

Minutes of a meeting of the Warwickshire Public Service Board held on 3rd March 2009 at Shire Hall, Warwick.

Present:

Members of the Public Service Board

Council Leaders:

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

Voluntary and Community Sector - William Clemmey (CWIC)
C&W Chamber of Commerce - Dianne Williams (representing Louise Bennett)
Warwickshire Police Authority - Ian Francis
Learning and Skills Council (C&W) - Kim Thorneywork
NHS Warwickshire (PCT) - Bryan Stoten
Warwickshire Association of Local Councils - Councillor Bill Lowe

Other attendees

Audit Commission – Mary-Ann Bruce
Stratford LSP – Alan Bartlett
Warwickshire County Council – Councillor June Tandy
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council - Councillor Julie Jackson
Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Trevor Askew and Stuart Beer

Officers

District/Borough Council Chief Executives:

Chris Elliott – Warwick District Council
Simon Warren – Rugby Borough Council
Christine Kerr – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Jerry Hutchinson – North Warwickshire Borough Council

NHS Warwickshire – Paul Jennings

Warwickshire Police – CC Keith Bristow and ACC Andy Parker.

CWIC – Jacqui Aucott

GOWM – Terry Cotton

County Council Bill Basra, LAA Manager.
Dave Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources
Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families
Monica Fogarty, Head of Change Management.
David Hill, Economic Strategy Adviser
Janet Purcell, Cabinet Business Manager
Paul Galland, Strategic Director of Environment and Economy
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnership Manager.
Jim Graham, Chief Executive
Jean Hardwick, Interim Member Support Manager
Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety
Oliver Winters, Head of Finance

1.	Apologies for Absence Were received from Councillor Les Topham, (Stratford on Avon District Council), Louise Bennett (C&W Chamber of Commerce) and Councillor Craig Humphrey, Rugby Borough Council	
	(The order of these minutes are as they appear on the agenda for the meeting and not the order in which they were taken.)	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2009 were agreed subject to the word “ethics” being deleted and replaced by the word “executive” in bullet point 4 of page 5.	
3.	Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Mary-Ann Bruce presented the Audit Commission’s Guide to the New Framework and, with the aid of a power-point presentation (attached) highlighted that - (1) she was the Audit Commission and CAA lead officer for Hereford, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. She did not only represent the Audit Commission but was responsible for co-ordination of the Inspectorates’ joint assessment (Audit Commission, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspector of Prison, HM Inspector of Probation and Ofsted); (2) the final assessment of “What it is like to live in Warwickshire”	

	<p>would be published by 26 November 2009. Nothing reported would come as a surprise as the draft report's findings would be shared with the Council in September;</p> <p>(3) That research carried out to start the process would be obtained from a range of sources already publicly available including the National Indicators and should not involve additional work for the Council. This information would be revised and updated throughout the year and the joint inspectorate's views added;</p> <p>(4) the Area Assessment would not be "scored numerically" but green and red "flags" would signal real innovation or major worries about future outcomes;</p> <p>(5) a "red" flag would indicate where there were significant concerns about outcomes and future prospects and where more needed to be done. "Green" flags would reflect exceptional performance or outstanding improvement, resulting in sustainability better outcomes, and from which others could learn;</p> <p>(6) she did not expect to see large numbers of "flags".</p> <p>(7) she strongly recommended viewing the Audit Commission website on which much work had been spent to make it as accessible as possible. Other ways were being investigated to reach those people who did not have access to the internet;</p> <p>(8) She had compiled a list of emerging issues for Warwickshire (not a conclusive list) and referred to the different the areas of concern to demonstrate how the assessment would operate.</p> <p>Mary-Ann Bruce added that –</p> <p>(a) in response to comments on the performance of areas included in the list of emerging issues, there would be opportunities for discussion and updating of the information relating to these issues and for an assessment to be made about whether the actions taken had made a difference to the people of Warwickshire. There might also be issues where it was deemed that everything had been done that could be done and these might be identified as needing outside assistance;</p> <p>(b) she recognised the sub-regional issues and that, in addition to working with the Worcester and Hereford Inspectorate she would also be working with her colleagues in Solihull and Coventry;</p> <p>(c) the assessment process would include an opportunity in October for a review of the findings before final publication of the report in November.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mary-Ann Bruce for her presentation.</p>	
4.	'What will Warwickshire Look Like in 2026' – A draft Sustainable	

	Community Strategy (SCS) for Warwickshire	
	<p>Bill Basra presented the report of the County Partnership Manager, which provided an updated on the proposed approach to the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for Warwickshire. He said that the draft Strategy would be sent out to Partners for comment with a view to implementing the Strategy by late June 2009.</p> <p>Simon Warren asked that paragraph 4.2 be amended to include Community Transport and that appropriate linkages be made with emerging Borough/District Sustainable Community Strategies.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the progress and approach outlined in the report.</p>	BB/NG-J
5	Block Update from Safer and Stronger Communities	
.	<p>5 (i) <u>Safer Communities</u></p> <p>ACC Andy Parker, with the aid of a power point presentation (attached), highlighted –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) progress on the Safer Block. He highlighted reductions in all categories of crime with the exception of theft from vehicles and the need to focus resources in this area; (2) the key issues/challenges; (3) the new definition of serious violent crime (4) public confidence in the police and local authorities (source - British Crime Survey and Place Survey NI21); (5) the complexity of Area Based Grants and referred and welcomed the report, agenda item 7, Medium Term Financial Strategy which set out his concerns; (6) the good news issues, and (7) the next steps.- to focus on priority areas and prolific and priority offenders and joint local delivery – safer neighbourhoods/localities. <p>The Board thanked ACC Andy Parker for his presentation.</p>	
	<p>5 (ii) <u>Stronger Communities;</u></p> <p>Chris Eliot presented a revised progress report on the Stronger Communities Partnership (copies having been circulated at the meeting). He referred in particular to –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) NI155 Affordable Housing which, because of the economic downturn/recession, would not achieve its target by a wide margin; (2) Paragraph 2.5 of the report and said that he would be reporting to a future meeting when the register of Public Land in Warwickshire 	CE

	<p>was complete.</p> <p>The Board noted the progress of the Stronger Communities Partnership.</p>	
6.	<p>6 (i) <u>Update on the Economic Downturn</u></p> <p>David Hill presented the report of the Economic Development and Enterprise Block and updated the Board on the economic downturn. He highlighted that –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the economic forecast had been revised downwards and it was now predicted that it would sharper and deeper than previously anticipated. Most forecasts still anticipated a “V” shaped recession with improvement expected by the middle of the year and positive growth by 2010. (2) In January 2009 the latest unemployment figures showed 9,500, which was an increase of 1,385 from December and represented an increased growth rate of 17% for Warwickshire, which was significantly higher than the UK and regional averages (11%). North Warwickshire showed the greatest increase but Stratford had seen the greatest rise reflecting the post Christmas seasonal lay-off. (3) Jobcentre Plus were noting a different type of unemployed – highly skilled/highly qualified clients signing on for the first time in their lives. The Citizens Advice Bureaux were also seeing a different cohort of clients; (4) there were a range of actions being taken in Warwickshire to help lessen the impact of the recession on jobs, the co-ordination of additional partner activity and the preparations that were being put in place in preparation for the upturn. <p>The Board noted the report.</p>	
	<p>6 (ii) <u>Supporting Local Communities through the Recession</u></p> <p>Jerry Hutchinson presented the report of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership outlining the actions that partner organisations could take to support the local community through the current recession. He highlighted the actions that had already been agreed.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p>	
7.	<p>LAA Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>David Clarke presented the draft LAA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p> <p>In reply to questions he said that development of the MTFS was a significant exercise that would be developed over a number of years. He undertook to report to a future meeting on timescales and how the work</p>	DC

	<p>could be resourced.</p> <p>The Board approved the draft LAA Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendix A of the report.</p>	
8.	<p>Outcomes from the LPSA 2 Consultation</p> <p>This report was deferred because agreement could not be reached on agenda item 9 below.</p>	
9.	<p>Allocation of Area Based Grants/Partnership Funds to Local Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager, presented his report and outlined the –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apportionment options • Criteria for use of the funding • Process and timelines <p>Christine Kerr suggested that before discussing the report that the position on funding should be clarified. The Chair referred to page 5 of the minutes of the previous meeting and invited comments on partner contributions.</p> <p>Ian Francis said that the Police Authority would only be willing to contribute its share of the funding if all other partners contributed their share and that it was only able to do this by redirecting funding from other services.</p> <p>Bryan Stoten said that the PCT's budget was very tight and it was both uncertain and unlikely that the required contribution would be forthcoming.</p> <p>Discussion followed during which disappointment was expressed about the PCT's inability to commit to support the funding contributions. Concern was also expressed about the impact of this lack of funding support on the mainstream operations of the Board and the adverse impact that this would have on partnership working.</p> <p>Following which –</p> <p>The Board agreed to refer this issue back to the County Council for further consideration.</p>	<p>NG- J/Chair</p>
10.	<p>Local Area Agreement – Update on Key Issues</p> <p>Bill Basra submitted his report and circulated a refreshed LAA (identifying</p>	

	<p>areas where the refreshed LAA differed from the LAA agreed in July 2008) and outlined other key developments.</p> <p>The Board agreed to :</p> <p>a) endorse the 'refreshed' LAA</p> <p>b) note the 6 month Narrowing the Gap Updates from North Warwickshire LSP, Rugby LSP & Warwick LSP (paragraph 3)</p> <p>c) note and endorse the approach to the Development of the Warwickshire Single Equality Scheme 2010-2013 (paragraph 4)</p> <p>d) approve the approach for developing a PSB Work Programme for 2009/10 (paragraph 5).</p>	
11.	Any Other Business	
	<p><u>Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>Ian Francis, referring to the Board's Terms of Reference, asked when the 12 months review of Board's operations was due. He highlighted concern that the Board dwelt too much on detail rather than on the strategic issues.</p> <p>In response Bill Basra responded that this was an issue that was being addressed through a review of governance arrangements and the development of a PSB work programme for 2009/10.</p>	BB
12.	Future Meetings	
	<p>The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on 30 April 2009 at 2.00 p.m. at the Shire Hall, Warwick.</p>	JH

The meeting finished at 4:30 p.m.

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Chair