

**Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership Executive (not a public meeting)  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

<b>Present</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Wirral MBC)
<b>Public Sector</b>	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group, Wirral MBC), Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive), Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral) Len Richards (Chief Executive, Wirral NHS Trust), Chief Superintendent Jon Ward, Gary Foulkes (Jobcentre Plus), Peter Cubbon (Chief Executive, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) Neil Maguire (for Simon Pierce Learning & Skills Council)
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>	Myrtle Lacey, Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network)
<b>Private Sector</b>	Alberto Bertalli
<b>Advisers</b>	Jane Scullion (IDeA)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Wirral Council - Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Lucy Beed (Corporate Performance Manager), Jane Morgan (Corporate Policy Manager) Peter Molyneux, Chief Accountant (Management and Performance), Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Marie Armitage (Joint Director of Public Health, Wirral PCT & Wirral Council), David Armstrong (for Director of Children's Services) John Highton (Partnership Performance Officer)
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral MBC) Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), Simon Pierce (LSC) Jo Lappin and Richard Perry (Government Office, North West) Simon Pierce (Learning & Skills Council)

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## **Minute 116 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS**

Apologies received as stated above.

## **Minute 117 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, were accepted as a correct record.

The board were asked to note:

The NEET presentation requested at the February board meeting will be given by Sheila Lynch, from Connexions, and Howard Cooper, delivery partnership lead for Children & Young People, at the Executive Board meeting in May 2009

Wirral's LAA 2008/2011 Refresh had been concluded and copies of the refreshed LAA were made available to executive board members.

VCAW report and presentation scheduled for this meeting will now be presented at a future meeting

Jim Wilkie informed the board that the Department for Communities and Local Government have calculated that the maximum amount of LAA Performance Reward Grant (PRG) that Wirral is eligible to claim if all LAA targets are met by 2010-11 as £2,281,175.95. This has been checked and verified.

### **Minute Decision :**

#### **Resolved –**

- 1) The minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record

## **Minute 118 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Board members were asked to declare any interests in relation to agenda items and no declarations were made.

## **Minute 119 - CAA SELF EVALUATION – PRESENTATION FROM JANE SCULLION (IDEA)**

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this item.

A paper had been circulated to board members that outlined the requirements of and work to date in preparation for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and in particular in developing a self-assessment and proposes an approach to supporting the self evaluation process for CAA.

JW invited Jane Scullion (JS) from IDeA to present on the current position of CAA and from her experiences in this developing assessment process. Jane had recently joined IDeA and was previously Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance and Governance) at Stockport MBC where she led their involvement in the pilot stages of CAA.

JS outlined the lessons learned from the Stockport experience of self-evaluation (and from the pilot with the Audit Commission) and offered some observation on areas to focus on in preparation for this new assessment regime.

The presentation was to be circulated to board members after the meeting.

Executive board members were asked to note the progress made to date on area self assessment and agree that its further development is supported by LSP Development Group and Management Group with further regular reports to the LSP Executive board members

**Minute Decision :  
Resolved that –**

- 1) The board noted the presentation from Jane Scullion and report from Jim Wilkie.
- 2) The chair thanked Jane for the insight into the forthcoming change in regime.
- 3) The board noted the progress to date on CAA and agreed to receive regular updates and support the CAA process as it developed.

**Minute 120 – WIRRAL COUNCIL - RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE**

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this report. The report provided Board members with Wirral Council's latest response to the economic climate. This report had previously been received by cabinet at their 19<sup>th</sup> March meeting.

The report outlined the impact of the current recession on Wirral's economy and identifies the steps being taken by the Council to assist businesses affected by the current economic challenges, and builds upon the budget proposals identified at Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.

JW outlined the various aspects that were being undertaken in support of local residents and businesses across Wirral. Partners were also carrying out aspects that were meant to mitigate the circumstances of the recession and/or were as a consequence of the worsening economic outlook.

The board would maintain communication across the partnership where opportunities existed to lessen the impact of the economic climate, and could be developed, in support of local people and business.

The Chair requested that partners contributions to minimise the impact or responding to needs as a result of the current economic climate should be reported to the Executive board.

**Minute Decision :  
Resolved that –**

- 1) The board members noted the report
- 2) The board members agreed to receive further regular reports on the economic situation.

## **Minute 121 – JOB CENTRE PLUS – RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE, PRESENTATION**

Gary Foulkes (GF) from Jobcentre Plus, presented this item

GF highlighted the changing picture and offer from jobcentre plus as a consequence of government pledges and investment. More support for more people will be available from April 2009. It is also more apparent that local partnerships are imperative to the future employment outcomes of residents.

GF wanted partners to keep Jobcentre Plus informed of any redundancies where there current, and expanding, services could be brought to support individuals and organisations.

GF outlined the variety of support services that can be offered individuals, in many cases from their first day of unemployment. Also other routes that can lead to self employment and interim volunteering.

Board members discussed what unemployment impacts were being felt across Wirral and what intelligence from Jobcentre Plus was informing that view. This presentation complimented the previously presented report on economic climate.

Finally, to support Jobcentre Plus, GF asked partners to contact him with suggestions for local venues where their services could be offered from in the future.

The presentation was to be circulated to board members after the meeting.

### **Minute Decision : Resolved that:**

- 1) The chair thanked Gary for his presentation
- 2) The board noted the presentation
- 3) Partners would provide Jobcentre Plus with details of venues for offering their services in communities as requested
- 4) Partners would provide Jobcentre Plus with details of any actual/proposed redundancies where they existed

## **Minute 122 – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY - PRESENTATION**

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced the report and presentation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The public consultation period for Wirral's Sustainable Community Strategy closed at the end of January 2009. Since then further work was undertaken to reflect the responses received. This then ensured the strategy reflected recent strategic developments such as the partnership governance review and the impact of other factors such as the economic downturn. JW presentation outlined the consultation process and the next steps for agreeing and embedding the strategy.

JW reported the timescale for the SCS following this consultation. This included going to Wirral Council Cabinet in April 2009 and a formal launch in June 2009. In order to facilitate this timeframe JW asked for delegated powers for the Chair and Chief Executive of Wirral Council to make any final minor amendments to the SCS. Also JW asked partners to consider adding resources for the production of the SCS for its partnership launch.

JW asked partners to review their delivery plans and strategies where the SCS should be referenced and embedded and this would be reflected in a potential 'annual health check' and ongoing review of our progress made against those priorities for Wirral.

**Minute Decision :**

**Resolved that**

- 1) The board noted the report.
- 2) The board agreed for delegated powers be given to the chair and Chief Executive of Wirral Council to make any final minor amendments to the SCS
- 3) The revised SCS go to the LSP Board (Strategic Partnership Assembly) in June 2009
- 4) Partners consider resources to produce the partnerships public Sustainable Communities document
- 5) Partners would consider their organisational documents continued to reflect the SCS and embed its intentions

**Minute 123 – LAA DELIVERY PLANS - REPORT**

Lucy Beed (LB) introduced this item.

This report provided Wirral LSP Executive board members with draft delivery plans for Wirral's 2008/11 local area agreement improvement priorities as requested in November 2008. These delivery plans would be monitored as part of the performance and risk report presented to the board on a quarterly basis. The first report being for quarter one in August 2009.

Board members were requested to review and comment on the draft delivery plans and agree that further work is progressed by thematic groups were appropriate. Any comments should be returned to Lucy Beed or Jim Wilkie.

It is further requested that the draft delivery plans be considered by each partner organisation to ensure that they fully reflect all partner activity required to achieve the LAA improvement targets

**Minute Decision :**

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The board noted the production of the draft partnership delivery plans
- 2) Partners would review the details and inform the partnership team of any issues

## **Minute 124 – SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT**

Graham Gladden (GG) presented this item

This report detailed the steps taken by the Environment & Sustainability Advisory Group (ESAG) to establish a process for a programme of sustainability appraisals of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Appraisals have been carried out on the 2008/11 LAA priorities for improvement.

The work of the group identified risks to the sustainability of the delivery of the priority areas and highlighted interactions between priority areas.

The potential consequences, and as such risks, identified in the sustainability appraisals were to be drawn in line with the work recently completed on risk registers. It was expected that the potential negative impacts would be incorporated into the register and with a performance monitoring process aligned to current practices that allowed them to be reviewed for progress made.

GG highlighted the key message from the work is the clear interaction between the indicators in terms of either achieving a positive or negative outcome. GG pointed out that it was important to have a dialogue across partners that would enhance any potential for sustainable outcomes to be achieved or negative impacts mitigated.

Chair welcomed the sustainability work and detail produced and it allowed the partnership to continue to reflect on its priorities and how best to meet them.

### **Minute Decision :**

#### **Resolved that –**

- 1) The report be noted
- 2) The chair and board thanked Graham and ESAG for their work on the sustainability appraisals

## **Minute 125 - LSP GOVERNANCE REPORT**

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this item on the latest LSP Governance report.

The purpose of this report was to request final approval from board members on the proposals arising from the review of governance arrangements for Wirral's local strategic partnership (LSP)

The report built upon the reports presented to programme board to date and added further detail as requested by board members on groups, their roles and how that detail fitted together for an overall strategic partnership.

Tabled at the meeting was a proposal from the COMPACT Working Group which requested that COMPACT be fully embedded into the terms of reference for the group and that COMPACT be reflected in the titles of all groups within Wirral's LSP. The board acknowledged the importance of COMPACT, its positive achievements and the national recognition that had been achieved. The board

also acknowledged that working to the COMPACT guidelines was already included in the terms of reference for the proposed LSP groups. The board requested that Jim Wilkie review further how COMPACT can be more fully embedded in Wirral and look at the concerns raised by the Working Group. Myrtle Lacey requested that the board review the proposals in more detail due to paper being tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that the titles of the groups would remain as per the proposal in the report.

Board members approved the structure and terms of reference set out in appendix one and two of the report.

**Minute Decision :**

**Resolved that –**

- 1) The board noted the report and late additional comments from the COMPACT working group and would provide further comments regarding the COMPACT proposal if appropriate
- 2) Board members approved the structure and terms of reference set out in appendix one and two of the report
- 3) The board asked JW to ensure that the concerns expressed by the COMPACT Working Group were looked into in more detail

**Minute 126 - WORKING WIRRAL REPORT**

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this report that provided Executive board members with a progress update on the first round of Working Wirral commissioning

Executive Board members are asked to note the cabinet decision of 19<sup>th</sup> March to agree funding of a number of projects as the accountable body for the Working Wirral resources

Also Executive Board members are asked to note that Government has announced the result of its consultation into the criteria for allocating Working Neighbourhoods Funds (WNF) and that £9,879,492 is confirmed as Wirral's allocation for 2009/10 and confirmation for 2010/11 is still awaited.

**Minute Decision :**

**Resolved that –**

- 1) The board members noted the report

**Minute 127 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Jim Wilkie (JW) informed the board on some recent information regarding the Sustainable Communities Act.

A report was to be considered by Cabinet on the 9<sup>th</sup> April which proposed that Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership should act as the "local panel" for considering proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act.

This year's deadline for submitting proposals under the act is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and arrangements are being made to call for local proposals through the council and

partnership's websites with a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> May.

It is therefore proposed that the strategic partnership assembly consider any suggestions at their meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and a report is brought to the Executive Board meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> July with recommendations relating to submitting any proposals to DCLG (via the LGA).

**Minute Decision :**

**Resolved that –**

- 1) The board noted this update
- 2) The board agreed to act as the local panel for this process and would receive recommendations at the 8<sup>th</sup> July Executive board meeting
- 3) The board requested that the strategic partnership assembly consider any proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act at their meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 to inform the board report for 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Meeting closed at 7.15 pm**

**Minute 128 – DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- **Cancelled** Wednesday 20 May 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm (*now moved to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009*)
- Wednesday 8 July 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 19 August 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 30 September 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 11 November 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 6 January 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 17 February 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 31 March 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm