

Minutes
The Western Area Partnership Board (WAPB)
Monday 30th January 2012, 6.00 p.m. at The Wilson Centre, Long Newton.

Members

Chair: Cllr Maureen Rigg (MR) – SBC, Jennie Beaumont (JB) – Kirklevington Parish Council, Maurice Snowden (MS) – Over 50s Assembly, Cllr Alan Lewis (AL) – SBC, Philip Addison (PA) – Yarm Fellowship, Jennifer Pinkney (JP) – Wiley Flats Resident Group, John Rosser (JR) – Long Newton Parish Council and Geoff Turner (GT) – Eaglescliffe and Egglecliffe Parish Council

Advisors:

Cllr Phil Dennis (PD) – SBC, Simon Rogalski (SR1) – SBC, Cheryl Connor (CC) – National Citizen Service and Sophie Richardson (SR) - SBC

Apologies

Marjorie Simpson
 Cllr Mark Chatburn
 Doug Nicholson
 Bill Johnson
 Janice McColm

ITEM/ISSUE	DOI	ACTION
1. Welcome and Introductions Members were introduced and welcomed to the Western Area Partnership by Sophie Richardson.		None
2. Apologies Apologies were noted.		None
3. Elections Chair and Vice Chair Maureen Rigg was elected as Chair and Geoff Turner was elected as Vice Chair		Agreed
4. Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.		None
5. Minutes of Last Meeting Minutes of previous meeting on 28 th November 2011 were agreed subject to the following changes:		Agreed

DOI – Declaration of Interest

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<p>Page 3 –SBC are still trying for additional funding for new equipment at Leven Park To be noted that Western Area Partnership Board agreed the signposts for Tees Heritage Park.</p>		Noted
<p>6. Matters Arising The legal order on Durham Road for the weight restriction has gone through and started in January 2012. However the poles for signage were unsuitable and Transport are still waiting for the new poles.</p> <p>A planning application is being considered for the gateway at Preston Park</p>		Noted
<p>7. Housing Consultation – Update from Simon Rogalski The Housing team at SBC currently covers the Private Sector, Housing Options Housing Advice and Homelessness, Regeneration and strategy, Council and Housing Benefit and affordable homeownership. The previous Housing Strategy ran from 2008 – 2011 and sets framework by providing overview of housing and what affects it. Currently in the process of updating the strategy for 2012 – 2015, with the new strategy taking in the homelessness prevention strategy and the private sector housing renewal strategy. Stockton on Tees is a borough of wide contrasts; a mixture of busy town centres, urban residential areas and picturesque villages. Economic conditions have affected the potential for securing a mortgage and impacted on households entering into owner occupation. The Council is currently updating its information on housing need and aspiration in the borough through the update of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Housing at Stockton have identified four priorities which are available in a fact sheet to assist in consultation with the strategy, the priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable communities • Housing market in the borough • Homelessness Prevention • Promoting and sustaining independence <p>Consultation closes on Friday 3rd February 2012. Once all comments have been received, the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership will look at the comments and incorporate these into a draft strategy.</p> <p>The Board raised the following comments: Changes to rent schemes, means that housing stock needs to meet the changing needs. There is a lack of affordable housing, and particular a lack of sheltered housing schemes for older people</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

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<p>People are staying in social housing for longer so less choice, resulting in more people using private landlords. A lot of empty space above shops could be utilised. People are unable to downsize within their own communities due to lack of available housing (Wiley Flats is an example of this)</p> <p>MR encouraged the Board to get involved in the consultation and send in their own comments, using the fact sheet, through the Council website or via email to simon.rogalski@stockton.gov.uk</p>		
<p>8. National Citizen Service – Update by Cheryl Connor The National Citizen Service is a gateway to Big Society to encourage young people to get involved in voluntary work, equipping them with skills and attitudes to do volunteering. At present Cheryl is currently recruiting and has had in over 120 expressions of interest, which will need to be followed up by a full application. There are only 262 places and it is only a pilot at this stage. If successful it will be rolled out over the next three years. The first stage is to take the young people on a residential, which is challenging but is also an opportunity for the young people and staff to bond. The second stage is a community skills week at home, where the young people will visit local businesses, charities and projects. Each group of young people has a small budget to fund a project and young people decide who they want to help. Cheryl is currently developing a timetable whilst meeting with groups, charities and projects that may be interested in helping. From last year there are three young people who are still volunteering at the Children Society. Cheryl is recruiting until the end of April. A Volunteer Co-ordinator has been employed and trained, to provide training and advice to young people. The experiences the young people gain through the Citizen Service will support their CV and employers will look favourably on this. There is currently a big recruitment advert on T.F.M radio. Cheryl showed the Board a DVD of last year's National Citizen Service. The Board were encouraged to inform young people of this opportunity and to think of any projects, charities or organisations that could get involved in the project,</p>		Noted
<p>9. Integrated Youth Support Service – Update from Gareth Carson The Youth review at SBC which included Youth Clubs concluded last year, resulting in the closure of Long Newton and Kirklevington Youth Clubs. The Youth Club at Eggescliffe</p>		Noted

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<p>Comprehensive is still operating and is now a centre for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Outreach work is carried out using information from the Joint Action Group meetings and Police. IYSS is looking to take on a mobile skate park and are in the process of identifying a suitable venue. Work is underway with the Fire Brigade to provide activities for February half term. Karen Merrick has been appointed to take the lead on developing a youth shadow board for the partnership. SR has made contact with Karen Merrick and it is hoped an update will be provided in a few months. An issued was raised over how young people will be consulted from Long Newton and Kirklevington now that they don't have a youth group. Could the Parish Councils be used to consult and keep the young people informed? GC to investigate the best way to reach the young people from these areas and feed back.</p> <p>Risk taking behaviour road shows will be taking place shortly visiting Conyers and Egglecliffe Schools, covering substance and alcohol misuse and risk of being involved in crime. IYSS are looking to utilise Social Networking, blue tooth and text messaging technology in the future.</p>	<p>SR to contact Karen Merrick and add to forward plan</p> <p>GC to investigate and feedback to Board</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>10. Stockton Community Fund</p> <p>The report encouraged applications to the Stockton Borough Community Fund which is available to support community projects and activities in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Tees Valley Community Foundation is an independent non-profit grant making organisation who are administering the Stockton Borough Community Fund.</p> <p>The fund provides small grants to support community projects and activities for example arts & crafts, educational trips, keep-fit classes, walking trips, new equipment, social activities etc. Grants up to a maximum of £500 are made available and meetings are held monthly to discuss applications to help ensure a quick turnaround.</p> <p>Some examples of funded projects to date include:</p> <p>£250 towards the overall costs of the production of a DVD to promote the activities of a voluntary group, £500 towards the running of keep fit classes for BME women , £500 towards equipment to offer safe space and equipment to local playgroups with young children</p> <p>The application form and guidelines of the fund can be accessed from</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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http://www.teesvalleyfoundation.org/grants/stockton-borough-community-fund/		
11. Thematic Partnership Update An update on the Culture Partnership and Stockton Renaissance were circulated by Philip Addison. MR attended the Environment Partnership and updated the Board on the Community Energy Programme in Parkfield, which will enable the Council to get external wall insulation on houses in the Parkfield area who can't get cavity wall insulation.		Noted
12. Any Other Business a. Area Transport Strategy MR encouraged board members to complete the Area Transport Strategy proformas which have been sent out with any potential projects.		Noted
13. Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 27 th February 2012, 6 p.m. at Challoner House.		Noted