

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at the Sharpe's Pottery Visitors Centre
on 21st October 2004 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Local Authority Sector

County Councillor Geoff Carlile, Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), District Councillor Heather Wheeler and District Councillor Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. (Vice-Chair).

Other Public Sector

Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(Chair) and Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association).

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

Julie Batten (People Express), Joy Bates (Churches Together), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) and Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council).

Also in Attendance

South Derbyshire District Council

Sally Knight (Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration), Kevin Mason (Economic Development Officer), Malcolm Roseburgh (Community Regeneration Officer) and Debbie Cook (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

Jane Cox (Policy Officer).

LSP/17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Graham Keddie (Nottingham East Midlands Airport), John Oake (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust), Reverend Bob Hollings (Churches Together), Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association), Maria Hallam (GOEM) and Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council).

LSP/18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Carlile declared that he was a Director of the DDEP and also associated with Groundwork Trust. Sharon Forton and District Councillor Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. also advised that they were Directors of the DDEP. A general discussion took place regarding personal and prejudicial interests and it was

agreed to provide Board Members with further information in this regard at a future Meeting.

LSP/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 22nd July 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

LSP/20. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair advised that he had sent letters to GOEM, the RDA and DDEP outlining the Board's frustration with regard to VAT implications in accordance with Minute No. LSP/13. He also reported that the Draft Community Strategy had been prepared and the themed groups would arrange for the final submissions, once established, following the consultation period.

LSP/21. **PRESENTATION BY DAVID WRIGHT (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP)**

Mr. Wright advised the Board that DDEP was a company limited by guarantee but predominantly a partnership. DDEP's annual report for 2003/04 was available and was circulated for information. Mr. Wright advised that DDEP received money from EMDA but could not cover VAT and could not reclaim VAT on operational costs. Its accountants were working on ways to resolve the VAT issue but there was not a common framework and each local VAT office determined its own approach. The Chair queried any lobbying by the Board with regard to VAT implications and Councillor Whyman stated that VAT could cause considerable problems when offering a small grant to a small organisation. It was agreed that there was a need to lobby Mark Todd, M.P. and it was also suggested that Frank McArdle and Councillor Barrie Whyman should lobby the East Midlands Development Agency at its next meeting. Susan Bell advised that she felt it appropriate to raise this issue with the M.P. and Mr. Wright advised the Meeting that because DDEP 'took the VAT on the chin' it did not affect the grants. The Chair advised that no response had been received from GOEM or EMDA on this issue and individual organisations needed to consider whether exemptions could apply.

Mr. Wright advised that DDEP had emerged from the SSP (Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership for Derbyshire). The principle behind this was that EMDA felt that based in Nottingham, it could not decide on the priorities economically for the area. It would have a broad strategic policy framework but it needed to decide locally and therefore 50% of EMDA's budget had been devolved to seven sub-regional partnerships. Mr. Wright advised that DDEP had 17 Board Members (15 voting, 2 non-voting) and GOEM and EMDA also attended these Meetings. It had a budget of approximately £5.8 million and covered a diverse area. In October 2003, it had been instructed to spend £2.8 million but this had not been spent necessarily on the best economic development projects due to the short timescales involved. DDEP wanted to move away from low scale small impact projects to larger, higher valued projects. Mr. Wright advised the Board that it had distributed £150,000 to all local LSPs within its area to spend on economic projects and to date was the only SSP in the region to do this. DDEP's remit related to economic activity and it would only support local projects which delivered tier three outputs. It was hoping to appraise a plan, providing LSPs with more flexibility to manage their programmes but EMDA had insisted on individual project appraisal. All plans were currently with DDEP and were being

appraised. Mr. Wright advised that he had submitted an allocation for a similar amount this year and he advised that other colleagues were unsure about the benefits of distributing such monies to LSPs. He therefore asked for support in this issue by only considering economic projects which met tier three outputs.

Mr. Wright advised that the DDEP Board had decided that the minimum single project amount which the LSP could approve would now be £25,000. He recommended that bodies should work together with a single owner of a project if individual projects were to cost less than £25,000. In response to a query from George Tansley, Mr. Wright advised that there was no value for outputs and Mr. Tansley asked whether DDEP would be monitoring reports on a quarterly basis. Mr. Wright advised that as a discipline, this was quite helpful but the monthly requirement for reporting in accordance with the contract was now the responsibility of South Derbyshire District Council. EMDA placed a requirement on DDEP for such monitoring and accordingly, DDEP remained in a position where it had to encourage monthly monitoring requirements. Julie Batten spoke about the difficulties of bids for the voluntary sector in the short term and Mr. Wright encouraged LSPs to start planning for next year's budget. Susan Bell advised that the discussion had been very helpful and provided a better understanding of the process involved.

Councillor Whyman advised that EMDA had targets imposed by Central Government and accordingly, they passed targets to DDEP which subsequently passed them to the LSP. The Chair stated that there was a need to help small groups bidding to approach the appropriate bodies and Councillor Carlile accepted that the current system was unsatisfactory but it was the only system available for the Board to work with. The LSP was aware that it would receive £150,000 for next year and accordingly, it had six months to plan how to spend it. Jo Smith stated that organisations had a choice whether or not to bid and groups needed to look at funding to meet needs instead of chasing funding unnecessarily. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler welcomed Mr. Wright's presentation and referred to South Derbyshire as the fastest growing District in the East Midlands, questioning whether the LSP should receive more than £150,000. Councillor Whyman referred to other bids attracted outside of the LSP from DDEP and Mr. Wright stated that the LSP's role was wider than economic activity. He stated that the LSP was not currently being judged on this year's bids and DDEP would continue to press for more than £150,000 if it could be justified to EMDA. He again talked about projects working together and possible community chests. Mr. Wright confirmed that he was happy to attend future LSP Meetings, if requested.

Sharon Forton advised that the East Midlands Regional Assembly Scrutiny Panel had produced a document on partnership working and agreed to circulate details on how to obtain a copy. The Chair advised that a 'big idea' was needed for the area and in response, Susan Bell stated that such a 'big idea' could incorporate smaller ideas. Mr. Wright advised that £300,000 had been allocated to the Derby voluntary sector and urged organisations to use links in place to obtain funding.

LSP/22. LSP BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Malcolm Roseburgh advised the Meeting that a Business Plan with Board approval was submitted to DDEP in the summer of 2004/05. The Plan comprised of six projects which were outlined as follows:-

Project Name	Lead Agency	DDEP Grant	Total Project Cost
		£	£
West Street Redevelopment Phase 1	West Street Community Partnership	50,500	119,330
Swadlincote Area Regeneration Study	South Derbyshire District Council	25,000	60,000
National Forest Business Grants*	National Forest	10,000	20,000
The Grid	People Express	15,000	30,000
Findern Access Centre	Findern Parish Rooms Improvement Group	36,000	76,000
Moneyspider Credit Union	Credit Union Outreach Services	6,000	12,000
Admin		7,500	7,500
Total		150,000	304,830

*National Forest project is over 3 years with £10,000 grant each year.

Since the submission, DDEP had appraised the projects individually and subject to clarification of some financial details on the Findern project, had approved them all. Discussion with DDEP Officers had indicated that they were in a position to offer one contract for the scheme as a whole, with the District Council acting as accountable body. This was in line with the original Business Plan submission. The Board was advised that it would have been possible to DDEP to offer individual contracts to each project but amongst other issues, this could have caused cash flow difficulties for some lead organisations.

The Board was advised that all projects had indicated that they were on target to deliver spend and outputs to timescales, as originally indicated. Subject to the detail of the DDEP contract, it was anticipated that the Plan and projects would be managed and monitored similar to SRB and other funding programmes. Further to the £150,000 allocated to the partnership for this financial year, DDEP had indicated that a further £150,000 would be forthcoming in 2005/06 and 2006/07. Given the need to identify, develop and deliver projects with suitable economic outputs and outcomes in a relatively short timescale, it was imperative for the Partnership Board to decide upon a suitable mechanism to achieve this. The previously convened Business Planning Group was disbanded after fulfilling its sole remit of original Business Plan submission. It was therefore suggested that it might be appropriate that any new sub-group or other structure also took responsibility for any contingency planning required in relation to the original Business Plan.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) ***That the Board notes progress in relation to the 2004/05 Business Plan.***
- (2) ***That the Board establishes a Working Group (based on the Vibrant Economy theme) to develop and deliver Business Plans for 2005/06 and 2006/07 in conjunction with DDEP and other funding partners.***
- (3) ***That, in accordance with (2) above, the Working Group be mindful of the rules and timescales involved, is Chaired by Sharon Forton and consists of representatives of the voluntary sector, the National Forest, the Local Authority and any other interested partners.***

LSP/23. **GROUNDWORK TRUST – PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION**

Malcolm Roseburgh presented a report to update partners on feasibility work, examining the need and support for expansion of Groundwork Trust operations in Derby and Derbyshire. Councillor Whyman queried the costs involved and was advised that it was understood that approximately £1,000 was required in the short term. David Wright advised that he was not certain that this money was needed, as there was a surplus from the earlier stages still available. Mr. Wright talked about the generation of funds from these projects from the ODPM. Susan Bell stated that she would like to make cross-boundary links (Burton, Swadlincote, Coalville) and stated that it would be beneficial if East Staffordshire could buy into such links but recognised that this could not happen in the immediate future.

RESOLVED:-

That the consultants employed by the Steering Group and representatives of Groundwork Erewash be invited to the next Meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership Board to make a presentation on the proposals and work to date.

LSP/24. **DRAFT SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - UPDATE**

The Board was advised that the original plan was to complete the consultation by the end of November with a view to finalising the Strategy at an AGM in December. For various reasons (including staff absence), this timetable was no longer possible. Nina Ennis expressed concern at the infrastructure available to support the LSP. She understood that the Council had absorbed this work but it was now having difficulties which needed addressing. Frank McArdle advised that the Council was endeavouring to strengthen areas to improve service delivery within the Policy Unit for the LSP and thereafter, this matter could be revisited. Sally Knight advised that there was a need to agree the Community Strategy and consider the support thereafter. The Chair concluded that this issue could be discussed in the final stages of the Strategy production.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) ***That progress in the development of the Community Strategy be noted.***
- (2) ***That a Board Meeting now be held on 9th December 2004, instead of the AGM as originally proposed.***

- (3) That the AGM now be held on Thursday, 27th January 2005 at the Mickleover Court Hotel.**

LSP/25. **CONSULTATION WITH HARD TO REACH GROUPS – PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

Jo Smith presented a detailed report on the intention to consult with under-represented groups (known as hard to reach) in relation to the Community Strategy on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership. She stated that this work would complement consultation work being undertaken by other LSP partners in the public and business sectors and provide a qualitative component to the questionnaire methodology being developed by Chimera Consulting. She advised that the focus of the consultation would be on individuals, communities and groups across the District that had traditionally been excluded from the consultation process and to date, were under-represented in planning and strategic forums. She outlined a list of hard to reach groups which was not exhaustive but comprised of those communities that could be considered to be excluded from the usual consultation mechanisms and had not yet engaged in dialogue with the LSP.

Nina Ennis suggested including ‘substance mis-users’. She advised that the PCT was currently spending substantial time at Foston Hall Prison and queried whether it should be included in the consultation. Councillor Whyman stated that in his opinion, the Prison related itself to East Staffordshire, even though it was situated in South Derbyshire and therefore the LSP could undertake some work with the Prison. Frank McArdle agreed to make contact accordingly.

Jo Smith outlined the methodology proposed to undertake the consultation, together with the timetable involved. She stated that the reporting procedure would be negotiated, depending on the size and scale of events held. A final report would be produced in mid-December to agree LSP deadlines containing the work undertaken, analysis of results, conclusions and issues for consideration by the Board. The cost of the work totalling £11,800 was outlined.

RESOLVED:-

That the proposal for consultation with hard to reach groups be approved, subject to the comments outlined above.

LSP/26. **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

The Chair advised that a letter had been received from the Chair of the South Derbyshire Local Implementation Group raising the issue of linkages between the Group and the LSP, including representation with the LSP structure. A copy of the letter was circulated to Board Members.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That a paper be produced for a future Board Meeting on the options for working groups/sub-groups.**
- (2) That further information be obtained from the Local Implementation Group to determine how best it could contribute to the work of the LSP (and vice-versa).** Page 6 of 7

Arising from the above discussions, Jane Cox of Derbyshire County Council advised that Sara Eaton (Partnerships Manager at Derbyshire County Council) was organising a meeting to discuss this matter with all LSP Chairs.

LSP/27. **NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

Sharon Forton advised that a contact with Connexions had been secured to deliver training in Swadlincote. Premises had been secured at the George Holmes Business Park and it was hoped that the project would be established in January 2005.

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting closed at 11.15 a.m.