

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Manchester Partnership (LSP) Board
Held on 20 December 2005**

Present:	Councillor Richard Leese	MCC (in the Chair)
	Michael Eakin	North West Arts Council
	Justine Curran	GMP
	Khan Moghal	MCCR
	John Korzeniewski	GM LSC
	Tim Atkinson	GM LSC
	Davy Iredale	CN4M
	Mark Nesbitt	CN4M
	Keith Howcroft	GMPTE
	Angie Robinson	GM Chamber of Commerce
	Sue Jarvis	Manchester Enterprises
	David King	North Manchester PCT
	Lyndsey Harman	Jobcentre Plus
	Steve Mycio	Deputy Chief Executive Performance, MCC

Also

Present:	Michael Greenwood	GONW
	Geoff Little	Head of Performance
	Kath Smythe	Manchester Partnership Manager
	Peter Jones	MPSL

Apologies: Councillor Simon Wheale (MCC), Councillor Imran Rizvi (MCC), Briony Simister (GM Chamber of Commerce), Adrian Mercer (South Manchester PCT) and Richard Guy (Manchester Enterprises).

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the Manchester Partnership Board held on 29 November 2005 and Action Note

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29 November 2005 and Action Note were presented for consideration.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes and Action Note be received.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Manchester Conference (minute 3)

Kath Smythe informed the meeting that the date for the third Manchester Conference had been set for Saturday 18 March 2006.

(b) Community Strategy Review (minute 5)

Kath Smythe confirmed that a report on the Community Strategy Review would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

3. Development of the Manchester Partnership Board

Geoff Little gave a presentation outlining the future development of the Board and links to the current Community Strategy Review. He reminded the Board of the June 2005 meeting in Manchester of the Places Project Steering Group. This had resulted in the idea of challenging the Board through the use of an expert “critical friend”, Paul Corrigan, to move the Partnership on to the next stage. Paul had now moved on to the Prime Minister’s Policy Unit. The recent one-to-one interviews between Board members and Geoff Little or Kath Smythe had shown that Board members wanted greater clarity and consistency of purpose for the Partnership and the Board. The Community Strategy Review should lead to greater consistency in the provision of public services in Manchester.

The new Vision for Manchester was for it to be a major European city. Driven by the performance of the economy of the city and the sub-region, this Vision would lead by 2015 to an increased population, wealthier and living longer lives, with a good demographic mix, stability and diversity. The three spines of the LAA Submission would enable the population to reach full potential in education and employment, to have mutual respect through individual and collective self esteem and to create neighbourhoods of choice where people wished to live.

The recent Consultation Paper from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) had set out a continued commitment to LSPs. It proposed local authorities facilitating joint action through LSPs to move towards a Sustainable Community Strategy and to support Community Engagement and neighbourhood working. Partners would have to hold each other to account through effective, transparent and acceptable governance. This could be achieved by a framework of accountability that would include the LAA, the Manchester Partner Agreement, the Agreement with Mancunians and the outcomes agreed at the third Manchester Conference.

For this to occur, Partners would have to take the Partnership seriously through ensuring that the Community Strategy was reflected in the mainstream planning and appropriate forms of sub-regional governance and agreements. The current work on activity mapping and systems thinking should allow improved performance management by the Board of the LAA and Partner Agreements.

This in turn would have implications for the constitution and operation of the Board. Consideration needed to be given to the membership of the Board, the chairing, location and agendas for Board meetings, how internal issues of partners' organisations were communicated to the Board, how the Partnership could have appropriate staff support and the marketing and visibility of the Partnership.

Other particular concerns for the Board were to ensure that the Partnership had an area focus; this would involve consideration of district boundaries, commissioning, management of services, area planning arrangements and the development of appropriate neighbourhood indicators and workforce planning, and the building of Team Manchester to deliver the Vision for Manchester. Other issues included leadership development across the middle of partner organisations, shared development of future workforce capacity, skills and attitudes and challenging existing human resources cultures. The Board, therefore, now had to consider what its role was in delivering the new Community Strategy, how this role was translated into practical activities in the next year and what the Board's ambition was for its future role.

Angie Robinson was asked to facilitate a discussion, arising from the presentation.

Angie opened the discussion by raising several issues for the Board to discuss and resolve, including the crucial importance of the function and role of the Board, the need for Board members to ensure that Partnership priorities were considered within their organisations, to whom the Board was accountable and who was accountable to the Board, the challenging of Partners' work by the Board and planning Partnership activities.

In a wide-ranging discussion, a number of issues were raised, including

(a) further work was required to align the work of organisations to the priorities of the Partnership and the Board, focusing on the priorities for Manchester and creating additionality;

(b) it was agreed that there were three levels of influence that Board members would need to exert so that Community Strategy priorities became reflected in the mainstream planning and resource allocation processes for their organisation:

- Sign-off – at the most senior level of their organisation
- Governance – Board members would need to identify a mechanism for influencing existing governance structures to take account of Community Strategy priorities
- Buy-in – Board members would need to champion the Community Strategy to achieve real buy-in

(c) it was possible to tackle some problems at a Greater Manchester level, for example, Economic and Transport issues; other areas such as Health and Police needed negotiations at a local level to ensure cross-agency working; this was not easy to achieve but needed to be done in order to influence organisations and ensure the delivery of the Community Strategy;

(d) how the Board could add value to activities although it had no executive powers; thus co-ordination, monitoring and challenging were important roles for the Board through, for example, performance management; the Board was accountable to central government for the investment and impact of NRF; value for money in relation to both mainstream and additional funding would need to be a key consideration for the Board;

(e) some progress in prioritising issues had been made since the Away Day held on 23 November 2004; the spines and the priorities within the LAA would provide the framework for the Board to focus on a smaller number of priorities; the Board may wish to hone these down further for their own work programme;

(f) Partner Agreements would complement the LAA by agreeing local commitments to change in order to improve delivery of Partnership priorities; these should support the Board in ensuring that there would be a commitment to the new Community Strategy and that all wards in Manchester received a decent standard of service linked to the activities set out in three spines of the Community Strategy;

(g) the future constitution and operation of the Board would partly depend on what its main focus was going to be; if it was on a strategic approach to the new Vision, then other partners might need to be invited to join the Board, such as the Higher Education sector; also the future roles of the voluntary and private sectors in the delivery of the LAA and the Community Strategy needed to be considered;

(h) it was essential for the LAA to be signed on behalf of a Partner by a senior official/representative and then further work done on how it would be implemented within organisations.

Resolved/-

(i) that Geoff Little be thanked for his helpful presentation and Angie Robinson for facilitating a wide-ranging and frank discussion.

(ii) that a note setting out the agreements and actions achieved at the meeting be prepared and circulated.

4. Schedule of meetings for 2006

The schedule of meetings for 2006 and early 2007 was noted as follows:

17 January, 14 February, 21 March, 25 April, 6 June, 4 July, 8 August, 12 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December, 30 January 2007 and 6 March 2007, all 8.00am to 10.00am.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Next meeting

The following was noted as the date for next meeting: 17 January 2006, 8.00am to 10.00am.

**MEETING OF MANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON 20
DECEMBER 2005**

ACTION NOTE

1. Minutes of meeting held on 29 November 2005 and Action Note

Noted. No action.

2. Development of Board

Action

A. Note to be prepared and circulated setting out the agreements and actions achieved at the meeting. (**Kath Smythe**)

3. Dates for meetings in 2006

Noted. No Action.

4. Next meeting

17 January 2006, 8.00am to 10.00am.

