

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at East Midlands International Airport, Castle Donington
on 20th November 2003 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Local Authority Sector

District Councillor Barrie Whyman (**Vice-Chair**), County Councillor Geoff Carlile, Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), District Councillor Heather Wheeler and District Councillor John Wilkins.

Other Public Sector

Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(**Chair**), David Bond (Connexions Derbyshire), Jeff Dolby (Environment Agency), Simon Griffiths (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association) and Paul McGregor (Derbyshire Learning Partnership).

Private Sector

Susan Bell (National Forest Company), Sharon Forton (Southern Derbyshire Chamber), Graham Keddie (East Midlands International Airport) and John Oake (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Reverend Bob Hollings (Churches Together), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services), Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council) and Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association).

Officers in Attendance

South Derbyshire District Council

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), Stuart Batchelor (Community and Leisure Development Manager) and Neil Betteridge (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

Helen Woodhouse (Senior Best Value and Policy Officer)

LSP/1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Karen Bradley and Jinny McDonald-Matthews (Toyota UK), Julie Batten (People Express) and Maria Hallam (Government Office for the East Midlands).

LSP/2. **CHANGES IN BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

It was reported that George Tansley, formerly the Chief Executive of the Southern Derbyshire Chamber and now a director of Etete Ltd, had now been confirmed as the final representative from the private sector. Accordingly, the Board was now fully appointed and details of all Board members had been circulated for information.

LSP/3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Shadow Board Meeting held on 25th September 2003 were approved as a true record.

LSP/4. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) ‘Visioning Event’

It was proposed that a ‘Visioning Event’ be held on Wednesday, 28th January 2004 at a venue to be confirmed. Arrangements had been made for Steve Rogers from INLOGOV to facilitate the event to be held as part of the Board’s team Building and for setting the context for the preparation of the Draft Community Strategy. It was suggested that a pre-meeting with Steve Rogers would be useful for representatives from each sector.

The Chair considered that it would be beneficial for all Members to assemble on a date prior to the Visioning Event to avoid unnecessary discussion on that day. Accordingly, it was suggested that Members could gather at the East Midlands International Airport during the early evening period on a date to be confirmed early in January 2004. It was suggested that Julie Batten of People Express could assist in facilitating this gathering, as she had the benefit of previous experience on preparing for Visioning Events. It would also be useful if representatives from each sector could prepare some basic information details on themselves for the benefit of the other representatives.

(b) Neighbourhood Renewal – Cleaner, Safer, Greener

The Chair advised that a letter had been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to progress and the District Council’s Deputy Chief Executive suggested that a response be submitted, advising that this would be progressed as an issue in the Community Strategy.

(c) Compact Meeting – 26th November 2003

Jo Smith (South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services) advised that Malcolm Roseburgh, the District Council’s Partnership Development Officer, would be attending the Compact meeting on 26th November 2003.

LSP/5. **LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 24TH OCTOBER 2003**

It was reported that this Meeting had been attended by approximately 60 individuals representing 29 partner organisations. The principal purpose of the Meeting was to receive the Chair’s Annual Partnership Report, to adopt the Constitution formally and approve a ‘Project Brief’ for the preparation of the Community Strategy.

The Partnership Report outlined the work of the Shadow Board and the year’s achievements and also set out the challenges for the forthcoming year. A presentation on the Constitution followed and, subject to very minor amendment, the Partnership adopted the Constitution formally. Further presentations were provided on feedback from the Forum Event in June, an outline of the Derbyshire Community Strategy which focussed on those issues of a County-wide nature, and the relationships between Community Strategies and the South Derbyshire Local Plan and the Local Development Framework.

The other main business concerned the approval of the Project Brief for the preparation of the Community Strategy. The Brief outlined the arrangements and timetable for its preparation together with several key issues that would need to be investigated further. Further consultations were now ongoing, as reported in Minute No. LSP/6.

It was reported that some individuals may experience difficulties in transport to the Bretby Conference Centre and it was also recognised that easy public access was required to Meeting venues. In this regard, Elvaston Castle and the Old Post Centre, Newhall were suggested as possible venues for future events and the District Council's Community and Leisure Development Manager advised that transport opportunities had previously been arranged through the South Derbyshire CVS.

The District Council's Chief Executive expressed his delight at the attendance of Mark Todd, M.P. at the Annual General Meeting and felt that he, along with other individuals, should be encouraged to attend future events, if possible.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

LSP/6. **CONSULTATION ON THE PROJECT BRIEF FOR THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

It was reported that the Project Brief for the Community Strategy had been approved for consultation purposes at the Annual General Meeting. The Brief discussed the arrangements for developing and agreeing the Community Strategy for the District, together with several key issues that would need to be investigated further. Consultations were now ongoing and included a press release from the Chair, publication on the Council's website, letters to all partners and additional key consultees, distribution to community and voluntary groups and details posted on the County Council's School Intranet site to seek the engagement of local schools.

Responses had been requested by 1st December 2003 and it was intended that this consultation exercise would be followed by a review of plans and strategies, with the results of both exercises reported to the Board early in January 2004. This information would provide useful background to the Visioning Event to follow on 28th January 2004.

Jo Smith (South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services) reported no adverse feedback from the voluntary/community sector.

RESOLVED:-

That the progress be noted.

LSP/7. **DERBYSHIRE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL STRATEGIC AREA REVIEW**

The Board received a presentation on this matter from Paul McGregor of the Derbyshire Learning Partnership. The Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council was one of 47 Learning and Skills Councils nationwide. In broad terms, its mission was to raise participation and attainment through high quality education and training. It was responsible for funding most post-16 education in the County.

All Learning and Skills Councils had been charged with undertaking a Strategic Area Review over the period from 2003 to 2005. This Review involved the consideration of the nature and extent of post-16 education provision in the County, to consider how it fit with perceived skills gaps, to see how it fit with learner needs and demands and also to consider how education and training in the County should be delivered in the future.

The Derbyshire Learning Partnership was a County-wide organisation that operated through nine Local Learning Partnerships. South Derbyshire Local Learning Partnership had its membership drawn from local education providers, the PCT, the Mental Health Trust, local housing associations, the local authority, local schools, the Probation Service, Teenzone, the DIAG Service, the CVS, Job Centre Plus, the local Police, Derbyshire County Council's Early Childhood Years Service and Social Services, the LSC, Derbyshire EBP and other local bodies, all with an interest in education and training in the locality.

The Partnership operated out of the Learning Centre in Swadlincote and its broad objective was to encourage greater participation in education and training in South Derbyshire. It organised local events to celebrate education and training and undertook local consultancy studies, focussing on issues of participation and access to education and training. The Partnership was funded by the LSC but was independent of it.

Mr. McGregor advised that the Strategic Area Review 2003-05 would consider all post-16 education in an area of England, except higher education. This would ensure that provision and needs were matched as closely as possible but in order to ensure that a process of improvement took place through change, a baseline first had to be built. This would be undertaken by taking into account the views of providers, learners, employers and communities and by reviewing all post-16 education in a common approach, except higher education.

Strategic Area Reviews (STARS) would be conducted against four themes, namely meeting needs and improving performance; putting teaching and learning at the centre of the Review; developing leaders, teachers and lecturers; and developing a framework of quality and success. These themes intended to encourage collaboration and to help meet skills gaps identified with the help of employers.

It was hoped that the outcome would create a greater choice and opportunity to meet the needs of learners, employers and communities and likely scenarios were outlined to Board Members. The Local Learning Partnership had a remit to "encourage the development of education and training in the context of economic regeneration". Across Derbyshire, Local Learning Partnerships had become "education and training arms" of the Local Strategic Partnership.

Mr. McGregor advised that in excess of 50 questionnaires had been despatched and a copy of the questionnaire had been circulated to Board Members. Organisations would be pursued shortly to return the questionnaires, which had been designed to aid analysis of response. Information would feed into the Derbyshire Strategic Area Review process.

LSP/8. **IMPROVING INFORMATION PROVISION AND CO-ORDINATION**

County Councillor Carlile advised that the County Council was seeking to strengthen its support across the County to LSPs and Board Members. Six LSPs operated in Derbyshire and naturally, this placed a burden on the County Council and other County-wide agencies in terms of resources.

The County Council had nominated a lead contact officer for each LSP who would co-ordinate the County Council's input to the Board and its Working Groups and would report issues to the County Council's Cabinet and Local Area Committees, as necessary. Helen Woodhouse, Senior Best Value and Policy Officer from the Chief Executive's Department would be the lead officer for the South Derbyshire LSP, supported by a new post of Partnerships Co-ordinator to be advertised shortly. The aim was to improve communication and co-ordination across the full range of County Council services and specialist staff would continue to support any Working Groups.

In order to improve communication about County Council service developments, County Councillors received a monthly Service Development Diary which covered areas of general interest across the County and, more specifically, service development by District area. An example of the Diary had been circulated to Board Members and it was proposed to circulate this information to those Board Members who wished to receive it. This was one additional method of ensuring that all the County Council's different partner organisations were regularly informed of its activities.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the arrangements for the County Council's lead officer be noted.***
- (2) That Board Members inform the lead County Council officer (e-mail – helen.woodhouse@derbyshire.gov.uk) if they wish to receive the Service Development Diary.***

LSP/9. **NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

(a) Comprehensive Performance Assessment Inspection

The District Council's Chief Executive advised that the formal Comprehensive Performance Inspection would commence on 19th January 2004 and it was hoped that partners would take the opportunity to engage in the process.

(b) Submission of Bids

The Vice-Chair reported on the current status of bids to the SSP concerning the purchase of property for the South Derbyshire CVS and log cabins for the Rosliston Forestry Centre. County Councillor Carlile advised that he had not yet received details of the entire list of applications and accordingly, he would reserve his judgement until that time. These comments were endorsed by Sharon Forton of the Southern Derbyshire Chamber, who advised that more information should be available early in December. District Councillor Whyman expressed his frustration at the timescales of the current system, particularly as any funds would require to be spent by recipients not later than 31st March 2004.

Glenys Williams of the Old Post Regeneration Association queried the method to progress projects for next year and it was suggested that this could be discussed at the forthcoming Visioning Event.

(c) Review of National Forest Strategy

Susan Bell advised that a review of the National Forest Strategy had commenced in the form of a consultation exercise on proposals for the next ten years of development. The consultation period would close at the end of December and

900 responses had already been received. Any further views in response to the consultation exercise would be welcomed.

(c) Timescale for Agendas/Minutes

Jo Smith of the South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services reported that a meeting of the voluntary/community sector representatives had been held prior to the Meeting. She advised that if possible, it would be appreciated if Minutes of Meetings could be despatched within two weeks of Meetings and agendas three weeks prior to Meetings. It was advised that the despatch of Minutes within two weeks following a Meeting should normally present no problems but it was noted that the Constitution provided that copies of the agendas and reports would be available at least five clear days prior to the Meetings. Any extension of this period may present problems, as agenda items and reports needed to be assembled from other agencies.

LSP/10. **DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that the following future Meetings had been arranged at 9.30 a.m.:-

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Board Meeting	15th January 2004
'Visioning Day'	28th January 2004
Board Meeting	18th March 2004
Board Meeting	20th May 2004
Forum Meeting	17th June 2004
Board Meeting	19th August 2004
Forum Annual General Meeting	21st October 2004

As previously discussed, it was noted that the venues for these public Meetings would need to be easily accessible.

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 11.00 a.m.