

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the HUNTINGDONSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD held in the AQUARIUS ROOM, ST IVO LEISURE CENTRE, WESTWOOD ROAD, ST IVES on Wednesday, 23 May 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.  
  
Ms A Constantine – Huntingdonshire Regional College  
Dr D Cox – Cambridgeshire PCT  
Councillor V H Lucas – Cambridgeshire County Council  
Ms L Hunt – Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Councillor R J Sutton – CALC.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Dr C Macleod, J Orr and T Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Black, J Cave, Mrs P Harding, Mrs S Rodriguez-Jiminez and M Parsons – Cambridgeshire County Council and Ms C Deller, I Leatherbarrow and D Monks – Huntingdonshire District Council.

### 1. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Dr D Cox, representing the Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust to his first meeting of the Board.

### 2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 14th February 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. PRIORITIES PROGRESS REPORT

By way of a report by the Head of Policy and Strategic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Members' attention was drawn to the progress which had been achieved across the five short to medium term priorities previously identified by the Board.

Having acknowledged that the success or otherwise of various projects had depended on the funding and capacity/resources of the lead partner, the Board concurred with the view that effort over the next few months should concentrate on compiling revised priorities/action plans to link in with the new Sustainable Community Strategy which now was in preparation.

However, the Board were anxious that some of the projects should not be left unfinished and in this respect attention was drawn to the "older person friendly tradesman schemes". As a way forward, Ms

Hunt referred to the existence of the “bobby scheme” through which low cost work could be organised through respectable tradesmen and the Board suggested that the availability of the scheme could be promoted by CALC, Cambridgeshire Trading Standards and via registered social landlords.

Having been assured that the Thematic Groups would pursue those projects worthy of continuing, discussion ensued on improvements in the work of the Neighbourhood Policing Panels and the value of a joint assessment protocol for sharing information on the needs of older people.

RESOLVED

that the report by the Head of Policy and Strategic Services and the content of the action plans be noted.

#### **4. LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES AGREEMENT (LPSA) AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)**

The Board received and noted a report by the County Council’s Policy and Partnerships Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding the key messages contained within the local government white paper on future arrangements for local area agreements and partnership working.

Members were advised that local authorities and their partners would continue to be encouraged to develop new ways of working across boundaries with LAAs delivering improvements in services and demonstrating increased efficiency in use of resources. It was anticipated that formal guidance on the new LAAs would be published in November/December 2007. It was explained that the White Paper also would introduce a new performance management framework comprising national outcome indicators and that partners would be required to deliver LAA outcomes from various sources of funding in a drive towards “pooled” funding.

The Board recognised that the process to develop a new sustainable community strategy would complement that required by the LAA and that the exercise would benefit from the experience gained by partners in meeting LPSA targets. In welcoming the indication that approximately £6,015,000 had been secured in reward grant, the Board expressed the view that this level of achievement was a clear indication of the success of partnership working and an essential platform upon which to meet the new challenges of the LAAs.

Although acknowledging that some attention required to be given to areas for the investment of reward grant, the Board indicated their preference for a measured approach to the allocation of funds in the light of the development of the new sustainable community strategy.

#### **5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

Further to Minute No. 36 and with the assistance of a pictorial presentation and a report by the District Council’s Head of Policy and Strategic Services (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book)

the Board considered the process for and progress thus far on the review of the sustainable community strategy for Huntingdonshire.

Whilst the strategy had previously been updated annually, the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" had prompted a more substantial review which would inform and influence the new Local Area Agreements.

The Board were advised that each thematic/area group had been invited to identify objectives, priorities and issues to be addressed in the new strategy which would form the evidence base and enable the identification of new priorities for Huntingdonshire.

Having recognised that the review required to be clear and focused and that the participation of partner organisations was essential if the strategy was to reflect collective priorities, the Board

**RESOLVED**

that the programme for the review of the Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy be noted.

## **6. PARISH / TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON THEMATIC GROUPS**

The Board were invited to consider a request received from the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils for town and parish council representatives to be invited to participate in the thematic groups. It was understood that nominations to the Groups would be arranged by the Association.

Having commended the proposal, the Board suggested that CALC be invited to seek nominations to the thematic groups which would reflect a mix of town and parish councils by size and geographical location. Whereupon, it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils be requested to arrange for elected Parish Councillors plus one substitute in each case to be nominated to represent town and parish Councils on the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Thematic Groups.

## **7. HUNTINGDONSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE**

Having commended the usefulness of the summaries produced, the Board received and noted reports on the activities of the Partnership Executive and Thematic Groups (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book).

Referring to his recent decision to retire as Chief Executive from Cambridgeshire County Council, the Board extended their best wishes to Mr Stewart for the future.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Wednesday 11th July 2007 at 6pm in Meeting Room 1 at Pathfinder House.

Chairman