

## HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 16 September 2009 at the Bridge Suite, Stobart Stadium

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Councillor Rob Polhill (Chairman), Councillor Marie Wright, Fiona Johnson, Mark Wilson, Terry Parle, Mike Fry, Beth Edwards, Cllr Swain, Mike Sheehan, Cllr D Cargill, Eric Hudson, Neil Maguire (deputising for K Mothersdale), Sean Henshaw (deputising for J Redmond), John Ward (deputising for G Finchett), Rev. Ray Jones and Nick Atkin.

**Observers:** Matthew Roberts, Jane McCusker and Chris Koral.

**Advisors to the Board:** Gerald Meehan, Rob Mackenzie, Shelah Semoff, Michelle Baker, Wesley Rourke, Helen Slater, Nick Mannion,

**In Attendance:** Gill Fenna, Andrew Pladgeman and Lynn Derbyshire

**Apologies for Absence:** D Parr, G. Finchett, Cllr Hignett, K. Mothersdale, D Sproson, J Redmond, J Rowlands and I Williamson

#### 74 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2009 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

In respect of Minute Number EXB65 – Sustainable Community Strategy Review, the Board was advised that this had been adopted by the Council on 22 July 2009 and copies were available for Members of the Board.

#### 75 CLIMATE CHANGE BRIEFING

The Board received a presentation from Gill Fenna, Climate Change Local Area Support Programme (CLASP) on climate change which:-

- Outlined the role of CLASP and gave information on contact details [www.clasp-nw.info](http://www.clasp-nw.info), email - [ailsa@clasp-nw.info](mailto:ailsa@clasp-nw.info);
- Highlighted and explained the various national indicators related to climate change;
- Outlined and explained the importance of the National Indicator 186: per capita CO<sub>2</sub> and that there would need to be an 11 % reduction by 2011 across all Halton. It was highlighted that this was the most difficult

target to achieve as it included everyone who travelled through Halton but not via the motorway;

- Gave a breakdown of Halton's CO<sub>2</sub> baseline (1.191,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> based on 2005 data) which would mean a target savings of 132,000 tonnes per year;
- Explained what the 11% savings would mean to Halton and the scale of work that would need to be undertaken and the finance to be saved by doing this;
- Gave examples of how the savings could be achieved;
- Explained the steps to be taken in respect of National Indicator 186 – i.e. understanding the target and what needed to be done to achieve it, by looking at existing actions and how much they would contribute and identifying who could influence which emissions, identifying gaps, extending the reach of existing actions or further action and agreeing which partner could deliver specific actions;
- Outlined how to develop a win : win approach to climate change and how to link to other priorities/actions by maximising impact and by sharing resources and creating partnerships that attracted national or innovative funding;
- Gave examples on how climate change positively impacted on other performance indicators and targets;
- Gave examples of projects throughout the country on how various Councils had reduced their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the innovative approaches that had been used to achieve the reduction; and
- Listed the possible approaches to promote CO<sub>2</sub> reduction programmes in respect of businesses.

The Board was advised that it was responsible for the delivery of National Indicator 186 and that CLASP support was available. In addition a workshop to make progress on this indicator was taking place on 16 October 2009 and members of the Board were invited to attend. It was reported that emails with further details of the event would be sent to all members. It was highlighted that the NI 186 was the most difficult indicator to achieve and all Members were encouraged to attend the workshop.

The Board was further advised that handouts of the presentation were available at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation and comments made be noted; and

- (2) that Gill Fenna, CLASP be thanked for her informative presentation.

## 76 PRESENTATION: CAA AREA ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The Board received a presentation from Peter Forrester (Audit Commission) on feedback from the CAA Area Assessment which:-

- Explained and gave an update on the green and red tags reporting system, the timetable and the next steps in respect of the CAA Assessment Process;
- Set out the position of the tags in June as follows:-
  - Red Tags - Health Inequalities in Halton;  
Teenage Pregnancy;  
Housing;  
Skills and Worklessness.
  - Green Tags - Regeneration of Castlefields  
Transport to Work
- Outlined the current position in relation to tags in that the only remaining areas that remained red were – Health, Teenage Pregnancy and Worklessness, Skills, and Post 16 Attainment and that the Youth Offending Service had obtained a Green flag;
- Outlined the current position in respect of issues to report in the following areas:-
  - Housing, Health Inequalities, Urban Renewal, Environmental Improvements, Castlefields Regeneration, Dealing with Recession, Crime and Community Safety, Children and Young People and Adults;
- Set out the next steps in the process which included, feedback from CQC and Ofsted, provision of draft text with opportunities for further evidence to be sent by 25/9/09. On 19 October a Pre Publication Report, would be provided with the opportunity to request a review of any red flags, with publication on 10 December 2009;
- Outlined how the CAA would be reported and that there would be a new one place website available on 10 December 2009, which would form the main communication tool with summaries of each assessment written in plain English; and
- Showed an image of how the new website would look like.

The following points/comments arose from the presentation:-

- It was noted that the website would be via the direct.gov website;
- It was noted that Castlefields was not a green flag due to it being work in progress, but it was envisaged that this could be reviewed next year;
- Clarity was sought on when the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission judgements and commentary would be available.

In response, it was reported that the Area Assessment text would be available later this week. The assessment would feed into the Councils assessment for Ofsted – 25 September 2009. This would be sent to the Council for review. The CQC – adult assessment was on Monday and the Council score would be available in late October;

- It was noted that it was important to maximise publicity in respect of joint working in Halton, and it was crucial to have a joint consistent and collective overall approach to the questions re red and green flags co-ordinated through the Council's communications and marketing department;
- It was reported that the Board would receive an email containing details of the website; and
- The Board were reminded that following their meeting there would be an additional session of the lead officers group dealing with the CAA, and this would be a further opportunity to provide information following this presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received and comments made be noted.

## 77 LPSA2 REWARD GRANT

The Board received a report which advised of the expected level of Reward Grant from Local Public Service Agreement Round 2 (LPSA2) and asked Members to consider how the grant should be utilised.

The Board was advised that the following options could be considered for allocating the reward grant:-

1. Make the reward grant available to the SSPs that earned it to use as they see fit;
2. To use the reward grant to commission further interventions on the basis of current need. This may result in the funds being allocated to partnerships other than those which earned it; and

3. A compromise between 1 and 2 above – 50% of the reward returned to the partnerships responsible for earning it, the balance to be used to commission on the basis of need.

The Board was further advised that it could be argued that the reward grant should go to those partnerships or organisations responsible for successfully attaining the stretch targets, However, that would ignore the principle adopted by the Board of commissioning on the basis of evidence in need. It was therefore, recommended that all SSP's be invited to identify priority areas for further investment i.e. areas currently underperforming, and bring forward proposals for further commissioning in those areas as set out in Option 2 above.

In addition, it was reported that in assessing proposals for additional commissioning, that the Board may want to take account of the following:-

- The fit with the objectives and targets in the community strategy;
- Evidence of need;
- Evidence for the likely success of this particular intervention;
- Track record of SSP and lead partners in programme delivery and achievement of targets;
- The need to avoid unfunded ongoing financial commitment (this is time limited funding as set out in the table above so the interventions need to be time limited, or have a very clear exit strategy); and
- The 2009 reward grant cannot be formally committed until the amount has been confirmed by government.

It was highlighted that the views of the HSPB on the use of reward grant would be reported to the Council's Executive Board on 15<sup>th</sup> October and full Council on 21st October for endorsement. It was reported that the SSPs should start developing commissioning proposals with a view to a report back to the November HSPB, subject to the decision of the Council.

After considerable discussion the Board agreed to support Option 2 for allocating the reward grant.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Subject to formal approval from the Borough Council, the Specialist Strategic Partnerships are invited to bring forward commissioning proposals based on the likely available reward grant for the next meeting of this Board;
- (2) The proposal for the use of some of the capital reward grant to convert vacant industrial or commercial premises for managed workspace be supported;
- (3) The use of £250,000 revenue reward to avoid reductions in existing Council services in 2009/10 be noted; and

- (4) The reward grant be used to commission further interventions on the basis of current need, which may result in the funds being allocated to partnerships other than those which earned it.

## **78** MANAGED WORKSPACE PROPOSAL

The Board received a report which outlined a proposal developed by the Urban Renewal SSP with regard to Managed Workspace.

The Board was advised that during discussion about the use of Working Neighbourhood Fund under spend to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn, SSP Chairs were asked to consider this proposal from the Urban Renewal SSP. The SSP Chairs had suggested that it might be funded from LPSA reward grant as a capital project. It was reported that the proposal aimed to address the shortage and the Urban Renewal SSP sought the financial support of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be approved for funding from the LPSA2 reward grant.

## **79** COMPACT PRINCIPLES FOR HALTON

The Board received a report of discussions that had taken place between colleagues from the Partnership, Halton Borough Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector, in response to a Government consultation document.

The Board was advised that a Compact was an agreement between different sectors that provided general principles, values and guidelines within a consistent framework for partnership working. Its specific aims should be as follows:

- To develop and define better relationships;
- To develop an understanding and joint working between all sectors at all levels;
- To encourage the flow of information and communication between sectors;
- To support the whole range of community participation, from consultation to empowerment; and
- To provide extra encouragement for voluntary and community activity.

The Board was further advised that whilst Halton's wished to embed the Compact Principles in the Local Area Agreement should be seen as forward thinking, it was however felt it should be given a section of it's own, as originally intended with the development of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This would ensure that it was annually reviewed as part of the LAA

process. A Compact Self Assessment Toolkit was attached to the report for guidance.

RESOLVED: That the Board support the development of an Statement of Compact Principles to be included in the next refresh of Halton's Local Area Agreement.

## 80 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

The Board considered a report which advised on the progress in developing neighbourhood management in Halton and to consider options for its future.

The Board was advised that the key issue for neighbourhood management was consideration of the options for sustaining neighbourhood/locality working beyond 2010.

The Board was further advised of three options for the future of neighbourhood/locality working in Halton once the funding had expired for discussion as follows:-

- Option 1 – Complete closedown;
- Option 2 – Transfer of the Neighbourhood Management Partnership to a third sector/charitable host/accountable body; and
- Option 3 – The development of wider more systematic or targeted locality working and community engagement arrangements across the whole Borough based on the Borough Council's Area Forum 'footprint'.

In this respect the Board received a presentation from Councillor Swain, Chair of the Neighbourhood Management Board and Nick Mannion, Director of Neighbourhood Management which:-

- Gave a brief outline of what the Government's expectations and the key drivers;
- Gave examples of how the programme had helped to 'make a difference' in Halton;
- Outlined partner's perceptions; and
- Set out the next steps.

In conclusion, the Board was advised of the following:-

- that current funding sources ended in March 2010;
- That the Partnership would need to consider where next?

- That there was a need to develop greater involvement from residents and support and enable partners to undertake community working; and
- Post 2010 it was essential that there was a mechanism for continuing locality working.

It was noted that the Council's Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board had set up a working party to look at this issue and all comments would be taken into account.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report, presentation and comments made be noted; and
- (2) a further report with detailed proposals be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

## **81 SSP UPDATES**

The Board received a report which provided quarterly performance information from the five Strategic Specialist Partnerships:-

- Children and Young People;
- Employment, Learning and Skills;
- Health;
- Safer Halton; and
- Urban Renewal.

Employment, Learning and Skills SSP – it was noted that a significant underspend was developing but that this was being addressed. It was also noted that the impact of the recession on SSP projects would be closely monitored and corrective action taken as required.

Safer Halton Board Summary – Page 71 – NI 39 – Alcohol Harm related hospital admission rates (data not received) – clarity was sought on why no data was being received.

In response, it was reported that systems were in place, and meetings took place regularly. However there was currently a debate on how alcohol related health problems could be measured. In addition a Health SSP Performance Group had been established and it was reported that the reasons for the lack of data would be explored.

RESOLVED: That the reports from the five SSP's be noted.

## **82 WNF FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The Board considered a report which gave information on the outstanding financial issues for Working Neighbourhood Fund spend.



The Board was advised that it was vital that Partner Organisations ensure invoices for Quarters 1 and 2 were sent to the Partnership Team as soon as possible following the monitoring return deadline for Quarter 2 (Friday 16 October). An up to date picture would then be established for the Board's next meeting in November.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Members ensure their organisations make claims for Quarter 2 of this year's allocation as promptly as possible to ensure a complete 6 month update could be brought back on 9 November 2009; and
- (2) SSP's are to ensure all outstanding paperwork is brought up to date by project managers, both for core and commissioning allocations.

### **83 DIVERSITY, COHESION AND ENGAGEMENT - UPDATE**

The Board considered a report which gave information on work currently being undertaken by colleagues across the Partnership.

The Board noted the actions and activities that had been undertaken in section 4 of the report.

The Board were also informed of the consultation due to take place across Halton in respect of the Mori work (previously reported 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009). This work included three focus groups in the Neighbourhood Management areas planned for September, a large borough wide event planned on 10 October 2009, alongside 10 one-to-one interviews.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) the action plan for the Strategic Equalities, Engagement and Cohesion Group be agreed.

### **84 MY HALTON OCTOBER EVENT - UPDATE**

The Board considered a report which gave information on this year's HSP Showcase Event.

The Board was advised that the Showcase would be an opportunity for all partners to promote the work that they were delivering to the Halton community and would bring together partnership working in one event. It would take place on 28 October 2009 and all members were encouraged to attend.

It was reported that further information could be obtained from Helen Slater, HSP Communications Officer, [Helen.slater@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.slater@halton.gov.uk) or 0151 4717528.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**85** ECONOMIC DOWNTURN UPDATE

The Board considered a report which gave information on the latest work of the group.

The Board was advised that the Economic Climate Working Group had been set up to focus efforts on how best to reduce the impact of the current recession in Halton.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.*