

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE  
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote  
on 9th December 2004 at 9.30 a.m.

**PRESENT:-**

**Local Authority Sector**

County Councillor Geoff Carlile, Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), District Councillor Heather Wheeler, District Councillor Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. (Vice-Chair) and District Councillor John Wilkins.

**Other Public Sector**

Simon Caines (Connexions Derbyshire), Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(Chair) and Claire Williamson (Learning and Skills Council).

**Private Sector**

Susan Bell, O.B.E. (National Forest Company), Karen Bradley (Toyota UK), Sharon Forton (Southern Derbyshire Chamber) and George Tansley (Etete Limited).

**Voluntary/Community Sector**

Reverend Bob Hollings (Churches Together), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS), Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council) and Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association).

**Also in Attendance**

South Derbyshire District Council

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), Sue Haslett (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer), Kevin Mason (Economic Development Officer), Malcolm Roseburgh (Community Regeneration Officer), Peter Woolrich (Policy and Best Value Officer) and Neil Betteridge (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

Jane Cox (Partnerships Co-ordinator).

Derbyshire Learning Partnership

Chris Hastie.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association), Graham Keddle (Nottingham East Midlands Airport), Julie Batten (People Express), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau) and Maria Hallam (GOEM).

LSP/28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

County Councillor Carlile declared personal interests in Minutes Nos. LSP/31 and LSP/34 as a Director of Groundwork Trust and the DDEP. Councillor Wilkins declared a personal interest in Minute No. LSP/34 as a Director of Credit Union.

LSP/29. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 21st October 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair with the addition of Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils) to the list of apologies.

LSP/30. **MATTERS ARISING**

With regard to Minute No. LSP/22 (3) on the establishment of a Working Group relating to the Business Plan update, it was reported that a Meeting was scheduled to be held on 14th December 2004. Following a query on the sum of £1,000 required relating to the Groundwork Trust proposals for expansion, it was reported that there was no formal agreement to date but this was likely in due course.

LSP/31. **PRESENTATION BY GROUNDWORK EREWASH**

The Board Members received presentations from John Bowie (Executive Director – Groundwork Erewash Valley) and Graham Barrow (Research and Consulting Ltd). Copies of the presentation slides are attached at Annexe ‘A’ to these Minutes.

The Chair emphasised that any funding opportunities should meet the aims and content of the Community Strategy. In response to a question, it was advised that local workforce was utilised wherever possible.

(At this point, Councillor Whyman left the Meeting.)

LSP/32. **DERBYSHIRE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP REVIEW**

Chris Hastie of the Derbyshire Learning Partnership (DLP) presented a report on this matter. The DLP Review Consultation Paper outlined several proposals that would ensure an efficient and effective organisation, better able to meet the requirements of the remit. The Consultation Paper asked five questions and the responses to each were summarised in the Paper, being overwhelmingly supportive of the proposed changes. This Paper now outlined how the DLP would move forward to implement these proposals.

The Derbyshire Learning Partnership Board would become the Derbyshire Learning Partnership, incorporating all partners. Those partners who were Board Members would become Voting Partners, consisting of representatives from constitutionally nominated organisations. Voting Partners would elect the Chair and Vice-Chair and approve amendments to the Constitution. The new voting representation was outlined, being a total of 38 with a quorum of 10. It was anticipated that Voting Partners would be senior representatives with the authority to commit on behalf of their organisations and the membership would aim to reach decisions by consensus.

The existing DLP Executive would become the first Management Group with several changes outlined in the report. The Management Group would be empowered to act on behalf of the Partnership to provide strategic direction and agree, monitor and review action plans and budgets. The Management Group would meet at least once every two months. Representatives on the new Management Group were detailed, being a total of 20 with a quorum of 5.

The DLP would concentrate its activities on the following issues:-

- ❑ Promoting learning.
- ❑ Facilitate access to learning.
- ❑ Organising events to raise aspirations and demand.
- ❑ Raising of awareness and encouraging provider collaboration.
- ❑ Encouraging and disseminating good practice.
- ❑ Supporting the process of regeneration within deprived areas and working collaboratively with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Sub-Regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs)
- ❑ Undertaking any necessary research to achieve these aims.

The DLP would provide a three-year strategic plan and a one year operational plan for approval by the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council (DLSC). Performance indicators would be negotiated with the DLSC.

It was proposed that Local Learning Partnerships (LLPs) would merge with LSP education arms, ensuring clarity of purpose. The focus would be the education theme in each LSP's Community Strategy. Initial discussions had been held and there would be further discussions with LSPs and LLPs on how this could be achieved in each area. It was important that membership of the new groups was inclusive and as most LLPs currently had an Executive Group, it may be that members from that Group would be the most appropriate to join the converged Group.

No change was proposed to the existing Theme Groups, with the exception of renaming the Basic Skills Theme Group as the Skills for Life Theme Group. Under the new Information and Advice contracting arrangements, the DLP would be responsible for an additional Strategic Theme Group and discussions on this were ongoing. Information and Advice was undergoing a national re-brand and this group would be named following the result of this exercise. All Theme Group Chairs would report to the DLP Management Group on a regular basis. New specific, short-term projects may necessitate the formation of other working groups and consideration may need to be given to the number and composition of Theme Groups in the light of emerging strategic issues. These decisions would be the responsibility of the Management Group.

It was proposed to utilise the period up to the Annual General Meeting on 16th February 2005 to implement the above proposals and redefine operations. The Management Group would monitor the effectiveness of the new arrangements and would prepare a draft DLP Constitution incorporating these changes for ratification at the Annual General Meeting. The opportunity would also be taken to review the database of members, providing everyone with an opportunity to recommit to the Derbyshire Learning Partnership. Chris Hastie expressed a willingness to discuss any assistance which could be provided on the delivery of the education issues of

the Community Strategy. She also advised that a copy of the Action Plan was available for any Board Member interested.

LSP/33. **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY 2005/08**

Sue Haslett, the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, presented a report on progress and key priorities for the 2005/08 Crime and Disorder Strategy.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, required specific agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder and misuse of drugs in their local areas. They were required to work in partnership to undertake audits every three years to identify the extent of these problems in their community and to develop and implement strategies to deal effectively with these problems. In addition, the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan (2003) outlined the importance of tackling anti-social behaviour. As part of the drive to deal with this, partnerships were required to audit the extent of anti-social behaviour in their area and include priorities to address anti-social behaviour in their strategies.

An audit of crime and disorder data for 2001-2004 had been completed and details were provided in the report. Domestic burglary rates in South Derbyshire had decreased each year and had been below the County rate. Even though the County rate had increased significantly in the second year, the rate in South Derbyshire continued to fall and burglary was now at its lowest level for three years. Small geographical areas in the District had the majority of burglaries but three in five postcodes in South Derbyshire had suffered no burglary in three years. High proportions of burglaries were opportunistic through open/unlocked downstairs windows and doors and the majority of offenders were 18 to 24 year old males, many with links to drugs misuse.

South Derbyshire was below the County-rate for violent crime each year but followed the County-rate by increasing each year, with a large rise from 2001/02. This could partially be explained by changes in the way in which Police recorded violent crime. The time and location of incidents could be linked to licensed premises and alcohol and again, young males formed a high proportion of offenders.

South Derbyshire was below the County-rate each year for vehicle crime and this had decreased each year, despite the County-rate increasing slightly in the second year. In South Derbyshire, both the theft of and the theft from vehicles had reduced during the last year and a large proportion of theft of vehicles was by under 18s.

With regard to anti-social behaviour, the categories of recorded damage and arson had remained stable during the last year. Damage to vehicles constituted almost one third of all recorded criminal damage between 2001 and 2004 and there were clear problems during the evening and night. The times and locations of incidents appeared to be linked to alcohol consumption and proximity to licensed premises.

As part of the audit process, South Derbyshire CVS was asked to consult with various communities within the District. Whilst burglary was still a major issue for a large number of participants, there was an underlying

feeling that burglary was being addressed. However, it was felt that this should remain a priority for the Partnership. Similarly, although car crime caused anxiety for a large number of people, the messages about security were being received and acted upon. The biggest issue amongst people responding to the consultation was anti-social behaviour and the crimes of violence and harassment perceived to be associated. The environmental issues concerning dog fouling and litter also impacted on the quality of people's lives and everyday experiences. Although it was felt that these issues were minor in comparison to crimes like burglary and violence, it was felt that they should be addressed as a priority. The recommendations from the consultation were as follows:-

- ❑ More visible policing, including park and dog wardens.
- ❑ Enforce existing legislation, particularly in relation to minor crimes such as dog fouling and litter.
- ❑ Provision of more bins for dog waste and litter.
- ❑ Continue projects such as Safer Homes Scheme and Burglary Alarm Project.
- ❑ Improve street lighting and install CCTV in 'high crime' areas.
- ❑ Improve facilities and increase activities for young people.
- ❑ Encourage interaction between older people and young people.
- ❑ Encourage more interaction between the police and young people.

In September 2004, 3,000 Teamwork newsletters had been distributed across the District containing a summary of the results of the crime audit report. It also contained a short questionnaire to enable members of the community to provide their views and various comments were detailed in the report.

The Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005/08 would identify objectives for each priority area. The priorities would be informed by data from the audit and issues identified through the consultation process. Each of the priorities would be given locally agreed performance target(s) that would link with County and regional targets. As a result, a Strategy Writing Day for South Derbyshire was being held on 15th December 2004 and would be attended by members of the Support Team and key representatives from partner agencies. It was proposed that the Draft Crime and Disorder Strategy would be approved at the next Meeting of the Strategic Group on 17th February 2005, prior to its official launch on 22nd March 2005. Board Members were requested to forward any comments or views in relation to the Crime and Disorder Strategy by 15th December 2004.

County Councillor Carlile considered that the document illustrated the safeness of living in South Derbyshire and it was hoped that this would be emphasised in the Strategy. A press release promoting the safeness of the area may also be appropriate.

#### LSP/34. **LSP BUSINESS PLAN 2004/05 UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. LSP/22 of the last Meeting held on 21st October 2004, Malcolm Roseburgh, the District Council's Community Regeneration Officer, presented a report on progress on the 2004/05 Business Plan. The six projects within the Plan had been detailed to the last Meeting and in order to formalise the Council's position as the Accountable Body for the Business Plan, a report had been submitted to the Council's Finance and Management Committee outlining the various risks and responsibilities attached to the role. The Council had since been issued with a formal contract from the

DDEP and in turn, had issued individual funding agreements to the lead partners of projects containing standard terms and conditions together with appendices detailing financial and output targets based on their approved submissions.

Although the formal contract from DDEP had only been issued recently, projects had previously been contacted informally and requested to progress as much as possible without formal approval in order to achieve their targets. The first official claim period since the issue of funding agreements where proper monitoring returns would be required was from 23rd November to 22nd December 2004. However, progress reports had been gathered informally on individual projects and these were outlined to Board Members. With regard to contingency planning for 2004/05 and business planning for 2005/06, the first meeting of a reconvened Vibrant Economy Working Panel had been arranged to be held on 14th December 2004.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That progress on the 2004/05 Business Plan be noted.***

LSP/35. **FINALISING THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Following the completion of the programme of consultation on the Draft Community Strategy, it was necessary to consider arrangements for assembling the various responses and finalising the Strategy. The proposed arrangements were as follows: \_

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
Partners provide details of consultation programmes to District Council (including results).	By 17th December 2004.
Leaders of Thematic Groups (involved in developing the Strategy) consider the feedback from consultees and formulate a response.	By 10th January 2005
Feedback and responses considered at a Special Board Meeting.	13th January 2005
Themes and priorities finalised at AGM and actions prioritised.	27th January 2005
Action Plan agreed by LSP Board	Late February/early March 2005
Implementation of Year 1 Action Plan commences	April 2005

It was noted that this timetable was very tight and required an additional Meeting, proposed to be held on 13th January 2005. This Meeting would also provide an opportunity to finalise the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, including the Partnership Annual Report.

The Chair passed consultation responses which he had received from Burnaston, Egginton and Weston-on-Trent Parish Councils to the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the proposed arrangements for finalising the Community Strategy be approved.***

LSP/36. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LSP FORUM AGM**

Board Members were reminded that arrangements had been made to hold the Forum AGM on Thursday, 27th January 2005 at the Mickleover Court Hotel. It was proposed that the Meeting would commence at 9.30 a.m. and it was aimed to finish by 1.00 p.m. Assistance would be sought from partners to publicise the event.

Although the agenda would need to contain formal business, it was envisaged that a large section would be devoted to the Community Strategy. Accordingly, the proposed agenda was as follows:-

- (1) Welcome and Introduction.
- (2) Apologies.
- (3) Minutes of the Forum AGM held on 24th October 2003.
- (4) Membership of the LSP Board.
- (5) Partnership Annual Report.
- (6) Consultation on the Draft Community Strategy.
  - Overview
  - Feedback on themes and priorities
- (7) Developing the Action Plan – Breakout Session 1.
- (8) Developing the Action Plan – Breakout Session 2.
- (9) The Next Steps.
- (10) Closure of the Meeting.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the arrangements outlined above be approved.***

LSP/37. **NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust) advised that a Government White Paper had recently been issued which potentially, could affect some health issues in the Draft Community Strategy. It was agreed that if appropriate, a report on the White Paper be presented to a Board Meeting early in the New Year.

Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association) advised that the agreement for the conversion of the former Newhall Toilets into a Community Police Office had now been executed.

The Chair advised Board Members of arrangements for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum on 10th December 2004, which he had recently received by facsimile. LSPs had been invited to be represented at the Forum and several Board Members indicated that they would already be attending.

Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council) advised that Tony Walsh of the Derbyshire Racial Equality Council had expressed an interest in involvement with the LSP. The District Council's Deputy Chief Executive reported that a Values and Attitudes Forum had been established, on which minority groups were represented and it was hoped to establish a District-wide Equalities Forum in due course.

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting closed at 11.05 a.m.