

LEICESTERSHIRE STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Leicestershire Stronger Communities Board held on Wednesday 14th June 2007 at 10am at the Salvation Army (South Wigston).

Present

Neil Lambert	Voluntary Action Charnwood (Chair)
Jonathan Adamson	Leicestershire County Council
Lynn Aisbett	Chief Executive - Melton Borough Council, representing District Councils
Jake Atkinson	Voluntary Action South Leicestershire
Martin Gage	North West Leicestershire CVS
Sue Hill	Voluntary Action for Oadby & Wigston
Paul Hackwood	Diocese of Leicester
Jeremy Prescott	Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council
Bob Scott	Leicestershire Police
Richard Tobin	Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils

In Attendance

Joanne Cheney	CVS Community Partnership (Minute-taker)
Ben Humphris	Leicester Community Action Network
Mark Rymer	Government Office East Midlands

Apologies

Catherine Griffiths	Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT
Gill Jackson	Diocese of Leicester
Kathy McKinley	Voluntary Action Melton
Nicole Rickard	Leicestershire County Council

07/11 Welcome and Introductions

Neil Lambert welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given by all.

07/12 Minutes of the last meeting of the Stronger Communities Board held on 14th December 2006

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

07/13 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

07/14 Stronger Communities Update

.1 Presentation on the Social Enterprise Project by Ben Humphris from Leicester Community Action Network.

Ben Humphris presented Leicester Community Action Network and Social Enterprise in Leicestershire (presentation attached as Additional Paper 1). During questions afterwards there was a discussion on the distinction between a charity and a social enterprise. There was also interest in and requests for the social enterprise mapping.

- ▶ Ben to send social enterprise mapping exercise and Jo to circulate.
- ▶ Ben and Jo to discuss making the mapping available on the CVS Community Partnership website.
- ▶ Jo to circulate Ben's contact details.

.2 Presentation of results by Richard Tobin from Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils

Richard Tobin reported that the results of 2 Parish Council related LAA targets were being collected and would be ready in time for the next board meeting. These targets were to increase voter turnout at Parish Council elections and decrease uncontested Parish Council seats. He told the board that despite the efforts of the Association of Parish and Local Councils (APLC) and local Parish Councils in Leicestershire, the results so far there were showing a strong indication that the targets will not be met. Richard said this was the same as the nation-wide picture and a wider discussion followed around possible reasons for these targets not being met. It was suggested that the APLC look at possible action towards elections in the year 2011. One suggestion was that the level of activity and responsibility placed on Parish Councillors is discouraging them. It was said that evidence may need to be collected to inform work towards the 2011 Elections.

- ▶ Paul and Richard to have further discussion
- ▶ Jo to circulate Bob Scott's contact details

.3 Further questions arising from Paper 1 'Stronger Communities Board Update'

Martin invited everyone to take copies of the Social Capital and Stronger Communities in Leicestershire report. He told the Board that there will be a further edition of the report published with a focus on disability with results from the Social Capital Survey with Vista and Mosaic.

Jeremy informed the Board that he had recently been to a presentation in London on the status of the Rural and Social Community Programme (RSCP). He found that Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs were still not clear on this and the future for RSCP is uncertain.

07/15 Community Cohesion in the County

Jon Adamson gave a presentation on the findings gathered to inform a report on Community Cohesion in Leicestershire (see Additional Paper 2). Afterwards questions were raised by members of the Board about who had commissioned the research and what the purpose was. Jon explained that the research had been commissioned by Andy Robinson at the County Council and the research will be informing a Leicestershire Community Cohesion Strategy. Members of the Board expressed concern about a single countywide strategy and raised a localised approach as a way forward. Concern was also raised as to where a Community Cohesion Strategy would fit in with the Stronger Communities Block of the LAA and Stronger Communities Board.

- ▶ Neil and Martin to contact Andy Robinson with the concerns of the Board and ask for a subsequent meeting with him.

07/16 Stronger Communities in the next Local Area Agreement

Martin asked the Board for any ideas or thoughts on activity for the next Local Area Agreement (LAA). Jake suggested a model where CVS Neighbourhood Workers had a shared role between District Councils and Voluntary Action Centres. Jeremy said that he would be pressing to bring more priority to 'the rural'. Some members knew of a conference on 29th June at Highpoint Conference Centre to look at the Sustainable Community Strategy and the next LAA.

07/17 Joint meeting with Safer Communities (proposed date of Monday 2nd July)

Martin informed everyone of a joint meeting to take place between the Stronger Communities Board and the Safer Communities Block. The suggested time for the meeting is Monday July 2nd at 10.30am. Most present agreed that they would be able to attend.

07/18 Any other business

There was no other business raised.

07/19 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is to be held Wednesday 12th September 2007, 10.30am-12.30pm, at The Church of Christ the King, Beaumont Leys.