

**CHARLESTOWN AND LOWER KERSAL NEW DEAL
FOR COMMUNITIES**

Minutes of

NDC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Held at

St Sebastian's Community Centre on Monday 27th April 2009

IN ATTENDANCE

PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Cllr John Merry (Chair)	Leader of Salford City Council
Harry Davies	Community Representative
Stella Elliot	Community Representative
Brenda Moore	Community Representative
Les Smith	Community Representative
James Eagle	Merlyn Electronics
James Powell	University of Salford
Janice Lowndes	Salford PCT
Steve Aveyard	Albion High School
Cllr Peter Connor	Ward Councillor

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tim Field	NDC
Alison Burnett	NDC
Brian Enright	NDC
Bernadette Elder	NDC
Anne Lythgoe	NDC
Mark Turley	NDC
Dave Bird	NDC (Minutes)
Anne Godding	East Salford Neighbourhood Management Team
Ian Marshall	Job Centre Plus
Paul Walker	Salford City Council

Also Present

Chris Marsh	Salford City Council (for Item 4)
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PART 1

1. APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were received from Linda Carr, Lee Craven, Ann-Marie Pickup, Kevin Coakley, Dot Jones, Phil Geller and Kevin Scarlett

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made by Brenda Moore (Item 6: Lower Kersal Estate) and Les Smith (Item 6: Withycombe Place).

3. MINUTES OF 30th MARCH 2009

Noted and agreed as a true record. It was noted however that Lee Craven and Dot Jones are voluntary sector representatives, not community representatives, as stated in the previous minutes.

Paul Walker, Steve Aveyard and Peter Connor joined the meeting at this point.

4. WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM PILOT

Alison Burnett and Chris Marsh gave a presentation on the proposed Working Neighbourhoods Team pilot. Alison highlighted the national Tackling Worklessness Review (March 2009), which recommended that tackling worklessness should be a mainstream objective. She went on to explain that a review of tackling worklessness in NDC areas, undertaken by DCLG, identified key lessons including: commissioning locally, responding to local and personal circumstances, involving local people and linking worklessness to other regeneration initiatives.

Alison went on to describe how the NDC model for skills and work involved universal services such as Job Centre Plus and Connexions; locality provision such as projects at the Lower Kersal Centre and wrap around services, such as Social Prescribing, Successful Transitions and Social Media which have been funded and delivered locally. To date these services have assisted over 1,000 people in to work and / or education.

Key learning from the NDC model included: joined up practice such as Salford College running courses at the Lower Kersal Centre, provision at a neighbourhood level in local venues and a focus on both job and learning outcomes and softer indicators. However more remains to be done including: involving mainstream service providers, addressing the barriers affecting clients, sustaining time limited provision where it is shown to be working, improving referrals and the role of the third sector.

She explained that Working Neighbourhoods Team would look to build on the experience of the NDC programme to date. This included evaluating and developing further 'what works', addressing barriers faced by local people, influencing service delivery and where appropriate commissioning new activity, engaging mainstream providers, encouraging further collaboration, referrals and data sharing between organisations, monitoring impact and engaging employers.

Chris Marsh re-iterated the need to build on the NDC foundations and also to harness mainstream resources to tackle worklessness through the Working Neighbourhoods Team model. Working Neighbourhood Teams would look to tackle worklessness on 3 tiers: through universal services (for those closest to the labour market), co-ordinated activity (to tackle rising unemployment) and a fully integrated approach (to tackle deep seated worklessness). Running through this would be a common spine that would involve co-commissioning, integrated employment & skills delivery, collective accountability, common standards, shared information and a customer focus.

The Working Neighbourhood Teams would offer a joined up support package to tackle worklessness and described the model as a department store, where people could access a range of services. The initial Working Neighbourhood Team pilots would be targeted at the NDC area, Eccles and Ordsall & Langworthy. He highlighted that partner buy in to the project was strong and in addition to NDC includes GMP, Salford PCT, Salford College, the Learning and Skills Council and local Registered Social Landlords.

Chris provided details about the next steps for the project that involve the creation of Management Teams for the Working Neighbourhood areas, developing early joint activity on the ground and changing commissioning arrangements.

John Merry commended the project for supporting individuals and helping them to move through the 'system'. He also commented that services that are making a difference should be supported and invested in. Tim Field explained that the Working Neighbourhoods Team could be an opportunity for mainstreaming and form part of the Succession Strategy for NDC.

The Board discussed the issues of both job creation and the need to provide a supportive environment for people to get in to work. Chris Marsh explained that creating services that respond to demand would be an important aspect of the project as well as social marketing, raising aspirations and developing incentive schemes with Registered Social Landlords.

Other discussion areas included:

- ensuring that there is sensitivity in the way that people are supported through this project and how the services being provided are described
- coaching people and building confidence
- empowering local people and taking their views seriously
- the role of Social Media as an opportunity to address negative media, and
- maximising links with Salford University

Following a query with regard to the impact of the current recession, it was noted that this work would enable services to respond quickly to people's needs and prepare now for the end of the recession period.

Alison Burnett also circulated a briefing paper on the Working Neighbourhoods Team for information.

The Partnership Board:

- **Approved the implementation of the Working Neighbourhood Team approach in the NDC area**
- **Requested a further report in June regarding the formal remit, action plan and progress of the Working Neighbourhood Team pilot in the New Deal area.**

5. PROGRAMME UPDATE

Anne Lythgoe presented a report that highlighted the provisional outturn for the 2008-09 financial year as £6,991,762 compared to £6,740,000 the original allocation. Anne went on to confirm how the capital programmed had successfully achieved an additional £250,000 expenditure brought forward from the 2009-10 financial year and returned a slight overspend of £1,730 (less than 1%). She went on to describe how the revenue programme had managed down the anticipated overspend, and returned overspend of £32, with the total overspend on the programme for 2008-09 being £1,762.

On behalf of the Finance sub-committee, James Eagle thanked Salford City Council for their support in helping achieve the spend. John Merry congratulated the New Deal Team on achieving a full spend and balanced budget for 2008-09.

Anne went on to explain that the Government has now confirmed that allocations to all NDC partnerships have been cut by around 1% of the indicative allocation for the final 2/3 years involving a loss of £154,000 to the year 10 allocation. She went on to explain that the implication of this cut would be explored in the Capital programme (Item 6). It was noted that given the current economic situation and cuts to funding of other regeneration programmes, such as Housing Market Renewal, the Partnership had not suffered too badly.

Anne informed the Board that no further guidance had been received from Government, and from discussions with Government Office, it can be assumed there will be no Performance Management self Assessment this year.

The Partnership Board

- **Noted the anticipated outturn for 2008-09 (subject to audit)**

- **Noted the position with regard to the Partnership's allocation for 2009-10.**
- **Noted the report about projects that have been reviewed by the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee.**
- **Noted the decisions made at February's meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee.**
- **Noted the position with regard to the Performance Management Self Assessment.**

6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Anne Lythgoe presented a report that explained that the indicative capital allocation of NDC grant for the final 2 years of the programme is £5,546,000. Based on the indicative allocation the capital programme is 6% over programmed.

Anne went on to inform the Board that for the ninth year of the NDC programme there are 12 projects in the capital programme. She explained that since writing the report, approval for the Site Assembly and Acquisitions project had now been received from government. Anne also explained that all project approvals were now in place with the exception of Withycombe Place, where resident consultation is due to start soon.

Anne described how at its meeting in March 2009, Finance Sub-Committee noted that the delivery of projects in the capital programme is influenced by risk associated with the delivery of some projects, changes to project delivery timescales and spend profiles since the original approvals of NDC grant funding.

Furthermore, the City Council is looking to reduce capital expenditure in the 2009-10 financial year due to the current economic situation, having not obtained the expected level of capital receipts.

Anne provided an update on progress with the environmental improvements to the Lower Kersal estate. It was noted that not all properties within the area covered by phases 4 and 5 were earmarked for improvements due to some properties already having existing drives, whilst others have curtilages that are not deep enough to accommodate a driveway. Furthermore, the scheme has been increased as improvements to the former demolition area also now fall within the programme of planned improvements, however no provision has been made within the NDC and Council/Salix Homes capital programmes. She recommended that NDC approach colleagues from the Council and Salix Homes in order to arrive at a funding proposal which would be presented to the Board in May.

Anne informed the Board how proposals for the first phase of London Street environmental improvements are at an advanced stage, with work scheduled to commence on site this summer. However, additional funding will be needed to undertake the improvements with NDC staff working with colleagues in the

Council and Salix Homes in order to arrive at a funding proposal and report back to the Board in May.

After a query from the Board regarding works undertaken to Grindon Avenue Brian Enright agreed to investigate and report back at the next meeting. Brian also noted that consultation would begin on Withycombe Place once funding has been approved by Finance sub-committee. The Board raised concerns over how properties in phases 4 and 5 with existing driveways would be assessed for inclusion in the scheme and requested that a common sense approach be adopted. Tim Field advised the Board that sound project management arrangements had been put in place with Urban Vision, in order to ensure this complicated scheme is delivered to programme.

In discussion, it was noted that in order to plan effectively for the remainder of the NDC capital programme, some flexibility would be required, including the need to spend NDC grant as a priority over match funding sources, in order to ensure spend in accordance with Government targets. This approach of maximising external grant sources such as NDC and Housing Market Renewal was supported by John Merry, who noted that as a proportion, more NDC grant than originally proposed would be spent in the 2009-10 financial year, with the City Council spending proportionately more in the final year. Overall the total expenditure and levels of match funding will not change.

The Partnership Board

- **Noted the progress made to date with the NDC capital programme.**
- **Gave approval for NDC staff to work with staff in the Council and Salix Homes in order to arrive at funding proposals for the completion of the Phase 6 Lower Kersal and Phase 2 London Street, environmental improvements.**
- **Approved the recommended way forward, including the submission of a report containing details of a revised programme in May 2009.**

7. TASK GROUP REVIEW

Alison Burnett presented a report that summarised the findings of the recent NDC Task Group Review and sought advice on the future arrangements of Task Groups.

She informed the Board that following the review of the governance arrangements of the NDC Partnership Board, in light of the NDC Succession Strategy, it had also become clear that it would be necessary to review the governance arrangements of the NDC Task Groups, in particular their role and structure.

Alison described how during the review there was a consensus that the Task Group's role in developing strategies, informing the annual delivery plan and developing projects was becoming less relevant given the period in the

programme. It was therefore proposed that the Task Groups should primarily focus on the following in the next two years:

- Evaluating the performance and impact of NDC funded projects.
- Supporting projects with future funding to ensure their sustainability, particularly linked to mainstream provision and potential commissioners.
- Maximising links with and influencing other projects, task groups and wider city and national policy.
- Reviewing the impact of the work of the overall theme.

Taking in to account these views, a revised terms of reference for the Task Groups was proposed for agreement.

Alison informed the Board that there are opportunities for links to be made between the NDC and East Salford Task Groups. She explained that there is an overlap between the NDC Health and Business, Employment and Skills Task Groups with the Health Action Partnership and Employment and Skills Task Group in East Salford. She recommended that the Board considered the NDC Task Groups merging with their East Salford counterparts.

With regard to the Physical Environment and Community Safety Task Group and the Education Children and Young People's Task Group, there are no comparable task groups in East Salford. Alison explained that there is an opportunity for NDC to shape structures in East Salford, with a view to the Task Groups coming together in the longer term. She explained this could involve the remit of the East Salford Environment Task Group being extended to include housing and community safety and effectively build on the NDC model.

Alison explained that links with the Education, Children and Young Peoples Task Group and East Salford structures are less straight forward. She proposed that the East Salford Youth Task Group could take up the young people element of the Task Group. She proposed that the Children & Families Task Group could take up the elements of children and primary school education. She went on to propose that the gap around secondary education could be taken up as part of the East Salford Employment and Skills Task Group.

With regard to the Building Communities Task Group Alison explained how there is no counterpart in East Salford. She went on to describe how the Kersal Residents' Group is active, meets regularly and is well attended by residents, local councillors and agencies. She suggested that should a similar group be formed in Charlestown these could supersede the Building Communities Task Group, have a role in NDC succession and provide a template for other areas in east Salford.

The Board requested that Task Groups continue to encourage local residents to be involved.

The Partnership Board

- **Noted the results of the Task Group Review.**
- **Agreed the revised terms of reference for the NDC Task Groups.**
- **Agreed to the principle of the merger of the:**
 - **Health Task Group and the East Salford Health Action Partnership, and**
 - **Business, Employment and Skills Task Group with the East Salford Employment and Skills Task Group,****subject to more detailed consultation with the Task Group members and consideration of the practical steps to make this happen.**
- **Agreed to the Physical Environment and Community Safety Task Group commencing work on shaping the East Salford Environment Task Group.**
- **Agreed that the children (including the primary education) and young people aspects of the current NDC Education, Children and Young People Task Group be merged with the East Salford Children & Families and Youth Task Groups respectively and the education remit (secondary) be phased in to the remit of the East Salford Employment and Skills Task Group over the next six to nine months, following consultation with the NDC Task Group.**
- **Agreed that the scope for the existing local residents forum in Lower Kersal (Kersal Residents' Group) and a potential residents forum in Charlestown becoming the successor bodies for the NDC Building Communities Task Group be investigated and, as such, whether this could become a template for potential other forums in East Salford, underpinning the role of Community Committee.**

Steve Aveyard and James Powell left the meeting at this point

8. SUCCESSION STRATEGY - ACTION PLAN

Tim Field presented a report which sought approval from the Partnership Board for a proposed action plan for the further development of the NDC Succession Strategy towards its formal submission to Government in December 2009.

Tim presented the action plan outlining the priorities for the next 9 months. He explained how in the coming months, the succession strategy will be re-written to fit Department for Communities and Local Government criteria. A special Board meeting will take place on June 10th from 3pm at St Sebastian's, which will agree the possible functions of any successor body, should it be decided to proceed with it, and also receive an up date on the other strands of the succession strategy.

The Partnership Board

- **Approved the proposed action plan for the further development of the NDC Succession Strategy towards its formal submission to Government.**

- **Noted arrangements for a special Board meeting to be held on 10th June 2009.**

9. A.O.B

CHAP

Tim Field informed the Board how NDC had received a letter from Chris Dabbs, the Chief Executive of CHAP, thanking NDC and the Board for supporting CHAP. He went on to inform the Board how CHAP had recently changed it's name to Unlimited Potential and had become an Industrial and Provident Society.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

NEXT BOARD MEETING

**MONDAY 18th MAY 2009
(5.30 pm for 6pm)**

Lower Kersal Centre