

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 18 November 2009 at the Bridge Suite, Stobart Stadium

Present:

Board Members:	Councillor Rob Polhill	(Chairman)
	Nick Atkin	Halton Housing Trust
	Colin Billingsley	Job Centre Plus
	Councillor Dave Cargill	Police Authority
	Debbie Dalby	Halton Voluntary Action
	Beth Edwards	Community Empowerment Network
	Mike Fry	Community Empowerment Centre
	Councillor Hignett	HBC
	Eric Hudson	Halton Chamber of Commerce
	Fiona Johnstone	Primary Care Trust
	Chris Koral	Northwest Development Agency
	Terry Parle	Halton Sports Partnership
	John Redmond	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
	Michael Sheehan	Riverside College
	Diane Sproson	Greater Merseyside Connexions Service

Advisors to the Boards

Phil Cornthwaite	HBC
Mike Foy	HBC
Judith Kirk	HBC
Rob Mackenzie	HBC
Gerald Meehan	HBC
David Parr	HBC
Wesley Rourke	HBC
Shelah Semoff	HBC
Helen Slater	HBC
Richard Stevens	HBC

In Attendance::	Ellen Lambourne	IPSOS MORI
	Rose Neville	IPSOS MORI
	Andrew Pladgeman	Chamber of Commerce

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Swain, Councillor Wright, Superintendent S. Boycott (Cheshire Police), J. McCusker (GONW), K. Mothersdale, Rev. R. Jones (Faith Communities) and I. Williamson (Halton & St Helens PCT).

87 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2009 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

The Board was advised that in respect of Minute 77 – LPSA Reward Grant that progress on this matter would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

88 IPSOS MORI CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The Board received a presentation from Ellen Lambourne and Rose Neville IPSOS, MORI which presented the findings of the qualitative consultation undertaken with 100 residents in Halton. The consultation asked what they thought of Halton now, what they would like to see in the future, how this could be achieved and the barriers and enablers to achieving their aspirations.

The Board was advised that a series of workshops had taken place in Widnes and Runcorn, including a day event. It was reported that the findings represented people's perceptions of life in Halton. The findings of the workshops were as follows:-

- Issues of concern – Anti Social Behaviour, Teenagers, Drugs, and Rubbish;
- The key priorities for improvement were crime, clean streets and activities for teenagers;
- 70% were satisfied with the local area, half of the remainder felt that there was not enough respect for each other and they did not feel safe at night;
- What was good in Halton – People, community, parks, history, schools, shopping, health, children's facilities, transport, green/leafy and well landscaped;
- What needed to improve – Lack of activities for young people to do, petty crime and antisocial behaviour, drugs, lack of respect, parenting skills, unruly youths, lack of policing and job prospects (all inter related issues);
- Other areas for improvement – the environment (pollution, traffic and lighting), buses, shop facilities in Runcorn, community facilities in general, local schools, visible policing, housing landlord issues and health services;
- What had led to the current negatives? – the economy, the lack of investment, a social decline, less police because of funding, an influx of foreign workers, the loss of major employers and the inconsistency of investment – Runcorn Vs Widnes;
- The Best Possible Future – No pollution, full employment, to feel safe, good community spirit, reduction in crime and community facilities;

- The identified priorities for improvement – Petty crime and antisocial behaviour, job prospects, activities for teenagers, pollution, influence in local decision making, cleaner streets, improved shopping in Runcorn and that everyone needed to work together to improve the inter related issues;
- What needed to be done and how it could be done – Activities for teenagers, more visible policing, more arrests, more community officers, night watch, drug dealers off the estates, close monitoring of landlords and problem families.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that 70% of people were happy to live in Halton. However, they wished to be more informed and involved in what was happening in Halton.

The following points/comments from individual partners arose from the presentation:-

- It was suggested that the issues raised be considered at the development day on 25 January 2009;
- It was noted that the workshops had focussed on improvements and local initiatives had been identified;
- It was noted that it was disappointing that perceptions had been that there had not been a lot of improvement. It was highlighted that significant improvements had taken place in all areas that had been raised in the workshops over the past few years;
- Clarity was sought on whether there had been any feedback on how communication could be improved. In response, it was reported that other Councils had established a close working relationship with the media which had enabled them to counter balance any negativity in the newspaper at the same time as it was being published;
- It was suggested that most people regularly used a mobile phone and face book and this could be used as a communication tool;
- It was noted that more people were in employment in the Borough than previously and the number of young people in business was also rapidly expanding;
- It was suggested that the development day could be used to look at ways of challenging people's perceptions. In addition, it was important to have an open and honest communication strategy and to state what would and would not be possible to achieve;
- It was noted that only 100 people took part in the events;
- the benefits of joint procurement processes was noted; and

- it was highlighted that a balanced approach would be required to raise awareness in the community and to lift the aspirations of the community. This would require better communication both internally and externally.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation and comments made be noted;
- (2) that Ellen Lambourne and Rose Neville be thanked for their informative presentation; and
- (3) the issues raised be considered at the Development day on 25 January 2010.

89 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

The Board received a presentation from Dwayne Johnson, Strategic Director, Health and Community on Safeguarding Adults. The presentation:-

- Outlined the national context in respect of Safeguarding Adults;
- Outlined the three local principles that all adults had a right to expect as agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Board;
- Explained the Safeguarding Adults Board in respect of the Terms of Reference, the Membership, the Operational Framework, the Sub Groups, Related Services and Work Plans;
- Set out and explained the Safeguarding Board's and Related Services achievements in 2009; and
- Outlined the priorities for next year.

The Board noted the importance of looking after vulnerable people and the work that was being undertaken to ensure their safety.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation and comments made be noted; and
- (2) Dwayne Johnson be thanked for his informative presentation.

90 BOARD DEVELOPMENT SESSION

The Board considered a report which sought approval to hold a Halton Strategic Partnership Board 'Development Session' on 25 January 2010.

The Board was advised that the purpose of the 'Development Session', which had been scheduled on 25 January 2010, would be to begin to work out the type of LSP the partnership wanted, and would need for the future, and the resources that would be required to support it. To do this the Board would need to undertake a self-assessment, which would:-

- Review the shared vision or direction the partnership have for Halton, reevaluate common concerns, agree common goals;
- Take the shared vision and use to confirm agreed targets and oversee performance; and
- Consider how the partnership would manage performance and deliver services that addressed common concerns and/or met agreed common goals.

It was reported that this would be a complex piece of work and, therefore, it would be unrealistic to expect that a self-assessment of the Local Strategic Partnership could be completed in one session.

It was proposed that the session would be a half-day event with the intention to divide the 'Development Session' into 3 workshops. Board Members would be invited to attend either workshop 1 or workshop 2 with an invitation to all Board Members to attend workshop 3. The event would culminate in a plenary session. The proposed workshop themes are as follows:-

1. Improving Governance;
2. Improving Partnership Working; and
3. Focus on Total Place 'Counting and Culture'.

The Improving Governance Workshop would cover the following discussion areas:-

- The role(s) of LSP partners in delivering improvement;
- How we engage and consult effectively;
- How we support local capacity building;
- How we conduct our 'Partnership Business'; and
- Assessing and Managing Risk.

The Improving Partnership Working Workshop would cover the following:-

- The LSP's Long-Term Goals – e.g. to what extent the sustainable community strategy reflects the ambition and priorities of the LSP?
- Leading the LSP and creating a culture of working together – e.g. exploring relationships between the Council and other partners;
- Meetings and Messages – e.g. allowing time for discussion and strategic direction setting;

- The benefits of collaboration – e.g. getting the most out of partners;
- Getting things done – e.g. how performance management information is used effectively;
- Common Frameworks – e.g. a performance management framework that is embedded at strategic, executive and operational levels; and
- Shared Systems – e.g. shared accountability amongst and across partners.

The Total Place ‘Counting and Culture’ Workshop would focus on:

- Developing a process in Halton that maps public sector finance flowing through the borough and its impact on outcomes; and
- Giving consideration to a ‘culture’ process that looks at how we do things, how we work together and the impact this has on achieving outcomes

It was suggested that other work being undertaken by partners, for example, 3rd Sector Mapping activity would be incorporated into this workshop. Equally, SSPs, may wish to explore a pilot theme of particular importance to take forward, for example, child health, drugs and alcohol, vulnerable adults.

Members of the Board were encouraged to complete the Self Assessment Questionnaire which took some elements of the Audit Commission’s Working Better Together document and which would be circulated prior to the event.

The Board agreed that the MORI findings would be incorporated in Workshop 2.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a half day Development Session on 25 January 2010 be approved;
- (2) The proposed content of the Development Session be agreed; and
- (3) The findings of the MORI consultation be incorporated in Workshop 2.

91 JOINING UP WITH TRANSPORT

The Board considered a report which advised the Members of the Board on the development of the Liverpool City Region Joint Local Transport Plan and highlighted its important role in helping to ensure that the transport needs of Halton’s residents, businesses and visitors were met.

The Board was advised that transport could play a key role in helping to address the objectives of Halton's Community Strategy and in the achievement of the targets set out within its LAA. However, in order to ensure that the transport needs of partners were identified and addressed in the development of LTP3, it would be necessary for transport to be at the heart of the Partnership's work in delivering key services. In order to ensure that LTP3 met the needs of the Local Strategic Partnership Board, partners were requested to take a full and active role in the identification of transport issues and the development of appropriate strategies and implementation programmes. This would be facilitated by progress reports to the LSP Board/LSP Transport Board and through direct engagement with partners.

The Board was further advised that the proposed LTP3 goals provided a sound platform upon which transport strategies, policies and implementation programmes could be developed to address both local and sub regional issues. It was recommended that the goals described in paragraph 3.24 be supported by the LSP.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- (1) recognises the importance of transport issues in the achievement of its Community Strategy objectives and LAA targets and support the development of the Joint Liverpool City Region local Transport Plan; and
- (2) supports the proposed Joint Local Transport Plan goals as described in paragraph 3.24 of the report.

92 FAMILY POVERTY

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of the Child Poverty Bill and the implications for Halton,

The Board was advised that in 1999, the Government announced its aim to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The Government now intended to enshrine this pledge in legislation. Since the commitment to eradicate child poverty was announced, good progress had been made. In 1998/99, there were 3.4 million children (26 per cent) living in poverty. By 2006/07 (the latest figures available) this had fallen by 600,000 to 2.9 million children.

In 2004 the Government published the Child Poverty Review which examined both welfare reform and public service changes needed to advance the long-term goal of halving and eradicating child poverty.

The Government built on this in "Ending Child Poverty: Everybody's Business", published alongside the 2008 Budget. This considered: the causes and consequences of child poverty; the costs associated with childhood experiences of poverty for both individuals and society; the impact of Government action so far; and policy direction for the future.

The Board was further advised of the following:-

- That there was a duty on Local Authorities and their partners to co-operated to reduce child poverty in their area;
- That there was a duty to carry out a child poverty needs assessment and produce a local child poverty strategy;
- That there was a duty for Local Authorities to take their duty to reduce child poverty into account when preparing or revising their Sustainable Communities Strategy; and
- Power to issue guidance on how these duties should be performed.

In addition the Queen's Speech today would be addressing child poverty. It was reported that nominations from the partnership were being sought for the short term multi agency Family Poverty Group. Members would receive correspondence in the near future requesting nominations.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the implications of the report be noted:-
- (2) a lead organisation in consultation with the lead officer for Child Poverty to co-ordinate this area of work be agreed;
- (3) work be entitled 'Family Poverty Group' be established with accountability to the HSP;
- (4) the multi agency 'Family Poverty Group request tailored support from the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4E0); and
- (5) the Board receive regular half yearly reports on the progress towards reducing Child Poverty levels in Halton.

93 CLIMATE CHANGE : NATIONAL INDICATOR 186

The Board considered a report which provided an update following the training event run by Quantum consultants on climate change. The report proposed a framework for partnership working to deliver the Local Area Agreement indicator NI 186 relating to per capita reductions in CO2 emissions.

The Board was advised that the information from the event had been used to help put together a draft action plan for NI 186, which was attached to the report. All partners were asked to identify any other activities that their organisation was undertaking, which needed to be included. In addition the suggestions for joint working that came out of the event were included in the report. Partners were asked to add any other ideas they may have and to ask

the Environment Board to help develop these further. The proposed actions included:-

- Partners to share an 'energy manager,' rather than all paying separately;
- Joint green travel planning for staff, where sites are close together, such as the college and Municipal Building;
- Environment/Climate change to be a standard item on HSPB;
- Develop a joint induction programme for staff/students on environmental awareness. This could then be tailored for each partner organisation;
- The Chamber of Commerce to work with partners to host event for business to enable them to access support and benefit from any opportunities;
- The Environment Board to lead on this work and take this agenda forward. However they may need to review membership to include other partners; and
- To work together to deliver the same messages to the public, for example could health visitors/GP surgeries and fire officers as part of home safety visits also signpost to free grants for energy efficiency?

The Board was also advised that nominations were being sought for the Lead Partner to champion the work on climate change. It was reported that because of the Efficiency Review, the Council, were unable at this time to take the lead on this matter. Members were encouraged to seek nominations from their organisations,

RESOLVED: That

- (1) All partners to provide information on actions they are taking to help address the requirements of NI 186;
- (2) The Urban Renewal SSP, Environment Board be requested to take the lead on overseeing the development of the NI186 action plan, and develop partnership working to take forward new actions, such as those proposed at the Quantum training event. In addition they are also asked to lead on the other climate change and environmental indicators, including those in the LAA NI 154, NI 186, NI 192, NI 5, NI 175 and additional local indicators in the SCS, NI 185, NI 188 and NI 187;
- (3) The HSPB appoint a lead HSPB partner to champion this work on climate change (nominations from partner organisations to be collected); and

- (4) as previously agreed, climate change be a standing agenda item on the HSPB agenda.

94 TOTAL PLACE INITIATIVE

The Board considered a report which informed the Partners of the Government's Total Place initiative and sought consideration of implementing the approach in Halton.

The Board was advised it would seem sensible for Halton to adopt Total Place. Firstly it would provide a clear picture of the level of both central and local public funding in Halton and the consequential effect on outcomes. Secondly it would provide an opportunity to consider how well central and local partners worked together and whether this could be improved generally or in particular areas.

The Board was further advised that progress with the pilots would be reported in the next few weeks, in the pre-budget report and further in the spring budget. It was for the Board to consider whether:-

- a) To proceed now with a Total Place approach; or
- b) To await the outcome of the pilots to get a clearer grasp of the way in which the current and future governments will apply the concept.

In addition, the Board would need to identify and agree particular themes that could benefit from strategic commissioning. Halton's approach to Total Place would also need to be developed in light of the experience of the national pilot areas.

Three themes were highlighted that could be considered when implementing the initiative in Halton:

- Employment Learning & Skills – to address family and child poverty, looking at priorities of a selection of families and the barriers they faced re skills etc,;
- Look at approaches to measuring the difference and impact services had on the people in the Borough and whether their lives were actually improved by developing a set of questions that everyone would ask to ensure consistency across partners; and
- The role and impact of procurement.

RESOLVED: That the Employment Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership pilot Total Place, focussing on links to family poverty be adopted.

95 SSP PERFORMANCE UPDATES (LAA 6 MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW)

The Board considered a report which updated the Partners on the progress to date on the current agreed priorities as set out within the Local Area Agreement.

In respect of NI 142 – the number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living – concern was raised regarding the criteria for providing ramps being changed and it was reported that this could cause a major problem for vulnerable people. In response, it was reported that this matter would be discussed within the Healthy Halton SSP.

It was reported that Members could email any comments they had on the new style of the reports for future consideration.

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

96 ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT 2008/09

The Board considered a report which informed the Members of the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2008 – 09 for Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust.

The Annual Report was circulated at the meeting and Members were informed that it could be used as a preparatory resource for the Development Day on 25 January 2009. It was also reported that the theme was 'Health and Equality'.

RESOLVED: That the annual report be noted.

97 MY HALTON EVENT

The Board considered a report which provided information on the initial My Halton – LSP Showcase Event.

The Board was advised that during the course of both events members of the public were asked to complete a feedback form for the chance to win an I-POD. This form asked for views on what makes you sad, mad and glad about living in Halton. A large amount of forms were returned and these will be analysed and further feedback provided on the results of this analysis.

The Board was further advised that the event had provided the opportunity for all partners to promote the work that they were delivering in Halton to the wider community and brought together the broad range of partnership working that was taking place in Halton.

It was commented that consideration would need to be given to where the next event would be held as it would need to be accessible. A partner highlighted that transport was problematic and could cause financial difficulties to some people in deprived areas.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) that all Partners who took part in the event be thanked for their excellent contributions.

98 LOCALITY WORKING IN HALTON

The Board considered a report which invited comments on future arrangements for locality working in Halton.

The Board was advised that the Council's Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board has made a recommendation to the Council's Executive Board that the current Neighbourhood Management arrangements should come to an end when the funding expires in March 2010. It had established a working party to consider the future of locality working in Halton. The Working Party, had not, as yet met and Partners were encouraged to feed in their comments so that they could be considered by the Group.

The Board was advised that the Working Group would be looking at how the good work that had been done by Neighbourhood Management could be taken forward and managed across the Borough. It was acknowledged that approaches to Neighbourhood Management would need to be done differently.

RESOLVED: That partners consider the opportunities for future locality working in Halton and send comments to the Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council by 1 December 2009.

99 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN UPDATE

The Board considered a report which updated the Partners on the activities being undertaken by the Partnership aimed at mitigating the effects of the economic downturn.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

100 WNF FINANCIAL SUMMARY UPDATE

The Board considered a report that provided Partners with a summary of spend for the Working Neighbourhood Fund in the second quarter of the current financial year, July 2009 -0 October 2010.

The SSPs had been asked to ensure that project invoices were with the central team as close to the monitoring return deadline as possible so that a clearer picture of spend could be provided to the Board.

The Board was advised that all monitoring reports had been returned to the central team except for two/three. However, the project manager was new in post and the team had agreed that late returns would be accepted.

The Board was further advised that following an SSP Chairs meeting on 13th October, the central team was working with financial colleagues across the SSPs to pull together a different way of monitoring spend. A spreadsheet was being developed that would cover all funding streams covered by the SSPs and would show, for example, when funding ends and variances between expected forecasts and actual expenditure.

In addition, the Board would still be accountable for monitoring the WNF element of funding. However it was reported that SSPs Chairs had asked for a wider picture of funding across the SSPs to be produced, and SSPs would become responsible for the more operational monitoring of expenditure

It was noted that it was half way through the financial year and only £2m of the £6m had been spent. It was agreed that this would need to be monitored.

The Board was further advised that the partnership had been allocated an additional £483,000 in respect of the economic down turn and a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Board for consideration of how the funding would be best utilised.

RESOLVED: That the financial summary outlined in the report be noted as a true and accurate statement.

Meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.