

589 NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 23 February 2007, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

590 MATTERS ARISING

There was one matter arising. Hannah Worth informed the board the decision at the February board meeting to allocate £750K of NRF to sustain BANF and BCEN until March 2008 had been 'called in' to scrutiny resulting in great uncertainty for staff from both organizations. Hannah asked that the board learn from this experience so that it does not happen again.

Cllr Tilsley said that effectively the accountable body status had moved from GOWM to the Council and therefore the decision could be 'called in' at any time. The 'call in' function is separate from, and can review, any executive decision made. He advised the BSP not to prejudge but await the decision.

591 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Cllr Paul Tilsley welcomed CSUPT Paul Scarrott as CSUPT Steve Jordan's replacement and also Natascha Bowett, the new BSP Communications Manager to the meeting. He also informed the board that the Climate Change Strategy event would be shown on the West Midlands Inside Out programme.

592 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

Jon Bright informed the board of the following;

- The NRF spend target of 95% would be met by the end of this financial year.
- As far as possible the unallocated NRF for 2007/08 would be re-profiled to support the FTAPs.
- Continuation or exit plans are needed for all projects as NRF is in the final year and the focus of the PB will be on supporting the mainstreaming process in the coming months.
- A piece of work will be commissioned to evaluate both theme and ward aspects of NRF.
- The Council had identified a number of areas for improving partnership working.

The board made the following comments;

- David Cragg confirmed that the PB decisions were made by members not officers. He agreed that PB notes should specify who in attendance are members and who are officers.
- Mick Rice felt that the extra NRF money should go to those blocks that are performing well as a reward, such as the Environment Partnership. Currently money was given to underperforming floor targets and had not been spent. David Cragg said that what Mick was suggesting would result in a complete revisit of the entire allocation, which would be unhelpful at this stage of the NRF cycle. He reminded the BSP that FTAPs were two year plans developed as contractual agreements with GOWM so as not to lose the 10% withheld NRF last year.
- Cllr Tilsley added that the £500K Innovation and Development Fund would be favourable to the developing Climate Change Strategy.
- CSUPT Scarrott asked for confirmation that the alcohol strategy had received £100k continued funding for 2007/8. Cllr Tilsley confirmed that it had.
- The chair did not agree with Mick Rice's suggestion of a vote on these matters.

593 REPORT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP MANGER

Dr Naomi Rees informed the board of the following;

- The BSP Sustainability Audit Report conducted by Warwick University Business School congratulated Birmingham on opening itself up to be audited. Some of the reports recommendations mirrored what Birmingham is already doing, which is an acknowledgment that Birmingham is an area of good practice.

- The Sustainability Procurement Innovation Conference held on 8th March was well attended by organizations who's combined procurement spend was in excess of £2billion. Discussions are continuing for Birmingham to become a National Sustainable Procurement Action Plan pilot.
- The consultation for the Birmingham Climate Change Strategy had gone well. Thirteen focus groups were held, 8 board member interviews, and 2 public consultations. Information is currently being collated and the final version will be brought to the board in May and cabinet in June. It will not be published on World Environment day as originally planned.

The board members made the following comments;

- Mick Rice asked whether the Sustainability Audit Report recommendation of having a member of the Environment Partnership on the BSP should be extended to include a member on the Programme Board. Dr Peter Strachan said that Steve Morely, who will be taking over from him at the next meeting as co-chair of the environment partnership, is from the environment agency and would be able to bring a useful regional prospective.
- David Cragg suggested that a city region approach should be taken and agreed to arrange for a presentation on the climate change issues to be presented at a future board meeting. David said the BSP should make sure the Climate Change Strategy also compliments the LAA developments.
- The chair noted that the PB had reviewed its membership and gained approval by the BSP in January 2007. He didn't feel membership should be reviewed again but asked the PB to consider a co-opting agreement.

594 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY BIRMINGHAM 2026

Jason Lowther and Kevin Hubery introduced the item and made the following points;

- The Community Strategy 2005-2010 was completed 18 months ago and is in need of a re-write.
- The Local Government White paper proposes that the Community Strategy will be delivered through the LAA in the future. An updated Community Strategy would help ensure the new style LAA is driven by local needs.
- The proposed publication date for the new strategy is April 2008, which will coincide with phase 2 of the LAA.
- The requirements of producing Community Strategies have changed, it will have to include physical regeneration issues and the local development framework.
- The new strategy will have to improve from the last one in taking actions forward and getting stronger involvement from partners, stakeholders and communities. The Talking Tent event held on 29th March had 1600 visitors who were asked questions on what they would like the future of the city to be like and what they felt is unique about Birmingham.
- It is important to ensure the refresh is more Birmingham specific. Key sources of information are the reviews by the board over the last months and the LAA baseline survey. The Birmingham Prospectus work will also be built in. Partner ideas for consultation are welcome.

The board made the following comments;

- Dr Strachan said that the new Community Strategy should provide for the fact that the environment in Birmingham will be very different in 2026 due to climate change. He also offered the BEPs support to David Cragg as the environmental change is likely to both influence and support economic development opportunities.
- David Cragg suggested the environment partnership develop a separate strand of work and then look at the interface to prevent bureaucracy.
- Michael Clarke felt that the weakness with the last Community Strategy was the lack of serious discussion at the board before the end of the process. He said that although there is a link between the LAA and Community Strategy, the LAA is driven by pressure from Whitehall and it is important to ensure the Community Strategy is a broader document and encompasses the aspirations for the city.
- Trudi Elliott said that future LAAs will aim to be less targetory. A lot of community strategies are uncustomised and there is an option to consider mandatory targets as well as local targets.
- Yann Lovelock said that the community strategy needed to acknowledge growing communities in Birmingham, such as the Vietnamese and Chinese.

- Hannah Worth said that these communities can be consulted utilising the community and voluntary sector. Hannah expressed that it should not be a consultation on a finished document but there should be a two way process earlier on.
- Cllr Tilsley said the diversity of communities and the size of the city makes Birmingham unique. While he encouraged the BSP to keep to the Community Strategy discussions 'high-level' he also reflected that the way the partners reach out across the city is a particular strength and should not be downplayed.

595 **COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CHAPTER 13 – A SAFE CITY**

Ian Coghill introduced the item and tabled the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2006/07 which is the key source document for the partnership. The Community Safety Partnership operates from a sound intelligence base, which collects data mainly from the Police. The analysis of that information provides a clear view on where crime types occur. Gap analysis shows that there is a link between the areas that are contributing disproportionately to the city's community safety problems and areas that are the worst for worklessness and education attainment within the city.

Birmingham's performance is continuing to improve in relation to crime and Birmingham is out performing many other core cities. However, crime is predicted to rise nationally in 2007/08 which is the year that Birmingham will outturn both the PSA 1 and LPSA stretch targets for crime. Despite this Birmingham is well placed to achieve its goals. Although the Police play a large role, it is very much a shared task as partner organizations often control the habitat in which crime takes place.

CSUPT Paul Scarrott added that Neighbourhood Policing is embedded across the West Midlands and helps with the key performance indicators regarding people's perceptions of feeling safe and satisfaction with an increased police presence on the streets. Neighbourhood policing has four core components;

- 1) To make local people aware of who their local officers are;
- 2) To enable local people to influence police priorities;
- 3) To enable police to react to local priorities with the help of partners;
- 4) To make local people aware of what the police have done about the problems that have been raised with them.

The board made the following comments;

- Cllr Tilsley said that an important issue is public transport as there is a year on year reduction on its use due to people not feeling safe. John Sidebottom said that Centro take seriously the issue of crime on public transport and have a safer police unit of 39 police officers to increase presence on public transport. There is also a discussion with Travel West Midlands about graffiti on vehicles and police response in terms of prosecutions. Work also needs to be done on connectivity in relation to increased use of public transport. There is a growth in rail use.
- Naseem Akhtar said that an increase in summer schemes, out of school facilities and youth workers in some neighbourhoods would prevent youths being on the streets and vandalizing.
- Mick Rice suggested that the reward grant associated with the LPSA targets should be considered by the BSP, particularly around the 'value' of community engagement. Mick suggested it is a matter for the BSP to take forward how they are going in relation to targets and whether partners are intervening correctly
- DCFO Vijith Randeniya said there had been a significant improvement in the reduction of car fires which was achieved in conjunction with partners. The first reward grant was shared between the city and the fire reduction partnership. He raised a general concern that additional work may get put aside, which has a cost attached later on in pursuit of the LPSA. This needs to be recognized.
- Yann Lovelock suggested there should be police liaison committees in every area as they are an effective way of getting messages across.

595 **COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CHAPTER 14 – A GREEN CITY**

Dr Peter Strachan, co-chair of the Birmingham Environment Partnership (BEP) informed the board that the BEP operates through 5 core priority groups and deals with local issues around cleanliness to

global issues around Climate Change. Birmingham received a national award for the cleanest city centre and is on track to meet the LPSA target for the city. Peter emphasized that enhancing the environment contributes to all areas of the partnership, such as producing energy more efficiently, cheaper, safer homes, and engaging with communities in shared open spaces, which helps with community cohesion and engagement.

Kevin Mitchell, co-chair of the BEP, informed the board that living in a clean city is in the top 3 priorities for residents in Birmingham. The LPSA target is measured on the number of sites and levels of litter and detritus (natural materials that build up in gutters) that are not satisfactory. The target will be achieved by;

- An effective waste management system organized around ward based teams;
- Community engagement by encouraging civic pride. A leaflet has been delivered to every household in Birmingham encouraging residents to ring the council and inform them if the standard in their street is unsatisfactory; and
- Enforcing regulations against people who litter.

Keith Budden made the following points;

- Birmingham is a significant emitter of CO₂ and there is a major challenge around the high contribution made by transport.
- Leaflets have been sent to homes informing them of the value of loft installation. Installation will reduce energy bills resulting in direct savings for poorer residents.
- This winter was the warmest so far we have to be prepared to deal with changes in climate and ensure that building stock is useable throughout the whole year.
- A system for safer and more reliable energy for businesses in Birmingham is being installed in Broad Street that will run at 85% efficiency. London has set itself stretching targets and Birmingham has to do the same to attract business to the city.
- The suggested the following revised targets for BSP partners in the Climate Change Strategy;
 1. By 2010 reduce emissions from 2005 baseline by 10% from their estates energy consumption and from transport (fleet, staff mileage and travel to work).
 2. By 2008 agree carbon footprint measurement tool and include as part of all relevant procurement contracts. Reduce procurement footprint by 3% per annum from 2008.
 3. By 2008 all BSP partners to produce adaptation and risk plans to ensure that they and their services are prepared for the inevitable impact of climate change.
- The BSP should establish Birmingham Climate Change Agency to coordinate delivery of; decentralised and renewable energy for business, communities and households; energy efficiency advice; Climate Change adaptation advice and support; finance, support and monitoring; and performance management of climate change strategy.
- The Climate Change Agency would deliver a marketing and pledge programme to ensure that 50% of Birmingham's residents are taking action to reduce carbon emissions and a Green Energy Fund to offset unavoidable emissions and fund domestic renewable energy for the fuel poor.

The board made the following comments;

- Mick Rice said that he is impressed with the huge range of activities of the BEP on the small budget that they receive.
- Hannah Worth said that some of the open space work was done on very little money. It should not be a case of throwing money at partnerships if a few extra thousand pounds given to the right people could go a long way.

596 AOB

Cllr Tilsley thanked Dr Peter Strachan on behalf of the board for the work he has done with partnership.

MEETING ENDED 15:00

NEXT MEETING 12:45 to 16:00 hours on Friday 25th March 2007 in Committee Rooms 3 and 4, The Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

Appendix A Attendance

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Naseem Aktar, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Leader of the Opposition, Birmingham City Council
Jon Bright, Director of Policy and Delivery, Birmingham City Council
Jon Fox (for Brian Carr), Chief Executive, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council
Professor Michael Clarke, Vice Principal, University of Birmingham
David Cragg, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council
Elaine Elkington, Strategic Director of Local Services, Birmingham City Council
Trudi Elliott, Government Office West Midlands
John Sidebottom (for Geoff Inskip), Centro
Cllr Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, BCC
Yann Lovelock, Birmingham Council of Faiths
Louise Rowland (for Mark Pearce), Advantage West Midlands
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
Dr Peter Strachan, Environment Partnership
Cllr Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council (Chair)
Jean Templeton, Birmingham Housing Strategic Partnership
Lyndley Jenks (for Margaret Tovey), Jobcentre Plus
Paul Verity, Chief Executive, Birmingham & Solihull Connexions
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
Cllr Jerry Evans, Sparkbrook District Chair
Cllr Ken Hardeman, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ray Hassall, Birmingham Culture Consortium
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
Ifor Jones, District Director, Birmingham City Council
ACC Anil Patani, West Midlands Police
Dr Abdul Rashid, Faith Leaders Group
Cllr Jim Whorwood, Cabinet Member for Local Services & Community Safety, BCC
Joy Warmington, Chief Executive, Birmingham Race Action Partnership

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

Richard Kenny, Performance Manager, BSP Performance Management Team
Jason Lowther, Head of Policy and Delivery, Birmingham City Council
Dr Naomi Rees, Partnership Manager, BSP Partnership and Communications Team
Sue Webb, Assistant Policy Officer, BSP Partnership and Communications Team (notes).

ALSO PRESENT

Insp. Steve Birch, West Midlands Police; Natascha Bowett, Birmingham Strategic Partnership; Keith Budden, Birmingham Strategic Partnership; Stan Cain, WWHLB; Martin Clark, West Midlands Fire Service; Issa Falilatou, BETI; Dorothy Hall, Manor House L. GRN Association; Mark Harper, West Midlands Fire Service; Guy Horden, SACRE; Jane Howell, Moseley Neighbourhood Forum; Kevin Hubery, Birmingham City Council; Megan Hughes, CTG; Madhu Markuraim, BETI; Marcia Lewinson, WAITS; Kevin Mitchell, Birmingham City Council; Gwyneth Neilly, HHRA; Johal Rani, WAITS; Jonathan Reece-Mills, BVSC; Champa Solanki, BETI; Sandy Taylor, Birmingham City Council; Daniel Treadwell, Manor House L. GRN Association; David Williams, BCEN