



# Halton Strategic **PARTNERSHIP**

## Environment and Regeneration Specialist Strategic Partnership

### (E&R SSP) Meeting Minutes


#### Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes

7<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Present:**

Cllr John Gerrard (JG)	Halton Borough Council (Chair)
Mick Noone (MN)	Halton Borough Council (Highways and Transport)
Hayley Dooley (HD)	Job Centre Plus
Wesley Rourke (WR)	Halton Borough Council (Economy, Enterprise & Property)
Allison Kirk (AK)	Norton Priory Museum
Jim Yates (JY)	Halton Borough Council (Chief Executives)
Tracey Rimmer (TR)	Environment Agency
Becky Taylor (BT)	Halton Borough Council (Transport Policy)
Debbie Houghton (DH)	Halton Borough Council (Policy Officer)
Ian Boyd (IB)	Halton Borough Council (Logistics)
Jenni Carr (JC)	Halton Borough Council (Town Team)
Shèlah Semoff (SS)	Halton Borough Council (Partnership Officer)

		<u>Actions</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  A Sharp, C Sutton, C Griffiths, C Bunter, D Lyon, G Crabtree, G Hazlehurst, J Unsworth, J Hughes, M Knowles, N Renison, N McGrath, R Bakes, R Polhill, S O'Connor, S Carr, T Gibbs	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</b>  Minutes from 5 <sup>th</sup> February agreed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Presentation on the European Structural Funds 2014-2020</b>  WR gave a presentation on the work being undertaken to develop a Common Strategic Framework for the transitional funding that will be available to Greater Merseyside in 2014. Halton will now be part of the geographical area for this funding and officers across Greater Merseyside are currently working with stakeholders to identify strategic priorities, under the 4 thematic objectives (Innovation, SME Competitiveness, Low Carbon	

	<p>Economy and Skills). There are other investment priorities which should also be taken into consideration such as NEETs/Youth Unemployment, social inclusion and combating poverty, sustainable transport and removing network bottlenecks (full list contained within presentation).</p> <p>A template has been developed to pull this information together and will be circulated to the group.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is attached for the information.</p>  <p>Adobe Acrobat Document</p>	<b>SS</b>
4.	<p><b>Draft Housing Strategy</b></p> <p>Halton's Housing Strategy for 2013-18 was presented to the group, as a draft, for consultation. This is part of the local authority's responsibility to produce a strategy that gives the vision for housing in its area, setting out objectives, targets and policies detailing how it will fulfil its strategic housing role in conjunction with Partners and in line with the vision in the Sustainable Community Strategy.</p> <p>Whilst the formal consultation has finished, Partners may still send any comments to the Partnership Team, and they will be considered in line with others received and before the final strategy is agreed by the Council.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
5.	<p><b>SEAP and Covenant of Mayors</b></p> <p>SEAP: JY gave an update on work currently on going to map energy opportunities on Merseyside, with the intention to decoupling ourselves from a reliance on fossil fuels. There is now a strategy in place, linked to the new Structural Funds strategic priority (low carbon economy). There are a number of projects in Halton, including one in Daresbury and one in East Runcorn focusing on low energy issues (retro fitting homes). It's important to think about how supply chains can be developed and supporting businesses.</p> <p>CoM: this is the commitment to reduce carbon emissions and a local SEAP is required (translating the strategic programme to a local level). This will help open up local funding. There is currently a LEP bid being developed around energy reductions at Daresbury, with Partners starting to talk to each other and develop a master energy plan.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Town Team</b></p> <p>JC gave the group information concerning the arrangements for the new Town Team in Runcorn. Whilst the original Portas bid failed, the consultation showed that people wanted a way to engage in dialogue with the Council, each other and stakeholders. At the moment the group is made up of 18 people comprised of traders, Elected Members and members of the community and faith sectors. They meet every 2 months and have looked at a variety of issues including increasing footfall,</p>	

	<p>developing a website, links to education and employment, night time economy, and the Brindley. £100,000 from a wider High Street Innovation fund has been ring fenced for this work, and the group have also settled to grant schemes that have improved shop fronts and brought empty units back into use by business start-ups.</p> <p>Members can speak to JC direct if they want further information.</p>	ALL
7.	<p><b>Sustainable Transport</b></p> <p>BT informed the group of the cycling and walking initiatives in Halton and asked for their support in promoting opportunities. She explained that there had recently been a national travel survey and Halton had come 198 out of 300 for free exercise. This had been supported by a local survey. The Transport team were trying to promote and enhance what is currently available and working with Partners to ensure that people could get around Halton in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Some of the other activities mentioned were the Facebook page highlighting the rights of way currently in Halton – trying to encourage their use, working with Warrington and St Helens to develop a Mid-Mersey bid to improve cycling routes between the 3 areas, looking to improve cycling maps, signage, and sites of interest. There are bikeability courses which have worked with 630 children in 6 months, with links to other family activities. There are also “how to fix my bike day” activities planned and TR agreed to ask keen cyclists at the Environment Agency, if any would volunteer to support the schemes. The idea of 2 hire centres are also being looked at, one either side of the river, to use the bikes currently being stored at West Runcorn Youth Club.</p> <p>Any ideas should be sent to BT.</p>	<p>TR</p> <p>ALL</p>
8.	<p><b>Group Discussion re: Meeting Domestic and Future Items</b></p> <p>The group discussed the times of the meetings – currently set as 11:00am, and it was agreed to circulate an email asking them their preference.</p>	SS
9.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>The group was informed of the work currently being undertaken by the Partnership to support residents affected by the Welfare Reform changes. Copies of the booklet produced were made available, and the local support document was explained.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Next Meeting &amp; Future Diary Dates</b></p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> August, 11am : Cancelled</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> November, 11am : Cancelled</p> <p><b><u>Next Meeting to take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October @14:00 in the Willow Room, Municipal Buildings Widnes</u></b></p>	

YET TO BE AGREED