

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on 7th July 2005 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Local Authority Sector

Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), County Councillor Joyce Sanders (Derbyshire County Council), District Councillor Heather Wheeler (South Derbyshire District Council), District Councillor John Wilkins (South Derbyshire District Council).

Other Public Sector

Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary) (Chair), Andy Layzell (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust) (substitute for Nina Ennis), Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association) and Clare Williamson (Learning and Skills Council).

Private Sector

Susan Bell, O.B.E. (National Forest Company), Karen Bradley (Toyota UK), John Oake (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust) and George Tansley (Etete Limited).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Julie Batten (People Express), Rev. Bob Hollings (Churches Together), Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council), Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association) and Chris Harris (South Derbyshire CVS) (substitute for Jo Smith).

Also in Attendance

South Derbyshire District Council

Mike Greenway (Principal Policy Officer), Malcolm Roseburgh (Community Regeneration Officer), Peter Woolrich (Policy and Best Value Officer), Kevin Mason (Economic Development Officer) and Debbie Cook (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

Jane Cox (Partnerships Co-ordinator).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), District Councillor Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. (South Derbyshire District Council) (Vice-Chair), Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Sharon Forton (Derbyshire Chamber), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau) and Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS).

LSP/1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Helena Stubbs declared an interest in the application for Derbyshire County Council's LSP fund.

LSP/2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19th May 2005 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair. Glenys Williams advised that the Old Post Regeneration Association had recently been successful in obtaining a further £225,000 lottery funding (and not £325,000 as stated in the Minutes). It was agreed to amend Minute No. LSP/75 accordingly.

(The Chair introduced Mike Greenway, the District Council's newly appointed Principal Policy Officer with specific responsibility for the LSP).

LSP/3. STRUCTURES AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Under Minute No. LSP/57 of 17th March 2005 and LSP/71 of the 19th May 2005, the Board had been asked to consider a review of structures and had agreed that six working groups based on the themes of the Community Strategy should now be established formerly. These groups would be responsible for delivering the Community Strategy, monitoring trends within their thematic areas and planning for the future. It was also agreed that a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) be established, its role to formulate the agenda for Board Meetings, manage performance, ensure a co-ordinated and consistent approach to cross-cutting issues, manage finances and develop plans to put the Partnership on a sound financial basis in the longer term. The Board also agreed to review the implementation and success of this group in a year's time.

A general discussion took place as to when the most appropriate time for the SCG Group to meet would be. Joyce Sanders queried whether Board Meetings for the LSP were 'set in stone' and expressed concern regarding the pressure placed on officers to action the work of the SCG Group in time for the following Board Meeting. Tony Hurrell stated that should the structures and working arrangements agreed be effective, it might be possible for Board Meetings to be held quarterly.

It was agreed to hold meetings of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group on the Thursday two weeks before every Board Meeting and thereafter to allow the Theme Groups to set future calendars of meetings.

LSP/4. FORUM EVENT ARRANGEMENTS - 28TH JULY 2005

Susan Bell congratulated the Board on the production of the Community Strategy. Tony Hurrell advised that the Strategy was to be launched at the Forum on 28th July 2005 and stated that he would like to finish the morning with the launch of the Strategy. A general discussion took place regarding the timetable for the LSP Forum event to be held on 28th July 2005 in accordance with the suggested draft programme circulated.

Several Board members advised that they felt that the presentations on Local Area Agreements and Children's Centres proposed for the Forum would be better received at future Board Meetings, one at a time. Julie Batten queried

the Communication Plans to follow the launch of the Strategy and Tony Hurrell advised that next year's Forum events would outline what had been achieved. Julie Batten stated that she felt a Communication Strategy was required. Mike Greenway advised that the Council proposed to develop an LSP page on the District Council's website. The programme for the Forum event on 28th July 2005 was agreed. The Board agreed to condense the event into a morning, to launch the Strategy prior to coffee at 11.45 a.m. allowing those present time to read the Strategy over coffee before leaving the event.

LSP/5. **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S LSP FUND UPDATE**

The Board received a detailed report which had been submitted to Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet on 21st June 2005 regarding working with district based Local Strategic Partnerships. The Cabinet had agreed that LSPs be allocated funding on the basis of £6,250 per annum for each District area over two years to develop projects which built the capacity of the LSP and local Community Strategies. The Cabinet had also agreed that LSPs be made aware of the County Council general eligibility criteria through the use of the funds.

Susan Bell welcomed the report and Tony Hurrell advised that this fund was for supporting programmes, not for administrative support for LSPs. Jane Cox advised that one LSP within the County had used the funding for PR/media work. Susan Bell stated that it might be a worthwhile exercise to look at what other LSPs were using this funding for and Tony Hurrell stated that the Board now needed to agree a process for dealing with bids. Glenys Williams suggested that the Board needed to pull out from the Action Plan, those actions requiring funding which would not be able to obtain funding elsewhere. Julie Batten referred to the next item on the agenda being an application to Derbyshire County Council's LSP fund and stated that if this project was approved, it would also publicise the work of the LSP. Susan Bell emphasised the need for a mix of projects to be approved. Tony Hurrell suggested that the Strategic Co-ordination Group needed to agree a process for dealing with bids and then make suggestions to the Board as to whether the LSP should take a strategic or project based approach to the distribution of this fund.

LSP/6. **APPLICATION FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S LSP FUND**

(Helena Stubbs declared an interest in this matter and left the room for the duration of the item).

The Board received an application from Derbyshire Rural Community Council as the lead agent in actioning part of the Community Strategy's Action Area Plan dealing with the need to prepare a baseline position in respect of the availability of community buildings. The bid documents were circulated for information. It was stated that this grant would enable the Derbyshire Rural Community Council to conduct a mapping exercise of existing community buildings across the urban and rural communities of South Derbyshire. Community buildings provided a valuable resource for local people in helping them achieve sustainability. The bid stated that with such a wide variety of settings and facilities provided across the District, this research also aimed to map the extent in which the hall went towards meeting its respective local community needs. A general discussion took place regarding the bid and the general feeling of the Board was that the project was very worthwhile. Julie

Batten stated that this project would assist the LSPs' overall marketing strategy.

The Board approved the Derbyshire Rural Community Council's bid to the LSP fund in the sum of £2,415 for a mapping exercise of community buildings to be conducted across the urban and rural communities of the District. The Board also agreed to convene a meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group.

Arising out of this item Debbie Cook asked the Board whether it required further information and clarification on the declarations of interests at future meetings. The consensus of the Board was they were fully briefed on this matter. John Oake requested a presentation on "Overall Governance" at a future meeting.

LSP/7. **BUSINESS PLAN REPORTS - 2004/2005 OUTPUT MONITORING AND 2005/2006 PROGRESS REPORT**

The Board received a detailed report giving an update in relation to the 2004/05 and 2005/06 business plans. In summary, the overall plan to utilise DDEP Grant was behind schedule although three projects had received approval and were able to commence delivery. If the remaining two initial projects could secure approval in the near future, then a successful outcome was still likely.

The Board noted the progress and approved the Strategy outlined in relation to the 2005/06 Business Plan. It was agreed that a visual presentation/display of projects underway be made available at the Forum on 28th July 2005.

(At 10.45 a.m. Karen Bradley left the Meeting.)

Jane Cox advised that some clarification was needed regarding the future responsibility of SSPs. Tony Hurrell referred to the localism agenda and Susan Bell advised of a change of regime at Emda. George Tansley stated that the Board should ask DDEP if it was likely to receive £150,000 in funding next year and it was agreed to send a letter in this regard accordingly. Tony Hurrell advised that the Police were starting to work in neighbourhood teams as community champions.

(At 10.50 a.m. Evadne Robins left the Meeting.)

LSP/8. **DERBYSHIRE STRATEGIC AREA REVIEW (StAR) - CONSULTATION**

Clare Williamson advised that the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC) had published its StAR review for consultation. The purpose of StAR was to make a fundamental examination of learning provision with a view to improving the choice and quality of post 16 education and skills provision. The views of the Board were requested on the document circulated. District Councillor Heather Wheeler stated that the District was in desperate need of a further secondary school for the northern parishes within the District. Julie Batten stated that she would welcome a future paper on what the LSC were planning to do with the outcomes of the paper before the Board. John Oake stated that there was an issue regarding intimidation of 'accredited courses'.

LSP/9. **DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - PRE-SUBMISSION PARTICIPATION**

The Board was advised that the District Council had submitted a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and was seeking views of the local community and organisations on its contents. The Statement of Community Involvement was circulated for information.

It was reported that the Board was aware that communication and consultation issues were central to the preparation of the Community Strategy and that actions around consultation were built into the 'Opportunities for All' theme contained within the Action Plan. The document made reference to the linkages and relationships between the Community Strategy and the CSI and in this context it was recommended that the document be considered by the Opportunities for All group and an appropriate response be made on behalf of the Board.

It was agreed that the Opportunities for All group respond on behalf of the Board.

LSP/10. **THEMATIC GROUP REPORTS**

Susan Bell stated that the Environmental Group needed to more engaged. She expressed concern that this was a 'weak' group and looked for a closer link with Groundwork Erewash.

LSP/11. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings were outlined as follows:-

Forum, Thursday 28th July 2005 (Mickleover Court Hotel)
Thursday, 15th September 2005 (SDDC)
Thursday, 24th November 2005 (SDDC)
AGM Forum, Thursday 19th January 2006
Thursday, 16th March 2006

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 11.10 a.m.