

Notes from the Public Service Board 25th February 2010

Attendance: Nick Brown (Chair), Gail Richards, John Eley, Carolyn Wilkins and Charlie Parker

Apologies: Cllr Howard Sykes (called to an urgent AGMA meeting), Bill Edwards and Timothy Forber.

1. Notes from 26th January

Notes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record. A formal request to GONW regarding potential ERDF clawback on the Regional Science Centre was authorised.

2. Regional Science Centre

Purchase negotiations are underway with reports being submitted to both Leadership, Cabinet and the LSP Executive. The submitted report was agreed.

Action: John was asked to prepare reports, monitor negotiations and work with Nick to establish a project team meeting next week.

3. Area Based Grant Review

A discussion took place regarding the likely reductions in ABG given the overall constraints on public sector funding in the future. Given this it was agreed that the focus moving forward needed to be on fewer, transformational projects for the borough.

As part of this refocusing it was agreed that all underspend and unallocated resources would be incorporated into an overall review of the ABG programme being reported to the LSP Executive in March 2010. This review would ensure alignment of strategic priorities with resources and services/projects. It was accepted that the review would need to take place within the framework set by the high impact priorities set out in the Prospectus.

It was emphasised that the review needed to take place quickly in order that the partnership was prepared for any immediate budget reductions following a general election. The suggested approach is to endorse the strategy and establish a working group challenge session to undertake the review quickly. The approach could be seen as a precursor to a single commissioning board.

Within the discussion of future allocations and programmes, the Youth Zone was agreed as a priority and the need for an effective radio station comparable to the likes of Pure in Stockport is needed to improve communications and change perceptions.

Action: John to produce a paper for the LSP Executive covering the principles of the review of the Area Based Grant (namely funding fewer programmes and focusing resources on transformational projects incorporating underspend and unallocated resource).

John to work with Peter and Carolyn to begin work on commissioning a business plan to develop OCR over a 5, 10 year period and looking at key issues such as service location, managerial/staff needs, transmitting area coverage, sustainability, etc.

4. Single Commissioning Board

The report was agreed with a Board operating as a sub-set of the Oldham Partnership Executive as the preferred option.

Action: John to submit a report to the LSP Executive.

5. Freedom to lead.

It was agreed that the Partnership would not provide a separate response on the Freedom to Lead consultation as it has been party to the production of the document.

6. Any other business

Gail queried progress on city region governance.

Action: Carolyn to provide an update at the next meeting. City Region Governance document to be circulated

7. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 30th March 2pm-3.30, Oldham Business Centre.