

**Minutes of a meeting of the Warwickshire Public Service Board held on 15
May 2008 at Shire Hall, Warwick.**

Present:

Members of the Public Service Board

Council Leaders:

Alan Farnell - Warwickshire County Council (Chair of Board)
Michael Coker -Warwick District Council
Marcus Jones – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Colin Hayfield – North Warwickshire Borough Council

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils - Councillor Vaughan Owen

Learning and Skills Council (C&W) - Kim Thorneywork

CWIC - Kay Wilson

Warwickshire Police Authority - Phil Robson representing Ian Francis

NHS Warwickshire (PCT) - Bryan Stoten

C&W Chamber of Commerce - Louise Bennett

Observers

Audit Commission – Alison Parker
Warwickshire County Council – Councillor Peter Fowler
Stratford LSP – Charles Goody

Officers

District/Borough Council Chief Executives:

Chris Elliott – Warwick District Council
Christine Kerr – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Paul Lankester – Stratford on Avon District Council
Jerry Hutchinson, -North Warwickshire Borough Council

Warwickshire Police - Keith Bristow

Warwickshire PCT – David Rose

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils – Alison Hodge

CWIC – Jacqui Aucott

GOWM – Sharon Shattock

County Council Jim Graham – Chief Executive
Bill Basra, LAA Manager
David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources.
David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance and
Development
Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children, Young People
and Families.
Carol Edkins, Health Improvement Manager.
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnership Officer.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator
Jon Reading, Adult, Health and Community
Julie Sullivan, Corporate Community Safety Manager
Janet Purcell, Cabinet Business Manager
Virginia Rennie, Group Accountant

The Chair welcomed Councillor Marcus Jones to his first meeting of the Board and also welcomed Charles Goodey, Chair of Stratford LSP and Kay Wilson who was representing CWIC. The Chair also welcomed Alison Parker, who was undertaking a research project on LSPs and would be observing the meeting.

1	Apologies	
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Craig Humphrey (Rugby Borough Council), Ian Francis (Warwickshire Police Authority), Councillor Les Topham (Stratford on Avon District Council) and William Clemmey (CWIC).	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 12 March 2008	
	Resolved That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2008 be agreed as a correct record.	

3.	Consideration of Allocations pursuant to the County Council's Resolution dated 18 March 2008.	
	(a) Release of Area Based Grant (ABG) for 2008/09 in respect of Appendix E to the Council report.	
	<p>Nick Gower-Johnson presented the report and asked the Board to amend the date in recommendation 1, page 1 of the report to read "31st March 2009" and on page 3, paragraph 2.3.1 to amend the figure against the Safer Communities Block to read "£200,000" instead of £100,000, noting that the total allocation to be released remained at £1m.as stated.</p> <p>Kay Wilson and Jacqui Aucott –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raised concerns about the difference in presentation of Nuneaton and Bedworth and Stratford LSP spending plans; • suggested that Stratford should be asked to bring back its plan in the same format as Nuneaton and Bedworth; • questioned how the Board would measure project delivery across the county to ensure it met the "narrowing the gap" criteria • stressed the importance of partnership working in delivery of the plans. • Queried whether the emphasis of the exercise was Narrowing the Gap or pursuit of Stronger Communities. <p>In response Nick Gower-Johnson referred to Appendix 7 of the report, which set out the processes and expectations of the Board. Jim Graham also referred to agenda item 4(b), which set out the role, membership and approach of the Board where it might be appropriate to raise some of the issues again.</p> <p>On the issue of emphasis, Nick Gower-Johnson added that the issues of Narrowing the Gap and Stronger Communities were not mutually exclusive and that an emphasis on Narrowing the Gap within applications would not be contrary to the spirit in which the grant was made.</p> <p>Christine Kerr said that the Borough Council was the lead body, working with the LSP, to deliver its plan together with a range of public sector and partner agencies and was well versed in responding to PSB demands on Narrowing the Gap. Paul Lankester advised that the Board should feel confident that Stratford's plan could be delivered and managed and that delivery was backed up by other statutory agencies. He added</p>	

	<p>that Nuneaton and Bedworth and Stratford were very different and had differing needs. Stratford's plan was very strongly supported by the CVS and the Area Committee and to delay the plan would risk projects not being delivered. There was much information, detail and historical data to support the validity of the bid. Christine Kerr concurred with these comments about the differences between the two districts.</p> <p>Following discussion the Board resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the allocations set out in paragraph 2 of the report subject to no commitments being entered into beyond 31st March 2009 prior to considerations of the outcomes of the scrutiny review required by the County Councils' resolution dated 18 March 2008: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire County Council Adult Health and Community Services of £558,000 (Appendix 2) • Warwickshire County Council Children Young People and Families Directorate of £1.328m (Appendix 3) • Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Strategic Partnership of £400,000,(Appendix 4) • Stratford Local Strategic Partnership of £100,00 (Appendix 5) • The Warwickshire Safer Communities Partnership of £200,000 (Appendix 6) 2. Approve the criteria and processes described in the report for the awards to each of the District Local Strategic Partnerships (Appendix 7). 	
4.	<p>(a) The Joint scrutiny exercise for Area Based Grant in advance of 2009/10.</p>	
	<p>The Board considered the report of the County Partnership Manager which set out proposals for a joint scrutiny exercise.</p> <p>Councillor Colin Hayfield emphasised the need for the scrutiny to be fair and transparent and suggested that one way of ensuring an open approach may be to include council officers from different service areas to those under scrutiny.</p>	

	<p>(b) Discussion on future role, membership and approach of the Board (including Narrowing the Gap).</p>	
	<p>The Board considered the report and commented in connection with the following –</p> <p><u>Paragraph 3 of the Report – The Board’s Approach to Narrowing the Gap.</u></p> <p>Christine Kerr suggested that the new indicator for health was light (NI 120) and was also unsure about what contribution could be made to 188 CO₂ emissions. Bryan Stoten supported the comment on NI120 and said that smoking had an impact on all areas of the community. It was also noted that no contribution could be made to NI 195 (Climate Change and the Environment) and should be removed.</p> <p><u>Paragraph 4 Membership and Working Links of the Board</u></p> <p>Sharon Shattock highlighted AWM’s important contribution to the area and the value that it would bring to the Board. During discussion the consensus was that the Board had only been operating for a relatively short period and should retain its current membership for the present time.</p> <p><u>Paragraph 7 Governance and Developing Joint Scrutiny</u></p> <p>Councillor Colin Hayfield proposed that scrutiny should not only be “top down” but also “bottom up”. Christine Kerr said she was conscious that many members were not aware of what was happening with the PSB and, therefore, a joint scrutiny exercise would have the potential to engage more people.</p> <p>Jim Graham said that it was important for everyone to have the same understanding and be clear of what scrutiny was about and what was being scrutinised.</p> <p>Nick Gower-Johnson undertook to provide a report to the next meeting clarifying the scrutiny proposals.</p> <p>The Board resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the proposals and timescales set out in paragraph 2 of the report for joint scrutiny of the use of Area Based Grant 2008/9. 	<p>NJ-G</p>

	<p>2. Approve the approach to Narrowing the Gap set out in paragraph 3 of the report subject to the addition of “smoking prevalence” in lieu of NI 120 and the deletion of NI 188.</p> <p>3. Agree to retain the current membership of the Public Services Board.</p> <p>4. Require the convening of the Public Service Board Advisory Forum as soon as possible and by the end of July 2008 at the latest and thereafter at least twice a year.</p> <p>5. Note the importance of the developing multi-agency approach to Locality Working including the opportunity for better links with local communities that these offer for both the PSB and the District LSPs.</p> <p>6. Request the production of an end of year report for the first LAA by the end of June 2008.</p> <p>7. Request the production of a draft communications strategy for consideration by the Board at its next meeting.</p> <p>8. Agree the approach set out in paragraph 6 of the report to enhancing the strategic role of the board.</p> <p>9. Agree the selection of key strategic partner issues set out in paragraph 6 of the report and agree to establish a suitable timetable for the consideration of these matters.</p> <p>10. Agree to the establishment of and adherence to a clear calendar of future meetings linked to performance management, resources management and partnership governance arrangements.</p> <p>11. Request a further report outlining and clarifying arrangements for developing the joint scrutiny arrangements of the Board’s activities and the activities of the district LSPs.</p>	<p>A revised indicator set to be distributed (BB) (WCC)</p> <p>N G-J</p> <p>All</p> <p>BB (WCC)</p> <p>Eric Britton (WCC)</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>N G-J</p>
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	<p>12. Agree that the existing partnership governance arrangements should be retained subject to further consideration being given by the Board to reviewing the same in 2009.</p> <p>13. Require the LAA Block Leaders to prepare and produce Delivery Plans for approval by the countywide theme groups and subsequent endorsement by the Board no later than September 2008.</p>	<p>N G-J</p> <p>I</p> <p>All/N G-J</p>
5.	Warwickshire County Council Comprehensive Performance Assessment Summer 2008.	
	<p>Jim Graham reported that the County Council would be subject to both a CPA inspection and Joint Area Review (JAR) for two weeks from 30 June. This would include a tour of the County on 9 June and may also include interviews of board members/partners. Jim emphasised that these inspections were important for Warwickshire and all of the partners, with the outcome forming the basis of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).</p> <p>Jim quoted from the CPA Self-Assessment submitted by the County Council, which referred to the work of the PSB and of the LAA as one of the vehicles through which there was engagement with partners (although he emphasised that the LAA is just one small element of partnership working).</p> <p>The involvement of all agencies was included in the submission and the agencies' views were important in the development of the community and the creation of a vision for the future. It was hoped that the County Council as the lead authority, together with its partners organisations, would be able to articulate joint aspirations by the work that it had done together.</p>	
6.	Endorsement of the New Local Area Agreement 2008/11 -	
	(a) By the Board	
	<p>Bill Basra presented the report and circulated an additional paper containing proposed revisions to the LAA. These revisions were discussed and comments noted as follows:</p>	

NI 155 Stronger Communities

It was noted that the Block response was that it would be imprudent to agree to any more challenging targets without additional resources and in advance of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

NI 154 Stronger Communities

Chris Eliot explained the reasons not to include NI 154 (net additional homes provided), which included local authorities' inability to influence the housing market and the shortage of mortgages. Sharon Shattock said that the Prime Minister was very keen to ensure there were new houses and only a few authorities had not included this indicator.

Chris Eliot suggested that the Board should not be pressurised on this point and referred, as an example, to the similar situation in relation to violent crime where reward grants had been lost. He proposed, as a compromise, that the situation be reviewed in a year's time. The Board endorsed this proposal.

NI 21 and 30 Safer Communities – Noted as set out in the additional paper.

NI 47 Safer Communities (people killed and seriously injured)

Sharon Shattock noted that Warwickshire was already doing well and that if it wished to get to the top it should push for a more stretching target than 3%, whilst accepting that 10% was too ambitious.

The Board agreed to retain the 3% that had been proposed.

NI 117 Children and Young People – Noted as set out in the additional paper which ensured up to date information based on financial rather than academic periods.

NI 69 Children and Young People

Marion Davis undertook to investigate better benchmarking information and the Board agreed that, meanwhile the report remained unchanged.

NI 186 Climate Change and Environment - Amendments noted as set out in the additional paper.

	<p><u>NI 188 Climate Change and the Environment - Amendments</u> noted as set out in the additional paper.</p> <p><u>NI 8 Local Indicators.</u> –_Amendments noted as set out in the additional paper.</p> <p>The Board resolved to:</p> <p>a) Endorse the New LAA and approve its submission to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) as amended above.</p> <p>b) Welcome the multi-agency endorsement arrangements set out in the report.</p> <p>c) Express its thanks to the Block Leaders, their Support Officer, Partners and all others for their efforts in achieving the production of new LAA.</p>	
	<p>(b) By partner agencies</p>	
	<p>Kay Wilson considered there was a need to clarify the list of partner organisations. Nick Gower-Johnson undertook to discuss the partner agencies' list with CAVA.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Quarter 4 Outturn:</p>	
	<p>(a) Performance</p>	
	<p>The Board resolved to note the Quarter 4 progress and the production of an Annual Review of the Current LAA.</p>	
	<p>(b) LPSA2</p>	
	<p>Nick Gower-Johnson presented the report and highlighted the financial forecast for the reward grants and the remedial action proposed.</p> <p>There was discussion on the progress of CYP5 (Healthy Schools). Marion Davis advised that she was continuing to work with the PCT to investigate what might be done to mitigate the risk of losing reward grant in this area. Bryan Stoten repeated his previous offer on behalf of the PCT to assist in any way possible.</p> <p>The Board resolved to ask:</p> <p>(a) for a report to a future meeting on the poor performance areas</p> <p>(b) David Carter to report to a future meeting with suggested areas for scrutiny.</p>	<p>NG-J</p>

	(c) Finance – Verbal Report pending verification of figures	
	David Clarke reported a carry forward of £187,000 from the ABG LAA Blocks and did not envisage that this would be an issue but advised that a further report would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.	
8.	Any Other Business	
	(a) Serious Violent Crime – Police Commitment	
	<p>Keith Bristow reported Government and community pressure to address the issue of the “increase in violent crime”. He was confident that a reduction in violent crime could be achieved and in this respect a dedicated officer had been identified to lead on the Police contribution. He requested that partners consider their support for this initiative and help create a dedicated team that would share information (including people and places at risk) and aim to repudiate and not tolerate violence. Once established it was hoped that the initiative would become a self sustaining part of the way partners work together.</p> <p>The consensus of the Board was that it supported this proposal and offers of help were put forward by the districts, PCT and the County Council. Paul Lankester undertook to co-ordinate the response from the districts. Sharon Shattock offered to investigate what resources might be made available through the Home Office Monitoring Committee to fund a post and would report back on the outcome. David Clarke offered to co-ordinate the funding proposals.</p> <p>The Board resolved to:</p> <p>(a) ask Keith Bristow report to the next meeting with details and costing of the proposals; (b) accept the offers of help as recorded above.</p>	<p>KB SS/PL/DClarke</p>
	(b) CDRPs	
	Jim Graham circulated a letter from GOWM that congratulated the performance of Warwickshire CDRPs and advised of forthcoming work between the CDRPs and GOWM to build on good practice.	

9.	<p>Future Meeting Arrangements</p> <p>The Board noted the future meeting dates as follows-</p> <p>Thursday 26 June 2008 – 10:00 am at Shire Hall, Warwick Tuesday 19 August 2008 – 10.00 a.m. at The Trident Centre, Leamington Spa.</p>	

The meeting finished at 4:50 p.m.

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Chair