

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

Held on Wednesday 9th September 2009

Present:	Jim McCabe, Leader	NLC
	Jim Smith, Depute Leader	NLC
	Gavin Whitefield	NLC
	Maureen McConachie	NLC
	Graham Cairns	Strathclyde Police
	June Vallance	NL Voluntary Sector
	David Smith	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
	Robert Scott	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
	Mick McHugh	Scottish Enterprise
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
	Hugh Logan	Motherwell College
	Alan Murray	SPT
	Norma Young	Jobcentre Plus
Attending:	Sandie Mackay	NLC Regeneration Services
	Sharon Smith	NLC Regeneration Services
	Yvonne McBride	NLC Regeneration Services
	Eddie Cusick	NLC Regeneration Services
	Anne Donoghue	NLC Regeneration Services
	Mary Fegan	NLC Housing & Social Work Services
	Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
	John Young	NLC/Strathclyde Police
	Clare Strain	SPT
	Julie Cunninghame	SPT
	Keith Main	Scottish Government
Apologies:	Stephen McConachie	Jobcentre Plus
	Bruce Kiloh	SPT
	Alistair Mitchell	Scottish Government
	Francis Fallan	NL Voluntary Sector
	Tim Davison	NHS Lanarkshire
	Ken Corsar	NHS Lanarkshire
	Gerry MacMillan	NLC/Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and advised that as part of the agenda, Clare Strain and Julie Cunninghame from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) would deliver a presentation entitled "Cumbernauld Modal Shift Awareness Campaign" (Item 4).

Item 1 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Stephen McConachie, Jobcentre Plus, Bruce Kiloh, SPT, Alistair Mitchell, Scottish Government, Francis Fallan, NL Voluntary Sector, Ken Corsar and Tim Davison, NHS, and Gerry MacMillan, Regeneration Services.

Item 2 Minute of the previous meeting (15 July 2009)

Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- *Town Centre Regeneration funding* – Maureen advised that £40million had been made available to authorities in the first tranche (June 2009) with £20million in the second tranche. North Lanarkshire Council had submitted a bid (first tranche) for £3.45 million for seven town centres across North Lanarkshire, of which £2.7 million has been approved. In the second tranche (the outcome of which will be known in October 2009), North Lanarkshire Council has submitted 3 bids:

- Ravenscraig Ltd – (joint bid)
- Town Square, Coatbridge, and
- Signage and public realm within Cumbernauld.

The total funding requested in the second tranche is £1.6 million and if successful, the funding for the projects would be allocated by 31 March 2010.

- *Big Lottery funding* – Sandie reminded the meeting that the Newmains area has been identified as being a “cold spot” in relation to attracting funding from the BIG Lottery Board. The Big Lottery Board will meet week beginning 14th September 2009 and the outcome of the NLP funding bid will be confirmed at the next Board meeting (18th November 2009).
- *Third Sector Interface* - The board heard that changes were being made to funding for the voluntary sector. A Third Sector Interface is being developed for North Lanarkshire and partners were recently interviewed by consultants to take this activity forward. A meeting took place with CVS NL, the Volunteer Centre and North Lanarkshire Council on 4th September to agree on the most appropriate option to take this forward. However, following lengthy discussion and debate at that meeting, agreement was not reached by all parties and a follow-up meeting has been arranged for 5th October 2009 to conclude discussions.
- *Future Jobs Fund* – Maureen advised that a Future Jobs Fund application had been submitted to the Government in June 2009. Placements for 452 young people have been made available, 390 of which will be the responsibility of North Lanarkshire. Maureen is currently working through the Expressions of Interest from Partners who have agreed to consider placement(s) within their organisation. There will be three 6-monthly tranches, the first of which should be finalised and in place by October 2009.

Influenza A (H1N1) – Colin Sloey gave a detailed update on the current situation. Activity levels are currently low although there has been an increase in GP activity. There has been a slight increase also in anti-viral dispensing this month (September). NHS and North Lanarkshire Council have been working actively to identify suitable premises where vaccinations programmes will be undertaken.

It is intended that the start date for mass vaccinations will be October 2009. Priority groups will be front-line staff who are in direct contact with patients and those with chronic health conditions. Although there has been much preparatory work undertaken to date, clarity relating to vaccines is required from the Government.

Item 4 Presentation - SPT

Julie Cunninghame and Clare Strain, SPT, delivered a presentation entitled "Cumbernauld Modal Shift Awareness Campaign". The background to this is that a modal shift awareness campaign will be launched by SPT in Cumbernauld on 13th September 2009. SPT's Policy and Strategy team have identified areas with good public transport links, currently under-utilised and with capacity to target modal shift campaign activity.

The campaign in Cumbernauld is a pilot project for SPT and it is intended that the campaign will be rolled out across other Councils in the Strathclyde area.

Activity will be focused around 'European Mobility Week' (16th - 22nd Sept) with the aim of making Cumbernauld residents aware of cheaper, healthier and greener travel alternatives. The main objective of the campaign is to direct residents to the campaign website "joinupmyjourney.com". The site includes a planner which allows residents to plan any door-to-door journey.

The campaign will be measured extensively, pre and post campaign, by use of electronic surveys, SPT enumerators, pre and post campaign car counts and website 'hits'.

The Chair thanked Julia and Clare for this presentation.

Item 5 Child Protection and related activity – update

Mary Fegan, North Lanarkshire Council's Head of Social Work Services and Chair of the Child Protection Committee updated the Board in respect of child protection and related activity. In summary, the aim of the Child Protection Committee, Chief Officers Group and Partners is to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people ensuring at all times, their wellbeing.

HMle inspections - HMle are undertaking a three year cycle of joint inspections – 10 inspections will be conducted from April 2009-March 2010. There is no date as yet for the North Lanarkshire inspection but work is already underway in preparation for this.

GOPR (Getting our Priorities Right) – The protocol for working with children and families affected by substance misuse in Lanarkshire have been modernised. An updated implementation programme for managers is in progress

GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) – The Child Protection Committee staff and the GIRFEC team have strengthened links. Joint areas of work have been identified and progressed e.g. children and families affected by substance misuse.

Independent Chair – Child Protection Committee – The newly appointed independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee has been appointed (Pauline Hoggan) and will take up post subject to satisfactory disclosure checks.

North Lanarkshire Child Protection Register – Mary summarised the number of children on the North Lanarkshire Child Protection Register by age and category and noted that whilst agencies are working together to safeguard children, not all risk(s) can be eliminated.

The Board noted the content of the report.

Item 6 Single Outcome Agreement – final draft annual report

North Lanarkshire's first Single Outcome Agreement (2009/2010) has now been signed off by the Government. It was noted that there is a high level of indicators contained in the first document although the second SOA's indicators have been significantly reduced. The document also highlights North Lanarkshire's performance over the last year and this will be included as part of the Council's forthcoming Performance Launch (Wednesday, 7th October). The second document is in final draft format and Partners have been requested to submit comments to Sandie Mackay.

Keith Main from the Scottish Government advised that North Lanarkshire's SOA document was a good template and would take this to his colleagues via an internal working group comprising their Directors' teams. Their aim is to scrutinise the 32 SOA reports, drawing together common themes and lessons, and preparing advice for Directors and Ministers. Keith intends to bring NLP's draft to their attention to highlight the good work carried out so far.

The Board noted the content of the report

Action: Regeneration Services

Item 7 NLC Organisation Values

The Board was reminded that 'Service and People First' is a 5 year change management programme for the Council, introduced on 1 April 2007. The main focus of the programme is

- to make £50 million efficiency savings over the five years
- workforce planning, and
- organisational culture

The purpose of the Board report is two-fold: to advise the Board on the Council's adoption of Organisational Values and, to invite partners to take on board these values within their own organisation. This may, in future, allow a consistent set of values to be adopted across the Partnership. The Statement of Organisational Values (i.e. Respect, Commitment, Pride in the job; and Listening and learning) was adopted by the Council in November 2008 and are summarised within the report's appendix. On 9th June 2009, the Council adopted an action plan covering a number of areas.

It was suggested that the NLP Officers Group would compile relevant information in relation to this for inclusion in the next SOA

The Board noted the content of the report.

Action: NLP Officers Group

Item 8 Local Community Planning report

Sandie updated the meeting to advise of developments relating to the local community planning agenda and improvement actions detailed in the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning. The detailed report highlights information in the following areas -

- **Local Tasking and Coordinating/Community Safety** – the report details progress with the Community Safety Sub Groups across the six localities.
- **North Lanarkshire News:** the December 2009 edition will focus on community safety whilst April 2010 will concentrate on young people
- **Local Community Fora:** The first meeting of the Community Forum Network took place on 27 August 2009 with office bearers being elected at that time. *N.B. Amendment to the VSPG (Voluntary Sector Partnership Group) representatives - the report should read "Billy Lees and Owen McAvoy" (delete reference to Peter Winnie and Bobby Johnstone).*
- **Motherwell Town Centre Action Plan** – the report summarises discussions between NLV Planning, Regeneration Services, CALA, SPT and other partners relating to long term development of the town centre
- **Community Safety Strategy** – covered in a separate NLP Board report (see Item 9).
- **Community Engagement staffing** – the report highlights recent staffing changes and the areas for which the existing Community Engagement Officers are responsible.
- **Regeneration – Masterplan Areas** – a Regeneration Site Appraisal report has been produced (in draft) by consultants Ironside Farrar relating to the Forgewood area. In particular, areas highlighted within the report include – housing tenure, infrastructure, amenity issues and community engagement
- **Gowkthrapple** – progress is continuing for the delivery of the Gowkthrapple Masterplan.

The Board noted the content of the report and the update by Sandie Mackay.

Item 9 Community Engagement Strategy

Yvonne McBride advised the Board that the Community Engagement Strategy is a refresh of the 2007 document and makes a clear commitment to involve local people to have a greater influence on the design and delivery of services. The Board had previously agreed to the update at its meeting on 18th March 2009. The strategy explains what is meant by community engagement, the role of the community fora as a key vehicle for community engagement and clarifies the activities which will be undertaken as partners.

The refreshed document details some examples of progress made to date in strengthening community engagement with partners; in particular the agreement that the community fora act as the main vehicle for public involvement through the CHP and the commitment to engaging with particularly vulnerable groups such as young people via the youth fora – this is currently being taken forward by partners in Community Learning and Development (CLAD).

The final draft of the Community Engagement Strategy has been produced following wider consultation with the 8 Community Fora and Partners and sets out activities which supports the 2008-2012 Community Plan. Key actions are highlighted in the report with an action plan being progressed via the Community Engagement Sub-Group. The action plan will be brought back to the NLP Board in the Autumn of 2009 for final sign off.

The Board approved the refreshed Community Engagement Strategy; approved taking forward development of the Action Plan via the Community Engagement Sub Group and, noted the content of the report.

Item 10 Current Economic Climate

(a) **North Lanarkshire Economic update:** Maureen updated the Board on the impact of the economic recession on the numbers of Job Seeker Allowance claimants. Three key implications of the recent increase in individuals claiming unemployment benefit were highlighted -

- impact on young people (i.e. being made redundant / workless at an early age)
- the legacy effect (i.e. less employment opportunities results in individuals claiming over a longer period)
- gender effect (i.e. the number of male claimants has doubled since January 2008)

Joint actions with North Lanarkshire's Working are taking place (i.e. a leaflet drop to 90,000 households in North Lanarkshire will take place in September in an attempt to engage unemployed individuals).

The Board noted the content of the report.

(b) **Scottish Enterprise Company Activity Report** (tabled report): Mick McHugh updated the meeting.

The report shows the extensive relationship which Scottish Enterprise (West Region) has with 124 companies in the area, 32 of which received specific support, including financial support, over the period 1st April – 21st August 2009.

The companies within the economic sector include – chemicals, food and drink, construction and financial services. There are a range of supports to companies which include -

- market development, and the majority of interventions were in the areas of strategy (i.e. support to identify potential downturn for business and help to raise new investment).

The Board noted the content of the report

(c) **Public Sector Finances Outlook:** Gavin Whitefield updated the meeting.

The Scottish Government will announce on 17th September, the 2010-2011 budget for local authorities. It is expected that there will be substantial challenges during this period as well as the period 2011-2012 and beyond. The North Lanarkshire Partnership will require to have effective communication to support priorities and be aware of, and develop an approach to these challenges.

It was suggested that the NLP Officers Group compile a draft report on the potential key issues and how these may be addressed.

The Board noted the content of the report

Action: NLP Officers Group

Item 11 Third Sector Update

June Vallance updated the Board on progress of three key areas of Third Sector developments –

(i) *Employability developments:* It is proposed that the third sector, in partnership with the Scottish Government, will develop an Employability Forum in an effort to secure a more effective contribution by the third sector on employability issues. It is intended that the Scottish Government and SCVO will appoint an Employability Manager who will work with community planning partnerships and local Third Sector Interface entities to create opportunities for discussion with the third sector at a local level. The North Lanarkshire Employability Network has been involved in initial discussions.

(ii) *Funding Conference:* A Funding Issues Conference has been arranged by CVS North Lanarkshire which will take place on 27th October. The event will allow community and voluntary groups to obtain the funding required to continue their work. Organisations invited include – Big Lottery Fund, Business Gateway and Scottish National Heritage.

(iii) *Ballot and election process –* Third sector NLP representative - June Vallance and Francis Fallan are currently the voluntary sector representatives on the NLP Board (June automatically as Chair of CVS NL and Francis who was appointed by ballot process in 2008).

The undernoted timetable outlines the forthcoming ballot process -

October – November 2009

Notification of the nomination issued to voluntary sector groups/organisations (closing date 27th November 2009)

December 2009 – January 2010

Ballot papers issued to voluntary sector groups/organisations (return date 5th February 2010)

11th March 2010

Announcement of successful candidate at the Voluntary Sector Conference

The Board noted the content of the report

Item 12 Ravenscraig update

The Board heard that the report had been approved at the Council's Regeneration Committee on 2nd September 2009 in relation to the approved masterplan for the regeneration of Ravenscraig. The Board was updated on progress in relation to delivery of Phase One and advised of key actions required to support and facilitate Phase Two.

The Ravenscraig Masterplan is a 20 year programme which will drive forward major economic change in the Motherwell/Wishaw areas creating significant construction jobs over the next 5 years. Included in the masterplan are a number of key projects including – 3,500 new homes, 10,000 new jobs, new rail station, major road improvements connecting M8 and M74 and, a 96,000sq.m town centre with leisure facilities.

Phase One - £180million has been invested to date from North Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, Sportscotland and Ravenscraig Ltd which has resulted in the creation of 200 new construction jobs.

Phase Two – The meeting heard that £0.5billion is expected to be projected by private sector investment. Phase Two is expected to be started by 2015 but is dependant on public sector funding being available for the infrastructure development (estimated £38-£42 million).

The "Ravenscraig update" will be a standing item at future NLP Board meetings.

The Board noted the content of this report

Item 13 Budget Statement

No change to previous statement.

Item 14 AOCB

- Strathclyde Fire & Rescue – Cadet Scheme. Area Commander, Robert Scott, will provide a report for the next NLP Board outlining the background to this scheme and the benefits which partners who support the scheme can expect.

Item 15 Presentation to David Smith, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

The Board heard that David had accepted a position within Strathclyde Fire & Rescue's Headquarters in Hamilton. The Chair, on behalf of the Board, presented David with a token of appreciation for his work and input to the NLP Board over the last few years.

**Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 18th November 2009 (9.30am)
Civic Centre, Motherwell**