

# COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2006 AT WYCHWOOD PARK, CREWE

**PRESENT:** Wendy Wright, Chair

### **LSP Representatives:**

<b>Chester:</b>	Robin Wendt, Chair Chris Hardy, Deputy Chief Executive, Chester City Council
<b>Congleton:</b>	Bill Owen, Chair Glyn Chambers, Chief Executive, Congleton Borough Council
<b>Crewe &amp; Nantwich:</b>	John Bowler, Chair Alan Wenham, Chief Executive, Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
<b>Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston:</b>	Gordon McGuinness, Chair Stephen Ewbank, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
<b>Macclesfield:</b>	Dick Macaulay, Chair Vivienne Horton, Chief Executive, Macclesfield Borough Council
<b>Vale Royal:</b>	Jane Trevor (representing Tim Jackson, Chair) Anne Bingham-Holmes, Chief Executive, Vale Royal Borough Council

### **Other CCP Member Body Representatives:**

<b>Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:</b>	Peter Fahy, Chair
<b>Cheshire Children &amp; Young People's Strategic Partnership:</b>	Joan Feenan, Vice Chair
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Economic Alliance:</b>	Martin Lee, Chief Executive
<b>Sustainable Cheshire Forum:</b>	Chris Mahon, Chair
<b>Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:</b>	John Weeks, Chair
<b>Cheshire County Council:</b>	Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive

### **Support Staff**

Alison Armstrong, Gerry Budd and Louise Rees (CCC); Chris Boulton (VRBC); Sean Daley (EPNBC); Syd Jones and Clare Babbs (Chester); Jenny Smith (MBC); Linda Perry (CBC); Su Turner (CNBC)

## **Observers**

Nigel Burke, GONW  
Clíodhna Mulhern, Audit Commission

### **11.0 WELCOME**

John Bowler, Chair of the host District LSP, Crewe and Nantwich, welcomed the Partners to the second meeting of the CCP.

### **12.0 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 APRIL 2006**

The minutes of the inaugural meeting held on 6 April 2006 were approved as a correct record.

### **13.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

John Bowler introduced this item and invited Robin Wendt, Chair of Chester LSP and member of the Recruitment Sub Group, to report to the CCP on the Sub Group's recommendation for the appointment of Chair.

Robin Wendt reported that the Sub Group had unanimously recommended the appointment of Wendy Wright, Principal of Macclesfield College.

Partners paid tribute to Helen Carey, Chair of the former Cheshire Partnership and interim Chair of the CCP, for the effective way in which she had steered the Partnership through a period of change and had been instrumental in helping to bring together the new Partnership arrangements to enable partners to move forward so strongly.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the CCP formally record its acknowledgement of the sterling work undertaken by Helen Carey, Chair of the former Cheshire Partnership and interim Chair of the CCP and that a letter of thanks be sent to her on behalf of the Partnership.
- (2) That Wendy Wright be appointed Chair of the CCP with immediate effect; and she accordingly took the Chair.

### **14.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Anne Bingham- Holmes, Chief Executive of Vale Royal Borough Council, reported back on Minute 4 (3) concerning the proposed role for the CWEA in the Partnership and support arrangements. She explained that an interim arrangement had been discussed and agreed which would involve support from the Cheshire Economic Development Officers' Group and possible additional funding for LAA support via Second Homes taxation income, subject to Cheshire LGA approval at its next meeting in July 2006. Martin Lee added that in the interim Paul

Durham, Chief Executive of Chester City Council, was working with CWEA and a small group to progress matters.

#### **14.0 APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE CCP**

The Membership Sub Group had submitted a report recommending membership to the remaining six places on the CCP. Ten applications had been received and the Sub Group had considered each application in detail and assessed it against each of the criteria agreed at the inaugural CCP meeting. Sub Group members, in confirming their recommendations, stressed that they had looked at all practical ways for the organisations to contribute to the Partnership Framework, which in some cases indicated that organisations would be able to operate more effectively at levels other than round the CCP table (e.g. District LSPs and through other wider applicant organisations).

Queries were raised about the role of Tourism in the CCP, which would be provided through Cultivate (the Cultural Consortium of Cheshire and Warrington) and the Cheshire and Warrington Rural Partnership. Partners were reassured that all applicant organisations would be advised that CCP Membership would be reviewed after 12 months operation of the Partnership (in accordance with the constitution) and that non-member organisations would be welcome to attend CCP meetings from time to time to discuss relevant issues.

##### **AGREED:**

That the following organisations be offered the six remaining places on the CCP (one place each) and be invited to attend the next meeting:

- Cheshire Fire Service
- Cheshire and Warrington Rural Partnership
- Cheshire CABx
- Consortium of Cheshire CVSs
- Cheshire Health Services
- Cultivate

#### **16.0 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR CHESHIRE**

Alison Armstrong, CCC, presented to the Partnership the latest version of the draft Strategy for consideration, following further discussion and consultation by District LSPs and Thematic Partnerships on the draft submitted to the inaugural CCP meeting. Attention was drawn to the following specific issues raised by District LSPs:

##### **SSCF Strand**

- Include Home Fire Safety target.
- Domestic Violence should be changed to Domestic Abuse.
- Changing demographics impacts - migrant workers (and related studies into the latter).

- The need to work on the Stronger element (CVS voluntary sector groups recruited to assist with this).

### **Children and Young People Strand**

- Districts' issues around Key Outcome 3.
- Cross references to be found in the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **Healthier Communities and Older People Strand**

- Key outcomes now doubled through Thematic Groups and other activities.
- Breastfeeding issue – cross reference to Sure Start (CYP Plan).
- Older People – independent living, intergenerational activity, mutual respect - this issue supported by a number of districts.
- Transport needs of older people – this issue was also supported by a number of districts.
- Jobs for the over 50s and the opportunities presented by this group of people to be revisited and looked at by a special group.
- Quality of the environment important for health.

A strong debate took place on the two elements of this strand and the merits and demerits of splitting it into two groups – Healthier Communities and Older People, there being two distinct groups dealing with these issues currently.

The prevailing view of the Partnership was that by putting the two elements together the Government was encouraging us to think differently (as in the Safer and Stronger strand which was doing just that) and that the two elements should be considered together. This view was supported by Nigel Burke, GONW, who indicated that if it was split it could create difficulties for the LAA.

### **Economic Development and Enterprise Strand**

- This was acknowledged to be the least developed strand.
- Need to recapture infrastructure, transportation and telecommunications issues to support the economic agenda.
- Expand on inequalities of employment levels and the need for growth in local well paid employment.
- Need to correlate to Investing in Success Sub Regional Economic Strategy.
- Revise list of key business sectors to include for example automotive, biotech and pharmaceutical businesses.
- Retail activity – narrowly defined.
- LSC is the biggest strategic purchaser – fits into CWEA.
- Cheshire diverse area economically – different economic generators in different areas.
- Strong links between economic development and environment.
- Key issues: need to reflect diversity and be mindful of concern about timescales for signing-off this strand.

### **Environment Strand**

- Affordable housing for younger people and in rural areas.
- Better built-environment protection – parks and open spaces.
- Transport and accessibility.
- This strand would be a model for the cross cutting nature of activities and the affordable housing element was a new area of work for the Sustainable Cheshire Forum which would be leading on the strand.

### **Leisure/Sport/Culture**

- Leisure /recreation/sport and culture – would be within the SSCF strand but was a big area needing to be appropriately represented.

### **Innovation and New Ways of Working Strand**

- Challenge – how to measure – targets to be included.
- Key principles – quality of life and narrowing gaps.
- At least four of the outcomes relate to the approach to the LAA.
- Group needed to champion and take forward this strand – Nigel Burke supported this suggestion.

### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the key outcomes, as presented and/or to be amended as indicated in this minute, of the Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy be approved and that it be understood that this will, in effect, be constant work in progress.
- (2) That a Sub Group with delegated authority be established to refine and develop the Economic Development and Enterprise strand within the timescales required, bearing in mind the issues raised above and ensuring the necessary links; the Sub Group to comprise: Wendy Wright (Chair of the CCP), Martin Lee (CWEA Chief Executive Officer), Paul Durham (Chief Executive, Chester City Council) and Alison Armstrong (CCC) as adviser.
- (3) That a Sub Group be formed to take forward the Innovation and New Ways of Working strand, the Sub Group to include: Jeremy Taylor (Chief Executive, CCC) to Chair; Alan Wenham (Chief Executive, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council), and the LAA Group as advisers.

## **17.0 LAA PROJECT PLAN UPDATE**

Alison Armstrong, CCC, circulated the outline draft LAA Project Plan and timetable, showing key milestones, activities and responsibilities and which was also work-in-progress. It would include an optional internal peer challenge process at LAA stage 3, which would be undertaken time permitting. The Plan was supplemented by a detailed

PID (Project Initiation Document) and a web site was being established to provide information.

A key issue was considered to be communication (including Partners' communication issues) - basically keeping people informed.

The key dates for the CCP would be highlighted, namely: 30 June (LAA high level outcomes to GONW), 30 September (draft LAA to GONW), 31 December (final LAA to GONW). The Plan should include an induction for the six new CCP partners.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That the Project Plan be noted and approved insofar as it can be at this stage.
- (2) That the decisions needed to be made by the CCP before the key dates be made clear.

## **18.0 CHESHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CYP)**

Louise Rees, Policy Manager (CCC Children's Services Department) gave a presentation on the CYP on which consultation would end on 11 July 2006. An executive summary of the Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. Issues discussed included the following:

- The Plan's activities are not yet prioritised.
- Business issues – need to be explicit about preparing for work.
- Consider the inclusion of references to nutrition and healthy eating – not just obesity.
- Sexual crime (and vulnerable people in this respect) issues to be addressed (currently via sexual health advice and Safeguarding Children Board).
- Where children without special needs or particular issues fit into the CYP.
- Population changes and effects (e.g. ethnicity and diversity).
- Substance misuse and related issues.
- Involving children and young people in solving problems not just in being consulted.
- Alcohol abuse – issues about managing perceptions.
- The empowerment of young people (this is being picked up by Macclesfield LSP).

## **19.0 LAA DRAFT HIGH LEVEL OUTCOMES**

Su Turner, CNBC, circulated clear spreadsheets bringing together for the first time all desired high level outcomes known at this stage for possible inclusion in the Cheshire LAA. The outcomes included mandatory ones, those put forward by District LSPs, those in the SSCF Agreement and LPSA2 and their correlation with the draft Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy. Three of the strands appeared to be

coming together well (SSCF, Children and Young People, Healthier Communities and Older People) showing clear trends and convergences; whilst Economic Development and Environment were less cohesive.

There was a need to rationalise the 33 + outcomes and to distil them to make them manageable for LAA purposes. Pilot LAAs commonly had only 15 to 20 high level outcomes or priorities.

**AGREED:**

That a Sub Group be formed, with delegated authority, to agree by 30 June 2006 the LAA draft high level outcomes for discussion with GONW; the Sub Group to comprise: Viv Horton (MBC) to Chair, Anne Bingham-Holmes (VRBC and SSCF Group), Gerry Budd (CCC), Thematic Partnership Leads to advise in the most practical ways and Su Turner (CNBC) as adviser.

## **20.0 REPORTING LINES**

Syd Jones, Chester, explained a diagram (circulated prior to the meeting) showing the reporting lines of the new Partnerships' Framework, in response to a request at the last CCP meeting. Partners expressed satisfaction with the diagram. Partners indicated a need for new work to ensure swift operation of the Governance Board in order to include elected members as quickly as possible in the Partnership's necessarily fast-moving activities. A paper on the Governance Board and its arrangements and role had been submitted to a recent meeting of the Cheshire Chief Executives and was proposed to be considered at the next LGA meeting and the next meeting of the CCP.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That the outline reporting arrangements be approved and be reflected in the Performance Management framework (to be the subject of a report to the next CCP meeting).
- (2) That the reporting arrangements diagram be referred to all Thematic Partnerships, the District LSPs and the Governance Board for information.
- (3) That a list of memberships of county-wide delivery groups be circulated to the CCP.
- (4) That a meeting of the Governance Board be convened as soon as possible and Governance Board decisions and activities be included in the top section of the LAA Project Plan showing key dates and activities for the Board (including managing negotiations and securing mandates from authorities and organisations).

- (5) That work be commissioned on broader (beyond local authority) Governance issues; the LAA Group and at least one lawyer to be involved in this and the topic to be addressed by the LAA Group as the Reporting Lines paper is put to Thematic Groups (e.g. CYP (Commissioning Services) and CWEA Governance Board issues).

## **21.0 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The CCP considered a draft Communications Strategy for the Cheshire Partnerships Framework. Linda Perry, CBC, explained the rationale behind the strategy and referred to the links with Performance Management.

### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the Communications Strategy be adopted.
- (2) That a Sub Group be formed, with delegated authority to agree an early way forward in relation to branding/image protocols and to make a decision on whether the current logo is modified or completely changed prior to adoption.
- (3) That a further report be prepared and presented to a future CCP meeting to address the requirements for further supporting documentation, including:
  - Detailed communications action plan for the next 12/18 months identifying responsibilities and resource requirements for each action.
  - Media/website protocols.
  - Community involvement strategy.
- (4) That the offer from Vale Royal Borough Council to lead in delivering this Communications Strategy be accepted.
- (5) That the Cheshire Practitioners Group Performance Management Development Day (9.30am to 2pm at Police HQ on 20 July) be noted.

## **22.0 NEXT STEPS – STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE**

Chris Boulton, VRBC, advised the CCP of a successful bid by the LAA Group for funding from Cheshire and Warrington Improvement Programme to hold a high profile conference in September 2006 (preferred date 1 September but to be confirmed).

The draft agenda for the event was circulated for information. Ruth Kelly, new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had been invited to be the keynote speaker.

The conference would incorporate partnership working development using an Audit Commission diagnostic tool and Stakeholder buy-in to the draft LAA, with pilot LAA experiences for shared learning. The Audit Commission would be supporting the conference and Clíodhna Mulhern from the Audit Commission endorsed the proposal indicating that it would consolidate the work of the LAA Group.

**23.0 NEXT STEPS – GONW INVOLVEMENT**

Gerry Budd reported that Nigel Burke (GONW) had asked whether it would be helpful for him to attend CCP meetings as he had found this meeting useful.

**AGREED:**

That Nigel Burke, as the Lead Government Office negotiator, be invited to attend CCP meetings.

**NOTE: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12 SEPTEMBER 2006 (9.30am, venue to be confirmed)**

Signed (Chair): .....