

# CHARLESTOWN & LOWER KERSAL NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES



## Minutes of

### NDC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Held at

Salford Innovation Forum

**MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009**

## IN ATTENDANCE

### PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Ann-Marie Pickup	(Chair) Community Representative
Kevin Coakley	Community Representative
James Eagle	Merlyn Electronics
Lee Craven	Voluntary Sector
Dorothy Jones	Voluntary Sector
Les Smith	Community Representative
Stella Elliott	Community Representative
Linda Carr	Community Representative
Harry Davies	Community Representative
Janice Lowndes	Salford PCT
Steve Aveyard	The Albion School
Steve Bailey	Greater Manchester Police
John Merry	(Vice Chair) Leader of Salford City Council

### SUPPORT TO THE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tim Field	NDC
Alison Burnett	NDC
Anne Lythgoe	NDC
Brian Enright	NDC
Bernadette Elder	NDC
Ian Marshall	Job Centre Plus
Kevin Scarlett	Salix Homes
Anne Godding	East Salford Neighbourhood Management Team
Paul Walker	Salford City Council

Also present:

Sheila Murtagh Partners In Salford (for item 5 only)

## PART 1

### 1. APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were received from Christine Gough, Brenda Moore, Peter Connor, James Powell, and Phil Geller.

All present introduced themselves, and Ann-Marie welcomed Paul Walker to the meeting as Accountable Body representative.

Ann-Marie advised the Board that she had received a letter from Carole Woodward, expressing her concerns about the NDC Partnership's involvement in the development of housing on a green area at the Albion estate. Ann-Marie is arranging to meet with Carole in order to discuss her future involvement in the NDC Partnership Board.

Tim Field advised the meeting that the planning application for 21 properties at the former Poets site had not yet been submitted, but advised Board members that this development is being supported by the Partnership in order to provide relocation options for those affected by demolition proposals. He went on to remind Board members that in compensation for the loss of green space, further landscaping and improvement works are planned adjacent to the Albion Estate, along the banks of the River Irwell. Consultation with local residents is ongoing.

Ann-Marie advised the meeting that if Carole's resignation from the Board was confirmed, then elections would need to be held for a community representative from Charlestown. She then went on to congratulate Les and Stella, who have both been re-elected to the Board at the recent elections held at East Salford Community Committee.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received at this point, but it was agreed that these should be noted at item 4.

## **5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

This item was moved up the agenda and taken at this point.

Sheila Murtagh, the Partnership Manager from Partners in Salford (Salford's Local Strategic Partnership) made a presentation about the draft Salford Sustainable Communities Strategy. Having explained the role and composition of the Local Strategic Partnership, Sheila explained that the Sustainable Communities Strategy follows on from the Salford Community Plan (Making the Vision Real) which was published in December 2005.

### **Steve Aveyard joined the meeting at this point.**

This new strategy has been prepared following new guidance from Government which requires further strategy around environmental, economic and social sustainability, as well as reflecting on the progress made towards the vision, since the publication of the original Community Plan.

The new Sustainable Communities Strategy also includes the 'connecting people to opportunities' initiative, and better links into new reporting and inspection requirements for the Strategic Partnership.

Sheila then explained that no major changes are being made and the 7 thematic objectives remain the same. However, the vision has been extended to run until 2024 and 4 cross-cutting themes have been identified.

Consultation on the draft strategy runs until 20<sup>th</sup> February, and there is a consultation form on the partners in Salford website at <http://www.partnersinsalford.org/vision/sustainable-community-strategy.htm>

The strategy will also be discussed at the Salford Strategic Partnership Board meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February, at which Ann-Marie will be in attendance.

Sheila advised Board members that the key issues for them to consider are:

- Do the objectives make sense in your area?
- Are there any glaring gaps?

Ann-Marie asked whether Salford had funding in place to deliver the objectives of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. In response, John Merry stated that although some is in place, the main target for the coming year will be dealing with the impact of the credit crunch, with the vision needing to be set within the context of the immediate financial crisis. However, the vision lasts beyond any immediate issues and Salford needs to position itself to take advantage when the economy improves. He went on to stress that we must be realistic in our expectations and work to preserve the gains made over the last few years.

Ann-Marie then asked who is responsible for ensuring delivery. In response, Sheila confirmed that there will be an annual review and report to the Salford Strategic Partnership, with delivery through the individual business plans of the Partner organisations. Effectively the Sustainable Communities Strategy is a framework for the aligning of partners' business plans.

Alison circulated a list of key questions that the Partnership Board could consider in commenting on the Strategy, which included sharing the learning from the NDC programme in terms of partnership working, narrowing the gap, community engagement and empowerment, and delivery. In addition, building on experience locally within the six NDC thematic programmes, are there any gaps in the objectives being set?

Finally, Sheila advised board members that the New Deal Partnership could contribute towards case study examples which will bring the strategy to life. These would also be placed on the Partners in Salford website, with contact details for the projects, so that others could contact them to share learning and ideas. It was noted that local action was already being taken by residents in the New Deal area, in order to tackle issues which were seen as a threat to East Salford having a sustainable community, such as environmental crime, and houses in multiple occupation.

### **The Partnership Board:**

**Considered the draft Sustainable Community Strategy. Comments made and any further comments should be submitted via the Partners in Salford website or direct to Alison Burnett who would be co-ordinating a response on behalf of the Partnership Board by the deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009.**

### **3. MINUTES FROM MEETING OF MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008.**

The draft minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November.

It was noted at this point that Christine Gough from Government Office had sent her apologies, but also a message to Board members about up coming changes to the structure of Government Office (GO), which are likely to mean that the Partnership's contact with GO is likely to be through a new Locality Manager, who will be the one single point of contact for Salford.

Matters arising from the minutes included:

Tim Field confirmed that discussions with the City Council around the Innovation forum had confirmed that the community space was not intended to be seen as primarily an income generating opportunity, but that it appears that the Partnership may be able to charge rent to occupiers of the space as part of an exit strategy arrangement. Tim Field was asked to confirm if there is a condition attached to the NDC's funding of the Social Media project, which states when they should start to pay rent.

Tim Field confirmed that comments on the Core Strategy had been sent on behalf of the Partnership Board to the Director of Sustainable Regeneration, and discussions will need to take place around the review of the Development Framework. This needs to consider its content, alignment with other planning documents, status in planning terms and how it will be implemented.

Ann-Marie thanked all Partnership Board members who attended the succession planning workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Brian Enright confirmed that the issue raised by Brenda Moore under Any Other Business, was now being addressed by Salix Homes.

**Please note that additional matters arising from the minutes are not for publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government (access to information) Act 1985.**

#### **4. PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Anne Lythgoe presented a report which

- Provided information on expenditure to date for the 2008-09 financial year, including the quarter 3 outturn
- Advised the Partnership Board of an increase to the 2008-09 capital grant allocation
- Provided an update from the Finance sub-committee
- Provided the Annual Report from the Monitoring and Evaluation sub-committee

At the end of December 2008, 9 months into the financial year, and at the end of quarter 3, the Partnership had spent a total of £4,507,730, which represents an overspend of £185,746 (4%) on the Programme Implementation Plan figure for this

point in the year. It was noted that the capital programme in particular is spending ahead of target.

Anne then went on to advise Board members, that following approval by Finance Sub-committee in December 2008, a request had been submitted to Department for Communities and Local Government to bring forwards £250,000 capital from the 2009-10 financial year into the current one. This has now been approved, and full expenditure is anticipated. Board members were asked to note the increase in the grant allocation for 2008-09 to £6.99 million (from 6.74 million).

Board members were provided with minutes of the December meeting of the Finance Sub-committee and asked to note the decisions that it had made.

Finally, Anne Lythgoe noted that previously, Board members had been provided with summaries of projects which had been approved by Appraisal panel (now Finance sub-committee) and Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-committee. The former would now be reported with the minutes from Finance Sub-committee, but the latter will continue on a quarterly basis. Appendix 2 to the current report, however, contained a report from all projects which have been reviewed by Monitoring and Evaluation sub-committee, and Anne noted that these reports have also been shared with Project Managers and Task Groups.

Ann-Marie thanked members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-committee, particularly James Eagle, its Chair.

#### **The Partnership Board:**

- **Noted the current levels of expenditure and Quarter 3 outturn**
- **Noted the revised capital grant allocation of £4.046 million**
- **Noted the report from and decisions made by December's meeting of the Finance sub-committee**
- **Noted the annual report from Monitoring and Evaluation sub-committee**

Tim Field advised Board members that a complaint had been received about the process with which Declarations of Interest had been recorded and treated by a Task Group during the Delivery Planning discussions. This had been investigated, but Tim reminded all Board members that although Task Groups have only an advisory role in the preparation of the Delivery Plan, it is important that Declarations of Interest are made, recorded and respected by the individual that make them. This will enable unbiased views and decision-making.

Declarations of Interest were then discussed with regard to the Delivery planning workshop held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, at which the following people declared interest in specific projects:

Ann-Marie Pickup (GEARS+, Salford Foundation Compact and Young Volunteers projects)

Kevin Coakley (St Sebastian's Community Centre, CHAP, In Bloom)

Linda Carr (schools projects, In Bloom)

Lee Craven (In Bloom)

Dot Jones (CHAP)

James Eagle (GEARS+, business support)

At the Board meeting, the following additional declarations of interest were made:

Stella Elliot (Gemini Group)  
Harry Davies (Lower Kersal Allotments)  
Steve Aveyard (Supporting Schools project)  
Kevin Scarlett (Housing improvement projects)  
Steve Bailey (Neighbourhood Policing / PCSOs)

Alison Burnett then tabled a report (Item 4a) updating Board members following the Delivery planning working session on 20<sup>th</sup> January. This reported the discussion and decisions taken at the Delivery planning session, and also introduced further items for discussion.

Alison explained that following the first Delivery Plan working session in November 2008 all revenue projects were requested to look at the scope for making 2% savings on their current year's budget. However, following this review it can be confirmed that there is no scope for introducing any of the delayed new projects in the current year.

Alison went on to explain that an assessment of the proposed new projects were discussed in detail at the second working session and it was agreed that three (including one reserve) of the seven projects should be included in the 2009/10 programme:

- **Diversionary and support activities for young people (reserve project if match funding available)**
- **Skills and Aspirations Development (if match funding available)**
- **Smoking Cessation.**

**The above decisions were ratified by the Partnership Board.**

Following the session, it was noted that the above decisions included an inconsistency around the Transition project, which had been removed from the Delivery plan, despite it's continuing priority. Discussion then highlighted the lack of funding for this type of work, which falls between primary and secondary education.

**The Partnership Board agreed that the Transition project should be included as a reserve project in the programme, but be conditional upon match funding being made available.**

The Board working session also discussed a series of time expired projects. Of the 19 projects, it was agreed that 11 projects would be further funded (in full or part) within the 2009/10 programme. Of the other 8 projects, four were being mainstreamed / funded through contracts and the other four projects would come to an end unless alternative funding could be found.

**The decisions made at the working session with regard to time expired projects were ratified by the Partnership Board.**

Board members were then asked to consider the future of the CCTV project. Alison confirmed that Finance Sub Committee had agreed to fund the CCTV project until the end of March 2009. However, no mainstream funding has been secured to

date and is looking extremely unlikely in the short term. She stressed that the impact of not continuing to fund the monitoring and maintenance of the CCTV system could include an increase in fear of crime within the local community, but also that the Partnership could be asked to repay some or all of the cost of installing the system. This could be up to £300,000.

Kevin Scarlett confirmed that Salix Homes is reviewing its provision of CCTV cameras, and could include those on the New Deal system which are on Salix estates, within this review. He explained that where cameras do not cover Salix properties, he will be working with the City to secure additional funding. The review will take up to a year to complete and implement the findings. If the NDC Partnership could continue to fund the monitoring and maintenance for another year, then Salix Homes could work with the New Deal Partnership in this review.

Following discussion, it was confirmed that the annual cost of monitoring and maintenance of the NDC CCTV system is £28,000.

**The Partnership Board agreed that a sum of £28,000 should be included within the Delivery plan for 2009-10 financial year for the CCTV project. It also approved a three-month extension to the current contract, running until June 30th 2009, in order for a re-appraisal to be prepared.**

The Partnership Board then considered 4 financial scenarios. Alison reminded Board members of the high level of commitments in the programme, particularly next year, and that it is vital that the any new projects or continued time expired projects are affordable and can be contained within the agreed over-programming level of 10 –15%. Tim Field added that if we plan too high this may lead to overspending, and a need to make savings later in the programme.

**The Partnership Board approved option 4 as the preferred financial programme for the next 2 years, a scenario which included:**

- **13.0% over programming (2009/10)**
- **9.7% over programming (2010/11)**
- **11.9% over programming (both years)**

**All of the above include the named reserve projects.**

**(James Eagle abstained from this decision)**

Ann-Marie reminded all Board members that at this stage these decisions should remain confidential and not shared with individual projects. Alison went on to explain that it is essential that these are communicated in a sensitive and timely manner, and proposed a number of actions as part of a communications plan.

**The Partnership Board agreed the communications plan detailed in section 4.1 of the report.**

Alison then reminded Board members that a third working session has been scheduled for **11<sup>th</sup> February 2009** which will provide an opportunity to discuss the final shape of the overall Delivery Plan before a draft Plan is submitted to Government Office North West (GONW) on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2009.

The final Delivery Plan will need to be submitted to GONW on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2009. Final approval will be sought from the Board and the City Council as the accountable body in March and April respectively.

**The Partnership Board noted that a final Board Delivery Plan working session will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 (4 pm).**

## **6. EVALUATION UPDATE**

Anne Lythgoe presented a report which provided initial conclusions from the draft 2009 Programme Evaluation Report and invited discussion about how the information contained in this evaluation report can be used by the Partnership.

The purpose of the programme evaluation report is to provide an accurate report of the progress of the NDC Partnership so far, which can be shared with everyone so that they can be informed, celebrate achievements, learn from both success and failure and plan effectively for the future of Charlestown and Lower Kersal.

Anne presented an appendix to the report, which provided initial conclusions from programme evaluation. Discussion centred around how the Partnership can use the learning from this evaluation. Tim Field noted that in some cases it is difficult to establish direct cause and effect between the activities of the New Deal programme, and the outcomes being seen. However, the Partnership is asked to measure a number of indicators across the programme, and these are generally improving and making progress. The perception of local residents, as shown by the MORI surveys is that things are improving in the NDC area.

It was noted that the results for Charlestown and Lower Kersal should be compared with other similar areas where there has been no NDC funding. Furthermore, it was noted that there are lessons contained within the programme, for example, how successful a multi themed approach has been. Other reasons for success include the neighbourhood level approach, the dedication of local residents and their involvement in all aspects of programme management and delivery.

Anne Lythgoe reminded Board members that a further element of the Local Evaluation Framework is external verification of the programme evaluation report. A consultancy contract has been let with Louise Hale of Blue Spot Consultancy, in order to facilitate this external verification. Anne went on to explain who will be involved in this verification, and how it was envisaged that it would work. Bernadette Elder explained that a small number of local residents, who are currently involved in New Deal funded activities, but not members of Task groups or the Partnership Board, had also been approached to take part in the verification.

Anne then asked Board members to consider how they might like to be represented at the verification panel. Ann-Marie Pickup, Kevin Coakley and Linda Carr all volunteered to attend on the day.

## **The Partnership Board:**

- **Noted the initial conclusions from the 2009 programme evaluation**
- **Nominated Ann-Marie Pickup, Kevin Coakley and Linda Carr to represent the Partnership Board at the external verification meeting to be held in early March 2009.**

Alison Burnett advised Partnership Board members that the NDC National Evaluation Team had asked to talk to all community Board members as part of a piece of research that they are undertaking. It was agreed that Alison will e-mail all community representatives asking for their permission to provide the National Evaluation Team with their contact details.

**Les Smith left the meeting at this point.**

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Anne Lythgoe reminded Board members about the Succession visits and asked them to contact her with their preferences for which visits they would like to attend.
- Steve Aveyard advised the Board that the Albion High School had been awarded Maths and Computing Specialist status. Ann-Marie congratulated the school, on behalf of the Board.

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**(5.30pm for) 6pm**

**ST SEBASTIAN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE**