

<p>'West Cheshire Together' Thematic Leads meeting</p>

Date: Monday 16th November 2009
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 2B, County Hall, Chester

Attending:**Representing:**

Colin Guildford	Safer & Stronger Communities
Cllr Lynn Riley	Safer & Stronger Communities
Keith Evans	Health & Wellbeing
John Salt	Environmental Sustainability
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability
John Stephens	Children & Young People
Julie Webster	Health & Wellbeing

Apologies: Helen Bellairs (Health & Wellbeing), Sara Mogel and Mark Wilson (Business, Enterprise & Culture) and Steve Robinson (Children & Young People).

Visitors: Alistair Jeffs, Beverley Wilson, Lee Huxley (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and Colin Hayes (Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service)

Support: Alison Armstrong and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Item No.1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Jane, on behalf of Steve, welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Colin, as it was his first meeting with the other Leads, and apologies were noted.</p>
Action - Decision	None required
Item No.2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>John Stephens and CYP Trust had identified a representative to join the interim Place Survey working group and Robbie Taylor would participate on behalf of the Business, Enterprise and Culture (BEC) Group.</p> <p>With regard to the Second Homes Taxation income: John Salt reported that the total allocation awarded to support the Bonfire Night initiatives may not have been spent (due to the low number of requested call outs and wet weather over the evenings).</p> <p>At the previous meeting, the thematic groups had been asked to submit bids for the Second Homes Taxation income. Two proposals for investment were</p>

	<p>tabled: one from the BEC Group (£40k and £275 respectively) and one from the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership (£10k). Alistair advised colleagues that the joint funding to resource the Dr. Foster segmentation project had not yet been identified by partners, as agreed at an earlier meeting, and suggested that a funding bid also be received to cover this expense.</p> <p>There is approximately £90k still to be allocated and invested during the current financial year. Following discussions, in order to ensure the investment opportunities are maximised; the Group will agree on the proposals during its meeting in December. A note outlining the criteria will be circulated, along with a simple form (colleagues agreed the template the 'Green Doctor' bid used was suitable for the process).</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding proposals to be submitted for evaluation at the meeting on December 14th: qualifying criteria and a proposal form to be completed and submitted by Friday 11th December.
Item No.3	<p>Local Population Forecasts</p> <p>Lee Huxley and Beverley Wilson delivered a presentation on recent analysis of population forecasts for West Cheshire. Colleagues were reminded on the need for accurate local analysis and forecasting. Experience has shown the ONS (Office for National Statistics) data is often different and many budgets and funding streams are based on population sizes, hence the need for robust, accurate data.</p> <p>The Group discussed the significant points from the presentation: in 2007 the largest population group by age is 40 – 44 year olds; by 2027 the largest group will be 60 – 64 year olds. There is an expected reduction in children (0 – 15 years), but a sizable increase in the numbers aged 85 years and over by 2027. The largest predicted population growth by Area Partnership Board will be Ellesmere Port, rising by 10% in 10 years from 2007 to 2017.</p> <p>The Group noted and welcomed the findings of the presentation and remarked how the forecasts are already informing the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and shaping major strategies, for example the Sustainable Community Strategy consultation and programmes such as the Growth Point initiative, where the numbers of housing units for older people is critical to future planning.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population forecast report can be accessed online at: http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/community_and_living/research_and_intelligence/population_information/population_report.aspx The presentation can be provided to any of the Thematic Partnerships in the future, please contact Lee Huxley to arrange: Tel: 01244 972064 Email: lee.huxley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

<p>Item No.4</p>	<p>LSP Governance Arrangements</p> <p>Alison Armstrong presented a draft report summarising the developing roles, responsibilities, structures, memberships, resources and working relationships across the partnership framework. The report was designed to promote discussion and decisions from the group, in order to further shape the report before the LSP will be asked to approve the key points at its next meeting. The major discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSP assuming responsibility for the investment of the Area Based Grant (ABG) for 2010/11 and the interim arrangement for investing the Second Homes Taxation resources as a permanent arrangement. The ABG is valued at approximately £15m (excluding Supporting People) and the Second Homes funding amounts to approximately £150k in the current financial year. • The above resources are directed to the Area Partnership Boards (APBs) to deliver projects and services to fulfil local priorities. The process of commissioning will come from the LSP, via the Thematic Partnerships to the APBs. The establishment of an APB core budget composed on contributions from key partner agencies, to underpin the work of the APBs (Cheshire West and Chester Council has identified £125k per annum for each APB). • A proposal to direct funding to Community Fora to support delivery of local priorities. The Fora have no direct responsibility for financial resources; the proposed funding will be invested through Participatory Budgeting, with Members working closely with residents and community group to agree priorities. The direct funding formula for Fora will be calculated from population size with an enhancement to support those areas with multiple disadvantages (examples provided). <p>The direction of the travel the paper identified were welcomed by partners and the draft report was a good summary of progress made to date and the design for closer working relationships was also welcomed, especially aligning LAA and Area Action Plan priorities. A couple of partners suggested it would take some time to re-direct their financial resources to the different geographic and thematic partnership structures: some would need to re-shape their core budgets, for example the PCT does not receive it's funding on a geographical basis. The paper provided a clear description and summary of the major issues and many partners can identify contributory resources rather than financial amounts, which would help to quantify total resources, rather than spend in West Cheshire.</p> <p>Partners recognised it was important to demonstrate that resources are strategically directed to LAA priorities to demonstrate the links between financial targeting and needs, which helps CAA inspectors understand local performance and delivery mechanisms better. Partners were reminded the Council is committed to directing resources to the partnership framework and will use the time-based funding from the ABG to start to do so. This process has happened in other parts of the country, with some difficulty, but is an ambitious aim and there are examples of successes. The Council sees closer partnership working as a way of maximising existing funding</p>
------------------	---

	and off-setting forecasted drops in future funding and demonstrates its commitment to the APBs.
Action - Decision	<p>The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Thematic Partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will seek to align the priorities identified to date in the Area Action Plans with the Local Area Agreement targets and clarify responsibilities for delivery; • agreed that the Thematic Partnership and Area Partnership Board Chairs meet formally on a quarterly basis as a minimum; and • agreed that further work be undertaken in relation to overview and scrutiny of the wider partnerships framework for consideration by the Local Strategic Partnership on 28th January 2010.
Item No.5	<p>Partnership Support Groups</p> <p>The Group received a report outlining progress made to date in establishing a number of Support Groups to the LSP and Thematic Partnerships: support groups already exist for performance and risk management and equality and diversity (sub-regional). The report outlined the need to develop a group of Finance Managers comprised of major partner organisations to support the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) mapping of partner resources and mainstream spending (i.e. Total Place); ii) aligning or pooling of area based resources; iii) delivering financial efficiencies; iv) service commissioning / decommissioning; and v) co-ordination of financial planning processes and timescales.
Action - decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Thematic Partnership Chairs and Vice Chairs accepted the report on Partnership Support Groups and agreed to the establishment of a new multi-agency Finance Managers Group to support the work of the West Cheshire Together partnership framework.
Item No.6	<p>“Connecting Communities” – Ellesmere Port project</p> <p>Alison presented a brief paper containing background information on the ‘Connecting Communities’ Programme and a local initiative which has been selected as a pilot to be fast-tracked within the region. The local initiative will take place in the Stanney estate in Ellesmere Port, an outline of the key issues, resources, actions and project timescales was shared with the Group. It is hoped that the project will provide learning opportunities for other parts of West Cheshire (much as previously projects in Blacon and Lache had done).</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group accepted the report and will contribute to the dissemination of learning more broadly with partners, when available.
Item No.7	Local Area Agreement (LAA) – Annual Review 2009/10

	<p>Partners were reminded that the annual process was now upon us. A recent meeting with GONW had outlined a basic timetable, where the LSP will submit its 'first cut' of the review to GONW by 25th January and then negotiate, if necessary, up until the cut off on 12 March 2010.</p> <p>Official guidance from CLG (Dept. Communities and Local Government) should be issued by the GONW shortly, however, we anticipate the review will concentrate on the performance indicators and targets concerning outcomes surrounding the economic recession.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guidance note to be circulated when available. <p>Thematic Partnerships to bring suggestions to the meeting on December 14th of issues they wish to raise as part of the annual review process.</p>
Item No.8	<p>Thematic Partnerships – Progress, Work Programme and Emerging Issues</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Trust will be meeting shortly to consider joint commissioning arrangements.</p> <p>'West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing' are progressing well with the production of the Alcohol Strategy and will be looking to involve local residents to help understand people's behaviour better in alcohol misuse and excessive consumption, with the aim of normalising healthier use of alcohol.</p> <p>The Safer and Stronger Communities Group recently agreed to remove the non-designated local indicator concerning anti-social behaviour. The Group had also discussed the risks identified with its funding income and potential consequences with staff employed in shared services, DAAT (Drug and Alcohol Action Team) and PCSO (Police Community Safety Officers) workers at Area Partnership Boards. A paper covering the ABG (Area Based Grant) and current recipients and uses will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Earlier discussion are taking place in the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership to link its outcomes to 'confidence/impact' type events with targeted communities, for example "love food – hate waste".</p> <p>The Business, Enterprise and Culture Group have held its first Board meeting and has a second planned shortly. The membership of the Board is taking shape and the FJF (Future Jobs Fund) programme is progressing well along with the collation of activities to deliver the Economic Recession Action Plan.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A briefing paper on the development of the Alcohol Strategy to be received at the meeting on December 14th.
Item	Any Other Business

No.9	None.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Details of next meeting: Monday 14th December, 1.30pm – 3.00pm,
Committee Room 2B, County Hall Chester.

Signed (Chair): Date: