



Halton Strategic **PARTNERSHIP**

Environment and Regeneration Specialist Strategic Partnership

(E&R SSP) Meeting Minutes

7th Floor Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes

25th February 2014

Present:

Mick Noone (MN)	Halton Borough Council (Planning and Transport) : Chair
Cllr Mike Fry (MF)	Halton Borough Council – Elected Member
Susan Humphreys (SH)	Norton Priory Museum
Clare Olver (CO)	Mersey Forest
Peter Heberlet (PH)	Groundwork Cheshire
Jimmy Unsworth (JU)	Halton Borough Council (Waste & Environmental Improvement)
Collette Butterworth	Stobart Group
Ian Boyd (IB)	Halton Borough Council (Logistics)
Shélah Semoff (SS)	Halton Borough Council (Partnership Officer)

In Attendance:

Paul Oldfield – Mersey Gateway
 Alasdair Cross – Halton Borough Council (Planning Policy)
 Sara Munikwa – Halton Borough Council (Economy, Enterprise & Property)

		Actions
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>C Griffiths, D Lyon, G Hazlehurst, J Hughes, M Knowles, N Renison, P Mullane, R Polhill, T Gibbs, H Dooley, D Houghton, J Yates, T Rimmer, M Fearnhead, P Hurst, L McEvoy, W Rourke, J Walsh</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from 10th October 2013 agreed as a true and accurate record. Action points and comments from special meeting on 7th January 2014 agreed as a true and accurate record. <p>Matters Arising: Quick update given on the LCR Combined Authority and discussions still underway concerning the name and who will be Chair. Some issues around Governance structures still to be finalised but it does appear that as of 1st April 2014, the CA will be up and running, once the</p>	

	<p>Financial Closure has been signed off.</p> <p>The group requested a presentation at the next meeting regarding all the work currently being undertaken at Sci-Tech Daresbury.</p>	WR
3.	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Refresh – Update</p> <p>Several comments were received from Partners following the special meeting in January 2014. These had been incorporated into the refreshed objectives for the Partnership, and agreed by Partners. These will be published on the website along with the rest of the refreshed SCS.</p> <p>However, as part of agenda item, Partners had received a copy of a letter sent to main Board Members, from Cllr Rob Polhill, as Chair of the Partnership. This letter explained that whilst the current objectives in the SCS were still relevant, how Partners were actually going to deliver on these needed to be reviewed. The letter explained that in the current financial climate that the public sector found itself in, and the knock on effect this had for other sector Partners, an honest and frank conversation needed to begin on how services could be delivered differently. The letter asked Partners some key questions for consideration and informed them that the main Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) meeting in June would be dedicated to this issue.</p>	
4.	<p>Gateway Biodiversity Presentation</p> <p>The group received a presentation from Paul Oldfield, from Mersey Gateway Team. PO explained the work of the Gateway Environmental Trust and it's hoped for legacy (presentation attached).</p> <p>The group felt it was important the work of the Trust was reported into the SSP on a regular basis, including sight of the Trust's minutes as appropriate and a standard agenda item (6 monthly).</p> <p>Partners, not already involved with the Trust's work, were invited to do so, and the representative from the Stobarts Group was particularly interested. Contact details to be shared.</p>	<p>SS/PO</p> <p>SS</p>
5.	<p>Halton's European Priorities</p> <p>The group was informed of the European Workshop that had taken place on 7th February which looked at the agreed priorities in Halton's European Action Plan (copy previously circulated). There are 5 portfolios which will be sharing £17m, which is Halton's allocation of the Liverpool City Region European Structural and Investment Fund 2014 – 2020 (total £172m). Currently the process is moving towards a commissioning system as opposed to a bidding round.</p> <p>Partners have previously received a presentation from WR about this work, however it was explained that there is still time to comment on proposed project initiatives within each portfolio (i.e. smart cards and LCR wide ticket for public transport).</p>	

	<p>The group asked for the workshop feedback and presentations to be circulated (separately due to their size).</p> <p>It was also suggested that this should be an item for the joint SSP meeting on the 4th April.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p>
6.	<p>HCA Funding</p> <p>In his absence PM had prepared a briefing document which was shared with the group. This explained the HCA's 2015-18 Affordable Homes Programme Prospectus had been published in January and invited bids from a £17b pot. This was to support the building of some 165,000 affordable home (outside London).</p> <p>Halton Housing Trust should know the outcome of the bidding process sometime in mid-July 2014. PM will update SSP as appropriate.</p>	<p>PM</p>
7.	<p>Affordable Housing SPD</p> <p>The group received a report which gave an overview of the recently adopted Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).</p> <p>The purpose of this SPD is to provide greater certainty and clarity for all parties involved in delivery of affordable housing in Halton, and expands on policies contained with Halton's Core Strategy (CS13). The SPD has 2 specific aims:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maximise the opportunities available and ensure the smooth delivery of affordable housing to meet Halton's housing needs; and b) Reduce uncertainty, ensure a consistent approach and provide clear guidance for all stakeholders to follow <p>So far only 2 applications have gone through the process of "Viability Assessment" but the new system does appear to be working.</p>	
8.	<p>Regeneration in Runcorn</p> <p>Sara Munikwa have a short update on ongoing regeneration in Runcorn. This followed on from the publication of the 2011 Prospectus detailing potential sites. The main two being the Council owned Old Crossville bus site, and various smaller areas TO BE FINISHED>>>>>></p>	
9.	<p>Next Meeting & Future Diary Dates</p>	<p>4th April 2014 (Joint ELS/E&R meeting – 9:30 start)</p> <p>19th June 2014</p> <p>18th September 2014</p> <p>18th December 2014</p>