

597 NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 30 March 2007, having previously been circulated, were an accurate representation of views expressed.

598 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Evans was not present at the previous meeting and asked if CO2 targets had been weakened as mentioned. Keith Budden said that the BSP was still committed to a 20% cut on 1990 levels by 2010 and a 60% cut by 2050, however, interim targets are being developed with partners on their existing base lines.

599 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair formally welcomed the new BSP Director, Jackie Mould, to the Board meeting. The Chair also formally expressed the BSP's collective appreciation to Steve Jordan for his hard work and wished him well on his retirement.

600 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

Jon Bright summarised the discussions held at the Programme Board;

- Progress on the NRF 2006/7 spend and 2007/8 allocations
- PSA1 target (20% reduction in crime)
- The Lozells Report and the Community Cohesion Forum
- Progress on the Community Engagement commissioning developments
- The proposed Single Neighbourhood Programme
- The commitment to strengthen partnership between BSP and Constituency Strategic Partnerships
- The list of 6 Innovation Fund projects. Jon asked the Board to note the Programme Board minutes and to formally approve the Climate Change and Alcohol Strategy projects. The remaining projects will come forward as part of the next board meeting.

The Board made the following comments:

- Mick Rice welcomed the decision to minimise NRF underspend and was aware of the process to look at more detail in managing the last year of NRF. He noted that the targets in the appendices had been achieved
- Hannah Worth stated that the Community Engagement Review was extensive and described the different systems in the city.
- Cllr Tilsley, the Chair, used his authority to agree the two projects (Climate Change and Alcohol Strategy)
- Cllr Evans requested that Ward Applications Forms be completed for the two projects

601 REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jackie Mould introduced herself to the Board and stated that she would like to meet members on an individual basis to discuss direction and priorities for the BSP. The Director informed the Board of the short and long-term objectives.

The short-term goals were to strengthen partnership arrangements, improve the focus on delivery, organise the BSP team and develop a communication strategy. She said there was agreement to conduct a stock take of the BSP role to ensure that it was 'fit for purpose'. There are plans to strengthen governance by improving links with blocks, constituencies and neighbourhoods. There was an increased focus on LAA targets and 'closing the gap' supported by a robust management performance process. The BSP team will be relocated in one place and this would improve communication across and between partnerships. The marketing plan for BSP would help raise Birmingham's profile and the value of partnership working.

The longer-term objective was to develop a new LAA with clear delivery chains/plans. The Community Strategy would be developed by a task group and the process would include a future search programmes, large events for the public, partners and stakeholders. A meeting will be held to look at delivery, to identify underperforming areas, and to take appropriate action. This will be a key piece of work for the next Programme Board, to work with GOWM to develop constituency strategic partnership and to respond to recommendations 23 & 24 of the LAA Scrutiny Report. Jackie asked the Board for their comments on the short and long-term proposals and their endorsement to proceed.

The Board members made the following comments:

- Cllr Evans stated that some partnerships had more weak links than others. He felt that some information would be too late if made available in December 2007 and ward based projects needed a mechanism in place before that, in order to evaluate work on a ward-to-ward basis. He welcomed Item 6i but was concerned about what the constituencies attitude would be as the process appeared to be a top down approach. Jackie Mould agreed to take these comments on board (stock take). She also noted the concerns raised regarding post NRF issues and promised to report to the Board before December. The constituency issues would be picked up by Ifor Jones.
- Cllr Tilsley emphasised that it was important to engage with partners who can make decisions for their organisations at constituency level; but it had become very difficult for people in senior positions to attend meetings due to other diary commitments. There was an increased need for representatives to report back to their organisation. It was important to address this communication challenge in future meetings.
- Mick Rice asked whether 2008 funds would be allocated by the end of July 2007? The BSP will need to review arrangements, as the NRF is replaced by the LAA. He asked whether the LPSA reward grant funding would form part of the LAA. Cllr Tilsley noted these comments.
- In reply to a query about when the Hall Green CSP would have a meeting (it had last met in September 2006). Cllr Evans replied that officers were not able to convene a meeting and Ifor Jones offered to look at the situation.
- Vij Randeniya stated that the Reward Grant associated with the fire reduction LPSA would be achieved. He asked how these funds would be factored into the BSP/LAA development.

Cllr Tilsley stated that all comments had been noted and would be actioned.

602 STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

Ian Coghill introduced the item and made the following points:

- The Stronger and Safer Communities block consisted of five different partnerships.
- The Chair of the steering group does not attend Programme Board meetings and therefore Anil Patani had agreed to represent Safer and Communities block
- The funding had increased recently as a bid for funding presenting Extremism as successful.
- Neighbourhood work is a core part of the 3 blocks activity and is very important to improve community cohesion, within the BSP remit.
- Crime had reduced by 19.2% which is just short of target to reduce crime by 20%. A lot of joint effort and change contributed to achieving this target.
- Specific concerns on targets had been discussed at previous meetings.
- There was some positive news on the environment targets and the discussion on partnership had some early discussion on how the sustainability agenda could influence other issues such as worklessness
- The Safer and Stronger Communities block was independently assessed by representatives from Waltham Forest to provide a view on whether they were 'fit for purpose'.
- Accountability continues to be a challenge for partners.

Paul Scarrott made the following points:

- Neighbourhood local policing delivery is on target
- Community cohesion remains an important consideration for the block and BSP as a whole.
- He had recently spoken on a local Asian radio station and a suggestion was made that more senior Muslim officers be involved with parts of the community to gain their trust in the police.
- Making structures coterminous made it difficult to communicate actions from meeting to colleagues.
- The target and outputs was a simple structure

The Board made the following comments:

- Cllr Evans welcomed a coterminous process but there may be problems with this at a later stage.
- Paul Scarrott stated that to move forward with a coterminous process had to be a) positive b) inclusive c) decisive
- Cllr Tilsley stated that there were coterminous boundaries between constituency boundaries and PCTs.
- Naseem Akhtar welcomed the neighbourhood policy and questioned Ian Coghill over 'disparity of services'. What is the partnership doing to close this gap? Ian Coghill replied that NRF funds were being used to design some improvements e.g. new machines and bio-gradable materials. Birmingham must also invest and engage with local communities.
- Jean Templeton understood the difficulties the large block faced and wondered how this was being handled by the Stronger and Safer Communities block. Ian Coghill said that the discussions concentrated on the stronger communities component because the safer part already had a home.

603 NEIGHBOURHOOD APPROACH

Jon Bright reported that the neighbourhood work was in progress, working with Ifor Jones and Elaine Elkington, to bring about a coherent approach. This would draw upon the current process/experience, and extending geographical coverage. He said that funds are currently other from a variety of bodies and a clear delivery framework of neighbourhood element, to show impacts for residents. The paper sets out the benefit of a single approach for the 3 guide neighbourhoods, 15 Neighbourhood element areas, managed through central coordination, with agreed aims and objectives with a 'light touch' and where necessary appropriate training and support.

Ifor Jones stated that the constituencies welcomed the paper. It brought clarity and did not underestimate the progress already made but had a positive emphasis on improved performance and cohesion.

The board made following comments:

- Mick Rice congratulated BCC and BSP and stated that residents must be on the side for cohesion, for example there was a good relationship with the Housing Liaison Board and neighbourhood forums. There were guide neighbourhoods in Birmingham, Castle Vale, Balsall Heath and Witton Lodge a housing association. Lessons can be learned but he warned against the three guide neighbourhoods being used as the only way forward; there were concerns from some residents on setting up the guide neighbourhoods.
- Hannah Worth said the paper recognised a plethora of groups and agreed with Mick Rice.
- Brian Carr acknowledged the voluntary sector's role in neighbourhoods and maintained that a review process would widen the scope for neighbourhoods and create increased community engagement opportunities
- Mohammed Shafique agreed with Mick Rice on the role of neighbourhood forums and was concerned about following the guide neighbourhoods route. He felt it contradicted the national

neighbourhoods agenda in that residents may not be active and only have support of volunteers with issues on a small scale. What type of support can BSP offer to assist volunteers through the proposal?

- Cllr Evans agreed with Mick and Mohammed regarding neighbourhood forums. He felt many had become interest groups and did not represent the diversity of their area.
- Naseem Akhtar confirmed that guide neighbourhood Castle Vale was a success story despite their large funds and an example of best practice.

Jon Bright said that comments were helpful and guide neighbourhoods could provide a starting point. He accepted other points raised especially around neighbourhood forums. The framework paper was not intended to be 'top down' but a 'light touch.' Stephen Hughes confirmed that the proposal, encompassing the guide neighbourhoods was not about seeking additional resources but was driven by a desire to find different way of maximising resources.

604 AOB
None.

MEETING ENDED 15:00
NEXT MEETING 12:45 to 16:00 hours on Wednesday 5th September 2007 in Room 604, Lloyd House, Police Headquarters, West Midlands Police, Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6NQ

Appendix A Attendance

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Naseem Aktar, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Jon Bright, Director of Policy and Delivery, Birmingham City Council
Brian Carr, Chief Executive, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council
Trudi Elliott, Government Office West Midlands
Cllr Jerry Evans, Sparkbrook District Chair
Tim Hanson (for Neil Rami), Marketing Birmingham
Cllr Ray Hassall, Birmingham Culture Consortium
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
Ifor Jones, District Director, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ayoub Khan, Cabinet Members for Local Services and Community Safety
DCFO Vijith Randeniya, West Midlands Fire Service
Mick Rice, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums
CSUPT Paul Scarrott, West Midlands Police Service
Mohammad Shafique, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Cllr Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council (Chair)
Jean Templeton, Birmingham Housing Strategic Partnership
Lyndley Jenks (for Jon Wright), Jobcentre Plus
Cllr Jim Whorwood, Cabinet Member for Local Services & Community Safety, BCC
Hannah Worth, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network

MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr Sue Anderson, Cabinet Member for Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council
Jerry Blackett, Chief Executive, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Sophia Christie, Chief Executive, Eastern and North Birmingham Primary Care Trust
Professor Michael Clarke, Vice Principal, University of Birmingham
ACC Anil Patani, West Midlands Police
Dr Abdul Rashid, Faith Leaders Group
Joy Warmington, Chief Executive, Birmingham Race Action Partnership

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

Jackie Mould, BSP Director, Jayne Bench, BSP Finance Management Team, Natascha Bowett, BSP Communications Manager, Denise Thompson, BSP Partnership Communications (Notes).

ALSO PRESENT

Keith Budden, Birmingham Strategic Partnership Guy Horden, SACRE;