



## **NEWCASTLE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC BOARD**

**9 September 2008**

### **SUMMARY SHEET**

#### **Present**

Councillor John Shipley	- Newcastle City Council (In the Chair)
Barry Rowland	- Deputy Chief Executive
Chris Knights	- Community Voice
Brenda Grey	- Job Centre Plus
Guy Saxton	- LSC
Oisin MacNamara	- Northumbria University
Maurice Condie	- Voluntary Sector
Rachel Spence	- North East Chamber of Commerce
Dave Wormald	- Northumbria Police
Chris Lowther	- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Rachel Ford	- Business and Enterprise North East

#### **In Attendance:**

Kehri Ellis	- Co. Director, Newcastle Partnership
Charlie Hughes	- Co. Director, Newcastle Partnership
Paul Gallagher	- Newcastle Partnership Co-ordinator
George Kelly	- Chief Executive's Office, Newcastle City Council
Martin Gollan	- Regeneration Forum – Voluntary Sector Support
Cal Boal	- Community Empowerment Network – Community Voice Support
Nick Frey	- Community Voice (Observing)
Tom Smyth	- Government Office North East
Elaine Campbell	- Democratic Services, Newcastle City Council

Report	Discussion/Decision	Responsible Officer
1. Chair's Opening Remarks	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and also thanked those who had participated in the launch of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)/Local Area Agreement (LAA) which had taken place immediately prior to the meeting.</p> <p>He also welcomed Charlie Hughes who had been appointed Co-Director of the Partnership – Charlie was to take up his post as from the 15 October.</p>	
2. Declarations of Interest	The process for Declarations of Interest was noted.	<b>All</b>
3. Apologies for Absence	Ian Stratford, Ifty Khan, Janet Hunter, Neil Barker, Paul Weir, Kevin Gardner and Ross Smith	<b>EC</b>
4. Minutes of the Special Strategic Board held on 19 Aug. 2008	<p><b>AGREED</b></p> <p><b>Matters Arising:-</b></p> <p><b>Regen Forum Progress Report</b> -Tabled at the meeting was an update report from the Regen Forum summarising progress to date in terms of implementing the recommendations agreed at the meeting on the 19 August.</p> <p>Martin Gollan advised that a report was to be submitted to the Regen Forum Steering Group on the 1 October, following which there would be clarity as to the direction of travel.</p> <p>For the benefit of those who had not been in attendance at the previous meeting the Chair outlined the issues which the report sought to address, in particular concerns around the electoral constituency for 3<sup>rd</sup> sector representative elections to the Newcastle Partnership. He also stressed that for the avoidance of any doubt it was not for this Board to dictate to NCVS as to how they chose to nominate representatives to serve on the LSP.</p> <p>In response to a comment from a Community Voice the Chair reiterated this point. However, he did indicate that the comments would be conveyed to the NCVS and there was also the opportunity for direct communication between</p>	

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	<p>Community Voices and NCVS.</p> <p>The concern expressed was primarily around how NCVS would seek to actively recruit community organisations to become members of NCVS and that needed to be addressed before any election process took place.</p>	
	<p><b>Standing Assembly</b> – It was reported that a group of Community Voices were to meet on the 10 September to begin to discuss a range of ideas around the Standing Assembly and these would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.</p>	
<p>6. Area Based Grant – Community and Voluntary Sector Support</p>	<p>George Kelly introduced the report as set out and explained that the context of the debate had been the Langley Taylor review.</p> <p>He drew particular attention to para 2.11 which explained how the indicative budget for Community and Voluntary Sector support had been achieved. He stressed that this was very much a question of achieving a balance between protecting existing services and supporting the new challenges which had been outlined in the launch of the SCS and LAA which had taken place earlier. It was stressed (para 2.5) that during the current financial year ABG had been used as transitional funding however, a more sustainable funding position would be determined through individual negotiations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deputy Chief Executive stressed that it had been the necessity to begin early discussions as the rationale behind this figure and it had subsequently been approved by the Delivery Board as a “working figure”. This would allow officers to enter into practical dialogue with individual partners, pending priorities and the shape of the programme being finalised.</li> <li>• The Director indicated that further meetings would take place during September with key partners involving the Assistant Chief Executive on behalf of the Local Authority and herself on behalf of the LSP. It was therefore anticipated that the outcome of those discussions would be known within the next four weeks.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair also raised a query around area based work and the Director advised that the £275k indicative allocation represented less than 50% of the previous allocation for Community and Voluntary Sector support. However, this indicative figure was intended to reflect the new way of working as proposed through the Langley Taylor review. She confirmed however that there was also the issue of area based work to consider. G Kelly stressed that this new approach to engagement was at the core of the Langley Taylor review and it was not around replicating the Infranet which was no longer appropriate or affordable. There clearly needed to be further dialogue between the LSP and the Third Sector to find the right architecture for that match of resources to aspiration. It was hoped that these dialogues could be concluded by the end of October.</li> <li>• In noting that existing projects were funded up to the end of December and there was some urgency to resolve these issues and it was <b>AGREED</b> that a special meeting of the Board be arranged during the first week in November.</li> <li>• The point was made that officers had sought to establish a framework within the financial parameters however, it was a decision for this Board to endorse the approach as the most appropriate way forward.</li> <li>• With regard to the second query G Kelly advised that there were no officer delegations to this Group – all decisions were processed through the normal Local Authority decision making process under the auspices of the Partnership Co-ordination Group and ultimately the Executive.</li> <li>• A number of reports around the membership, role and remit and terms of reference had been submitted to and approved by the Delivery Board.</li> </ul>	<b>Director/EC</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Voluntary Sector representative expressed particular concern regarding the Supporting People Initiative and the lack of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector provider representation on the ABG Sub Group. In particular, he pointed out that when Supporting People funding was added to the ABG it would account for up to 38% of the total resources available. Whilst he acknowledged that Adult Services were represented on the Sub Group the guidance for Supporting People indicated that this was intended for those clients who were not the statutory responsibility of the Local Authority.</li> <li>• In response, George Kelly advised that in advance of the next progress report to the Delivery Board it was intended to re-visit the terms of reference and the membership and if the Strategic Board were supportive this issue could be dealt with as part of that process. This was <b>AGREED</b>.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLVED – That:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the report be received;</li> <li>(ii) a special meeting of the Strategic Board be arranged for the beginning of November in order to endorse the way forward for Voluntary and Community Sector support;</li> <li>(iii) the Board's support for consideration being given to a Third Sector provider representative being invited to join the ABG Sub Group be endorsed.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Director/EC</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>George Kelly</b></p>
7. Director's Report	<p>The Director introduced the report as set out.</p> <p><b>AGREED – that the report be noted.</b></p>	<b>All</b>
8. New Stat. Guidance and other Publications of relevance - Newcastle Partnership	<p>Paul Gallagher (Newcastle Partnership Co-ordinator) introduced the report as set out which sought to summarise the recently issued statutory guidance for Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous communities and a range of other publications of direct relevance to the LSP. In doing so, he particularly highlighted a range of key points as follows:-</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the report he provided a brief outline of the key points relating to each section of the Strategic Guidance.</li> <li>• The paper then provided a synopsis of the Community Empowerment White Paper outlining the key messages and highlighting a range of the main provisions.</li> <li>• The report also referred to a number of other related publications, including a range of community empowerment related publications, focusing on improving accountability, consultation on the making and enforcement of by-laws, consultation on a revised Code of Conduct for members, consultation on Mayors, consultation on time off entitlements and a review of the Code of Practice on local government publicity.</li> <li>• Other documents that the report referred to included the latest consultation on the Comprehensive Area Assessment, the Government's response to the Councillors Commission and finally the Policing Green Paper.</li> <li>• He concluded by drawing attention to the four main conclusions as outlined in Section 6.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Paul Gallagher for his presentation which provided a very helpful and useful synopsis of a range of the challenges currently facing the LSP.</p> <p>He suggested that consideration be given to the conclusions and in particular referred to the last conclusion which suggested that the Innovation Group should look at the approach to empowerment which to date seemed to accord with the main thrust of the Government's agenda as outlined within the report.</p> <p>He invited comment and during the discussion a range of issues were raised as follows:-</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deputy Chief Executive in welcoming the report commented that clearly it was considered from the LSP perspective. However, increasingly the Local Authority was adopting a partnership approach/perspective to a wide range of services. There were currently four main bodies of activity ongoing and these included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the delivery of the SCS/LAA , particularly around performance management and resourcing, focusing on how the Local Authority could work in partnership with a range of partners.</li> <li>- there was already a wide range of activity around empowerment taking place.</li> <li>- the Comprehensive Area Assessment would provide a test of partnership working and again work was ongoing to ensure that this was demonstrated.</li> <li>- finally, there was activity around partnership, management and practice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Newcastle Partnership Co-ordinator/Deputy Executive to have a further conversation as to how this might be achieved.</li> </ul> <p>It was important therefore that if the Innovation Group were to take forward this piece of work they were aware of the work which was already ongoing, some of which had already been discussed at the Delivery Board (e.g. performance management issues and comprehensive area assessment). It was suggested that it would be helpful if at some stage an outline of all existing activity was submitted to this Board for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Smyth (Government Office North East) also brought to the attention of the Board a number of more recent publications which may impact upon LSP activity, including a regional statement on the economy, consultation on Local Authority business growth incentives and consultation on a regeneration framework which focused on the amount of public funding allocated to Regeneration, It was <b>AGREED</b> that the links for these documents (in particular the latter) would be circulated to</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DCX/PG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TS/PG</b></p>

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	<p>all members of the Board.</p> <p>It was also <b>AGREED</b> that the report would be amended to include reference to those documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a consensus that the report, in particular the conclusions be referred to the Innovation Group for further discussion in order to develop a clear understanding of the challenges facing the LSP and how they might be addressed . It was also <b>AGREED</b> that the report be referred to the Delivery Board in order that they could also have a dialogue around how this might be taken forward.</li> <li>• The Chair indicated that he would like the report (when amended) to be more widely circulated to members and officers as it provided a very useful and helpful summary of what was a very complex Government agenda.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGREED</b> – That the report be noted and the recommendations as set out endorsed.</p>	<p><b>Director</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p>9. Governance and Membership Report</p>	<p>The Director introduced the report as set out, highlighting those areas where a decision was required.</p> <p><b>AGREED:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) that Neil Barker be appointed Private Sector vice chair for up to one year and Maurice Condie be appointed Third Sector vice chair to December 2008 pending the outcome of the work on Third Sector representation currently being undertaken by the NCVS;</li> <li>ii) that the appointment of Chair of the Innovation Group be deferred to a future meeting;</li> <li>iii) that the Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council be approved as Chair of the Delivery Board for the next three years;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Director</b></p> <p><b>Director</b></p> <p><b>Director/CX</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iv) that further discussion around the most appropriate way forward in securing Private Sector representation take place with a report back to a future meeting;</li> </ul>	<p><b>DCX/NB/ Director</b></p>

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	<p>(v) that a representative from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be appointed to the Strategic Board.</p> <p>(vi) that the most appropriate structures to engage with One North East and Nexus were the existing delivery partnerships</p> <p>(vii) that the suggestion that the Leader of the Opposition of Newcastle City Council be appointed to the Board be noted.</p> <p>(viii) it was further noted that John Goddard (Vice Chancellor, Newcastle University) had now retired and therefore resigned from the Board - the Higher and Further Education sector would be reviewing its membership for all parts of the partnership structure.</p>	<p><b>TWFRS</b></p> <p><b>Director</b></p> <p><b>Director</b></p> <p><b>F &amp; HE</b></p>
<p>10. Welfare Reform Green Paper</p>	<p>Brenda Grey presented the report as set out and also circulated a powerpoint presentation.</p> <p>In general terms the Green Paper set out the next stages in the Government's programme for welfare reform and the main changes were highlighted. The LSP was therefore being offered the opportunity to respond to the consultation process which ended in October. During the ensuing discussion a range of issues were highlighted as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the measures under consideration would impact upon LAA and SCS priorities.</li> <li>• It was noted that many partners around the table would be responding as individual organisations (e.g. local authority) however, this was an opportunity for the LSP collectively to consider whether it wished to engage with the consultation process. If so, it was suggested that perhaps the most effective way to achieve this would be to refer the issue to the Economy Work Skills and Learning Delivery Partnership.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was stressed that currently this was a Green Paper and therefore there was the opportunity to comment. DWP was also in discussion at a regional level to look at areas for change with eleven potential pilots and there was an</li> </ul>	

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	<p>opportunity for Newcastle if it so wished to put itself forward as one of those pilots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In welcoming the thrust of the Green Paper a Voluntary Sector representative expressed some concern at the lack of any reference to those who did not wish to engage with the process. In his view this had been a continuing difficulty over many years when various proposals had been put forward by successive Governments. There were no resolutions to this issue demonstrated within the paper.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the Voluntary Sector representative speak direct to Phil Hunter who would lead on this piece of work.</li> <li>• The Chair suggested that the outcome of the discussion at the Economy Work Skills and Learning Delivery Partnership be submitted to the November board meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGREED</b> – That the matter be referred to the Economy Work Skills and Learning Delivery partnership for further consideration with the outcome of those discussions being referred back to the November meeting of the Board for information.</p>	<p><b>PH/MC</b></p> <p><b>PH/ACX</b></p>
11. Date and Time of Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A special meeting of the Board would be held during the first week in November (date and time to be confirmed).</li> <li>• The next ordinary meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday 16 December at 2.00 pm.</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>
12. Dates of Meetings in 2009	Noted.	<b>All</b>