

**Oldham Partnership  
Steering Group Meeting  
Held at Civic Centre, Oldham  
on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

<b>Members</b>	Bill Edwards Zuber Ahmed Mohammed Azam Ruth Baldwin Jon Bloor Steve Burns John Crompton Philip Davenport Cllr Barbara Dawson Marie Gillott Roger Gould Stuart Harman Robin Henshaw Alan Higgins Cllr Jean Jones Cllr Jim McMahan Steve Mills Fazal Rahim Kevin Shaw Val Smith Mohammed Sumidh	Chair and Environment Partnership Oldham Primary Care Trust Voluntary and Community Sector Children & Young People's Partnership Local Learning Partnership Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive Failsworth & Hollinwood Area Committee Saddleworth & Lees Area Committee Oldham MBC Jobcentre Plus Faith Sector – Churches Together Greater Manchester Police Voluntary & Community Sector Health & Social Care Partnership Oldham MBC Oldham MBC Shaw & Royton Area Committee Community Cohesion Advisory Group Cultural Partnership Oldham East Area Committee Oldham West Area Committee
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<b>Observers</b>	Michele Carr John Eley Martin Gleeson Rob Haddrell Cllr David Hibbert David Hillary Susan Kirkham Bruce Penhale Elma Plant Rachel Reid Michelle Renshaw Basit Shah Paul White Tom Wolstencroft	Oldham MBC Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham Trade Union Council Oldham MBC Oldham MBC Voluntary Action Oldham Oldham MBC Oldham MBC Voluntary, Community & Faith Partnership Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham Partnership Support Team (minute-taker) Inter Faith Forum Oldham MBC Oldham MBC
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**Members  
Apologies**

Andy Brown Jo Farrington Clare Fish Mushtaq Khan	Citizen Advice Bureau Community Cohesion Advisory Group Health & Social Care Partnership Housing Partnership
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## 01/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 02/07 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### Oldham Partnership Steering Group 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

## **Matters Arising**

### 35/06 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Community Engagement Strategy is awaiting input from the Oldham Partnership Executive Group. Once this has been received it was suggested that a sub-group from the Oldham Partnership Steering Group meet with Mary Murphy (Oldham MBC - who is leading on this area of work) to approve the strategy prior to the next OP Steering Group meeting to avoid any further delay. This was **agreed**.

The sub-group to consist of:

- Stuart Harman
- Mohammed Sumidh
- Steve Mills
- David Hillary

### 38/06 OLDHAM DIVERSITY & EQUALITY AWARDS

The Steering Group had shown support for this event at the last meeting but details of how and who should take this forward had still to be agreed.

A discussion highlighted a difference of opinion as to who and how this should be taken forward. Views were split as to whether it should be run as previously or, whether it should be commissioned as a piece of work through the commissioning process. Also, should the event be annually or every two years?

It was **agreed** that the Community Cohesion Advisory Group on behalf of the OP Steering Group be asked to advise on this issue.

### 40/06 COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Following the consultation and launch of the White Paper an alternative paper is currently being drawn up.

### 41/06 LEGI (LOCAL ENTERPRISE GROWTH INITIATIVE)

The submission was unsuccessful. Formal feedback is to be received later this month.

Thanks was given to all those who had been involved with the submission.

#### 42/06 INVEST TO SAVE BID

The outcome of the bid submission is due in February.

Robin Henshaw informed the group that Groundwork had been successful in bidding for some funding to enhance volunteering.

#### Oldham Partnership Executive Group 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

The meeting with Phil Woolas to discuss the White Paper /LSP Development had now been arranged and will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

#### 40/06 NRF ALLOCATION 2007/8

Concern was raised re. the uncertainty of funding for projects within the Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector.

The OP Steering Group expressed their concern with the situation and asked for the Commissioning Process to be up and running as soon as possible.

All projects have been contacted by Mary Murphy (OMBC) and the Policy Unit have given help / advice in completing Business Case Forms in connection with the Commissioning Process.

#### **End of matters arising**

#### 03/07 DEVELOPING LINKAGES WITH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

*The item presented the work undertaken to date by the Oldham MBC Scrutiny Members in reviewing the overview & scrutiny process and included proposals to strengthen joint working arrangements with Oldham Partnership.*

Cllr J. McMahon presented the item. Please refer to the report circulated.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- The need to have a central place that allows people to see the outcome; this is an issue the Council will be looking at to see how best to make the information available to partners and to members of the public.
- A joint Overview & Scrutiny process with the OMBC and Oldham Partnership would improve clarity, avoid duplication and enhance best use of resources.
- Task & Finish groups will be formed to undertake a specific task and involve the relevant people for that task.

The Steering Group **endorsed** the report and recommendation that the Oldham Partnership support a change in the scrutiny process and the concept of a joint scrutiny programme co-owned with Oldham MBC.

#### 04/07 LAA REVIEW UPDATE AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

*This item updated the Steering Group on the progress to date in developing and delivering the Oldham Local Area Agreement.*

John Eley presented the item. Please refer to the report circulated.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- Should Oldham move to a single-pot in April 2008 rather than April 2009? A clear project plan will be needed to ensure this is taken forward within the timescale and also to see if it will actually be feasible to agree to this timescale.

The group **supported** the move to a single-pot by April 2008, if the timescale was adequate to put the necessary arrangements in place.

- Concern was raised the majority of targets in the LAA had been set by Government.
- The Voluntary Sector raised concern re. the level of involvement the Sector has had with the LAA, in particular with decision making.

Risk Training has been arranged for the Oldham Partnership Steering and Executive Group members on the 8<sup>th</sup> March in the afternoon.

**Action:** Please advise the OP Support Team if you wish to attend this training.

05/07 LAA UPDATE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE BLOCK

*This item updated members on the progress made in the newly established Economy and Enterprise block to the Oldham Partnership and; sought views on the new Economic Strategy.*

Michele Carr presented the item. Refer to report circulated.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- Clarification was sought as to whether funding was conditional on a company having selection policies to employ local people.

Funding is aimed at the workforce not the company.

- Additional funding is being looked at for up-skilling to Level 3 and Level 4.
- Pre-recruitment programmes aimed at the unemployed are being considered/reviewed.

**Action:** Paul White the Service Director for Area Teams is to provide an update at the next Steering Group (19<sup>th</sup> April) on Regeneration within the Borough.

06/07 PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH

*This item set out proposals to support the development and implementation of a strategic research programme for Oldham Partnership.*

Bruce Penhale presented the item. Please refer to report circulated.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- The need to better co-ordinate the approach to Research.
- The proposed working group will visit each block to highlight gaps and act as the point of contact.
- The working group will also give advice on evaluation and commissioning.

The Steering Group **endorsed** the paper.

#### 07/07 STRATEGIC PLANNING

This item was deferred to the next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 08/07 VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN COMMISSIONING

*This item looked at the involvement of the VCF Sector in the Commissioning Process.*

David Hillary presented the item. Please refer to report circulated.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- Recent legislation and guidance states that the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) should be included.
- This paper should be used as a Blue Print for each/all Sectors.
- Training has been organised for the VCS on Commissioning.
- Minimal Standards need to be set and upheld by each block and partnership.
- Collectives/Consortiums for commissioning ensure small organisations are also engaged and not excluded because they do not have the capacity to undertake all the work required.
- The Healthier Communities & Older People Block will need to go back to the Health & Social Care Panel to agree the minimal set of standards/principals.

The Steering Group **endorsed** the paper.

#### 09/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

#### 10/07 DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AT THIS STAGE.

No changes made.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Date: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Time: 6pm

Venue: Lees Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham