

BIRMINGHAM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD
DECISION NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2007

605 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Cllr Paul Tilsley gave his report after apologies were given. He welcomed the extended gathering stating that the second half of the meeting would focus on the sustainable community strategy. Before starting however the group were invited to observe a moment's silence for two board members, Cllr Ken Hardeman and Paul Verity, who had passed away.

The chair told the group that the LAA annual assessment review meeting with GOWM in July had been described as both 'comprehensive and thorough' and 'an exemplar for the region', that the stocktake process was underway and that the BSP was progressing the board's decision to end BANF and B:CEN's funding at the end of Nov 2007 and develop a new approach to community engagement. An ambitious target of at least 60% cut in CO₂ emissions by 2026 (not 2050) had been proposed by the BSP climate Change Leadership group. A conference in Jan 2008 would lead to the publication of a revised climate change strategy and action plan for Birmingham in the spring.

606 NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 25 May 2007, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

607 MATTERS ARISING

There was one matter arising. Mick Rice asked for an update on the process to manage NRF underspend in the final year. Jackie Mould replied that this was being developed and would be discussed at the next PB meeting (13th Sept) and return to the BSP board at its next meeting (29th September).

608 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

David Cragg informed the board of the following;

- The June and July PB meetings had been preoccupied with preparing for the LAA annual assessment, which went well. He gave personal thanks to Jackie Mould and Richard Kenny.
- The PB was developing a robust and rapid system for redistribution of any NRF underspend, so that monies could be allocated to priority areas of work. The PB was also considering the succession planning process, during the transition from NRF to whatever follows. A lot of work was being done to develop contingency plans with themes and projects. There had been some broad reassurance from central government that funds will be made available to replace NRF but the conditions or amounts were still unknown.
- The BSP is in receipt of over £500K to prevent extremism and this work will be overseen by the SSC block and operational managed by the BCC Equality. The BSP innovation fund was allocated to two projects and a regular review will take place as underspends become available.
- A performance group, chaired by BCC Chief Executive, has been agreed.
- The PB has also spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and agreeing the high-level outcomes for community engagement which will inform a commissioning approach and what would needs to take place during the transition period (see the PB notes for a summary of that discussion, the background paper can be requested from the BSP team). The future community engagement model would be based with constituencies with a network of neighborhood forums. The exact nature and shape had not been developed/decided yet. The PB were very aware of how different, and therefore difficult, this process would be for those involved in the meantime but believed it would lead to an improved set of relationships and outcomes. The period of funding to BANF/B:CEN had been extended from Sept to Nov 2007 to allow each organization time to prepare for these changes. Each organization had received a written and verbal explanation and

officers had also held separate meetings. The BCC is also additionally offering BANF/B:CEN staff assistance in finding employment and HR had been involved.

The chair invited comments from Board members. Mick Rice asked about whether the governance relationship between the PB and BSP had been respected, his view was that the BSP board should formally agree PB recommendations. However he felt that the recommendations still required further thought and should be referred back to the PB. For example some post were funded by other funds and removing NRF would put these staff at risk. He questioned why Neighbourhood forums were not being 'protected' until such time as new budgets became available. He asked that the PB look again as the forward strategy was still weak, there was no mechanism in place to seek funds. He also questioned the make up of the taskgroup with the remit to help these mechanisms; he felt they would establish a system that suited them. And lastly he wanted a greater role to influence the process.

The chair, Paul Tilsley, expressed his difficulty in accepting Mick's challenge to refer back the issue to the PB because Mick had a direct and personal conflict of interest. He invited others to comment.

Jackie Mould ensured the board that a great deal of time and consideration had influenced the community engagement paper discussed at the PB meeting. She had many discussions with partners in preparing the way forward and establishing the high-level outcomes. It was her view that the board had already agreed that funding would end in Sept, since extended to Nov, so the PB largely focused on developing the new model of working and the outcomes to commission against. Jon Bright reminded the board that we were in this situation because central government removed funding and that would be the case for the entire NRF program this year. It was his opinion that the BCC and BSP had done the best it could under the circumstances. The commitment to a new community engagement service, while still in debate, was a constructive way forward.

The chair said that the BCC Leadership had committed funds to devolve community engagement to constituencies under the responsibility of the BSP.

Mick Rice asked why if there were a number of NRF posts that BANF were being terminated first. He felt it would be extremely difficult for BANF to seek whatever funds did become available if it had no staff. It had been his impression that previous discussions had been about interim funding and that the BSP board still needed to ratify the proposal to stop funding and that had not happened yet.

The chair said again that he couldn't accept Mick's challenge as he had a direct and personal conflict of interest. He sympathised but he was convinced that the BSP and the BCC were working the best it could and should be given the support to continue to do so. David Cragg stated that all parts of the NRF programme was being required to declare their succession strategy in a systematic and routine way. The BANF/B:CEN funding issue was considered separately because of its scale and importance and the fact that government funding had stopped. The PB had taken its role very seriously.

There were no further comments from Board members. The BSP Board endorsed the decision of the Programme Board. The item was closed.

609 REPORT FROM THE BSP DIRECTOR

Jackie Mould described the transition process from NRF to Local Area assessment. A systematic assessment would influence forward plans and this would be reported to the next BSP board meeting. An independent evaluation of NRF had been commissioned and the consultant would be in touch with some members of the board as part of that process. The stocktake would consider all that and make suggestions from the structures needed for a partnership 'fit for purpose' to deliver the LAA. Whatever follows NRF will be integrated into the LAA and be focused on disadvantaged areas, with a greater emphasis on the economic agenda, sense of place and the inter-relationships between economic, social and well-being. She asked the board continued support and more specifically for approval of a new brand for the partnership.

The chair reflected that a strong partnership is needed to deliver the economic, social and well-being aspirations for the city. Sandy Bradbrook suggested that Birmingham Together be considered as a possibility and Yann Lovelock asked whether the 'b' would look better with a slightly longer 'upstroke'. Anil Patani stated that he liked it. With no other comments it was agreed to further develop the brand as outlined in the paper.

MEETING ENDED

14:00

NEXT MEETING

12:45 to 16:00 hours on Friday 30th November 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
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
David Cragg, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council
Tony Howell (for Stephen Hughes), Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
Ifor Jones, District Director, Birmingham City Council
Steven Keeley (for John Sidebottom), Centro
Cllr Ayoub Khan, Cabinet Member for Local Services & Community Safety, BCC
Yann Lovelock, Birmingham Council of Faiths
Steve Morley, Environment Partnership
ACC Anil Patani, West Midlands Police
DCFO Vijith Randeniya, West Midlands Fire Service
Mick Rice, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums
CSUPT Paul Scarrott, West Midlands Police Service
Jean Templeton, Birmingham Housing Strategic Partnership
Cllr Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council (Chair)
Peter Tinsley, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Michael Walsh (for Elaine Elkington), Birmingham City Council
Andrea Whitworth (for Trudi Elliott), Government Office West Midlands
Hannah Worth, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network

MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr Sue Anderson, Cabinet Member for Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Leader of the Opposition, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Jerry Evans, Sparkbrook District Chair
Mark Foley, Advantage West Midlands
Cllr Ray Hassall, Birmingham Culture Consortium
Cllr Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, BCC
Dr Abdul Rashid, Faith Leaders Group
Joy Warmington, Chief Executive, Birmingham Race Action Partnership
Jon Wright, Jobcentre Plus

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

Jackie Mould, BSP Director
Richard Kenny, Performance Manager, BSP Performance Management Team
Dr Naomi Rees, Partnership Manager, BSP Partnership and Communications Team

ALSO PRESENT

Insp. Steve Birch, West Midlands Police; Natascha Bowett, Ken Lawrence, Keith Budden and Shakeel Sabir, Birmingham Strategic Partnership; Kevin Hubery, Margit Lear and Amerdip Dhesy, BCC; Vim Taylor, Connexions; Sandy Bradbrook, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT; Mashuq Ally, BCC; David Bull, BCC; Barry Clewer, BACOP; Cheryl Hopkins, BCC; Michael Kilduff and Julie Robinson, LSC; Chris Price, BCC; Michael Walsh, BCC; Raj Mack, BCC; Derek Walton, Tim Madreson, Marketing Birmingham; Rickie Nacholson, Susan Lawler, Gill Robins, Rajinder Rattu, Edwards Howard, BANF; and Angela Saganowska, Sean Connolly, Birmingham Health and well-being partnership.