

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS
PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE BOARD HELD ON THE 30 OCTOBER 2007**

Present:

Mike Reardon (<i>in the Chair</i>)	Neighbourhood Services, MCC
Peter Babb	Planning, MCC
Sarah Benjamins	Chief Executive's Policy Unit, MCC
Maria Boylan	Area Co-ordination Team, MCC
Rachel Christie	Environmental Services, MCC
Bill Darbyshire	Environment Agency
Ella Davies	Engineering Services, MCC
Wendy Dudley	Children's Services, MCC
Su Goldthorpe	SNP Policy Officer, MCC
Julie Goreham	Community Network for Manchester (CN4M)
Charles Jarvis	Manchester/Salford Pathfinder
Deborah McLaughlin	Housing Services, MCC
Councillor Eddy Newman	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, MCC
Maureen Noble	Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
Eamonn O'Rourke	Leisure Services, MCC
Councillor Neil Swannick	Executive Member for Environment, MCC
Sara Todd	Regeneration, MCC
Chris McDermott	Clerk to the Board

Apologies:

Chris Barber	Engineering Services, MCC
Supt. John Brinnand	GMP
Ian Slater	Manchester/Salford Pathfinder

SNP/07/01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Reardon welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Partnership Performance Board and those present introduced themselves.

SNP/07/02 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Sara Todd and Su Goldthorpe introduced a report which set out the draft Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Partnership.

Comments and observations:

Councillor Swannick recommended that the size, scope and membership of the Performance Board's be reviewed in order to allow the board to carry out its performance management and strategic functions effectively.

Councillor Swannick also suggested that further work be undertaken to differentiate the respective roles of the Performance Board and Partnership Forum and he suggested that that future agenda items relating to policy development and implementation be referred to the Partnership Forum for consideration in the first instance.

With reference to the key responsibilities of the partnership, Councillor Swannick also suggested that the actions highlighted in the Neighbourhoods of Choice spine were too narrow in focus and excluded matters relating to sustainable development, climate change and the *green city* agenda.

In response, Sara Todd explained that the Neighbourhoods of Choice spine determinants and actions as set out in the draft terms of reference related to the Manchester Partnership as a whole. For clarity, she suggested that the table be deleted from the terms of reference and replaced with the SNP's key areas of responsibility.

With regard to the development of the performance management framework for the partnership, Maureen Noble highlighted the need to develop a clear understanding of PSA delivery mechanisms and the SNP's relationship with other partnerships across the city.

Julie Gorham commented that the Community Network for Manchester (CN4M) would be keen to maintain its membership on any revised Performance Board.

To conclude, the Chair commented that clarification was needed to determine whether the final terms of reference would need to be approved by the board of the Manchester Partnership.

RESOLVED/-

- a) That the SNP's draft terms of reference and members' comments set out above be noted;
- b) That the size, scope and membership of the Performance Board be reviewed;
- c) That further work be undertaken to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the Performance Board and Partnership Forum; and
- d) That the outcome of the review and the revised terms of reference be circulated to board members prior to the next meeting of the board.

SNP/07/03 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Peter Babb provided a verbal update on the Manchester's Local Development Framework (LDF). The following matters were reported, namely:

- o That the LDF would be the main item for consideration at the Partnership Forum meeting on the 26 November 2007;
- o That the *Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy* (RSS) would be published by the GONW in November 2007. Early indications suggested that there would be few substantive changes to the draft document; and
- o A report on the LDF Issues and Options would be submitted to the Council's Executive in November 2007, which would be followed by a period of formal consultation starting on the 4 December 2007.

RESOLVED/-

- a) That the update be noted;
- b) That the following arrangements for the inaugural meeting of the Partnership Forum be noted: Monday 26 November 2007, 14.00 to 16.00 hours, Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester.

SNP/07/04 IRWELL CITY PARK

Sarah Benjamins updated the board on the development of the Irwell City Park Big Lottery *Living Landmarks* bid. Sarah reported that, unfortunately, the project had not gone through to the final shortlisting stage. Feedback on the bid was expected from the Big Lottery in December.

The project's board would now be entering into discussions with key partners to determine which elements of the project could be feasibly taken forward without lottery funding. A report on potential options would be presented to the project's board in January 2008.

RESOLVED/-

That the update be noted.

SNP/07/05 DISTRICT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARDS

Sara Todd submitted a report which set out the role and function of the District Public Service Boards (PSBs) and sought the Performance Board's view on the role of the SNP in guiding and supporting the District PSBs. Also circulated were the proposed district boundaries for the PSBs.

Comments and observations:

Councillor Newman reported that elected Members had expressed concern over the lack of direct member involvement in the proposed District PSBs and that recommendations on strengthening member involvement were currently being discussed by Members.

Councillor Swannick highlighted the importance of ensuring that elected Members were kept fully briefed on the developments of District PSBs in their respective localities. He suggested that further work could be also undertaken to strengthen the linkages between the ward/community level and the PSBs. He also commented that it would be potentially difficult for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny structures to effectively scrutinise the work of individual PSBs.

RESOLVED/-

That the report and Members' comments set out above be noted.

SNP/07/06 WARD CO-ORDINATION REVIEW

Maria Boylan gave a presentation on a review of the City's Ward Co-ordination arrangements. The following information was set out in the presentation, namely:

- o The effectiveness of current arrangements;
- o Strengthening of support for Ward Members;

- The options for the organisation and delivery of Ward Co-ordination and the implications arising from changes to public sector structures;
- Clarification and strengthening of reporting structures;
- Improved directorate input; and
- Development of robust community engagement arrangements

To conclude, Maria reported that proposals on future Ward Co-ordination arrangements would be submitted to the Council's Executive and Public Service Board with a view to introducing new arrangements from May 2008. The new arrangements would be monitored after a twelve-month period to ensure coordination with new Children's Services and Health Service area structures.

Comments and observations:

In response to a query as to how the Ward Co-ordination arrangements influenced the budget development process, Maria reported that Ward Co-ordinators would be charged with identifying key priorities at a ward level which would be fed through to Departmental Management Teams and into the budget setting process.

Maria also confirmed that no substantive changes were planned to the role of the Ward Support Officer, who remained key to the success of the new arrangements.

RESOLVED/-

- a) That the presentation be noted; and
- b) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the board outlining the emerging governance structures across the city, including information on service delivery, accountability and performance management arrangements.

SNP/07/07 ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE HOUSING GREEN PAPER

Deborah McLaughlin gave a verbal report on the City's strategy to improve access to affordable housing and the key issues arising from the Government's *Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable* Green Paper published in July 2007.

The following key issues were raised, namely:

Access to Affordable Housing

- An Access to Affordable Housing Strategy was approved by the Council's Executive in July 2007.
- Examples of the policy tools set out in the strategy include:
 - making best use of existing social housing;
 - providing better opportunities for residents to access good quality private rented stock and generally making the best use of existing private sector housing;
 - providing pathways to home ownership including improved access to effective financial products, improved advice and support to potential homeowners and the development of new equity products; and

- the development of a policy framework which supports working with developers to secure affordable housing by agreement.
- o Informal consultation on *Providing for Housing Choice* Supplementary Planning Document and Guidance was currently underway; and
- o The City was working with RSLs through the Strategic Housing Partnership to deliver on affordable housing policies;

Housing Green Paper

- o Key aspects of the Green Paper included:
 - £8billion programme for affordable housing;
 - A target of at least 70,000 new affordable homes by 2010-11
 - The development of *local delivery vehicles* to co-ordinate delivery
 - The identification of 29 new 'Growth Points' across the UK (AGMA had agreed that the first growth point bid in the Greater Manchester conurbation would cover Salford/Manchester/Trafford)
 - Reforms to the planning system to improve flexibility
- o Comments on the Green Paper were due for submission by the end of October 2007.

Comments and observations:

Councillor Swannick suggested that further thought be given as to how progress on the Strategic Housing Partnership key workstreams – Affordable Housing, Neighbourhood Management and Community Cohesion – would be reported to the SNP and the wider Manchester Partnership.

RESOLVED/-

- a) That the update be noted; and
- b) That the delivery of the Affordable Housing Strategy and the role of the Strategic Housing Partnership be considered at a future meeting of the SNP Forum.

SNP/07/08 SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Su Goldthorpe submitted a report which updated the board on Sustainable Neighbourhoods Partnership related activities and sought approval for the re-allocation of previously reported ERDF underspends of £115,000 to the following two projects:

- i) ***Regenerating the Wythenshawe Neighbourhood Centres*** - £55,000 sought to add to the existing activities of the project which address issues of physical degradation, crime, fear of crime, and accessibility along a key pedestrian and cycle route known as the 'Black Path'. The project was already in receipt of ERDF funding approved by the SNP in 2004.
- ii) ***Hulme Britannia Basin Environment Improvements*** - £60,000 sought towards the cost of a range of environmental improvements Hulme Britannia Basin area, including: traffic management improvements; improved lighting to the street scene; improved

lighting alongside the canal side; improvements to the environmental quality of the area via tree planting; and additional signage for safe pedestrian routes.

Sara Todd reported that the partnership's 2008/09 NRF budget allocation would be clarified in December 2007.

RESOLVED/-

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That the two project proposals, as set out above and in section 3.2 of the report, be approved on the grounds that the works to be funded are eligible for ERDF and that the projects would improve the local environment and benefit local residents of the areas concerned; and
- c) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Performance Board outlining the partnership's expected 2008/09 NRF budget allocation.

SNP/07/09 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

That the dates of future Performance Board meetings be finalised and circulated to members.