



WELLINGBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

the Local Strategic Partnership for Wellingborough

STEERING GROUP MEETING 27 October 2008

Draft – subject to confirmation at the next meeting

Present:-

Mr Hugh Fenton	Chair, Business Advocate (Larger Business / Northamptonshire Chamber) (Chair, Environmental Task Group)
Cllr Paul Bell	Deputy Leader, Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr David Cross	Business Advocate (Smaller Business / Wellingborough Chamber/Town Centre Partnership) (Chair – Prosper Task Group)
Mrs Jenny Dixon	Community Advocate (Older People)
Mr Simon Evans	North Northamptonshire Development Company
Mr John Hughes	Northamptonshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust (PCT) (Chair – Healthier Task Group)
Mrs Lyn Martin-Bennison	Chief Executive, Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr Mike Prescod	Community Advocate (BME)
Mr Mark Silverman	Tresham Institute
Mrs Anne Toms	Community Advocate (Voluntary Sector Forum)
Mr Jonny Whitmore	Community Advocate (Youth)
Mr David Willis	Wellingborough Homes

In Attendance:-

Mr Iain Britton	Northamptonshire Police
Mr Joe Hubbard	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr David Seabrooke	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Ms Carole Stephenson	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr Terry Wright	Borough Council of Wellingborough

Apologies:-

Ms Rachael Abbott	Community Advocate (Rural)
Mr Martyn Emberson	Northamptonshire County Council Directorate, Fire & Rescue
Chief Supt. Paul Fell	Northamptonshire Police (for Safer Task Group)
Cllr André Gonzales De Savage	Cabinet member, Northamptonshire County Council
Ms Dipana Patel	Northamptonshire County Council
Mr William Thallon	Wellingborough Education Partnership

1. **WELCOMES/INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES**

Mr H Fenton welcomed Cllr P Bell, Mr S Evans, Mr M Silverman and Mr D Willis to their first Wellingborough Partnership Steering Group meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as listed above.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2008 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Youth Strategy

Mr H Fenton advised that Ms Jane Deamer had been contracted, through funding from the Children and Young People Partnership Board, to update the Youth Strategy, following the consultation, and produce a partnership Action Plan. These would be presented at the next Steering Group meeting in January 2009.

Neighbourhood Renewal Survey

Mr H Fenton advised that Ms D Patel had arranged two sessions at the HOPE centre to provide a detailed analysis of the Wellingborough data resulting from the Neighbourhood Renewal Survey carried out in February 2008. Mr H Fenton suggested that Ms D Patel be contacted direct should any Steering Group member require further information.

The future direction of the NHS locally

Mr J Hughes advised that, in Northamptonshire, the commissioners for the NHS would be moving from Kettering to Moulton, Northampton. The PCT would be purely a commissioning organisation and its providers, e.g. public health, school nurses, chiropodists, physiotherapists, etc would become an independent trust from 1st April 2009 with its headquarters remaining in Kettering.

Mr J Hughes suggested that observations and comments on the future plans for the Northamptonshire health services be made via the PCT website.

Mrs J Dixon referred to the minutes in which it was noted that the voluntary sector had an important part to play in the Borough and read out a statement regarding the loss of support from the Nene Valley Community Action (NVCA) for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Forum.

It was noted that the action by NVCA had interrupted the current process of choosing the new advocates which started at the October meeting. The Steering Group of the Forum intended to continue the selection process, if possible, voluntarily. It was also noted that if the VCS Forum was to cease to exist, there would be no process to select voluntary sector advocates to sit on this Partnership Steering Group overseeing the action plans for LAA Targets etc, nor would there be any means for the advocates to report back to the voluntary sector at a Forum meeting – a process which was started this year

4. **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Northamptonshire Partnership Consultation and Engagement Strategy

Mr I Britton attended and gave a presentation on the draft Northamptonshire Partnership Consultation and Engagement Strategy, which had emerged from the work of the Local Area Agreement Partnership Working Group on consultation and engagement and ideas generated by an event held on 4 March 2008 involving public sector practitioners, managers, Third Sector and Voluntary and Community Sector agencies.

It was noted that Mr H Fenton and Mr Simon Mutsaars, Executive Director of Groundwork North Northamptonshire, were now VCS representatives on the Working Group.

The aim of the Strategy was to be a supportive strategic umbrella at partnership level to develop and enable people's participation in decision making, adding value to those involved, contributing to improving community cohesion and improving service delivery. It was not intended to micro manage local initiatives.

Mrs J Dixon questioned the linkages between county and local consultation.

It was noted that all organisations would be able to plan consultation and engagement activities to make the best use of combined resources and eliminate duplication of effort; share resources, skills and expertise with other organisations to ensure the most effective and inclusive consultation and engagement approaches are used and offer support to each other in the delivery of those activities.

Mrs A Toms suggested that forward planning of consultation activity would be useful.

Northamptonshire County Council Public Participation and External Communications Strategy

Mr H Fenton referred to the request from NCC that the Steering Group consider and respond to their Public Participation and External Communications Strategy by 16 January 2009.

It was noted that the NP and NCC strategies were two different documents; the first was a strategic document and the latter a practical document on how NCC communicated and engaged with its customers and citizens and accessibility to the services it offered. The need for two strategies was questioned.

The Steering Group agreed that Mr H Fenton would request that a representative from NCC present their strategy to the next Steering Group meeting on 19 January 2009, this being well before the NCC Cabinet was due to consider.

5 WELLINGBOROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Results of consultation on priorities

Mr H Fenton advised that the consultation paper on the third Wellingborough Sustainable Community Strategy had been delivered to every householder and business in the Borough but only 58 responses were received. It was noted that the majority were in favour of the strategy as drafted and most of those against or with no opinion stated, had objections for issues that are not for improvement by the Partnership.

New Sustainable Community Strategy/Plan

The Steering Group reviewed the draft Wellingborough Sustainable Community Strategy and some amendments were suggested.

Mrs C Stephenson advised that the strategy had been refreshed aligning the strategy with that for Northamptonshire and the action plan aligned to the County's through the latest Local Area Agreement (LAA2). It was proposed that the strategy would be refreshed annually with a full review after three years. It was noted that the strategy provided the vision on which spatial plans (Core Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks) were derived and the vision for the Housing and Homelessness Strategies.

Mr H Fenton advised that the targets set out in the Strategy had been chosen as those which had a realistic chance of being achieved and could be best achieved through working in partnership.

Mrs C Stephenson advised that a summary four page version of the document would be prepared and a full version would be made available on the website.

Mrs J Dixon suggested that reference be made that the Wellingborough Sustainable Community Strategy was formerly known as the Wellingborough Community Plan.

It was noted that the Sustainability Forum would become the public consultation forum.

Mr D Willis suggested that a strategic map be included to show how it fed into other strategies.

It was noted that the strategy should include reference to older people, linkage to health service provision, disabilities and housing, in particular to how existing neighbourhoods meet equality and design in existing housing stock.

Cllr Bell suggested the action plan be presented in an aligned table format.

Mr H Fenton advised that the Theme and Task Groups were known only as Groups and their terms of reference determined the theme/task role assigned to each group.

Mr M Prescod questioned whether reference should be made to linkages with ex-offenders.

Mr J Hughes advised that the NHS was tasked with providing a health service for the Wellingborough prisoners, which included mental health; the ROSE project for persistent offenders and health service supporting for ex-offenders. Mr H Fenton advised that as the ROSE project was delivered at County level, it did not need to appear in the Wellingborough Strategy.

The Steering Group agreed that the Wellingborough Sustainable Community Strategy be approved with the inclusion of the comments raised.

Mr H Fenton thanked the Development Group for their help and support in bringing together the Strategy with the agreed rapid timetable.

6. WELLINGBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP – FUTURE ORGANISATION

Progress since last Steering Group meeting

Mr H Fenton referred to the revised Steering Group composition and it was noted that Mr William Thallon would be representing the Wellingborough Education Partnership. It was noted that the Voluntary Sector Forum agreed that the “Faiths” advocate role would become an “Environment” one. Should a solution to a single advocate for all faiths be found, the “General” advocate role could be reconsidered next year.

It was noted that all the groups of the Wellingborough Partnership would include an appropriate elected Member from Wellingborough Council.

7. HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES FROM CURRENT GROUPS/ SETTING OF ACTION PLANS

Mr H Fenton advised that the groups had met since the last meeting and the action plans had been revised listing targets that could be measured and monitored effectively at local level.

It was noted that a performance management system in the form of a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) definition fronted each action plan to enable the Steering Group to easily identify the status of each target.

The Chairs of the Groups explained the reasoning behind the current RAG status of the targets allocated to each Group.

Mrs J Dixon referred to the Carers strategy document, which had a detailed action plan for the delivery of services across the county and where the statistical data could be disaggregated to local level. Mrs J Dixon agreed to email the Carers strategy document to Mr H Fenton to enable this to be referenced to the Better target BC3.

Mr S Evans advised that a measure for sustainable homes was being developed by NNDC and the Joint Planning Unit.

Mrs A Toms suggested that the Prosper Group linked their targets to the construction industry and motorsport.

Mr M Silverman advised he would arrange for a representative from Tresham Institute to sit on the Prosper Group.

It was noted that the Wellingborough Education Partnership had good linkages with the Wellingborough Partnership and this had been recognised nationally. The Schools Minister was planning a visit to learn about it.

Mr H Fenton questioned how the Steering Group wished to see the target spreadsheets in future.

It was also suggested that a direction of travel be added to the RAG definition.

It was noted that the Place Survey was due to be completed in January 2009.

Mr T Wright suggested it would be useful to have more in depth explanation of each of the Groups' targets on a rota basis to the Steering Group.

The Steering Group agreed that an action programme for the year would be produced (2 outcome groupings to be reviewed in depth at each meeting).

8. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY

Mr J Hubbard advised that Government guidance on LSPs clearly stated that LSPs should be led by the Borough Council and the groups should also be similarly chaired.

John Hughes nominated Councillor Paul Bell to be the Chair.

Councillor Paul Bell accepted the Chairmanship of the Wellingborough Partnership on the understanding that he would be totally impartial.

Nominations for Deputy Chair were discussed. Mike Prescod nominated Mrs A Toms to be the Deputy Chair. It was noted that before accepting the role, Mrs A Toms would discuss this with relevant parties.

Mrs J Dixon suggested it would be useful to have terms of reference for the election procedure for the Chair and Deputy including the term of office.

Mrs J Dixon and Mr J Hughes expressed thanks on behalf of the Steering Group to Mr H Fenton for his excellent work as Chair of the Wellingborough Partnership.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr H Fenton expressed thanks on behalf of the Steering Group to John Hughes on his retirement.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 19 January 2009 @ 5.30pm to be held in the Committee Room, Swanspool House, Wellingborough

The meeting finished at 7.20pm