

Notes of a Special Business Awayday meeting held at Waveney Chambers, Suffolk Road, Lowestoft on **Friday, 23 September 2005** at 10.00 am.



Board Members present:

- G. Parsons – (Lowestoft College) – Chairman
- M. Bee – Waveney District Council
- A. Evans – (PCT)
- R. Knights – (Waveney Economic Partnership)
- M. Narburgh – (Suffolk Connect)
- C. Pinsent – (SAVO)
- B. Russell – (Waveney Community Forum)
- P. Tabiner – (Flagship Housing)

Support Staff present:

G. Garrod (Chief Executive WDC), L. Mowl (WDC), C. George (LSP Co-ordinator), A. Osborne (Suffolk Constabulary), D. Reid (WDC), L. Robinson (Suffolk County Council), J. Sharp (Facilitator - Suffolk County Council) and L. Thornton (Lowestoft & Waveney Chamber of Commerce)

	Action
<p>1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jill Sharp who would be facilitating this Special Business Awayday meeting of the LSP Board.</p> <p>All members and officers introduced themselves for the benefit of other present.</p>	
<p>2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from A. Braddy (Suffolk Constabulary), M. Oldham (DIAL), P. Storey (Learning & Skills Council) and Councillor W Mawer (WDC).</p>	
<p>3 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DAY</p> <p>Jill Sharp outlined the arrangements for the day.</p> <p>Maxine Narburgh reported that during the meeting, consideration would be given to communication links between the Waveney LSP and the Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft Regeneration Board, in order to ensure that maximum benefit was achieved from the funding opportunities available. (Was this done??)</p>	
<p>4 A PICTURE OF WAVENEY</p> <p>a) Health Atlas</p> <p>Andrew Evans from the Waveney Primary Care Trust (PCT) presented the Health Atlas for members' consideration, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report consisted of information from the 2001 Census, Indices of Deprivation for 2000 and 2004 and local health service data. The document would be useful when planning health or other public services in the Waveney area.</p>	

The correlation between health and social status was highlighted, along with the variance of health levels across the District.

During the discussion on this item, Andrew Evans updated the Board on recent developments within the Health Service that would have a direct impact on Waveney. It was reported that Guidance issued by the Department of Health would result in a complete re-organisation of the way the health service would be structured both nationally and locally. The number of health bodies would be reduced and there would be a shift in role from direct delivery of services to strategic commissioning, with many day-to-day services being delegated to General Practitioners (GPs). In addition, coterminal boundaries were being planned, with the likelihood that Waveney would be linked with the rest of Suffolk, whereas in reality, Waveney enjoyed greater partnership working with the Great Yarmouth area. The Waveney PCT had made strong representations and as a result, the Strategic Health Authority had agreed to put forward two options: one for a PCT for the whole of the County and the other for a separate entity for Waveney and Great Yarmouth.

Concern was also expressed that Waveney may lose some of the additional funding it had been allocated to address health problems in the area. It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the LSP made representations to any Suffolk wide PCT in order to engage in discussions with them at an early stage on local issues.

An announcement of the future of the PCT would be made in the next two weeks.

b) What Does the Profile of Waveney Look Like?

Desi Reid delivered a presentation in relation to consultations taking place on the Local Development Framework and sustainability development issues that would assist in producing a profile for the Waveney area.

The LSP Board was asked to identify specific issues that could be addressed as part of the consideration on Issues and Options. The issues put forward by the Board included:-

- Poor / expensive public transport
- Poor infrastructure
- Lack of affordable housing
- Migration (inwards / outwards)
- Perception of the area was inaccurate
- Lack of cycle routes
- Education
- Low business start up rates
- Crime
- Medical / Health Facilities
- Climate Change
- 16 –24s moving away
- Vitality of communities
- Retirement population
- Lack of sustainability
- Urban density
- Waste management
- Housing Estates
- Social Housing
- Creche facilities
- Need sufficient infrastructure within housing developments
- Tension with Government legislation
- Rural isolation
- Deprivation

- Wealth creation.

Solutions put forward for addressing the above issues included:-

- Work together
- Joint Mobile Services
- Promotion of actions
- Community ownership
- Reusing good ideas
- Need a Champion
- Focus.

Concern was expressed regarding the out-of-date statistics that agencies were having to use in planning services for the public, as even though they were the most recent available, they were inaccurate in some cases.

Confirmation was given that Great Yarmouth Borough Council were undertaking a similar consultation exercise (in developing the Local Development Framework) at this time and this would allow regional aspects to be addressed.

It was suggested that prioritised actions should be targeted at Kirkey and North Lowestoft in particular.

A discussion ensued as to how best to engage further with the LSP as the LDF Core Strategy was progressed. It was suggested that issues should be considered by themed groups, which would report back to the LSP Board.

c) Local Area Agreement

Glen Garrod addressed the Board in relation to the development of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) between health and economic bodies. It was reported that Waveney had a closer correlation and relationship with the Borough of Great Yarmouth than with the rest of Suffolk. The Leader of Suffolk County Council had expressed support in principal for the proposal of two blocks within the LAA to be managed sub-regionally, Economic Development and Enterprise, and Health discussions with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and LSP were currently taking place to take this forward.

AGREED

The Board agreed in principal that there would be benefit for the themed groups to mirror the four blocks, it would be easier to capitalise on the funds available for initiatives in order to make the most difference to local communities.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH AT 12.40 PM AND
RE-CONVENED AT 1.20 PM**

5 POTENTIAL WAYS FORWARD

a) Community Engagement

Gwen Parsons addressed the Board in relation to the Neighbourhood element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. Clarification was sought regarding the identification of key areas for which funding could be prioritised. The following areas were put forward at the meeting: Harbour, Kirkley, Normanston and Whitton. However, the District Council agreed to assist in developing a map for identifying the most deprived areas. The

maps would then be circulated to all members of the Board for comment.

LM

AGREED

The Voluntary Sector raised the importance of measuring instances of deprivation across the District, in addition to Lowestoft and asked for these to be mapped. This was agreed.

Confirmation was given that Great Yarmouth had received NRF for the last 8 years and there would be opportunities to share both costs and expertise in neighbourhood renewal..

AGREED

That the LSP should be exploring ways of working with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to achieve best value in terms of the Neighbourhood Renewal element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund.

b) Waveney Economic Partnership Vision

Gwen Parsons outlined progress made for the production of a vision for the Waveney Economic Partnership (WEP). The vision put forward at the meeting was for the “Waveney Economic Partnership to promote radical change within Waveney and Lowestoft to deliver a strong and progressive economy by 2020”. This would be achieved by:

- Capitalising on the proximity of Waveney to mainland Europe to establish Lowestoft as a European centre of expertise in energy.
- Supporting entrepreneurial growth to ensure the renaissance of our towns and the wider rural economy.
- Encouraging the diversification of our traditional industries and the development of new industries.
- Maximising the potential of our strong base in research and development.
- Building a stronger skills base within our workforce.
- Promoting our image as a place for visitors and residents to enjoy the quality and variety of lifestyles offered by the Broads, Coast and the Countryside.
- Strengthening our relationship with Great Yarmouth to encourage economic growth and investment throughout Waveney.

The comments of the LSP Board were sought alongwith a steer as to which stakeholder would take ownership of the delivery of specific elements.

The Board expressed support for the vision for the Waveney Economic Partnership. The next stage would be for the vision to be put before the WEP Board on 5 October 2005.

c) Revised Community Strategy

Liz Mowl sought nominations for the establishment of an Editorial Board for the production of a revised Community Strategy.

AGREED

- (1) That Gwen Parsons, Linda Thornton and Alan Osborne be nominated to represent the LSP on the Editorial Board for the revised Community Strategy.
- (2) That Lucy Robinson be kept informed of developments as a

statutory consultee.

6 GETTING THERE

a) Constitution and Membership of the LSP Board and Themed Groups

A copy of the current Constitution for the LSP Board had been circulated. Consideration was given as to whether the existing structure of the Board was 'fit for purpose' and also whether the themed groups would be more effective if some of them merged. Proposals put forward at the meeting in relation to the themed groups included:-

- Merging the Waveney Economic Partnership with Lifelong Learning
- Merging Safer and Stronger Communities with Housing & Social Inclusion and Environment
- Health to be retained
- Lucy Robinson to liaise with Rosaline Turner regarding a link between Waveney LSP and the Director of Children's Services at Suffolk County Council. A Children and Young Persons representative and Board level was required, probably through Connexions.

It was considered that the LSP Board should be giving strategic direction to the themed groups and that in order to ensure that the Local Area Agreement targets could be delivered, the make-up of the Board should also be reviewed. A smaller, more focussed body, with a powerful connection with the themed groups (possibly through the Chairs of the theme groups being represented on the Board) was proposed at the meeting.

Members were asked to consider whether the Learning & Skills Council should have representation on the Board, what advisors would be needed and how community representation would be achieved.

Lucy Robinson requested that she be asked to attend future meetings in support of Councillor Bee in his role as a County Councillor.

AGREED

That members give consideration to the options for reviewing the structure of the LSP Board and the topic areas for the themed groups and a report be submitted to the next Board meeting.

LM

b) Performance Indicators

AGREED

That consideration of this item be deferred to the next LSP Board meeting.

LM

c) Next Steps for a new Community Strategy

AGREED

That consideration of this item be deferred to the next LSP Board meeting.

LM

The meeting was concluded at 3.25 pm.

Chairman