

# Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership

## DRAFT

### DARTFORD AND GRAVESHAM LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 February 2009 at Dartford Borough Council at 2pm.

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Members**

Cllr Mike Snelling – Chairman, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council  
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader, Dartford Borough Council  
Cllr Ann Allen – Dartford Borough Council and Kent County Council  
Mike Bodkin – Kent County Council  
Steve Jeffery – Kent Fire and Rescue  
Glyn Thomson – Chief Executive, Gravesham Borough Council  
Jess Mookherjee - West Kent Primary Care Trust  
Kate Harvey – On behalf of West Kent Primary Care Trust  
Conall Watson - On behalf of West Kent Primary Care Trust

##### **Officers:**

Ben Turner – Gravesham Borough Council  
Jackie Denton – Gravesham Borough Council (taking minutes)  
Sheri Green – Dartford Borough Council  
Sarah Woodfall – Dartford Borough Council  
Teresa Ryszkowska – Dartford Borough Council  
Adrian Gowan – Dartford Borough Council  
Susan Bourke – Dartford Borough Council

##### **ABSENT:**

Michelle Parfitt – Gravesham Borough Council

#### **1.0 Apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Apologies received from:  
Graham Harris, Managing Director, Dartford Borough Council  
Cllr Kevin Lynes – Kent County Council  
Ian Craig – Kent County Council  
Chief Supt. Paul Brandon – North West Kent Police  
Marilyn Keating – North West Kent CVS  
Dev Sharma – Kent Equality Regional Council

#### **2.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2008**

- 2.1 The minutes were approved.

**Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:**

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### **3.0 Matters arising and announcements**

- 3.1 The Chairman welcomed Steve Jeffery from Kent Fire and Rescue to his first meeting.
- 3.2 Cllr Kite expressed concern on the effects of the credit crunch in respect of planning income etc. and the extra demand for services of social care and benefits. Dartford Borough Council are going through the process of making sure they are not doing anything wasteful and are supporting businesses and residents. Gravesham Borough Council has met with local businesses to determine a plan of action and has also advertised in the local press that residents should contact them if they have concerns about debt or redundancy.
- 3.3 Jess Mookherjee advised that the PCT have an updated Health Equalities report produced for the Health and Equalities Services Board for both Dartford and Gravesham. Copies are available for distribution. JM echoed her concerns about the credit crunch. The Health and Equalities Strategy will benefit both Dartford and Gravesham in terms of attempting to target PCT resources towards Dartford and Gravesham, where most need had been identified. Dartford and Gravesham have the worst outcomes of health than the rest of West Kent. Even within the boroughs we have different patterns of inequality; the gap in terms of health outcomes has extended in Dartford whereas in Gravesham they have contracted.

### **4.0 Terms of Reference**

- 4.1 Ben Turner presented a report showing the revised set of Terms and Reference for the LSP. In October 2008 the LSP agreed a new Sustainable Community Strategy and discussed membership and future requirements of the LSP. As a result of this it was felt that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed to take account of the SCS and new structure of the LSP.
- 4.2 From 1.2 Role and Membership: There have been concerns that in the past membership did not always contribute to the outputs for residents. The new membership structure now reflects those concerns and will ensure a focus on delivering key outcomes for the area.
- 4.3 From 1.4 Voting rights: Wording to be amended to reflect that the councils will have one vote which will normally be exercised by the Elected Member.
- 4.4 From 2.3 Member responsibilities: The annual review of progress against the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy should be built around the financial year and should be at the nearest meeting to the end of the financial year.

**Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:**

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- 4.5 From 3.1 Chairman of the meetings: Proposals were discussed on how the Chairman should be decided. The group agreed that the meetings should be chaired on a rota system between the Leaders of Dartford Borough Council and Gravesham Borough Council. This would be based on the council year.
- 4.6 From 3.7 Minutes: Power to be given to the Chairman for approval to the minutes going on the website.
- 4.7 From 4.1 Working Groups: In terms of the Environment Group there is a Kent-wide group and both Dartford and Gravesham are developing proposals. Graham Harris and Glyn Thomson are concerned about having too many groups for officers to attend and propose having one cross-boundary group. There should be regular reports, at least twice a year, on action on the environment in order to keep members informed of the Kent-wide approach as well as the partner approach.

In terms of housing issues, there are housing strategies Kent-wide and strategies for both Dartford and Gravesham plus one proposed for North-Kent. GT and GH are involved with the relevant groups and they will provide feedback to the LSP. It was therefore proposed not to have a Housing Group across the two boroughs.

Discussion took place on the Dartford and Gravesham Youth Sub-Group. There was a discussion of the role it would undertake and it was noted that the Sub Group had reporting lines into both the CDRP and the Children's Services Partnerships. The Youth Sub Group would therefore act to advise the LSP on matters relating to children and young people through the Dartford and Gravesham Youth Strategy.

- 4.8 From 6.1 Minutes and agendas: It was agreed that Declarations of Interest should be a set agenda item. The process was agreed.
- 4.9 The Terms of Reference were agreed, subject to the alterations and amendments discussed and agreed at this meeting. BT is to draft the amendments and circulate for any final comments on these.

### **5.0 Dartford and Gravesham Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 5.1 Adrian Gowan presented this report and asked the Partnership to agree the amended version of the Sustainable Community Strategy and to note that some indicators are still not available because they are dependant on the refresh of the KA2.

**Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:**

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In terms of KA2, out of 35 indicators only 10 have been agreed with GOSE. For the 25 which have yet to be agreed, targets will be set over a two year period instead of three. In other cases such as economic development, the targets around job creation at Ebbsfleet have been removed as a revision will be necessary due to the current financial conditions. Officers are exploring whether there is a better indicator for the Ebbsfleet Valley development around employment space.

Revisions have also been made to the housing targets to take into account recent housing trajectories published by Dartford and Gravesham Borough Councils.

ED1: To be amended to say “promote Ebbsfleet Valley” instead of “develop Ebbsfleet Valley”.

ED1 (d): Need to check with SEEDA that there will be one Kent and Medway Creativity Team.

NI21 Dealing with local concerns about ASB: We now have a baseline figure of 23% which is a joint figure for Dartford and Gravesham. We still need the Kent-wide level target set for us. We still haven’t received weighted figures back from the government.

SC1 (b) To increase public confidence and reduce the fear of crime: Adrian Gowan to amend words to include “this should reflect the number of people represented”.

Chris Oliver and Adrian Gowan have been doing some mapping of the groups attached to the Regeneration Partnership and will be meeting to get a better understanding of what is being done. Groups are looking at homes and roads, green grid and environmental issues.

ET2 (a) To manage transport demand in a sustainable way: KCC is the accountable body.

**5.1.1 Action: Adrian Gowan to report back to the next meeting on the progress with the Regeneration Partnership.**

**Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:**

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**5.1.2 Report back at appropriate time on the review of the KA2 indicators as the LSP should monitor where discussions are going.**

**Action: Each partner to examine how their strategic planning documents link to the objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and a report to be brought back to the next LSP meeting. Officers to decide together the most appropriate format for the report.**

5.2 Sustainable Communities Strategy agreed subject to amendments.

### **6.0 Progress through Partnerships Funding Bid**

6.1 Susan Bourke presented this report and asked the Partnership to (1) support the project which will enhance partnership working (2) agree that Dartford Borough Council should lead on the project and (3) agree the performance management of the Sustainable Communities Strategy as a regular agenda item.

The LSP has been awarded £6,000 to support a project to enhance partnership working across partner agencies. The SCS will be monitored through DBC's web-based performance management system, Covalent and this funding will enable partners of the LSP to be registered as remote users of the system and receive appropriate training in order that they can monitor their targets.

Through the CAA and as partners of the LSP we should be able to demonstrate that we have a good profile of our communities and we should be able to pull this information together. A Joint Strategy Needs Assessment is a statutory duty that the PCTs, Local Authorities and County Councils have to comply with. In Kent we have a Children's Joint Strategy Needs Assessment and an Adult Joint Strategy Needs Assessment which contain a wealth of information. There is a core standard data set broken down into borough councils which is about to go live.

Considerable information is available from various organisations such as the Police, PCT and the Councils. AG and BT will report to the next meeting with a profile of this information across the two boroughs.

**6.1.1 Action: Jess Mookherjee to present information on the core standard data set to the next meeting.**

**6.1.2 Action: Adrian Gowan and Ben Turner to submit a report to the next meeting with area profiling across Dartford and Gravesham.**

6.2 The report was agreed.

**Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:**

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### **7.0 Dartford Borough Council's Carbon Management Project**

- 7.1 Sandra Woodfall presented this report and asked the Partnership to note Dartford Borough Council's involvement in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme to date and to report back once the plan has been endorsed by Dartford Borough Council Cabinet.

Dartford Borough Council has been part of the Carbon Management Plan and is one of 65 Local Authorities taking part in the sixth phase of the programme which runs over a 10 month period. They have set an interim target to reduce the CO2 emissions from its activities by 35% from the 2007 baseline by 2012. They are currently looking at a variety of projects to see what savings can be made in their buildings. The aim is to have a practical approach and the key is to sensibly manage the reduction but at the same time keeping standards.

Gravesham Borough Council is at the stage of developing a Local Climate Impacts Profile and will report to a future meeting once this has been progressed further.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

- 8.1 Mike Bodkin advised that the consultation on the County Council Draft Regeneration Framework has been extended to 17 April and they would welcome any feedback from partners.

### **9.0 Date of next meeting**

- 9.1 Susan Bourke to confirm dates for meetings for the next year in due course.

**The meeting finished at 3.30pm.**

**Signed by Cllr Mike Snelling:**