

**Minutes from the Birmingham Strategic Partnership Programme Board
13th September 2007**

Present: Jon Bright (BCC, Chair); Angela Saganovski (for Sophia Christie PCT); CSupt Paul Scarrott (WMP) Joy Warmington (BRAP); Paul Tilsley (BCC); Ifor Jones (for Elaine Elkington BCC); Philippa Holland (GOWM) and Jerry Blackett (Chamber of Commerce).

Supporting officers, observers and guests: Dr Naomi Rees (BSP Partnership Manager, notes); Richard Kenny (BSP Performance Manager); Andrea Whitworth (GOWM) and Jackie Mould (BSP Director).

Item 1, 2 and 3: Apologies, minutes and action points

Member apologies were received from David Cragg, Anil Patani, Les Lawrence/Tony Howell and Stephen Hughes. Jon Bright chaired the meeting, in David Cragg's absence. The notes were agreed as accurate and the outstanding issues were on the agenda.

The group took the opportunity to update each other on the community engagement developments. A number of points were made;

- The PB notes of the previous meeting reflected the groups' view that the funding for BANF/BCEN should come to an end. As this was a collective decision, rather than a political one, the BSP Director had written the letter to BANF/BCEN. Each organization had also received a verbal explanation and separate meetings. The funding was extended from Sept to Nov 2007 to allow extra time to prepare for these changes and BCC was offering assistance in finding employment. The group supported these decisions, and reconfirmed/ratified the approach taken at July PB and BSP board meeting on 5th September 2007.
- The BCC was committed to developing a community engagement service through the constituency arrangements and seeking resources for the BSP partners to use. The new service would be answerable to the BSP and represent the BCC's responsibility to ensuring that community engagement is a city-wide initiative.
- The community engagement paper produced for the 12th July PB meeting describes the latest thinking on the outcomes for such a service and when the small board/WG meets this will be advanced. Additionally Jackie promised to produce a short briefing note for GOWM.
- Sophia Christie asked that in taking further the community engagement service the small board reflected on the points raised at the BSP board meeting. Jerry was keen that in developing the co-ordinating/constituency role within the service, the challenges of economic prosperity be looked at afresh.

Paul Tilsley and Jon Bright welcomed Angela Saganovski, health director for the health and well-being partnership, to the meeting.

Action : Jackie Mould to prepare a briefing note on community engagement for GOWM and ensure the small board/WG advances the points raised by the PB.

Item 4: LAA 2008/11 – Development and approval process

Andrea Whitworth gave a presentation on the development and approval process for the LAA 2008/2011. This is attached (annex 1) so will not be repeated. A number of points were made;

- From April 2008 the LAA will be the only place to agree targets, it is not expected that central departments will have separate negotiations with BSP partners on targets outside the LAA 2008/11.
- There are several categories of indicators/targets; a national set of 200 (for all, making up the CAA), priority/improvement targets (negotiated between BSP and GOWM, although some will be statutory and ring-fenced) and the possibility of local targets (signed off as part of the LAA, to gain 'duty to co-operate' advantages, which may be from the national set or not, monitored differently from the priority targets).
- The LAA 2008/11 should 'make sense' and be an expression of the first 3 year plan of the Sustainable Community Strategy. While there is an anticipated developmental stage in 'getting the LAA right' in the first year, the CAA in 2009 will be a robust assessment of delivery.
- GOWM will monitor outcomes and will not be diverted to issues about pooled/aligned funding allocations/decisions. That is a matter for the partnership. This will pose a number of new challenges;
 - Any redefinition of a target will cause a lag in measuring progress;
 - Individual partners may have 'duties/powers' that could challenge the relationships between the partners, for example the sub national review which strengthens the BCC's duty to improve economic development to include worklessness;
 - There is a much greater need for collective/partnership commitment;
 - The funding envelope is likely to be smaller, making the prioritisation process even more important.

The group agreed that there were a number of challenges that the BSP would need to address. In the past partner agencies had been responsible for their own services and would challenge each other on that basis. The LAA required a 'collective' responsibility for outcomes and a much more informed and shared challenging mechanism. The outcomes are to be challenged, rather than the individual partners. This would require a very different set of behaviours, trust and leadership.

Philippa and Andrea felt that the partners would need a better understanding of each others business plans in order to determine what services and associated funding streams would need attention so priorities could be identified to improve delivery. Jerry Blackett was asked how the private/public pressures would 'sit' together. The private sector largely considered/supported business strengths while the LAA seemed to suggest a focus/starting position on weaknesses/gaps. The group agreed a balance between, say, poverty and economic development was needed and the LAA/SCS would need to describe the 'fit'.

Paul Scarrott noted that the review of policing (interim report to the Home Secretary) by Sir Ronnie Flanagan (chief HMIC) had signalled that neighbourhood policing should be aligned/equal to neighbourhood management within the LAA, police targets should be agreed through the Community Safety Partnership and provided scope for local priorities. This was seen as encouraging as it provided a rationale partnership system of accountability. Joy Warmington asked how different viewpoints would be incorporated and suggested that an analysis be carried out on what might be missing. She felt less time/energy had been invested in partnership working and

the skills required. If the BSP was serious it needed to be open to challenge and recognise that the person/organisation challenging wants to be part of the solution. The challenge process had to be welcomed and viewed positively.

The chair agreed that the LAA process was a fundamental shift in culture and required a greater shared ambition for the city. Jackie confirmed that the points raised by the group would form part of the BSP stock take. It would need to address the changing nature of the partnership and how we do business.

Action : Jackie Mould to feed comments to the BSP stock take.

Item 5: New LAA & Sustainable Community Strategy

Jackie presented the paper as a preparatory set of ideas for the 10th October 2007 away-day. Jon Bright asked that Jackie /Richard get the wording/sentiment right with regards to responsibility for the LAA/CS. This needs to take into account government guidance and the duty-to-co-operate of partners.

Naomi Rees ran through the key headline messages from the 5th September session (attached, annex 2). The group felt her summary reflected the key points. Richard reminded the group that a number of the suggested LAA targets had a long-term element e.g. life expectancy and the council plan had articulated a number of long-term aspirations. These could form part of the SCS, thereby showing the link between the LAA and SCS with individual partner plans. He agreed with Paul Scarrott that the 'closing the gap' concerns had moved on and there were at least two aspects to consider; the gap within Birmingham and the position of Birmingham nationally/internationally. Paul Scarrott said he was encouraged by the transformational work underway within the Council as it was promoting a greater integration across services/neighbourhoods. Naomi asked that the LAA process took into account the developments on community cohesion as there was a great deal of overlap.

Jon Bright asked that further information/comments be given to Richard in preparation for the away-day.

Action : Richard to take account of comments made, with any others, so the LAA 2008/11 can be discussed in detail on the away day on 10th October.

Item 6: Stocktake, interim report

Jackie briefly updated the group. She explained that the stocktake was underway, Jerry Le Sueur had been retained and it would feed into a stakeholder event. HR was involved and Jackie would report back in Oct. Shared Intelligence had been appointed to carry out a high-level NRF evaluation. As a separate exercise, all the NRF projects had been contacted and most had described their exit strategy by the deadline of 7th September. The results would be presented at the next PB meeting. Preliminary analysis, on an incomplete set, suggests that only a small percentage would be mainstreamed and most would be finishing or seeking continuous funding. The BSP team was considering a number of options including holding a series of events for NRF projects and other funding opportunities. Jackie also highlighted that questions were being asked about NRF so the BSP team had developed a proactive communication strategy for the final year of NRF, starting with a press release the previous day. Subsequent press releases would increasingly highlight the challenges of new ways of working and the longer term developments.

Ifor Jones confirmed that he was chasing a few projects, still to reply, and would spend an afternoon with the district directors to explore further the options for exit strategies. Philippa understood the BSP position with regard to NRF but asked that it be noted that NRF would be replaced and GOWM was keen to be seen as a positive part of the transition.

Action: Jackie Mould offered to keep GOWM informed of the NRF communication strategy as it develops.

Item 7: Re-profiling policy, BSP update

Jackie told the group that this was being tabled as time would not allow a full discussion. The proposal is that constituencies should take responsibility to manage any ward underspend, based on account financial profiles, redistributing within the constituency. Likewise the blocks. Only as a last resort would the issue be referred to the PB and the chair of BSP (Paul Tilsley), chair of the PB (David Cragg), Cllr Khan and Cllr Lines would consider recommendations from the PB.

Jackie said that at the moment there are no indications of major underspend concerns but Jon Bright suggested taking a more detailed look. Jackie also offered to ask blocks for a list of reserve project list.

Action : Jackie would report back at the next PB meeting, with detailed financial profiles and proposals.

Item 8: Innovation/Element Fund

Jackie had taken on the PB comments and recommended that the community facilitator project proposal (£80K), the financial inclusion proposal (£65K) and the compact project (£10K) be approved for funding. The group agreed.

Item 9: LAA performance update

Richard said the update was for information and agreed that it could be considered by the performance group, when they meet.

AOB

There was no other business.

Next meeting

Wednesday 10th October 2007, 10:00am in Conference Room 1, LSC, 15 Bartholomew Row