

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

At a meeting of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board on Wednesday, 20 May 2009 at 65 Lugsdale Road Widnes

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Hignett, K. Mothersdale, Wright, D. Sproson, F. Johnstone, Wilson, R. Jones, T. Parle, M. Fry, J Rowlands, B. Edwards, Swain, Redmond, N Atkin, D. Parr, Dalby, R. Mackenzie, S. Semoff, Murphy, M. Sheehan, D. Cargill, J. Kirk, Cleworth, Wilson and Hudson

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: None

Absence declared on Council business: : None

ITEM DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

EXB57 APOLOGIES

Gerald Meehan, Chris Koral, Gary Finchett (Martin Cleworth deputising), Ian Williamson (Jim Wilson deputising)

EXB58 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2009 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

EXB59 CHILDHOOD OBESITY

The Board received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Public Health.

Obesity is a priority because it is directly linked to a number of serious diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Levels of childhood obesity at year 6 and levels of adult obesity are high in comparison to national and regional averages. In response a service model has been developed with different levels of response according to need. Programmes are now being introduced to scale this response up with the intention of reaching 92% of children and 38% of adults who are overweight or obese by 2012/13.

In discussion a number of opportunities were identified for Partners to link up activities with this campaign eg through promoting lunchtime walks to all partners.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

EXB60 COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT - INITIAL FINDINGS

The Board received a presentation from Peter Forrester about the Audit Commission's work to date on the Comprehensive Area Assessment of Halton for 2009 (CAA).

The CAA composes an Area Assessment for Halton together with organisational assessments for four key local public organisations (the Borough Council, Primary Care Trust, Fire and Rescue Service and Police Force).

The Area Assessment is based on 3 questions:-

1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
2. How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
3. What are the prospects for future improvement?

A report will be published in December 2009, comprising a commentary on the area together with green and red flags to highlight exceptional performance or significant concerns about future improvement.

A number of topics have been identified for further investigation before determining whether or not flags are merited.

The Commission will continue to feedback emerging findings to the Board.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

EXB61 HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SHOWCASE 2009

Board Members considered a report regarding the Partnership's Annual Conference due to take place in October of this year.

To date the annual conference has taken on a formal format, with presentations and guest speakers targeting partners and active community members.

As an alternative a 'Showcase' is proposed to promote the partnership and related projects locally.

The elements of the day-long event will include taking suitable projects out into the community and the use of Stobart Stadium Halton as an 'Information Hub'. The information hub will provide a space for the public to receive information; it will also offer a networking opportunity for the partners.

The Showcase will be an opportunity for all partners to promote the work that they are delivering to the Halton community and will bring together partnership working under one roof.

RESOLVED: That instead of the usual format of an annual conference the partnership develops a 'showcase' targeted at the local community as set out below:-

- a) The Board agrees to the outlined proposal for the showcase;
- b) Each Partner makes a commitment to be fully involved in the day and in the planning leading up the event;
- c) Partners agree to fund the projects they showcase on the day (e.g. Health Eating project to provide food, leaflets etc, to promote their project); and
- d) That the Partnership Communication Group takes on the co-ordinating role.

EXB62 HALTON OBSERVATORY

The Board considered an update report on the Halton Observatory.

The Board were reminded that the Halton Observatory is the partnership's local information system that underpins contributions to many research activities within the partnership. It also provides a one stop data shop for practitioners across Halton to contribute to their own performance monitoring, funding bids etc.

In November 2008, Board Members agreed to continue to support the Halton Observatory, however, there were some concerns raised about the service being provided by Local Futures and it was felt that a review should be conducted to ensure that it provided a better service to users. The report outlined the work of the review and Board Members were asked to agree with the suggestions being put forward. The new Observatory will still provide a one stop data shop but

will be more flexible and provide a variety of summarised information access to key documents. Interactive mapping will be available.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted and recommendations agreed subject to an additional request from Board Members that Partner Organisations being given Training on the new system and there is an official launch of the new site.

EXB63 REQUEST FOR HSPB MEMBERSHIP

The Board considered a request from Cheshire Police Authority for membership of the Partnership Board.

The Police Authority has statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Children's Act 2004 to participate in those relevant partnerships and trust arrangements that fall under the Local Strategic Partnership.

Board Members were reminded that the Partnership's Constitution states that every endeavour should be made to attend all meetings of the Board, and that substitutes are not generally permitted. A substitute may attend but only with the express prior consent of the Chair who will only grant permission where satisfied that there are extraordinary extenuating circumstance. The Chair also reminded Board Members that those attending meetings should be at a level within the organisation that allows decisions to be made at the table.

RESOLVED: That

The report be noted and the Police Authority be given a place on the Partnership Board.

EXB64 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS AND WORKING NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

The Board considered a report that clarified the performance management arrangements for the Local Area Agreement/Sustainable Community Strategy targets, and Working Neighbourhoods Fund projects, to ensure a consistent approach is taken by each Specialist Strategic Partnership. This follows on from an earlier report brought to the Board in November 2008.

The performance management framework has been developed to enable the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

to measure and manage performance around Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes and Local Area Agreement indicators. The framework outlines how performance of these should be monitored through the Halton Strategic Partnership Board structures and the accountability and expectations of each of the partnerships within the structure.

RESOLVED: that the Board approved

- 1) The minimum standards for performance management arrangements for each Specialist Strategic Partnership, as set out in the attached performance management framework.
- 2) The roles and responsibilities at each level of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board structures.
- 3) The updated principles for monitoring Working Neighbourhood Fund projects.

EXB65 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW

The latest draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy was received by the Board. Colleagues discussed the objectives of the review as outlined in the report

The Board was asked to endorse the Strategy and its vision with a view to Halton Borough Council adopting the document on 22nd July.

RESOLVED: that

- 1) Electronic and hard copies of the Sustainable Community Strategy be circulated to the Board.
- 2) The draft Sustainable Community Strategy which has been revised as part of the mid term review be approved.
- 3) Authority be delegated to the chair of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board to make any minor editorial amendments on behalf of the Partnership Board.

EXB66 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

(I) 2008/2009 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board received the LAA Annual Performance Report for 2008/2009. Partners discussed progress so far and were satisfied that the important work being done by the SSPs towards achieving their 3 year targets would continue.

RESOLVED: That Board Members noted the report's content and share with their respective organisations, in particular how the areas of weakness can be addressed.

EXB67 FIRST DRAFT OF THE HALTON CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION PREFERRED OPTIONS DOCUMENT

The Board received a report from the Divisional Manager Planning and Policy at Halton Borough Council on the production of a core Strategy Preferred Options document.

The Core Strategy is part of the Local Development Framework which provides an overarching strategy for development in Halton up to 2026 and beyond, replacing the Unitary Development Plan.

The Preferred Options document will be the basis for a period of public consultation between mid-September and October 2009.

The report summarised the key contents including vision, objectives and spatial strategy and identified key areas of change. Partners were invited to comment by 31st May before it is finalised for publication. There will be a further opportunity to comment during the public consultation in the autumn.

RESOLVED: that

- 1) Board Members forward any comments on the draft Preferred Options document to Andrew Pannell by 31st May.
- 2) The status of the document as an evolving draft be noted.

EXB68 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

Partners received a report on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. In summary the act has three provisions:-

- i. Local authorities are invited to make suggestions to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government aimed at improving the sustainability of local communities. Suggestions must promote economic, social, and environmental well-being. The expectation is that most proposals will originate from community organisations and from partnerships like the Halton Strategic Partnership Board.
- ii. Local authorities will be able to request Local

Spending Reports to help them to prioritise actions. These reports should show all of the government spending in their communities from government departments and their agencies.

- iii. The Act formally changes the name of “Community Strategies” (as set out in the Local Government Act 2000) to “Sustainable Community Strategies”.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

EXB69 HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT CONSULTATION

The Board received a report detailing a change to the normal engagement process the Partnership undertakes every two years. For the last 7 years, the Partnership has commissioned a telephone survey. This information has been used to set baselines for targets and helped to shape the Partnership’s priorities.

The survey is due to take place again this year, however a large proportion of the questions are very similar to those already asked in the national Place Survey. Therefore it is proposed that the Partnership uses its resources to obtain qualitative rather than quantitative data, and using different methods discover what is behind the Place Survey results. A brief has been prepared and interviews of external, and therefore unbiased, companies are due to take place in May. Partners are being asked to participate in the development of this work.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

EXB70 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN UPDATE

The latest statistical information on the impact of the Economic Downturn was brought before the Board for discussion. Board Members provided verbal updates from their own fields.

RESOLVED: that

- 1) The information be noted and Partners use the date in planning delivery of services; and
- 2) Further updates to be brought to the Board as a standing item.

EXB71 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Board Members were informed of various activities currently being undertaken in the Neighbourhood Management areas.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

EXB72 WORKING NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Board received the regular item detailing the expenditure for Working Neighbourhood Fund. The figures in this report included the proposed amount of underspend going forward into the next financial year.

RESOLVED: that

The report and its recommendations be agreed as follows:-

- 1) The report's content as a true and accurate record;
and
- 2) The amount of Working Neighbourhood Fund carried over into 2009-10 be noted.

(I) LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH UPDATE

The Local Area Agreement is an agreement between local partners and central government on a small number of priority targets for Halton. It was concluded in June 2008, for the period 2008-2011, but is subject to an annual review and "refresh". The 2009 Refresh had been completed in March and the revised agreement was signed by the Secretary of State. During the course of negotiations there was lengthy dialogue over targets for Teenage Pregnancy, Young People not in Employment, Education or Training, and All Age All Cause Mortality. The Partnership had eventually agreed to the targets for these 3 indicators proposed by government, but with some concerns. Additional support and advice was to be provided by colleagues from the Government Office for the Northwest in these areas.

RESOLVED: That the revised Local Area Agreement targets be noted and Board Members would ensure that their organisations are aware of the changes.

Meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.