

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2014, CIVIC CENTRE, MOTHERWELL

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

PRESENT

Councillor James McCabe (Chair)
Councillor James Smith
Gavin Whitefield
Shirley Linton
Pauline Nicholas
Linda Johnstone
Graham Reid
Michele Battersby
Stephen Fraser
Stephen McGuire
Mark Hamill
Bill Higgins
Martin McGuire
Neena Mahal
Stephen Kerr
Nelson Telfer
Joe Hamilton
Allan McQuade
Paul Devlin
Jim Kerr
Danny Logue
June Vallance

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Department of Work and Pensions
New Lanarkshire College
NHS Lanarkshire
NHS Lanarkshire
Police Scotland
Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Fire and Rescue
Scottish Prison Service
Skills Development Scotland
Voluntary Sector

APOLOGIES

Janice Hewitt
Ian Ross
John Miller
Alan Comrie
Bruce Kiloh
Frank Fallon

Chief Officer for Social Care and Integration
NHS Lanarkshire
Scottish Fire and Rescue
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Voluntary Sector

WELCOME AND CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

The Chair advised that Graham Reid, North Lanarkshire Council was retiring from the Council and wished to acknowledge the significant contribution that Graham had made, not just to North Lanarkshire Partnership Board, but to the Council as a whole and wished him well in his retirement.

The Chair intimated that Ian Ross, Chief Executive of NHS Lanarkshire was retiring and wished Ian a long and healthy retirement.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting – 8 October 2014

The Minute of the meeting of the Board held on 8 October 2014 was agreed as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. **Glasgow Clyde Valley City Deal**

Shirley Linton, North Lanarkshire Council provided a presentation on the background to the Glasgow Clyde Valley City Deal which sought to empower regional economies to drive forward economic growth.

Thereon Shirley Linton provided further information in respect of:-

- the importance of the Glasgow Clyde Valley Economy;
- the Glasgow Clyde Valley City Deal was signed on 20 August 2014 and contained £1 billion of capital funding from the UK and Scottish Governments and £130m of match funding from Glasgow Clyde Valley Local Authorities;
- the three core strands of the projects which were Infrastructure Investment Fund, Business Innovation & Growth and Labour Market Schemes;
- the regional impact of City Deal on the areas contained within the Glasgow Clyde Valley project, and
- the detail of the projects proposed for North Lanarkshire Council, which were still at a very early stage.

Thereon Shirley Linton responded to questions from members of the Partnership Board.

Action: to note the presentation.

4. **One Vision – Progress Report**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an overview on the recent programme of consultation and engagement events delivered as part of the "One Vision" programme and highlighting a summary of initial findings (1) advising that the Transformation Week had been branded and promoted under the banner of "One Vision"; (2) detailing within the report the One Vision format, and a summary of events with the One Vision Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; (3) intimating within the report the headline findings, and (4) indicating that further work would be carried out to expand on the analysis detailed within the report and a full report, together with the recommended next steps would be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 12 March 2015. It was agreed that after this date that a further update would be provided to the Board.

Thereon, Graham Reid was heard in further explanation of the report and provided feedback from the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board One Vision event held on 7 November 2014.

Action: provide update to the meeting of the Board on 15 April 2015 and also to note the position.

5. **Third Sector Update**

There was submitted a report from Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) on behalf of the North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group providing an update on the work of the Voluntary Sector in North Lanarkshire, in particular:-

- an update on the Third Sector Interface Community Planning Improvement Programme and thanked all partners for their contribution to the workshops and planning sessions
- Third sector representation on Local Area Partnerships;
- Thematic updates from the third sector in North Lanarkshire in respect of Employability, Children and Families, Social Enterprise, Older People and Volunteering.

Thereon, June Vallance was heard in further explanation of the report and advised that the draft Improvement Plan would be presented to the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board meeting on Wednesday, 18 February 2015 with a view to the final Improvement Plan being in place by Tuesday, 31 March 2015.

Action: that the position be noted.

6. Craigneuk, Wishaw - Update

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Regeneration providing an update on the progress with the Craigneuk Project (1) advising that the total number of Jobseeker Allowance claimants in Craigneuk had increased steadily over the period from 2009 to 2012, however, the rate for claimants aged between 18-24 years had improved relative to the North Lanarkshire average. However, the rate for Jobseeker Allowance claimants, aged 25 years + and longer term claimants (over 12 months) in Craigneuk had increased in recent months; (2) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report an extended summary of the progress of the action plan for community engagement and capacity building within Craigneuk; (3) indicating that following the joint resourcing workshop which took place on 5 December 2014, consideration was being given to the potential for integrating partnership resources and the redesign of services to support early intervention and prevention including co-location of partnership staff and the creation of multi-disciplinary teams based on appropriate evidence, and (4) advising that a full report on the principles of how joint resourcing could be applied in Craigneuk would be submitted to the Partnership Board meeting on 18 February 2015.

Thereon Pauline Nicholas was heard in further explanation of the report and following a full discussion it was proposed that an analysis on the profile of the existing jobseekers from within Craigneuk be undertaken to enable resources to be targeted in the correct way.

Action:

- (1) that the contents of the report, and the progress of the implementation of the action plan be noted;
- (2) that the proposal to test joint resourcing in Craigneuk be supported, and
- (3) that an analysis of the profile of those Jobseeker Allowance claimants in Craigneuk be undertaken. Michele Battersby will arrange and provide this information to a future Board meeting.

Economic Update 17

7. There was submitted a report providing the latest available economic labour market performance information at both local and national levels, as hereinafter noted:-

- Claimant counts – In October 2014, the Jobseeker Allowance count stood at 6,879 which represented a reduction of 27% on the corresponding figure for October 2013 and a reduction of over 3% on the previous month's figures;
- Jobseekers Allowance Claimants –

the 18-24 age group continues to improve with a drop of 790 (32%) over the last year and a drop of 70 (4%) over the last month to a current figure of 1,670, and

the number of long term claimants continues to improve with a drop of 1,095 (32%) over the last year and a drop of 100 (7%) over the last month to a current figure of 2,045;
- Youth Investment Programme – that for the period from February 2012 to October 2014 a total of 4,757 were helped into employment through the Programme;
- Economic Activity – The latest employment rate for North Lanarkshire stands at 70.9% which is marginally below the Scottish rate of 72% which translates to 152,200 people in total employment which is consistent with previous figures;
- Inflation – The 12 month headline rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index stood at 1.3% in October 2014, and
- Economic Outlook – The latest monthly report on the Scottish Economy forecast that growth in Scotland in 2015 of which 2.8% will outstrip the UK average of 2.6%.

Thereon, Stephen Fraser was heard in further explanation of the report. It was agreed that Danny Logue would provide a link to the Regional Skills Assessment Document for circulation to members of the Board.

Action: to note the position.

Financial Outlook

8. Gavin Whitefield, Chief Executive, North Lanarkshire Council advised that the savings proposals for the 3rd year of the three year Financial Plan would be submitted to the Council meeting on 18 December 2014.

He advised that thereafter the focus over the next 9 to 12 months would be on the budget setting process for 2016/17 and beyond with a forecast of around £75m of savings required.

Action: to note the position.

Welfare Reform Update

9. John Campbell, Housing and Social Work Services provided an update in respect of the action taken to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform within North Lanarkshire, as hereinafter noted:-

Universal Credit – pending the outcome of the Smith Commission report it was likely that Universal Credit, as it stands, would look different for Scotland, however, the Council and partners would continue to monitor the position and prepare for the roll-out of Universal Credit in February 2015 and beyond.

Under Occupancy Rule/Preparing for Universal Credit - a programme of visits to tenants affected by the Bedroom Tax commenced on 7 February 2013 with 4,825 visits being completed to date, 221 cases have reported that they have no Bank account; 585 tenants have stated they will pay by Direct Debit/Standing Order; 542 tenants were currently on the waiting list for smaller accommodation; 2,122 tenants advised that they (or their partner) have a disability; 740 cases state they required an extra bedroom because of a disability, and 1,027 people have been referred to Employability Services.

Housing Services – At period 5 current tenant arrears have risen by £1.573m over the two year period since period 5 2012/13.

Thereon John Campbell provided an update in respect of First Stop Shops, the Scottish Welfare Fund, Digital Inclusion, Health and Food Poverty.

10. Budget Statement

It was noted that at the end of period 8 on 7 November 2014 there were unallocated resources of £16,007.

11. AOCB – Charretteplus: Investing in Active Communities

Pauline Nicholas on behalf of Shirley Linton requested the Boards comments and subsequent approval to take forward a Community Planning Workshop funded by the Scottish Government. The Board agreed this and also that Motherwell Town Centre would be the most appropriate area. The timescales for this would be February/March 2015 and further information would be provided to Board members.

Action: Shirley Linton to organise event and otherwise to note the position.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 9.30 am within the Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Motherwell.