

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE  
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at the Barn Room, Rosliston Forestry Centre  
on 24th September 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

**PRESENT:-**

**Local Authority Sector**

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

**Other Public Sector**

Melanie Alsop (Learning and Skills Council), Superintendent Andrew Hough (Derbyshire Constabulary) and Mary Hague (Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust) (substitute for Vicki Price).

**Private Sector**

Karen Bradley (Toyota UK Limited), Colleen Hempson (East Midlands Airport) and Tony Hurrell (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust).

**Voluntary/Community Sector**

Gill Farrington (Swadlincote District 50+ Forum), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) (Vice-Chairman), Julie Batten (People Express), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau), Sylvia Green (Derbyshire Rural Community Council) and Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association Limited).

**Also in Attendance**

Stuart Batchelor, Ian Bowen, Martin Guest, Mike Roylance, Sasha Ryan and Debra Townsend (South Derbyshire District Council), Faye Nicholls (Derbyshire County Council) and Claire Thornber (3D Voluntary Steps to Consortium).

LSP/57. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SECTOR BOARD MEMBERS**

The Chairman confirmed the Voluntary/Community Sector Board Members, following their election on 17th September 2008.

LSP/58. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors John Harrison and Kevin Richards, Vicki Price (Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust), Nick Chischniak (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce), Clive Keeble (The National Forest Company) and Christine Barker (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils).

LSP/59 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th June 2008 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LSP/60. **UPDATE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

A report was submitted to the Board on the progress of the South Derbyshire Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and the need to co-ordinate this work with the LSP and the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

The Planning Policy Officer advised the Meeting that the LDF was a generic term for a range of different types of planning policy documents, which set out the visions and strategy for accommodating the growth levels required by the Regional Spatial Strategy. The first and most important of these documents was the Core Strategy, which would set out the overall vision and strategy for developing the District up to 2026.

Regulations governing the preparation of LDF documents were very rigorous and they may only be adopted after having being independently judged against a number of tests of soundness. Principles relating to the test were included within the report.

When the timetable for preparing the Core Strategy was originally reported to the Board in March 2008, it was intended that formal submission of the document to the Secretary of State would take place in March 2009, with final adoption in June 2010. However, the Government had since recognised that the complexity of the whole process had led to major delays in processing this work throughout England. New regulations and guidance had been issued which significantly changed the way local authorities were required to approach the task. These changes had meant that the planned Issues Consultation had yet to take place. The Council would also need to revise its Local Development Scheme (LDS) early in 2009 and this would need to be co-ordinated with Derby City Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council, with whom the Council was aligning its Core Strategy work. An 'issues and ideas' consultation would be rolled out in October/November which would provide initial public and stakeholder views on a wide range of issues such as housing, the environment, transport, employment, education and leisure, and would mark the first step in establishing the overall LDF vision and objectives to 2026.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Board notes the changes recently made by Government to the process for preparing Local Development Frameworks and the need for a revised timetable for the South Derbyshire LDF.***
- (2) That the Board notes and endorses the proposed arrangements for co-ordinating consultation and preparation of the LDF Core Strategy with the Sustainable Communities Strategy.***
- (3) That the revised timetable for preparing the LDF Core Strategy be reported back to the Board, once approved, early in 2009.***

LSP/61. **MINUTES OF STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATING GROUP ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2008****RESOLVED:-**

***That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group, held on Tuesday, 2nd September 2008, be noted.***

**LSP/62. LSP COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW**

The Strategic Co-ordinating Group had agreed to conduct a review which would assess the impact of South Derbyshire LSP's communications, identify the profile that its Members wanted for the Partnership, consider options for PR support and opportunities for dissemination of messages. The Group had agreed a provisional budget for the review of £2,500.

The project would be implemented through a desktop audit, work with Partners, and research on best practice arrangements. Partners would be asked to complete a self-assessment of their arrangements. This would include a record of media coverage over a period of time.

A report with recommendations would be presented to the Board in March 2009, which would include a review of the following:-

- Community Strategy and action plan.
- LSP structure chart.
- LSP communications structure and budget.
- Media coverage for the last two months and analysis for 2007/08.
- List of key media outlets.
- Resident publications.
- Web addresses for LSP and partner sites.

The following tools would also be used to help inform the review:-

- Connecting with Communities criteria.
- Reputation Campaign criteria.

The project was due to start in December 2008 and finish with a report in March 2009, to implement any recommendations as part of the new Sustainable Communities Strategy from April 2009.

It was envisaged that much of the work would be undertaken by District Council staff who supported the Partnership (Policy and Leisure and Community Development), but some work would need to be undertaken through external support. A maximum budget of £2,500 was requested, which would only be used if the work could not be delivered from within the Partnership itself. This allocation would come from the Partnership's budget reserve.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Board notes the process for the review and allocates £2,500 for support to undertake the review.***

**LSP/63. PROCESS FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE NEW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

A report was submitted advising that the current Community Strategy covered the period 2005 to 2010. The current plan was refreshed in 2006 and although the themes were retained, the actions associated with these were amended to bring them up to date with the changing direction of the District. There was a need to produce a new SCS for the District, that set the new direction, with a vision, themes and priorities to take the District forward from April 2009, to link with the County Council's new SCS.

The process for the production of the new SCS needed to start, and would be produced along the same timelines as the new Corporate Plan and Local Development Framework.

To manage this process, a project team would be set up to bring together expertise from partners across the District to take this project forward in line with the proposed timetable which was included in the report. Proposed Members of the project team were also detailed.

It was requested that those present take part in a facilitated exercise, looking at the emerging issues for South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership and how these could be taken forward in the Community Strategy.

It was noted that there was no representative on the project team from the private sector. The Corporate Performance and Policy Officer agreed to reconsider this list and include a representative. It was confirmed that the results of consultations would be fed back to all consultees and that any evidence-based information would be shared by all documents.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Board notes the approval of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group in respect of the Membership and remit of the project team, to project manage the delivery of the SCS, to commence from April 2009.***
- (2) That the Board agrees the process and notes the key stages in the development of the new SCS, to commence from April 2009.***

LSP/64. **VOICE FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN DERBYSHIRE**

Claire Thornber, Voice Project Officer on behalf of 3D Voluntary Sector Consortium, gave a presentation on third sector support for Derbyshire. This was a consortium of local infrastructure organisations in Derbyshire that aimed to improve the quality of life for people across the county by supporting the third sector.

Background information was given on the organisation, and their project goals were:-

- To improve and increase voluntary sector representation and involvement with Local Strategic Partnerships and other representational forums.
- To increase VSC contribution to the development and delivery of Local Strategic Partnership priorities.

Further details were given under headings as follows:-

- Co-ordination.
- Information.
- Communication.
- Promotion.
- Education.
- Liaison

LSP/65. **THE PLACE SURVEY**

A report was submitted advising the Board that all local authorities had a statutory duty to undertake the new Place Survey on behalf of the LSP from 2008. The survey was about improving outcomes for local people and places, as emphasised in the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities. This survey had replaced the previous suite of Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys, and was to be conducted every two years to allow local authorities to track changes in perception more frequently and respond in a timely way. It was confirmed that the Place Survey would be assimilated as a questionnaire and posted to 4,000 randomly selected households.

Ipsos Mori had been commissioned to manage this survey on the Council's behalf, at a cost of approximately £15,000.

Detailed within the report were questions that were, and also that were not, included within the Place Survey. In addition, a timetable for the survey was included, leading up to Spring 2009 when the results would be published and promoted.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the process for the Place Survey and the implications for partners be noted.***

LSP/66. **DERBYSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

A report was submitted advising the Board of progress on the development of the new Derbyshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011 and to inform partners of proposed next steps.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) formally approved the LAA and designated Derbyshire's 35 improvement targets on 30th June 2008. Whilst the two local targets contained within the Derbyshire LAA were not designated targets, the statutory duty to have regard to them still applied.

Next steps within this process were confirmed, and in order to fulfil the requirements to "have regard", statutory partner authorities were expected to be able to demonstrate how they were effectively planning for the implementation of their contribution to the achievement of those targets to which they had signed up. In addition, focus also moved to the delivery of the LAA and how partners would use it to make a difference to public services and the quality of life for people in Derbyshire. Each of the six thematic partnerships were currently working on the ongoing development of plans and strategies, to help deliver the LAA.

The next step in the LAA framework was the annual review, which would take place in Winter 2008. This would lead to the development and approval, by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, of a refreshed LAA by the end of March 2009. This refreshed LAA would then take effect from 1st April 2009.

It was also confirmed that communications with partners and the public had a central role to play in ensuring the success of the Derbyshire LAA. To

facilitate increased awareness, understanding, information giving, feedback, discussion and decision-making amongst partner organisations and local communities, existing channels of communication would be used and new ones developed where necessary.

Throughout autumn and winter, all 42 forums in Derbyshire would be informed about the LAA priorities for Derbyshire, and data gathered would be used to help identify how these differed for residents across the county. Participants would also have the opportunity to identify local issues within these broader priorities and to consider possible local activity to help support delivery. These events would enable local people to identify if there were emerging priorities, which, in turn would inform the refreshed LAA.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the formal approval of the Derbyshire LAA 2008-2011 be noted.***
- (2) That the next step approach as set out in the report be noted.***
- (3) That partner agencies continue to communicate issues relating to Derbyshire LAA within their own organisations.***

LSP/67. **COMMUNITY STRATEGY MONITORING REPORT**

A report was submitted, which provided details of performance for the quarter ending 30th June 2008 in relation to the Community Strategy Action Plan. The key achievements during the first quarter for each of the key theme groups and an update on any further activity were given under the following headings:-

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

Concern was raised over item reference No. HC2.3 – Older People's Dance Pilot. There were concerns that a particular event was not publicised sufficiently and may not have taken place. Mary Hague agreed to pursue this matter.

There was also concern over the reporting of the outcomes, and it was suggested that further information be provided within the progress section, with further details being given on the outcome and achievement of each item. The Corporate Performance and Policy Officer agreed to pursue this matter by reviewing the process to make it more robust.

LSP/68. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Gill Farrington (Swadlincote 50+ Forum), advised that a meeting was imminent to discuss the results of the Older People's survey update, and agreed to submit further information to the next Meeting.

MRS. H. K. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 11.55 a.m.  
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