

Minutes of the meeting of the Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership held on 21 July 2004 at the Civic Centre, Dartford.

Present

Councillor Ann Allen – Kent County Council (Chairman)
Councillor Kenneth Leadbeater – Leader, Dartford Borough Council
Councillor John Burden - Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
Vivienne Foulds – Learning and Skills Council
Stephanie Stanwick - Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT
Meradin Peachey – Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT
Susan Free – Kent Thameside Delivery Board
Kenneth Lawrie – Dartford Borough Council
Christopher Woodley – Gravesham Borough Council
Suzanne Kemmenoe – Land Securities
Dev Sharma – North West Kent Racial Equality Council
Eddie Falvey – North West Kent Council for Voluntary Services
Ann Komzolik – North West Kent College
Superintendent Martin Hewitt – North Kent Police
Teresa Locock– Kent County Council, Social Services
Alistair Jefford – Kent County Council, Strategic Planning
Councillor Michael Snelling – Kent County Council
Ian Martin – Groundwork Kent Thameside
Deborah Carson –Gravesham Borough Council
Clair Fisher –Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
Rosemary Wood – Government Office of the South East (GOSE)-- Observer
Jean Morgan – Sevenoaks District Council –Observer

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor G C D Steele, Dartford Borough Council
Sara Turnbull , Kent County Council
Tony Harrison, Kent Police (secondment from Australian Police)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Jay Edwins, David Williams, David Anstey, Sue Dunn, Graham Harris and Vernon Hull

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2004

The minutes from the previous meeting of 17 February 2004 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

From Item 8 – The release of SEEDA Devolved Funding for 2004/5 had been agreed. No firm indication had been received about funding for 2005/6 but it was thought this would not be less than £1.2m. The LSP would be consulted on the programme.

From Item 9 - Kenneth Lawrie outlined proposals from Dartford Borough Council relating to the re-designation of Priority Communities (PC) in Dartford for comment. It was noted that previous Ward level statistics used to define PCs had meant that smaller (geographical) areas had been missed. The current review has used newly published information from the ODPM on “super-output” areas to re-assess Dartford’s Priority Communities. The Cabinet at Dartford Borough Council would be recommended to endorse the re-designation at their meeting on 29 July.

Dev Sharma welcomed the report, noting that the new proposals recognise areas of deprivation within the borough which have not previously been regarded as a priority.

Cllr. M Snelling also welcomed the report, noting that Gravesham is also likely to be re-visiting the priority community agenda.

Meradin Peachey noted that the approach is helpful, and that the information contained within these proposals matches up with that of health care workers within the Dartford borough.

Christopher Woodley advised that Gravesham Borough Council intended to review their Corporate Plan and Priority Communities were likely to be part of this.

Agreed

The LSP formally adopt the re-designation of Priority Communities in Dartford.

From Item 10 – It was noted that work would be undertaken on the Community Strategy to ensure alignment with the overall regeneration framework within Kent Thameside. It was agreed that the action plan would be taken forward in the autumn of 2004.

4. Taking Forward the LSP

Susan Free introduced this report to the meeting. Discussions took place about the recommendation that Health represent the LSP on the Delivery Board. Cllr. Burden and Cllr Leadbeater supported the recommendation.

Susan Free outlined the proposed membership of the LSP Executive contained within the report. Discussions were held around funding issues, and it was noted that Health have contributed a staffing resource via secondment. It was felt that sub-groups could work in a proactive and project -oriented manner from this executive body. Clair Fisher advised that GOSE would like to have a formal link to the LSP and requested a place on the Executive. This was agreed together with 2 representatives from the Health Sector.

Susan Free presented the draft terms of reference for the Community Forum. The consensus was that the thematic groups are key to the practical working of the LSP. The importance of building links with existing groups and organisations was noted, possibly using the Sure Start model as an organisational model. The intention is to link the development of successful partnership working to the future review of the community strategy.

With regard to the work programme, support was given to the idea that thematic groups bring presentations to the Executive on key projects. Susan Free agreed to take on a coordinating role in terms of consultation within the LSP, to ensure that an effective flow of information is achieved. It was noted that consideration would need to be given to a full and comprehensive consultation period which links to the LSP and Delivery Board meeting schedules.

Agreed

- i) That the Kent Thameside Delivery Board be requested to agree that a LSP Representative be appointed to it and that Stephanie Stanwick be the nominee.
- ii) That membership of the Executive be as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report plus two additional representatives one from Health and one from GOSE.
- iii) That the progress made towards setting up a Community Forum be welcomed and that the two Borough Councils be requested to agree the level of financial support for it for within the £20,000 committed by them.
- iv) That the schedule of meetings in Appendix 3 be agreed.
- v) That the work programme as set out in section 7 be agreed and that the two Borough Councils be requested to agree the level of financial support from within the £20,000 committed by them for the review of the Community Strategy.
- vi) That Susan Free act as co-ordinator in connection with the submission of responses to consultation documents

5. Kent Thameside Regeneration Framework

It was noted that the initial work to develop the framework has been concluded. A seminar has been scheduled to deliver initial findings to the Board on 3 August 2004. The draft framework will then be agreed and go to consultation in September 2004.

Cllr Leadbeater noted that it is important to instigate a dialogue between the Delivery Board and the LSP in relation to the development of the regeneration framework. Members of the LSP requested a presentation to the next meeting.

6. Kent Thameside Learning Steering Group

Susan Free reported on the progress made by the Kent Thameside Learning Steering Group:

It was felt that it was important to review the Learning Charter now that new priority areas had been identified. An action plan was in the process of being developed and once completed the new Learning Charter and Business/Action Plan would be launched at a major conference.

Councillor Leadbeater said that he was disappointed with the way in which Kent Thameside had dealt with education, especially as there was no longer any element of Higher Education in Dartford.

He believed that if there was to be an integrated campus it needed to consist of all levels of education.

7. Information Items

Update reports on the following items were received:-

Kent Thameside Delivery Board
Urban
Choosing Health Consultation- response to the Department of Health

8. AOB

The Dartford Borough Council Key Worker Policy had been circulated

Suzanne Kemmenoe advised that Land Securities are currently developing the Waterstone Park Community Fund to assist the integration of the old and new communities in this area. The Kent Community Foundation is facilitating this, and applications from appropriate projects would be welcomed. Information was available on the Land Securities website.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Dates for future meetings would be:

12 October 2004
6 January 2005
5 April 2005
28 June 2005
27 September 2005
5 January 2006

The meeting closed at 4.55pm

Councillor Mrs A Allen
Chairman