

GREENWICH PARTNERSHIP

BOARD MEETING

**THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2007 AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE HERITAGE
CENTRE, ROYAL ARSENAL, SE18**

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Chris Roberts, Leader of the Council (Chair)
Christopher Jarratt, Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police Service
Judy Smith, Greenwich Community Network
Rosa Concalves, Greenwich Community Network
Jigs Chana, Cameo Properties
Steve Nelson, Chamber of Commerce
Mark Maddison, JobCentre Plus
Malcolm Rodrigues, Learning and Skills Council London East

Observers:

Harcourt Alleyne, Acting Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Partnerships)
Jill Crumpton, Co-ordinator Greenwich Partnership
Graham Verge, Principal Corporate Support Officer
Jim Moore, Metropolitan Police Service
Robert Sutton, Committee Services Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Brooks, Councillor Angela Cornforth, Reverend Martyn Coe (Greenwich Community Network), Jane Schofield (Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust) and Mary Ney (Greenwich Council).

2. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Greenwich Partnership held on 14 September 2006 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Urgent Business

There was none. The Chair drew attention to a number of documents which had been circulated at the meeting.

4. Greenwich Strategy

A colour version of the draft Greenwich Strategy 2006 – 2015 was circulated at the meeting. The Board was informed that consultation on the draft Strategy was due to finish on 5 March 2007. It was noted that the draft document was available on the Council's web site, together with a questionnaire. The Partnership Co-ordinator encouraged all members of the Board and their respective organisations to comment on the draft Strategy. The revised Strategy, once adopted by the Greenwich Partnership, would form the basis of the next Local Area Agreement (LAA), due to commence in March 2008.

In response to questions the Partnership Co-ordinator stated:

- that it was intended for the draft Strategy to be considered by each of the strategic partnerships, including the Safer Greenwich Partnership;
- that a number of the LAA themes, e.g. safer and stronger communities underpinned the Strategy. However, it may be necessary to review the wording to bring some elements to the fore.

Resolved –

That the draft Greenwich Strategy 2006 – 2015, which is currently out for consultation, be noted.

5. Progress on Partnerships

A table detailing the latest position and the action outstanding in relationship to the membership of the Greenwich Partnership Board and the strategic partnerships was circulated at the meeting.

In relation to the membership of the Board of the Greenwich Partnership the Chair proposed that representatives of the LAA public sector funding partners (the Police, Primary Care Trust, Learning and Skills Council and JobCentre Plus), together with the Council, should qualify automatically for a place. This was agreed.

The Partnership Co-ordinator updated the Board on the latest position on each of the four strategic partnership boards, and in particular with regard to community involvement:-

Children's Trust Shadow Board – the proposal to extend the membership to include the Police, the Learning and Skills Council and some representatives of the community / voluntary sector was welcomed. It was noted that in the main the voluntary and community sector were represented on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership which fed into the Children's Trust. Concern though was expressed that the majority of the voluntary / community representatives on the Strategic Partnership were representatives of service providers and not the community sector. Judy Smith asked if this could be reviewed.

Healthier Communities Board – it was noted that this partnership, based on the Older People's Health Improvement Partnership, was in the process of being established. The community representatives on the Improving Health/Cutting Inequalities Partnership would continue. It was noted that a range of governance issues, e.g. responsibility for Section 31 Agreements, needed further consideration.

Safer Greenwich Partnership Board – it was noted that the Partnership had been established and was previously the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The community and voluntary sector were not represented on the Partnership Board but they will sit on the Project Management Boards, Problem Solving Groups and neighbourhood panels where they could influence the LAA and its delivery.

Sustainable Communities Board – it was noted that the Board had yet to be established although Chair stated that he expected detailed proposals to be brought forward before the Partnership Board's next meeting. It was noted that there was a large number of current partnerships and interested bodies that needed to be consulted in the development of the Sustainable Communities Board. This included regeneration agencies, cultural organisations, employers etc.

Mr Steve Nelson queried the involvement of businesses in the Partnership Boards and who would decide on which representatives should be appointed. The Chair explained that it might be more appropriate to approach businesses and ask them on which bodies, and at what level, they needed to be represented .

Resolved –

That the progress made on partnerships be noted.

6. LAA Board (18.01.07) – Report

The Principal Corporate Support Officer informed members of the discussions held by the Local Area Agreement Board which had met immediately before the Partnership Board. The Board was informed that the LAA Board was due to meet prior to each meeting of the Greenwich Partnership and a report back on its discussion would be submitted to the Partnership. It was noted that the LAA Board was responsible for overseeing the LAA and for providing strategic leadership.

The Board was informed that the LAA was half way through its three year programme and that the recent Government review had given it an 'amber' rating. The Board noted that a new LAA would need to be agreed by March 2008 and that the intervening period should be used to develop the Agreement, agree local targets and strengthen partnership working.

Judy Smith expressed her concern that due to the LAA Board meeting immediately prior to the Greenwich Partnership it meant that it (GP) would not have the benefit of a written report. Whilst acknowledging the cross over of membership this did not apply to the voluntary/community sector representatives or businesses. The Assistant Chief Executive undertook to consider further and report back to the Partnership.

The Chair stated that the frequency and timing of LAA Board meetings needed to be reviewed and this may, in part, address the concern expressed.

7. Future LSP Programme

It was agreed that the 20 September 2007 meeting should be held at the Eltham Centre and the 21st June one should be held at the Dome.

Resolved –

That the dates and a programme of discussions for the Greenwich Partnership for 2007, as circulated, be agreed.

The meeting closed at 6.58 p.m.