

Minutes of a meeting of the Warwickshire Public Service Board held on 26 June 2008 at Shire Hall, Warwick.

Present:

Members of the Public Service Board

Council Leaders:

Alan Farnell - Warwickshire County Council (Chair of Board)
Michael Doody, North Warwickshire District Council
Colin Hayfield – North Warwickshire Borough Council
Les Topham – Stratford on Avon District Council

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils - Councillor Vaughan Owen

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

CWIC - William Clemmey

Warwickshire Police Authority - Eric Wood (representing Ian Francis)

NHS Warwickshire (PCT) - Bryan Stoten

C&W Chamber of Commerce - Louise Bennett

Observers

Warwickshire County Council – Councillor Peter Fowler

Officers

District/Borough Council Chief Executives:

Chris Elliott – Warwick District Council
Christine Kerr – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Dave Nash (representing Paul Lankester) – Stratford on Avon District Council

Warwickshire Police – Lewis Benjamin and Adrian Pearson

Warwickshire PCT – Gillian Entwistle

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils – Alison Hodge

CWIC – Jacqui Aucott

GOWM – Sharon Shattock

County Council Jim Graham – Chief Executive
Bill Basra, LAA Manager
Eric Britton, Head of Communications and Media
David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance and
Development
Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children, Young People
and Families.
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnership Officer.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator
Julie Sullivan, Corporate Community Safety Manager
Janet Purcell, Cabinet Business Manager
Virginia Rennie, Group Accountant
Oliver Winters, Head of Finance

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Adrian Pearson, Lewis Benjamin (Warwickshire Police) and Gillian Entwistle (WPCT) to the meeting.

1	Apologies	Action
	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Alison Hodge ((WALC), Councillor Marcus Jones (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough), Jerry Hutchinson, (North Warwickshire Borough Council, Ian Francis, (Warwickshire Police Authority) Simon Warren (Rugby BC) and Paul Lancaster (Stratford on Avon District Council).</p>	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 12 March 2008	
	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2008 be agreed as a correct record subject to the deletion of resolution (a) from minute 8 – Serious Violent Crime – Police Commitment.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>In reply to a comment from William Clemmey, Councillor Michael Doody undertook to investigate why the LSP Newsletter had not included reference to the Warwick LSP grant.</p>	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Vision for Warwickshire.</p> <p>Jim Graham referred to the booklet circulated with the agenda papers entitled “What will life be like in Warwickshire in 2015?” which represented the County Council’s vision statement up to 2015. He invited comments on this document, which he said could be used as a launch for partners to work with the County Council as a collective body, with a shared longer-term aspirational vision.</p> <p>He highlighted the importance of the PSB being central to joint working particularly in relation to the –</p> <p>(1) Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).</p> <p>(2) anticipated announcement in the Queen’s Speech 1st August 2008 relating to Sub National Review (SNR), which potentially could mean working beyond Warwickshire boundaries.</p> <p>In these connections, he raised questions about how the Board, as a public body, would be seen to link the LAA targets with those of Coventry and Solihull and the relationship with the rest of the West Midlands together with the lack of co-terminosity.</p> <p>He said that there was need to consider how the Board worked together as body and how it welded into other organisation and the bigger geographical area. The main focus of CAA was to look across the totality of partnership working – which included a range of organisations and services to assess their effectiveness in tackling the challenges facing their communities. In this connection he suggested that the Board should start by looking at how the Regional Development Agency (RDA) might be effectively scrutinised and judged as part of the SNR. In conclusion, he said that Board members, as leaders, had the responsibility for shaping and delivering services for local communities and the citizens for whom they were responsible.</p> <p>During discussion support was expressed for the Board looking at the bigger picture and the need for guidance about this might be achieved.</p> <p>The Chair proposed that, following consideration of the next item the County Council and District/Borough Councils’ Chief Executive Officers should be asked to produce a joint response on the way forward to address the need for a long term vision for the county.</p>	<p>WCC/DC & BC CEs.</p>
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4.	<p>The Growth and Housing Agenda</p> <p>Chris Elliott, with the aid of a power-presentation (attached), explained that the purpose of the presentation was to –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) consider the implications for public services of the levels of growth and development anticipated in the sub-region over the next 20 years. (2) Identify funding the means of projecting the public service infrastructure demands of the anticipated growth (3) Consider ways in which partners might address the issue of affordable housing provision. <p>He highlighted for consideration–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The housing and growth agenda - the scale of growth, implications for infrastructure, service and utilities provision, potential funding sources and how this might be achieved. • The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for 2006 – 2026 proposals for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Region (additional requirements for residential housing, employment and retail and office space). • The possible eco town at Long Marston, overspill from Redditch and Tamworth and the Government’s review of RSS and suggesting the need for more homes. • The impact of the Housing and Growth Agenda on infrastructure and service provision. • Suggestions as to how this impact might be funded and addressed. <p>In conclusion, he asked the Board to –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Support the funding of the way to calculate some of the infrastructure provision; (2) Ask all partners to look at future service provision and report back. (3) Consider and support the ways to tackle affordable housing issues. <p>During discussion the following comments were noted –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The timescale for the development of a strategy was tight and the aim was for a preferred Strategy to be agreed by December. The need for this urgency was to influence the councils’ budget debates and to be fed into AWM. 	

	<p>(2) That there was need for more research into housing demand to ensure that there was no over-provision and to predict housing need. It was noted that post-war housing predictions for growth had always been too low.</p> <p>(3) That the housing strategy should not be based around the number of housing units but should reflect the “pattern of life” “life style” and social development in Warwickshire. Chris Elliot agreed with this comment and said that numbers had been quoted in order to stimulate discussion.</p> <p>(4) Jim Graham referred to the need for a close and united approach to facilitate development of a strategy in a managed way to enable early engagement with developers to protect future social housing provision. Christine Kerr referred to the valuable work undertaken by the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum (CSWF) that had been effective so far in presenting a united front to the Government and Regional Assembly and suggested that consideration be given to consulting that body on this issue.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Chris Elliott for his presentation and referred to the comments made during discussion particularly relating to the need to look at “social development/life style” rather than housing numbers. He invited any additional comments or observations to be forwarded to Chris Elliot. He asked that comments made during discussion and those that might follow-on from the meeting be considered at the meeting of County, District and Borough Councils’ Chief Executive Officers and for a report on the outcomes of their discussions to be brought to a future meeting.</p> <p>The Board asked that the County, District and Borough Chief Executive Officers be asked to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) consider how the development of a Growth and Housing Strategy can be facilitated; (2) look in parallel at the work of the CSWF; (3) undertake this work in conjunction with that requested in minute 3 above. 	<p>WCC/DC & BC CEs./C. Elliott</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Serious Violent Crime Project</p>	
	<p>Adrian Pearson updated the Board on the Serious Violent Crime Project and said that a work plan had been drawn up and a reporting framework. He further reported-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high levels of operational activity, with Warwick DC area being identified as a “hotspot”. • that arrangements were being made for a seminar to be 	

	held on 17 September 2008 on Violent Crime.	
6.	LAA Communications Framework	
	<p>Eric Britton presented the draft communication framework which he said was aimed at ensuring that the overall, internal and external, communication was undertaken in a co-ordinated and structure way and promoting, building awareness, understanding and engagement with the LAA and its partners. Each LAA block had been assigned a communications lead officer to be responsible for co-ordinating the communications' activities associated and relevant to that block. It had also been agreed, by the County Communications Group, that a '7th Block' was needed to co-ordinate and deliver the overarching communication requirements associated with the LAA. The communication work would be undertaken within existing resources and future proposals included promotional literature that would be sent out with council tax letters and, development of a specific website. The Communications Group would meet monthly and the Framework reviewed in 12 months.</p> <p>During discussion the following comments were noted –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the document should be commended subject to the deletion of the word “key” from the “list of key partners” and to include the voluntary sector. (2) That the LAA should be promoted by the publication of “good news” stories. (3) That the draft framework was welcomed as there had not been enough publicity/promotion of the LAA previously. The separation of the target audience was particular welcomed because there were many Members who did not know enough about the LAA and PSB. (4) It was suggested that each year the Block Leaders should be asked to identify one key element that can be effectively campaigned each year. <p>The Board agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the Draft Communication Framework document should be supported subject to minor drafting amendment; (2) That the Block Leaders should be asked to identify a key topic from each block that can be effectively campaigned each year and detailed proposals be brought back to the next meeting. 	EB/Block Leaders

7.	Report of the LAA Manager	
	<p>The Board considered the report of the LAA Manager outlining the draft work programme.</p> <p>In reply to a question Bill Basra highlighted the key strategies listed in paragraph 3.5 of the report.</p> <p>The Board agreed the work programme as set out in the Appendix to the report.</p>	BB
8.	Q4 Finance Report	
(i)	2007/08 LAA Pooled Grant Outturn	
	<p>The Board considered the report outlining the LAA pooled grant outturn 2007/08. Oliver Winters highlighted the underspend of £192,339 which would be carried forward into 2008/09. Copies of Appendix A, that gave a detailed analysis, by partners, of the outturn position for the Themed Block, were circulated.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Noted the 2007/08 LAA Pooled Grant underspend of £192,339.. (2) Approved the Themed Blocks proposed use of the underspend as outlined in Paragraph 3.3. (3) Supported the submission, by the Accountable Officer, of the End Year Statement of Grant Usage to GOWM on the basis of the information contained in this report and accompanying appendix. (4) Agreed to the cancellation of the 19 August 2008 and asked for the next meeting to be arranged for a date in September. 	OW/JH
(ii)	LPSA Reward Grant.	
	<p>Oliver Winters updated the Board on the present position with regard to the LPSA Reward Grant. He highlighted that –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 50% of the Reward Grant would be received in 2009/10 and 50% in 2010/11, with half of the capital money being a capital grant and a half a revenue grant. (2) Assuming the current forecast was accurate the County Council would expect to receive £5,036m in 2009/10 and 2010/11 of which £2.518 would be revenue money. (3) The first £1.5m, plus accrued interest, of the revenue element of the Reward Grant to be received in 2009/10 would be used to repay the Virtual Bank loans for the pump-priming top-up and the £1m. allocation agreed by 	

	<p>Council on 18 March 2008.</p> <p>The Board noted the implications of the latest forecast of LPSA2 Reward Grant and the approach being undertaken to maximise the reward grant available.</p>	
(iii)	Safer an Stronger Communities Capital grant	
	<p>Oliver Winters presented the report which outlined the background to the 2007/08 LAA Pooled Grant and the changed position with regard to the 2008/09 grant, received by the County Council as part of the 2008/09 Local Government Settlement. He highlighted the definition of capital expenditure as set out in Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>In response to concerns expressed about capital grants allocations for the Safer and Stronger Block it was noted that this would be considered further outside the meeting.</p> <p>Christine Kerr expressed concern about the £6k deminimous level precluding payment of grants of £2k being paid to small organisations that would make a difference and be of great benefit. Oliver Winters suggested that this concern might be overcome by giving a grant to the District Council to distribute.</p> <p>The Board requested that that Safer and Stronger Themed Blocks consider how they would wish to use the £173,000 capital grant for Safer and Stronger Communities, in 2008/09, to deliver the outputs and outcomes of the new LAA , as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report, and report back to the PSB, at it's meeting on 19th August 2008, with proposals.</p>	OW
9	Update on Key Developments	
	<p>The Board, having considered the report of the County Partnerships Manager, noted the -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) progress made on the joint scrutiny exercise in respect of Area Based Grant 2008-9 and joint scrutiny of partnership activity generally. (2) Project Plan for the development of the Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy (3) purposes of and resources available through the Learning to Deliver programme 2008-9 and agreed the nomination of a Programme Champion 	

	(4) Current position in relation to the finalisation of the new LAA, Delivery Planning for the new LAA and Communications issues	
10.	Any Other Business	
	<p>(a) GOWM Representative</p> <p>The Board noted that this was Sharon Shattock’s last meeting, because she was taking up another position, and thanked her for her contribution to, and attendance at, meetings.</p> <p>(b) Domestic Violence Website</p> <p>Lewis Benjamin reported that the Domestic Violence Website, set up by the Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Team, a joint police, district and borough council initiative, was now open and contained links to a range of information and help.</p>	NG-J
11.	Future Meeting Arrangements	
	The Board agreed to the cancellation of the 19 August 2008 meeting and asked that it be re-arranged for a date in September 2008.	

The meeting finished at 4:00 p.m.

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Chair