



**North Somerset partnership
Sustainable Community Strategy/
Local Area Agreement Group Meeting
15 January 2009 2pm-4pm**

Present:

Kay Wozniak (KW)	Chair	Chief Superintendent Avon and Somerset Police Force
Graham Turner (GT)		Chief Executive, North Somerset Council
Clive Bodley (CB)		Chief Executive, North Somerset Housing
Dr Max Kammerling (MK)		Director of Public Health, North Somerset PCT
James Foster (JF)		Strategic Policy Development Manager, North Somerset Council
Rhiannon Jones (RJ)		Policy & Partnership Development Officer, North Somerset Council
Emma Short (ES)		Strategy & Research Officer, North Somerset Council
Lorraine Bush (LB)		Policy & Partnership Development Officer, North Somerset Council
Valerie Kelly (VK)		Policy & Partnership Officer, North Somerset Council

Apologies:

Andy Hicklin (AH)	Environment Agency
Dr Paul Phillips (PP)	Principal, Weston College
Linda Shaw (LS)	Voluntary Action North Somerset
Fiona Massey (FM)	Government Office South West

1. Welcome

KW welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

All actions were either completed or included on the Agenda.

NORTH SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP

3. Sector Nominations

Despite the tight timescales all the nominations were received in time. The Voluntary & Community Sector had taken a broader approach using the process as a consultation rather than just to consider nominations.

i. To consider position of North Somerset Housing

Clive Bodley raised concern over NSHousing representation on the NSP Board through the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). The VCS is in the process of setting up a Forum from which future nominees to the NSP Board will be elected. However, NS Housing does not fit the criteria for membership of the Forum. NSHousing is an Industrial and Provident Society, a charitable enterprise in the not-for-profit 3rd sector.

NS Housing wishes to engage with the NSP. They have particular connections to the people that the NSP wants to reach and money to invest in the area. NSHousing is happy to engage at delivery partnership level but feels that as housing is such an important issue in North Somerset it is important to be involved at strategic level. Clive asked whether nomination through the VCS is the best way to engage with the Partnership or if there was

scope for a specific housing representative. The sub-group considered that NSHousing has a strategic leadership function and should be represented on the NSP Board.

DECISION: That the VCS places be allocated as per their nominations ie to VANS and Community Action with the additional place being allocated to NS Housing. It is noted that Clive Bodley did not take part in the vote.

ii. To consider representation from CTMB

a) At the public sector meeting it was agreed that the CTMB should have one of the public sector places. The CTMB has since nominated their Vice Chair to take a place on the NSP Board. This means that, at the present time, Chris Born the nominee from the PCT will also be nominated from the CTMB. Questions were raised as to whether this would lead to a conflict of interest and whether this would reduce the breadth of representation on the Board. The sub-group felt that if an agenda required it a deputy could be asked to attend on behalf of the CTMB.

DECISION: To accept the nomination as put forward by the CTMB.

b) A further point raised was how BIA would fulfil their role on the Board with regard to representing the wider business sector. The business sector had nominated BIA as an additional place as it was felt important that small, medium and large businesses were represented. This nomination followed the process set out by the sub-group and had been facilitated by the North Somerset Enterprise Agency.

The sub-group noted that all partners should be able to give an informed view on behalf of a wide and disparate sector and to make the best decisions for the NSP work programme rather than for their individual organisations. It was also recognised that communication within sectors will be a challenge for all partners.

The sub-group felt that BIA could provide an informed view of the impact of Board decisions, with any conflicts of interest being declared in accordance with the governance arrangement currently in development.

DECISION: The sub-group agreed the BIA nomination and will seek reassurance from BIA that they will undertake to communicate with the wider business sector through their existing mechanisms.

c) JF had received an email from a Parish council querying why the Avon Local Council Association (ALCA) no longer had a seat on the NSP Board. Members of the sub-group who had been present at the public sector nomination meeting confirmed that the ALCA representative who attended had considered that although ALCA was unable to fulfil the criteria for Board membership, they would be able to engage and participate at delivery partnership level. This was supported by the other representatives at the public sector nomination meeting. The sub-group discussed the issue, and agreed that the outcome from the public sector meeting was appropriate, and that the proposals ensured that Town and Parish Councils and ALCA have plenty of opportunities to engage in the NSP.

DECISION: To uphold the decision regarding ALCA's future involvement with the NSP – ALCA will no longer sit on the NSP Board but will be engaged at delivery partnership level

iii. To agree nominations and confirm Board membership

DECISION: The sub-group agreed the nominations as received from the sector coordinating bodies.

iv. To consider Voluntary & Community Sector comments

Linda Shaw submitted a paper on behalf of the Voluntary & Community sector raising a number of procedural issues for the sub-group to consider. The sub-group discussed the points raised and agreed to consider these more fully when developing the governance procedures. These will be considered after the development session with the Board on 20 January.

DECISION: To consider the issues raised by the VCS following the 20 January meeting and when drafting the governance handbook for the partnership.

v. To consider the role of advisers/observers – RDA/GOSW/SREC

The sub-group considered it important that both GOSW and SWRDA were involved in the NSP as observers. GOSW have expressed a desire to be involved at each level of the partnership. The sub-group noted that equalities issues weave through the whole SCS and all members of the NSP have an equalities duty. SREC has been an adviser to the NSP in the past and the sub-group acknowledged that this represents only one of the equalities strands. The sub-group queried whether SREC should be expected, or is able to represent other views and connect to other equalities groups. It was considered that the NSP may need to seek advice on particular issues. It was also noted that there was a distinction between observer and adviser roles.

DECISION: To continue to invite a representative from GOSW and SWRDA to attend future meetings. Advisers including equalities advisers would be invited to attend board meetings when considered appropriate to the board's discussions.

4. Progress update on delivery partnership development

LB gave a short verbal update regarding the development of the new delivery partnerships.

The Health & WellBeing Group has set up a planning group. They are looking at the new agenda, and considering new aspects to the work programme e.g. children & young people, housing and culture, leisure and recreation. The Planning Group will be meeting again shortly.

The Transport, Economy & Environment Group now has a broader agenda. They have been developing a new structure for some time and are looking at expanding their representation in light of the review of the partnership. They are also considering the work programme in the SCS and identifying priorities.

Stronger Safer Communities Group discussions are taking place. Derek Carter, NSC lead officer for Stronger Safer, will be meeting with Graham Turner and Linda Shaw, the sub-group leads, to consider further development of this group.

It was noted that the role of the delivery partnership as a whole must be clear, this will inform the membership of the Group. The role of the delivery partnership chairs must also be clear as the Chair will also have to be able to fulfil criteria for the NSP Executive.

There is SW RIEP money available to assist with the development of the delivery partnerships.

5. Progress update on performance management framework

VK advised the sub-group that further work had been undertaken on the PMF to align the Aims from the SCS with the long term aspirations more closely and to identify appropriate measures. There have been a number of meetings with analysts from partner organisations to consider the appropriateness of the measures identified so far. These will be further considered with delivery partnership lead officers at a number of meetings over the next two weeks.

6. NSP Board Meeting – 20 January

7. Future NSP Work Plan

JF took items 6. and 7. together. The next NSP Board meeting is on 20 January at the Winter Gardens, 2pm-5pm. This will be the first meeting of the new Board. The meeting will be in two parts. The first will be a short business meeting, whilst the second will be a development session. The second part will be led by an external facilitator, Mike Straw from AchieveBreakthrough and will consider future priorities for the Board.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

8. LAA Update

i. Submission to GOSW

As discussed at the November sub-group meeting a refreshed LAA is due to be submitted to GOSW and government in March 2009. In November a package of information was submitted to GOSW to demonstrate our progress towards the March submission.

A performance report for all LAA targets was submitted, however incompatible timescales meant that data was unavailable for 21 indicators, 4 indicators were on or above target and 3 were below target.

A written template document was also sent to GOSW in December outlining our progress and plans for future delivery. The finalised version of the template was sent to government during w/c 12 January. Delivery plans for each indicator were also sent to GOSW.

On 16 December GT, JF and ES met with Fiona Massey and Hilary Neal from GOSW to discuss progress around the LAA review. This was a good meeting with GOSW generally positive about the approach to the refresh of the LAA and NSP review. GOSW especially noted the innovative solutions identified within the template e.g. Single point of access programme between PCT & NSC, the joint customer insight work and also the flexibility around the Area Based Grant - 2% earmarked for underperforming indicators.

ACTION: RJ will circulate template and performance report.

ii. Refresh of indicators

RJ circulated a document outlining the indicators that were included in the refresh and their current status.

Issues with a number of indicators have now been resolved

NI 4 & NI 5 - to become local indicators.

NI 40 - % uplift figure to remain the same although the baseline figure has been raised

NI 186 & 188 - No changes to target required. GOSW is to provide some additional support and any slippage around NI 188 due to capacity issues to be picked up in year 2.

NI 193 - Revised targets have been agreed with GOSW and systems to be updated.

However, there are a number of indicators which still have outstanding issues NI 20, NI 21, NI 30, NI 50, NI 150 and NI 181.

Annual targets for statutory CYPS indicators will be set in Jan-Feb as normal.

Three indicators were 'flagged up' as possibly needing further consideration due to the effect of the economic downturn. These are NI 16, NI 154 & NI 159. GOSW have requested further information around NI 16. NI 154 & NI 159 are both in the MAA, therefore the targets will be re-visited during the 2009/10 refresh when further information around the economic impact is known.

iii. Performance Reward Grant

RJ reminded the sub-group that the performance reward grant for meeting the 2007-2010 LAA stretch targets would become available in 2010. This could amount to £5.3m over two years, with the funding split 50/50 between capital and revenue. As yet there have been no discussions around how the funding should be allocated or by what process. The Policy & Partnership Team is currently reviewing any criteria or restrictions on the funding, both locally and nationally, and will bring a report to the next meeting.

ACTION: ES to bring report to meeting in February

iv. LAA lead officer

The sub-group were advised that Rhiannon would be going on maternity leave at the end of January and that Emma Shortt had been appointed to cover Rhiannon's post. The sub-group passed on their congratulations and best wishes to Rhiannon.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Date of next meeting

12 February 2009 2pm-4pm Town Hall