

Minutes of Coventry Partnership Meeting

Wednesday 7 November 2007
The Welcome Centre, Coventry

Attendance:

Name	Representing	Organisation
Les Ratcliffe	Private sector	Jaguar Cars, Chair
Stella Manzie	Public Sector, Secretary and Acting Chair	Coventry City Council
Sheila Bates	Community Sector	Community Empowerment Network
Dianne Williams	Private Sector	Chamber of Commerce
Debbie Harrod	Public Sector	West Midlands Police
Roger Lewis	Private Sector	PSA Peugeot Citroen
Sue Darling	Public Sector	Citizens Advice Bureau
Sue Bent	Voluntary Sector	Coventry Law Centre
Colin Green	Public Sector	Coventry City Council
Mike Attwood	Public Sector	Coventry PCT
Bob Keith	Voluntary Sector	Groundwork
Peter Shearing	Public Sector	Learning and Skills Council
Ric Richards	Private Sector	Federation of Small Businesses
Mark Tovey	Public Sector	Government Office West Midlands
Richard Monk	Registered Social Landlords	Whitefriars Housing Group
Cllr Ram Lakha	Public Sector	Coventry City Council
Cllr John McNicholas	Public Sector	Coventry City Council
Cllr Tony O'Neill	Public Sector	Coventry City Council
Rob Allison	Voluntary Sector	CVSC
Rosalind Roke	Public Sector	Coventry Partnership
Ray Goy	Public Sector	Henley College
Eric Shakespeare	Community Sector	Community Empowerment Network
Steve Glover	Public sector	West Midlands Police

Apologies:		In Attendance:	
Louise Bennett	Chamber of Commerce	Helen Shankster	Coventry Partnership
Cllr John Mutton	Coventry City Council	Su Edwards	Coventry Partnership
Madeline Atkins	Coventry University	Nigel Hart	Coventry Partnership
Jon Baldwin	University of Warwick	Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership
Stephen Jones	Coventry PCT	Jenni Venn	Coventry City Council
Jane Beaver	Job Centre Plus	Paula Deas	Coventry City Council
Justine Themen	Belgrade Theatre	Rebecca Young	Coventry City Council
Jos Parry	Coventry City Council	Carl Pearson	Coventry City Council
		Phil Dunn	Coventry city Council
Cllr Ken Taylor	Coventry City Council, Leader	Alison Porter	Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership
June Jeffreys	Community Empowerment Network	David Galliers	WMLGA
Jos Parry	Coventry City Council	Cat Parker	Coventry City Council
Mike Fowler	Coventry Cyrenians	Jo Sandford	Consultant
Cllr Kevin Foster	Coventry City Council	Colin Merker	C&W Mental Health Trust
		Mr Hiroshi Togo	Visitor
		Mr Koji Kanagawa	Visitor
		Mr Tadahiko Yoshida	Visitor

1. Welcome and Apologies

Les Ratcliffe welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a special note of welcome to a new member of the Board, Chief Superintendent Steve Glover of West Midlands Police, who replaces Max Sahota.

Les also welcomed David Galliers from the West Midlands Local Government Association and three visiting researchers from Japan. Les explained that the researchers were undertaking a comparative study of local partnerships in the UK and Japan. The researchers were building up an in depth case study of Coventry, focusing on the city's work to develop its new sustainable community strategy.

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Private Sector Engagement in the Coventry Partnership

Les welcomed Jo Sandford, the consultant who had been commissioned to explore ways in which to improve private sector involvement in the Coventry Partnership. Les reminded members of the Board of his commitment to improve links with business during his time as Chair.

The Board received a presentation and associated report from Jo. Jo updated the Board on proposals to establish a Coventry Partnership Business Group. The Business Group would act as an essential conduit to involve representatives of the business community in both the operational work of the Theme Groups and the strategic work of the Partnership.

Jo confirmed that the Business Group would be made up of representatives of existing business networks within the city such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and Business in the Community. Members of the Business Group would act as the conduit to the members of their respective organisations. The role of the Business Group would be advisory and the group would be chaired by a private sector representative from the Coventry Partnership Board, initially Les Ratcliffe. It was proposed that the Business Group would be supported by the Coventry Partnership Secretariat to maintain close links with the wider partnership.

Jo explained that the Coventry business charter website could be developed to provide a resource for the Business Group and other local businesses. It was proposed that the first meeting of the Business Group would take place in December 2007 and would consider the draft Sustainable Community Strategy. Further meetings would take place quarterly in order to align with meetings of the Partnership Board.

The Board were asked to endorse the establishment of the Coventry Partnership Business Group and the opportunities for the Partnership Board and Theme Groups.

Les thanked Jo for her work and invited members of the Board to comment or ask questions.

A number of Board members voiced their support for the plans. In particular, Roger Lewis, PSA Peugeot Citroen, endorsed the plans, agreeing that the Business Group would provide an easy structure for businesses to engage in both the strategic and operational work of the Coventry Partnership.

Diane Williams, Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, suggested that where theme groups wanted to speak to the Business Group about support they should suggest possible options to give private sector organisations some choice and influence over where they put their weight.

Steve Jones, Coventry PCT, highlighted the potential to engage the business sector with the Health at Work agenda.

Cllr Tony O'Neill welcomed the proposed focus on one key priority from each Theme Group. Cllr Ram Lakha questioned how the relationship with the Board would be maintained when Les stepped down as Chair. Both Les and Stella stressed that the Chair of the Business Group would continue to be a private sector representative from the Board.

The Coventry Partnership Board endorsed the proposals to set up a Business Group.

4. Sustainable Community Strategy Outcomes and Priorities Draft and Draft Economic Development Strategy

4a. Sustainable Community Strategy Outcomes and Priorities Draft

The Board received a presentation from Jenni Venn, Coventry City Council, and Ros Roke, Coventry Partnership Secretariat. Jenni and Ros presented a summary of feedback from the partnership workshop on 10 October 2007 and from Theme Groups. They confirmed the work that had been undertaken to further develop the Sustainable Community Strategy and outlined the timeline for public consultation.

Public consultation would commence on 3 December 2007 and end on 25 January 2008. It was confirmed that there would be an extraordinary Partnership Board meeting on 21 February 2008 in order for the Board to sign off the final draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Jenni also explained further work to be undertaken prior to public consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy, including:

- Further updates to the main consultation document to ensure use of the most up to date data
- A plain English check and professional branding to ensure the main consultation document is presented professionally and is easy to understand
- The production of a short easy read summary for use with children and other audiences

Ros reminded the Board that the organisations and individuals which they represented were part of the wider consultation activity and members of the Board were encouraged to inform the Secretariat of events and communications mechanisms which could be used to promote the consultation.

Les invited members of the Board to ask questions following the presentation.

Cllr Ram Lakha questioned the proposal to use Ward Forums as a mechanism for consultation because of concerns about "overload". Ros confirmed that the plan was to promote the consultation through Ward Forums rather than undertake any detailed consultation at such events.

Debbie Harrod, West Midlands Police, advised that there were still some remaining cross cutting issues to be addressed within her area of work and questioned how to take such issues forward. Debbie highlighted her concerns around housing growth and crime. Stella confirmed that the issue was discussed within the draft document but invited Debbie to discuss the issue further with Jenni following the meeting.

Bob Keith, Groundwork, questioned the title of the document suggesting that "Sustainable Community Strategy" was off-putting to members of the public. It was also highlighted that a range of other strategies were due to go to public consultation over the coming weeks and it was suggested that the strategies could be branded within a family of communications. It was agreed that a new title should be considered when branding the document.

Mike Attwood, Coventry PCT, suggested that the document could be circulated to the PCT Board and through all GP practices with patient participation groups in Coventry.

Roger Lewis, PSA Peugeot Citroen, questioned the language of the document and reiterated the need to simplify the language to be more user-friendly.

Peter Shearing, Learning and Skills Council, asked whether there was any plans to engage school age children, especially those within schools years 11, 12 and 13. Colin Green, Childrens Services, Coventry City Council, informed the group that a number of schools have been involved in the projects to consider the future of the city and that the Youth Council could provide a useful link to both primary and secondary schools across the city.

Stella Manzie, Coventry City Council, explained that following some further work proposals would be brought forward on how negotiation on the new Local Area Agreement would take place.

The Board approved the SCS Outcomes and Priorities Draft for public consultation subject to the proposed amendments.

Actions:

- **Jenni and Ros to consider a new title when branding the document prior to public consultation**
- **Ros to liaise with Colin Green to engage school children in the consultation activities for the Sustainable Community Strategy**
- **Jenni and Ros to consider promotion of the SCS consultation through GP practices and patient participation groups in Coventry**

4b. Draft Economic Development Strategy

The Board received a presentation of the Draft Economic Development Strategy from Carl Pearson, Head of Regeneration, Coventry City Council. Members of the Board received a summary of the Draft Economic Development Strategy and associated briefing note prior to the meeting.

Carl explained the background to Coventry's Draft Economic Development Strategy and its development through the Learning Skills and Economy Theme Group. He then gave a brief overview of the draft strategy, introducing its four main goals. Carl explained the processes. It was reported that the draft strategy would be considered by Cabinet on the 3 December 2007. The public consultation would be held within the same timescale as the consultation around the Sustainable Community Strategy and consultation activities would be aligned where possible.

Les invited members of the Board to ask questions and make comments prior to the discussion exercise.

Members of the Board stressed that careful consideration should be given to the consultation activities around the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy to avoid confusing the public.

It was agreed that the Draft Economic Development Strategy should be brought back to the next meeting of the Board following a period of public consultation.

Actions:

- **Jenni and Ros to work with the Regeneration Team to align consultation activities where possible**
- **Carl Pearson to present the Economic Development Strategy to the Board on 16 January 2008, following public consultation**

Discussion:

The four main goals of the Draft Economic Development Strategy were outlined as follows:

- 1. Transform and extend the City Centre**
Create a landmark gateway around the railway station, extend the city centre boundary northward whilst attracting major new retail outlets and creating 25,000 new jobs.
- 2. Provide jobs to create Prosperity**
Attract new businesses whilst supporting those already in Coventry, develop the cities Universities, improving skills and creating more job opportunities for our graduates.
- 3. Build New Homes, Transforming Communities and Neighbourhoods**
Work with the private sector housing companies to create a wider range of new 'mixed communities', ensuring neighbourhood renewal is pursued with the full involvement of local community.
- 4. Create a city that is more environmentally sustainable and has a carbon neutral impact on the environment**
To work with business to reduce their environmental impact and to create and further invest in environmentally sustainable public transport.

Each table was asked to discuss one of the goals (as allocated) and, specifically, to consider and comment on whether that goal would help the city achieve the long term outcomes proposed in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Each table discussion was facilitated by a member of the Regeneration Team and all feedback was recorded by a note taker at each table.

Following table discussions, Les invited each table to respond with one main point. This feedback is summarised in appendix 1. A full record of feedback from each table was recorded and passed to the Regeneration Team at Coventry City Council.

5. Forward Planner

Les asked the Board to note the following issues for consideration at forthcoming Partnership Board meetings:

- a) Continued involvement in the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- b) Local Employer Partnerships
- c) Six month update on the current Local Area Agreement
- d) Community Involvement Strategy

Stella invited members of the Board to suggest any additional items for consideration.

Rob Allison, CVSC, requested that Compact Codes of Practice be added. Mike Attwood, Coventry PCT, requested that the Health Strategy also be considered at a forthcoming meeting.

6. Any Other Business

a) Feel Good Factors

- a. Richard Monk, Whitefriars Housing, highlighted that Coventry Homefinder (an NRF funded project) had been launched on 28 September 2007. The project had brought major benefits as it had led to the development of one definitive list and a common set of criteria for social housing in Coventry
- b. Phil Dunn, Neighbourhood Management – the “Crackdown and Consolidation” initiatives had led to a significant reduction in reported crime, particularly in Willenhall and Hillfields. Phil quoted figures of a 40% reduction in Willenhall and a 20% reduction in Hillfields
- c. Mike Attwood, Coventry PCT, told the Board that Older Peoples Week had been a great success across Coventry
- d. Les informed the group that Ros had got married and asked the Board to offer their congratulations to her
- e. Les notified the Board that he had recently attended a meeting of LSP Chairs from the private sector which was held in London. The meeting had been hosted by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Coventry had been recognised at national level as a model of good practice in this area
- f. Finally, Les informed the Board that the Jaguar XJ had been voted the best car in its class at the Auto Express Car Awards

7. Any Other Business

- a) Ros updated the Board on plans to hold an introductory session on Outcome Based Planning before Christmas and a complete two day training programme in the new year
- b) Les reminded members of the Board that there would be an extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 21 February 2008 at St. Peter’s Community Centre, Hillfields. The purpose of the meeting would be to allow the Board to sign off the final draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Appendix 1: Feedback from discussion of the Draft Economic Development Strategy

Table 1: Transform and extend the City Centre

This goal is fundamental to delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy. The improvement of the city centre is linked to many of the long term outcomes proposed within the Sustainable Community Strategy. There is a need to recognise and understand different segments of the city centre such as retail and entertainment. Though there are opportunities in all areas, it may be more beneficial to select one area in which Coventry will plan to excel.

Table 2: Provide jobs to create Prosperity

It will be important to know what type of jobs there will be in the future. There is a lack of distinctiveness in the jobs described in the draft strategy. The quality and type of jobs to be created will be key. Coventry may need to be brave and say no to certain types of jobs/organisations which will not deliver the desired outcomes for the city.

Table 3: Build New Homes, Transforming Communities and Neighbourhoods

It should be recognised that housing growth links to everything – health, education, travel, social structure. The Economic Development Strategy should plan for the existing communities/neighbourhoods and link these areas to investment for large projects.

Table 4: Create a City that is more environmentally Sustainable and has a carbon Neutral Impact on the Environment

There is a need to put a 'wow' factor/aspirational target in to the strategy. A range of people/organisations would benefit from a new public transport system to connect up the entire city, enabling people to travel round the city and also in the city centre.

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