

Bromsgrove Partnership Board

14 September 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Roger	Hollingworth	Bromsgrove District Council (Chair)
John	Morgan	Small and Medium Businesses (Vice-Chair)
Liz	Altay	NHS Worcestershire
Hugh	Bennett	Bromsgrove District Council
Mike	Brown	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT)
Maggie	Bryan	Worcestershire County Council (WCC)
Kevin	Dicks	Bromsgrove District Council
Marie	Green	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT)
Judy	Hallam	NEW College
Rachel	Jones	Act on Energy (formerly WEEAC)
Della	McCarthy	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Ed	Moore	Worcestershire County Council (WCC)
Phil	Street	Bromsgrove District Council

Item 1 APOLOGIES

Angela	Burnet	West Mercia Police
John	Cypher	Parish Councils (CALC)
Mike	Dunphy	Bromsgrove District Council
Elaine	Mortimore	Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum
David	Shaw	West Mercia Police
Ann	Sowton	Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN)

ACTION

Item 2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

RH welcomed Judy Hallam to her first LSP Board Meeting. RH also welcomed all others in attendance and each person introduced themselves in turn.

Item 3 MINUTES OF MEETING 7 DECEMBER 2009 & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were approved as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Item 4 **THEME GROUP PERFORMANCE UPDATES**

Theme Group Chairs were asked to provide two successes and inform the Board of any areas of concern:

Community Safety Partnership

No update provided.

Better Environment Theme Group

RJ reported that a key area had been updating the high level action plan which was more focussed than the previous plan.

Successes: The delivery of the home insulation programme for over 60s. Approximately 280 households had received free insulation which addressed both climate change and fuel poverty. Promotion of normal measures had also continued.

Concern: How CO₂ emissions relating to businesses and transport could be reduced was an issue. It was explained that there were more resources available to help address reducing domestic CO₂ emissions but there was lack of funding for transport and businesses.

RJ informed the Board that WPEG (Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group) had submitted two bids for funding and were waiting to hear a response. One was for additional grants to assist householders to clear lofts, similar to the existing scheme in Malvern, and the other bid related to the 'Green Loan Scheme' to assist residents to upgrade their boilers.

There was some discussion around NI 186 (CO₂ emission in the local area) as the target was a reduction of 9% over 3 years finishing in 2010/11. RJ explained that data for 2008 was not available until 2011; however, it was known that CO₂ had been increasing.

RJ stated that raising awareness was key and smart energy monitors were mentioned as a way that could help. It was stated that for certain groups of people, smart energy monitors could be obtained free of charge. MBryan also stated that employees at the County could apply to borrow one and other partners could do the same.

With regard to businesses, JM suggested that he should meet with RJ to discuss future actions and encourage engagement with small and medium enterprises (SME).

JM / RJ

There was a brief discussion on housing, specifically in relation to bringing existing stock up to standard. RJ believed all new builds should be to the same energy efficiency and conservation standard as required for new social housing.

RH stated that the topic of environment and specifically, reducing CO₂ emissions, could be discussed in a separate session over the next 12 months.

Town Centre Project Group

Successes: (i) Opening of the new toilet block and renewing of bus station in the town centre on 7 August 2009; and (ii) planning approval had been given and legal documents completed for the new medical centre meaning work could commence late October 2009.

Concerns: (i) With the arrival of Sainsbury's, there was a concern over the road junction and car parking arrangements; and (ii) the resurfacing of the High Street was also an issue. It was felt that this would be an important improvement.

RH asked for an update on the Blue Light campus. PS stated discussions were taking place between NEW College and the Police and Fire Services.

PS stated there was a report going to Council proposing the Market Hall be demolished due to the cost (£45K per year). It was hoped that the area would be developed in the future, but as car park revenue in the town centre was bucking the trend and was increasing, in the meantime it was being suggested that it could be used as a car park.

Longbridge Project Group

Successes: (i) It was reported that approval had been given to fund Bournville College on the site; and (ii) a youth provision called 'My Space' had also received lottery funding and it would be located on Longbridge Lane.

Concerns: (i) PS stated there was a serious viability issue as no agreement had been reached in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy; and (ii) the proposal for the 'Kick Start' Lickey Road development has been turned down by HCA (Homes and Communities Agency), but it was expected to be resubmitted in January 2010.

Economic Theme Group

MG reminded the Board that the Economic Theme Group was still in its infancy. The Theme Group had met in May and was due to meet again later this month. Terms of reference had been established and an action plan had been drafted. Although only new, the group had secured funding to assist disabled people to get into work. It was confirmed that there had also been a lot of work with the Trunk.

MBrown stated that there was a growing older population and he believed that it was important to recognise older people as potential employees and encourage them back into work. HB responded that there was a scrutiny investigation being undertaken relating to older people focusing on housing, health, income and employment. HB went on to state that through his research he had found out information on a skills exchange academy which could be used as a way to encourage older people to act as a role model for young people, particularly those falling into the NEET (not in education, employment or training) category.

JH asked what work the Theme Group had planned to address NEETs as NEW College had seen a sharp increase in the numbers applying to the college to enrol on courses due to the current economic climate. Although a rise had been expected, numbers applying had exceeded expectations and there was a concern this need might not be met. MG explained that the most up to date information was pre “credit crunch”, but it was understood that due to the recession, the national trend appeared to be that more young people were turning to education and training due to the lack of jobs available. JH agreed to supply NEW College figures to give the Theme Group a clearer indication of the current picture. HB also mentioned that, for Worcestershire, NEETs had been redefined and the age group covered was 16-25 years old rather than 16-18 years old.

JH

Health and Wellbeing Theme Group

Successes: (i) Physical activity through BECAN (Bromsgrove Extended Community Action Network) was going from strength to strength; (ii) the activity referral scheme for chronic conditions had been a success and there was a waiting list; (iii) due to demand, four instead of two mental health workshops had been ran; and (iv) there was an Alcohol Plan in place for the District.

Concerns: (i) Potential funding from the Community Leadership Fund had not been applied for by County Councillors and there was a concern that this funding could soon be lost. EMOore stated he had raised this at County and requested the information session promised, be arranged by County. LA stated that for Bromsgrove County Councillors, a session had been held at the Council House; however, this had been prior to the elections in May. (ii) Another concern was £50K was required to fund the Age Well Scheme and the NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) bid for £40K had been unsuccessful. The lack of ‘Older People’ representation at meetings was also an issue.

As the Age Well Scheme was likely to fall under the Older People's Theme Group in future, HB pointed out that the Older People's Theme Group had no funding at all. With regard to representation, HB stated that the LSP structure would be discussed at the half day away day the following week.

MBrown suggested that due to many older people living in the District being affluent, older people might agree to contribute. JM informed the Board of lists, that he was aware were available, of retired business people which could be used to identify older people living in Bromsgrove who might be able to assist. RH agreed that this issue needed to be resolved and suggested the lack of funding for the Age Well Scheme together with the lack of funding for the Older People's Theme Group in general should be discussed in a separate session.

RH

Children and Young People Theme Group

Successes: (i) PS stated that the County regarded the Bromsgrove Partnership's Children and Young People Theme Group as one of the best District theme groups. The Theme Group was working closely with the County with regard to the commissioning arrangements; and (ii) work was being done to re-launch U Decide next year. It was stated that the U Decide model used at Bromsgrove, once refined, was likely to be rolled out as a pilot across the West Midlands in the future.

Concern: (i) The terms of reference was being revised to make sure the Theme Group remained focussed and named representatives would be included; (ii) work around 'Cool to be Healthy' had not been progressed as much as anticipated; and (iii) lack of young people representatives.

With regard to the final concern, PS informed the Board of a recent visit to another local authority (regarding takeaways) which used 'Youth Ambassadors' as a way of consulting young people. To encourage engagement, they were paid for their assistance. HB stated that a member of his team, who focuses on Community Engagement, was investigating this option as a way forward for the future.

RH stated that the recommendation from the Worcestershire Partnership's Joint Commissioning Board was to have local children's trusts. It was expected that the children and young people's theme group for each District would take on this role and be responsible for commissioning.

Older People Theme Group

Successes: HB referred to the scrutiny investigation which the Chair of the Older People's Theme Group was a co-opted member of and which he was also involved in. As previously

stated earlier in the meeting, the remit of the Task Group was focussed on housing, health, income and employment.

Concern: Lack of funding for the Older People's Theme Group. It was questioned if partners could show that, following the Away Day in June, they had fed back to their organisations. For example, the Council were looking to fund the Older People's Services Directory (as there appeared to be a lack of awareness of services available). It was suggested that, in this instance, all partners could make a contribution through buying space in the directory.

Housing Theme Group

Successes: (i) Housing Market Assessment; (ii) the Council's successful Strategic Housing Inspection; (iii) opening of Gilbert Court on Friday 18 September 2009; and (iv) exceeding the housing allocation target of 80 units per year. With regard to the final point, MBrown stated that if performance over the past 3 years continued over the next 15 years, the housing imbalance would be addressed.

Concerns: (i) The elderly with support needs was an issue that needed to be addressed; (ii) ways to attract funding for the District, in the future, particularly urban parts; and (iii) planning challenges in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (which might be delayed further by 2-3 weeks).

Transport Theme Group

Success: BURT (Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport) to be launched on Monday 21 September 2009.

Concern: Train station funding was a concern. HB stated that the build had been scaled down to meet the funding allocation which had led to a decrease in car parking spaces and the loss of a station building.

Item 5

DRAFT PRIORITIES AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A table outlining the objectives, priorities and key deliverables was considered. It was pointed out that the draft priorities and key deliverables had come out of the Away Day held on 26 June 2009.

HB stated that the purpose of the Away Day being held in June was to ensure there was an opportunity to feed into budget rounds. It was evident that this had happened at the Council, but it was asked if other LSP partners were also putting funding behind the priorities and key deliverables. One good example of where this had happened was the Trunk, however, further debate was required to ensure appropriate resources were being put behind the priorities and key deliverables to ensure

the Bromsgrove Partnership could deliver them. Therefore, this would be discussed in more depth at the half day Away Day planned for the following week.

Item 6 **ARRANGEMENTS FOR HALF DAY AWAY DAY**

LSP Members were reminded that the half day Away Day was scheduled to be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 September 2009 at Sunfield in Clent.

It was stated that lunch would be provided on arrival at 12.45pm and work would commence at 1.15pm. HB informed the Board that David Galliers from Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands would be attending and taking the role of critical friend. The afternoon would cover the: Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2010-13; structure of the Bromsgrove Partnership (i.e. was the LSP appropriately organised to deliver the SCS); and performance management and improvement (i.e. monitoring action plans and considering how the Board could add value). It was anticipated that the afternoon would finish at approximately 4.30pm. Everyone present confirmed they would be attending.

Item 7 **AREAS OF HIGHEST NEED UPDATE**

It was explained that the Trunk was Bromsgrove Partnership's Areas of Highest Need proposal for a share of the LAA Reward funding and had been formed via the Successful Neighbourhoods Theme Group.

It was stated that there was a section 10 agreement under the Children's Act 2004 between core funders (BDC, WCC, Police and BDHT) and EPIC (Community Interest Company) had been appointed for ongoing management provision. Originally, it was expected that LAA Reward funding would be allocated in November 2009; however, it had now been delayed until March 2010. Although this did place pressure on the existing section 10 agreement, it was believed the work on the Trunk could continue.

PS briefly explained that the project saw statutory and voluntary sectors working together to deliver a project that would operate in the three most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

It was reported that there had been a suggestion that there should be a 'Dragons Den' so that bids could be justified; however, it was believed that this would mean the proposals being challenged at the end of the process rather than near the beginning.

It was stated that the project was evidence based and the members of the Theme Group were very active. The Board

was informed that the next meeting was due to be held on 9 October 2009.

HB stated that he was working with Emily Humphreys (Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Analyst from the County Council) to make sure the correct NIs (National Indicators) were included.

Item 8 **WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

KD provided a brief update relating to the Worcestershire Partnership and stated that the LAA was continuing to be delivered. He reported that funding had dropped from £13m to £8m and explained that the LAA funds had been divided into three pots, including a pot for the Areas of Highest Need proposals and a commissioning pot. KD reported that it had been suggested that the commissioning pot may instead be used to address geographical inequalities. KD also mentioned governance arrangements for the Worcestershire Partnership had recently discussed.

Item 9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business discussed.

Item 10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Those in attendance were reminded that the half day Away Day was scheduled to be held at **12.45pm on 22 September 2009 at Sunfield in Clent** and the next meeting of the Board was scheduled to be held on **8 October 2009 at 2pm**. RH pointed out the importance of attending on both dates.

ALL

Meeting closed at 4.00pm.