

The attendance list is attached at Appendix A. The chair welcomed Japanese visitors from Japan Local Government Centre, Kanagawa Prefectural Government, Meiji-Gakuin University, Meiji University, and The Yomiuri Shimbun.

568 NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

The notes of the board meeting held on 24th November, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

569 MATTERS ARISING

There was one matter arising. Dr Peter Strachan asked for an update on point 552 regarding LSC funding for the Development Agency scheme. Cllr Tilsley responded that there was no update as far as he was aware and asked Naomi Rees to seek clarification.

570 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Cllr Tilsley, Jon Bright and ACC Anil Patani fed back to the board on the DCLG meeting they attended on 19th January 2007, which considered four LSPs including Birmingham (the others were Nottingham, Tower Hamlets and Manchester). They made the following points;

- As DCLG will shrink by 10% there is an important issue around how to manage/monitor NRF delivery;
- There is confusion around how much support is available from central government for LSPs;
- LSPs don't always have strong governance or clear accountabilities. LSPs don't always target resources efficiently. They tend to operate in grant giving rather than a strategic commissioning model;
- Birmingham sent the most senior delegation, with the widest representation then any other LSP.

Action: Feedback from McKinsey & Co, if it becomes available, will be circulated to the board.

571 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

Jon Bright, vice chair of the Programme Board, informed the board of the following;

- The LAA six-month self-assessment direction of travel of green was not accepted by GOWM and Birmingham received amber. The focus of the next few months will be in getting key targets back on track.
- The new director of the BSP Delivery Unit will be interviewed on 1st February. There will be four teams providing the director with support to the CSPs and LAA blocks. As far as he was aware Birmingham will be one of the first LSP in the country to have such strong delivery support capacity.

The board agreed the following;

- Funding for the following innovation and development fund projects; compact extension, environmental clean-up, diversity networks and public place wounding.
- The revised terms of reference for the Programme Board, which had a revised membership list, clearer roles and responsibilities, and defined the Performance Group.
- The reconfirmation of David Cragg as chair of the PB.

572 REPORT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP MANGER

Dr Naomi Rees informed the board of the following;

- The next extended session will take place on the 7th February on the West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy and an Infant Mortality extended session will take place in May;
- There will be a comprehensive consultation on the Climate Change Strategy starting on 1st February until 31st March. The final strategy will be launched on World Environment Day on 5th June as the BSP response to the climate change challenge.
- A sustainability evaluation is currently taking place on the impact of the BSP in promoting sustainable development. This will involve interviews with a range of board members.
- Final comments on the BCC Council Plan 2007+ should be sent to Joanna Jeffery by 15th February.

The board agreed the following;

- The appointment of CSUPT Steve Jordan and Jon Bright as BSP Board Members;
- To reduce the board meetings to six times a year on the last Friday of January, March, May, July, September and November for three hours.
- To reinstate a February meeting to deal with end of the financial year issues.

573 REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP – CONNEXIONS

Paul Verity informed the board that Connexions is the main service provider of independent and impartial advice to young people aged 13-19 and that its focus is on reducing young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). Connexions supports the development of partnership working and is already a member of on the Children and Young People's Board and b:RAP board and is working in partnership with the LSC to reduce unemployment within the City. Birmingham has the largest youth population in Europe and Connexions is in a strong position to further improve outcomes in this age group.

The board welcomed Connexions as a member stating that;

- Youth and diversity is a big issue for Birmingham to which Connexions makes a valuable contribution;
- Connexions is critical to the skills agenda and the concerns raised in the Birmingham Prospectus;
- Connexions makes a special effort to be associated with all the Constituency Strategic Partnerships;

Connexions membership was supported by Anil Patani, Sophia Christie and Jerry Blackett.

574 BCC CORPORATE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE

Jon Bright informed the board that the policy framework was the result of an Audit Commission Report and demonstrated more clearly the value for money and added value of partnership working and sets out the review arrangements. A strong link was made between this and the BSP Governance Handbook. The framework should also allow partners to understand why partnerships exist, how to measure their achievements and outcomes and when they should come to an end. The next stage will be to evaluate the 65 key partnerships, that the council is involved in, within the city.

The board made the following comments;

- CSUPT Steve Jordan emphasised the importance of sharing the document with local partnerships as it will provide consistency and help deliver the LAA.
- Mick Rice was concerned about whether the overarching role of the BSP may be lost or diluted. Jon responded that the BSP will remain the umbrella partnership and that the toolkit is to review how well BCC is working within the family of partnerships.
- Sophia Christie said that BCC should not under-play or underestimate its role or ability. It had demonstrated credibility in partnership arrangements during the JAR/CPA process this year. Sophia welcomed the toolkit as a clear statement of governance but suggested there may be additional technical or legal issues around partnerships that are more formal than others. Increasing one partner 'holds' funds on behalf of other partners so stronger statements are needed.
- Prof Michael Clarke suggested there should be more emphasis in the toolkit on developing a shared understanding of expectations, as ill defined or misaligned expectations cause partnerships to fail.

The document was well received and several partners felt that BSP member organisations should also have partnership strategies. CSUPT Steve Jordan and ACC Anil Patani suggested the Council's toolkit should inform a wider partnership document. Philippa Holland stated this would be an opportunity for the BSP to set the standards for the city.

575 BIRMINGHAM PROSPECTUS

David Bull introduced the item. A summit was held in March 2006 to consider what Birmingham would look like in 20-30 years time. Five theme groups created a framework for developing a vision of the city for a longer period than that covered by the community strategy. In November 2006 a conference was held at the ICC to continue the debate and strengthen the draft prospectus. A smaller BSP lunchtime session was held in December 2006. The key messages from these meetings were to give stronger emphasis to education and skills, the importance of sustainability, and making the city more inclusive.

The prospectus groups a number of ideas together and will be considered by Cabinet towards the end of February. It is possible for amendments to be made before then. There is a great deal of work ahead as the prospectus is a far-reaching strategy with some actions taking 5 to 10 years to develop and/or achieve. A discussion will need to be had around how to take forward the prospectus and how to report back to the board. David suggested it should be part of the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy. David asked for the endorsement of the board for the general direction of the prospectus and agreement that the BSP will take forward and incorporate the themes into the community strategy in the next few months.

The board made the following comments;

- Naseem Aktar welcomed the vision of the prospectus and suggested including what Birmingham is doing now to tackle inequalities in English and Maths in inner city schools and the falling attainment levels within different cultural groups. The 'here and now' is critical especially for the poorly achieving schools serving BME communities, otherwise BME children won't be able to access the city's future. Cllr Les Lawrence replied that there are step changes taking place within the city regarding education and that work is being done at reception level now, which will see the effects of in the next couple of years.
- 'A safe city' is missing from the key themes. ACC Anil Patani suggested that it be a precondition to supporting the prospectus that a safe city is put at the heart of the document. Also a stronger emphasis should be made about harnessing our diverse youth and proactively improving the hope and aspirations of young people.
- Dr Peter Strachan suggested the prospectus should celebrate Birmingham as a city of good practice for climate change and should emphasise its leading role on sustainability. These issues will be with us for generations but will also be very attractive for potential investors. Sophia Christie welcomed the approach to engage non-council partners, it represented a genuine shift which was well received. Sophia chaired one of the theme groups and identified three important areas; opportunities for differentiating Birmingham from other cities; Digital Birmingham and connectivity; and the role of arts and culture both as improving quality of life and as an economic driver. New suburban centres will help retain people in the city.
- Michael Clarke welcomed the reference to higher education and its contribution to economic excellence through harnessing skills, research and contributing to innovation. He suggested that the prospectus be aligned with the Regional Economic Strategy and that a clear distinction is made between medical and translational research.
- Jerry Blackett said that it is important not to lose the input from the private sector as it is key to delivering the prospectus. He suggested having an action plan which is reviewed and formally assessed to encourage the private sector to report back on their targets.
- Philippa Holland stated that GOWM is looking for an imaginative and inclusive process to get people engaged. There is the potential to do something qualitatively different to anything done before in Birmingham.
- Cllr Sue Anderson stated that the importance of Birmingham's ageing population is omitted from the prospectus. David responded that Peter Hay will be holding a seminar to discuss the topic, which could be included in the next draft along with transport.
- Brian Carr was pleased that the prospectus recognises Birmingham as a city of social enterprise and voluntary action as Birmingham has an interesting history of volunteering and is currently over performing on the voluntary target within the LAA.
- Birmingham's response is historically reactionary around young people and diversity. Yann Lovelock said there is a desire from young people to help others and do work of social significance, which should be built into the prospectus. Paul Verity supported the proposal to embed the positive contributions that young people make in the prospectus.

The board endorsed the prospectus with the incorporation of the comments made.

576 COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CHAPTER 12 CITY FOR CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE

Sharon Lea, Cllr Ray Hassell and Brian Stokes introduced the item and made the following comments;

- There are three new strategies that aim to be more focused on positive outcomes for citizens;
 - Sport Strategy: will be consulted on shortly. Aims to get people, especially adults, involved in sport

- Culture Strategy: will be consulted on until March. Focuses on quality of life for citizens. It has as a priority improving access to local facilities.
- Heritage strategy: about people as well as buildings. It will look at the heritage of diverse communities and aim to develop understanding of different cultures.
- Some of the achievements for Birmingham in the past year include; the ICON gallery receiving a National reward for working with children; schemes involving children in planting trees and making them aware of sustainability, engaging with health services to encourage people with emotional difficulties to use libraries, and the trees for life programme.
- The 2012 Olympics for Birmingham will provide opportunities for Birmingham including; new jobs in construction, some permanent, and more sports events being held in Birmingham.

The board made the following comments;

- Cllr Sue Anderson felt the sports programmes in schools should have a higher profile as they are now tailored for each child.
- Barnard Borham stated the importance of local sports facilities, such as the Moseley Road swimming pool that will encourage women from a Muslim background to swim.
- Hannah Worth said the promotion of active citizenship is an opportunity for building stronger communities and more effective engagement. The role of libraries in reaching young people should not be underestimated.
- ACC Anil Patani said that the police can provide expertise in major event organization. There is a richness of cultures in Birmingham already and it is important that relationships are established in common endeavors as they can be relied upon when resolving issues of concern. CSUPT Steve Jordan suggested that a member of the Community Safety Partnership sit on the Cultural Partnership.
- Yann Lovelock said that there are 10 active faiths in Birmingham, which have a lot to offer in terms of attracting tourists to the city. The West Midlands Faith Forum is working with AWM regarding this and the College of Leisure and Tourism is providing a course under the Faith Encounters Project to help prepare people working in religious buildings for the influx of visitors to religious buildings. Heritage is not just about old buildings and there will be new religious buildings opening in Birmingham.
- Sophia Christie said that the key message from a health perspective is that young people are taking a quarter of the level of activity compared to 20 years ago and some groups are doing less. Activity should be targeted within schools with the emphasis being on young people. The Sports Strategy will provide an opportunity to improve the marketing of sport and address how to make sports facilities more accessible.
- Professor Michael Clarke suggested that a challenge for Birmingham is trying to integrate the student population and encourage student involvement, using sport and culture activities.
- Mohammed Shaffique said that although Birmingham is a venue for International sport, there should also be focus on facilities available at a local level e.g. cricket pitches. The Sports and Physical Activity Strategy should consult at a grass routes level to identify barriers and propose solutions.
- Mick Rice expressed his concern about prestige expensive projects and suggested also encouraging activities that cost little e.g. tai chi and dance festivals.

Sharon Lea thanked the board for their support.

577 AOB

There was one matter of other business. Hannah Worth asked whether the BSP board would consider how the new community engagement service organisation would be resourced. The chair proposed to discuss this within the Programme board and bring the recommendation to the next BSP board. The board agreed.

MEETING ENDED 15:50

NEXT MEETING 14:45 to 16:30 hours on Friday 23rd February 2007 at the Committee Room, Lloyds House, Colmore Circus, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6NQ

Appendix A Attendance

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Naseem Aktar, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Cllr Sue Anderson, Cabinet Member for Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council
Jerry Blackett, Chief Executive, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Jon Bright, Director of Policy and Delivery, Birmingham City Council
Brian Carr, Chief Executive, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council
Sophia Christie, Chief Executive, Eastern and North Birmingham Primary Care Trust
Professor Michael Clarke, Vice Principal, University of Birmingham
Elaine Elkington, Strategic Director of Local Services, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ray Hassall, Birmingham Culture Consortium
Philippa Holland (for Trudi Elliot), Government Office West Midlands
Ifor Jones, District Director, Birmingham City Council
CSUPT Steve Jordan, West Midlands Police
Cllr Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, BCC
Yann Lovelock, Birmingham Council of Faiths
ACC Anil Patani, West Midlands Police
Louise Rowland (for Mark Pearce), Advantage West Midlands
DCFO Vijith Randeniya, West Midlands Fire Service
Mick Rice, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums
Mohammad Shafique, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Dr Peter Strachan, Environment Partnership
Cllr Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council (Chair)
Jonathan Driffill (for Jean Templeton), Birmingham Housing Strategic Partnership
Stephen Whitehorn (for Margaret Tovey), Jobcentre Plus
Paul Verity, Chief Executive, Birmingham & Solihull Connexions
Cllr Jim Whorwood, Cabinet Member for Local Services & Community Safety, BCC
Hannah Worth, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network

MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Leader of the Opposition, Birmingham City Council
David Cragg, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council
Cllr Jerry Evans, Sparkbrook District Chair
Cllr Ken Hardeman, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Birmingham City Council
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
Jeff Inskip, Director General, Centro
Dr Abdul Rashid, Faith Leaders Group
Joy Warmington, Chief Executive, Birmingham Race Action Partnership

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

Jason Lowther, Head of Corporate Policy and Performance, BCC; Dr Naomi Rees, Partnership Manager, BSP Secretariat; Sue Webb, Assistant Policy Officer, BSP Secretariat (notes).

ALSO PRESENT

Jaycynth Bailey, Birmingham City Council (BCC); Cllr K Barton, BCC; Julie Boardman, HPLC; Barnard Borham, BCEN; James Botham, BSP Secretariat; Richard Browne, BSP Performance Team; Helen Bruce, HPLC; Keith Budden, BSP Secretariat; David Bull, BCC; Karen Clarke, Trident; Selwyn Clarke, Matthew Bolton Neighbourhood Forum; Roger Cobley, Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum; Eddie Currall, BCEN; Omisona Fasina, Parents and Children Together; Rina Guddu, Business in the Community; Guy Hordern, Conservative Party, Birmingham SACRE; David Jones, Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum; Yuko Koike, Japan Local Government Centre; Sharon Lea, Birmingham City Council; Aya Lewis, Translator; Carole Lowe, Community Advocate; Anthea Mills, Community Advocate; Graham Moore, BCC; Hisae Namba, Kanagawa Prefectural Government; Julia Neall, BHWP; Mariko Nishimura, Meiji-Gakuin Universtiy; Daichi Okayasu, The Yomiuri Shimbun; Prof Ken Spencer, University of Birmingham; Brian Stocks, BCC; Chloe Tringham, BCC; Ichiro Tsukamoto, Meiji University; David Williams, BCEN.