

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the South  
Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership  
Board held on Thursday, 21 January 2010 at  
2.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ray Manning – Chairman  
Councillor Tom Bygott –Vice-Chairman

**Members:** P Barlow (Faith Groups), R Evans (Business Sector), M Farrar (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils), GJ Harlock (South Cambridgeshire District Council), M Lawrence (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire & Service Service), S Moir (Cambridgeshire County Council), R Needle (Cambridgeshire Constabulary), I O'Meara (NHS Cambridgeshire), J Reeve (Voluntary Sector) and D Spreadbury (Cambridgeshire ACRE)

P Adams, A Ankin, M Barnes, Mrs G Barron, K Bennett, P Howes, K Hawkes and A Speed were in attendance by invitation.

Apologies were received from D Ball, J Bridge, M Gyte, A Mackintosh, Jon Maxwell and Tony Orgee

### **Action**

#### **76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **77. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

##### **Engaging parish councils**

It was noted that January had been unsuitable for a number of parish councils and so this event had been postponed to March.

##### **Sustainable parish energy partnership**

Tom Bygott stated that a report on the above project would be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership in February.

#### **78. CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND CAMBRIDGE CITY**

Paul Howes presented this report on the proposal to merge the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership and the Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership.

The following concerns were expressed:

- What advantages were there to the merger, which could not be achieved through greater co-operation?
- What benefits were there to South Cambridgeshire and its residents?
- Would the agendas become too large and unwieldy?

- Could a merger with East Cambridgeshire or Huntingdon LSPs be considered?

In response the following advantages to a joint Board were highlighted:

- A number of representatives currently attended both LSPs and so a merger would be more efficient.
- The City was more ethnically diverse, which could allow a joint Board access to funding that would benefit minorities living in both administrative areas.
- A joint body would allow greater co-operation, or “joined-up working”, especially between the two local authorities.
- A joint body would better address issues that arose in the border areas, particularly regarding crime prevention.
- A joint body could better respond to sub-regional issues, such as the growth agenda.

### **Discussion of rural and urban issues**

It was noted that provision would be made for a joint body to receive a presentation of one parish plan per meeting. It was understood that part of the agenda would also have to be set aside for urban issues. It was also noted that a merged Board would find it easier to secure funding for projects, as the administrative area would be both rural and urban.

### **Representation on Cambridgeshire Together**

It was suggested that both the Chairman and Vice-chairman of a joint LSP should represent that body on Cambridgeshire Together.

### **Funding**

It was assumed that the funding accessible to each LSP would be pooled to a joint LSP.

### **Annual review**

It was understood that, if agreed, the Joint LSP would be reviewed after the first year and if necessary the decision could be taken to revert to two separate LSPs.

### **Membership of the Joint LSP**

It was noted that the report suggested the following organisations would not be represented on a merged LSP Board:

- Anglian Water (Business Representative)
- Comberton Village College
- Youth Parliament

It was noted that there had been no representatives from either Comberton Village College or the Youth Parliament at recent meetings of the Board, whilst there were other business representatives on the LSP. Regret was expressed at the low attendance rate of representatives from the Village College and Youth Parliament. Ray Manning agreed to suggest to the City LSP that a youth representative sit on the new Body.

**RM**

It was suggested that a representative from Anglia Ruskin University should be considered, although it was acknowledged that it could prove difficult to get a representative who could speak for such an organisation to attend.

It was suggested that a gap analysis, in relation to membership, should be carried out after the first few meetings of a Joint LSP.

#### **Balanced agendas**

It was agreed that the agenda for the Joint LSP would be balanced between rural issues, such as the presentation of parish plans, urban issues, as well as issues relevant to all representatives.

#### **Performance management**

It was agreed that a common performance management system would be put in place, which would assess progress towards the LAA targets and the monitoring of Reward Grant projects.

#### **Sustainable Community Strategies**

It was agreed that both LSPs would have to keep separate Sustainable Community Strategies until these came to an end in March 2011. A joint strategy from April 2011 would be developed.

#### **Reporting to the Board**

It was agreed that local thematic groups should be maintained for the lifetime of the strategies they pertained to and local partnerships should have clear reporting arrangements to the new Board.

#### **Scrutiny arrangements**

It was noted that a new Board would be subject to scrutiny by both local authority's scrutiny arrangements. It was possible that the two Council's would agree a joint scrutiny arrangement, instead of working separately.

#### **Officer support**

It was noted that officer support requirements for the merged LSP Board would need to be assessed once the partnership was fully established.

A vote was taken and with eight votes in favour of the merger, one against and one abstention, the Local Strategic Partnership.

#### **AGREED**

- (a) In principle to the proposed merger between South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership and the Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership.
- (b) To support the principles set out in paragraph 18 of the report.

#### **Next steps**

It was expected that the first meeting of the new merged LSP Board would be held early in the new financial year. The next meeting of the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership on 17 February will include an item on the next steps of the merger.

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**The meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.**

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