

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Local Strategic Partnership

Wednesday, 1 October 2008

Present: Councillor Mike Devaney (Chair) and Councillors Dennis Edgerley, Alan Cain, Hasina Khan, Nora Ball and Marie Gray

Officers in attendance: Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Carol Russell (Head of Democratic Services) and Dianne Scambler (Trainee Democratic Services Officer)

08.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

08.02 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

Councillor Dennis Edgerley declared that he was a Member of the Chorley Partnership Board.

08.03 PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

The Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) gave a brief presentation to Members of the Group on the background of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the formation of Chorley Partnership.

LSPs are not statutory bodies, however they do have an important role in bringing together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to co-ordinate joint working and expertise in improving localities.

The Chorley Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Chorley. The Partnership consists of a Board that meets four times a year and the Executive, which meets much more frequently. The Partnership's role is to develop a vision for transforming the Borough and for tackling crosscutting issues through the production and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

- The Board acts as the centre of a communication network ensuring that the key issues for the Borough are raised and discussed. It also scrutinises performance management information on a regular basis on the progress made towards the targets set in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Chorleys' contribution to the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Board also holds the LSP Executive to account for delivery against the Community Strategy.
- The Executive is smaller and brings together the key decision makers/public sector partners in the borough, and is responsible for driving delivery and allocating resources to the LSP. The Executive gives steer to the sub-groups to develop action plans and partner-based projects to deliver improved local services.

There are five thematic groups that sit below the Executive, that are tasked with delivering projects to meet the Sustainable Community Strategy objectives. These are:

- Community Safety

- Economic Regeneration
- Chorley Local Children's Trust
- Stronger and more involved Communities
- Neighbourhood Streetscene and Environment

There are also plans to develop another themed group around housing.

In the last two years a number of changes have been implemented to improve how the Partnership operates. These include:

- Restructuring of the Partnership and a new constitution
- Refreshed membership with elections to the Board and a new Chair
- New performance management framework in place
- Communications Plan for the LSP
- Council committed on-going revenue funding
- Increased role in Local Area Agreement negotiations

The Local Area Agreement is a countywide agreement between the Lancashire Partnership (Lancashire County Council's LSP) and the Department of Communities and Local Government. There are 35 National Indicators that best reflect the priorities set out in 'Ambitious Lancashire', the Lancashire wide Sustainable Community Strategy.

Twelve District Local Strategic Partnerships deliver the Local Area Agreement on a local level and if they perform well will receive part of a circa £2million Performance Reward Grant at the end of the 3 year period (during 2011).

The Chorley Partnership identified and supported six projects for 2007/08 as follows:

- Reducing Teenage Pregnancy in Chorley
- Multi Agency Tasking and Co-Ordination (MATAC)
- Marketing Chorley
- First Steps
- Building a Chorley Community Network
- The Families First Project

An IDeA Peer Review was undertaken in October 2007 on the Chorley Partnership and this outlined areas where the LSP currently performs strongly and identified some areas for development.

For 2008/09, eleven projects have been selected, covering all five key priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Girls Aloud
- Circle of Need (Older People's benefit take up)
- Climate Change launch and business workshops
- Family Support – Homestart
- Alcohol consequences campaign
- Time Banks volunteering project
- Chorley Community Network website
- Supporting rural economic diversification
- Weeks of Action
- Promoting awareness of mental health
- Marketing Chorley phase 2

08.04 THE SCOPING OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP.

The Members discussed several areas where issues had been raised or identified and these were fed into the scoping document.

The Group **AGREED** the following:

Objectives:

1. Ensure the wider engagement of the Council, Ward Councillors and local people in the work of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
2. Look at maximising the Capacity of the Local Strategic Partnership by:
 - maximising the funding contributions from partners
 - aligning funding and projects with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy
 - considering the process used to select projects
 - look at the delivery of projects and how they have added value
3. Investigating how the Local Strategic Partnership will tackle one of the key issues for the Borough, the high rate of alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates.

08.05 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

08.06 SUGGESTED DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was **AGREED** that the dates of the future meetings of the Group would be as follows:

- Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 6.30pm
- Monday 24 November 2008 at 6.30pm
- Tuesday 16 December 2008 at 6.30pm

Chair