

**DARTFORD AND GRAVESHAM LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

MINUTES of the meeting of the Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership: Partnership Board held on Tuesday, 19 February 2008 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU

PRESENT:	Cllr M V Snelling (Chairman)	- Kent County Council
	Cllr J A Kite	- Dartford Borough Council
	Mr I Martin	- Environment Group
	Ms J Mookherjee	- West Kent Primary Care Trust
	Mr D Sharma	- North West Kent Racial Equality Council
	Mr V Sangha	- Adult Services, Kent County Council
	Mr K Wiles	- North West Kent Council for Voluntary Service

ALSO

PRESENT:	Mr G Harris	- Dartford Borough Council
	Mr G Thomson	- Gravesham Borough Council
	Mr C Woodley	- Gravesham Borough Council
	Mrs P Jefford	- Gravesham Borough Council
	Mr M Doyle	- Gravesham Borough Council
	Ms T Ryszkowska	- Dartford Borough Council
	Mr W Farmer	- Kent County Council

21. APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Ann Allen, Cllr D Turner (Gravesham Borough Council), Chief Superintendent G Beautridge (Dartford and Gravesham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership), Mr R Hardy, Mr V Hull (Learning Steering Group), Mr A Gowan and Miss S Bourke (Dartford Borough Council).

22. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23 OCTOBER 2007

AGREED: that the minutes of the meeting of 23 October 2007 be confirmed.

23. MATTERS ARISING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teenage Pregnancy

Cllr Kite reiterated Dartford Borough Council's offer to provide sites for posters.

John Britt would be asked to liaise with Tom Carney (Dartford Borough Council) and John Miller (Gravesham Borough Council) on this matter.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Mr G Harris stated that Kent County Council was likely to reduce funding by £10,000 for both Dartford and Gravesham Council's (£20,000 in total).

Mrs Jefford stated that CDRP budgets had been reduced by the Home Office. It was clear that the projects under risk needed to be identified.

There was a need to apply for funding under the "Choosing Health Initiative".

The Chairman undertook to write to Kent County Council expressing concern at the reduction in funding of £20,000.

Governance

The Chairman stated that the Kent Leaders were still discussing on how governance is arranged.

Connect 2 Project

Cllr Kite stated that the provision of a cycle path along the River Darent would be forthcoming.

24. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Partnership Board received a presentation from Christopher Woodley on the Sustainable Community Strategy: Proposed Themes.

Mr Woodley stated that the Public Service Board had received a report in January 2008 on taking this initiative forward.

Lord Egan had published his report in 2005.

The Egan definition of a sustainable community was:-

- active, harmonious and inclusive communities;
- effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership;
- a place for people to live in an environmentally friendly way;
- a quality built and natural environment;
- good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services;
- a flourishing and diverse local economy;
- a full range of appropriate, accessible public, private, community and voluntary services

The Sustainable Community Strategy would be in place for a three year period from June 2008.

The key themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy were:-

(1) Community Safety - Key Strategies:

- Local Development Framework;
- Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership - Three year plan.
Links to Vision for Kent/Kent Agreement 2
- Stronger and Safer Communities.

(2) Environment and Transport - Key Strategies:

- Local Development Framework;
 - Waste Management Strategy;
 - Sustainability Strategy.
- Links to Vision for Kent/Kent Agreement 2
- Environmental Excellence.

(3) Health and Well-being - Key Strategies:

- Local Development Framework;
 - Choosing Health;
 - Dartford & Gravesham Youth Strategy;
 - Cultural Strategy.
- Links to Vision for Kent/Kent Agreement 2
- Improved Health, Care and Well-being
- Enjoying Life.

(4) Economic Development - Key Strategies:

- Local Development Framework;
 - Kent Thameside Regeneration Framework;
 - A Multi-Area Agreement.
- Links to Vision for Kent/Kent Agreement 2
- Economic Success - Opportunities for All.

(5) Community Cohesion:

- Cross-cutting Theme: The "Sustainable" Outcomes from the Egan Definition
 - active, harmonious and inclusive communities;
 - effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership;
 - a place for people to live in an environmentally friendly way;
 - a quality built and natural environment;
 - good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services;
 - a flourishing and diverse local economy;
 - a full range of appropriate, accessible public, private, community and voluntary services.

The next steps would be:-

- Gravesham and Dartford Borough Councils need to outline their version of the Sustainable County Strategy for discussion at the PSB on 13 March 2008;
- "Community Engagement" exercises on draft priorities need to be put in place;
- A Planning Advisory Service Workshop on the LDF needs to be established;
- The Draft SCS needs to be in place by mid-April for further consultation.

A meeting of the Partnership Board needs to be held in May 2008 to endorse the SCS for adoption in June 2008.

Following the presentation the following points were made under the five key themes:-

Community Safety

A need for hierarchical support was highlighted or the whole process could fall apart.

The process also needed to be driven by the LAA.

Local priorities needed to be factored in.

Environment and Transport

The Strategy would need to deliver a reduction in Co2 emissions. This would also need to be identified in the LDF and would be covered by one of the core strategies. A Strategy would need to be incorporated to cover flood risk, greening the gateway, green grid etc.

Health and Well-being

The Dartford and Gravesham Youth Strategy was identified as a key document under this category.

Joint commissioning arrangements will be crucial to the success of the process. Old person Strategies etc. will need to be included.

Economic Development

Education and Training/Skills used to be included under this heading as a Key Strategy.

The Kent Thameside Regeneration Framework was now due for revision.

Community Cohesion

The title for this theme needs to include Engagement.

There is a need to identify the real achievements and how they are achievable.

Ian Martin stated that a Community Assembly would be held on 24 April which would be attended by representatives of community groups across Dartford and Gravesham.

Ian Martin stated that he would liaise with Christopher Woodley and A Gowan on this event.

25. DARTFORD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Chairman welcomed Teresa Ryszkowska, Dartford Borough Council's Planning Policy Manager who led a discussion on the Dartford Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

Ms Ryszkowska stated that the Core Strategy, as part of the LDF, is about land use and development. The Core Strategy has a key influence on issues raised by the Community Strategy.

The LDF will influence issues under community safety, health centre provision, green space provision, leisure centres etc. Schemes need to be deliverable and made to come to fruition.

Dartford Borough Council was out to consultation on the Core Strategy until 13 March 2008 which included "piggy backing" the consultation exercise at other public meetings and exhibitions in order to maximise public awareness of the Strategy.

The Core Strategy had been developed from what had gone on before and many of the sites already have planning permission. The Strategy also looked at linking land use and transport together with mixed use developments.

The transport tariff, together with school provision, health facilities etc. was also incorporated.

The Core Strategy's aim was to balance the priorities and would be based on the vision for the area including the government's agenda to provide 15,700 new homes.

Dartford Town Centre was an existing priority for regeneration. Also development at East/West Ebbsfleet would be a priority as would the strategy for opening up the Riverside.

The LDF included the provision of sustainable homes and renewable energy sources in new and existing communities and incorporated strong policies on green spaces (with 30% green space provision on larger developments), sports, cultural and recreational facilities.

Malcolm Doyle stated that the LDF was part of the wider development plan which sits below the South East Plan. There was a LDF Liaison Group comprising officers of both Dartford and Gravesham Borough Councils which meets on a monthly basis.

Both Councils were trying to avoid duplication. The Gravesham LDF could miss out the "preferred options" stage leading to a Joint Core Strategy examination.

Christopher Woodley stated that the Community Strategy is an instalment for longer term ambitions and that the LDF would align with issues contained in the Community Strategy.

26. HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FORUM

The Chairman welcomed Jess Mookherjee of the West Kent Primary Care Trust who led a discussion on the Health Improvement Forum.

The LSP Theme Groups would be working with the local Health Improvement Forums (HIMPS).

The LSP had agreed three years ago that HIMPS would be the way forward and a local forum was established of which Gravesham had appointed three elected Members. Members would be appointed at the Council meeting on 4 March 2008. There was also a HIMP Core Group comprising Jess Mookherjee, Patricia Jefford, Adrian Gowan and Valerie Miller.

Glyn Thomson stated that he welcomes both joint-working arrangements and the PCT as a member of the LSP.

Glyn Thomson and Graham Harris would be meeting with the Chief Executive of the PCT to discuss the way forward.

Cllr Snelling referred to a recent visit to Chorley Borough Council and it was anticipated that once the Community Strategy was implemented Action Groups would be established to drive delivery forward.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration would be given to a free workshop offered by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). The workshop would provide guidance on aligning the LDFs with the SCS.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Christopher Woodley will circulate a date for the next meeting of the LSP Partnership Board.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 4.53pm.