

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

Wednesday, 6th October 2010

Present:	Jim Smith	NLC	
	Gavin Whitefield	NLC	
	Graham Cairns	Strathclyde Police	
	Hugh Logan	Motherwell College	
	Stephen McConnachie	Jobcentre Plus	
	Robert Scott	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue	
	Craig Cook	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue	
	June Vallance	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire - VANL	
	Allan Comrie	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport - SPT	
	Brian McLeish	Scottish Enterprise	
	Attending:	Sandie Mackay	NLC Regeneration Services
		Councillor Richard Lyle	NLC
		Sharon Smith (Minute)	NLC Regeneration Services
Stephen Kerr		NHS Lanarkshire	
Gerry MacMillan		NLC/Strathclyde Fire & Rescue	
Apologies:	Mark Milligan	NLC/Strathclyde Police	
	Jim McCabe	NLC	
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire	
	Tim Davison	NHS Lanarkshire	
	Ken Corsar	NHS Lanarkshire	
	Bruce Kiloh	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport - SPT	
	Maureen McConachie	NLC	
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise	
	Jonathan Pryce	Scottish Government	

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, particularly to Area Commander Craig Cook, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue, who replaces Robert Scott on the NLP Board; to Councillor Richard Lyle in attendance to speak to Item 9 of the Agenda (Local Community Planning – Bellshill locality); and to Allan Comrie, SPT, in attendance on behalf of Bruce Kiloh.

Item 1 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Jim McCabe, NLC, Maureen McConachie, NLC, Francis Fallan, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, Colin Sloey, NHS, Tim Davison, NHS, Ken Corsar, NHS, Bruce Kiloh, SPT, Allan McQuade, Scottish Enterprise, and Jonathan Pryce, Scottish Government

Item 2 Note of the previous meeting (11 August 2010)

Agreed.

Matters arising

Big Lottery, Our Place meeting – Despite numerous efforts, Sandie Mackay has been unsuccessful in arranging a meeting with the Big Lottery. This item will be removed from the Agenda

Motherwell College funding issues – Hugh Logan advised that the Employability Services/European funding will come through the Scottish Funding Council

Ravenscraig/SPT discussions – Allan Comrie, SPT, confirmed that members of the North Lanarkshire Partnership are welcome to become involved in discussions relating to access to the new Ravenscraig site. SPT will organise a meeting with key partners to discuss. Alan and Bruce (Kiloh) can be contacted at - bruce.kiloh@spt.co.uk
Allan.comrie@spt.co.uk)

Budget Statement – The NLP budget statement was recently considered by the NLP Officers Group. There is currently an unallocated figure of £23,000. Suggestions for suitable spend include - NLP events, health improvement sessions and community transport.

It was agreed that a series of events will be organised in Spring 2011 for NLP members to review partnership working in light of all of the savings and agree a workplan for the future.

Item 3 Welfare to Work Reform – Reassessment of Incapacity Benefits

Stephen McConachie, Jobcentre Plus, delivered a presentation entitled “*Re-assessment of Incapacity Benefits*”.

Employment and Support Allowance is replacing Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Income Support paid on the grounds of illness or disability. Between February 2011 and 2014, Jobcentre Plus will re-assess most people in receipt of incapacity benefits using the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), to assess their ability to work. The process was piloted in Burnley and Aberdeen on 4 October 2010.

Customers will continue to receive their current benefit (subject to continuing to satisfy the conditions of entitlement) until a decision is made on their case. Those assessed as fully capable for work will be invited to make a claim for Jobseekers Allowance. Those who cannot work or have limited capability to work will move to Employment and Support Allowance.

The meeting heard approximately 18,400 people in North Lanarkshire are in receipt of Incapacity Benefit. 42.8% of Incapacity Benefit claimants in North Lanarkshire are claiming as a result of mental health problems. 59.1% of Incapacity Benefit claimants in North Lanarkshire have been claiming for over five years.

The Chair thanked Stephen for this informative presentation. It was suggested that a briefing paper for elected members could be compiled which may assist constituents who have queries relating to the new Welfare to Work Reform.

Item 4 North Lanarkshire Economic Activity update

In the absence of Maureen McConachie, Sandie provided a brief summary of the report.

Job Seekers Allowance claimants fell by 0.2% during August, however it was noted that when the Future Jobs Fund programme (aimed at the 18-24 age group) ends in March 2011, this may have a detrimental impact on JSA figures.

The report included details of the document "*People, Councils, the Economy*" by the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty and Rights Advice Scotland. The full report can be accessed at www.scottishpovertyforum.org.uk/ImpactReport.pdf but overall, the estimated impact of some of the changes to benefits/allowances and the changes in which benefits are kept in line with inflation, could see an annual loss to North Lanarkshire residents of between £40-£48m.

The Board noted the content of report

Item 5 North Lanarkshire's Working Skills Pipeline – North Lanarkshire submission

The purpose of the report was to update the meeting on the submission to the Lower and Uplands Scotland European Programme to continue North Lanarkshire's Working to March 2013.

There is a total of approximately £52 million ESF grant available to Community Planning Partnerships, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Trade Union Congress and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations Stage 1 bids for ESF and ERDF funding. Initial outline Stage 1 bids were submitted in August with Stage 2 bids being submitted on 24 September for ESF and on 8 October for ERDF.

The ESF bid which is for 2 years and runs from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2013, has a total value of £9,750,690 with eligible costs of £9,469,293 giving grant funding of £4,261,182. Indicative costs for a third year have also been submitted of £5,091,861.

The ERDF bid which is also for 2 years starting from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2013 has a total value of £6,654,743 with eligible costs of £6,484,563 and ERDF grant of £2,593,825. Indicative costs for a third year were submitted with a total value of £3,289,434.

The Programme Management Committee met on 27 October and recommendations will be forwarded to the Ministers with awards being announced in December 2010

The Board noted the content of the report

Item 6 SPT Transport Outcomes Report 2009-2011

The update report sets out progress against agreed transport priorities for 2009/2010 and also identifies work streams to take these forward in 2010/2011 in partnership with the Council. A full list of the transport priorities and progress is highlighted in the Board report.

The Board noted the content of the report

Item 7 Financial Outlook – Independent Budget Review July 2010

The meeting was updated on the recently published *Independent Budget Review* report which highlights issues which may have potential impact on the Council and its Partners. The Board report highlights key messages of the review.

North Lanarkshire Council is currently undertaking a consultation on the proposed savings options. Every household in North Lanarkshire has received a booklet ("*Hard Choices, Big Decisions*") which details the proposals and invites households to respond to the Council. In addition, presentations to each of the Local Area Partnerships and the eight Community Forums are planned during October. The consultation period will end on 22 October with the proposals being considered at the Council's Policy & Resources Committee on 9 December 2010. Thanks were extended to NHS Lanarkshire, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue for their input to the recent Local Area Partnership meetings.

It was agreed that the NLP Officers Group will, on behalf of the Partnership, draft a response to the Budget Review report.

Action: NLP Officers Group

Item 8 Third Sector update

Voluntary Sector Locality Networks - The meeting heard that the SVA Pathfinder was completed in May 2010 and an external evaluation of the project was commissioned to assist in the development of a sustainability strategy for locality and thematic networks. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) delivered six "Locality Networks" during August and September which Strathclyde Police attended. (June expressed thanks for their involvement).

NLC Service and People First Transformation Programme : Voluntary Organisations Engagement - In an attempt to support the effective engagement of community and voluntary sector organisations in the consultations relating to savings options, VANL on behalf of the VSPG, is hosting an event at which a North Lanarkshire Council Executive Director will give a presentation structured around the "*Hard Choices, Big Decisions*" booklet. The engagement event will take place on 18th October and will be promoted to voluntary sector organisation across North Lanarkshire. In attendance from the Council will be Sandie Mackay, Regeneration Services, and Mary Castles, Executive Director, Housing and Social Work Services.

The Board noted the content of the report

Item 9 Local Community Planning update

The meeting was reminded that as part of this standing Agenda item, each Convenor of the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) would be invited to attend the NLP Board to provide an update on events/issues within their locality. In attendance at today's meeting was Councillor Richard Lyle, Convenor of the Bellshill LAP. Councillor Lyle gave a background to his LAP and stressed the value and benefit of the reports received from Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and NHS. The LAP provides an opportunity for important local issues to be discussed, e.g. Bellshill town centre, the Local Development Programme and joint Community Safety issues, problems and solutions.

Item 10 Ravenscraig update

- The Regional Sports Facility officially opened on 3 October 2010, with a 24 hour charity football match and a “record breaking” Zumba exercise class taking place.
- TIF option - £70m public investment is moving forward.

Item 11 Citizens’ Panel Report / Newsletter

The fourth consultation of the Citizens’ Panel was conducted in the Summer of 2010. The summary newsletter (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) covered key themes of health and wellbeing, environment, sustainability and the impact of the “credit crunch”.

Local Citizens’ Panel reports will be made available to the Local Area Partnerships.

Item 12 Budget Statement

Noted as at Period 6 (17 September 2010) – no change.

Item 13 AOCB

- **Low carbon vehicles proposal** - The Scottish Government’s Transport Department has offered local authorities funding to purchase low carbon vehicles. North Lanarkshire Council has been offered £225,000. Sandie Mackay, on behalf of the Council, has returned a proposal that the Council and Partners consider joint use of “pool” cars, whereby staff and Partners access these through a booking system. It is intended that the cars would be parked at North Lanarkshire Council sites.
- **NLP Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report 2009-2010** – This document will be distributed at the Corporate Report Performance Launch on 8 October to which all partners have been invited. The SOA Annual Report was submitted to the Scottish Government on 3 October 2010 and will be made available on the Council’s website. Sandie confirmed that the NLP Board meeting on 1 December will focus on the first six months performance reports for each Theme (April – September 2010)

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING –
Wednesday, 1 December 2010 – 9.30am, Civic Centre, Motherwell**

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

Wednesday, 12 January 2011

Present:	Jim McCabe	North Lanarkshire Council
	Jim Smith	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
	June Vallance	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	Stephen McConnachie	Jobcentre Plus
	Bruce Kiloh	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
Attending:	Sandie Mackay	North Lanarkshire Council
	Sharon Smith (Minute)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
	Alastair Mitchell	Scottish Government
	Alison Lovejoy	Scottish Enterprise
	Lieutenant Colonel C Platt	6 th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
	Mary Fegan	Housing & Social Work Services (NLC)
	June Ford	Learning & Leisure Services (NLC)
Apologies:	Ken Corsar	NHS Lanarkshire
	Jonathan Pryce	Scottish Government
	Mark Milligan	North Lanarkshire Council/Strathclyde Police
	Councillor Michael Ross	North Lanarkshire Council
	Gerry MacMillan	North Lanarkshire Council/Fire & Rescue
	Tim Davison	NHS Lanarkshire
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, particularly to –

- Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Platt, 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (Item 4 of the Agenda)
- Mary Fegan, Housing and Social Work Services (Items 5, 6, and 7)
- June Ford, Learning and Leisure Services (Item 15)
- Pauline Nicholas, Regeneration Services, who will replace Sandie Mackay on the NLP Board from March 2011.

1. Apologies – noted above
2. Minute of the previous meeting (6 October 2010) – agreed as an accurate record

3. Matters arising

- *Ravenscraig / SPT discussions* – an additional bus has been made available from Cleekhimin, Carfin, to the Ravenscraig site. No further update available at this meeting. **Action: Bruce Kiloh, SPT, will provide an update at the next meeting.**

- *North Lanarkshire's Working Skills Pipeline* – Maureen McConachie provided feedback on the Priority 5 bid. North Lanarkshire has been awarded £900,000 less than the figure requested. The Employability Service, over the next two years, will now be developed.
- *Pooled Car Scheme proposal* – (tabled report). Over the last 2 years, North Lanarkshire Council has piloted the use of pooled cars in an effort to provide efficiency savings and reduce car usage and emissions. Since the Board meeting in September 2010 when this subject was discussed, it has been agreed that 10 electric vehicles will be purchased and located at Council carparks in Motherwell (4 vehicles); Fleming House, Cumbernauld (4 vehicles); and Kildonan Street, Coatbridge (2 vehicles). Charging points for the vehicles are currently being sourced. These vehicles will be additional to the planned Council scheme which will purchase 50 small diesel/petrol vehicles. The cost of the scheme is £655,000 with a contribution from the Scottish Government of £215,000.

4. Firm Base – presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Platt, 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Firm Base strategy aims to provide a secure environment at home and overseas which sustains the Armed Forces, enables training for, and deployment in, operations and, ensures the consent and support of the public and host nations.

Support which is offered by Firm Base includes –

- *Healthcare* – provides healthcare and recovery to soldiers and families
- *Housing* – influences and improves housing and living conditions
- *Education/Training* – provides professional development, education and training
- *Veterans* – develops policies and activities which assist Veterans and provide support
- *Wellbeing* – provides direction and services to enable health, welfare and support
- *Youth* – develop and extend youth activity

The Partner agencies were invited to join the Lanarkshire Firm Base Group to look at how assistance can be given and how dialogue can be maintained. This meeting will be held on 25 January (Territorial Army Centre, Scottish Rifles House, 348 Muir Street, Motherwell). Partners were invited to nominate appropriate staff should they wish to take part in these discussions.

The Chair thanked Lieutenant Colonel Platt for this informative presentation

5. Child Protection Committee – Annual Report and Business Plan 2009-2011

The Board was advised of the recently published North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report and its Business Plan, both of which received positive feedback from the Scottish Government. The Child Protection Committee has achieved the main priorities identified in its Business Plan, which include –

- the development of an Engagement Strategy for children and young people
- the delivery of training and staff development for child protection
- reviewing the format for reporting management information to Chief Officers
- the appointment of an independent Chair for the Child Protection Committee

The Board report also highlighted the Business Plan priorities for 2010/2011 which include –

- updating the Child Protection Committee website
- support and develop the Children and Young People's Engagement Network
- raise public awareness of child protection

The full report can be accessed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

The Board noted the content of the report.

6. MAPPA Annual Report 2009-2010 (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements)

The Board was advised of the publication of the MAPPA 2009/2010 Annual Report for the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (CJA) area. The Annual Report reflects the work carried out within the local area, identifying developments and improvements made in the last year. A summary of these are highlighted in the Board paper.

It was noted that the number of offenders being managed within North Lanarkshire is 38% higher than when MAPPA was introduced in 2007/2008. Currently, there are 300 known individuals being managed through MAPPA.

The full report can be accessed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

The Board noted the content of the report.

7. Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report

The Board heard of the progress, to date, in North Lanarkshire in relation to the duties and actions arising from the Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Act 2008 coming in to force. The Act places a number of duties on local authorities and public bodies to ensure that they cooperate in protecting adults who are at risk and to report concerns if it is suspected that an adult may be a risk of harm, including self harm.

The full report can be accessed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

A discussion regarding resourcing increasing demand across the whole of the public protection took place and the Board noted that this is not an area where efficiencies would be achieved.

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to receive further updates from the North Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee.

8. Single Outcome Agreement Performance Reports (April – October 2010)

The Board was updated on each of the Partnership Working Groups which were set up to manage activity relating to the Corporate and Community Plan key themes (Health & Wellbeing, Environment, Lifelong Learning, Regeneration and Community Safety). Each Working Group has developed a set of indicators which are used to measure progress.

Also developed are the annual Action Plans which form the basis of the annual Performance Report which outline progress towards the outcomes in the Community Plan and as part of the monitoring of the Single Outcome Agreement. The SOA 2011-2014 is being developed (between November 2010-February 2011) during which time, the indicators, actions and targets will be reviewed which potentially may include milestones in the final SOA report. The new SOA 2011-2014 will be brought to the next NLP Board meeting.

Detailed progress over the last six months (April – September 2010) for each of the key themes are highlighted in the Board report. The Chairs of the working groups have been alerted where there are concerns in relation to the targets/indicators not being met.

The Board noted the performance reporting information and, noted the timescales for the preparation of the new SOA 2011-2014.

9. Economic Activity update

Unemployment levels

October-November 2010 saw a fall in the number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants (for both adults and the 18-24 age group)

Jobcentre Plus vacancies

The number of vacancies advertised has increased to its highest level in 18 months

Comprehensive Spending Review – impact for the NLP

- The changes are estimated to result in an annual loss to the North Lanarkshire economy of £40-£47 million per annum. This, in turn, will have a knock-on effect across town centres
- There is widespread concern that the cuts will have a serious impact on the health of communities
- The cuts to benefit will affect the poorest
- 10% cut in Housing Benefit for people receiving JSA for more than a year
- Reducing spending on Council Tax Benefit by 10%

Full details on the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review are included in the Board report.

A briefing session on the changes to benefits as part of the Government's Welfare Reform Programme has been arranged during February for Councillors.

The Board noted the content of the report.

10. Financial Outlook 2011-2012 update

Savings Options – the meeting was advised that a £55million savings package over two financial years (2011-2012 and 2012-2013), was agreed in December 2010. As part of this, 1150 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts will be removed (8% reduction across the Council).

Grants to voluntary organisations – it was confirmed that, where possible, there will be a 5% reduction in these budgets. There will be a single grants programme developed during 2011/2012 which should make best use of resources while giving maximum protection to the Voluntary Sector across North Lanarkshire.

Local Area Partnerships – Currently, 6 LAPS are in operation which will be reduced to 3. The boundaries for these are still being considered and Partners will be engaged in discussions to obtain the fullest possible alignment across services. A report on the reduction of the LAPs will be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

Action – Regeneration Services

11. Third Sector update

Third Sector Interface Delivery Framework – The meeting was reminded that support for the voluntary sector development now comes from one single organisation - VANL (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire). June thanked Sandie for her support and effort in assisting with arrangements for this.

A Delivery Framework has been developed in line with Scottish Government requests, which explains how the Third Sector Interface in North Lanarkshire will operate to meet the four key objectives (i.e. supporting volunteering development; building capacity across the voluntary sector; developing social enterprise and, engaging with local community planning structures).

The report asks the NLP Board to review the Delivery Framework and endorse its contents.

Community Transport Sub Group (CTSG) – this sub-group has been established to facilitate the development of a Community Transport Strategy for North Lanarkshire. The group was formed following discussion with both the NLP Officers Group and the already established Sustainable Transport Working Group. The CTSG will be chaired by VANL with Terms of Reference being developed and agreed. The report highlights the group's intended aims, i.e.

- support the development and implementation of outcomes and actions identified in the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement
- develop the annual Action Plan (reviewed bi-annually)
- provide reports to the NLP Board and Sustainable Transport Group and North Lanarkshire Partnership

June also distributed details of Voluntary Sector Network events taking place in February – March 2011. Partners wishing to deliver a presentation or provide information about their organisation should contact VANL (01698 358866 or email craig.russell@vankl.co.uk) with relevant details.

The Board noted the content of the reports

12. Community Engagement update

Sandie updated the Board on some key developments within Regeneration Services in relation to the Community Engagement work being undertaken with the local Community Forums and Community Planning partners and also the proposed changes for reporting and developing community engagement from 2011 and beyond. Current community engagement developments include –

Community Forum Network – the Terms of Reference has been revised; next year's Chairperson has been elected; two Voluntary Sector representatives will join the Community Forum Network

Community Forum Webpage (NLC internet site) – this has been in operation since the Summer of 2010 and includes details of Forum meetings and membership.

New Chairpersons for Wishaw and Coatbridge have been appointed (David Summers and Tommy Murphy, respectively)

Community Engagement Sub Group – Local indicators for the 2011-2014 Community Engagement Action Plan have been finalised alongside the development of the next Single Outcome Agreement. The NLP Officers Group will lead on rolling out the Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan. As the representatives on the Community Engagement Sub Group are the same as those on the NLP Officers Group, it was suggested that the current Community Engagement Sub Group ceases to operate. It is intended that future community engagement business will be discussed as part of the NLP Officers agenda

Full details of community engagement developments are included in the Board report.

The Board agreed that the current Community Engagement Sub Group will cease to operate with future business relating to community engagement being discussed at the NLP Officers Group

13. Local Community Planning update

As part of this standing Agenda item, each Convenor of the six Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) has been invited to attend the NLP Board to provide an update on events/issues within their locality. Councillor Michael Ross, Convenor of the Motherwell LAP, had been invited to attend today's meeting but called off due to illness.

The Board noted the content of the report

14. Ravenscraig

Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) – the business case has not yet been submitted. Murray Collins, Regeneration Services, is in discussions with the Scottish Futures Fund to take this forward and progress funding for Phase 2 of the bid

Housing – the first residents of the new housing development at the Ravenscraig site have taken up occupancy

Motherwell College and the Sports Facility - both are now well established

15. Youthwork Strategy – Going the Extra Mile / IMOT Proposal (Inspectors Meeting our Targets)

June Ford, Community Learning and Development, provided a background on the Youth Work Strategy "*Going the Extra Mile*" which was officially launched in January 2010 with NL Partners (Council, NHS, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue) signing up to the Charter agreeing the Action Points within the document.

An evaluation and review of the Strategy will be carried out jointly by partners and young people who will then develop the evaluation tool to measure the impact of the Youth Work Strategy.

IMOT (Inspectors Meeting our Targets) – the group of young people have developed an evaluation tool for the Strategy with each Action Point having a number of questions for Partners to consider. In addition to this, a process for carrying out visits has also been devised. The Board heard that –

- Two locality areas have been identified to carry out a pilot (Airdrie and Motherwell)
- Local youth forums will be involved
- Partners will be aware of the evaluation process
- Partners will be provided with a final evaluation document of the Youth Work Strategy

It was noted that the young people referred to in the Strategy have all achieved a Young Scot Quality award and a Community Learning and Development award.

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to work with the young people to carry out this project. The Board also agreed to invite the young people to a future meeting to obtain an update on the work carried out by them.

16. Budget Statement

Noted as at Period 9 (December 2010). Unallocated resources of £22,824.

17. AOCB

NLP Board 2011 meetings – updated list issued (August meeting changed to 24th).

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 23 March 2011 (9.30am)
Civic Centre, Motherwell**