

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ISLAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2009, COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM

Voting Members Present:

Cllr Lodi Brand	IWALC Representative
Cllr Dawn Cousins	Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board
Danny Fisher	Chair, IW NHS
Brian Friend	Chair, Economic and Environment Partnership Board
Richard Grogan	Chair, Environment Forum
The Revd Jonathan Hall	Rural Dean – West Wight (nominated deputy for Caroline Baston)
Richard Priest	Chair, Rural Community Council
Cllr David Pugh	Chair, ISP Board / Leader of the IWC
Sue Wadsworth	Chair, Isle of Wight Children's Trust

Non-voting/Ex Officio Members Present:

Steve Beynon	Chief Executive, IWC
Michael Bulpitt	Chief Executive, Rural Community Council / Chair, ISP Executive
Barry Greenberry	Governor, HMP Isle of Wight
Dr Jenifer Smith	Director of Public Health and Chief Medical Adviser - IW NHS

Also in attendance:

Astrid Davies	Strategic Manager: Partnership, IWC
Jay Jayasundara	Highways PFI Programme Director, IWC
Stuart Love	Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, IWC

Apologies Received:

The Ven. Caroline Baston	Chair, Island Church Leaders' Forum
Cathy Evans	Government Office for the South East (GOSE) (Observer)
Linda Krywald	Audit Commission Lead for CAA (invitee)
Chief Supt. David Thomas	Chair, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Board/ Isle of Wight Police Commander

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The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Cllr Lodi Brand, who was attending his first ISP Board Meeting for the IWALC.

### **8. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on [14 July 2009](#) were reviewed and the Board considered ratification of the recommendations put forward.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the notes of the meeting, together with all the recommendations put forward, be agreed.

In addition, the following updates were received:

Smoke Free Island: Cllr Cousins advised that discussions regarding publicising this joint initiative were ongoing. Dr Smith had been appointed Chair for the Coalition Group and an update report would be circulated to all Partnership Boards. One of the main objectives was to discourage young people from starting to smoke.

It was suggested that the Joint Communications Group be asked to formulate ideas to develop and publicise this initiative and submit a report to the ISP Board for decision.

## 9. **Standing Items**

### (a) **LAA2 Summary Performance Report and Partnership Board Updates**

The Council's Chief Executive, Steve Beynon, provided an overview of the performance report, which reflected a comparison between the end of quarter 4 and the current position. A 'rag rating' format had been used, showing areas of achievement, areas of concern and identified risks.

Particular areas of concern related to Chlamydia testing; the percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET); and the affordable homes target. The Board noted that the affordable homes target posed a significant risk directly related to access to government funding. Two further areas of concern were for (a) planning and adapting to climate change and (b) the management of waste.

In contrast, some good progress had been made with targets under the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Board, although further improvement was needed for targets around domestic abuse issues and first time entrants to the Youth Justice system.

The Board was also advised that following a letter and a meeting with the Secretary of State, the Island might be considered a suitable 'test-bed' for the Government's low emission carbon plan.

Discussion regarding future economic investment on the Island had also taken place recently and a further update would be provided for the ISP Board in due course.

### **Economic and Environment Partnership Board**

The Partnership Board Chair, Brian Friend, provided an update which included the Climate Change Plan Report, which had been a direct result of the recent Climate Change Workshop. This would be further debated at the next workshop in October.

The Board was also advised that a big challenge for the future could be the Island's water supply. Further discussion on this issue would take place later in the year.

### **Childrens' Trust Partnership Board**

The Partnership Board Chair, Sue Wadsworth, advised the Board that a conference would be held in November to develop joint commissioning initiatives and to begin the annual refresh of the Children and Young People Plan.

Current concerns around targets included Safeguarding issues; Looked After Children; Chlamydia testing and NEET figures. It was envisaged that other partnerships would be involved in discussion about Chlamydia and NEET figures. The IWC Cabinet Member for Children, Cllr Dawn Cousins added that a considerable amount of work was being undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board regarding Safeguarding issues and a strategic review of domestic abuse issues had also been completed. The Hampton Trust had been appointed as independent Chair for future debate and consultation on domestic abuse issues and a report would be submitted to the Children's Trust Board in due course.

### **Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board**

The Partnership Board Chair, Cllr Dawn Cousins, advised the Board that a current priority was the Young Carers' Strategy, which was a cross-cutting issue. Comment was being sought from the NHS as well as young carers themselves and work was ongoing.

The Board noted that numbers for homelessness had dropped significantly over the last month, demonstrating that preventative work had been very successful.

The performance for Social Care Clients was currently behind, although an upturn was anticipated following a recent training plan and a workshop.

Research had recently been undertaken regarding affordable homes on the Island and the Pan Housing Development Scheme had been invited to bid for additional funds by Homes and Communities. Five major developers had indicated interest in helping with the Pan Project and more detail would be provided in due course. The allocation policy for affordable homes was also being reviewed and more information would be available at a future ISP Board meeting.

The Board was advised by the Chairman of IW NHS, Danny Fisher, that their current challenges were managing reduced budgets; sustaining a five-year plan and issues around equality and community care.

### **Crime and Reduction Partnership Board**

The joint Chair of the Crime and Reduction Partnership Board, Steve Beynon, advised the ISP Board that some positive joint working between IWC Social Services and the police had recently been undertaken around crime prevention and fear of crime.

An event had been held at Medina High School earlier in the year to discuss how the CDRP engaged with Island residents. The event had been broadcast live on IW Radio.

Regarding previous concerns around the Government's 'prevent' terrorism target, which had subsequently been reviewed by the Equals Group; the Council's view had been upheld and this target would therefore no longer be included in the LAA.

The Board was further advised that discussions about anti-social behaviour data had resulted in earlier intervention taking place. This had included an active involvement in domestic abuse and youth services on the Island.

The Board noted that pressure on resources for crime prevention existed due to the increasing costs of monitoring the Vesta situation.

**(b) CAA Update**

The ISP Board was informed that the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) was an Audit Commission mechanism for defining, appraising and reviewing partnership working, with the intention of providing transparent services to residents.

An area assessment was part of the CAA process, as were individual organisational assessments and a value for money appraisal. CAA judgements were indicated by red and green flags, where red flags indicated a less than satisfactory performance with no plans to improve and a green flag denoted partnership work considered to be of national importance. The Island currently had no recommendations for red flags, but there was a possibility of a green flag for work undertaken by the CDRP around tackling drug issues on the Island. More information would be circulated in due course.

Cllr Dawn Cousins declared a personal interest, as she was a member of the CAA Adjudication Panel.

**(c) PFI Update**

The Board was advised that some key milestones had been achieved, with the Outline Business Case (OBC) being submitted to Cabinet on 11 August and receiving overwhelming support. Since then a local industry day had been held for Island businesses currently involved in highways' contracts, to keep them informed of progress with the PFI scheme and to highlight future opportunities..

The OBC had been submitted to the Department of Transport on 28 August 2009, two months ahead of schedule.

More recently, an event had been arranged for prospective PFI bidders, which included a tour of the Island's roads and the floating bridge. Approximately 85 people took part in the event, including 7 major contractors, several "marriage brokers" and a number of financiers.

A revised handout was circulated which included additional elements which would enhance environmentally friendly elements of the scheme. These additions had resulted in an increased total investment of approximately £1.17 billion over 25 years. The Board was reminded that this was a free Government grant and there would be no repayment. A value for money test had also been applied to the OBC

and had proved that the PFI scheme would be 12% cheaper than work delivered by traditional methods.

The challenge for the PFI scheme would be to ensure that Island industries and educational establishments work with the Council to secure maximum benefit for the Island. It was envisaged that training schemes and apprenticeships would be of huge future benefit to the Island's children and young people.

Concerns were raised about maximum inclusion of Island based businesses as well as the application of high environmental standards, particularly with AONB areas and the management of waste materials. The Board was advised that future PFI contractors would be encouraged to use Island businesses if they met the standard and that this would also have an impact on the project's carbon footprint.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the LAA Performance update report, the Partnership Board Chairs update reports and the PFI update report be noted.

**10. Allocation of LPSA2 Reward Grant**

The Board reviewed the report and was asked to adopt a process of allocation for the LPSA2 Reward Grant due to be received between 2010 and 2011. The predecessor of the ISP Board (Island Futures) had decided in October 2005 that Reward Grant money should split with 25% being awarded to the lead delivery partner and 75% to the ISP Board for allocation. The 25% could be shared within a Partnership Board at the lead agency's discretion. This approach was encouraged by the ISP Board.

The purpose of the report was to revisit the process and agree the criteria, process and allocation of LPSA2 funds which would enable a method to focus resources towards areas that most needed them.

The ISP Executive had previously considered the allocation so LPSA2 funds and had recommended that prioritisation and focussing on a few key cross-cutting topics would provide best use of resources.

The Board specifically considered two key issues; the opportunity to use shared money to address shared priorities; and the anticipated size of the 'pot'.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) THAT the 75%/25% split approach be agreed with reference to LPSA2, and not LAA2.
- (ii) THAT each of the Partnership Boards should agree their priority topics and submit to the ISP Executive via the IWC Partnership Team. The IW NHS value for money tool would be used to assist the identification of a definitive list for ISP Board decision.
- (iii) THAT the ISP Board formally select its key topics, as areas where the ISP can make a real local difference.

- (iv) THAT the ISP Board target its 75% “pot” at addressing its agreed priority topics and that these topics would then become the focus of the ISPs activities going forward.
- (v) THAT a fixed deadline for project completion be applied to all bidding projects, to ensure spend is monitored and value for money pursued.
- (vi) THAT this approach specifically include and encourage community engagement, through the offer of a proportion of the “pot” to be allocated by Island communities to specific local priorities, using the principles of participatory budgeting.

#### **11. Update on Sustainable Communities Act**

The Chairman advised that proposals had been sought from Town and Parish Councils and other local groups on the Sustainable Communities Act (SCA), but none had been received to date.

A number of bids had already been submitted to Government from the Island for locally focussed funds to empower the Town and Parish Councils in the planning process, bus use, work experience on farms and funding for elements of training for 16 to 19 year olds. These would therefore have been unnecessary to submit as proposals, as had been the case in other regions.

The Board noted that the SCA encompassed all these elements.

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the update report be noted.

#### **12. Date of the next meeting**

The next ISP Board meeting would be held on Thursday, 26 November 2009 in the IW NHS Board Room, St Mary’s Hospital, Newport, beginning at 5.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN