

Minutes

Oldham Partnership executive

18 June 2009

Groundwork Environment Centre

2pm

Members present:

Nick Brown

Oldham Sixth Form College

Cllr Jackie Stanton
Cllr Lynne Thompson
Cllr Jim McMahon
Cllr Peter Dean
Cllr Alan Roughley
Dave McGealy
Howard Sutcliffe
Liz Welch
Viv Robinson
Phil Sumner
Eric Noi

Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Oldham Council
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Voluntary, community and faith sector
Jobcentre Plus
Strong communities strategy group
Oldham Council for Voluntary Youth Service
Oldham Partnership

Officers present

John Eley

Michele Carr
Karen McCrackle

Oldham Council
Oldham Partnership

Apologies:

Charles Shaw

Geoff Harris

Cllr Howard Sykes
Caroline Ball
Carol Hopkins

Pam Flynn
Michelle Ford
Ian Flanagan Smith

Oldham Council for Voluntary Youth Service
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Oldham Council
Greater Manchester Police
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Government Office for the North West
Learning and Skills Council
Oldham Partnership

12/09 **Welcome and apologies**

Phil Sumner raised an issue regarding the attendance of the council chief executive and leader at this meeting, and whether delegating responsibility is appropriate. Cllr Stanton said she would relate this issue to them.

ACTION: Issues re leader and chief executive's attendance to be related to them (JS)

13/09 **Minutes and matters arising**

- Phil Sumner made a correction to the minutes – he represents the strong communities strategy group.
- Gail Richards informed the group that the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for which the executive has overall responsibility, hasn't met for sometime. She will request a meeting on behalf of the executive with the LSCB chair and the director of children's services.
- Dave McGealy circulated some information from Carers UK
- Phil Sumner commented that some actions aren't being completed. An action matrix should be prepared along with the minutes to rectify this. Gail Richards also asked that draft minutes be circulated as quickly as possible.
- Cllr McMahon asked how the credit crunch war cabinet (CCWC) fits in the partnership structure, when the CCWC membership was agreed, and whether the CCWC's minutes could be distributed to the executive
- Michele Carr said the executive and steering group had both received CCWC updates and would continue to receive regular reports
- Cllr McMahon also asked for an annual review of the CCWC's activities
- Dave McGealy said he was pleased there was a voluntary, community and faith representative on the CCWC, but asked why this person was selected rather than being put forward by the Voluntary, Community and Faith Partnership. Michele Carr will respond to Dave on this.

ACTIONS:

A meeting to be convened with the LSCB and head of children's services (GR)

Action matrix to be produced, and draft minutes circulated as soon as possible after meeting (OPST)

Review of CCWC's activities to be produced (MC)

Selection of VCFP credit crunch war cabinet representative to be clarified to Dave (MC)

14/09 **Prospectuses for change**

The prospectuses are a shortlist of tangible, practical cross cutting actions that we can deliver quickly to help us work towards our longer term vision. They are works in various stages of progress. Comments were invited.

There is likely to be a complementary document outlining principles, systems and processes, but the prospectuses themselves will be concise.

Cllr McMahon commented that we need to be clearer about what success looks like and what the end results will be. Cllr Dean asked that the prospectuses really do lead to

change. There were comments about Oldham town centre and what our realistic aspirations for it should be; there is a need to re-structure the town's economy. Michele suggested the interim town centre plan be brought to the executive.

Cllr McMahon urged a focus on the borough's more deprived people, who are especially vulnerable because of the recession.

Cllr Roughley questioned how realistic a vision for a university town is with no student accommodation and asked that we analyse where University Campus Oldham students live three years after graduation. Nick Brown responded that in fact this means UCO has a lower drop out rate compared to other institutions, and Oldham students are well equipped for higher education through the Junior University scheme.

ACTIONS:

**Any further comments on the prospectuses are to be sent to John Eley (all)
Interim town centre plan to be brought to the executive (MC)**

15/09 ORESA – Oldham and Rochdale Economic and Skills Alliance

Michele Carr presented an update on the activities of ORESA. A prospectus pulling together the key priorities for both boroughs has been produced and an investment plan, which will be considered by the Homes and Communities Agency, North West Development Agency and the Learning and Skills Council, is in development.

The prospectus presents Oldham and Rochdale as a gateway to the Manchester and Leeds City Regions; it was suggested Merseyside could be added to this. Phil Sumner asked about what work was being undertaken in Oldham's communities. Michele replied that this document focuses very much on activities of regional rather than local significance.

ACTION:

The executive's comments will be considered and the group will be kept up to date (MC)

16/09 LAA update: Economic development and enterprise

Michele presented an update on this block's work, including activities to tackle the credit crunch. There was discussion about the fact that the credit crunch is affecting people that haven't had to contend with financial worries before and some people are engaging with Jobcentre Plus for the first time. Cllr McMahon asked whether the Credit Crunch War Cabinet's extra funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau was enough and whether in fact we need additional investment in advice and guidance, both in the short and long term.

Dave McGealy asked whether employment information was available by super output area. Michele informed the executive that we do work with SOA data and it could be provided.

Cllr McMahon expressed concern over the fact that Asda limit part time workers to 14

hours a week, which means they can't claim working tax credits

ACTION:

Super Output Area information to be provided (MC)

17/09 **Manchester Independent Economic Review (MIER) and Greater Manchester Strategy**

The MIER is informing the development of the Greater Manchester strategy which should be ready in draft in July. Along with this, Manchester's multi area agreement is being refreshed and will address community cohesion, previously flagged up as an omission by executive members.

18/09 **Oldham Compact**

Howard Sutcliffe informed the executive that a new compact for Oldham had been launched, and that the strong third sector group would take responsibility for monitoring it on behalf of the executive. The compact outlines principles for the relationship between the voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector. In the next few months codes of practice and an implementation plan will be written to complement the compact.

Howard explained that high-level buy in was essential, and as many compact champions as possible are being sought.

ACTIONS:

Progress reports will continue to be taken to the steering group (compact working group)

Annual report for the executive (compact working group)

Compact to be communicated through organisations, used in working practices, and staff members wishing to become compact champions supported (all)

19/09 **Focusing on lives not services**

The executive agreed to remove this from the agenda

20/09 **Information sharing agreement**

This was presented for information. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service have also asked to be involved in this

ACTION:

GMFRS to be involved in information sharing agreement (Gary Wheelhouse; Ian Flanagan Smith)

21/09 **Area based grant 2009/10**

This was presented for information.

Phil Sumner asked why strong communities has the biggest drop in funds.

Cllr McMahon asked how ABG allocations can be influenced. John Eley said we discussed this at the executive at the end of 2008, and as a result, moved extra resources into the economy and enterprise theme. Cllr McMahon asked how we decide how to spend the unallocated funds. He suggested using underspend to finance alleygates and to speed up advice services. Colleagues advised that if these suggestions

fit our strategic priorities, and evidence backs up the need for them, they would need to be agreed by the public service board (decision-making around this falls to the PSB because they meet on a more regular basis than the exec). However, we need to develop a transparent way of letting **all** interested parties know that there is available underspend, so because of this Gail Richards felt that Cllr McMahon's suggestions couldn't go directly to the PSB.

This money must be used for emerging and unpredicted one-offs rather than be treated as long term funding.

Cllr Dean stated that he felt there was still confusion around LSP processes and members of the public need to be able to understand how our finances are allocated. Colleagues commented that communication between the executive and the public service board could be improved so that the executive are in the loop on the PSB's decisions.

Gail Richards commented that a lot of ABG used to fund core services. There's a need to analyse our spend quite carefully.

ACTIONS:

Response to be provided to Phil Sumner re strong communities allocation (OPST) Cllr McMahon's suggestions – and any other possible uses for the underspend - to be explored further through our commissioning process. Transparency about underspend availability is essential. Gail Richards and Nick Brown agreed to come up with a way forward (GR, NB)

Simple explanation of area based grant and commissioning to be produced to ensure transparency (OPST)

Annual review and analysis of our expenditure and associated process to be conducted (OPST)

Executive to be kept better informed regarding decisions at PSB (OPST)

22/09 Any other business

Dave McGealy informed the executive that he would be stepping down as the chair of the voluntary, community and faith partnership, and therefore from the executive, after 15 years of representing this sector.

The chair thanks Dave for being an excellent servant for the voluntary, community and faith sector.

23/09 Dates of future meetings

17th September at 2pm

17th December at 2pm

24/09 Agenda items for future meetings at this stage

Update: Safer stronger communities block (inc housing) – September 2009

Focusing on lives not services – September 2009

Update: Children and young people – December 2009

25/09 **Timetable for the next meeting**

28th August – Final request to executive members for agenda items

3rd September – Deadline for receipt of agenda items

7th September – Deadline for receipt of reports

9th September – Agenda and reports emailed and posted to executive group