

MINUTES OF THE BETTER PLACES PARTNERSHIP BOARD, HELD ON 1 OCTOBER, 2007

Members present: Councillor Brian Haley (Ch), Councillor Lorna Reith, Niall Bolger, David Morris, Catherine Stenzl.

Attendance: Zena Brabazon, Chris Beckwith, Joanna David, Margaret Gallagher, Janice Robinson, Xanthe Barker.

TAC1. APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

David Anstey
John Brown
Judith Hanna
Vicky Hobart
Pamela Moffat

TAC2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

TAC3. MINUTES OF 25 JUNE 2007

The minutes of the 25 June 2007 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

TAC4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

There were no nominations for Vice-Chair and therefore a Vice-Chair was not elected.

Further reference is made to this item under LC5.

TAC5. DRAFT REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board considered a report setting out a revised set of Terms of Reference for the Better Places Partnership Board.

At the previous meeting it had been agreed that the Terms of Reference should be revised and circulated over the summer. However, given that partners were likely to be on holiday, it had been considered that it was preferable to wait and submit these at this meeting in order to allow all partners to comment on them.

It was noted that the final version of the Terms of Reference would be agreed at the Board's next meeting on 17 December and that Board members should submit any comments or proposed amendments to Janice Robinson by 12 December.

This formed the first comprehensive review of the Board's Terms of Reference since it had been established. A 'light touch' approach had been adopted and there had been a focus on outcomes rather than formal protocol within the document.

The Chairman noted that the position of Vice-Chair had not yet been filled and suggested that it would be useful if a representative from one of the partner organisations was nominated. Once the membership of external partners was determined a Vice-Chair could be appointed from one of these organisations.

It was noted that one of the Boards objectives was to oversee the Better Places projects and that the Board was accountable for the delivery of these. Given the importance of this responsibility it was agreed that the Terms of Reference should reflect this responsibility.

The Board discussed the newly established Integrated Housing Board (IHB) and the potential cross over of work between the bodies. There was agreement that consideration should be given to this and that the Terms of Reference should be amended as appropriate to ensure that areas applicable to both bodies were not considered in isolation. There was a general consensus that work was required to map out the areas where there was cross over between the IHB and BPP.

During discussion it was also suggested the following should be included within the Terms of Reference:

- The Boards objective to Build Cohesive and Empowered Communities
- Membership should make provision for the cooption of individuals with specialist knowledge in specific areas where appropriate.
- The inclusion of reference to the disclosure of personal and prejudicial interests.

Following discussion partners were asked to send their comments and suggestions regarding revisions to the Terms of Reference to Janice Robinson by 12 December at the latest.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the draft revised Terms of Reference be approved for further consultation with Board members.
- ii. That the revised Terms of Reference be brought back to the Board for final approval on 17 December 2007.

TAC6. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) TARGETS 2008/09

The Board received a report outlining the proposed target areas for the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The proposed target areas reflected the priorities that were identified following consultation with local residents and existing knowledge of the gaps where national standards were not being met. There had also been input from partners at the HSP Seminar held in June.

It was noted that there had been an initial meeting with GoL on the 14 September to discuss the proposed targets and that the meeting had been positive. Representatives from GoL had commented that the Council had made good progress and that the targets identified formed a good initial basis for further discussion.

At present guidance was still awaited from central Government in relation to national priorities and until this was received the targets were subject to change.

The Chair noted that there were three targets in relation to the environment and sustainability and questioned whether these should be revised following the formation of the Integrated Housing Board. There was a general consensus that this should be looked at and any that any cross cutting areas should be considered and reflected in the proposed targets.

It was noted that the Greenest Borough Strategy should be reflected in the environment and sustainability targets. During discussion it was suggested that the Enterprise Board should also take on the criterion in relation to sustainability.

The Board was reminded that the Government had indicated that the LAA's would form one of the key funding streams for partners in the future and that this should be kept in mind when setting the targets.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

TAC7. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT HARINGEY

The Board received a presentation on the Community Group Transport Service (CGTS) from Chris Beckwith of HCT, which set out what the CGTS was and how it benefited local residents.

It was noted that the service had been launched in Haringey in April 2006 and since its establishment it had proved popular amongst residents. In addition to the CGTS the HCT also provided a mini bus service that used volunteer drivers and allowed any member of the public between the ages of twenty-one and seventy, with a Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) certificate, to drive a mini bus.

The HCT also offered a range of other services designed to provide local transport options to people who were unable to access mainstream public transport.

It was suggested that the Neighbourhoods team should be asked to contact community groups applying to the Council for grants towards trips and suggest that they use the HCT rather than private operators. It was noted that vehicles usually used by schools were often available during the school holidays and that it may be possible to utilise these.

The Board discussed the Shop Mobility Scheme currently operating in Wood Green and it was noted that members of the public often experienced problems accessing this due to the location where the scooters were stored. The contract for this scheme was currently being renegotiated and there was a general consensus that progress on this should be reported to the Board with a view to the possibility of HCT operating the scheme.

The Chair thanked Chris Beckwith for his presentation on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

TAC8. PROGRESS UPDATE ON NRF/SSCF PROGRAMME 2007/08

The Chair accepted a late report on progress on the NRF/SSCF Programme for 2007/08. It was noted that it had not been possible to compile the report for despatch with the agenda as some of the information required was unavailable at the time of publication.

The report detailed the Projects Programme that was agreed by the HSP on 22 January and demonstrated how each project was aligned to LAA targets. The report also set out who was accountable the delivery for each project. It was noted that this would be audited on an annual basis.

The Board discussed the report and the Chair suggested that in future it would be useful if columns were added to the table to show expenditure to date, against the budget allocation to date and against the overall budget. It was also noted that the relevant BVPI's should be included and reflected in the table and that officers would also need to address this.

The Chair noted that the price of metal had increased significantly since the Council's policy on abandoned vehicles had last been reviewed. Given this increase, this policy should be reviewed with a view to obtaining a percentage any profit made from the sale of scrap metal from these vehicles.

It was also suggested that the Board should receive information on the placement of litter bins and the effectiveness of these in lowering litter rates in those areas.

It was noted that although Street Washing was taking place on a regular basis, there was still a perception amongst the public that the Borough was not as clean as it should be. In order to address this, it was suggested that Street Washing should take place in some high profile areas of the Borough in order to demonstrate the Council's commitment to this.

The Board discussed progress in relation to securing a suitable site for Auto Loos, which would be funded from the SSCF. It was noted that there was a proposal to delay this until after Christmas. However, concern was expressed that work should begin as soon as possible to implement the scheme, once agreed.

It was noted that the second half of the financial year had already been reached and that much of the funding available had not been allocated. In order to ensure that funding was not lost the Board would need to ensure that the funding was used before the end of the year.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the report.
- ii. That a progress report should be provided in relation to securing the site for Auto Loos funded from the SSCF.

TAC9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Greenest Borough Strategy

A brief written update was provided on the Greenest Borough Strategy.

It was noted that the strategy was being considered by Cabinet in December; following consideration by Cabinet it would be submitted to the Board for discussion.

Update from Mobility Forum

A written update on the Mobility Forum was submitted on behalf of Pamela Moffat who was unable to attend the meeting.

The report was noted and the Chairman thanked Pamela Moffat for its submission.

Advertising Hoardings

It was noted that a meeting had been held between the Haringey Federation of Residents' Associations and officers from Haringey Council to discuss the removal of illegal advertising hoardings and billboards.

The meeting had provided a useful forum for discussion and further meetings between the Council and the Federation would be held in the future.

It was suggested that it might be useful if particular 'hotspots' or offenders were identified and targeted in order to send out a clear message that illegal advertising hoardings would not be tolerated.

PROPOSED DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for future meetings as set out below were agreed, subject to the time of the meeting being moved from 7.30pm to **6.30pm**:

17 December 2007, 6.30pm, Civic Centre.

11 March 2007, 6.30pm, Civic Centre.

Councillor BRIAN HALEY

Chair, Better Places Partnership 2007/8

ate: