

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Monday, 20 February 2012

Present:	James McCabe (Chair)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council
	Eric Hislop	North Lanarkshire Council
	Nelson Telfer	Strathclyde Police
	John McTear	Strathclyde Police
	Craig Cook	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
	John Joyce	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
	Andrew Scott	Scottish Government
	Bruce Kiloh	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
	Marlene Crawford	Skills Development Scotland
	June Vallance	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	David Collie	Jobcentre Plus
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
	Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
	Mark Milligan	Strathclyde Police/NLC
	Brian Hughes	Strathclyde Fire & Rescue/NLC
	Alison Loveday	Scottish Enterprise
	Sharon Smith (Minute)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Stephen Fraser	North Lanarkshire Council
	Linda Johnston	North Lanarkshire Council
Apologies:	Councillor Jim Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	Graham Cairns	Strathclyde Police
	Hugh Logan	Motherwell College
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise
	Ken Corsar	NHS Lanarkshire
	Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire

- 1) **Apologies** – noted above
- 2) **Minute of previous meeting (14 December)** – agreed as an accurate record
- 3) **Matters arising** from previous meeting - none
- 4) **North Lanarkshire Employability and Training Programme** (presentation by Greig Robson, North Lanarkshire Council)

Greig delivered a detailed and informative presentation relating to the current difficulties experienced by young people attempting to get into the labour market and advised how the Partnership can work together to address this. The meeting heard that there are currently 6,720 young people unemployed across North Lanarkshire.

The current Youth Investment programme includes:

- Apprenticeships – businesses who employ apprentices will receive a wage subsidy of 50% for 12 months

- Xtra Hands Programme – this is aimed at 16-18 year olds and businesses will receive a 50% wage subsidy for 6 months
- New starts – this is aimed at those 18 years+ where businesses will also receive a 50% wage subsidy for 6 months

The Chair thanked Greig for this presentation

5) Scottish Enterprise – Local report for North Lanarkshire

(Alison Loveday) - The purpose of the report is to highlight the activity data provided by Scottish Enterprise for the North Lanarkshire area. Key headings include “*Our work with Growth Companies*”; “*Products and Services delivered to companies*”, “*Major Capital Investment Projects*” and “*Commercialisation Projects*”. This data will be produced by Scottish Enterprise on a bi-annual basis with the intention of informing and supporting the work of Community Planning Partnerships and Partners. Partners are requested to provide comment/feedback on the layout and content of the report for specific needs of the Partnership.

Action: Suggestions were made by Gavin Whitefield to expand on sections 3 and 7 of the report and in addition, it would be useful if, at section 12, that Ravenscraig and Gartcosh be included within the Major Business Infrastructure section.

6) Local Community Planning update

Some key developments in relation to community planning work undertaken over the last 2 months include –

- *Local Area Team (LAT) Action Plans* – The Plans focus on local actions and outcomes which link directly to the current Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The Action Plans are being finalised and will be available for the NLP Board at its meeting in May
- *Local Development Programme* - £2m has been invested in local projects this financial year and have been agreed by Local Area Partnerships for 2012/13
- *Local Area Partnerships* – The current cycle of LAPs is now complete and future meetings will be set by the new Administration following the local elections in May
- *NLP Officers’ Group* – at the recent NLP Officers’ Group, the review of the Community Engagement Action Plan was discussed which will inform the 2012-2015 action plans. The Board will be updated on this at the May 2012 meeting. The Board was advised of the work which has been undertaken to strengthen the links from the group to the Board
- *Community Safety* – the review of the sub groups is ongoing and the Board will be updated further when the work is complete. Pauline Nicholas also updated on the review of the Community Safety Partnership which has now been finalised and will be reported to a future meeting.
- *Town Centres* – work continues between the Local Regeneration Managers and the Community Engagement Officers to progress key areas of work across all town centres. Work is due to commence on prioritising the Town Centre Health Checks with Motherwell being the first area
- *No Knives, Better Lives campaign* – this was officially launched on 8 February 2012. “Roadshows” will take place from 29 Feb – 2 March in Cumbernauld, Coatbridge and Wishaw areas. This was regarded as an excellent piece of work across the public sector

- *Citizens' Engagement Programme* – the current programme for the Citizens' Panel and Residents' Survey ends on 31 March 2012 with a new programme commencing on 1 April 2012

The Council's Service Improvement Team is working with the Community Planning Partnership Team to finalise processes and reporting procedures which will be reported to the NLP Board at a future meeting. The NLP Officers' Group has been requested to consider relevant topics for consideration by the focus groups and Panel. The Officers' Group will be in attendance at the next meeting of the Board (21 March) which will consist of workshops to develop the new Community Plan.

7) ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) – funding application 2012-2013

The Adult ESOL Strategy was published in 2007 which aims to upgrade the quality of publicly funded ESOL provisions across colleges, community learning and development and voluntary organisations. The Strategy aims to assist providers to meet learners' needs where English is not their first language.

A total of £1.45m is available for the period 2012/2013 and grants awards will range between £20,000 and £100,000 depending on the scale of the project. The Board report provides details of funding bids which have been submitted to the Scottish Government for consideration. A decision on the projects will be announced in April 2012.

Funding was previously provided direct to colleges and community learning and development but from 2012-2013 the lead coordinating role and contact for the Scottish Government/Scottish Funding Council for the projects will be that of the Community Planning Partnership's Community Regeneration Manager.

The Board noted the content of the report; noted the change to the lead in coordinating bids and; agreed to consider further reports on the outcome of funding awards.

8) Community Plan, Single Outcome Agreement and Economic Strategy

The Board heard of the processes and structures intended to be put in place for the development of North Lanarkshire Partnership's three key strategic documents - Community Plan, Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and the (new) North Lanarkshire Economic Strategy, all of which will cover the period 2013/2014 – 2016/2017.

The actions and priorities of the Community Plan and SOA are currently progressed by the Themed Working Groups of Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Lifelong Learning, Regeneration and, Community Safety. The development of the new documents will provide an opportunity to review the current structures and processes which support them.

The report highlighted the timescales for preparing the new documents which will commence in February 2012 with the final versions of the documents being considered by the Partnership in November 2012.

It was noted that a workshop-type event will take place at the next Board (21 March) when the NLP Officers' Group will be in attendance. First drafts of the new documents will be available for the Board's consideration at its meeting on 30 May 2012.

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to the timescales and preparation of a new Community Plan and SOA and agreed the development of a new North Lanarkshire Economic Strategy.

9) Local Scrutiny and Engagement – Pathfinders

In preparation for the implementation of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill, a local Scrutiny and Engagement Implementation Network has been set up in which North Lanarkshire Council, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue will participate as "Networkers". The purpose of the Network is to provide opportunities for North Lanarkshire Council, the Police and Fire Service to learn from other authorities and share good practice across Scotland in preparation for the implementation of the Bill.

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to receive progress reports.

10) Armed Forces Community Covenant

North Lanarkshire Council has been approached by the Royal Regiment of Scotland with a request that an Armed Forces Community Covenant be established for North Lanarkshire. The Community Covenant is a "*voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community*".

Linked to the Community Covenant is a Community Covenant Grant Scheme aimed to offer financial assistance to deliver projects at a local level, projects which both involve the armed forces community and the local community. Grants range from £100 to £250,000 and include projects such as –

- Children's playgrounds (for use by both Armed Forces community and the wider community)
- Projects which improve the health and welfare of service personnel and their families
- Activity camps involving the armed forces and local young people

The report requests the support of the North Lanarkshire Partnership to enter into a North Lanarkshire Armed Forces Community Covenant.

The Board noted the content of the report and agreed to support the establishment of an Armed Forces Community Covenant.

11) Ravenscraig update

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – this continues to be finalised
- Phase 2 - will see plans for the development of housing and hotel/bar on the site
- SEPA – the current issue with deep groundwater requires to be resolved before development of the town centre can proceed.

12) Financial Outlook

A news release dated 9 February relating to the Council budget was circulated. It was noted that an extra £16.5 million has been put forward for capital projects which takes the total invested in capital to £130m (2012/2013).

Capital projects for 2012 include –

- £27.9m towards concluding the rebuilding/refurbishment of 11 schools, 3 community centres and a nursery
- £11.9m – roads, footpaths, lighting
- £3m – completion of the Sir John Wilson Town Hall, Airdrie
- £3m to continue developing town centres
- Support to the voluntary sector will continue at 2011/2012 levels

13) Third Sector update

- *Reshaping Care for Older People* - VANL (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire) has been actively involved in the Scottish Government's "*Reshaping Care for Older People*" initiative, their role in which is to ensure the involvement and contribution of the third sector. A "*Change Plan for North Lanarkshire*" has been signed off by VANL, North Lanarkshire Council, NHS and independent sector partners. The aim of the plan is to move care from acute and institutional settings to community based approaches. A number of events have been planned which will ensure that VANL is appropriately represented with planning and delivery processes and to maximise its involvement in shaping future plans.
- *Election of Voluntary Sector NLP Board member* – Two individuals have been nominated for election to represent the Voluntary Sector at NLP Board meetings. They are - Francis Fallan, the current voluntary sector representative on the Board and David Summers, Chair of North Lanarkshire Community Forum Network. The result of the ballot, which closes on 2 March, will be announced at the Voluntary Sector Conference on 10 March. The successful nominee will assume the role to the NLP Board from 1 April 2012.

The Board noted the content of the report.

14) North Lanarkshire Economic Update

- *Job Seekers Allowance unemployment* – December's JSA claimants rose by 277 to 11,692. Long term unemployment is at its highest level since 1997
- *North Lanarkshire's Working (NLW) performance* – NLW continues to support unemployed residents into employment with 2,200 new clients registering over the last year
- *Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy – "Achieving a Sustainable Future"* This was launched in December 2011 and states that the Government's vision for regeneration is "*a Scotland where our most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being*". The strategy highlights various initiatives and approaches which partners could undertake to encourage regeneration of communities. These include -

People and Communities Fund - £7.9m per year is available from 2012 to 2015 to support community-led regeneration.

Capital Investment Fund – this supports physical development (i.e. infrastructure improvements and support for town centres).

The fund encompasses the Vacant and Derelict Land fund and JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas).

The Board noted the content of the report

15) Citizens' Panel

This latest consultation took place in winter 2011 as part of the Partnership's three year programme of citizen engagement. The focus of this consultation was on regeneration, education and training. 1,362 members took part in this consultation - an overall response rate of 56%.

Full details of the Citizens' Panel results are contained as Appendix 1 to the Board report and can be accessed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

The Board noted the content of the report and its Appendix

16) Budget Statement

Noted as at Period 10 (6 Jan 2012). Current unallocated resources of £15,269. It was noted that the cost of the Community Engagement session which took place on 13 December 2011 will be less than the £1000 indicated on the budget statement.

17) AOCB

Resignation from the NLP Board - the Board noted that this would be the final Board meeting for Craig Cook, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and Graham Cairns, Strathclyde Police. Craig leaves to take up early retirement and Graham is about to take on a new role at Strathclyde Police headquarters. Thanks were extended to Craig and Graham for their input and commitment to the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board. Craig's replacement at NLP Board meetings will be Area Commander John Joyce and Graham's replacement will be temporary Chief Superintendent Nelson Telfer.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING –
Wednesday, 21 March (9.30am), Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Motherwell**