

ITEM 3

SEFTON BOROUGH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

BOOTLE TOWN HALL

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2007

Present:

Angela White (Chair)
Cllr Tony Robertson
Supt. Oz Billings

Revd Roger Driver
Cllr Peter Dowd
Cathy Warlow

Graham Haywood
Kevin Mothersdale

Also Present:

Estelle Rowe, Michele Wainwright, Melissa Craig, Wendy Holbeche

Apologies:

Cllr Dave Martin, Fred Mahoney, Leigh Griffin, Chief Supt. Mark Matthews,
Cllr Paula Parry

Welcome & Introductions

Angela welcomed those representing Executive members to the meeting and informed the Group that Lesley Patterson has resigned from the SBP. A new VCS representative will be nominated through the CEN forums.

1. Note of Previous Meeting

NEA Programme is currently ongoing – led by Ian Weller and with participation from across the SBP.

NR Performance Assessment – initial feedback has been Amber / Green. No final assessment has been received from GONW although the indications are that there will be no change. It was noted that this would be disappointing even though the Partnership would still be considered as performing well comparatively across the North West.

Graham Haywood presented an update of the successful LEGI bid and suggested that Fred Mahoney – as Chair of the ED&S Thematic Partnership and members of the SLEGI Board – should provide the Executive with regular updates.

Angela White informed the Group that the outcome of the Invest to Save Bid was expected at the end of February.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

ITEM 3

Resolved: That regular LEGI reports be requested from Fred Mahoney

2. Local Area Agreement

Wendy Holbeche presented an update. Chris Musson is no longer the lead officer for GONW – this has been taken over by Jane Wilde (who has been involved with Sefton through the CYP negotiations).

GONW have informed us of concerns over 7 of our 11 stretch targets. This is probably coming from central government, however the timetable for negotiation is unrealistic for any changes. There was particular concern that some of the suggested changes to the targets would actually affect our outcomes and negate the partnership process that has been undertaken to agree these local priorities. There was considerable discussion amongst the Group and it was agreed that it was not possible to meet these demands and the final submission of the LAA should be the version agreed through the Sefton Borough Partnership Framework. However, it was accepted that further negotiations with central government lead officers would be required and a meeting should be convened to enter into these discussions.

Wendy raised the issue of reward allocation for discussion. The Partnership has previously discussed the distribution (between £850,000 - £900,00 per target) on the basis of partner contribution to achieving the target – although this mechanism has not been clarified. The Group agreed that the mechanisms for allocation should be made at the outset of the process to ensure that all partners felt incentivised to achieve targets – however they felt that not one mechanism may be suitable for all the targets. It was agreed that Wendy would work with Thematic Partnerships to make recommendations to the Executive at the next meeting – along with a clear set of criteria to allow the Group to make a fair decision of allocation. It was also agreed that all partners should commit to re-investing the reward into the priority areas and this should be built into the mechanisms for receipt of the rewards.

Resolved: That the final submission of the LAA should contain Sefton's agreed local priorities and targets

That a meeting is convened with central government lead officers and Sefton officers for further negotiation

That Thematic Partnerships are involved in preparing recommendations for allocation of the reward element and the protocol for re-investment,

ITEM 3

and this should be presented to the Executive at the next meeting

3. **Performance Management**

Estelle Rowe presented an update. Each Thematic Partnership is required to submit a consistent action plan for each LAA outcome and this data will be inputted into the Council's Sprint system to generate reports for the Executive. Partnership Managers have been asked to co-ordinate action plans – a template was circulated – in order to establish the accountability framework for delivery and establish the performance information required for the performance management arrangements.

The Policy & Performance Team, led by Estelle Rowe, will provide support in taking performance management forward. Graham Haywood informed the Group that resource has been secured through the Council to support the performance management arrangements needed for the LAA (subject to final approval). The expectation is that Thematic Partnerships will deal with the majority of detail from the performance reports and that the Executive will deal with exceptional reports. It was also noted that the role of the SBP Performance Management Sub Group would be strengthened and have a link to the Executive.

Resolved: That action plans are submitted to Thematic Partnerships by 31st March and approved by the Executive at the next meeting in May

4. **Community Strategy**

Michele Wainwright presented the first working draft of the Community Strategy. Initially Tribal were commissioned to support the revision of the Community Strategy – however during the first stage (revising the vision statements) there were a number of concerns around the governance structure of the Partnership, for example delivery of cross cutting themes, the large agenda for some groups such as ED&S, the underpinning theme of 'stronger' communities and the focus of demographic groups (children and young people and older people). It was felt that the more pressing concern was to address these issues through work with Tribal and for the LSP Team to pick up the drafting of the CS – consequently the deadline has been pushed back to May 2007. The Executive were asked to consider the format, which was very different to previous versions with no presentation under Thematic Partnership headings, and to take into account the future requirements for the publication of Community Strategies (the draft guidance so far has indicated the need for a great deal of detail).

ITEM 3

There was considerable discussion amongst the Group, and the consensus was that the Community Strategy should be presented as a short document, with clear priorities, using a mainly narrative approach to presentation and demonstrating clear reference to the major cross cutting areas and delivery mechanisms in place. It was felt that any published guidance requirements could be met through reference to the detail contained in the LAA document.

Michele highlighted the current concerns of the Thematic Partnerships regarding ownership and delivery of priorities, and referred to the request from the ED&S Thematic Partnership for the creation of a separate Environment Group. The Executive acknowledged the concerns but it was felt that creating further groups would not resolve the problems. The Group was informed that Tribal Consultancy would be working with the Thematic Partnerships to address these concerns. All members of the Executive indicated that they would be happy to participate in this work.

Resolved: That a shortened version of the Community Strategy is presented to the SBP on 21st February

That members of the Executive are engaged with any work regarding the strengthening of ownership and delivery against the priorities

That the Thematic Partnerships remain as they are

5. **Any other business**

Estelle Rowe informed the Group that the LSP Team has been restructured with a full time officer and 2 part time officers. This will help considerably in clearing the backlog of work that has accumulated over the past year. The Team now consists of Michele Wainwright (LSP Manager), Melissa Craig (LSP Communications Officer; working Monday – Wednesday) and Margie Kirk (LSP Support Officer; working Wednesday – Friday)

An analysis of SBP Executive and Board attendance will be submitted to the Board on 21st February. Any issues highlighted will inform the proposed discussions concerning governance arrangements. These discussion will also include proposals put forward concerning representation from Older People, Children and Young People and One Vision Housing.

The Chair of the SBP will revert to public sector representation from May 2007. Graham Haywood will seek the views of the political leaders regarding the position of the Council.

6. **Date & Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 14th May, 2.00pm Bootle Cricket Club