

Thriving Communities Corporate Priorities Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2006

Boardroom, 4th Floor, Merrion House

Chair	Neil Evans (NE), (Chair) Neighbourhoods and Housing
Present	Rory Barke (RB), Neighbourhoods and Housing Pat Fairfax (PF), Neighbourhoods and Housing David Feeney (DF), Development Julie Meakin (JM), City Services Rehana Minhas (RM), Education Leeds Marilyn Summers (MS), Chief Executive's Department Sue Wynne (SW), Neighbourhoods and Housing
Minutes	David Kidston (DK), Neighbourhoods and Housing

		Action
1.0	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Catherine Blanshard (CB), Steve Carey (SC), Dennis Holmes (DH), Denise Preston (DP), Val Snowden (VS), and Lelir Yeung (LY). David Feeney attended on behalf of Steve Speak (SS).	
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
2.1	Scrutiny Board (Development) requested the report on 'tackling worklessness' considered at the previous meeting.	SW
2.2	NE reported on a productive meeting with Ian Hunter (IH), JobCentre Plus, West Yorkshire District Manager. Agreement was reached to work jointly to target the SOAs in Leeds with the highest levels of worklessness. RB to provide NE with papers on current activity to address worklessness in Chapeltown.	NE RB
3.0	Compact for Leeds baselining update and proposed short-term actions	
3.1	PF presented a report on the Compact for Leeds baselining exercise. The Board ratified the Compact Codes of Practice at the April 2006 meeting and agreed to conduct a baselining exercise to raise awareness, identify good practice and produce a position statement in relation to the Compact, the Codes of Practice and the Mediation and Disputes Procedure. As part of the baselining exercise, departmental leads were asked to provide qualitative evidence against the criteria in the Codes of Practice. Overall the Council scored well in the baselining exercise, reflecting examples	

of good practice in embedding the Compact principles and standards in policy and practice.

3.2 Key issues to be addressed included improving awareness of the Compact and in particular the Mediation and Disputes procedures and ensuring a consistent approach to funding provided to VCFS from across the Council. PF outlined the key actions developed to address these.

3.3 MS suggested that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) corporate governance and accountability arrangements could be adapted to form guidance for city-wide strategic partnerships. Separate guidance would be needed for partnerships focused on delivery.

3.4 The Board discussed funding and the different approaches taken across the Council. It was noted that distinctions need to be made between general fund and discretionary funded activity, grants and contracts and the resultant decision making processes within these different frameworks. JM emphasised the role of market plurality and a strong third sector in delivering high quality services. It was agreed that the VCS Issues Group explore this matter further.

3.5 Stephen Boyle (SB) was identified as a potential speaker for the Council at the Compact Week Event. **SB**

The Board agreed that:

- Stephen Boyle, Chief Regeneration Officer, be asked to undertake the Senior Officer Lead role for the Compact and to speak at the Compact event. Member champion role to be raised with the Leader **SW**
- Compact awareness and the role of the Corporate Voluntary and Community Sector Issues Group to be incorporated into Member Induction and Training. **PF**
- The action plan to be developed and progressed through the VCS Issues Group.

4.0 Leeds Regeneration Plan – annual update on performance

4.1 SW presented information on the annual update on progress against the Narrowing the Gap targets in the Leeds Regeneration Plan focusing on those measures that read across to the Board's work programme. It was noted that progress has been made in all areas, however, the scale and rate of change required in some areas remains a significant challenge e.g. worklessness. The summary report and handouts to be circulated for information. **SW**

5.0 Performance Management

5.1 DK presented the Work Programme, which has been updated to reflect progress during Quarter 2 against the key Thriving

Communities activities in the Council Plan. The Quarter 2 Performance Information (PI) for Thriving Communities was not available, as the deadline for submission was 13 October. DK to draft the Quarter 2 performance report for CMT on 31 October based on the work programme updates and the PI data, once it is released.

DK

6.0 Town and District Centres

6.1 RB reported that 2 business plans for Town and District Centre schemes have been approved by Asset Management Group (AMG) and it is anticipated that work will commence on site in Quarter 4 2006/07. The Major Projects Team, Regeneration Service has been working with Area Management teams to assist them to bring forward 7 business plans to submit to AMG meeting on 20 October. The remaining schemes will be considered by AMG in November 2006. RB to provide NE with a progress report on the Town and District Centre programme.

RB

7.0 Audit self assessment checklist for Corporate Priority Boards

7.1 SW presented the Corporate Priority Board audit self assessment checklist for discussion. SW and DK had partially completed the checklist on behalf of the Board, but input was sought from Board members on questions relating to communication with DMTs, working party sub-groups and external partners. It was agreed that the board will discuss the outstanding questions and those answered 'no' at the next meeting.

All

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 10.00-12.00 on 11 December 2006 in the Boardroom, 4th Floor West, Merrion House