

## Thriving Communities Corporate Priorities Board

### Minutes of the meeting held on April 10 2006

#### Boardroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Merrion House

<b>Chair</b>	Neil Evans (NE), (Chair) Neighbourhoods and Housing
<b>Present</b>	Rory Barke (RB), Neighbourhoods and Housing Steve Speak (SS), Development Julie Meakin (JM), City Services Martyn Stenton (MS), Neighbourhoods and Housing Sue Wynne (SW), Neighbourhoods and Housing
<b>Minutes</b>	David Kidston (DK), Neighbourhoods and Housing

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies.</b>	
1.1	Apologies were received from Marilyn Summers (MS), Catherine Blanshard (CB), Val Snowden (VS), Rehana Minhas (RM), and John England (JE).	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
2.1	<b>Town and District Centres</b> to appear as a standard agenda item.	<b>RB/SW</b>
2.2	<b>A New Deal for Welfare.</b> The response to the Green Paper will be reported to the next meeting, along with an update on the development of the Employment Plan and programmes to address worklessness.	<b>SC/VS</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Intensive Neighbourhood Management</b>	
3.1	SW gave a presentation on Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM), summarising the key issues covered by the agenda paper.	
3.2	The Leeds approach to INM will build on both national examples of good practice and successful initiatives within the city, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Halton Moor, where INM has led to a reduction of voids (empty properties) and increased investment in private sector housing;</li><li>• East End Park, where the LCC East Area Management Team, LCC Streetscene Services, Re'new and West Yorkshire police have worked in partnership to address 'crime and grime' issues;</li><li>• The Signpost project in South Leeds, where multidisciplinary teams are providing positive activities for young people.</li></ul>	
3.3	The Neighbourhood element of the ODPM's Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) will provide £4.8 million funding for INM initiatives between 2006/7 and 2009/10, but this needs to be used in tandem with mainstream funding. This element of the SSCF is	

## Action

targeted at the Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Leeds that fall within the 3% most deprived in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. Leeds is also eligible for £2.1 million of capital funding from the Safer, Clear and Greener block of the SSCF. This funding is targeted towards the same areas to undertake environmental improvement in public spaces and to tackle problem sites.

- 3.4 Work on INM has been taken forward under the umbrella of the Leeds Local Area Agreement (LLAA). The Safer and Stronger Communities Block of the LLAA provides a key opportunity for INM in that it secures partner involvement in improving service delivery in deprived areas of the city and will contribute to the achievement of these targets.

- 3.5 RB reported that although the INM areas are recognised as key priorities by the District Partnerships and the Area Management Teams, many LCC officers delivering front-line services do not yet understand what it means to work in a priority neighbourhood. Officers in these neighbourhoods need to be aware that they are part of a multi-agency approach and begin to share information and intelligence. There is also a need to overcome cynicism amongst front-line staff that INM can create change in areas which have been prioritised under previous programmes but still face significant problems.

SW/RB

- 3.6 Practical proposals for engaging front-line staff in INM will be discussed at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Policy Group and reported to the next meeting of the Board. This could include promoting successes and highlighting examples where services have not fully met the needs of priority areas.
- 3.7 RB commented that the window of opportunity presented by the availability of SSCFNE funding over the next four years needs to be capitalised upon. There are concerns that proposed and impending organisational changes facing key partners may act as a barrier to optimum delivery, including the rationalisation of the PCTs, the review of the Leeds Housing ALMOs, the proposed changes to the police force and the establishment of LCC Children's Services.
- 3.8 NE commented that it is important unemployment and worklessness in the priority neighbourhoods is addressed if INM is to be successful. TH suggested that the emphasis on worklessness in the New Deal for Welfare Green Paper could result in JobCentre Plus focussing resources on Incapacity Benefit claimants at the expense of unemployed residents in deprived areas.

## 4.0 Compact for Leeds Implementation

- 4.1 MS presented a report on Compact for Leeds Implementation.

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- 4.2 The Board ratified the Compact Codes of Practice and the Mediation and Disputes Resolution Procedure which have been written to support the implementation of the Compact for Leeds
- 4.3 The Compact Implementation Group currently includes representatives from Social Services, Learning and Leisure and Neighbourhoods and Housing, reflecting the contractual and partnership arrangements between these departments and the voluntary and community sector. Tom Smith in City Services and Paul Maney in Development were identified as key contacts to be approached regarding involvement of their respective departments in the Compact implementation process.
- 4.4 MS asked the Board to consider the most appropriate ways to engage members in the Compact implementation process. It was proposed that a Member champion should be identified for the Compact.

### **5.0 Performance Management**

- 5.1 SW reported that Quarter 4 updates to the Work Programme have been provided by some, but not all, departments. SW will send reminders to the relevant CPB members and the updated Work Programme will be presented to the next meeting of the CPB with the quarterly update on Performance Indicators (PIs). **SW/  
lead  
officers**
- 5.2 SW reported that Quarter 4 updates on actions contained in the Thriving Communities section of the Council Plan have been provided by some, but not all, departments. SW will send reminders to the relevant CPB members. All updates need to be returned by 5 May so that a composite report can be presented to the next meeting of the Board to meet the timescales for the production of the Council Plan. **SW/  
lead  
officers**

### **7.0 Date of next meeting**

- 7.1 The next meeting will take place at 15.00-17.00 on 11 May 2006 in the Boardroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor West, Merrion House.