

**MINUTES OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MONDAY 21 JULY 2008  
RUFFORD SUITE, COUNTY HALL**

**AT 2.00 PM**

**Present:**

Board Members

Cllr David Kirkham, Nottinghamshire County Council (Chair)  
Cllr Mick Storey, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Cllr Mike Quigley, Bassetlaw District Council (from Item 7)  
Cllr Michael Rich, Broxtowe Borough Council  
Cllr Tony Roberts, Newark & Sherwood District Council  
Cllr Neil Clarke, Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Cllr John Clarke, Nottinghamshire Police Authority  
John Buckley, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Nina Dauban, NAVO  
Terry Laws, Learning and Skills Council  
John Dowson, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Chamber of  
Commerce

Officers in Attendance

Mick Burrows, Nottinghamshire County Council  
David Hunter, Bassetlaw District Council (from Item 7)  
John Robinson, Gedling Borough Council  
Ruth Marlow, Mansfield District Council  
Alistair McGrady, LSP Secretariat  
Susan Lewis-Roberts, LSP Secretariat  
Peter Elderton, LSP Secretariat  
Alison Brock, LSP Secretariat

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Roland Spencer, Gedling Borough Council  
Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Ashfield District Council  
Cllr Darrell Pulk, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Tom Fremantle, Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT  
Phil Lyons, Chair of the LAA Management Group  
Marie-Laure Huke, GOEM

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 May 2008**

These were agreed as a true record.

### **3. Nottinghamshire Partnership Development**

Susan Lewis-Robert talked through the circulated report on behalf of Phil Lyons, in his absence.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) has been signed off by Whitehall and is unchanged from the document signed off by the Board on 16 May 2008.

Officers are working on the delivery plans. This emphasises the importance of a cross-agency approach and experimenting with new ways of working. Phil Lyons will share further information on this at a future meeting of the Board. **AGENDA ITEM.**

The Board agreed the recommendation that the name of the 'LAA Management Group' be changed to 'Nottinghamshire Partnership Management Group' which will mean more to the people of Nottinghamshire and indicate the focus on delivery rather than targets.

Susan Lewis-Roberts fed back on the issues discussed at the last LAA Management Group meeting held on 7 July 2008. She informed the Board of the proposed "Making It Happen" delivery planning event for managers which is provisionally arranged for 4 September 2008 to encourage new ways of thinking and collaborative working across the Partnership. Proposals will then be brought to a future Board meeting. **AGENDA ITEM.**

She also advised the Board that Alan Mellor had provided a financial update; and Steve Barnett, Audit Commission, and Marie-Laure Huke, GOEM, have agreed to draft a paper for the next meeting of the Board, on Monday 15 September 2008, describing their respective roles in relation to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) if this would be of interest. A review of governance structures is currently being undertaken by Phil Lyons who will table a paper at the next Board meeting. A working group has also been established to look at the idea of how a County Sustainable Community Strategy might be developed to include district chapters.

### **4. Developing the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

Alistair McGrady updated the Board on issues relating to the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Board, at its meeting on 7 December 2007, had previously agreed the timetable for the new Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on Health and Social Care has now been completed and will be discussed at the Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust Board this month. It was proposed that the Board receives a presentation on the JSNA at its next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM.**

The revised Condition of Nottinghamshire will be available in October 2008 which will provide ward level information. This will be complemented by the State of Nottinghamshire work which will provide a benchmark for the County at regional, national and European levels.

Arrangements are being made for a "Nottinghamshire Thinks event" which will look at issues relating to the County's economy. The arrangements will be confirmed shortly and the current proposed date for this event is Friday 17 October 2008. The Government's response on the Economic Assessment consultation is awaited although it has already been agreed that a joint Economic Assessment for Nottinghamshire will be produced by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council, and will also involve District Councils. It will provide a benchmark as to where Nottinghamshire is in relation to other regions from an economic perspective.

Primary consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy will begin in the autumn. It will be extensive to consider the views of different sections of the community and will use a range of methods.

Cllr John Clarke raised concerns that people are consultation weary and asked if duplication could be avoided when undertaking the primary consultation. Cllr David Kirkham highlighted the role of the Citizens' Panel and the media to mitigate this. Cllr John Clarke asked if consultations could be combined and Alistair McGrady advised that the Consultation User Group would take this into account.

Cllr Tony Roberts asked if the Citizen's Panel for Newark and Sherwood District Council would be involved and it was confirmed that this is part of the Citizen's Panel for the County.

Nina Dauban informed Alistair McGrady that the new BME Forum, which can be contacted through NAVO, should be invited to be involved in the consultation.

Cllr David Kirkham confirmed that there will be a mass of information available by October/November 2008 which will provide an real opportunity for the Board to look at the state of the County and the issues it faces. **The Board endorsed the arrangements detailed in the report to produce the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy.**

**The Board also agreed the recommendation that Ben Page, Ipsos MORI, be invited to attend the Board meeting on Monday 20 October 2008 for a wider Community Strategy development event. The Consultation User Group will be invited to the event where feedback on the County Contact 8000 surveys will also be received.**

**5. Government's agenda for Local Strategic Partnerships, Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements**

There were no questions regarding the presentation authored by Jan Sensier, GOEM, and circulated to the Board for their information. Alistair McGrady drew attention to the top ten LAA targets in the East Midlands. There are still a number of baselines which need to be determined and GOEM are stressing that the refresh will be extensive. The East Midlands is lagging behind other regions in terms of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency (RIEP) agenda. Cllr Neil Clarke advised that the region has now caught up and £1.3 million will be released once the arrangements in the East Midlands have been confirmed.

**6. Comprehensive Area Assessment in Nottinghamshire**

Pete Elderton informed the Board of the Government's new performance management framework for local government and its partners in April 2009. The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) will replace the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and will involve assessment of the Partnership as well as for the County Council, District Councils and some other public bodies.

A CAA trial for Nottinghamshire is planned to take place between July and September this year. A meeting was held with senior managers of partner organisations on 14 July when details were discussed and questions raised. They were reassured that this would not involve additional work and each organisation involved would appoint a lead officer.

Cllr Neil Clarke questioned the involvement of Rushcliffe Borough Council and Bassetlaw District Council and whether they had been consulted before their names had been put forward. Pete Elderton confirmed his understanding that Rushcliffe Borough Council had been invited to take part in the trial via the Audit Commission.

**The Board agreed the recommendation that they endorse participation in the CAA trial.**

**7. "Communities in Control" – Community Engagement White Paper**

Alistair McGrady recommended that the members of the Board read the White Paper in full as it covers many cross-cutting issues which affect the Partnership and its constituent organisations.

Mick Burrows referred to the sessions at the Local Government Association conference, in Bournemouth, held earlier in the month at which the importance had been stressed of partnerships powering communities, coherent consultation, and the role of the elected members. Partnerships need to consider how they involve all members; and the role of Boards, and of their partner's and their governing bodies. He

suggested that the Nottinghamshire Partnership consider what it is going to do to meet this agenda.

The Board split into three smaller groups for 45 minutes to discuss implications for the Partnership of the White Paper and how it could respond. As a guide for the group discussion, the following seven questions were circulated which the Government has identified that a citizen might reasonably ask:

- (1) Active citizens and the value of volunteering – how can a citizen be active and volunteer?
- (2) Access to information – how can a citizen find out information in a way they can understand and use?
- (3) Having an influence – how does a citizen have their say and influence the decisions being made on their behalf, both by elected and appointed people?
- (4) Challenge – how does a citizen hold to account the people who exercise power in their locality?
- (5) Redress – how does a citizen get swift and fair redress when things go wrong and make sure it doesn't happen to someone else?
- (6) Standing for office – how does a citizen stand for office and what support should they get?
- (7) Ownership and control – how can a citizen, their friends and neighbours own and run local services themselves?

The three groups then fed back to the full meeting:

Mick Burrows spoke on behalf of Group One. Members had challenged themselves to take some of these matters on. No one was really confident about going back to their constituent bodies and clarity on decision making, governance and accountability of the Partnership is required.

There is a need to focus on outcomes and what has been achieved as a Partnership. It was suggested that a storyboard be prepared for Members to share with their organisations.

The Partnership needs to be aware of single issues/numbers which can affect consultation findings.

Alistair McGrady spoke on behalf of Group Two. They recognised that it would be easier for larger businesses to give time off for volunteering although this might be affected by the current economic climate. There is a danger that volunteering might be encouraged for work for which there should be paid jobs and the potential legal difficulties were raised.

Information available to citizens should be in plain language and, in particular, performance management sources should be understandable. In relation to influence, it was asked what weight do petitions have and how would the Board respond to lobbying over strategic issues such as waste management? Where does accountability lie – with the officers or Members of an organisation?

Cllr David Kirkham spoke on behalf of Group Three. Different issues had been raised regarding volunteering including the need for a broad approach across all areas, time off, the value given to volunteering, signposting to Community Voluntary Services (CVSs) to obtain information, and barriers (for example legislation, lack of confidence).

It had been agreed that there was a need to provide feedback on consultation. However, it was felt that no changes needed to be made to how consultation is undertaken at the current time.

More information should be made available to citizens who wish to stand for office and there should be a broader representation in terms of age and ethnic background. This could be promoted by time off for council duties, changing voting systems and a positive role taken by the media.

Ruth Marlow shared information on the local debate taking place in the media in Cornwall regarding attracting people to take on the role of councillors at Cornwall County Council and how this appears to be limited to certain groups of people. Cllr Neil Clarke advised that transitional arrangements have yet to be agreed there. Nina Dauban reflected that the Partnership, as community leaders, need to show the way to changing nine to five employment as there would be a need, in the future, for public service to become an integral part of all adult's lives.

Cllr David Kirkham concluded the discussion by stating that these are the kinds of issues which the Board could usefully discuss and there would be opportunities to focus on some parts of the White Paper in detail at future meetings. **AGENDA ITEM.**

## **8. Any Other Business**

Mick Burrows suggested that, if the agenda for the next meeting allowed, a presentation could be made to the Board on a particular theme to bring it to life and demonstrate what added value is brought by working together as a partnership. As JSNA is due to be discussed at that meeting it might be opportune to look at the health theme under Tom Fremantle's sponsorship if he is in agreement. **AGENDA ITEM.**

Cllr John Clarke requested that the Board work through a case study exercise at the next meeting to identify how a particular problem in a district could be worked through and resolved as a partnership. Ruth Marlow suggested that an area approach could be taken to assist Board Members to relate it to what is happening on the ground.

Cllr David Kirkham pointed out the difficulty of dealing with very specific local issues. Nina Dauban felt that a mixture of an area and themed approach would be the most appropriate to consider a real life story and then identify what the Board/Partnership has done in response.

**AGENDA ITEM.**

Susan Lewis-Roberts drew attention to the Nottinghamshire Partnership website. Information is available on the groups that support each theme of the LAA and the relevant structures and lines of accountability.

Cllr David Kirkham suggested that the website could be demonstrated at the next meeting of the Board. **AGENDA ITEM.**

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 15 September 2008, in the Cricketer's Suite, Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, at 2 pm.**