

AREA 4 FORUM

Tuesday, 18 January 2005

6.30 p.m.

Hackworth Suite,
Shildon Sunnydale
Leisure Centre

AGENDA and REPORTS

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To notify the Chairman of any items that appear later in the agenda in which you may have an interest.
- 3. MINUTES**
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2004. (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST**
A representative of Sedgefield Primary Care Tryst will attend the meeting to give a presentation on local health matters and performance figures.
- 5. POLICE REPORT**
A representative of Shildon Police will attend the meeting to give a report of crime statistics and initiatives in the area.
- 6. STREET SAFE INITIATIVE**
Chief Inspector Hall will give a presentation on the above.
- 7. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD MINUTES**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2004 are attached for information. (Pages 9 - 18)
- 8. QUESTIONS**
The Chairman will take questions from the floor.
- 9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**
To consider any other business which, with the consent of the Chairman, may be submitted. Representatives are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive Officer notice of items to be raised under this heading no later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting in order that consultation may take place with the Chairman who will determine whether the item will be accepted.
- 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
3rd May 2005 at 6.30p.m. at Hackworth Suite, Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre.

N. Vaulks
Chief Executive Officer

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
10th January 2005

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To: -

Sedgefield Borough Council

Councillor D. M. Hancock (Chairman)
Councillor G.M.R. Howe (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors J. G. Huntington, Mrs. I. Jackson Smith, J. M. Smith and Mrs. L. Smith

Shildon Town Council

Councillors J. Bennett, Mrs. L. Goldie, M. Stott and J. Thompson

Eldon Parish Council

Councillor H. Robinson and Mr. M. Henderson

Durham County Council

Councillors K. Henderson and J. Quigley

New Shildon Residents Association

Mrs. C. Thompson

Durham Constabulary

P.C. M. Lawton

Shildon Chamber of Trade

Mr. J. Bowman

Jubilee Fields Community Association

Mrs. E. Carr

CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations Sedgefield)

Chief Executive Officer

Community Network

Anne Frizell

Sunnydale Residents Association

A.G. Bowman, J. Kirkbride and K. Mulley

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust

A. Armstrong and K. Vasey

Sedgefield Borough Council

Councillor J. Robinson J.P., Lead Member Culture and Recreation

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Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Hackworth Suite,
Shildon Sunnydale
Leisure Centre

Tuesday,
16 November 2004

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor D.M. Hancock (in the Chair) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor G.M.R. Howe	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.G. Huntington	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Jackson Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor H. Robinson	–	Eldon Parish Council
J. Cutting	–	New Residents Jubilee Fields
J. Johnson	–	New Shildon Residents Association
Mrs. A. Armstrong	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
C. Vasey	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Councillor J. Thompson	–	Shildon Town Council
M. Quigley	–	S.P.I.C.E.
K. Bowes	–	Local Resident
W. Butterfield	–	Local Resident
J. Bell	–	Local Resident
S. Lundy	–	Local Resident

In

Attendance: Councillor J. Khan and

D. Anderson, Miss S. Billingham, J. Craggs and T. Rix

Apologies: C. Thompson – New Shildon Residents Association
Councillor Mrs L. Goldie – Shildon Town Council
C. Hind – Local Resident

AF(4)16/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that the following Councillor would be declaring an interest: -

Councillor J.G. Huntington – Prejudicial Interest – Item 7 – Large Scale Voluntary Transfer-Update – Member of the Shadow Board.

AF(4)17/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September, 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(4)18/04 SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

C. Vasey and A. Armstrong were present at the meeting to update the Forum on local health matters. Copies of the Annual Report 2003/2004 were distributed at the meeting. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Concern was raised regarding the number of patients who were choosing to go to Darlington Memorial Hospital rather than Bishop Auckland General Hospital for their maternity care. It was explained that some members of the public were under the impression that Bishop Auckland General Hospital no longer provided a 24-hour service for maternity patients, which was incorrect. It was pointed out that positive feedback had been received regarding maternity care provided by Bishop Auckland Hospital and the hospital was still the preferred option for a large number of patients within the area.

Members of the Forum also expressed concern regarding the lack of residential care homes within Shildon and the lack of facilities for patients suffering from mental health problems. It was explained that the Borough Council was working to promote independent living, however, if it was a requirement for a person to be transferred into a residential care home every attempt would be made to keep the person within the community within which he/she were living. If a bed/room was not available then arrangements would be made for he/she to be transferred out of the area for a temporary period only.

With regard to the lack of facilities for those suffering from mental health problems, it was pointed out that Auckland Park was a facility for local communities and had received excellent reports.

Questions were also raised regarding schemes to re-introduce terry towelling nappies. It was explained that information would be brought to a future meeting.

AF(4)19/04 POLICE REPORT

Police Inspector A. Neill was present at the meeting to give details of the crime statistics for the Shildon area.

The Forum was informed that for the first 7 months of 2004/2005 financial year total crime was down by 15%, violent crime was down by 1%, criminal damage down by 18%, all vehicle crime down by 42%, shoplifting down by 38% and burglary was down by 10%. Unfortunately burglary dwellings were up by 61%, however it was explained that high profile operations and investigations were ongoing in relation to the problem.

Members were informed of an operation running between Sedgfield Borough Council and Durham Constabulary in the New Shildon Area to target problems in the area, such as anti social behaviour and littering. The mobile CCTV unit had been used to target and monitor problem areas, which had resulted in a number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts being signed. It was explained that if behaviour was not seen to improve, then the next stage would be the issue of Anti Social

Behaviour Orders. Insp A. Neill pointed out that the contracts and orders had been successful in tackling anti social behaviour.

It was explained that a test purchase scheme had revealed that alcohol was not being sold in shops to under 18's in Shildon. The main issue of concern was the purchase of alcohol by people 18 years and over for consumption by people under 18 years. It was pointed out that the transfer of responsibility for liquor licensing to the Local Authority could help to alleviate the problems.

It was also pointed out that problems were still occurring regarding contacting the call centre at Bishop Auckland. Insp A. Neill explained that they were aware of the problems and a great deal of work was being undertaken to try and improve the service.

AF(4)20/04 CRIME AND DISORDER AUDIT

Sergeant S. Steen and A. Blakemore attended the meeting to give an interactive presentation regarding the above.

It was reported that a Crime and Disorder Audit was undertaken every three years. The last Audit had been carried out in 2001 and Sedgefield Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005 had been developed from the findings. The main priorities of the current strategy were to tackle anti-social behaviour, drug-related crime, substance misuse, house burglary, vehicle crime and domestic violence.

It was explained that work had now commenced on a review of crime and disorder between April 2001 and March 2004 within Sedgefield Borough. The findings were as follows:

Between 1st April 2001 and 31st March 2004, crime in Sedgefield Borough increased by 10%, which was mainly a result of the changes made to the National Crime Recording Standards in 2002, and led to a rise in recorded crime across England and Wales as a whole. The majority of crime in the Borough had been criminal damage, including criminal damage to vehicles. Theft and violent crime also made up a big proportion of the crime in the area.

Criminal Damage

Criminal damage had increased in the borough between 2001 and 2004 by 19%. Sedgefield Borough had a higher rate of criminal damage per 1,000 population than the rest of County Durham. Criminal damage to motor vehicles had increased by 33%.

Theft

Shoplifting in the borough had reduced by 42% since 2001/02, with only 372 offences being recorded in 2003/04. Other theft, including crimes such as handling stolen goods, theft of petrol, cycles, cash etc., had shown an increase of 10% from 1,819 crimes being recorded in

2001/02 to 905 in 2003/04 and in total those accounted for 100% of the category. Theft made up the second largest proportion of crime in the Borough.

Violent Crime

Violence against a person had increased from 816 offences in 2001/02 to 1,316 offences in 2003/04.

The percentage rates for sexual offences and robberies in Sedgefield Borough remained very low and the reported incidents of domestic abuse, involving partners and family members, had reduced by 1.3% between April 2001 and March 2004.

Vehicle Related Crime

Vehicle related crime was made up of the categories of theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and vehicle interference.

Theft from motor vehicles had decreased by 1% from 510 crimes in 2001/02 to 502 crimes in 2003/04.

Theft of motor vehicles had also decreased by 9% from 318 crimes in 2001/02 to 292 crimes in 2003/04.

Theft of and from vehicles was low compared across England and Wales. There were only 3.4 people for every 100,000 that live in Sedgefield who have had their vehicles stolen compared to the figure of 5.6 across England and Wales.

Vehicle interference had been reduced from 68 offences in 2001/02 to 31 in 2003/04.

Burglary

House burglary had decreased by 15% in the borough from 405 in 2001/02 to 351 in 2003/04. Sedgefield Borough had the fourth lowest rate of burglaries when compared to other similar Community Safety Partnerships.

Misuse of Drugs and Drug-related Crime

Drug-related crime in the borough was low. The majority of crime and anti-social behaviour, however, was linked to drugs and alcohol misuse.

The Government had recently published a National Alcohol Strategy to address the impact of alcohol on communities and the Community Safety Partnerships had been asked to consider including misuse of alcohol within their 2005-08 strategies.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Incidents of anti-social behaviour had decreased by 6% since 2001.

Youth Causing Annoyance was the single largest category that made up anti-social behaviour in the borough, with 3,310 incidents being

recorded by the Police in 2003/04. The category related to behaviour stemming from youths simply being in groups to abuse and intimidation.

It was pointed out that reducing anti-social behaviour was high on the Government's agenda as it affected the lives of many people across the country.

Following the presentation Forum members were asked nine questions which were answered through an audience response system. The nine questions were to be asked at all five Area Forums and the findings used to form the Sedgefield Community Safety Strategy for 2005-08.

AF(4)21/04 LARGE SCALE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER - UPDATE

T. Rix, Sedgefield Borough Council, and John Craggs, Sunderland Housing Group were present at the meeting to update the Forum on the proposed housing stock transfer.

It was explained that the Government required all Local Housing Authorities to achieve the minimum Decent Homes Standard by 2010 for all of their Council housing stock. Sedgefield Borough Council would have sufficient resources to meet the Decent Homes Standard, however, not sufficient to deliver the higher standard required by tenants, known locally as the 'Sedgefield Standard'. The Council had therefore decided to consider the following options to secure the necessary additional investment:

- Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT)
- Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO)
- Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

Following a study of the options, the Council selected LSVT as the way forward to generate sufficient investment to deliver a high standard of modernisation and estate improvement, better housing services and wider regeneration initiatives throughout the Borough. Large Scale Voluntary Transfer would mean that the Housing Service would be run by a new Local Housing Company, which would be a not for profit making organisation and would be regulated by the Housing Corporation.

Stock transfer could however only proceed once tenants had said yes to transfer through a vote at a ballot carried out independently by the Electoral Reform Service.

It was explained that in December 2003 the Council agreed a process and established a 'Choice of Landlord Stakeholder Panel' to make recommendations regarding the most suitable landlord for the proposed transfer of its housing stock. The Panel was made up of councillors, staff and tenants and received independent advice from consultants.

Five formal expressions of interest were received and three applicants were short-listed.

Following consideration of the detailed submissions and all other evidence gathered during the process, including site visits and presentations, the Panel concluded that the proposal from Sunderland Housing Group offered the best value to the Council and its tenants. This recommendation was accepted by both Cabinet and Council. It was felt that Sunderland Housing Group would assist the Council in delivering its strategic aims, supporting the delivery of the stock transfer process and the setting up of Sedgefield Housing Company.

John Craggs from Sunderland Housing Group then gave a presentation to the Forum on the benefits of transferring the stock to Sunderland Housing Group and setting up the 'Sedgefield Housing Company'.

It was reported that the new company would develop the 'Sedgefield Standard' that offered a range of improvement works, including fencing, boundary treatment, environmental works and security measures. Sedgefield Housing Company would have £115m available over the next 10 years for investment in the housing stock in the Borough, compared with £62m that the Council would have.

Slides showing new kitchens, bathrooms and new houses constructed by Sunderland Housing Group were shown. It was noted that Sunderland Housing Group had already modernised 10,000 properties.

Specific reference was made to rents and tenants' rights. It was pointed out that under the Government's ten year rent restructuring programme existing rents were to be moved towards target rent levels, thereby removing the differences in rents set by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords. The application of the new formula meant that local discretion in setting rents to generate income for housing stock improvements was reduced. The only variable element in the formula was the individual property valuation, which was a reflection of trends in the wider market. The Government expected Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to have the same target rents by 2012.

It was pointed out that if tenants could buy their homes now with the Council, they would still be able to buy their homes under the preserved Right to Buy scheme. The new Local Housing Company would continue tenants' discount entitlement. All the main rights the tenants had with the Council would be protected and written down in a new legal binding assured tenancy agreement.

The new company would be managed by a Management Board, consisting of five councillors, five tenants and five independent representatives. It would be able to build new houses, however the type and location of houses would depend on local need. The staff and the workforce would transfer to the new company and would continue to provide services to tenants in the same way as they did at present.

Specific reference was also made to the consultations that were to take place prior to the ballot. Various ways would be used to communicate information to tenants such as home visits, public meetings, newsletters, posters, mobile display units and Resident Group meetings.

Members also queried where more information could be found on the guidance for how the decent homes standard would be reached. It was explained that it could be found on the Governments web site. It was also agreed that more information would be brought to a future meeting.

It was pointed out that if there were any questions or concerns then contact should be made with the Council or the Independent Tenants Advisor, whose details could be sought from the Council. Members of the Forum were also invited to visit properties managed by Sunderland Housing Group.

AF(4)22/04 NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT

LAND AT FORMER CLARENDON GARAGE, WEST ROAD SHILDON

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Manager regarding a request received from Alexander Homes to officially name and number the above development comprising of 18 dwellings. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members of the Forum proposed the name 'Clarendon Court.'

AF(4)23/04 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18th January, 2005 at 6.30 p.m. at Hackworth Suite, Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre.

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Item 7



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: **Sildon 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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