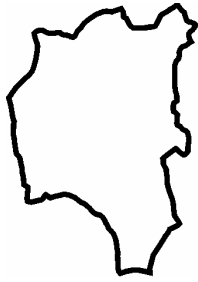


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# WELLINGBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

*the Local Strategic Partnership for Wellingborough*

## STEERING GROUP MEETING 19 January 2009

*Draft – subject to confirmation at the next meeting*

### **Present:-**

Cllr Paul Bell	Chair, Borough Council of Wellingborough
Ms Rachael Abbott	Community Advocate (Rural)
Mr David Cross	Business Advocate (Smaller Business / Wellingborough Chamber/Town Centre Partnership) (Chair – Prosper Group)
Mrs Jenny Dixon	Community Advocate (Older People)
Mr Simon Evans	North Northamptonshire Development Company
Mr Hugh Fenton	Business Advocate (Larger Business / Northamptonshire Chamber) (Chair, Better Group)
Supt. Richard James	Northamptonshire Police (substitute for Chief Supt Fell)
Mrs Lyn Martin-Bennison	Chief Executive – Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr Charlie MacNally	Northamptonshire County Council
Mr Mark Silverman	Tresham Institute
Mr William Thallon	Wellingborough Education Partnership
Mrs Anne Toms	Community Advocate (Voluntary Sector Forum)
Mr David Willis	Wellingborough Homes

### **In Attendance:-**

Ms Nicola Dennis	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mrs Barbara Grimmitt	Borough Council of Wellingborough (Secretariat)
Mr Joe Hubbard	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr Chris Pittman	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr James Wilson	Borough Council of Wellingborough

### **Apologies:-**

Chief Supt. Paul Fell	Northamptonshire Police (for CDRP/Safer Group)
Councillor A Gonzales De Savage	Cabinet member, Northamptonshire County Council
Ms Carole Stephenson	Borough Council of Wellingborough
Mr Jonny Whitmore	Community Advocate (Youth)
Mr Terry Wright	Borough Council of Wellingborough

## 1. **WELCOMES/INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES**

Councillor Paul Bell, as the new Chairman, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year.

Apologies for absence were noted as listed above.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2008 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

Mr H Fenton referred to the proposed NCC presentation to this meeting on the Northamptonshire County Council Public Participation and External Communications Strategy, which was out for consultation. Mr J Hubbard explained the reasoning for the non-attendance of the NCC representative and advised that if partners wished to make any comments on the Strategy, he would co-ordinate a response on behalf of the Steering Group.

Mrs J Dixon apologised to the former Chairman for not emailing the Carers Strategy document, which had not been finalised.

## **3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

At the last meeting, Mrs A Toms had been proposed as Deputy Chairman of the Wellingborough Partnership Steering Group. Having discussed the role and duties with the relevant parties, Mrs A Toms confirmed she would accept the position for the calendar year 2009.

## **4. STATE OF THE BOROUGH REPORT**

Mr C Pittman referred to the State of the Borough report, which provided an overview of the economic, social and environmental conditions within the Borough of Wellingborough, and was designed to help to inform future strategies and policies for addressing local issues.

Mr C Pittman advised that initial consultation on the State of the Borough report had produced positive feedback and if any partners noted any gaps or wished to include any information/data, these should be emailed to Mrs B Grimmitt. It was noted that report would be updated and re-circulated at reasonable intervals.

Mr H Fenton reported on gaps/data in the areas of concern section of the report.

The Steering Group agreed that the State of the Borough report was a useful document and would act as a benchmark and highlight areas of concern, and would need to be linked to the partners' action plans to ensure the issues were addressed.

## **5. 'FROM RECESSION TO RECOVERY' CONFERENCE**

Councillor P Bell advised that the Borough Council were arranging a 'From Recession to Recovery' conference/workshop/brainstorming session to take place on 16 March 2009 and sought support from the Wellingborough

Partnership to help the Borough recover from the recession. It was noted that all stakeholders would be invited and a press release would be issued shortly.

The Steering Group agreed to advise Mrs B Grimmitt who should be invited to the conference.

## 6. **PERFORMANCE REPORT BY GROUP CHAIRS**

### Better Group

Mr H Fenton reported that the Better Group had not met in December 2008 as the action plans could not be developed due to strategies/surveys/baseline data not being available.

Mrs J Dixon understood that the County Carers Strategy and action plan were to be reported to the Chief Executives meeting in January 2009. Mr C MacNally agreed to check the position and report back.

Mrs J Dixon advised that the Voluntary Sector groups were being reviewed and would report back to the next meeting on the outcome of the meeting.

Mr H Fenton advised that the Place Survey was due to be published in February 2009, which would detail residents' perception of their local area.

### CDRP/Safer Group

Mr J Hubbard reported there was an increase in serious acquisitive crime mainly due to the prolific offenders being released from prison. It was noted that 40-50% of burglaries were due to insecure premises and suggested that the Steering Group recommend preventative measures to householders and car owners in an attempt to address this issue.

Mr J Hubbard advised that the Substance Misuse Group had recently been re-established and was formulating terms of reference and local action plans.

It was noted that external funding bids had been successful to deliver actions to reduce violent crime.

Mr D Cross reported there had been a reduction of violence and shoplifting in the town centre over the Christmas period.

Mrs A Toms referred to the 'Making Every Adult Matter' report published in December 2008, which promoted joined up thinking to tackle the needs of those with multiple issues such as homelessness, mental health, drug and crime issues.

### Healthier Group

Mr J Hubbard advised that the previous Chairman, Mr J Hughes, had recently retired and a replacement was being sought, whereupon a detailed update on the action plan would be made available.

### Neighbourhoods Group

Mr J Hubbard referred to the RAG report and action plan previously circulated.

### Prosper Group

Mr D Cross advised that the Group experienced difficulty in obtaining base line data.

Mr D Cross reported that he would be standing down as Chairman of the Prosper Group and Ms N Dennis would take on this role.

Ms N Dennis tabled a briefing note relating to the 'Find your way back to work' event on 20 January 2009 hosted by the Borough Council and Jobcentreplus, which aimed to offer advice and support to those facing the threat or reality of redundancy. A list of attendees and contact details for the various organisations that could help to cope with the economic downturn was tabled.

It was agreed that any queries relating to this event would be forwarded to Mrs B Grimmitt.

### Youth Group

Mr H Fenton reported that the Change Manager was preparing an action plan for young people, which would be presented to the Children and Young People's Group late January 2009. It was noted that funding for a safety arch and officer time had been obtained and there was a significant reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour in areas where the detached youth ASB work was being commissioned. Longer term funding was being sought.

It was noted that the Prevention for Learning Programme was an intervention programme aimed at tackling some of the 50 worse youth crime cases in the county over a three year period.

Mr C Pittman reported that for future meetings it was proposed that only the RAG reports would be circulated and requested that the actions plans enclosed with the papers be brought to each meeting for reference purposes.

It was suggested that the RAG reports make reference to the Annual Plan, Issue/review date together with Group Chair contact details.

Mrs J Dixon suggested that the membership of each Group be publicised.

The Chairman requested each Group to review their terms of reference, group membership and contact details and send these details to Mrs B Grimmitt.

The Steering Group agreed that the Better and Prosper Group would report in more detail to the next meeting.

## **7. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Mr J Hubbard referred to the previously circulated report on the Northamptonshire's second Local Area Agreement (LAA2) (2008-2011) agreed in June 2008, which included a summary of the current performance of the Northamptonshire's LAA together with schedules of the National Indicators, Local Indicators and the statutory education indicators.

Mr J Hubbard advised that the second LAA was presently being reviewed and refreshed, which should lead to full adoption in April 2009. It was noted that a number of the local indicators did not have baseline data. The next stage of the review process was to consider how best to disaggregate targets and performance information with the aim of setting more local targets.

Ms N Dennis questioned whether there was an economic development reference group. Mr J Hubbard advised that NEL had retained the role in relation to economic development.

## **8. WELLINGBOROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Mr J Hubbard advised that the Wellingborough Sustainable Community Strategy, which had been revised to provide more clarity regarding the partnership's activities in relation to the common themes, had received approval by the Community Committee at its meeting in January. It was noted that the interests of older people were reflected in the Healthier Group's outcomes.

Mrs J Dixon suggested that capitals be used when referring to the Third Sector within the document.

Mrs J Dixon questioned what other opportunities could be offered to the local community to raise their concerns and aspirations. It was noted that the Sustainability Forum was one community forum for the Partnership.

It was agreed that Mrs J Dixon would send suggestions on how the community could become more involved to Mrs B Grimmit.

Mr H Fenton suggested that reference should be made to the new Chairman of the Steering Group and also questioned whether Queensway should be included in the top 25 most deprived areas in Northamptonshire. Mr J Hubbard agreed to check this and arrange for the Strategy to be amended accordingly.

Mr D Willis suggested that home ownership should be included under the affordable housing theme.

Councillor Paul Bell advised that the suggested amendments would be put to the Council meeting on 27 January 2009 to enable the Wellingborough Sustainable Community Strategy to be approved.

## **9. GROWTH AGENDA**

Mr J Wilson advised that during the current economic climate, the Council was working with the North Northamptonshire partners to discuss ways of bringing forward development that had planning consents. It was noted there was a review of the Core Spatial Strategy and the Regional Strategy for 2021 to 2026.

Mr J Wilson reported on the recent Government announcement that a third lane between junctions 7 and 10 on the A14 had been approved and investment had been approved for the electrification of part of the Midland

Mainline. It was noted that the Government would be paying for 50% of the infrastructure costs for the A46 around Nottingham/Lincoln area which has provided greater flexibility in funding from the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) pot.

Mr J Wilson further reported that the Isham bypass and the Corby link road had been reconfirmed as funded schemes in the final draft RFA guidance from the Region which was to be submitted to Government shortly. The Isham bypass extension had not been confirmed as a scheme at this stage although it formed part of a package of schemes which could bid for funding later in the programme.

Mr J Wilson advised that the Town Centre Area Action Plan Public Inquiry was commencing on 27 January 2009 and would continue into the early part of February. The Compulsory Purchase Order for the High Street development had been confirmed just before Christmas.

It was noted that the decision on the Tresham relocation bid had been postponed to March 2009. Mr M Silverman referred to a meeting taking place on 28 January 2009 regarding the bid and advised that any assistance from partners to discuss how this would benefit economic regeneration would be greatly appreciated.

It was noted that the shop front design guidance would be reported to the February Development Committee.

Mr J Wilson advised that a meeting had been held with the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the Townscape Heritage Initiative grant bid for 2010/12 and a programme of works would be put forward to help deliver some of the conservation led regeneration.

Mr D Willis questioned what resources could be made available to support the growth agenda and affordable housing and any associated community development work.

Mr S Evans reported that a bid would be made to the Homes and Communities Agencies to help deliver affordable housing.

Mrs A Toms referred to the newly built flats in the town, which were available for rent and have been empty for some time, and she questioned whether there was any scope for a bid to be put to the Homes and Communities Fund to support the homeless in accessing such properties.

Mr J Hubbard advised that a report on bringing empty properties back into use would be put to the Community Committee and would report back.

## 10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs L Martin-Bennison advised that the results of the Council's Corporate Performance Assessment would be published by the Audit Commission on 3 February 2009 and would be shared with the Steering Group.

Mrs L Martin-Bennison advised that the Council had been preparing an Improvement and Development Plan to meet the changing needs of the Wellingborough communities, which would be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 20 April 2009 @ 5.30pm to be held in the Committee Room, Swanspool House, Wellingborough.

The meeting concluded at 6.55pm

Chairman