

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
MINUTE OF THE MEETING**

Wednesday, 23 March 2011

Present:	Jim Smith (Chair)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council
	Maureen McConachie	North Lanarkshire Council
	Graham Cairns	Strathclyde Police
	Hugh Logan	Motherwell College
	Craig Cook	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	June Vallance	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	Stephen McConnachie	Jobcentre Plus
	Allan Comrie	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
	Andrew Scott	Scottish Government
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise
	Sandie Mackay	North Lanarkshire Council
	Sharon Smith (Minute)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
	Councillor Wm Hogg	North Lanarkshire Council
	Councillor Michael Ross	North Lanarkshire Council
	Richard Miller	British Waterways Scotland
	Kerry Todd	NHS Lanarkshire
	Miranda Alcock	Audit Scotland
	John Lincoln	Audit Scotland
Apologies:	Jim McCabe	North Lanarkshire Council
	Ken Corsar	NHS Lanarkshire
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
	Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
	Tim Davison	NHS Lanarkshire
	Bruce Kiloh	SPT
	Mark Milligan	North Lanarkshire Council/Strathclyde Police

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, particularly to – Richard Miller, British Waterways, in attendance to speak to Item 5 of the Agenda; to Councillors Michael Ross and William Hogg, in attendance to discuss Item 10 of the Agenda and Andrew Scott, Director of Employability Skills and Lifelong Learning, Scottish Government.

2. Apologies – noted above

3. Minute of the previous meeting (12 January 2011) – agreed as an accurate record

4. Matters arising

- *Firmbase* – Sandie advised that a number of meetings had taken place with key partners including the Citizens' Advice Bureau, NHS and Department of Work and Pensions. It was noted that referrals to Armed Forces are progressing well.

- *Ravenscraig / SPT discussions* : Allan Comrie, SPT, advised the Board that an initial meeting had taken place involving the Council, Motherwell College and SPT regarding bus services to the College. It is recognised that a limited bus service for the college exists but the road layout adjacent to the College is not ideal due to its configuration. The current bus service requires a more frequent service and discussions between the College and SPT will continue in an effort to resolve this issue.

June Vallance, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, offered to extend her community transport service to include a bus service to the College – SPT would support this.

5. **Presentation – Monkland Canal Framework**

Richard Miller, British Waterways Scotland, delivered a presentation entitled “The Monkland Canal Framework”.

The Monkland Canal was built in the late 1700s and was the most successful of all Scottish canals and was of major importance to the development of Coatbridge, Calderbank and east Glasgow. Its decline was also the most rapid of the Scottish canals and by the 1920s trade on the canal was minimal and by 1952, it was closed and piped. A major section of the canal lies underneath the M8 motorway. However three stretches remain - a small spur within Summerlee Heritage Park, a 2km stretch from Sikeside to Calderbank and a 2.3km stretch from Blairbridge to Bargeddie.

With concerns for the condition and future of these stretches, the Monkland Development group was formed. This is a partnership between NLC/BWS/TWTS/Central Scotland Forestry Trust/ Calderbank Conservation Society and has been developing a strategy and action plan called the Monkland Canal Framework since late 2008. Since the creation of the framework in 2009, the group has been promoting a series of projects and events along the line of the Monkland Canal to improve the amenity and understanding of this important historic corridor. The projects currently in construction are:

- Blairbridge
- Drumpellier Circular Walk
- Summerlee branch
- Sikeside to Calderbank

In addition to these projects, many other projects are planned and Richard asked for the support of the NLP.

The Chair thanked Richard for this informative and detailed presentation.

6. **North Lanarkshire Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement 2011-2014**

The existing Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement cover the period to 31 March 2011. Both documents have now been updated with new indicators developed. This will cover the period 2011-2014. It should be noted that although the Scottish Government budget allocations are confirmed for one year only (2011-2012), the new SOA includes targets for the next three years – these targets are confirmed for one year only with indicative targets for years two and three. (The reference to “North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector” within the SOA will be amended to read “Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire”)

Andrew Scott, Scottish Government, advised that the NLP Board will be kept updated on any changes to the SOA following the Scottish elections in May.

The Board noted the content of the report and approved both the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement for 2011-2014.

Action: Regeneration Services

7. Consultation on reduction of Local Area Partnerships (LAPs)

At the Council's Special Policy & Resources Committee in December 2010, it was agreed that the current six Local Area Partnerships would be reduced to three. At a further Policy & Resources Committee in February, two options on reducing the LAPs were considered. These options are currently the subject of a consultation process with partners and groups including Community Forums, Local Area Teams, Local Area Partnerships, the NLP Board and the Community Forum Network. The Board report details the timetable and methods of consultation. The timescale for submission of written comments is 6 May 2011, after which the results of the consultation process will be considered at the Policy & Resources Committee (16 June). The NLP Board will be updated on the results of the consultation process at a later date.

The Board noted the content of the report; approved the timetable and consultation process and, agreed to provide written comments by 6 May 2011.

Action: All

8. Financial Outlook update

A verbal update on this standing item was provided to the Board by Gavin Whitefield. The 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 savings package has been agreed and it was reiterated to partners the importance of managing reductions while continuing to retain a firm focus on partnership working and the spirit of co-operation

9. Economic Activity

Youth unemployment levels – have increased significantly both in the 16-19 and 18-24 years age groups particularly among those claiming for 6 months or more.

Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) – increase in claimants for the third successive month (to 11,945 claimants)

North Lanarkshire's Working – this initiative has supported 1,190 individuals into employment. It was recognised that despite this, the recent trend in JSA has given rise to a number of concerns particularly around youth unemployment and long term claimants.

The Board noted the content of the report

10. Local Community Planning update

As part of this standing Agenda item, each Convener of the six Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) has been invited to attend the NLP Board to provide an update on events and/or issues within their locality.

Councillors Michael Ross and William Hogg were in attendance today. Councillors Ross and Hogg are the Conveners for the Motherwell and North LAPs, respectively.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Councillors Ross and Hogg to highlight local issues in their respective areas (e.g. Councillor Hogg touched on the Auchengeich statue, the “Cumbernauld clock” and signage in the area. Councillor Ross complimented the Forgewood Community Wellbeing Champions Project). Both Councillors agreed that their Local Area Partnership has a good relationship with their respective Community Forums.

The Board noted the content of the report.

11. Third Sector update

The 2011 voluntary sector conference took place on 10 March which, once again, proved successful with 139 delegates across 75 organisations attending. Guest speakers came from Volunteer Development Scotland and Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire

Verbal feedback on the day proved positive. The outcome of the evaluation forms which were completed at the close of the conference will be published in due course, along with a full conference report.

12. Ravenscraig update

Phase 2 : TIF Business Case – Gavin circulated a response from the Scottish Government confirming receipt of the finalised business case for the Ravenscraig Phase 2 Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) project. Subject to several conditions highlighted in the response from the Scottish Government, provisional approval has been made for the TIF project to proceed. North Lanarkshire Council will continue working with the Scottish Futures Trust and the Scottish Government to progress the next stage of the business case.

Area Planning Briefs – this is progressing and should be completed by the end of this year.

13. Partnership HUB / VANL Chair

The Partnership Hub was established in 2007, the purpose of which was to “drive forward bids for funding for North Lanarkshire; provide a source of information exchange and strategic dialogue and; deliver joint working in capacity building, training and access to information”. The aim of the Hub is to attract funding from areas such as the Big Lottery and European funding streams.

To date, the Partnership Hub has been chaired by North Lanarkshire Council. It has been proposed that the role of the Chair transfers from the Council to the Chief Executive of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL). This would reflect the new role which VANL has with partners and the voluntary sector and also that the next three year period of funding will be lottery and trust funds which require a voluntary sector lead.

The Board agreed that the Chair of the NLP Partnership Hub would transfer from the Council to the Chief Executive of VANL

14. Gateway Protection Programme

The Board was reminded of the Gateway Protection Programme which was launched in 2006, at which time North Lanarkshire Council became the first authority in Scotland to embark on the Congolese refugee resettlement programme. The Programme ceased in 2009 and since then, the Board has considered on two separate occasions, its involvement in future Programmes. Due to the current financial situation, it has been agreed that the Gateway Protection Programme will be removed from the NLP Board Agenda.

Sandie advised that a report would be brought to the next Board highlighting how the Congolese families have settled in the area and where they have settled. Hugh Logan suggested that an academic study/assessment could be made to consider the impact of the Gateway Protection Programme.

The Board agreed to the removal of the Gateway Protection Programme from its Agenda until the economic and financial situation improves, and agreed to an update report at the next meeting.

15. Consultation on the future of Policing in Scotland

North Lanarkshire Partnership, as a Community Planning Partnership organisation, has been invited to respond to the recently published draft consultation document on the future of policing in Scotland. Partners' responses/comments should be forwarded to Sharonsmith@northlan.gov.uk ahead of the deadline of **6 May 2011**. Responses should include thoughts on the potential introduction of a single Scottish police force.

16. Consultation on the future of Fire and Rescue Services

As with the previous item, Partners should forward comments on this consultation document to Sharonsmith@northlan.gov.uk by the deadline of **6 May 2011**.

17. Skills Development Scotland – Service Delivery Agreement 2011/2012

The Service Delivery Agreement for 2011/2012 has been compiled following discussions with Skills Development Scotland and partners across education, employability, training, the voluntary sector and services based in North Lanarkshire. Last year's Service Level Agreement has been reviewed and new actions added which include, "improving linkages on redundancy support, avoiding duplication of services between public sector organisations and improving positive outcomes for young people".

The Board noted the content of the Service Level Agreement and approved its implementation.

Action: Regeneration Services

18. (a) Budget Statement

Noted as at Period 12 (4th March 2011) - £22,746 unallocated resources

18. (b) Support to Community Transport Sub Group – proposal

The Board was reminded that a Community Transport Sub Group was established in 2010 which reports to both the Sustainable Transport Working Group and the NLP Board. In 2011, an initial scoping exercise was undertaken which established priorities and actions and the development of a work plan. The work of the sub group is being coordinated by VANL (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire) and to support the work of the Sub Group an allocation of £2,500 has been requested. This allocation would fund 10 days input from VANL's Research & Communication Officer. Reports on progress will be made available to both the NLP Board and the Sustainable Transport Working Group

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to the request for a financial allocation of £2,500

Action – Regeneration Services

19. AOCB

Lanarkshire International Children's Games 2011 - Paul Jukes, North Lanarkshire Council's Executive Director of Environmental Services will be invited to the next meeting of the Board to provide an update on progress with the International Children's Games 2011.

Sandie Mackay retires – the Board noted that this would be Sandie's final NLP Board meeting as she leaves the Council on 25 March to take up early retirement. Thanks were extended to Sandie for her hard work and commitment to Regeneration Services and to the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 6 June (2.00pm)
Civic Centre, Motherwell
(re-scheduled from 15 June)**