

**Oldham Partnership  
Steering Group Meeting  
Held at Civic Centre, Oldham  
on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

<b>Members</b>	Bill Edwards Zuber Ahmed Cllr Olwen Chadderton John Crompton Kevin Dawson Philip Gaul Marie Gillott Martin Gleeson Roger Gould Judith Haughton Ian Kendall David McGealy John Moorhouse Lihanne Nelson Alan Lee Mark Powell Cllr Alan Roughley Cllr Glynis Shaw John Tummon	Chair and Environment Partnership Oldham Primary Care Trust Oldham MBC Failsworth Community Council St James and Waterhead Community Council Alexandra Community Council Jobcentre Plus Oldham Trades Union Council Faith sector: Churches Together Oldham Council for Voluntary Youth Service Oldham Community Leisure Voluntary & Community Sector Relate Children's Trust Children's Trust Greater Manchester Police Oldham MBC Oldham MBC Oldham Race Equality Partnership
<b>Observers</b>	Joanne Betts John Eley Tom Flanagan Ian Flanagan Smith Susan Kirkham Karen McCrackle Mary Murphy Moira Percy Mark Reynolds John Rice	Oldham MBC (Transport Planning) Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham MBC (Regeneration) Oldham Partnership Support Team OP Strategic Research Working Group Oldham Partnership Support Team Oldham MBC (Communities) GMPTE Oldham MBC (Housing Strategy) Oldham MBC (Environmental Services)
<b>Members Apologies</b>	Mohammed Alyas Cllr Ian Barker Janet Gipson Cllr Eileen Hulme Jean Laurie Jean Maxwell Jennet Peters	Werneth Community Council Oldham MBC Hollinwood Community Council Oldham MBC GMPTE Shaw & Crompton Community Council Government Office North West

**22/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Bill Edward declared a declaration of interest relating to Item 10. It was therefore agreed that Zuber Ahmed would chair this item.

## 23/08 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### Oldham Partnership Steering Group 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. John Eley clarified that discussions are ongoing to revitalise the cultural advisory group.

### Oldham Partnership Executive Group 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008

John Eley confirmed that Oldham's new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) received ministerial sign-off on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. John suggested a more detailed discussion around the content of the SCS/LAA at the next Steering Group meeting.

**Action:** SCS/LAA to be discussed in more detail at the next Steering Group meeting.

## 24/08 FREQUENCY OF OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP MEETINGS

John Eley presented an overview of the Steering Group's changing function, which is leading to an increasing workload for the group.

Several options were presented to the group relating to additional or more frequent meetings to help manage the group's workload and leave time for more detailed discussion in meetings.

There was a general consensus that two monthly meetings are required (articulated by Kevin Dawson, Zuber Ahmed, Roger Gould and John Crompton) and the Chair asked John Eley to implement this decision. Tom Flanagan argued that the Steering Group should be driving the localism agenda (reference to the White Paper *Communities in Control*).

There was also a consensus that ad hoc meetings still offer value, but are not an alternative to two monthly meetings due to a lack of legitimacy (agreed by Roger Gould and John Eley).

Other issues were also raised for discussion:

- Olwen Chadderton asked for more definitions or a glossary of abbreviations in future papers – agreed by the group.
- Philip Gaul called for greater discipline by members of the group. Phillip also expressed concern that employees of the Council are excluded from participating in Area Committees. Bill Edwards agreed this issue requires further investigation and asked John Eley to find out more.
- Alan Lee asked whether the Executive experiences similar difficulties. John Eley explained the differences between the two groups. Alan Roughley said it is important to explore the relationship between the Steering Group and the Executive in more detail to help the group manage its work more effectively.
- Alan Roughley asked what authority the group has, and when it last turned down a major set of proposals. There were several examples from members of the group about where influence has been effective (e.g. shaping community cohesion/engagement strategy). John Eley explained that the group operates as a decision shaping body. There is not always a mechanistic process of approval, veto, referral etc.

**Action:** The group has agreed to meet on a two monthly basis. Ad hoc meetings will also be utilised as appropriate.

#### 25/08 LAA UPDATE: HOUSING BLOCK

Mark Reynolds presented an update from the Housing block and report on performance.

Kevin Dawson informed the group that at Swift Court, the emergency hostel for homeless households, food/clothing contributions etc. are always welcomed.

John Tummon requested further information about the 'Night Stop' scheme. Mark explained that Night Stop, which provides accredited emergency accommodation for 16-25 year olds, is a new scheme that will be publicised more widely. Mark qualified however that long-term funding is not currently secured for this and other projects.

Zuber Ahmed asked how Oldham is protecting itself from the 'credit crunch'. Mark acknowledged that there is a limit to how Oldham can protect itself from national issues, but locally Oldham is working closely with developers on identifying the demand side of the local housing market, as well as other initiatives.

Ian Kendall asked whether play space will be incorporated into new developments. Mark said he was unable to say whether play space will be a part of specific developments.

John Crompton expressed concern about an outstanding '106 agreement' in Failsworth.

#### 26/08 LAA UPDATE: SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES BLOCK

John Rice presented an update from the Safer & Stronger Communities Block and report on performance.

John Rice drew attention to a range of current activities including: Operation Owl, which is seizing alcohol from children and young people, and engaging families and the appropriate services about under-aged drinkers; and a social marketing project which is exploring perceptions such as fear of crime and how to change perceptions/behaviour.

John Rice and Mark Powell have called for the Executive to conduct a strategic review of the Area Based Grant (ABG) to ensure the Grant is being optimised for the delivery of the Local Area Agreement.

John Crompton asked how older people are being engaged. Mark Powell explained that the social marketing exercise will look specifically at fear of crime by older people and how to tackle this. They are working with Help the Aged and other relevant groups.

Ian Kendall drew attention to the issue of promoting employment for ex-offenders. Mark Powell agreed there is a strong association between employment/stable housing and the risk of re-offending. This work also needs to be taken forward by the Probation Service.

## 27/08 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – LSP ENGAGEMENT

Joanne Betts gave a presentation to the group about the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF).

A draft document was circulated to the group for any comments by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

John Tummon said there is currently too much emphasis on cycling as a leisure pursuit, rather than a means of transportation, and cycling is still very dangerous. Joanne said that Oldham is looking to implement a full cycle network across the Borough (Paul Bruffell at OMBC can be contacted for further information).

Philip Gaul asked how they had arrived at the view of ‘improved reliability’ when there are several examples of where bus routes have been closed, price rises etc. Examples were then given of where new bus lanes are helping buses to bypass congestion in some (but not all) areas.

Dave McGealy asked why Oldham is financing Metrolink. Joanne explained that Oldham will be getting the Metrolink via the railway line at least, and is therefore contributing towards developing this.

Mark Powell commented on a reference to ‘covert CCTV at bus stops’. Mark said that damage to bus stops has been halved through the introduction of cameras, at a relatively low cost.

**Action:** Members of the group to submit any comments on the draft document provided by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

## 28/08 QUARTER 1 – PERFORMANCE UPDATE

This item was deferred to the next meeting

## 29/08 RESEARCH DELIVERY PLAN

Susan Kirkham presented the paper on behalf of the Oldham Partnership strategic research working group (OPSRWG). Approval was sought for the group’s delivery plan for 2008-09. This includes activities such as funding Oldham’s Place Survey (a survey that government now requires all local authority areas to carry out), recruiting a part-time administrator for [www.oldhaminfo.org](http://www.oldhaminfo.org), and undertaking a strategic research project on a particular theme – likely to be around low income/poverty/worklessness.

The plan was endorsed and the OPSRWG delegated the authority to now develop business cases for the activity.

## 30/08 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Zuber Ahmed chaired this item.

Mary Murphy asked for agreement for the initial EIA to be completed by a partnership task and finish group, with the option of the community engagement commissioning group (CECG) commissioning a more thorough EIA if necessary.

Bill Edwards stated on behalf of the CECG that they wouldn't commit to funding the fuller report as yet because it was deemed very costly.

John Eley said that there is a natural fit between community engagement and equalities, so he saw the CECG funding this piece of work. It was agreed that the steering group should write to the CECG stating this point of view.

**Action:** A letter to be written to the CECG as above

### 31/08 PCT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

Zuber Ahmed told the group that the PCT was developing its five-year commissioning plan. Some priorities for this are emerging and a series of participative events are taking place (details of which have been circulated)

**Action:** Steering group members to attend the participative events where possible.

### 32/08 OLDHAM BEYOND

Officers are now monitoring progress towards Oldham Beyond's implementation plan so updates on this will be provided at future meetings.

### 33/08 MANCHESTER'S MULTI AREA AGREEMENT (MAA)

The MAA is an agreement between all of the Greater Manchester authorities. It is similar to the LAA but with a focus on continuing the city region's economic growth (although it acknowledges the benefit of improving the economy on other issues such as health). As part of this, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) has adopted a formal constitution. A business leadership council has also been set up to ensure high-level business involvement. Three of the fourteen business people on this are from Oldham and Tom Flanagan explained that the council would work closely with these three representatives to think about how we influence this body.

Martin Gleeson expressed reservations about the governance and accountability of the MAA, and whether it will take power away from Oldham. Kevin Dawson questioned grassroots involvement in the MAA.

Tom stated that in fact the MAA improves the democratic input into how funds are spent. Formal scrutiny arrangements, including Oldham elected members, are built into the structures. In addition Greater Manchester Forum, which includes voluntary and community organisations, will play an important role in delivery of the MAA.

Bill Edwards asked for a more formal response to the steering group's concerns from Tom Flanagan, and it was agreed that the MAA would be added to a future agenda (either of the full steering group or a smaller special interest group) to allow for further debate.

34/08 DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AT THIS STAGE.

No changes made.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Date of Next Meeting**

Date: 13 November 2008

Time: 6pm

Venue: Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham