

## **DARTFORD AND GRAVESHAM LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board held on 6 January 2005 at the Civic Centre, Dartford.

**PRESENT:** Councillor A Allen – Kent County Council (Chairman)  
Councillor J Burden – Gravesham Borough Council  
Mr E Falvey – North West Kent Council for Voluntary Service  
Ms C Fisher – Government Office for the South East (GOSE)  
Mr I Martin - Environment Group  
Ms M Peachey – Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT  
Mr D Sharma – North West Kent Racial Equality Council  
Ms S Stanwick – HIMP Board  
Councillor Mrs P Thurlow (substitute for Councillor K F M Leadbeater)

Mrs S Free - K T Delivery Board  
Mr G Harris – Dartford Borough Council  
Mr K Lawrie – Dartford Borough Council  
Mr J Wintour – Gravesham Borough Council  
Mr C Woodley – Gravesham Borough Council  
Mrs P Jefford – Gravesham Borough Council  
Ms D Carson – Gravesham Borough Council  
Ms S Kemmenoe – Land Securities

Councillor Steele (DBC) also attended

### **22. OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ian Martin who joined the Executive Board as the representative of the Environment Group. She informed the Board that this would be the last meeting for Mr Lawrie who was leaving Dartford Borough Council. On behalf of the Board, she expressed appreciation for Mr Lawrie's work for it and wished him well in his new appointment.

### **23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr P Conrad (Groundwork Kent Thames-side), Superintendent M Hewitt (Community Safety Partnerships), Councillor K F M Leadbeater (Dartford Borough Council) for whom Councillor Mrs P Thurlow substituted, Councillor M Snelling (Kent County Council), Dr A Jefford (Kent County Council) and Ms J Morgan (Sevenoaks District Council). Mr Edwins and Ms Sadek were also unable to attend.

### **24. MINUTES**

Mrs Jefford advised that, for clarity, Board documents should refer to her as Mrs Jefford and that her husband, who attended for KCC, should be designated as Dr Jefford.

The minutes of the meeting of 12 October 2004 were confirmed.

## **24. MATTERS ARISING**

### Kent Thameside Draft Regeneration Framework

Mrs Free said that the Regeneration Framework was in its final draft and would go to the Kent Thameside Delivery Board on 25 January. It would be circulated to the Executive Board after that.

### ODPM and SEEDA funding

SEEDA had now indicated the funding for 2005/2008. The same amount would be available for 2005/6 as for this year, but the sum was already fully, if not over, committed to projects now underway. There would also be £1.65 million for the whole of North Kent for 2006/7 and 2007/8, some of which was committed to 2006/7 because certain projects extended to a third year. As ideas were developed, there would be consultation with partners as to the projects to be taken forward.

### Financial Support for the LSP

Mrs Free said that the £10,000 committed by the PCT was specifically for the Community Forum (and replaced funding for this which had been made available from other sources). The PCT money had been paid to the CVS and ring-fenced for that purpose. The Steering Group was working on proposals for allocating the available resources. However, there should be a link back to the LSP for accountability. She suggested that she and the two Cabinet Secretaries liaise with Mr Falvey on a report to the Executive Board as to how the budget was to be allocated.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a report on the allocation of the money should be prepared for the next meeting of the Executive Board

## **25. REVISION TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Mr Woodley explained that the report was a first, rough, draft of the revision of the Community Strategy. The material had been drawn largely from the consultation exercise at the recent Community Assembly; not all the information had been provided in the format requested and its presentation was uneven in consequence. It was not yet in a state to issue for consultation and he suggested that further work be done over the coming two to three weeks to produce a more focussed document.

On strengthening the strategy, he drew the Board's attention in particular to the need to consider how the promotion of equality, diversity and community cohesion could be effectively incorporated into the revision of the strategy. This point needed to be emphasised.

The document also needed to incorporate alignment of the revision of the Strategy to the Regeneration Framework, LAAs and LDFs.

Ms Peachey welcomed the review as timely but thought that the document should recognise that health was relevant to all sections. The Chairman acknowledged that other topics also could not be wholly compartmentalised. Ms Fisher said that, as the Community Strategy was a statutory document, it needed to make a strong statement and focus on what could be achieved and measured.

Mr Woodley said that the timetable for the exercise would need revision, particularly in view of the LDF timescales. He expected this revision to be achieved in the coming week.

Councillor Burden suggested that, given time constraints, the Board support the general principles of the document and delegate authority to the Chairman to agree its issue once the presentation had been reviewed and polished.

AGREED:

1. That the Chairman should be advised of the revised timescale, when available
2. That the general principles of the document be agreed and that the Chairman be authorised, following further work on the draft, to approve the issue of the document for consultation.

## **26. COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**

Mr Falvey said that the Assembly had been very productive and had been welcomed. The momentum needed to be sustained. One drawback, however, had been the lack of participation where subgroups had not been fully formed.

Mrs Jefford said that, with some groups, it had been difficult to encourage participation without dampening the considerable enthusiasm – there had been a tendency to draw in aspects not within the Community Strategy. Mr Woodley acknowledged that some of the participants would not have received the original Strategy. It would be necessary to ensure a more effective mechanism for the dissemination of the revised version. It would be for the LSP to decide how to promote the new sense of purpose in the revised document. He proposed the organisation of another assembly in order to re-engage with the original consultees. Mr Falvey said that attendees at the assembly had been promised the revised document on request and copies would be sent to those who had been unable to attend.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

## **26. UP-DATE ON SUB-GROUPS**

### Leisure and Culture

Mr Woodley introduced this item. "Terms of reference" had been drafted for a Kent Thameside Cultural Partnership. Work was in hand to arrange an inaugural meeting of the group. This would include a

planning meeting with Councillor Mrs Thurlow (Dartford Borough Council) and Councillor Caller (Gravesham Borough Council).

Environment

The group had held an inaugural meeting. Mr Ian Martin was representing them on the Board.

Kent Thameside Economic Board

The Economic Board had held their first meeting but had not yet appointed a representative to the Executive Board of the LSP. Mr Lawrie said that the minutes, tabled as Appendix B, were there at the request of Councillor Leadbeater as it had been a most positive discussion.

Other LSP sub-groups

Discussions were continuing as to how to take Housing forward. Progress would be reported at the next meeting.

Mrs Free stressed the importance of Council-nominated link members being kept informed and engaged. She felt that this was not happening in all cases.

AGREED:

- 1 That the establishment of a Kent Thameside Cultural Partnership be approved.
- 2 That the draft terms of reference for the Partnership, at Appendix A, be adopted as the basis for the Cultural Partnership's establishment.
- 3 That the progress on the Environment Group, the Kent Thameside Economic Board and the other sub-groups of the LSP be noted.
- 4 That Council-nominated link members be kept fully informed about the work of the relevant sub-groups attached to the LSP and be engaged and involved in the work of these groups.

**28. KENT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Mr Lawrie explained that Area Agreements were a new form of co-operation between central and local government, whereby a local authority-led partnership contracted with central government to deliver agreed outcomes in specified areas – children and young people, safer and stronger communities, and healthier communities and older people were the three proposed by the ODPM - in return for flexibility in the allocation of resources within these activity streams. Kent was a pilot authority for the scheme. The final LAA had to be submitted by the end of February.

LAAs were highly relevant to the LSP. They offered the LSP the potential to develop an enhanced role, as the partners would be involved in delivery on the LAA. Many of the Kent LAA targets would be relevant to the Community Strategy.

Mrs Jefford commented that there was concern about the possible pooling of resources currently held locally. She had also been surprised by the suggestion that the health aspect would be delivered by the LSP rather than the HIMP which she believed would be the more appropriate vehicle. Ms Peachey thought that there was advantage in supporting and simplifying local targets and funding streams. Public health should be owned by the LSP. Many targets, in all areas, should come from the LSP, through the sub-groups.

Ms Stanwick said that while it would be difficult to argue against the LAA targets, the issue was the means of delivery and whether LAAs added value. Delivering through consortia was the sensible approach and caution as to what LAAs would involve should be exercised. Mr Harris agreed that care was necessary but believed that the LSP needed to influence the process and benefit from it. Ms Fisher asked that the LSP should be copied into the submission in February, in addition to receiving an update at the April meeting.

**AGREED:**

1. That the development of the Local Area Agreement for Kent and its relevance to the Community Strategy process and the work of the LSP be noted.
2. That the LSP be copied into the Kent LAA submission to the ODPM at the end of February
3. That an update report be made to the next meeting of the LSP on 5 April 2005.

**29. SMOKE-FREE KENT THAMESIDE**

Ms Peachey explained that the smoke-free issue arose from the White Paper on Public Health. The purpose of the report was more to highlight the issues and to start the LSP moving forward on the matter than to elicit decisions at this point, particularly since some decisions would involve legal issues. The public sector could lead by example – the NHS had a standard policy and a team which could train others. Banning smoking in all public places would go further than the White Paper's proposals but there was no reason not to aim for this. Kent Action on Smoking and Health (KASH) was currently surveying smoking in all public places. The results of a survey in Kent and Medway on smoking were to be launched at the end of the month

Councillor Burden – speaking as a non-smoker - said that there was a danger of action on smoking being seen as a moral crusade, intimidating smokers. All governments in the past had encouraged smoking for revenue purposes.

Ms Peachey said the aim was not intended to be judgemental but to bring benefit. Smoking was a huge health issue, particularly in terms of childhood asthma. It was essential to stimulate discussion.

Mr Harris said that Dartford Council had operated a smoking ban for the past ten years. It had taken time but it had been beneficial to staff. However, he questioned enforcement of non-smoking in public places – those addicted to smoking could find conditions very difficult. Mrs Jefford said that primary legislation would be necessary and it would be better to await the legislation arising from the White Paper. In the meantime, there were performance indicators and awards to encourage action on smoking.

AGREED

1. That all public sector organisations in Kent be asked to review their smoking policies, to ensure that all public sector buildings are smoke-free by April 2005;
2. That all public sector organisations be asked to identify staff to take part in Stop Smoking programmes run by the NHS, so that all organisations can offer Stop Smoking advice to staff and the public who are in contact with them;
3. That No Smoking policies in all public places by April 2007 should be actively encouraged.

**30. LIFT PROGRAMME**

Ms Stanwick said that the LIFT programme was a PFI procurement mechanism to enable the building of smaller-scale enterprises such as GP practices. With the support of the Department of Health, a partnership would be set up with preferred providers, in order to reduce the burden of the procurement process. In conjunction with Ashford and Maidstone Weald, they had applied successfully in November 2004 to form a LIFT company. In April 2005, this would become their delivery vehicle. It fitted well with the current regeneration issues. In reply to Mr Harris, she acknowledged that all PFI initiatives attracted additional costs although much had been learned since the building of Darent Valley Hospital. However, for the first time, funding was going to allow for adjustments for future population growth.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

**31. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Mrs Free explained that the lottery funds had been reconfigured and that the Big Lottery Fund would be the major source of funding for voluntary groups. At Appendix A was a draft response to the Fund, which had to be made by the following day. The draft needed amendment, however, in order to strengthen Kent Thameside's case for lottery funding.

Funding for Neighbourhood Renewal was currently confined to the 88 most deprived areas in the country. The partnership was being consulted as a non-funded LSP but it was important that a response be made, as a number of activities here were being carried out in a renewal manner and much other activity was in effect Neighbourhood Renewal. While it was suggested that

responding be a delegated action, she would be happy to consult in compiling the response.

Ms Fisher said, in response to Mr Woodley, that while she was not aware of any move at GOSE for changes in Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, she would make enquiries.

AGREED

1. That, subject to its being amended to offer a hook for lottery funding for the area, the letter at Appendix A of the report be sent to the Big Lottery Fund on behalf of the LSP;
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Communities of the KTDB, in consultation with the Chairman of the LSP Executive Board, to respond to the consultation on the NRF Resources.

**32. URBAN THAMES GATEWAY KENT PROGRAMME UP-DATE**

The report updated members on the funding programme and projects. Mrs Free drew the attention of the Executive Board to the need to agree a fresh commissioning strategy and the existence of a consultation document.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

**33. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Review of the Community Strategy

In connection with the review of the Community Strategy, Mr Woodley said that the North West Kent Racial Equality Council had offered to help with the revision work which was required.

University of Greenwich evaluation of community development work in North Kent

Mrs Free referred to the University of Greenwich study funded from the SEEDA devolved underspend. She was a member of the steering group and could provide partners with the address of the study's website, on which comments could be posted. A leaflet about work and progress was being produced. A first draft of the study report was going to the Steering Group on 31 January, with workshops on it following in mid- February, in Kent Thameside, Medway and Swale. The aim was for the final report to be available in mid-March. The work, which reviewed policies and practices and the potential expansion of community development had important implications for the integration of existing and new communities. It was hoped to use the final document both as a lobbying tool and as a source of objective evidence.

Land Securities Newsletter

Ms Kemmenoe said that Land Securities had published their first newsletter "The Link". The aim was to encourage a dialogue with both existing and new communities, in order to ascertain what people wanted.

AGREED

That the matters mentioned be noted.

**34. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

AGREED

That the dates for future meetings be noted as:

5 April 2005  
28 June 2005  
27 September 2005  
5 January 2006

The meeting closed at 4.25pm.

Councillor A Allen  
Chairman