

Minutes of Coventry Partnership Meeting
Thursday 14th March 2007
Welcome Centre, Coventry

Attendance:

Name	Representing	Organisation
Sue Bent	Chair, Voluntary Sector	Coventry Law Centre
Stella Manzie	Secretary, Public Sector	Coventry City Council
Cllr O'Neill	Public Sector & Chair NRF Sub-Group	Coventry City Council
Cllr Mc Nicholas	Transport Theme Group	Coventry City Council
Stuart Fergusson	Housing Theme Group	Midland Heart
Stephen Banbury	Voluntary Sector	CVSC
Les Ratcliffe	Private Sector	Jaguar Cars
Sheila Bates	Community Sector	CEN
Max Sahota	Public Sector	WM Police
Joan Allen	Public Sector	CEN
Jane Beaver	Public Sector & Chair Jobs Group	Job Centre Plus
Ray Goy	Public Sector	Henley College
Martin Clark	Public Sector	WM Fire Service
Stephen Jones	Public Sector, Community Safety Partnership	PCT
Geoff Makin	Health Theme Group	Coventry City Council
Bob Keith	Environment Theme Group	Groundwork
Sue Darling	Voluntary Sector	Citizens Advice Bureau
Eric Shakespeare	Community Sector	Community Empowerment Network
June Jeffrey	Community Sector	Community Empowerment Network
Ric Richards	Private Sector	Federation of Small Businesses
Martin Kennedy	Private Sector	Chamber of Commerce
Justine Theman	Cultural Partnership	Belgrade Theatre
Mark Tovey	Public Sector	GOWM
Prof Ashraf Jawaid	Public Sector	Coventry University

Apologies:

Louise Bennett	Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Mutton	Coventry City Council
Howard Farrand	Whitefriars Housing Group
Madeline Atkins	Coventry University
Susan Bassnett	Warwick University
Chief Supt Hesketh	West Midlands Police
Cllr Taylor	Coventry City Council
Cllr Lakha	Coventry City Council
Cllr Kevin Foster	Coventry City Council
Mark Taylor	West Midlands Fire Service
Peter Shearing	Learning & Skills Council
Angie Kokes	Henley College
Virginia Eneje	CEN
Roger Lewis	Peugeot Citroen
Afzal Hussain	NDC
Adrian Coles	

In Attendance:

Helen Shankster	Coventry Partnership
Su Edwards	Coventry Partnership
Sara Roach	Coventry Partnership
Nigel Hart	Coventry Partnership
Janice Nichols	Coventry City Council
Rob Allison	CVSC
Jeanette Burrows	CEN
Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership
Adrian Coles	NRF

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Sue welcomed Martin Clark to the meeting who will be representing the West Midlands Fire Service and Martin Kennedy from the Chamber of Commerce.

2. **Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Item 4 - Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Consultation - the Partnership have sent a letter supporting the City Council's response to the RSS Consultation and emphasising the need to consider the environment throughout all phases and not just leaving it until phase 3.

The next phase of the local consultation process on the Local Development Framework will commence shortly and theme groups will be participating in this process.

3. **Report back on Self Assessment process – 9 January 2007**

Sara reported back on the outcome of the Partnership Board Self Assessment held on 9th January.

The actions have now been incorporated into a draft improvement plan which was considered at the meeting. The Board supported the improvement plan and agreed to receive 6 monthly updates on progress.

4. **Future Arrangements for Local Area Agreements**

Stella gave a presentation on the future of Local Area Agreements, following the recent publication of a guidance document from central government.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Local Authority are being expected to take the lead on the development of both the Local Area Agreement and the Local Strategic Partnership following the White Paper 'Strong & Prosperous Communities' in October 2006.

Stella emphasised that the Coventry Partnership had always had a good balance in relation to representation, leadership and inclusiveness and that it was critical that this was maintained. However, the future changes will require a fundamental review of the current Local Area Agreement and in particular, the way that the Local Authority and the 16 partners with a duty to cooperate (White Paper) work together to develop this.

The group discussed the local implications in relation to timecales, the process for agreeing the 35 local improvement targets, the role of the Partnership Board, etc.

It was agreed that the Board would receive regular updates as the super refresh process was developed.

Stella reported that David Galliers had been given a further 12 month secondment to manage the West Midlands Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnership Capacity Building Programme. Sara's secondment is due to end at the end of March

and due to the changes from the White Paper, it is timely for the role to be reviewed in order to build-in capacity to ensure we can effectively develop and deliver the new Local Area Agreement and also manage the further development of the Partnership Board and associated Theme Groups.

5. **Development of a Shared Vision for the Coventry Partnership**

Following on from Stella's previous presentation, Councillor Tony O'Neill gave a presentation on the Council's vision and corporate objectives. Given the lead role that the Local Authority is being given, and the need for the Coventry Partnership to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy there is an emerging need to understand where the vision of the Local Authority and the vision/objectives of partners come together.

It was acknowledged that all partners had specific roles and responsibilities but there was also a shared objective for everyone of making the city a better place to live, increase the quality of life, etc.

This discussion led into table discussions on:

- What is the longer term vision of the Coventry Partnership?
- How does this link with the vision of the City Council?

The following highlights the feedback from each group:

Group One:

- Would expect the Partnership's vision to be the same as the Council's and if the partnership is healthy, they would expect there to be an ongoing dialogue as the vision evolves, so that it remains a shared vision.
- The aim of the Partnership should be altered so that it still says things about harnessing energy and skills, but emphasises that it is doing this to achieve the overall vision.
- Members of the Partnership should then be able to see where the visions of their respective organisations overlap.
- Members of the Board are not always representative and we need to consider how we make sure that we have a 'network' outside of board meetings for the voluntary and private sectors.

Group Two:

- The Partnership vision should be where the private, community and voluntary sectors interface/influence the public sector to have input into the LAA, Community Plan, public sector plans – the vision needs to be inclusive.
- Representation at the Board – will the Partnership be disenfranchised by the new LAA structure, ie. Public Service Board – would like to think that the community and voluntary sectors could influence decision making processes and strategy.
- Private sector involvement – what does the Partnership want from the private sector and what can the private sector gain from its involvement – less altruistic than voluntary/community sectors.

Group Three:

- Why would the Council vision be different to that of the Partnership?
- We are all working to the same aspirations for the people of Coventry although we do need to capture partner's visions too where they are different.
- The vision should focus on the end result and now how we get there.
- The Partnership's role is for the partners to champion the interests of the people with whom they work or the communities they represent (eg. RSL tenants, job seekers, community groups, etc) through our organisations within the Partnership's vision and objectives.
- The Partnership enables partners to take national policy/instructions and convert them into what is needed in Coventry.
- How do we make the vision distinctive for Coventry? We all need to work towards making Coventry distinctive and different from other cities. To help make it a place people want to come and to stay – we want other cities to aspire to be like Coventry!

Group Four:

- To mitigate against the risk that the Partnership is perceived to be part of the Council, we need to ensure that it has a strong public image as a balanced partnership, with strong input from the private, community and voluntary sectors.
- The Partnership should focus on the commonalities amongst partners' visions rather than core business. It is inevitable that Central Government will focus on targets and we should demand the freedom to decide how to deliver these.
- The LAA should include local priorities – eg. Stronger communities and harnessing the added value of the community and voluntary sectors. Targets and indicators aiming to achieve these outcomes are more difficult to measure than others (ie. Crime rates), but if they are high priorities for us we should invest some resources in collecting information to support this.

6. Coventry's Refreshed Local Area Agreement 2007/08

Due to the meeting running over time, it was agreed that if anybody had any questions or comments on the Refreshed Local Area Agreement they should be forwarded to Sara Roach in the Partnership Secretariat, e-mail address sara.roach@coventrypartnership.com.

7. Role of the Health of Coventry Theme Group

Geoff Makin presented a briefing note on the proposed changes to the Health Theme Group. These were agreed.

8. LSP Capacity Building Programme

Due to the meeting running over time, it was agreed that if anybody had any questions on this item, they should be forwarded to Sara Roach in the Partnership Secretariat, e-mail address sara.roach@coventrypartnership.com.

9. **Update on Communications**

Due to the meeting running over time, it was agreed that if anybody had any questions on this item, they should be forwarded to Nigel Hart in the Partnership Secretariat, e-mail address nigel.hart@coventrypartnership.com.

11. **AOB**

Change of Partnership Chair

Stella thanked Sue Bent for her year as Chair of the Partnership and acknowledged all of the hard work she has done and the significant involvement that Sue has had in a range of reviews/groups, etc.

Stella announced that Les Ratcliffe – Jaguar Cars – had agreed to be the new chair for 2007/08, representing the private sector.

Date of Next meeting – 10 May 2007 – St Peter's, Hillfields