

BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities

Minutes

BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES OF THE BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2011, IN CHARTRIDGE CONFERENCE CENTRE, CHARTRIDGE, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 3.38 PM.

Members Present

Mrs P Birchley	Healthy Communities Partnership
Ms J Clarke	Chair, The Ridgeway Partnership Trust Board
Mrs L Clarke	Chairman of Wycombe LSP/Leader of WDC
Mr D Davies	BALC
Mr R Dickson	VCS Rep - Buckinghamshire Community Foundation
Chief Superintendent Paul Emmings	Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board
Mr N Fellows	VCS Rep - Bucks Sports Partnership
Professor D Godfrey	Buckinghamshire New University
Mr P Hammond	Thames Valley Police Authority
Mr M Hunt	VCS Rep
Mr D Lunn	Non-Executive Director, NHS Buckinghamshire
Ms B Poole	VCS Rep - People's Voices / Chair of Change Up Consortium
Mr A Pratt OBE	Business Representative
Mr R Reed	SBDC
Mr N Rose	Leader of CDC and Chairman of Chiltern Community Partnership (LSP)
Mr J Williams	Fire and Rescue Service

Observers

Mr C Furness, Observer - Chief Executive, SBDC
Mr A Goodrum, Observer - Chief Executive, CDC
Mr A Grant, Observer - Chief Executive, AVDC
Ms B Kerley, Job Centre Plus
Ms K Satterford, Observer - Chief Executive, WDC
Mr C Williams, Observer - Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire County Council

Officers

Mrs S Ashmead, Head of Policy, Performance and Communications
Mrs J Fisk, Team Leader, Policy and Partnerships

Ms H Wailling, Democratic Services Officer
Ms S Yapp

Guests

Mr A Travers, London School of Economics

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

The following apologies for absence were received:

Apologies	Substitute
Jim Booth, Chief Executive, Thames Valley Police Authority	Paul Hammond, Treasurer, Thames Valley Police Authority
Juliet Brown, Joint Director of Strategy and System Reform, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	-----
Adrian Busby, Leader of SBDC and Chairman of South Bucks LSP	Roger Reed, Deputy Leader of SBDC
John Cartwright, Leader of AVDC	-----
Cora Carvey, VCS Rep – Community Impact Bucks	Michael Hunt, VCS – Community Impact Bucks
Stewart George, Chairman, NHS Buckinghamshire	David Lunn, Non-Executive Director, NHS Buckinghamshire
Martin Howell, Chairman, OBMHT	-----
Lee Mason, VCS Rep – Bucks Sport Partnership	Nick Fellows, VCS Rep – Bucks Sport Partnership
Warren Ralls, Area Director, SEEDA	-----
David Rowlands, Chairman, Bucks Fire Authority	Jeremy Williams, Community Safety Design Advisor, Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
David Shakespeare OBE (Leader of BCC)	-----
Warren Whyte (Chairman, Aylesbury Vale LSP)	-----

Eileen Macdonald, Government Office for the South East (GOSE) was no longer a member of the Board due to the dissolution of GOSE.

Lesley Clarke, Leader of Wycombe District Council, agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4 BSPIG UPDATE REPORT

The Board received the Update Report for the Bucks Strategic Partnership Implementation Group (BSPIG).

Jackie Fisk, Team Leader, Policy and Partnerships, drew members' attention to the key

changes regarding partnership working, which were detailed on page 9.

The BSPIG had also recently looked at re-allocating any underspends on projects agreed for funding under the LAA pooled fund / BSP fund, and agreed a focus in 2011/12 on the Integrated Offender Management Project and the Family Intervention Project.

The Board noted the BSPIG update report.

5 FUTURE DIRECTION FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - WORKSHOP SESSION ON KEY FINANCIAL AND POLICY ISSUES FACING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Tony Travers from the London School of Economics to the meeting.

Tony Travers gave a powerpoint presentation - *Surviving and prospering: local provision in 2011 and beyond*.

During the presentation members discussed various issues which were raised, and made the following points:

- Changes proposed by Government were radical and would go much deeper than reforms to Local Government funding. These were the most radical reforms to the Public Sector since 1945.
- Eric Pickles' aim was to move to a system where there was no central grant, and in which local authorities would rely on Council Tax and business rates. This would work well in somewhere like Westminster (which had a very high figure for business rates) but not in an area such as Liverpool. Areas such as Westminster would need to put money into a central pool to be re-distributed.
- Council Tax and business rates would be open to referenda.
- The changes could lead to different rates of public sector pay in the UK.
- The changes could lead to people moving more around the UK, as in the USA.
- Government figures suggested that the reduction of jobs in the Public Sector would be equalled by expansion in the Private Sector. However the majority of the job growth in the last 10-15 years had been in London and the South East. There had been some job growth elsewhere, but this had mainly been in the Public Sector. Therefore the predicted increase in Private Sector jobs might not be in the same geographical areas as the decrease in Public Sector jobs.
- It was also not clear where predicted growth in the Private Sector would take place, as the UK no longer had a large manufacturing sector. Tony Travers said that his guess was that the growth would be in the financial and business sectors. If Private Sector job increases did not meet Public Sector job losses, the cost of unemployment would be felt.
- The New Homes Bonus would be offered as an incentive to local authorities to increase their Council Tax base. However some authorities would be limited in how they could utilise this (e.g. those which had green belt land).
- 'Spending Power' was a new concept from Government, and was calculated by adding Council Tax to Government funding. Tony Travers' view was that District Councils were going to be 'squeezed' harder than the County Council in this respect and that the only way for District Councils to receive some money back would be by giving out planning permission for housing (for the New Homes Bonus).

- Social Housing could be the next potential area of crisis.
- The responsibility for Council Tax Benefit would be handed to District Councils in 2013 and reduced by 10%.
- If local authorities contracted services with funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), as proposed by the Government, where would savings be made?
- Many VCS organisations would inevitably dissolve as funding was reduced. There was also the issue of the sustainability of volunteer-run organisations. Current volunteers were often older or retired people.
- As services became more localised, they would no longer be countywide or even district-wide, and this could mean that there would be gaps in service.
- Local Government had increased in quality in recent years, due to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment etc. Cuts were being made to Local Government first as this was most efficient part of the Public Sector. Cuts of the same level to the NHS, for example, were not feasible.
- The trade unions' response to the cuts had so far been muted. Local elections in May would indicate how the public had responded to the cuts.
- There was a powerful expectation in the UK that there would be consistent public service across all areas. How could Local Government ensure this in a changing world?
- The gap between rich and poor would definitely grow. The Government wanted a more competitive society, and this could lead to 'postcode lotteries.'
- There was concern about disadvantaged communities in Buckinghamshire, which needed to be supported and not marginalised. The Government would also be reducing its statistical coverage, which could mean that Local Government had fewer statistics to base its decisions upon.

There was a short discussion on High Speed 2 and it was noted that the UK was a much smaller country than those European countries which already had high-speed rail.

Tony Travers finished the discussion by noting that however else one viewed the changes, they would lead to interesting, new and exhilarating times.

Members then discussed the four proposed themes for the BSP work programme.

It was suggested that the need for new models of service delivery following the cuts, and the efficiency and financial agenda, be addressed, as these would be key in ensuring that services were delivered.

Members asked for the following activity to be added to the BSP Work programme:

- Look at the cumulative impact of changes and map out a comprehensive view of the public state (including how changes impact on different groups).
- Look at new models of service delivery that can generate income.

The BSP Board agreed the four recommended themes for the future direction of Buckinghamshire. These were: Tackling crime and fear of crime; Promoting prosperity; Narrowing the gaps; Big Society.

The BSP Board also agreed that the following should be added to the work programme:

- Look at the cumulative impact of changes and map out a comprehensive view of the public state (including how changes impact on different groups).
- Look at new models of service delivery that can generate income.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12 July 2011, 2:30pm, Main Hall 1, Green Park Conference Centre, Aston Clinton

CHAIRMAN