

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Manchester Partnership (LSP) Board
Held on 26 July 2005**

Present:	Michael Eakin	North West Arts Council (In the Chair)
	Councillor Simon Wheale	MCC
	Khan Moghal	MCCR
	Ed Cox	CN4M
	Briony Simister	GM Chamber of Commerce
	Keith Howcroft	GMPTE
	Sue Jarvis	Manchester Enterprises
	Adrian Mercer	South Manchester PCT

Also

Present:	Brian Holmes	GONW
	Geoff Little	Head of Corporate Performance
	Fran Toms	Cultural Strategy Team
	Claire Pickard	Cultural Strategy Team
	Chris Gribble	Cultural Strategy team
	Patrick Hanfling	Area Co-ordination Team
	Peter Jones	MPSL

Apologies: Councillor Richard Leese (MCC), Councillor Imran Rizvi (MCC), Steve Mycio (Deputy Chief Executive Performance), John Korzeniewski (GM LSC), Justine Curran (GM Police), Bill Marks (Job Centre Plus) and Davy Iredale (CN4M).

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the Manchester Partnership Board held on 21 June 2005 and Action Note

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 21 June 2005 and Action Note were presented for consideration.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes and Action Note be received.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Places/LPSA (minute 2(b))

Geoff Little informed the meeting that the final LPSA2 Agreement was now with the relevant Ministers for approval.

(b) Strengthening Partnership Working (minute 4)

Geoff Little confirmed that discussions with AGMA concerning procurement, human resources and research would be pursued through the work on the Local Area Agreement.

3. Schedule of Board Business

The Schedule of Board Business for July to December 2005 was **noted**.

4. Economic Inactivity

Sue Jarvis introduced a progress report on the continuing work of the Economic and Employment Partnership in reducing the number of people in Manchester who were economically inactive or claiming benefits. She said that a number of current projects focused on incapacity benefit claimants and were linked to JobCentre Plus activities such as Stepping Stones. There were two particular areas where the Board could contribute: reducing the on-flow of residents who became economically inactive and maximising local employment. It was hoped to make progress on reducing the number of people registering for benefits by using a preventative approach and increasing employment of local people by sharing information with other groups such as social landlords and Age Concern. Partners could look at how many local residents they employed and what their background was. Public sector procurement was also relevant where there could also be input from business partners. There were also projects involving young people to make them more familiar with the world of work through mentoring etc.

A number of issues arose in discussion, including,

(a) the private sector through activities involving the GM Chamber of Commerce and others could help to build on public sector procurement; more work was needed to engage individual employers in the process;

(b) the NHS now had a greater focus on preventative treatment and that could be linked to getting people back into employment;

(c) there were links to the voluntary and community sectors; better communication with the voluntary sector to give them guidance on how to help unemployed people could improve these further at community level and through building on projects such as Stepping Stones;

(d) a key issue to be tackled was the family culture of worklessness; the Places Project Steering Group had established a task group to look at these issues;

(e) NRF funds had been focused on relatively big projects; the key challenge was to ensure that real and lasting change was achieved; these programmes would need to be evaluated to ensure that there was a greater focus on successful outcomes and the relative impact of actions; data sharing could play a role in that process; the task group to be set up by the Places Project Steering Group also intended to analyse short and long term data in order to assess the success of interventions.

Resolved/-

(i) that the report be noted.

(ii) that the Board endorse the broad direction set out in the report and the three areas of activity: improving economic activity rates by targeting and supporting workless residents, improving basic employability and occupational skills of those not in work and encouraging employers to recruit from local disadvantaged communities.

(iii) that partners have individual discussions with the Economic and Employment Partnership where necessary.

(iv) that the Action Plan of current activities be reviewed and amended to take account of the Board's discussions and comments.

(v) that a further progress report be made to the December meeting of the Board.

5. Alcohol Strategy

Maureen Noble introduced a report setting out progress on implementing the Alcohol Strategy since its launch on 6 June 2005. There were detailed delivery plans for the key themes of the Strategy. Discussions were continuing with all the Thematic Partnerships on how their action plans would help to deliver the Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. It was essential to concentrate on the key messages and for all the interested parties to carry out their responsibilities under the Strategy. The Violent Crime Reduction Bill, currently going through its parliamentary procedure, would give new powers to licensing authorities. A subsequent Licensing Action Plan would be drawn up after discussion with the pub and club network in Manchester to try to ensure a balanced approach to implementing the new legislation. Alcohol also played an important part in the Places Project and the Local Area Agreement and the Community Strategy review. Further discussions would be held with the voluntary sector.

Resolved/-

(i) that the report be noted.

(ii) that the Board receive progress reports every six months with recommendations as required for implementation the Strategy and influencing its delivery through the Thematic Partnerships.

6. Cultural Strategy - Annual Performance Report

Fran Toms led a presentation by her, Claire Pickard and Chris Gribble on the annual performance of the Cultural Partnership. The main aim of the partnership was to improve the quality of life of Manchester's residents. The Partnership had a growing and committed membership.

There were two main challenges for the Partnership: the historic lack of a specific PSA for Culture and demonstrating Culture's contribution to floor targets through cross-thematic working. The Data Task Group had focused on collecting accurate data down to ward level and cross-cutting measures, matching outputs to outcomes. The LPSA target for Culture would link the Cultural Strategy to the Community Strategy and Community Cohesion. Community Cohesion was an opportunity for all culture partners to be represented and be a model for cross-cutting delivery. The LPSA2 Culture target included the percentage increase in satisfaction with a local area as a place where people from different backgrounds got on well together, satisfaction levels with cultural and recreational facilities and a number of related cultural activities. Community Cohesion and Cultural Cohesion had been included in the Manchester Quality of Life Survey 2004. Detailed analysis was being carried out on the results and would in due course be added to ward level data on employment. Current activities and projects included the increasing roles of Cultural Regeneration Officers and Community Sports Development Officers, the creation of one stop shops in libraries, the forthcoming Manchester International Festival and further development of Dig Manchester, Radio Regen and LIME. The appointment of Cultural Regeneration Officers offered an opportunity to work with other Partners. Closer links to the private sector would be looked at again in Autumn 2005 in the context of the results of the Quality of Life Survey.

Resolved/-

(i) that Fran Toms, Claire Pickard and Chris Gribble be thanked for their presentation.

(ii) that the annual performance of the Cultural Strategy be noted.

7. Community Strategy Review and the LAA

Geoff Little introduced a report on the review of the Community Strategy and the opportunity afforded to the Partnership by the inclusion of Manchester in the next round of Local Area Agreement (LAA) Pilots to deliver the priorities of the Strategy through the LAA over the next three years.

The focus of Manchester's LAA proposals was to use the LAA's freedoms and flexibilities as a vehicle to connect the service improvement programmes of key partners to address some of the cross-agency challenges faced in the City, to embed a neighbourhood focus across the work of all partners and to streamline performance management processes. It was an opportunity for the Board to show leadership and ensure accountability for delivery. Discussions had already taken place with the Minister of Communities and Local Government, David Miliband, on the appropriate links between cities and central government and with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) on sub-regional governance.

It was proposed that the September meeting of the Board should be extended to allow a full debate on the priorities for the LAA negotiations and the Community Strategy Review.

In discussion, it was noted that neighbourhood focus and community engagement were key issues that had to be included. The LAA was an important development for Manchester and represented an opportunity for Manchester. Accountability for delivery and ensuring efficiencies in performance management were also important issues.

Resolved/-

- (i) that the report be noted
- (ii) that the Board support the proposals set out in the report concerning the Community Strategy and the LAA.
- (iii) that there be further discussion at the September meeting of the Board.

8. Priority Places Steering Group

Geoff Little introduced a report on the recent meeting in Manchester of the Priority Places Steering Group. The meeting had been attended at a high level by both central and local government partners and its main aim was how there could be co-operation between the partners to improve outcomes in Manchester. Thematic discussion groups on crime, health, education and employment had been positive and resulted in a number of specific commitments from the Department for Education and Skills, the Department of Health and the Department for Works and Pensions. It was intended to establish four time-limited task groups on health with a focus on alcohol, crime with a focus on anti-social behaviour, prolific offenders and youth nuisance, education with a focus on school attendance and neighbourhoods with a focus on neighbourhood working and underpinning the work of the other groups. It was also intended to link the work of the task groups to the LAA negotiations, through, for example, having the same lead officers for both. The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit were to draft a specification for work to develop a systems approach to support through consultancy the work of each task group.

Resolved/-

- (i) that the report be noted.
- (ii) that the participation of Manchester Partnership representatives in the proposed task groups be approved, subject to the task groups forming part of the LAA negotiations.
- (iii) that the proposals for a systems analysis approach be approved in principle, subject to any resource implications being approved by the Board.
- (iv) that the appointment of external experts to assist the Board be approved in principle, subject to all members of the Board being consulted on the appointment (outside the meeting, if necessary).

9. Community Engagement Strategy

Ed Cox and Patrick Hanfling, Community Engagement Development Officer, gave a presentation on the recently completed review of the Community Engagement Strategy. The review was a developmental process that had recognised the good work to date such as the Manchester Community Engagement Toolkit and the achievement by the City Council of Home Office Civic Pioneer status. The review recommended the retention of the four main aims, Governance, Service Delivery, Social Infrastructure and Social Capital and Cohesion, but with a bigger emphasis on the outcome of projects. Community Engagement indicators had now been included in the second Local Public Service Agreement for Manchester. The review proposed that the implementation of the Strategy be overseen by a Manchester Community Engagement Strategy (MCES) Board that would be accountable to the LSP Board and be scrutinised by the City Council's Community Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Two working groups would report to the MCES Board on the implementation of the four aims of the Strategy: the Public Agency Partnership Working Group and the Diversity and User Focus Working Group. These would focus on five areas of special interest for 2005-2006: Community Engagement in Strategic Regeneration frameworks and Housing Market Initiatives, Voluntary and Community sector commissioning strategies, Engaging young people, Community Engagement in the City Alcohol Strategy and Local Employment, volunteering and community engagement. These would be delivered by the Thematic Partnerships through the implementation of their Action Plans for Community Engagement.

Resolved/-

- (i) that Ed Cox and Patrick Hanfling be thanked for their presentation.
- (ii) that the Board approve the revised Manchester Community Engagement Strategy.
- (iii) that the Board assist in the delivery of the Thematic Partnerships' Action Plans for Community Engagement and in focusing on the key areas of activity.

10. Manchester Conference

Geoff Little introduced a report setting out two proposals and indicative costings for a Third Manchester Conference. The first option was a large scale, high profile conference aimed at the full range of stake-holders, including residents and community representatives, similar to the second Manchester Conference held in March 2004 and preceded by a series of community-focused Agenda 2010 events. The second option was a series of smaller events, thematic or area focused that would feed into a smaller Manchester conference.

Resolved/-

(i) that the report be noted.

(ii) that the proposal to hold one Conference at a single central venue be approved, at a cost of £120,000.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Next meeting

The following was noted as the date for next meeting: 6 September 2005, timings to be confirmed.

MEETING OF MANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON 26 JULY 2005

ACTION NOTE

1. Minutes of meeting held on 21 June 2005 and Action Note

Noted.

2. Schedule of Board Business

Noted.

3. Economic Inactivity

Action

A. Broad direction of report and three areas of activity approved. (**Board**)

B. Partners have individual discussions with Economic and Employment Partnership, where necessary. (**All Partners**)

C. Action Plan be reviewed to take account of Board's comments. (**Economic and Employment Partnership**)

D. Progress report to December meeting of Board. (**Economic and Employment Partnership**)

4. Alcohol Strategy

Action

A. Progress reports to board every six months with recommendations on implementing the Strategy and influencing its delivery through the Thematic Partnerships. (**Maureen Noble**)

5. Cultural Strategy – annual performance report

No action.

6. Community Strategy Review and the LAA

Action

A. Proposals and links to LAA approved. (**Board**)

B. Further discussion and a final decision to be made at September meeting of Board. (**Board**)

7. Priority Places Steering Group

Action

- A. Participation of Manchester Partnership representatives in proposed task groups with links to LAA proposals approved. (**Board**)
- B. Systems approach approved in principle, subject to consideration of any resource implications. (**Board**)
- C. Appointment of external experts approved, subject to appropriate consultation with Board. (**Board**)

8. Community Engagement Strategy

Action

- A. Revised Strategy approved. (**Board**)
- B. Board assist in the delivery of Thematic Partnerships' Action Plans and in focusing on key activities. (**Board**)

9. Manchester Conference

Action

- A. Third Manchester Conference at single central venue approved. (**Board**)

10. Next meeting

6 September 2005, timings to be confirmed.

