

Bromsgrove Partnership Board

23 March 2010 at 2pm

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Roger	Hollingworth	Bromsgrove District Council (Chair)
Liz	Altay	NHS Worcestershire
Hugh	Bennett	Bromsgrove District Council
Mike	Brown	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT)
Maggie	Bryan	Worcestershire County Council (WCC)
Angela	Burnet	West Mercia Police
Eddie	Clarke	Worcestershire County Council (WCC)
John	Cypher	Parish Councils (CALC)
Mike	Dunphy	Bromsgrove District Council
Marie	Green	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT)
Judy	Hallam	NEW College
Della	McCarthy	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Ed	Moore	Worcestershire County Council (WCC)
David	Shaw	West Mercia Police
Ann	Sowton	Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN)

Item 1 APOLOGIES

John	Morgan	Small and Medium Businesses (Vice-Chair)
Kevin	Dicks	Bromsgrove District Council
John	Staniland	Bromsgrove District Council

ACTION

Item 2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

RH welcomed everyone in attendance and each person introduced themselves in turn.

Item 3 MINUTES OF MEETING 10 DECEMBER 2009 AND MATTERS ARISING

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

Item 4 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FORUM MINUTES**

The minutes and the Highlight Report of the Equality and Diversity Forum held on 10 December 2010 were considered and noted.

It was pointed out that the reason why the minutes were lengthy was due to a historical issue. Particular attention was given to the sections relating to ‘What could the Council have done better’ and ‘What the Council has done well’ within the Highlight Report. It was commented that by ensuring invitees, including the Police, were informed in advance in a timely manner of questions likely to be raised, it would mean Forum members were more likely to receive full answers at the meeting from appropriate representatives. HB agreed to pass on the Board’s comments. It was also noted that the District Council’s Equalities Officer, Fiona Scott, had done an excellent job over the past few years.

HB / DM

The link to the Equality and Diversity Forum was raised and discussed again. It was noted that AS was a member of the Forum and other LSP members were encouraged to attend a Forum meeting. It was pointed out that the Bromsgrove Partnership had engaged with Forum members for particular projects, for example, the Community Transport Sub-Group (BURT – Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport) and the Town Centre Steering Group relating to the new toilet block. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Forum Chair could be invited to attend a Board meeting periodically.

HB / DM

Item 5 **THEME GROUP AWAY DAY**

Consideration was given to the report relating to the Theme Group Away Day held on 12 February 2010. It was commented that David Winchurch (Local Improvement Advisor from ‘Learning 2 Deliver’) who was invited to assist members on the day, was impressed with how far Bromsgrove Partnership had progressed compared to other LSPs he had worked with and he also complimented the Chair of the Board.

LSP Structure

The summary of points made on the Away Day listed (a) to (n) under paragraph 3.4 of the report were considered one at a time. There was some discussion around a number of points, particularly (b) which stated that all Theme Groups met on a bi-monthly basis. It was questioned whether some Theme Groups should remain meeting on a quarterly basis.

It was agreed that:

(i) points (a) to (n) in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved*;

(ii) the new structure shown in appendix 1 to the report be approved;

(iii) groups created underneath Theme Groups be called Working Groups;

(iv) the support for each Group shown in appendix 2 to the report be approved and the Groups under the 'Stronger Communities' Theme with no existing support be supported by BDHT (as agreed by MBrown);

(v) the following be appointed as Chairs to the relevant Theme Group:

- Rachel Jones (Act on Energy) – Better Environment Theme Group;
- John Morgan (Representative of Small and Medium Businesses) – Economic Development Theme Group;
- Liz Altay (NHS Worcestershire) – Health and Wellbeing Theme Group;
- Councillor June Griffiths (Bromsgrove District Council) – Children and Young People Theme Group and it was hoped that Elaine Mortimore (Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum) would continue her involvement on the Theme Group as Vice-Chair; and
- Mike Brown (Bromsgrove District Housing Trust) – Stronger Communities Theme Group;

(vi) that Angie Heighway (Bromsgrove District Council) be nominated by the Board to be Chair of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Steering Group;

(vii) membership and terms of reference for each theme group be reported to the Board;

(viii) Ann Sowton (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network) remain as the Bromsgrove Partnership's Champion for Older People; and

(ix) any cross-cutting issues across different Theme Groups be addressed via the Board as necessary when Theme Group Chairs provide their progress report.

DM

MBrown

DM

DM

AS

**THEME GROUP
CHAIRS**

*It was noted that with regards to the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Steering Group (and the new Children's Trust when implemented) certain points would not apply which were (b), (g), (k) and (l) under paragraph 3.4 of the report.

Trunk Action Plan

Theme Group Chairs were reminded that the deadline for the completion of Assessment Forms and Action Plans relating to the Trunk was 31 March 2010. The Board was

**THEME GROUP
CHAIRS**

informed that a Theme Group Chairs meeting, involving the Board's Chair and Vice-Chair, to discuss the Trunk's Action Plan was scheduled to be held on 21 April 2010.

Item 6 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The draft Terms of Reference for the Board was considered. Particular attention was given to the members of the Board listed on page 11 and the substitutions section on page 14. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference be adopted.

Item 7 **THEME GROUP PERFORMANCE UPDATES**

The following Theme Group updates were provided:

Community Safety Partnership Steering Group

AB and DS gave a progress report which was positive in terms of decreasing levels and perception of anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime figures were also down. It was reported that there had been a slight increase in assaults but it was believed that it was possible this was due to changes in recording the information. Effective marketing of the work of the Community Safety Partnership was also discussed.

Better Environment Theme Group

HB stated that in his new role, he would be attending future meetings of this Theme Group. HB referred to the statutory target of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

Economic Development Theme Group

It was reported that the new Theme Group had met for the first time in February when its terms of reference was discussed. It was stated that the next meeting was due to be held on 30 March 2010.

Town Centre Steering Group

MD stated that work had commenced on the new Health Centre site and it was anticipated that the planning application submitted by Sainsbury's would be determined within the next few months. MD also referred to the new National Planning Policy relating to town centres which needed to be taken into consideration. It was reported that work was continuing and by the end of the year, it was hoped more detailed timescales would be known, dependent on the recession.

MD briefly explained Section 278 of the Highways Act and Section 106 of the Planning Act relating to Sainsbury's planning application. It was confirmed that any

improvements to the High Street would be to the whole High Street although it was likely that it would be implemented in phases and would be funded by more than one source.

RH provided an update on discussions relating to the blue light zone. It was anticipated that the date of completion of the blue light zone would be 2013.

Economic Theme Group and Successful Neighbourhoods Theme Group

MG informed the Board of the social enterprise scheme hoping to be developed using various pots of funding. MG also referred to funding cuts relating to adult education. JH stated that although the overall budget for NEW College remained unchanged, in line with national priorities, there had been a decrease in funding for adult courses and an increase in funding for 16-19 year olds. JH reported that NEW College were looking into this issue. MG commented that such cuts to adult education seriously impacted on the work of the Trunk. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the Theme Group Chairs meeting due to be held on 21 April 2010 and therefore, a NEW College representative should be invited to the meeting.

DM / JH

The funding for the Trunk from Worcestershire Partnership was also referred to and it was confirmed that it was still expected from DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) by 31 March 2010.

Health and Wellbeing Theme Group

LA reported on the PSI (Postural Stability Instruction) Programme for older people (also known as falls prevention) and the Healthy Eating Project in Sidemoor for young people (known as the SHED Project). Both were to be funded through County Councillor contributions via the Community Leadership for Health Fund.

Children and Young People Theme Group

RH gave a brief update on the Local Children's Trust arrangements and the plan to launch the Trust in April 2010. It was explained that the Trust would be a statutory body. Safeguarding issues was also briefly mentioned.

Older People Theme Group

AS referred to the Older People scrutiny exercise which had led to 20 recommendations including the Older People's Directory. It was hoped that the directory could be launched during Older People's week in October.

Housing Theme Group

MBrown provided an update on the Perryfields affordable housing development which had received £8m external funding for the two and a half year scheme.

There was a brief discussion around the concerns JC raised relating to the Regional Spatial Strategy and new housing proposals in Bromsgrove District. It was believed that John Staniland (Executive Director of Planning, Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing) would be best placed to respond to these queries once he was up to speed in his new role, and therefore, an item would be included on a future agenda to allow an opportunity for discussion.

JS / DM

Transport Theme Group

HB reported that work relating to the train station was progressing and BURT (Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport) was operating well.

Compact Steering Group

Although the last Compact Steering Group had to be cancelled, partly due to Phil Street's departure, it was reported that Angie Heighway would be taking this over in her new role at the Council as Head of Community, with the support of HB.

AS stated that the National Volunteering Week Working Group was still meeting and work was progressing.

General

There was a brief discussion relating to community engagement and in particular PACT Meetings and Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

DS stated that Bromsgrove District was the only District where Council managers attended PACT meetings but it was understood that due to the move to a single management structure across Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils, Council officers were unable to continue the same level of support.

It was stated that the Police were undertaking an audit to assess what worked well and what did not in relation to PACT meetings with a view to developing effective community engagement arrangements for the Police and partners.

With regards to what was included within the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-13, the Board was reminded that it was accurate at the time of writing and was updated on an

annual basis which was more frequent than many other LSPs updated their strategies.

Item 8 WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

It was stated that the Worcestershire Partnership's Management Group would be considering the option of developing a countywide Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and views of the Board were requested. HB stated that he could not foresee any issues with a countywide SCS which incorporated a chapter for each District, as he believed it might assist the Bromsgrove Partnership in ensuring issues specific to Bromsgrove District would be highlighted at a County level. Board members supported this view.

KD

Item 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MBryan informed the Board that, due to a colleague taking a career break, from April 2010, she would be taking on the role of Joint Partnership Co-ordinator for the Worcestershire Partnership.

Item 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded of the meeting dates already agreed for 2010/11 which were:

- Thursday 20 May 2010
- Thursday 29 July 2010
- Thursday 23 September 2010
- Thursday 25 November 2010
- Thursday 27 January 2011
- Thursday 31 March 2011

ALL

Meeting closed at 4.10pm