

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at the Committee Room, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on 17th December 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Local Authority Sector

District Councillor John Harrison, Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), County Councillor Clive Moesby, District Councillor Kevin Richards and District Councillor Heather Wheeler (Chairman).

Other Public Sector

Vicki Price (Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust).

Private Sector

Karen Bradley (Toyota UK) and Clive Keble (The National Forest Company).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Gill Farrington (Swadlincote District 50+ Forum), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) (Vice-Chairman) and Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association Limited).

Also in Attendance

Mark Alflat, Stuart Batchelor, Martin Guest, Bob Ledger, Peter McEvoy, Debra Townsend (South Derbyshire District Council) and Faye Nicholls (Derbyshire County Council).

LSP/69. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Melanie Alsop (Learning and Skills Council), Christine Barker (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), Sylvia Green (Derbyshire Rural Community Council), Tony Hurrell (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust) and Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau).

LSP/70. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

District Councillor Richards declared a personal interest in Item 12 (Responding to the Economic Downturn – A few ideas (10 point plan)), as an employee of Derbyshire County Council.

LSP/71. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2008 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LSP/72. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION GROUP

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group held on 27th November 2008 were noted.

LSP/73. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Project Team had begun the process of developing a new strategy document. The Team had progressed the consultation phase in terms of the perceived priorities of local people, and was proposing a consultation event in January 2009, which would confirm the direction of the Strategy and future actions. The Project Team had also identified the need to bring in external capacity to support the process.

The planning event would be the principal consultation event for the community of South Derbyshire to confirm the Strategy's priorities, and start to develop a series of actions for future delivery. It was proposed to hold the event at Toyota, and for it to take the form of an open morning where people would have the opportunity to visit the exhibits and provide feedback. This feedback would be used to draft the Strategy and develop the initial action plan. The Project Team had identified that there was not the capacity within its membership to undertake all the work required to complete the above actions. Consequently it was proposed to contract external support to undertake the planning and the writing up of the strategy following the event.

The Project Team required a working budget of up to £10,000 to complete the planned work. This would cover the cost of delivering the planning event, including the provision of transport for community groups who required assistance, consultancy support for planning and preparation of the Strategy and the design and printing of publicity material. The £10,000 would be funded from the LSP's existing budget, which had a current balance of £30,000.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board notes the proposal of the Sustainable Community Strategy Project Team and approves the allocation of up to £10,000 towards the work proposed.

LSP/74. WASTE MINIMISATION

A presentation was provided by Peter McEvoy, Head of Environmental Services at South Derbyshire District Council.

It was confirmed that Derbyshire produced more than 500,000 tonnes of waste a year, and that there was a desperate shortage of landfill space within the whole country. A waste hierarchy was given with reduced waste being the preferred environmental option, and disposal being the least preferred. The reasons for reducing waste were given as:

- It saved money on materials.
- It saved money on waste disposal.
- It saved the planet's resources.
- It reduced climate change emissions.

The Community Strategy target was confirmed as being the same as last year and this was, "to encourage all LSP Partners to undertake at least one waste minimisation action each year".

The Head of Environmental Services then gave further examples of actions that the District Council had taken. In the first quarter, 1.8 tonnes of card, 1.68 tonnes of paper and 475 kilograms of plastic bottles had been recycled, saving 712 kilograms of CO₂.

It was requested that, if any other organisations carried out projects, they advised the District Council of the results, which could be reported to Kate Allies or Peter McEvoy. In addition, any practical questions could be forwarded to Simon Mortimer, the Council's EMAS Officer, who could be contacted on 01283 595945.

Vicki Price (Derbyshire County PCT) confirmed that they had signed up to reducing their carbon footprint, and asked if they could have copies of the slides. The Head of Environmental Services agreed to forward these, and also added that the Carbon Trust was a very helpful organisation who would visit to give further advice.

Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) confirmed that they had also done a lot of work, but would like further advice on how to quantify what they had achieved. It was agreed that Simon Mortimer would contact Jo Smith following the Meeting to assist with this.

LSP/75. HOUSING STOCK OPTIONS

Bob Ledger (Head of Housing, South Derbyshire District Council) gave a presentation on the current stock option appraisal. The stock option appraisal was a business process, during which a review of financial capacity would take place. This was last done in 2004.

The four options that were available were detailed, and information was given on why this must be carried out. A financial projection of the Housing Account was given, and it was confirmed that this would be operating below safe levels by 2017. The options appraisal would be carried out by a group of the main stakeholders, comprising 3 tenants, 3 Councillors and 3 staff. Support would be provided by the Corporate Management Team, the Head of Housing and consultants. In addition an independent tenant adviser would also support the group, particularly the tenants. The timescale for the project was given and it was anticipated that a report would be taken to Housing and Community Services Committee in March 2009.

LSP/76. ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

It was reported that the first Meeting of the Environmental Forum was held on 4th November 2008 at Repton Village Hall. A total of 40 people attended and 30 others expressed an interest. An update on the Forum was attached to the report, and it was acknowledged that some financial support may be required for this Forum over the next year.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board notes the update and progress achieved.

LSP/77. DPH ANNUAL REPORT

A presentation was given by Vicki Price (Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust) on the Derbyshire Director of Public Health Annual Report 2007/08.

It was reported that the population of Derbyshire was projected to increase by 11% between 2008 and 2025. This increase was largely attributable to increases in the 60+ age group, set to increase by 46.2% by 2025. It was confirmed that more services would be needed to provide care, social support and treatment for long-term conditions.

Further details were also given on the following issues, and actions:-

- Child poverty.
- Poverty in older people.
- Healthy ageing.
- Smoking.
- Obesity.
- Alcohol misuse.
- Substance misuse.
- Mental health and wellbeing.

LSP/78. RESULTS FROM 'OLDER PEOPLE'S SURVEY'

A handout was distributed giving a full summary of the results of the South Derbyshire 50+ Needs Survey.

It was reported that South Derbyshire had the 7th highest population growth of local authorities in England, and in the District, the 50+ population was the fastest growing age group. This survey was undertaken from January to March 2008 to find out information on the physical activity and fear of crime issues relating to the 50+ population of South Derbyshire.

Questionnaires were distributed across the District during market days at Swadlincote, through GP surgeries, at local leisure centres, via a mail shot to various activity groups and at some local supermarkets. All those who took part in the survey were given the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win one of ten £50 supermarket vouchers. In total 800 surveys were returned, which provided a rich source of quantitative and qualitative data. In addition, 3 focus groups were also held with a working group, a sheltered housing group and a residential care home group, to gain a further insight into their physical activity needs and fear of crime issues.

LSP/79. RESPONDING TO THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN – A FEW IDEAS (10 POINT PLAN)

At the last round of LAA Thematic Board Meetings, Derbyshire Partnership Forum had tabled a report asking partners to consider what actions they could take to lessen the impact of the economic downturn. This report was attached as an annexe. In addition a further report was circulated, from the Derbyshire Partnership Forum entitled 'Responding to Economic Downturn'.

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum was seeking support from partner organisations to commit to a 10-point plan to assist local businesses in the current economic climate.

Frank McArdle (South Derbyshire District Council) confirmed that the District Council was facilitating breakfast meetings for the construction industry. This had proved very successful, and the group was now named 'Construction Futures'.

It was also confirmed that the County Council was promoting its 'Trusted Trader Scheme', which was assisting small businesses within the County.

It was agreed that within the current climate, this was very important, and it was requested that the following points were also considered:-

- (1) Difficulty in obtaining credit from banks etc.

- (2) Emphasising Business Link, who had an important role.
- (3) Emphasising Jobcentre Plus and their role.

RESOLVED:-

That the Board supports and where possible, commits to the 10 point plan as detailed in the paper attached to the report.

LSP/80. COMMUNITY STRATEGY MONITORING REPORT 2008-2009 (Quarter 2)

Details of performance were reported for the quarter ending 30th September 2008, in relation to the Community Strategy Action Plan. Key achievements for the first quarter were listed under the following headings:

- Theme 1: Sustainable Development.
- Theme 2: Vibrant Communities.
- Theme 3: Safer Communities.
- Theme 4: Healthier Communities.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Partnership's key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 30th September 2008 be noted.***
- (2) That the Board notes where performance has failed to achieve the specified target and accepts the responses submitted.***
- (3) That the Board notes the performance as outlined in the appendix attached to the report.***

LSP/81. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) requested that an item be included on a future agenda with reference to a garden, in conjunction with Toyota.

Frank McArdle (South Derbyshire District Council) reported that the District Council was undertaking an audit of property in Swadlincote, and saw it as an opportunity for asset management of all public-use buildings.

Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association Limited) reported that funding had been received from Derbyshire County Council, allowing them to provide some free Sunday lunches. In addition, funding had also been received to enable them to give away 10 food boxes a week for 4 weeks. This would be repeated 4 times over the ensuing year. Funding had also been received for a garden.

MRS. H. K. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 11.30 a.m.