

DARTFORD AND GRAVESHAM LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of the meeting of the Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board held on 28 June 2005 at the Civic Centre, Dartford.

PRESENT: Councillor A Allen – Kent County Council (Chairman)
Councillor J Burden – Gravesham Borough Council
Mr P Conrad – Groundwork Kent Thames-side
Mr E Falvey – North West Kent Council for Voluntary Service
Ms C Fisher – Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
Councillor K Leadbeater – Dartford Borough Council
Ms M Peachey – Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT
Mr D Sharma – North West Kent Racial Equality Council
Councillor M Snelling – Kent County Council
Ms S Stanwick – HIMP Board

Also Present:

Mrs S Free – Kent Thameside Delivery Board
Mr G Harris – Dartford Borough Council
Mr J Wintour – Gravesham Borough Council
Mr C Woodley – Gravesham Borough Council
Dr A Jefford – Kent County Council
Mrs P Jefford – Gravesham Borough Council
Ms D Carson – Gravesham Borough Council
Ms J Sadek – Kent Thameside Delivery Board
Ms Paterson – Sevenoaks District Council
Ms L McAvan – Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT
Ms S Clarke – Urban Thames Gateway Kent
Ms S Kemmenoe – Land Securities
Councillor G C D Steele – Dartford Borough Council

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Superintendent M Hewitt (Community Safety Partnerships), Mr V Hull (Learning Steering Group), Mr I Martin (Environment Group) and Ms J Morgan (Sevenoaks District Council).

Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Councillor K F M Leadbeater and Mr G Harris.

51. ITEM 2: MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2005 were confirmed.

52. ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

Membership of the HIMP Forum

Ms Stanwick advised that, following the discussion at the last meeting about Gravesham and Dartford Councils' elected member involvement in the LSP's

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Thematic Sub-groups she had written to both Councillors Leadbeater and Burden.

Councillor Burden said that he had discussed the matter with Councillor Leadbeater, and they were both happy with the proposals.

Minute 38. – Local Employment and Training Initiative

Ms Sadek was pleased to inform members that work on the local employment and training initiative was going extremely well. Following consideration by the Kent Thameside Delivery Board, a full report would be presented to the Local Strategic Partnership on 27 September 2005.

Minute 41 – Matters Arising

Mr Falvey advised the meeting of the appointment of the Community Forum Co-ordinator.

Minute 43 – Kent Local Area Agreement Update

Mr Wintour spoke about the freedom and flexibilities in the Local Area Agreement. He agreed to ask Kent County Council to seek greater freedom and flexibility from the Government, to benefit District Councils, for example, in the area of council housing.

Minute 44 – Working in Partnership – Race Equality Scheme 2005-08

Mr Woodley advised that, as part of Gravesham's Beacon Programme, there would be an open day in Gravesham on 20 October 2005, to share with colleagues the good work being carried out. Further information about the event would be supplied in due course. Mr Sharma advised that the REC were planning an event on Race Equality Schemes and information would be circulated.

53. ITEM 4: PROPOSED REVISION OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Partners were reminded that, on 5 April 2005, the Executive Board had agreed that the proposed revision of the Community Strategy would be circulated for consultation. Unfortunately, due to a number of pressures, it had not been possible to progress that decision.

This had an adverse impact on the consultation timetable agreed by the Executive Board, and it was felt that the timetable should be reviewed to allow adequate time for the draft document to be considered.

AGREED:

- (1) That the timetable for consulting on the draft revision to the Community Strategy be extended, and aligned with the updating of the Vision for Kent.

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- (2) That the Community Strategy document be circulated for consultation by the end of July, subject to the text being agreed by the Leaders of the Borough Councils.
- (3) That the Chairman writes to the organisations which were involved in the Community Assembly, to advise them of the revised arrangements for consultation.

54. ITEM 5: CHOOSING HEALTH

Ms M Peachey gave a presentation on the key issues of the Government Public Health White Paper "Choosing Health". She was assisted by Liz McAvan and Patricia Jefford, who gave examples of good practice already happening in the area.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

55. ITEM 6: BUDGET FOR THE LSP

The Chairman advised that this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

56. ITEM 7: URBAN THAMES GATEWAY KENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Partners were advised that the Urban Programme Group (UPG) had reviewed the membership of Urban Groups, following the concerns which had been raised at the last meeting of the LSP.

The UPG agreed an appeal procedure so that unsuccessful Urban bids would be able to appeal directly to it for reconsideration.

The Board was advised that the Urban Programme in Kent Thameside was one of the best in the European Union (EU). It was requested that the Chairman write to the appropriate officer in Brussels EU thanking them, and asking how Urban Thames Gateway Kent could work with the EU to help to develop other programmes.

It was noted that, following concerns raised at the last meeting, external GOSE auditors would be undertaking an audit of the Community Chest.

AGREED:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the European Union be thanked for their assessment that the Kent Thameside Urban Programme is one of the best, and be asked how it could work with the EU to help to develop other programmes.
- (3) That it be noted that external GOSE auditors would be undertaking an audit of the Community Chest as a whole, in addition to specific projects.

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57. ITEM 8: KTDB PROJECT FRAMEWORK

The Executive Board was reminded that the development of a Project Framework was the next step for KTDB after adoption of the Regeneration Framework. Following a seminar on 21 March, a number of potential projects had been identified and the Framework Steering Group, which includes both VCS and statutory sectors, had met for the first time on 20 June. The draft Framework was circulated at the meeting and it was stressed that this was very much work in progress.

The Steering Group had proposed a process to move forward, including “one to one” meetings with project leaders. A report on the process would be submitted to the KTDB on 19 July.

A final report would then be considered by the KTDB in October, before being submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Ian Lindsay and his team were thanked for their work on the Project Framework.

The Executive Board was advised that English Partnerships had formally withdrawn the Horns Cross site from consideration for a Community Enterprise Hub, and was now looking towards providing low cost housing there. It was proposed that a doctor’s surgery would remain within their plans, if funding could be obtained. There was still commitment to providing a community hub in the area, but this might now be on the Stonehouse hospital site.

The Executive Board were advised that a further report would be presented at the next meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That the KTDB Project Framework be noted.
- (2) That the LSP receive regular updates regarding the Community Enterprise Hub and Satellite project, and be given the opportunity to comment on the project’s progress.

58. ITEM 9: GRAVESHAM CHILDREN’S CONSORTIUM LOCAL PREVENTATIVE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2005-2007

The Board were presented with a copy of the Gravesham Children’s Consortium Local Preventative Strategy and Action Plan 2005-2007, to be submitted to the Gravesham Cabinet for approval in July.

AGREED:

That the Gravesham Children’s Consortium Local Preventative Strategy and Action Plan 2005-2007, be noted.

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59. ITEM 10: DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The report proposed dates for future meetings of the LSP. The Executive Board was advised that the dates were chosen because they were 3 to 4 weeks before the KTDB meetings.

AGREED:

That the dates for future meetings be noted as:

Tuesday 27 September 2005

Thursday 5 January 2006

Tuesday 14 March 2006

Tuesday 6 June 2006

Tuesday 5 September 2006

Tuesday 12 December 2006

60. ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Northfleet Neighbourhood Study

The Board was advised that the neighbourhood study of Northfleet had been completed. It was agreed that a report on the study should be presented at the next meeting of the LSP, with an update on progress following a similar study of Swanscombe.

Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium for Kent (VICK)

The Executive Board was advised that VICK had been tasked with putting together an Infrastructure Development Plan for the Voluntary and Community Sectors in Kent under the Government's Change-up programme and was invited to submit suggestions as to how partners could be engaged.

Future of LSP

The Executive Board recognised that Local Strategic Partnerships all operated in different ways, and agreed that they would need to review how they would develop this LSP in the future.

Black and Minority Ethnic Network Groups (BME)

The Board were invited to view a new BME website (www.kentbminetwork.com) which was an interactive site allowing the user to have editorial control via a password.

Scrutiny drawdown

The Executive Board was advised that the Local Strategic Partnership had been drawn down for discussion by the Scrutiny Committee of Dartford Borough Council.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

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Councillor A Allen
Chairman