded that work on the new SCS started in June 2009 with consideration of key challenges for West Cheshire. Since then there have been a number of key events with a wide range of partners to define/refine these challenges, consider what is already happening and how they might be addressed in the future.</p> <p>Between mid-November 2009 and mid-January 2010 consultation work on the issues for the SCS has been undertaken jointly with</p>

	<p>consultations on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the Local Transport Plan. Through this exercise, which ended two weeks ago, many audiences were reached across the borough.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken to analyse the responses and a document produced seeking to present a unified vision of future needs and aspirations for the Borough.</p> <p>Partners discussed the content of the documents and came up with a series of comments for further consideration.</p> <p>The final document is due to be approved by the Council on 25 February 2010 though the report needed to be finalised by 11 February. Partners agreed to give further consideration to a re-worked draft over the next couple of weeks.</p>
Decision:	Andrea to circulate a re-worked draft by Wednesday 3 February for partner comment by Monday 8 February
Action:	All partners to consider the re-worked draft.
Item No. 5	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None raised.</p>
Decision:	None required.

Details of next meeting: 2.00pm, Thursday 25th February 2010 (venue to be confirmed)

Signed (Chair):

Date: