

Minutes of a meeting of the Warwickshire Public Service Board held on 21 June 2010 at the North Warwickshire Borough Council's Offices South Street, Atrherstone.

**Present:**

**Members of Board**

Council Leaders:

- Councillor Alan Farnell (Chair), Warwickshire County Council
- Councillor Michael Doody, Warwick District Council
- Councillor Dennis Harvey, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- Councillor Colin Hayfield, North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Councillor Craig Humphrey, (Vice-Chair) Rugby Borough Council
- Councillor Stephen Gray, Stratford on Avon District Council

Voluntary & Community Sector - William Clemmey, Coventry and Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC)

Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce - Dianne Williams on behalf of Louise Bennett

Warwickshire Police Authority - Ian Francis, Chair of the Police Authority

Warwickshire Primary Care Trust - Bryan Stoten, Chair of Warwickshire PCT

Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC) - Councillor William Lowe

**Officers**

- Warwick District Council - Andrews Jones, Head of Revenues,  
Nuneaton and Bedworth  
Borough Council - Gareth Owens, Director of Corporate Services,
- County Council - Bill Basra, Partnership Delivery Manager  
- David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources  
- Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children,  
Young People and Families  
- Pete Keeley, Democratic Services  
- Simon Robson, Head of Partnerships

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology was received from Louise Bennett of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

### **i) Minutes of the 26 January 2010.**

The minutes were agreed subject to the correct title of Marion Davis being shown.

### **ii) Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes and not otherwise covered by the agenda

## **3. Outcomes from the Away Day and Next Steps**

Simon Robson, Head of Partnerships at the County Council presented the report which provided the Board with a summary of discussions and outcomes from the Board's Development and Improvement Day held on the 26th May. Copies of the slides used during the presentation may be viewed on the LAA website ([www.warwickshire.gov.uk/laa](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/laa)).

Following discussion the Board:

(1) Noted the report and agreed that the following recommendations be progressed for the September meeting of the Board:

(a) Board Members to receive nominations and agree the Board's chair going forward.

(b) Board Members to approve the following purpose of Warwickshire's Strategic Partnership, as introduced and discussed during the Development and Improvement Day:-

“To provide Strategic Leadership in order to align services so that we might move effectively, support economic stability, promote greater value for money and improve the experience of service users who will increasingly perceive services to be seamless and more responsive. The work of the Partnership will both support the Warwickshire Sustainable Communities Strategy's outcomes and commitments to Sub-Regional action to tackle key issues affecting Warwickshire Communities”.

- (c) Board Members agree lean, fit for purpose commissioning and delivery mechanisms to ensure key priority areas have identified accountability, progress monitoring, risk management and ongoing evaluation of effectiveness of outcomes.
  - (d) Board Members agree Roles and Responsibilities of membership.
  - (e) Board Members agree the Board's Core membership.
  - (f) Board Members identify how the Board will be supported by relevant Chief Officer, political leadership, Sub-Regional bodies and local bodies and partnerships.
  - (g) Board Members agree the strategic framework within which the Board will operate including performance monitoring and management of both leadership and impact upon Warwickshire citizens' quality of life.
  - (h) Board Members agree to commit to a programme of Board Development to cover leadership, relationship management, programme direction, communicative / influencing, strategic thinking, analysis and use of evidence and financial awareness.
  - (i) Board agree a clear, simple vision of what success will look like for a high performing, effective strategic partnership.
- (2) Agreed that the following recommendations would have immediate effect:
- (a) Board Members agree to the name 'Warwickshire Partnership' to replace the current Public Service Board title.
  - (b) That although wider attendance at Board meetings was to be discouraged, Board Members could exercise discretion in bringing a Chief Officer to the meeting for advisory purposes should it be deemed necessary
  - (c) That the key priority areas for the Board in 2009-10 would be:
    - (i) Educational Attainment (Marion Davis)
    - (ii) Economic Development (Louise Bennett/Diane Williams CWIC)
    - (iii) Health Inequalities (Bryan Stoten)
    - (iv) Rationalisation of Property (Craig Humphrey)

Housing would act as a cross cutting issue to all of the four areas outlined above. These four areas will provide the focus for the next meeting of the Board.

## **2. Emerging Policy Changes from the Coalition Government**

The Board discussed the possible implications of Government policy changes. No actions were agreed but the Board acknowledged that this item would need to be re-examined in the light of the Government's emergency budget and Warwickshire's response to tackling key priorities within the context of restricted resources.

In response to comments from the Chair, individual Board members outlined the likely implications of government policy changes in their areas.

Ian Francis outlined the likely implications for the Police. In particular he mentioned:

- There would be more accountability as a result of oversight by a directly elected individual. Many aspects would need clarification including the range of responsibilities of the individual.
- Local crime statistics would be published every month
- The Police needed to achieve the required savings otherwise there would be a possibility of more radical measures with sub-regional implications.

Diane Williams indicated that the Chamber was concerned about the impact of any increases in taxes on businesses. She stressed the impact of economic development activity which was being undertaken often unnoticed. The proposed Local Enterprise Partnerships would not just focus on businesses.

With regard to the NHS, Bryan Stoten indicated that this would be covered in the next item.

The Chair drew attention to several of the Governments intentions for local councils, in particular:

- Councils would be given greater financial autonomy
- There would be a reduction in bureaucracy
- A new regional framework could impact on the existence of government offices
- Council tax would be frozen for at least a year

Dave Clarke, the Board's financial adviser, referred to the Government's emergency budget which would be announced on the 22 June 2010 and indicated that he expected there would be significant reductions in government funding.

### **3. Changes within the Health Community**

Bryan Stoten gave a presentation to the Board on future changes with the Community under the main headings of Key Principles, Promises, Significant Changes, PCT role, Primary Care, Acute, Popular Demand, Regulation, Choice, Wicked issues, Whither the NHS?

During his presentation he drew attention to several key changes including the reduction of quangos, the new budget arrangements for GPs and less target driven bureaucracy. A copy of his full presentation may be viewed on the LAA website with these minutes ([www.warwickshire.gov.uk/laa](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/laa) ).

#### **4. Any Other Business**

##### **Update on LPSA 2 Reward Grant Reductions**

The Government had announced a halving of the amount of reward grant available to Warwickshire. Two Briefing Notes had been circulated to the Board. The first informing members of the situation and outlining a proposed way forward. The second note summarising the overall situation in relation to recently announced cut

Following consideration of the information in the Briefing Notes the Board agreed:

- a) All projects are suspended indefinitely save the Family Intervention Project, Financial Inclusion Partnership and capital commitment to the Warwickshire Observatory;
- b) In relation to Family Intervention and Financial Inclusion; revised proposals are submitted to the September meeting of the Board that take into account the reduced amounts available; and
- c) The Board authorise the County Partnerships Team to undertake negotiations with CLG and GOWM seeking flexibility on the application and payment of reward monies on the outstanding projects and ascertaining the extent to which capital monies can be vired for revenue purposes.

The Board rose at 11.40 a.m.

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Chair