

Note of the Shadow LSP Working Group Meeting

24 February 2009 at Cheshire County Officers Sports Club

Present:

Cllr Mike Jones	Leader, Cheshire West & Chester Shadow Authority
Steve Robinson	Chief Executive, Cheshire West & Chester Shadow Authority
Tim Jackson	Ch. Supt. Cheshire Police [Area Commander]
John Church	Chairman, NHS Western Cheshire PCT
Helen Bellairs	Chief Executive, NHS Western Cheshire PCT
Cllr Tony Hooton	Chairman, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
John Salt	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service [Area Commander]
Helen Nellist	West Cheshire College [for Sara Mogel]
Paul Kirkbright	University of Chester [for Tim Wheeler]
Colin Billingsley	Job Centre Plus
Chris Koral	North West Development Agency
Jane Staley	Groundwork Cheshire
Steve Jennings	Cheshire Housing Alliance
John Davidson	Cheshire Probation Service
Ian Horton	Government Office North West
Robin Norrie	Chester in Partnership
Elaine Dunn	EPNAVCO, for Ellesmere Port & Neston LSP
Colin Potts	Chester City Council, for Chester Renaissance
Chris Brown	Visit Chester and Cheshire County Council
Alistair Jeffs	Cheshire West & Chester Shadow Authority
Alison Armstrong	CWAC Partnership s Group
Clare Babbs	CWAC Partnership s Group
Jim Tunley	CWAC Partnership s Group

Apologies:

Jo Lappin	Government Office North West
Bob Williams	Chamber of Commerce

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Robinson welcomed all to the semi-formal meeting, prior to the new Local Strategic Partnership commencing its work in April. There was strong encouragement for the new Authority and Partnership which was most welcome. There was an imperative that the new Partnership is not Authority dominated but that all sectors should be involved.

Officers would be encouraged to think about best to involve all sectors, especially the local community and communities of interest and provide options about how best to achieve this.

2. Election of Chair

There is a lead role for the new Local Authority with the Local Strategic Partnership and partners agreed to nominate Councillor Mike Jones, as Leader, to the role as Chair of the new Partnership from April.

Steve Robinson agreed to Chair this shadow LSP working group meeting.

3. Local Area Agreement 2009 - 2010

Alison Armstrong provided partners with a report that sought to raise awareness of the current position for LAA delivery and refresh and the proposed process and timetable for severance of the Agreement.

Partners considered two papers; one showed the near final refreshed LAA that is to be sent to Government office by 2nd March and a second reflected the current position for the disaggregated LAA for Cheshire West and Chester, as a consequence of the review and refresh process.

Partners queried the outstanding issues around measures and targets with some positive responses emerging that will help move progress. It was agreed lead partners should be the organisations who can provide all of the necessary data, without having to chase, with a key role for all others in how they may support that lead organisation. Alison agreed to write to all lead partners for formal endorsement of the outstanding matters.

It was generally understood the very heavy process element was inevitable at this time, but that this will eventually move forward and evolve to include all other parts of the framework e.g. the Area Partnership Boards and Local Area Forums.

4. Partnerships Framework

Partners received a copy of the draft Partnerships Framework Agreement & Protocols which identifies each of the component parts across the framework and the key roles these would have in that framework.

Discussion took place around the composition of the **Local Strategic Partnership** and a number of suggestions were made concerning representation on behalf of communities and the rural voice. Partners were reminded that representatives should be able to input across the framework, at the most appropriate place. Most important will be the credibility of individuals and skills required to deliver this and make it all happen.

As a commitment to this new way of working, it was hoped some partners may take a lead role, possibly at the **Area Partnership Board** level. Work continues at this level to evidence local needs and priorities which may then be developed into the Area's Action Plan, incorporating Local Area Agreements targets.

Supporting the Local Strategic Partnership will be the monthly meeting of **thematic board leads**; they will help with business programme for the Partnership and seek to achieve alignment of planning with resources.

Following feedback through the Partnership Bulletin, a suggestion was to look again at the **Thematic Boards** and consider the existing model but with a separate fifth Board to incorporate Environmental issues. The agreed arrangement, therefore, is for five Thematic Boards as follows:

- Children's Trust
- Safer & Stronger Communities
- Business & Enterprise
- Health & Well-being
- Environment.

It was also agreed to re-visit the configuration of these Thematic Boards when the Sustainable Community Strategy is finally agreed.

The **Local Area Forum** element is still under development, with a hugely important role identified for Members of the new Authority.

Clare Babbs introduced the draft Partnership Framework Agreement and Protocols with a request to partners for any comment returned by 31 March. In summary, the draft paper pulls together the “nuts and bolts” of partnership working and how the various elements within the framework should hang together.

The meeting briefly considered the role of the Chair and Vice Chair of each thematic board and it was agreed that Steve Robinson would write to all partners and those identified with a lead role by way of confirmation.

5. Sustainable Community Strategy

The timeline for the Sustainable Community Strategy, which includes full community consultation over the summer, was explained and how by October 2009 it was anticipated a ten year strategy would be approved.

One issue raised in this context was whether the October date aligned in all cases to the partners’ budgetary processes.

6. Work Programme for the LSP

A draft programme was considered and again partners were asked to influence this by suggesting their key issues for the quarterly dates. These should be forwarded to Alistair Jeffs or Alison Armstrong.

Helen Bellairs suggested the July date may include consideration of the work programme for the Thematic Boards.

7. Draft Partnership Bulletin (Second Edition)

Partners received a copy of the Draft Bulletin, which was due be circulated by the end of the week. The immediate feedback included a request for less acronyms and to consider a glossary of terms currently in use.

Cllr Mike Jones also suggested that partners may start to consider a name for the Local Strategic Partnership that is more meaningful and encouraged suggestions.

8. Future meetings of the Partnership

Cllr Mike Jones advised that from 1st April, the size of the CWaC Executive will reduce from ten to eight, with Cllr Lyn Riley due to take up the Neighbourhood and Community Services Portfolio.

Partners agreed to commit to a principle of quarterly meeting dates in April; July; October 2009 and January; March 2010. Dates, times and venues will be arranged and circulated.