



ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

20 MAY 2008

Present

David Slater	- Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration (in the Chair)
Councillor Mike Cookson	- Housing Theme Portfolio Holder
Councillor Wendy Taylor	- Environment Theme Portfolio Holder
Christine Cunningham	- Housing Theme Lead Officer
Nigel Hails	- Environment Theme Lead Officer
Les Clark	- Environment Theme Co-ordinator
Andrew Waugh	- Environment Theme Community/Voluntary Sector Representative
Lynda Seery	- Cross Cutting PCT Representative

Also Present:

Councillor Bill Shepherd	- Newcastle City Council
--------------------------	--------------------------

In Attendance:

Satpal Parmar	- Newcastle Community Empowerment Network
Mike Nelis	- Newcastle Community Empowerment Network
Phil Hunter	- Newcastle City Council
Paul Gallagher	- LSP Co-ordinator
Louise Lane	- Adult Services
Elaine Campbell	- Democratic Services

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	David Slater, Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration introduced himself to the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Environment and Housing Partnership. Those present introduced themselves.	
2. Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from Lionel Hehir and Geoff Matthews .	EC

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
3. Summary of Meeting Held on 7 Feb 2008	AGREED – The action points identified within the summary were picked up later on the agenda.	EC
4. Update on Sustainable Communities Strategy	<p>Phil Hunter updated on the current position as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The final draft Local Area Agreement/Sustainable Communities Strategy had been agreed by both City Council and the Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board with the Leader of Council/Chief Executive authorised to approve any last minute changes/amendments. Any changes at this stage were likely to be around presentation/emphasis. ▪ He continued by updating on current negotiations with Government Office. The Director General of the Department of Communities and Local Government had, on a recent visit, been complementary around the process/approach adopted by the Partnership in terms of agreeing its targets with Government Office. ▪ There were a number of outstanding issues which were subject to further negotiation:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A number of issues around economic development – Housing targets were in line with the LDF, there were a number of technical issues to resolve around targets 186 and 187 (again around presentation) – NI167 – there was confirmation that the Department of Transport had successfully argued for a congestion reduction target to be included in the LAA at the expense of NI 40 which would remain as a local indicator. Further discussion would be required by the Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board as to where responsibility for the Transport Indicator should lie – there was a suggestion that it should be the responsibility of this Partnership – NI138 around the level of satisfaction of over 65's with home and neighbourhood – further discussion was to take place with colleagues in The Health and Well Being theme as this required wider input/ownership. It was noted that Strategic Housing and Adult Services were currently preparing an Older Persons Housing Strategy 	<p>PH</p> <p>GM/EW</p>

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The final LAA would be submitted to Government Office on 30 May and would hopefully be signed off in June with a launch in July potentially with ministerial involvement. <p>Comments were then invited:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In noting the popularity of NI186 and NI188 (around Co² emissions) among local authorities nationally a view was expressed that NI188 was less demanding and it was a question of which was the more appropriate for Newcastle and provided the highest level of challenge. P Hunter confirmed that progress against all NI's was measured and the issue could be revisited as part of the annual refresh (toward the end of the year). ▪ A final draft of the LAA/SCS would be available on the LSP website on or around 30 May 2008. ▪ In terms of a breakdown of what this partnership would performance manage this should be resolved in the near future. ▪ Noting the current state of the housing market and the credit crunch again it was pointed out that housing targets would be reviewed during the annual refresh. <p>AGREED – That the information be noted.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>LC/PH</p> <p>PH/PG</p> <p>PH</p> <p>PH/GM</p> <p>All</p>
<p>5. Revised Terms of Reference/ Partnership Structure</p>	<p>In accordance with the discussion at the last meeting a revised terms of reference/structure had been circulated to ensure alignment with the LAA/SCS targets. The intention was to be as inclusive as possible whilst remaining sufficiently focussed to be effective and efficient. It was also hoped through this group to encourage innovation and creativity in meeting what were challenging targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There remained vacancies for Community/Voluntary Sector representatives and these would be subject to further discussion between the Community Empowerment Network and the Regen Forum/NCVS. ▪ It was also worth noting at this stage the valuable contribution of other groups and partners who were linked to the Partnership, eg the Climate Change Partnership. It was stressed that where possible linkages were made with existing groups and structures in order to deliver outputs. 	<p>CEN/NCVS</p>

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
	<p>(ii) Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Head of Strategic Housing circulated a paper prepared by Geoff Matthews outlining the various task groups and the targets/indicators they were working toward. The paper also provided a brief update and would form the basis of future updates. ▪ If it was considered appropriate minutes/notes of the task groups could be circulated to ensure consistency with feedback from the Environment Task Group. ▪ Linda Seery welcomed the opportunity for joint working through the Affordable Warmth Steering Group. She advised that the PCT/partners would be visited by the National Support Team (in reality an inspection) and she was preparing a Citywide briefing paper focussing on excess winter deaths which she offered to share with colleagues. ▪ Comment was made around the difficulties of fuel poverty and its impact on increasingly vulnerable individuals. Specific comment was made regarding the attitude of the utility companies. <p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Chair proposed that each Theme Co-ordinator prepare a work programme for their theme with this Partnership then agreeing what role, if any, it should play in that process to be submitted to the next meeting. ▪ In response to a number of comments regarding engagement with other housing partners the Head of Strategic Housing undertook to prepare a report around the most effective way to engage with RSL and other housing partners including house builders and developers. The latter in particular around engaging with the Climate Change Partnership. ▪ The Chair requested that details of the performance management arrangements be submitted to the next meeting. 	<p>LS</p> <p>Theme Co-ordinators</p> <p>HoSH</p> <p>Theme Co-or/ Theme Leads</p>
	<p>AGREED – That the updates be received.</p>	

Report	Discussion/Decision	Action
7. Any Other Business	None.	
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting	A list of proposed dates for meetings during the remainder of the Municipal Year was circulated. Colleagues were asked to advise Elaine Campbell if they had any difficulties with these dates.	EC/All