

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE  
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote  
on 24th November 2005 at 9.30 a.m.

**PRESENT:-**

**Local Authorities Sector**

Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), County Councillor Joyce Sanders (Derbyshire County Council) and District Councillors Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. (Vice-Chair) and John Wilkins (South Derbyshire District Council).

**Other Public Sector**

Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(Chair), Vicki Price (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust) and Clare Williamson (Learning and Skills Council).

**Private Sector**

Susan Bell, O.B.E. (National Forest Company).

**Voluntary/Community Sector**

John Powderly (substitute for Helena Stubbs – Derbyshire Rural Community Council, Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) and Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association).

**Also in Attendance**

South Derbyshire District Council

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), Mike Greenway (Principal Policy Officer), Malcolm Roseburgh (Community Regeneration Officer) and Neil Betteridge (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

**Derbyshire County Council**

Jane Cox (Partnerships Co-ordinator).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Heather Wheeler, Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association), Brian Conway (Nottingham East Midlands Airport), John Oake (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau) and Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council).

LSP/20. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 13th October 2005 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

LSP/21. **MATTERS ARISING**

Further to Minute No. LSP/16(c) relating to the LSP identity and branding, it was reported that at the last Strategic Co-ordination Group Meeting, Julie Batten had agreed to pursue this issue.

With regard to Minute No. LSP/17 relating to the Rural, Social and Community Programme, John Powderley advised that a draft business case was currently in the course of preparation and a final document would be produced by the end of the year.

LSP/22. **BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

The Board received a detailed report providing an update in relation to the 2004/05 and 2005/06 Business Plans. The Partnership had been awarded grant aid of £150,000 from the DDEP to spend in 2004/05 and 2005/06 and had been notified that the same amount would be available for the next financial year. The Vibrant Economy Group had been tasked with managing the overall process with the Council acting as the accountable body. Grant allocations for 2004/05 projects had been spent, although there was a need to report against remaining leverage and output targets. The 2005/06 Business Plan had now been finalised with projects commencing delivery and the process for identifying projects for next year was now starting.

The Board noted the progress on the Business Plans and it was reported that some slight changes to the procedure were to be made. The monitoring would be undertaken by EMDA and would be output-driven. The Partnership had also been requested to consider an allocation of £450,000 over three years, rather than £150,000 in each year. It was noted that a pro-forma had recently been distributed to Board Members and other stakeholders relating to projects for next year. Mr. Roseburgh advised that responses had been requested by 16th December prior to the next Meeting of the Vibrant Economy Group in January 2006. Councillor Whyman expressed concern at the possible allocation of £450,000 for three years and felt that this may affect small bids, which should be protected. The Chair agreed that local issues should be considered on a yearly basis and the Vibrant Economy Group would need to consider an appropriate balance.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the report be noted.***

LSP/23. **PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

David Lowe, Assistant Chief Executive of Derbyshire County Council attended the meeting and addressed Board Members on this subject. Twenty pilot projects would shape the process, which would involve less ring-fenced funding, less red tape and more freedom. A full roll-out would then be undertaken during 2007/08. The development of the scheme was outlined which had been undertaken in under four months. Four blocks had been identified, namely:- Children and Young People, Healthier Communities and Older People, Safer and Stronger Communities, and Sustainable Communities. Safer Communities targets had been identified involving a 16% reduction in BSC comparator crime, a 30% burglary reduction, 19% vehicle crime reduction and a 5% street crime reduction. Further targets

related to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and an increase in the reporting of domestic violence.

With regard to finance, a single pot would be available for each block, with the County Council being the accountable body. It was noted that existing commitments would be honoured. The governance structure arrangements were detailed and it was reported that the Bolsover LSP was currently undertaking some work for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum on how LSP's could become engaged, as that Partnership had the relevant experience. The benefits which would accrue included closer and accelerated working, fewer targets, additional HORD funds and less monitoring.

Mr. Lowe confirmed that the Area Agreement would reflect the issues contained in the new Derbyshire Community Strategy and there would be a need to work together during the crucial period of the next 12 months.

Board Members thanked Mr. Lowe for his informative presentation.

(At this point, Mrs. Robbins left the Meeting at 10.55 a.m. **On this basis, the Meeting was now inquorate and accordingly, no further decisions could be made).**

LSP/24. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

A report had been circulated on the arrangements and format for the Annual General Meeting and Forum event on 19th January 2006 at Toyota Visitor Centre. As the Meeting was no longer quorate, consideration of the various issues was deferred to a Special Board Meeting on 5th January 2006.

LSP/25. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

A report had been circulated regarding performance management of the LSP and this would now be considered at the Special Board Meeting on 5th January 2006.

LSP/26. **LSP FUNDING AND RESOURCES**

It was reported that the Strategic Co-ordination Group had requested the Board to consider various issues with regard to LSP funding. To date, the LSP's funding had consisted of single contributions from some of the partners and the District Council had administered this funding on behalf of the LSP. A large amount had been invested in the production and distribution of the Community Strategy and associated documents and various meetings of the Forum.

For the current Action Plan 2005/06, the Forums were asked to consider and identify where gaps existed in terms of required funding for delivering the actions. Two of the forums had produced detailed profiles and two of the other forums were confident that their current funding, much of which was from external sources, was covering their work. The Board needed to decide what could be supported within the current funding surplus available.

Partner contributions were a major consideration in this issue, both from sustaining the LSP in the long-term and the true sense of an organisation belonging to the Partnership. There had only been one set of partner contributions to date. Derbyshire County Council had recently contributed

£6,250 to each LSP within the County area and a further £6,250 would be available for the 2006/07 financial year. In conclusion, it was felt that the consolidation of the LSP's finance and resource arrangements was critical for its long-term sustainability and its opportunities for attracting funding were likely to be very limited.

It was noted that within the approved Action Plan of the LSP, the development and implementation of a Communication and Consultation Strategy in the sum of £2,000 would be pursued within the funding available.

The Chair reported that there may be other funding resources available and a further report on financing would be submitted to a future Board Meeting.

**LSP/27. NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

Following the report to the previous Meeting, Susan Bell provided further information on the Living Landmarks Lottery bid being led by the Heart of the National Forest Foundation. The application related to funding of up to £25 million and the preliminary stage would be completed by the end of December. The second stage involved a more detailed bid after an initial decision in May 2006. The bid related to the National Forest as a whole with the Heart of the National Forest as the key centre. Improved sustainable access through the Forest was a key issue and the National Forest was keen to encourage active participation and public involvement. It was felt that the LSP would be an ideal forum for consultation to be input into the Stage 2 process. It was felt that this was a tremendous opportunity to obtain substantial funding for the benefit of the community. Councillor Whyman referred to the associated possibility of the development of the National Forest rail line and felt that the LSP could help to pursue this aim by assisting in the launch of a Swadlincote to Burton link in the first instance. Susan Bell advised that this would need to be a separate issue to the current bid, although the bid did include the redevelopment of Burton Station. Those Board Members present indicated their support for the bid outlined.

Following the report to the last Board Meeting, Jane Cox circulated a consultation document on the draft proposals of the Derbyshire Community Strategy 2006-2009. She advised that this could be considered further at the Special Board Meeting on 5th January 2006. It was noted that comments were required by 11th January 2006, although individuals could respond separately.

Jane Cox circulated details of a final consultation on Derbyshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and it was felt that this could be considered by the Sustainable Communities Sub-Group.

District Councillor Wilkins referred to the recent production of a Youth Facility Plan following a junior needs survey and commended the document, which was now available. He advised that it was hoped to produce a similar document for a younger age group.

John Powderley advised of his discussions with the Department of Transport regarding accessibility strategies. Arising from this, he reported on training targets and it was noted that it was intended to train some LSP members on access to services.

District Councillor Whyman advised that he had recently attended a DDEP presentation regarding the ongoing Westfields retail development in Derby. It was understood that the total size of this development was 90% of the size of the Meadow Hall Centre in Sheffield, but no improved road infrastructure or additional car parking was to be provided. He advised that a consultation period was currently in progress and details were available from Derby City Council.

Susan Bell advised that this could be her last Board Meeting prior to her departure from the National Forest Company and on behalf of the Board, the Chair extended his gratitude for her valuable service.

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 12.10 p.m.