

**Minutes of the Cheshire Governance Board
25 April 2008
Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, Whitegate, Nr Northwich.**

PRESENT:

Cllr Les Ford (Chairman)	Vale Royal Borough Council
Colin Billingsley	Jobcentre Plus
Martin Bracegirdle	Connexions Cheshire & Warrington
Moira Chapman	Cheshire Police Authority
Liz Davis	Cheshire & Warrington Learning & Skills Council
Cllr Roland Domleo	Congleton Borough Council
Cllr Wesley Fitzgerald	Macclesfield Borough Council
Cllr Tony Hooton	Cheshire Fire Authority
Cllr Margaret P Parker	Chester City Council
Gwen Scott	Environment Agency
Frank Thomas	Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Robert Tinston	Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust

IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Ancell	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Claire Babbs	Chester City Council
Gavin Butler	Cheshire County Council
Glyn Chambers	Congleton Borough Council
Peter Forrester (item 2)	Audit Commission
Lisa Green	Cheshire County Council
Brenda Harvey	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Kirstie Hercules	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Bernadette Hurst (item 5)	CW Improvement & Efficiency Partnership
John Jeffrey	Vale Royal Borough Council
Jeremy Taylor	Cheshire County Council

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Paul Findlow	Cheshire County Council
Cllr Justin Madders	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Pauline Ong	Central & Eastern Cheshire PCT
Cllr Brian Silvester	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Wendy Wright	Communities of Cheshire Partnership

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & NOTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Les Ford opened the meeting by welcoming members. General introductions were made of all those present.

AGREED: that the notes of the meeting held on 25 January 2008 be approved.

2 COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT – Update and Next Steps

Peter Forrester, Audit Commission, introduced himself as the CAA lead for Cheshire and Merseyside and updated partners on the feedback from the recent consultation and proposals for CAA.

PF explained that the CAA will involve 2 assessments: one for the area and one of individual organisations. He emphasised that the CAA is an ongoing process using information which is already available. Assessments will be triggered by identified risks rather than the current rolling programme of inspections.

The consultation paper received a large number of responses, raising a number of issues. The Governance Board in January raised concerns about the use of the word "risk" in assessments. "Risk" has now been taken out of the assessments so as not to hinder innovation.

The CAA framework will be published by the end of the Summer 2008. Assessments will start in October 2009. They will be forward looking and so will fit with the circumstances in Cheshire.

Partners expressed concerns:

1. how the assessment will balance local needs against national performance indicators.
2. the unrealistic timetable for the introduction of CAA in Cheshire and whether it represents value for money.
3. regarding the letter received from John Healey, which clearly states that CLG will be examining the new authorities during formation.

PF stated that the spirit of CAA is to carry out assessments when needed, based on local performance and understanding of local circumstances. The framework published in the summer will clarify whether or not the assessments will be scored.

AGREED: that PF report back concerns raised about the conflicting messages between John Healey's letter and proposals for CAA .

3 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11 – Current Progress and Next Steps.

Lisa Green, Cheshire LAA Lead Officer, presented the progress report, which had been previously circulated.

LG pointed out that the key change since January's meeting was to the process. The new Cheshire LAA would be a "transitional, severable" Agreement which would include targets for year one across all indicators but would also identify other longer term targets where they could be agreed but subject to annual review and refresh. In addition, targets for both east and west Cheshire would be identified to assist the severance process for the two new unitary authorities. As a result of the new approach, some indicators that could not be included in a nine month agreement were now back in the list of 35 indicators.

The last Communities of Cheshire Partnership meeting had agreed that thematic blocks would develop targets. An imminent meeting with GONW was planned to continue negotiations with an aim to agree the LAA by mid May for sign off on or before 30 May 2008.

Concerns were raised that there are no indicators for culture and heritage. This concern has been fed back to the block.

AGREED: that the progress made by Communities of Cheshire Partnership in the development of the LAA 2008-11 be noted.

4 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CHESHIRE

Following on from issues raised at the last meeting, Gavin Butler, Block Co-ordinator from the Safer Stronger Communities Group presented proposals on an approach to tackle the measurement of anti-social behaviour issues across Cheshire.

Working with the six Crime and Disorder Partnerships, a number of indicators have now been agreed and work is now under way to establish baselines. The indicators are a mix of outcomes, resident perceptions and crime reporting.

The indicators agreed are:

- Percentage of people who feel that the local council and police are dealing with local concerns about ASB.
- Reported incidents of ASB.
- Increase in the proportion of non-Police referrals to the Cheshire DAFSUs and MARACs.
- Alcohol arrest referrals.
- Reductions in criminal damage.

Concerns were raised about measuring interventions and alcohol related incidents. There are proposals to use proxy indicators and further work will be done to collect data regarding alcohol related incidents. This cannot be done in time for this LAA, but will be helpful in the future.

AGREED: that the proposals be accepted.

5 NORTH WEST IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY STRATEGY

Bernadette Hurst, Director of Cheshire and Warrington Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (CWIEP) briefed the partnership on the work of the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) and the content of their strategy. BH gave a presentation to explain how the NW strategy was been taken forward in the sub region.

CWIEP are currently producing a sub regional strategy which will deliver the regional strategy and put the sub region in a strong position. The sub regional strategy will draw down funding from the region. The funding for 2008/09 is £680,000 with further funding available in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

There are no proposals for funding after 3 years and so the partnership needs to be self sustaining.

Year 1 priorities and the Year 1 delivery plan need to be agreed and submitted by the 9 May 2008. The detailed sub regional strategy and delivery plan need to be submitted by the 30 June 2008.

BH explained that the formal partners of Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships are the local authorities and the Fire and Rescue Service. However, in the sub region, the decision is that the partnership should be inclusive and so they are keen to work with all partners. They are currently revising governance arrangements. BH explained the revised structure of CWIEP which has been agreed in principle.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED: That the next meeting of the Cheshire Governance Board be held on Friday 13 June 2008.