



Minutes of 13th November 2008

Solomon Centre.

ACTION LIST

Item	ACTION	Responsible
2.0	Partners to inform NH of any specific information for inclusion in the welcome pack.	LSP
5.0	CL TO bring forward a report for consideration by the LSP which outlined a case for the amendments of education targets within the Sustainable Community Plan and the reason for this and what new targets were being proposed	CL
6.0	SW and CS to feedback from the Kent Partnership conference TWBC to circulate future cabinet report on risk and impact of credit crunch	SW/CS TWBC
7.0	short note on the Gateway so that this could be circulated to RS for employees	TWBC

Tunbridge Wells Together
Minutes of Thursday 13th November 2008
Salmons Centre.

Represented:

Rob Cottrill	Director of Planning and Development, TWBC
Daniel Bech (DB)	Town Forum
Cllr Roy Bullock (RB)	Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Sheila Wheeler	Chief Executive, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Caroline Highwood (CH)	Kent County Council
Tom Crookall (TC)	Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
Russ Nyman (RN)	West Kent Police
Cllr John Davies	Kent County Council LSP Representative
Nazeya Hussain (NH)	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC)
Lee Rose	Kent Fire and Rescue
Ahmed Eslami	Learning Skills Council
Rosie Serpis (RS)	AXA PPP
Caroline Shaw	Voluntary Action West Kent
John Fisher (JS)	Local Futures Group
Martin Woodhouse	John Laing
Chris Lay	Kent County Council
Mark Salisbury	West Kent Police
Martin Woodhouse	John Laing

Apologies:

Jon Rosser- TCHG
 Di Wooloff - GOSE
 Brendan O'Connor- WK NHS
 Keith Harrison-Action with rural communities in Kent
 Chris Hare – West Kent College

Item	Notes	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome and Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>Cllr RB welcomed everyone to the meeting and the minutes were agreed as accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Davies and Lee Rose were welcomed as new members of the LSP.</p> <p>Cllr RB took the LSP through the action points arising from the minutes, all actions had been undertaken.</p> <p>Cllr RB took the opportunity to thank all partners who had been involved in the Council CPA inspection this week through interviews and focus groups.</p>	

	<p>Cllr RB informed that meeting that he had to depart the meeting at 3pm and CS as the deputy chair would take over for the remainder of the meeting</p> <p>Action: None</p>	
2.0	<p>Feedback from Public Services Board</p> <p>SW stated that PSB has recently met on the 8th September 2008. The key areas of discussion included:</p> <p>1. New migrant communities research – Welcome Pack</p> <p>Following recent increase in new migrants into the borough, the PSB discussed the impact on service provision including housing (largest no of application for shared ownership were from Polish communities – THCG) and increase in English support needs in local school which see an in-year enrolments.</p> <p>The Council has also undertaken some work on the experience of migrant workers. PSB agreed to develop a LSP migrant welcome pack, which will provide support and information on key services for new residents.</p> <p>PSB to consider draft Welcome Pack on 20th November meeting. Expected to be launched on International Migrant Day on 18th December 08.</p> <p>SW ask ed the LSP for information from partners for inclusion and also whether any would be interested in distributing copies through their respective organisation. It will be mainly online resources</p> <p>2. Positive Ticketing</p> <p>Seeking to pilot a new scheme in Sherwood with KCC and Kent Police, which seeks to enhance engagement with young people through rewarding positive behaviour in communities.</p> <p>The project is still in development stage, but it is hoped it will be launched in 2009 and is based on good practice in Canada</p> <p>MS informed the partnership that the Police were currently developing Youth Encounters Policy, which seeks to enhance the approach of dealing with issues such as under age drinking by having a more strategic and holistic approach. The new approach will follow through with parents and include referrals to other agencies. RN is leading on this in West Kent.</p> <p>3. I&DeA Health Project Update</p> <p>WK PCT, TWBC and Maidstone Borough Council are examining a new approach to tackling health inequalities in</p>	

<p>priority neighbourhoods by working in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency. This new approach will be showcased in Society Guardian on the 19th November 2008.</p> <p>4. Thematic Delivery Groups Update</p> <p>All the TDG have now been established and have strong partnership representation. PSB continues to monitor development in terms of ensuring appropriate risk and performance management structures are in place to ensure delivery against the SCP and KA2.</p> <p>5. Engagement and Communication</p> <p>PSB has been looking at how we can enhance consultation and engagement activity across the partnership and the Community Safety Partnership has recently appointed a one year post 'partnership engagements officer' who will work across the CSP and PSB to enhance our activities</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for the 20th November, where we will be discussing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreeing the new migrant communities- welcome pack • Ups and Downs- The current Housing Market – presentation by Jon Rosser • The Case for Change – Department of Health Green Paper – Caroline Highwood <p>Action: Partners to inform NH of any specific information for inclusion in the welcome pack.</p>	
<p>Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company (Rob Cottrill and Martin Woodhouse.</p> <p>RC commenced his presentation by outlining the unique role of the borough council as planning authority and landholder within the borough. He stated that the partnership with John Laing would be to develop long term plans for regenerate our main town centres (Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Paddock Wood and Cranbrook)</p> <p>The partnership will be the first of its kind in the country and provides an innovative approach by establishing a private/ public company, with 50% membership from the Council and John Laing. It is expected the partnership agreement will be signed shortly.</p> <p>MW then took the LSP through a presentation outlining the</p>	

following key points:

- John Laing has been established for 160 years and specialises in social infrastructure project and have recently been working on the new Pembury PFI scheme. They have the legal, financial and technical experience to take this partnership forward.
- The partnership is based on understanding that it must deliver robust action plans based on community consultation to ensure success of schemes.
- Key principles of the partnership include delivery masterplans which enhance the value of assets and is based on their ability to deliver outcomes.
- The partnership will ensure that there is a local presence in the borough

Q&A session followed:

The partnership discussed the issue of public consultation and how this could be undertaken effectively to ensure all stakeholders views were taken into consideration.

MV informed the LSP that he recognised that the approach to public consultation would need to be developed to ensure it was inclusive and informed the overall masterplanning exercise.

TC raised a concern that rural villages may be left out of this process and that these were small vibrant economies that needed to be encouraged as well.

RC stated that whilst a conscious decision had been taken to focus on the town centres, recent investment such as the WK Leader bid has secured £1.8m for supporting diversification in the rural economy.

RS asked how the shared decision-making would work.

MW stated that the partnership with the Council was 50/50 partnership. A robust decision making framework will be in place which will be based on wider involvement.

Cllr RB also informed the partnership that any decision to put a council property into the partnership would need to be ratified by the Cabinet.

MS hoped the partnership would examine the joint estate of the police and Council in the town centre.

Cllr RB thanked MW for his informative presentation.

ACTION: None

4.0

Draft Vision– John Fisher, Local Futures Group

JF took the Partnership through the work that has been undertaken through the recent visioning workshops. A draft report has been circulated to the LSP in advance for consideration.

JF stated that given the recent economic downturn it was even more important that the LSP examined its collective vision for the future and began to develop action plans for taking this forward.

Q&AS session followed:

RS asked about next steps.

SW stated that following the three full days of visioning it was important that everyone felt the draft report reflected the outcomes that we had developed. SW stated that next steps were about articulating action plans and timescales for achieving the vision and identifying appropriate lead partners.

AE stated that any implementation would need to take into account of cross borough work, particularly in the context of developing approaches around economic development.

SW informed the partnership that West Kent College was now the preferred partner for South West College and therefore would geographical coverage from Tonbridge to Dover and Folkestone.

CL also informed the partnership that WKC and Skinners were involved in the development of vocational academy in the borough. This would be a hub for life long learning. She also informed the LSP that the public consultation for the closure of TW High School was underway.

It was agreed that a new Sustainable Community Plan would be developed by middle of 2009 and would include action plans which reflected the visioning work.

TC stated that any new SCP would need to examine options for alleviating traffic congestion through the town centre.

Cllr RB stated that the transport study was currently being reviewed and that a new traffic modelling options would be available in early 2009.

Cllr JD state that the Maidstone VTMS model was working well.

CS advised that any revision of the SCP needed to take into account the needs of older people and those with disabilities.

reflect the ambitions of the

Agreed:

	<p>Agreement was reached that the Visioning report did reflect the views of the LSP.</p> <p>Cllr RB thanked JF for all his work with the LSP over the summer period.</p> <p>Action: None</p> <p>Agreed: That the visioning report reflected the collective ambitions of the LSP and should form the basis of reviewing the Sustainable Community Plan in 2009</p> <p>Cllr RB left the meeting at this point and CS took over as chair.</p>	
5.0	<p>Six Monthly Monitoring report of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Kent Agreement Two</p> <p>NH took the partnership through the report and stated that the report included update on both SCP action plan but also the first six month monitoring of Kent Agreement Two.</p> <p>Key points included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79% of actions are on target or making some progress • 1% of actions were underperforming • Data was still outstanding on 11% of the action plan from education. • Maintaining a thriving local economy; enabling people to take part in and enjoy leisure activities and encouraging social inclusion by supporting independence themes had made substantial improvement since December 2007 • A number of KA2 targets were still awaiting baseline data due to the Place Survey results, which are due out in early January 2009. <p>CL informed the partnership that since the SCP was written, the Local Childrens Services Partnership have been established locally, which have developed their own Children Plans, with specific targets, which contributed to the SCP outcomes but did not match the existing targets within the SCP.</p> <p>SW requested that CL bring forward a report for consideration by the LSP , which outlined a case for the amendments of education targets within the SCP and the reason for this and what new targets were being proposed. This would enable the LSP to ensure consistency with other recent changes such as</p>	

	<p>the addendum for the development partner.</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <p>That TWT note the progress made between January and September 2008, within the second year of the Sustainable Community Plan.</p> <p>That TWT agrees a refresh of the Sustainable Community Plan in 2009.</p> <p>Action: CL bring forward a report for consideration by the LSP which outlined a case for the amendments of education targets within the SCP and the reason for this and what new targets were being proposed</p>	
6.0	<p>Impact of the Credit Crunch on Kent Agreement Two</p> <p>RC took the partnership through the draft matrix that has been circulated.</p> <p>He informed the partnership that the Council has seen property and land charges fall by 90%, and a reduction on planning application. This will have a significant impact on delivering against NI154 (net additional homes provided) and NI 155 (no of affordable homes delivered (gross))</p> <p>However he also noted that there could also be opportunities from the availability of cheaper land.</p> <p>AE informed that partnership that in relation to NI 161 (Learner achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy), NI 162 (Learners achieving an Entry level 3 qualification in numeracy) and NI 163 (Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher), the LSC is currently trying to gain local data. It may be that we see an increase in government training schemes such as Train2Gain as employers begin to reduce training for employees.</p> <p>RC informed the partnership that the Council was constantly evaluating the local impact and Cabinet have now identified a basket of indicators that will provide the basis for a monthly update to cabinet. The Council was also looking at how it could support other businesses through speeding up the payment of invoices.</p> <p>SW stated that whilst we have not seen a impact on business rates or council tax, this was possible due to a six month time lag.</p> <p>Benefit take up has increased by 9% in October, 11% in November and is expected to rise to 13% in December 08.</p>	

	<p>RN also informed partnership that there was antidotal evidence suggest crime is rising. There is likely to be impact on the night time economy and domestic abuse. A small increase has been evident in theft of metal and petrol and fraud.</p> <p>SW stated that the Kent Partnership were holding a conference to examine a co-ordinated approach to supporting the economy and that she and she and CS would feedback to the LSP from this meeting.</p> <p>SW also committed to circulating future cabinet report on risk and impact of credit crunch</p> <p>Action: SW and CS to feedback from the Kent Partnership conference</p> <p>TWBC to circulate future cabinet report on risk and impact of credit crunch</p>	
	<p>AOB</p> <p>SW encouraged all partners to visit the recently opened Gateway, which has been a success of partnership working.</p> <p>RS congratulated the council on the Gateway and requested a short note on the Gateway so that this could be circulated to employees.</p> <p>CS took the opportunity to thank NH for her work in developing the LSP and wished her luck for her maternity leave. Raymond Warren will be her temporary replacement and will be the new contact from December 12th 2009.</p> <p>CS thanked partners for their attendance and wished everyone one a happy festive season.</p> <p>Next meeting: 23rd Feb 2009 – 204pm at Solomon Centre.</p>	

