

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday, 5 September 2012

Present:	Councillor Jim McCabe (Chair)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Councillor Jim Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
	Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council
	Nelson Telfer	Strathclyde Police
	John Joyce	Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
	Colin Sloey	NHS Lanarkshire
	Neena Mahal	NHS Lanarkshire
	Allan Comrie	SPT
	June Vallance	VANL
	Marlene Crawford	Skills Development Scotland
	Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise
	Alison Loveday	Scottish Enterprise
	Eric Hislop	North Lanarkshire Council
	Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
	Linda Johnston	North Lanarkshire Council
	Brian Hughes	North Lanarkshire Council
	Laura Mackay	North Lanarkshire Council
	Robert Linnen	DWP
Apologies	Bruce Kiloh	SPT
	Hugh Logan	North Lanarkshire Colleges
	Francis Fallan	Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
	Andrew Scott	Scottish Government
	David Collie	Jobcentre Plus

- 1) **Apologies** – noted above
- 2) **Minute of previous meeting (11 July)** - Agreed
- 3) **Matters arising** - none
- 4) **North Lanarkshire Improving Children’s Services Plan (ICSP) 2012 – 2015**

The meeting heard that North Lanarkshire Council’s ICSP has been approved by the Children’s Services Partnership (CSP). The document is an internal partnership working document which builds on previous plans and incorporates policy, strategy and service development. The document is produced by the Children’s Services Partnership and the Child Protection Committee on behalf of the NLP. The document (*Appendix 1* of the Board report) is the strategy identifying shared local priorities for integrated children’s services.

Part one of the Plan outlines the context for integrated children’s services in North Lanarkshire, whilst Part two is an action plan covering the period 2012-2015. The plan sets out high level priorities and to deliver on these, the themed sub groups and locality planning groups of the CSP will produce operational plans outlining more detailed activity and progress will be reported quarterly. The document will be reviewed in September 2013.

The Board noted the content of the report.

5) Armed Forces Covenant

The Board was reminded of the establishment of the Armed Forces Community Covenant between the UK and the personnel within the armed forces. The purpose of the Covenant is to support the families of the armed forces residing and working within North Lanarkshire including those in-service and ex-service personnel, families, widows and widowers. The Covenant is supported by a Firm Base Working Group which comprises representatives from the armed forces community, North Lanarkshire Council, partners and charitable and voluntary sectors.

A community covenant grant scheme has been introduced which aims to offer financial support for projects at a local level and which strengthens ties between the armed forces community and the wider community. Since the introduction of the scheme and to the end of July 2012, 86 funding applications were approved representing a total allocation of £4million. Timescales for the next round of applications have been approved and submission has been made by the Community Payback Team (North Lanarkshire Restorative Justice Services) to develop a sensory peace garden within Belhaven Park, Wishaw, which will remember service personnel – past and present.

Action: PN to speak to Restorative Justice to request that the Strathclyde Police, Local Authority Liaison Officer, is involved in discussions and is able to view designs of the sensory garden.

The Board noted the content of the report

6) SPT – Transport Outcomes Report 2012-2013

Since 2008, SPT has been providing Transport Outcomes Reports (TORs) for North Lanarkshire which are a means of demonstrating and documenting key services and priorities for the Council area. TORs provide evidence of how services and projects align with Community Planning Partnerships' (CPPs) Single Outcome Agreement. SPT has assisted North Lanarkshire Council with the transport aspects of its SOA. Local outcomes within the TOR are identified to which SPT can contribute. The Board report sets out the various sections contained in the TOR including –

- setting out the benefits of SPT services delivered in 2011-2012
- on-going operational priorities for 2012-2013
- Appendices which set out progress on 2011-2012 transport priorities
- Local outcomes from the SOA

Priorities for 2012-2013 have been agreed and include –

- A71 strategic route improvements
- Support to the regeneration of Ravenscraig
- Support Park and Ride extensions
- Improve Cumbernauld town centre bus stances

The Board noted the content of the report

7) Local Community Planning update

The group was updated on key local community planning developments which have taken place since the last Board meeting.

Town centre reporting - a review is currently ongoing into the format and style of town centre reports which are submitted to the Local Area Partnerships. It is intended that the format will be more reflective of wider regeneration issues relevant to town centres. Reports will cover – economic outlook update; town centre activities; town centre action planning; capital works; community safety and; community engagement

Review of Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) – the Community Regeneration and Partnership Team are scheduled to meet with the Executive Director of Environmental Services in October 2012 to discuss ways to develop and improve the partnership meetings. The main issues for discussion are:

- Style and times of meetings
- Representation
- Key areas for developing

Local Area Tours – a series of area tours have been organised to which all elected members have been invited. The Motherwell tour took place on Friday 31st August 2012 and provided the opportunity to visit key regeneration activity and projects in the area. The tours are scheduled for August/September and an update on these will be provided at the next NLP Board.

Community Safety reports – A new reporting format has been compiled which will use a single document to task the Community Safety Sub Groups and to form the basis of the local Community Safety report to the Local Area Partnerships. Full details of the new style report is attached at *Appendix 1* of the Board report.

Community Forums – these have now resumed following the summer recess and each has submitted its engagement plans supported through the health engagement fund to deliver information, awareness-raising and community involvement on health improvement in each locality

The Board noted the content of the report

8) Celtic Foundation Charity Fund

The Celtic Foundation Charity Fund was officially registered as a recognised charity on 31 March 1996 and operates as a charitable Trust aiming to “*uphold and promote the charitable principles and heritage of Celtic Football Club through raising funds and supporting specific areas of charity work*”.

The fund Trustees have approached partners in North Lanarkshire with a view to making investments in the area – North Lanarkshire is one of three priority areas in Scotland which the Trust has for investment. The aim of the fund is to:

- Increase participation in learning
- Increase participation in sport
- Tackle sectarianism
- Employment and training
- Promote opportunities for disadvantaged groups

To date, NHS Lanarkshire is leading a small sub-group to develop ideas for projects and thereafter proceed to develop this in conjunction with the Trust. One project being discussed is to provide funding for a number of young North Lanarkshire residents to undertake a 10 day charitable visit to Kenya (early 2013).

There is no financial commitments by Partners as the charity does not require match funding.

The Board noted the content of the report and approved further development of project proposals with partners and the Trust.

9) Health and Social Integration

In December 2011, the Cabinet Secretary for health announced proposals for integrating services for older people between councils and the NHS. This was followed by the issue of a formal consultation document on the planned legislation.

The proposals have implications for the council as they entail the devolution of budgets and responsibilities for the new organisational arrangements. The proposals will impose extensive new duties on Health Boards and local authorities to –

- Create a Community Health and Social Care Partnership with representation from elected members
- Put in place an integrated budget for health and social care
- Appoint a jointly accountable officer to report to the two chief executives
- Consult local professionals on arrangements for planning service provision and produce joint commissioning strategies

The deadline for consultation responses is 11 September 2012 and the Board agreed the joint response (*Appendix 1* of the Board report) be sent on behalf of the North Lanarkshire.

The Board noted the content of the report and approved the proposed response which will be sent to the Scottish Government by the deadline.

Action: PN

10) Corporate and Community Plans 2013/2014 – 2017/2018 consultation process and timescales

Partners were updated on the development and delivery of NLP's Community Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan (2013-2014 to 2017-2018), together with an outline on the consultation process required. The new Community Plan will identify the priorities and outcomes which the Partnership aims to achieve, together with the indicators which will track progress in achieving the priorities and outcomes. The Corporate Plan will outline the council's contribution to the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement and as the plans cover the same period, will be prepared concurrently.

The NLP Officers' Group continue to develop the Community Plan including the finalisation of local outcomes and key priorities and the identification of appropriate indicators were agreed at its meeting in August.

Baseline figures and 2013/2014 targets will be in place prior to the Community Plan being considered by the NLP Board at its meeting in November. Targets for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 are expected to be in place by March 2013.

The report highlights the various groups who will be invited to take part in the consultation process before the documents are finalised and thereafter considered by both the council's Policy and Resources Committee and the NLP Board. A first draft of the new Corporate Plan will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) late September 2012. Concerns were raised by June Vallance in relation to the consultation being on both these matters as well as the Council's efficiency savings. Gavin explained the reason for this, in that the two items are linked and that it was deemed sensible to consult on both at the same time. It was agreed that Linda Johnston would look at this issue in relation to the Voluntary Sector and agree process with June.

Action: LJ

Partners were reminded that a "special meeting" of the Board has been scheduled for 10 October the main item of which is the council's savings options.

The board noted the content of the report and the ongoing work relating to the development of the Community Plan and Corporate Plan (2013/14 – 2017/18); and, also (diaries permitting) agreed to the "special meeting" scheduled for 10 October.

11) Third Sector update

Two areas of work are currently being taken forward through partnership working:

- (i) Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan
- (ii) Scottish Government Social Enterprise and Third Sector Challenge Fund

(i) *Reshaping Care for Older People (RCfOP) Change Plan* – this was announced by the Scottish Government in 2010 to help prepare for the estimated increase in the older people's population by moving away from acute service provision to precautionary and preventative measures. The voluntary sector, alongside existing partners, supports the delivery of the Change Plan in North Lanarkshire. The meeting heard that six local voluntary sector organisations, together with VANL (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire), have launched a "Reshape Care for Older People Locality Partnership" which will support the voluntary sector to contribute and access resources from the Change Plan. Each of the six voluntary organisations will, in their locality, develop the Change Plan agenda and act as a first point of contact for voluntary sector organisation for issues relating to the Reshape Care for Older People agenda. A local partnership consortia will be developed which will see key officers participate in the discussions relating to planning, design and development of services for older people. VANL will coordinate and support the six partner organisations in this key area.

(ii) *Scottish Government Social Enterprise and Third Sector Challenge Fund – Skills Development Scotland* will this financial year, provide £2.5m towards engaging and progressing young people into employment. The criteria for this funding is that (a) the activity and spend must be completed by (end) March 2012 and the activity should fit within local "pipelines"; and (b) bids should be a minimum of £50,000 and a maximum of £250,000.

June advised the meeting that, unfortunately, the bid by Skills Development Scotland had been unsuccessful. Feedback is awaited from Skills Development Scotland as to the reason for the unsuccessful bid and following this, consideration will be given to the Partnership making representation on behalf of the Third Sector.

Action: JV

The Board noted the content of the report

12) North Lanarkshire Broadband Strategy and Action Plan

In December 2010, the Government launched its National Broadband Strategy "Britain's Superfast Broadband Future". The Strategy set out the Government's aim that the UK should have the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

In March 2011, the Scottish Government announced a strategy for the development of Next Generation Broadband (NGB) in Scotland – "*Scotland's Digital future – A Strategy for Scotland*". January 2012, saw the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment launch the action plan – "*Scotland's Digital Future – Infrastructure Action Plan*". The key objective of the action plan is to work with local authorities, commercial telecoms providers and communities to deliver "superfast broadband at a speed of 4-80Mbps to 85-90% of premises by 2015. A Procurement Plan was subsequently produced in consultation with CoSLA outlining how the strategy and action plan will be implemented.

In order to ascertain the digital infrastructure and related assets which already exist within North Lanarkshire, the Scottish Government is currently engaging directly with the Council to collate baseline data. This will help identify the priorities for broadband development at local level, the demand for high speed services and the scope to exploit existing resources and infrastructure to more cost effectively widen access or improve broadband services for communities and businesses.

Part of the data requirements involves collating location data on all public sector premises with North Lanarkshire, principally North Lanarkshire Council, NHS, police and fire service. This is required to inform the forthcoming national procurement process by demonstrating to potential suppliers where additional demand may exist for their fibre optic infrastructure and associated services. To assist in this process, NLC officers have approached relevant NLP representatives to obtain geographic listings of all premises within their portfolio. The information gathered will be used to inform the process of quantifying demand in terms of geographies and existing public sector networks.

The Board noted the content of the report and the requirement to collate data on all public sector premises in North Lanarkshire.

13) Financial Outlook

Potential savings options are being considered for the period 2015-2016 totalling £100m – these options will be submitted for consultation in October 2012, with finalised savings options being considered in December 2012.

14) Economic update (6)

Unemployment trends - the general trend is that unemployment remains on an upward path. This year JSA rose during the summer months and fell during the spring months. The current JSA figure is 12,355.

Economic growth forecasts – The UK economy has officially sunk into a double-dip recession due to two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth. Recovery remains uncertain although there is some optimism from the Bank of England's recent inflation report.

Youth Investment Programme – Launched in February 2012, the Programme has secured 595 jobs and apprentice opportunities for unemployed residents, with 336 supported through the scheme. The council is proposing to develop and fund two new programmes – A graduate internship programme providing 30 placements; and a six month work placement programme for 200 young people.

North Lanarkshire Local Economic and Regeneration Strategy 2013-2017- As previously advised to the Board, the Council is in the process of producing a new economic and regeneration strategy for North Lanarkshire which, it is intended, will identify priorities for the local economy and how these priorities can be addressed. A draft of the strategy will be published for consultation at the same time as the Community Plan, Single Outcome Agreement and the Council's saving plan. It is intended that following consultation, the finalised strategy will be published early 2013.

The Board noted the content of the report.

15) Budget Statement

Noted as at period 4 (20 July 2012) – Unallocated resources of £16,297

16) AOCB

- 2013 NLP Board meetings circulated
- Police and Fire Services reform – carry forward to next meeting

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 14 November, (9.30am) Civic Centre, Motherwell