

# Leicestershire Stronger Communities Board

Meeting of the Leicestershire Stronger Communities Board held on  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 9.30am  
at Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council, Leicester.

## MINUTES

### Present

Neil Lambert	Voluntary Action Charnwood (Chair)
Lynn Aisbett	Chief Executive - Melton Borough Council, representing District Councils
Sue Cavill	Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust
Panita Chohan	LeicesterShire Ethnic Minority Partnership
Shamsher Chohan	LeicesterShire Ethnic Minority Partnership
Kerrie Fletcher	Leicestershire Volunteer Centre Network
Martin Gage	North West Leicestershire CVS
Joanna Hamilton	Voluntary Action South Leicestershire
Andrew Ingles	Voluntary Action Blaby District
Richard Mugglestone	Midlands Rural Housing
Ian Neale	Leicestershire County Council
Jeremy Prescott	Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council
Richard Tobin	Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils

### In Attendance

Joanne Cheney	CVS Community Partnership (Minute-taker)
Mark Rymer	Government Office East Midlands

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Neil Lambert welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by those present. Apologies were received from Jake Atkinson at Voluntary Action South Leicestershire, Thilo Boeck at De Montfort University, Louise Driver and Nicole Rickard from Leicestershire County Council and Bob Scott from Leicestershire Police.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting of the Stronger Communities Board held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

## 3. Matters arising

### 3.1 Community Consultation

Jo Cheney has circulated the link to an evaluation report on the Rural Community Council's Community Consultation project.

#### **4. Stronger Communities Update**

4.1 Richard Mugglestone updated the Board on the Leicestershire Affordable Rural Housing project. It was agreed that the Stronger Communities Board would write to Tom Purnell recognising that Rural Housing for Leicestershire is mainly incorporated into the Economic Development and Enterprise Theme, however asking that the rural aspect does not lose priority.

- **Martin Gage and Jo Cheney to draft letter to Tom Purnell on behalf of the Board copying in Andrew Granger (Representing the Rural Partnership for the Economic Development and Enterprise Theme)**

4.2 Jeremy Prescott gave an update on the Rural and Social Community Programme. One Community Development Officer has been lost due to funding.

- **Jo Cheney to send Paul Hackwood's contact details to Sue Cavill**

4.3 Jo Cheney is writing a report on the work of the Voluntary Action Neighbourhood Workers to date. This should be finished by the end of December.

- **Jo Cheney to circulate report on Voluntary Action Neighbourhood Work in early January**

4.4 With reference to Paper 1 (Stronger Communities Board Update) Martin Gage said that a new version of the Social Capital and Stronger Communities in Leicestershire report would be produced next year around the end of March. This will incorporate the results of the Social Capital Survey with Vista and Mosaic and responses.

#### **5. Stronger Communities Strategy for Leicestershire**

Martin talked the Board through the proposed actions in the Draft Stronger Communities Strategy (Additional Paper 2 attached, p5) and asked for feedback. Feedback is listed below:

- Making clearer the roles within Priority Neighbourhoods
- Board Members expressed caution with promoting employment through 'word of mouth' as this can oppose equal opportunities
- With the shift of work towards Priority Neighbourhoods the rural should not be forgotten.
- The concept of 'Added Value' to an activity could be used in a toolkit across all the themes

#### **6. Sustainable Community Strategy for Leicestershire**

The public consultation on the first draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy will end 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The Board agreed to hold an extra meeting after this time to look at the Sustainable Community Strategy with additional feedback. The Board prioritised National Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 for the Stronger Communities Theme. This will be refined at the extra meeting.

The New Performance Framework for Local Authorities & Local Authority Partnerships: Single set of indicators is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicator>

**7. Feedback from the Leicestershire Together Conference**

Those that attended the conference felt that this one was not so well attended this year, particularly for the second workshop. It was suggested that the Partnership be involved in planning the event next year.

**8. Any other business**

Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership would like to set up a community development network across the East Midlands. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact Shamsheer Chohan.

- **Shamsheer Chohan to send details to Jo Cheney**

**9. Date of the next meeting**

An extra board meeting will be held at **John Storer House**, Loughborough on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January** from **10am until 12noon**.

Usual meetings are to be held at the following times:

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10am - 12noon