

**Minutes of the Cheshire Governance Board  
26 October 2007  
Wychwood Suite, Golf Clubhouse, Wychwood Park, Crewe**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Paul Findlow (Chairman)	Cheshire County Council
Martyn Bracegirdle	Connexions
Cllr Dave Brown	Congleton Borough Council
Moira Chapman	Cheshire Police Authority
John Church	Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Phil Hales	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cllr Brian Lloyd	Vale Royal Borough Council
Cllr Margaret P Parker	Chester City Council
Roger Parkin	Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Gwen Scott	Environment Agency
Cllr Brian Silvester	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Ancell	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Alison Armstrong	Cheshire County Council
Clare Babbs	Chester City Council
Anne Bingham-Holmes	Vale Royal Borough Council
Greg Burke	GONW
Sean Daley	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Lisa Green	Cheshire County Council
Brenda Harvey	Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Jan Rowley	Chester City Council
Ian Simpson	Congleton Borough Council

**APOLOGIES:**

Nigel Burke	GONW
Glyn Chambers	Congleton Borough Council
Chris Hardy	Chester City Council
Steve Moore	Environment Agency
Pauline Ong	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT
Jeremy Taylor	Cheshire County Council
Mark Wilson	Job Centre Plus
Wendy Wright	Communities of Cheshire Partnership

**1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & NOTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Chairman, Cllr Paul Findlow, opened the meeting by welcoming members. General introductions were made of all those present.

Minute 4 - Cllr Silvester requested an update on progress towards the development of targets to measure the reduction in anti-social behaviour

rather than the perception of anti-social behaviour. In response it was reported that:

A performance baseline for each district capable of being aggregated into a countywide measurement has been established based on the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS);  
Districts have begun to review their existing Anti Social Behaviour plans in order to align them with the RESPECT outcomes; and  
Options to provide future measurement of performance have been identified and are being explored.

**AGREED: that**

- (1) the notes of the meeting held on 16 March 2007 be approved; and**
- (2) a more detailed report on progress towards the establishment of ASB reduction targets be presented to the next meeting of the Governance Board.**

## **2 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2007-2010 UPDATE**

Lisa Green updated on progress with the delivery of LAA sub-outcomes and targets. Members expressed disappointment that the mid year review of LAA performance was not being reported to the Board at this meeting though it was noted that this would happen once the report had been received and considered by the Communities of Cheshire Partnership in accordance with the agreed performance reporting and management cycle.

**AGREED: That**

- (1) the report being presented to the Communities of Cheshire Partnership on 1 November be circulated to the Cheshire Governance Board as soon as possible; and**
- (2) the mid year performance report be the substantive item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Cheshire Governance Board to be held on 30 November 2007.**

## **3 CSR07, NEW MODEL LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS, PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK, FUNDING IMPLICATIONS, TIMESCALES**

Greg Burke presented an overview of the latest Government thinking in relation to 'new style' Local Area Agreements and their relevance to the new performance assessment regime to be introduced from April 2009 – Comprehensive Area Assessment. It was noted that LAAs offered a greater role for local government as the primary 'place-shaper' for communities and would be the principal route through which Government would engage with local authorities in the future. The LAA should articulate the 'story of the place', identifying up to 35 evidence based priorities for the local community.

Specific reference was made to the key areas that Government Office would be examining within the 'new style' LAAs. These included emphasising the uniqueness of place, being evidence driven, addressing narrowing the gap, driving partnership working and using the LAA as a driver for change.

Sean Daley, Cheshire LAA Group, outlined some of the key issues arising from recent publications in relation to the 'new style' LAAs though it was noted that further information on a number of areas was expected. These included:

- the lack of baseline information before spring / summer 2008 and subsequent difficulty in setting meaningful targets;
- the potential difficulty in negotiating a 'reward element' of a transitional one year LAA;
- the mis-alignment between the LAA development / negotiation timetable and the budget setting timetables of respective partners;
- lack of manoeuvrability between and within funding streams; and
- the unique and uncertain position of Cheshire in relation to local government re-organisation and its potential impact on capacity and service delivery.

In the subsequent discussion, partners made reference to the problem of managing performance against changing baselines, the lack of engagement of other key partners and capacity within the system to respond to partnership demands. It was noted that the new national indicator set containing only 198 performance indicators for monitoring and assessing services delivered by local government working alone or in partnership with others should provide a more robust basis for future performance management.

In determining the content of the new LAA, the 'community' perspective of local needs and priorities would need to be balanced against the 'corporate' one. This should provide room for local autonomy and discretion though all identified outcomes to be addressed through the LAA would need to be firmly evidence based.

It was suggested that performance reporting of the LAA include illustrative stories of success and failure as well as hard performance data across the LAA sub-outcomes as a means of assessing the 'added value' provided by the LAA approach.

#### **4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND 2008 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

**AGREED: That the next meeting of the Cheshire Governance Board be held in Macclesfield at 1.00pm on 30.11.07.**

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....