

Item 6



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 20th October 2004
Spennymoor Town Hall

NOTE OF THE MEETING

PRESENT

Board Members

Sedgefield Borough Council
Durham County Council
Community Empowerment
Network

Durham Constabulary
Sedgefield District Local
Council's Committee
Area Forums

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Durham Police Authority
County Durham & Darlington
Fire & Rescue Authority
Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Professional Executive
Committee
Bishop Auckland College
Business Forum
Groundwork East Durham
**(Alternate Board Members are
identified by *)**

Cllr. R.S. Fleming (Chair), Mr. N Vaulks.
Cllr. N. Foster (Vice Chair), Mr. G. Tompkins*
Mr. D. Bolton (Vice Chair), Mrs. C. Briggs,
Ms. A. Frizell, Ms. L. Leach, Ms. C. McVay,
Rev. S. Stevens, Mrs. M. Chappell*.
Chief Superintendent M. Banks.
Cllr. M. Iveson, Mr. M. Rice.

Cllr. A. Hodgson, Cllr. A. Smith, Mr. J. Robinson, JP.
Cllr. Mrs. AM. Armstrong*
Mr. N. Porter, Mrs. G. Wills.
Mrs. M. Khan-Willis.
Mr. D. Turnbull.

Dr. L. Grimes*.

Mr. A. Kersh*.
Mrs. J Thompson*.
Mr. P. Richards.

Advisors

Sedgefield Borough Council
Policy Group Co-ordinators

Mr. R. Prisk.
Mr. A. Quain, Ms. G. Williams, Dr. A. Learmonth.

Observers

Sedgefield Borough Council
Durham County Council

Mr. A. Charlton
Ms. A. Armstrong

1. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

The Chair, Councillor R.S. Fleming welcomed Members to the meeting and in particular the new Board Members and Alternate Members. Attention was then given to the Agenda for the meeting.

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. P. Fisk, Mr. S. Howarth (Business Forum), Mrs. D Jones (Durham County Council), Dr. D. Roy (Sedgefield Primary Care Trust Professional Executive Committee), Mrs. D. Boyd, Mrs. M. Batey, Mr. R. Stewart (Community Empowerment Network), Mr. P. Hanley (Government Office North East), Councillor M. Dalton (Area 5 Forum), Councillor C. Wheeler (Sedgefield District Local Councils Committee).

1.2 Question Time

The Chair gave the Board Members an opportunity to ask questions on any matters of interest or importance connected with the work of the Board and the Partnership, or about the business items to be discussed at the meeting.

2. KEY BUSINESS

2.1 Consideration of 'Note of the Meeting' held on 21st July 2004

AF commented that KL did attend the meeting but was not recorded as present.

Agreed: To amend the "Note of the Meeting" accordingly.

2.2 Matters Arising

a) Action Plan for further support to Board Members

RP confirmed that the LSP Learning Plan is now subsumed into the LSP Performance Management Framework and that in the development of the Action Plan for further support to Board Members a request for Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Advisor support has been made. It was noted that the planned programme is specific to the Board's development.

MB indicated that due to the very technical nature of the work of the LSP Community Safety Policy Group they would be providing support for new members of that Policy Group as they reviewed its membership and their roles and responsibilities.

b) Building Schools for the Future

NF confirmed that we are still awaiting further information on the Building Schools for the Future submission and that this is expected by the end of November 2004.

c) Board Visit to Locomotion; the National Railway Museum in Shildon on 2nd November 2004.

RP confirmed that the Board visit to Locomotion; the National Railway Museum at Shildon has been arranged for Tuesday 2nd November 2004 from 10:00 until 12:00.

d) Operation of the Cold Weather Payments by the Benefits Agency in Sedgefield Borough.

RP reported that he had received a letter from the Department for Social Security in response to our request for clarification of the operation of the cold weather payments by the Benefits Agency in Sedgefield Borough. This confirmed how the payments system works when cold weather periods are triggered. It is a national computerised system based on temperature figures recorded at a number of

weather stations from around the country each of whom have a number of postcodes allocated to them.

The Durham area is covered by three weather stations; Boltshope Park (covering DH8, DH9, DL8, DL12 – DL17 and NE44 postcodes), Linton on Ouse (covering DL1, DL3 – DL5 and DL10 postcodes) and Newcastle (covering DH1 – DH7, NE9, NE16, NE17, NE37 – NE39, SR8 and TS27 – TS29 postcodes). This was the explanation offered for why people living in adjacent communities but with different postcodes could get different payments during the same cold weather period. Board Members made a number of comments and SS reported that the LSP Healthy Borough Policy Group had also considered this issue and had referred it to the Sedgefield PCT.

Agreed: The LSP Team and the Healthy Borough Policy Group would seek additional information to further consider the matters raised.

e) Sedgefield Borough Community Strategy.

The Board noted that the Community Strategy is now being prepared for formal publication in November 2004 and that the process for the development and implementation of the first 3-year Community Strategy Action Plan has commenced.

2.3 Board Membership

RP reported on the outcome of the invitation to additional partner organisations/sectors to join the Partnership Board. A schedule of new Board Members and Alternates was included in the papers for the meeting.

RP drew the Board's attention to the response received from the Executive Director of the County Durham Learning and Skills Council (LSC) indicating that currently the LSC were unable to accept the invitation. Whilst the LSC had indicated a willingness to work closely with the County Durham Strategic Partnership they could not commit to attend LSP meetings. However, they were still committed to partnership working and would undertake to attend LSP meetings where they felt that they could contribute to specific agenda items.

RP asked how the Board wished to respond and after some discussion about their attendance at Policy Group level it was agreed to write to the LSC to ask them to reconsider their decision given the high priority afforded by the Partnership to the learning and skills agenda.

Agreed: The County Durham Learning and Skills Council be asked to reconsider their decision not to take up membership of the Partnership Board.

2.4 The English Indices of Deprivation 2004

The Board received from RP a presentation on the English Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID 2004). It was reported that the ID 2004 is a more comprehensive index than those previously available and so it permits a more detailed insight into the most disadvantaged areas by breaking ward level data down into smaller areas called Super Output Areas (SOAs). Concentrations of deprivation within wards can now be highlighted and efforts to address this deprivation can be more targeted which will aid policy and resource distribution decisions. Sedgefield Borough is

divided into 19 wards and now has 56 SOAs each of whom have a population of between 1000 and 1500 and a minimum of 400 households.

The SOA basis of the ID 2004 has enabled specific areas of concentrated deprivation to be highlighted within wards:

- The top five most deprived SOAs within the Borough belong to Thickley, West, Greenfield, Middridge and Ferryhill wards.
- Concentrated areas of deprivation within Thickley and West remain the most deprived in the borough in line with previous years.
- The wards of Cornforth, Old Trimdon and Sunnydale still feature within the most disadvantaged areas within the Borough when taking account of their constituent SOAs.

The Board noted that the possibility of any future allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding beyond 2006 could be based upon the evidence of how far these new SOAs are from the national floor targets. The ID 2004 measures deprivation using seven domains which relate to Income deprivation, Employment deprivation, Health and Disability deprivation, Education, Skills and Training deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment deprivation and Crime and Disorder deprivation.

Agreed: The Board noted the outcome of the Index of Deprivation 2004 for Sedgefield Borough.

2.5 Government Office North East Annual Review Meeting

RP updated Members on the written response received from Government Office North East (GONE) in respect of its conclusions from the Sedgefield LSP Annual Review Meeting held on 15th July 2004. He reported that this outlines the agreed actions for inclusion in the LSP Improvement Plan.

The three key strategic issues identified by GONE for the LSP are to ensure:

- That the review of delivery is carried out and a timetable for this is agreed with GONE
- That there are clear improvements to the data being held by the LSP and that this can be demonstrated in working towards national and local targets
- That the steps demonstrating the progress in the mainstreaming of successful Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) supported interventions and the bending of mainstream services and funding is at the forefront of the LSP's thinking.

RP confirmed that each of the strategic and detailed issues has been considered and an action plan is currently being developed identifying current/planned actions that are required by our partnership to ensure that GONE requirements are met and that this will be integrated into the Partnership Working Improvement Plan as appropriate. PR clarified for Board Members that 'plausibility' was simply about using an appraisal process to show that if you are going to carry out an action you can show how it will result in what you saying it is expected to do.

RP confirmed that the Board would be able to monitor the progress that the LSP is making in these matters through the half-year review of delivery of NRF reports on the Community Strategy Action Plan and the outcomes from Performance Management arrangements. It was noted there would be another annual review of the Partnership in the summer of 2005.

Agreed: The report on the Annual Review Meeting was noted.

2.6 Sedgefield Borough Council Housing Land Capital Receipts Strategy

RP reported that the Borough Council has had a longstanding policy of managed land disposals for market led residential development as a means of generating income to support its capital expenditure programmes. As a result of the rising housing market and a tightening of planning policy on 'greenfield' housing developments, the land values now being obtained were significantly above those previously achieved and forecasted by the Council in setting its medium term capital strategy.

In July 2004 the Borough Council formally agreed that all receipts from housing land sales would, over the next three to five years, be applied to projects falling within the definition of affordable housing and/or regeneration as set out by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This activity will include supporting the provision of new social housing and to bring undeveloped, vacant or derelict land and buildings into a more beneficial and effective use.

In determining the Council's Strategy, a number of strands of activity have been identified. These include support for Major Area Based or Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes linked to the Borough's Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and other programmes such as the English Partnerships Durham Coalfields Housing Renewal Programme for Ferryhill (Dean Bank and Ferryhill Station areas) and Chilton.

The other strands identified include the strategic investments related to major programmes that assist in the delivery of the Community Strategy outcomes, and the enhancement of the Borough Council's current capital programmes where this impacts on affordable housing and regeneration activity. The improvement of community assets to enhance the use of buildings and land in order to support improved access to services and facilities will also be supported.

A Local Area Programme will also operate in consultation with the Local Area Forums to determine a programme of local works.

As part of the development of the programme the Borough Council will be undertaking consultations through the LSP and the Area Forums with local stakeholders and other partners including town and parish councils.

The development of individual schemes to be supported under the Strategy will be considered within an appraisal framework that takes account of the proposals 'fit' to Council priorities and other strategic factors, revenue funding implications, expected timescales for the commitment of expenditure and community and stakeholder consultations.

Agreed: The report on the Sedgefield Borough Council Housing Land Capital Receipts Strategy be noted.

2.7 Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement for County Durham

RP outlined to Board Members the agreed process for the development of the Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA 2) for County Durham, the progress to date and the detailed implications for the work of the LSP. It was noted that the LPSA 2 is a voluntary agreement between the District and County Councils and the Government that focuses on achieving stretched improvement targets in a limited number of key service areas over the next three-year period.

It was reported that the Strategy identifies four improvement areas or themes (Skills and Support for Work, Liveability, Accessibility and Well-being) together with outline (quantifiable) indicators to measure improvements. The County Durham Strategic Partnership has proposed that an indicative amount of pump-priming funds of between £50,000 and £120,000 should be made available for each priority to support achievement of the indicated stretch targets.

Agreed: To note the draft LPSA 2 Strategy for County Durham and to agree to these targets being included in the Sedgefield Borough Community Strategy Action Planning and Performance Management processes.

2.8 Sedgefield Borough Community Empowerment Network (CEN)

The Board noted that when the Sedgefield CEN was established in 2001 Government Office North East (GONE) had appointed CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations in Sedgefield) as the local organisation that would be the Responsible Body for the development, support, operation and management of the CEN.

Discussions over the past year between the CEN and CAVOS over emerging issues relating to their respective roles and responsibilities led to both reconsidering this arrangement. The outcome of this was that CEN approached GONE to agree another suitable organisation to act as the Responsible Body.

The Government's 2005 – 2008 Comprehensive Spending Review indicated the aggregation of some Government Department funding streams from 2005, as part of a 'Single Community Programme', payable in the first instance to local authorities who will, with their LSP partners, then prioritise the funding in accordance with their Community Strategy. GONE had sought the agreement of the Borough Council to undertake the Responsible Body role as a means to inform the work of other local authorities and Community Empowerment Network's when the changed funding arrangements come in place from 2005.

On 1st October 2004 Sedgefield Borough Council assumed the Responsible Body role for the Sedgefield Community Empowerment Network.

Agreed: To note that Sedgefield Borough Council has from 1st October 2004 become the Responsible Body for Sedgefield CEN.

2.9 Report from the Community Empowerment Network (CEN)

AF tabled the CEN report for Board Members. Members noted that the CEN held an Induction Day for new members in August and that this was attended by seventeen CEN representatives. The CEN had also now introduced a new consultation arrangement for the engagement of local partners through six planned thematic "Sharing Ideas" days. These would replace the current Community Forums. It was also added that the new quarterly CEN newsletter was first published in July 2004.

Agreed: The CEN report be noted.

2.10 Reports from the Partnerships Policy Groups

The Board received the reports from all six of the LSP Policy Groups and the Sedgefield Children and Young People's Partnership. The Community Safety Policy Group reported on issues relating to Community Reassurance with the purchase of a Mobile Closed Circuit Television Vehicle, the appointment of a new Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and Outreach Worker and the work of the new Sedgefield Borough Council Neighbourhood Wardens Unit that has replaced the Community Force.

The Economy Policy Group's report covered business engagement, local authority business growth incentives and issues for their forward work programme. The Environment and Leisure Policy Group reported on the successful bid for the Transport Shared Priority Pathfinder Programme. The Healthy Borough Policy Group report focussed on tackling inequalities issues using shared indicators and integrated appraisal, work on stakeholder involvement in consultation pathways and on the proposal for three new strategic groups for physical activity, food & health and tobacco control, as part of a Healthier Lifestyles Group reporting to the Primary Care Trust.

The Housing and Communities Policy Group reported on progress with the Durham Coalfields Housing Project and successes in their joint Neighbourhood Renewal Funded activities. The Lifelong Learning Policy Group referred to the development of plans for tackling key priorities and the co-ordination of funding streams.

The Children and Young People's Partnership report noted their progress in allocating the £115,000 County Durham Children's Fund, the first Stakeholder Event held on 6th October 2004, on the current proposals related to the Sedgefield Children's Centre Programme and on the 14 -19 Area Review.

Agreed: The LSP Policy Group and the Sedgefield Children and Young People's Partnership reports be noted.

2.11 Second Annual Conference of the Sedgefield Borough LSP

RP asked Board Members to note that the Second LSP Annual Conference would take place on Friday 12th November 2004. He reported that the LSP has secured as the keynote speaker Jonathan Blackie, Regional Director for GONE who would be speaking about the Government thinking on the future of LSPs, as part of the Government's modernisation agenda.

Agreed: The report on the Second Annual Conference of the Sedgefield Borough LSP be noted.

3. PRESENTATION SESSION

3.1 County Durham Vision: Community Hubs

The Board received a joint presentation on the above subject from Ann Armstrong, Corporate Policy Officer in the Chief Executive Office at Durham County Council and Alan Charlton, the Sedgefield Borough LSP Co-ordinator. This proposal is one of the twelve Challenges identified in the County Durham Strategic Partnership 'Shared Vision for County Durham' which is a twenty-year strategic plan that compliments the Sedgefield Borough Community Strategy.

AA gave the background to, and the progress being made, in developing a vision for a network of 'Community Hubs' serving towns and villages as centres for leisure, learning, community activities and socialising for people living in County Durham. She outlined the work carried out in developing the 'concept' as a checklist of seventeen common elements and the 'toolkit' that includes examples of different possible models for the community hubs.

AC outlined the consultation arrangements that will involve LSPs considering how they might develop the concept and use the toolkit in their own communities with a view to feeding suggestions to a County-level Working Group by February 2005. Through this process individual LSPs will be able to develop Community Hubs in ways that best suits local needs, priorities, resources and opportunities.

3.2 Discussion Session

Board Members then took part in a question and answer session around the issues presented and raised a number of points around resources, flexibility, duplication, community involvement, managing community expectations and piloting the concept in a particular community or local area. Members supported the broad concept as it was seen as an opportunity to build on existing good practice in the Borough where work has been underway at reshaping community services.

Agreed: The Community Hubs concept be referred to the LSP Housing and Communities Policy Group for consideration and application in a Sedgefield Borough context, with a view to report on progress to the LSP Board in April 2005.

4. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

None were raised.

The Chair thanked Board Members for their attendance and contributions.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 26th January 2005
Time: 1.00 pm
Venue: Shildon Civic Hall

Agreed by the Sedgefield Borough Local Strategic Partnership Board on
26th January 2005 as a true record of the meeting held on 20th October 2004.

Signed:

Date:

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