

HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2004
at the Halton Stadium, Widnes.

Present:

Board Members: Councillor John Swain	Halton Borough Council (Chair)
Andy Barrett	Liverpool Housing Trust
Supt Dave Booth	Cheshire Constabulary
Jo Bowen-Jones	Business Link for Greater Merseyside
Mike Fry	Halton Autistic Family Support Group
Liz Gill	Government Office North West
Arthur Graley	St. Chad's RC High School
Andy Guile	Halton YMCA
Gill Mortlock	Job Centre Plus
Terry Parle	Sports Partnership
Stephen Parry	Halton Primary Care Trust
Pauline Ruth	Halton Children's Fund
Daniel Seddon	Halton Primary Care Trust /Halton Borough Council
Diane Sproson	Greater Merseyside Connexions Service
Gary Warke	Halton College
Richard Tracey	Northwest Development Agency

Advisors to the Board:

Rob Mackenzie	Halton Borough Council
Karen Marcroft	Halton Borough Council
Dominic Harrex	Halton Borough Council
Matthew Atherton	Halton Borough Council
Ian Grady	Halton Borough Council
Dick Tregoea	Halton Borough Council
Andrew Pannell	Halton Borough Council
Kath O'Dwyer	Halton Borough Council
Gary Collins	Halton Borough Council

Apologies for absence:

Chris Koral (Northwest Development Agency), Councillor Rob Polhill, David. Parr (Halton Borough Council), Bill Badrock (Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise), David Felix (Diocese of Chester) and Supt Clive Pownall (Cheshire Constabulary).

Action

131 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 13th October 2004 were agreed as a correct record subject to Minute 123 which it was agreed to amend to reflect the discussion on the

responsibility of all partners regarding transport issues and the dissemination of good practice.

In respect of Minutes 122 and 112 it was noted that a “mini” Local Area Agreement, the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, would need to be implemented from April 2005.

In respect of Minutes 122 and 115, a copy of the draft Local Public Service Agreement was circulated.

In respect of Minutes 122 and 118 it was noted that two meetings of the Festival Steering Group had been held and that good progress had been made. The issue of publicity for the Festival Week would be tackled next. All Members were requested to pursue any contributions from their respective organisations and notify the Halton Partnership Team of the amounts in cash or gifts in kind. It was agreed to match cash amounts with NRF to a ceiling of £40,000.

In view of the full agenda for the meeting a report from the November awayday would be included in February’s HSPB agenda.

132 PRIORITIES PROCESS FORM AND TIMETABLE

Halton’s Community Strategy ran until March 2006, and it had always been envisaged that a review of the priorities process would also be required by this time. A report, suggesting refinement of the process was considered.

Ensuring this process was carried out with sufficient rigour would require the involvement of the Specialist Strategic Partnerships and a proposed timetable commencing in March 2005 was proposed as follows;

March 2005	State of Borough report agreed;
August 2005	Baseline Studies Agreed;
October 2005	Advance Draft of Community Strategy;
December 2005	Agreed final version of Community Strategy;
February 2006	Revised Specialist Strategic Partnership Action Plans Agreed

A detailed project plan was being developed in respect of the timetable and work had commenced on developing the new State of the Borough Report. A presentation on this research was proposed for January 2005.

It was noted that, in addition, a “health check” of the alignment between the Community Strategy and Partners’ plans needed to be undertaken, bearing in mind the other drivers and tensions that existed with partner organisations, to ensure the development of the Strategy was a two-way process.

The proposed form and timetable for the priorities process was **AGREED**.

133 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Board considered a report on action taken to date in relation to Halton's response to the Integration agenda contained within the Children's Bill which was expected to receive royal assent in late Autumn 2004.

The Bill proposed five key outcomes to the well-being of children;

- (i) physical and mental health;
- (ii) protection from harm and neglect;
- (iii) education and training;
- (iv) the contribution made by them to society; and
- (v) social and economic well-being.

It was therefore essential that any proposals served to ensure that the delivery of Integrated Children's Services promoted the above needs of children and young people within the borough.

It was expected that most Local Authorities would have Integrated Children's Services by 2006, and all by 2008. The government had made clear proposals to integrate the external inspection of Children's Social Care and Education.

In order to meet the requirements and timescales required by Government the Halton Integration Programme had been agreed with the following 4 Phases:

Phase 1	Consultation	(Oct – Dec 2004)
Phase 2	Analysis & Project Plan Development	(January – March 2005)
Phase 3	Preparation for Implementation	(April – July 2005)
Phase 4	Implementation	(Sept 2005 -March 2006)

The involvement of secondary school headteachers in the process was raised and it was noted that additional consultation sessions had been arranged outside of school hours. Further work would be undertaken on this issue. The potential for the reality of partners' commissioning arrangements to conflict with some of the Act's visions was recognised. In addition, information from the pilot areas had recently been published and would contain valuable lessons for all Authorities.

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.

134 TOWN CENTRES STRATEGY

The existing town centre strategy had been developed in 1997 and comprised of an overarching strategy with three individual town centre specific documents for Runcorn, Halton Lea and Widnes.

It was considered that it was appropriate to update the strategy and the Board received a presentation intended to begin this process which detailed the following;

- (i) The existing roles of the centres;
- (ii) Key statistics for the centres;
- (iii) Findings of a user survey; and
- (iv) Progress on a traders survey.

Following a detailed and thorough discussion, members were asked to forward any further comments to the Partnership Team.

It was **AGREED** that the presentation be noted.

135 NEW MERSEY CROSSING

The Board received a presentation detailing progress made in respect of the proposal for a new Mersey Crossing.

It was **AGREED** that

- (1) the presentation be noted; and
- (2) the actions being taken to secure the New Mersey Crossing be supported.

136 HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAMME

At the previous meeting (Minute 125 refers) the Board considered a report setting out broad themes for the proposed work programme for the Board for 2005 and 2006.

A number of Key Themes had been proposed and a further report was submitted setting out a more detailed work programme for the key themes as follows:

- (i) Branding;
- (ii) Communication;
- (iii) Community Engagement;
- (iv) Halton Area Agreements;
- (v) Neighbourhood Working;
- (vi) Service Targeting;
- (vii) Performance Management; and
- (ix) Pooled Budgets.

Additionally the report set out a proposed schedule of future Board meetings and events including likely agenda items where these were already known.

The following timetable of meetings/events was proposed;

9 th February 2005	HSPB Meeting;
13 th April 2005	Performance Review Awayday;
18 th May 2005	HSPB Meeting;
13 th July 2005	HSPB Meeting;
21 st September 2005	HSPB Meeting;
5 th October 2005	Annual Conference;
16 th November 2005	HSPB Meeting;
18 th January 2006	HSPB Meeting;
15 th March 2006	HSPB Meeting;
5 th April 2006	Performance Review Awayday
17 th May 2006	HSPB Meeting;
12 th July 2006	HSPB Meeting;
13 th September 2006	HSPB Meeting;
4 th October 2006	Annual Conference;
15 th November 2006	HSPB Meeting;

It was agreed to incorporate a presentation on the Local Delivery Plan for Health to the meeting on 9th February 2005 and a presentation on broader health issues on 16th November 2005.

It was **AGREED** that

- (1) the detailed work programme be approved; and
- (2) the future meeting dates be noted and HSPB members be invited to submit strategic level items to the Partnership Team for the Chair to consider for future meetings.

137 ROLL FORWARD OF THE SPECIALIST STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS' ACTION PLANS

The Board considered a report on progress made by the Specialist Strategic Partnerships' in updating their action plans for the financial year 2005/06.

It was noted that a number of late reports had been submitted and members were asked to ensure that all paperwork was submitted in time for inclusion in the agenda.

It was noted that the report was incomplete due to the non-submission of information on funding. Members co-operation was sought to ensure that the next report was accurate and complete. There was therefore insufficient detail to compare draft resource requests with the NRF allocation, so this would need to happen at a meeting of SSP Chairs in early January 2005.

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.

138 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND REPORT

The Board considered a report summarising the progress and expenditure in Quarter 2 2004/05 of initiatives receiving Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The Board noted the lack of information provided by some initiatives for estimated year end Neighbourhood Renewal Fund expenditure. It was noted that without this information the Board was not able to make a proper judgement as to likely under or over spend at the year end. Without this information the Board is not able to decide on what corrective action, if any, needs to be taken.

It was reported that a consultation paper on the future of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund would be published on 16th December 2004.

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted and a letter be sent from the Chair to all initiatives and Specialist Strategic Partnership Chairs re-emphasising the importance of providing full information on Neighbourhood Renewal Fund expenditure.

139 CEN AND SSP CHAIRS' UPDATES

The Board received updates from the Chairs of the five Specialist Strategic Partnerships and the Community Empowerment Network on developments since the last meeting.

It was **AGREED** that the reports be noted.

*Meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m.
and ended at 12.15 p.m.*