

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board held on
Wednesday 9 November 2011, between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Sian Reid – Chair
Councillor Ray Manning – Vice-Chair

Members: N Buckley (Cambridge University), T Bygott (SC District Council), T Cracknell (GET Group), M Farrar (CPALC), P Barlow (Faith Groups), C Gohler (Cambridge Past Present & Future), A Limb (City Council), J Hunter (SC District Council), S Johnson (Cambridgeshire ACRE), R Needle (Cambridgeshire Constabulary), I O'Meara (NHS Cambridgeshire), J Barker (Business Sector), J Reeve (Voluntary Sector), J Reynolds (County Council), T Orgee (County Council), A Plant (County Council) L Herbert (City Council) and T West (Anglia Ruskin University)

Officers: Guy Belcher (City Council) L Browne (District Council), P. Howes (District Council), G Saint (City Council).

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from J Bridge and G Prangnell (Business Sector), I Sandison (Love Cambridge Partnership) and Jon Maxwell (Granta Housing).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

4. TRANSFER OF CHAIR

Councillor Sian Reid accepted the Chair role for the LSP Board. Councillor Ray Manning will now become Vice Chair.

5. MINUTES AND MATTER ARISING

The amended minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

6. ALLOCATION OF LPSA REWARD GRANT

LSP Board members were asked to discuss and agree an approach to investing £86,000 of its remaining reward grant to ensure the best outcomes for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire residents are achieved.

Some LSP Board members expressed disappointment at the failure of the County Council to consult the LSP Board prior to taking decisions in Cabinet about the distribution of the second wave payment of LPSA Reward Grant. It was said that the grant had been earned through the efforts of partnerships and that they should have a first call on the money,

especially given the collapse of many projects following the withholding of the second wave payments. It was said, in response, that the decision to allocate £4m from the second wave payment, towards supporting the introduction of a super-fast broadband project, was legitimate and took into account the needs of local communities.

The LSP agreed to invest the £86,000 at its disposal, primarily in local voluntary and community sector groups who are working to reduce inequalities in the area. Preference will be given to projects that will help young people get back into work and assist older people in living in their own homes and maintaining their independence for as long as possible. Distribution of the grant will be in sums no larger than £5,000, based on a sound application. Previous recipients, that have delivered benefits to local people, will be encouraged to re-apply. Emphasis should be on the quality of the bids across the districts rather than the district they are delivered in.

The LSP also agreed to convene a sub-group to decide the mechanism through which the grant can be administered. Where possible the LSP would like to use existing grant administering processes to get the money out to groups as quickly as possible. The decisions of the sub-group will be reported back to the Board's next meeting.

7. ANNUAL PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members were asked to give their views about the holding of a "Question Time" styled event in each district where public agencies give an account of their work to local people. Cambridgeshire Together Board, before it was wound-up, had proposed this approach for reporting on partnership work.

The LSP Board agreed to support the holding of two meetings, one covering Cambridge and the other South Cambridgeshire, at which the Leaders and Senior Officers for public agencies covering each area will attend. It is envisaged that these will take place in June 2012 after local elections have taken place.

8. WILDLIFE, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ITS LOCAL IMPORTANCE

Carolyn Gohler, Chief Executive of Cambridge Past, Present and Future gave a presentation about the importance of wildlife and green infrastructure in Cambridgeshire. Carolyn highlighted various local projects that were being supported including restoration work at Byron's Pool, the construction of a Swift Tower, community involvement in Local Nature Reserves, and the promotion of traditional orchards. Carolyn also outlined the Green Infrastructure Vision for Cambridgeshire, creating and managing a network of high quality and well designed green corridors and sites, taking into account the growth areas in Cambridgeshire and set out proposals for a bid for a Local Nature Partnership covering Greater Cambridgeshire.

The LSP Board discussed the importance of high quality open spaces, that enhance and even reverse the decline in biodiversity, can mitigate and adapt to climate and promote sustainable growth and economic development. **The LSP Board agreed** that a Local Nature Partnership, especially one that helped empower local communities, taking a lead in improving the natural environment, would bring added value.

9. GOING FORWARD – WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP

The LSP Board were asked to give their views on what should be included in a future work programme for the LSP Board, given the role for the LSP that was agreed at its last meeting.

The LSP Board discussed whether it had a continuing role to play moving forward given that it now only had a limited amount of grant to distribute and that it seemed likely the requirement to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy was about to be removed. It was felt that the LSP had played a role in the past looking at broad issues, such as climate change and inclusive communities, but that it was becoming difficult to justify the continuing commitment of partners with the emergence of other partnerships, who carried a similar remit.

It was said that the new, emerging local partnerships, such as the Local Health Partnership, could provide opportunities for voluntary and community sector groups and others to get involved and contribute to their work. It was also said that future community engagement and partnership work seemed to lie at the neighbourhood level, with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans, set out in the Localism Act 2011 and devolvement to Neighbourhood Councils, proposed in the Government's Open Government consultation paper. This was at odds with maintaining a central strategic partnership group.

The LSP agreed to look again at the emerging local partnerships, when it next met, to assess if they covered a breadth of local issues and provided sufficient opportunities for partners to get involved, to assess if they can adequately take the place of the LSP in the future.

10. FORWARD PLAN FOR THE LSP

The LSP Board agreed to meet on

- Monday 12 March, between at 2 pm and 4.30 pm.

The Forward Plan to be agreed by Chair:

- Review of emerging local partnerships
- Localism and possible neighbourhood arrangements

The Meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.
