

CHESHIRE GOVERNANCE BOARD

MINUTES OF AN INDUCTION MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT WARRINGTON TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Wendy Wright (in the Chair)	Communities of Cheshire Partnership
Cllr Paul Findlow	Cheshire County Council
Cllr Ted Lloyd	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Cllr John Price	Chester City Council
Cllr Keith Musgrave	Vale Royal Borough Council
Cllr Brian Silvester	Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Cllr Steve Hogben	Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Cllr Elizabeth Gilliland	Macclesfield Borough Council
Cllr Roland Domleo	Congleton Borough Council
Cllr Roger Parkin	Cheshire Association of Local Councils
John Church	Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Martin Bracegirdle	Connexions Cheshire & Warrington
Andrew Gurr	Cheshire & Warrington Learning & Skills Council
Graham Dumbell	Job Centre Plus
Nigel Burke	Government Office for the North West

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gerry Budd	Cheshire County Council
Clare Babbs	Chester City Council
Linda Perry	Congleton Borough Council
Alison Armstrong	Cheshire County Council
Stephen Ewbank	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Paul Durham	Chester City Council
Anne Bingham-Holmes	Vale Royal Borough Council
Alan Wenham	Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Vivienne Horton	Macclesfield Borough Council
Glyn Chambers	Congleton Borough Council

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Paul Roberts	Chester City Council
Cllr Reg Chrimes	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Cllr Wesley Fitzgerald	Macclesfield Borough Council
Pauline Ong	Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Cllr Tony Hooton	Cheshire Fire Authority
Bob Hodson	Cheshire Police Authority
Jeremy Taylor	Cheshire County Council

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Wendy Wright welcomed everyone to the first, 'induction' meeting of the Cheshire Governance Board. Members were reminded that the Governance Board exists to provide vision and strategic leadership to the Cheshire Partnerships Framework. It would also be expected to provide political accountability of the key public agencies in the delivery of the Local Area Agreement and the Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy. Introductions around the table were then undertaken.

2 CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK – AGREEMENT, PROTOCOLS AND REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Alison Armstrong explained the reporting relationships across the new Cheshire Partnerships Framework and the Agreement and Protocols that had subsequently been agreed by the component bodies within the Framework. The importance of the Governance Board in providing leadership and accountability within the Framework was highlighted. The ultimate aim of the Framework was to better co-ordinate, monitor and performance manage the actions of all partner organisations in support of outcomes to improve the quality of life for Cheshire residents.

Members welcomed the creation of the Governance Board although some concern relating to the scope of membership was expressed. Alison Armstrong reiterated that the new Cheshire Partnerships Framework was intended to rationalise and better co-ordinate partnership working across Cheshire by reducing duplication, developing a clear purpose and terms of reference for each group and providing opportunities for partners to engage at the most appropriate and effective level. As part of this exercise, each component body within the Framework was being encouraged to review its operating arrangements and membership.

3 CONSTITUTION OF THE CHESHIRE GOVERNANCE BOARD

Alison Armstrong introduced the Draft Constitution of the Governance Board. The development of appropriate Constitutions clarifying management and operational arrangements for each partnership within the Framework was being encouraged. This was considered increasingly important as the role and responsibilities of partnerships continued to evolve.

A discussion was held in relation to Membership - Section 3, particularly how representation from local authorities with no overall political control could be achieved. It was agreed that in these circumstances, whilst it would inevitably increase the size of the Governance Board, local

authorities with no overall political control could be represented at meetings by the appropriate number of Councillors relevant to their particular situation. However, on occasions when voting was required, each Council regardless of the number of Councillors present would only have one vote.

ACTION:

Cheshire LAA Group to revise the Draft Constitution of the Governance Board for consideration and agreement at the next meeting

4 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)

Gerry Budd explained the background to the introduction of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) across the country and the process and timetable for the development of the Cheshire LAA for implementation from April 2007. The Governance Board would be expected to endorse the final draft Agreement prior to submission to central Government (via GONW) at the end of December. Once operational, the Governance Board would also have an on-going role in monitoring the delivery of the Agreement and appraising the six monthly progress reports on performance prior to submission to Government Office North West (GONW). Nigel Burke (GONW) explained the Government's perspective and their expectations of the Governance Board in relation to political accountability, performance management and delivery of LAA outcomes. GONW would seek to assist in facilitating this.

It was noted that the first draft Cheshire LAA would be submitted to GONW at the end of September 2006. A formal period of negotiation would follow prior to final submission at the end of December 2006. All partners would be fully engaged and involved throughout this process and would need to consider their own arrangements for approval of the Agreement within their respective organisation prior to submission.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND 2007 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

It was suggested that the next meeting of the Governance Board be held on 8 December 2006 on the rise of the Sub-Regional Leaders Meeting. This would enable further consideration of the draft LAA prior to submission to GONW. Subsequent dates would be set once the frequency of future meetings had been agreed.

Signed (Chair): Date: