

BOARD MEETING OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE  
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Held at Newton Park Hotel, Newton Solney  
on 18th March 2004 at 9.30 a.m.

**PRESENT:-**

**Local Authority Sector**

District Councillor Barrie Whyman, M.B.E. (**Vice-Chair**), Frank McArdle (Chief Executive, South Derbyshire District Council), County Councillor Bill Routledge, District Councillor Heather Wheeler and District Councillor John Wilkins.

**Other Public Sector**

Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)(**Chair**), Jeff Dolby (Environment Agency), Nina Ennis (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Karen Jones (Trident Housing Association) and Paul McGregor (Derbyshire Learning Partnership).

**Private Sector**

Karen Bradley (Toyota UK) and John Oake (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust).

**Voluntary/Community Sector**

Joy Bates (Churches Together), Julie Batten (People Express), Graeme Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau), Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS), Helena Stubbs (Derbyshire Rural Community Council) and Glenys Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association).

**Also in Attendance**

South Derbyshire District Council

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive) and Neil Betteridge (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

LSP/21. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Susan Bell (National Forest Company), David Bond (Connexions Derbyshire), County Councillor Geoff Carlile, Sharon Forton (Southern Derbyshire Chamber), Graham Keddie (Nottingham East Midlands Airport), Evadne Robbins (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), George Tansley (Etete Ltd.), and Helen Woodhouse (Senior Best Value and Policy Officer, Derbyshire County Council).

LSP/22. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15th January 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

LSP/23. **VISIONING DAY - FEEDBACK**

Board members were reminded that a Visioning Day had been held on 28th January 2004 and was facilitated by Steve Rogers of INLOGOV. The purpose of

the event was to identify a Vision and main themes for the Community Strategy and summaries of the two breakout sessions had been circulated.

There had been general agreement between groups about the principal elements of the Vision and partners wished to emphasise issues of 'Working Together', 'Better South Derbyshire', 'Even better' and 'Inclusivity'. Final suggestions for the Vision were considered.

Partners had submitted various ideas for themes of the Strategy and during discussions, there appeared to be a general consensus around issues concerning safety, health, inclusivity, economically and environmentally sustainable, fun place to be and self enabling. Partners also indicated a wish to align the South Derbyshire Community Strategy themes with those of the countywide Community Strategy. It was also necessary to reflect Government guidance on community strategies, particularly in relation to environmental and sustainable development issues. Taking all these various factors into consideration, the following themes were now proposed:-

Safe Communities  
Healthy Communities  
A Vibrant Economy  
A Sustainable Environment  
Lifelong Learning and Culture  
Creating Opportunities for All

Towards the end of the event, partners were invited to consider the principles and values that might underpin the Strategy. Some of the ideas submitted were listed and it was noted that the approved Constitution already defined a series of partnership values, which became effectively the principles for the Community Strategy.

Following the agreement of a Vision and themes for the Strategy, the next stage would involve the collection of baseline information and the identification of issues and objectives. It was noted that this formed the subject of a separate report on the agenda.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Vision of 'Working Together for a Better South Derbyshire' be approved for inclusion in the Community Strategy.***
- (2) That the following themes be agreed as a basis for the development of the Strategy:-***

***Safe Communities  
Healthy Communities  
A Vibrant Economy  
A Sustainable Environment,  
Lifelong Learning and Culture  
Creating Opportunities for All***

LSP/24. **COMMUNITY STRATEGY - PROGRAMME**

It was reported that an outline programme had been prepared to identify requirements to meet the target of having an agreed Community Strategy in place by the end of December. A copy of the outline programme had been circulated to

Board Members and following agreement on the Vision and themes, Stage 2 could now be addressed relating to development of the themes. This work would be supported by the collection of information about quality of life in South Derbyshire together with data from the 2001 census and findings from earlier programmes of consultation. This stage would need to be substantially completed by the end of April and assistance would be required from all partners in collecting data and contributing to discussions on issues and objectives.

It was proposed to hold a series of Working Groups to explore each of the themes in more detail and it was anticipated that partners would attend for themes which related directly to the work of their own organisation. However, meetings would be open to all partners who wished to contribute to the discussions. Similar arrangements were also planned for Stage 3 in connection with the development of an action plan.

It was intended that the work and the arrangements would be co-ordinated by the District Council and the aim was to present a first draft of the Community Strategy to the Board Meeting in May. The development of the Strategy would be informed by consultation with local people and other stakeholders. It was noted that a report of the work on the consultation was included as a separate item on this agenda.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the following lead Board Members be appointed in respect of the themes indicated:-**

***Safe Communities – Chief Superintendent Tony Hurrell***

***Healthy Communities – Nina Ennis***

***A Vibrant Economy – Sharon Forton***

***A Sustainable Environment – Susan Bell***

***Lifelong Learning and Culture – Paul McGregor***

***Creating Opportunities for All – Jo Smith***

- (2) That all Board Members be requested to indicate their interest in participating in any of the Working Groups.**

LSP/25. **COMMUNITY STRATEGY – FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUP**

The District Council's Deputy Chief Executive advised that it had not been possible to undertake the consultation work at this early stage and accordingly, the consultation work around 'hard to reach' groups would be carried out following the approval of the draft consultation strategy.

LSP/26. **DERBYSHIRE-WIDE CONSORTIUM OF INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATIONS**

Jo Smith of the South Derbyshire CVS presented a report on this matter. The Government was making substantial sums available to the voluntary and community sector over the next 2½ years to develop sustainable infrastructure services to meet the needs of voluntary and community organisations. The Government Office for the East Midlands had announced an Early Investment Programme to commission county consortia, comprising of voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations and networks, to develop investment plans for their county.

At a Meeting on 12th February 2004, representatives of the Derbyshire Councils for Voluntary Service, Volunteer Bureaux and Rural Community Council, together with representatives from the churches, the Peak District Rural Deprivation Forum and North Derbyshire Voluntary Action, agreed in principle to form a Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium for Derbyshire and Derby City. Forty-four organisations and networks providing voluntary and community sector infrastructure services in Derbyshire and Derby had been invited to join the Derbyshire VCS Consortium. The Consortium would be registered with GOEM for accreditation in the week commencing 8th March 2004. When it had been accredited, the Consortium would be commissioned by GOEM to develop an Infrastructure Investment Plan for Derbyshire and Derby covering the two years 2004-6, which must be submitted not later than 25th June 2004.

In developing its Infrastructure Investment Plan, the Consortium was required by GOEM to engage with organisations which provided funds for voluntary and community sector infrastructure, particularly the local authorities, Primary Care Trusts and the Learning and Skills Council, as well as other public and private funders. The Consortium was contacting all funders to explain the programme and seek their support and commitment to the process of developing the Investment Plan for Derbyshire.

The Consortium had offered to make a presentation at the next Meeting of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum on 12th March 2004. This would present an opportunity for partners to learn about the Infrastructure Strategy and how voluntary and community infrastructure organisations and networks in Derbyshire and Derby were responding. Consortium members would be speaking to each funder individually during the next few weeks and it was hoped that all funders would be willing to participate in this programme and commit the necessary Officer time to work with the Consortium in developing the Investment Plan.

GOEM would only accredit one consortium in each County and in addition, would commission a regional consortium consisting of regional infrastructure organisations and networks. Additional early spend funding was available for mapping exercises and exemplar projects, which must be completed by 25th June 2004. Derbyshire Rural Community Council had agreed to act as the Consortium's lead agent and South Derbyshire CVS had agreed to be the accountable body to manage the early investment funds. Communication would be through the e-mail Group "Derbyshire Net", hosted by NACVS and managed by Derbyshire Dales CVS. A list of members signed up to the Consortium would be updated regularly as new organisations and networks indicated their willingness to join. When the Consortium had been accredited, this list would be posted on the GOEM Infrastructure website.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the report be noted.***

LSP/27. **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP – DELIVERY OF PLAN**

It was reported that the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) was the sub-regional economic partnership serving the whole of Derbyshire with the exception of the Districts or Boroughs of Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover which were part of a partnership with part of Nottinghamshire.

The East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) had recently approved the DDEP Business Plan and a copy of the Plan had been circulated to Board Members. From the Business Plan, it could be seen that funding streams had been established to achieve objectives and targets that were linked to the Regional Economic Development Strategy. Specifically, a funding opportunity for Local Strategic Partnerships had been identified and the DDEP had invited LSP representatives to a meeting to outline the proposals. District Councillor Whyman, M.B.E. (Vice-Chair) and Ian Reid, the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive had attended the Meeting on 19th February 2004 and notes of the Meeting had been circulated to Board Members. Councillor Whyman made a detailed presentation to Board Members on the issues arising from the meeting and a copy of his presentation notes are attached at Annexe 'A' to these Minutes.

The DDEP had created a funding opportunity for the LSP for projects that contributed to their Business Plan targets. The impression at the Meeting was that the DDEP would adopt a flexible approach to supporting building blocks or capacity, which would assist delivery of the targets over the medium term. However, there appeared little doubt that the approach of the DDEP, in funding projects via the LSP route, was under close scrutiny by EMDA and it would be necessary to work together to deliver the specified targets for this mechanism to become established.

There was an excellent opportunity to access up to £150,000 for projects, which supported the DDEP's Business Plan targets. A minimum of £150,000 matched funding would be required, of which no more than 50% could be "in kind". Developing, managing and supporting a work programme to access these funds would not be a new management task for the LSP Board, which would require resources and these would not be reimbursed. The Board would now need to devise and establish a mechanism to create a programme to access these funds and identify urgently which projects would be submitted for DDEP funding as part of a programme bid from the LSP.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the report be noted and the Vibrant Economy Working Group be appointed to lead on this issue and report back to the Board Meeting in May.***

LSP/28. **ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS (SSP'S)**

It was reported that the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) was currently assessing the role and effectiveness of Sub-Regional Strategic Partnerships (SSP's) as a key delivery mechanism of the Regional Economic Strategy and their effectiveness in bringing together the views from regional, sub-regional and local stakeholders. To undertake this work, the Assembly had developed a Scrutiny Panel which was requesting views on several key questions about SSP's regarding clarity of purpose, organisation and operation, effective partnerships, accountability and their sub-regional strategic role. These had been circulated to Board Members and a response was required by 19th March 2004.

The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP), as the SSP for this area, had only been established for approximately twelve months and this limited comment on some of the questions canvassed. Nevertheless, Board Members were aware of the structures and relationships and remit of this organisation and had been developing relationships to effect the delivery of the

regional strategy at the local level. There was evidence of cross-border awareness, co-ordination, understanding and working in relation to the Leicestershire Partnership which may stand well for continuing the development of former coalfield regeneration initiatives and the development of the National Forest.

Networking between the DDEP and the LSP's continued to develop whilst the recent DDEP approach to support financially the LSP's economic regeneration initiatives was to be applauded. Consultants had been commissioned to prepare the sub-regional strategy and it was therefore difficult to comment on the effectiveness of their sub-regional strategic role. Nevertheless, there appeared to be plans in progress to address these issues and next year would be the appropriate time to comment more on their effectiveness.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That any personal comments or views of any organisation represented on the Board be submitted directly to the East Midlands Regional Assembly.***

LSP/29. **VALUES AND ATTITUDES – TRAINING**

Board Members received a report regarding training in equalities and diversity issues. Training of this nature would assist the Partnership to comply with increasingly complex legal requirements, whilst actively supporting at least two of the core values of the Constitution relating to 'promoting equality of opportunity and treating people fairly in everything we do' and 'valuing the contribution of local people and partner organisations to the work of the SDLSP'.

A half-day training package, with the title "Values and Attitudes", had been developed by the District Council for employees and Members. This could be made available to Board Members and would be particularly beneficial for those who had not received any training in this important area. For those who had already received training through their own organisations, it would act as a useful refresher.

The District Council's Deputy Chief Executive suggested that the training could also be offered to all members of the Partnership via the Forum event.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the proposal be approved and a training session be linked into a future Board Meeting.***

LSP/30. **NEWS FROM PARTNERS**

The District Council's Deputy Chief Executive referred to 'super output areas' and an attempt to make ONS statistics relevant to the LSP area. The appropriate contact was the District Council and information would be shared on this matter through the LSP.

LSP/31. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was reported that the dates of future meetings had now been revised to accommodate the preparation of the Community Strategy and were now proposed as follows at 9.30 a.m.:-

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Board Meeting	20th May 2004
Board Meeting	3rd June 2004
Forum Meeting	24th June 2004
Board Meeting	19th August 2004
Board Meeting	21st October 2004
Board Meeting	4th November 2004
Forum Annual General Meeting	9th December 2004

Arrangements had been made for the Forum Meetings to be held at the Mickleover Court Hotel.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the revised arrangements for future meetings be approved.***

T. HURRELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 11.20 a.m.

**REPORT TO LSP BOARD**  
**BY COUNCILLOR B WHYMAN**  
**18TH MARCH 2004**

**1. DDEP Receiving £21,000,000 from EMDA over next 3 years (£5.8m, £7.5m, £7.8m)**

Targeting Economic Development & Regeneration (where does that leave voluntary and community groups?)

Creating jobs; safeguarding jobs; learning opportunities; new businesses; investments benefiting deprived areas; people receiving advice and guidance support to return to labour market; new build or re-furbished space for employment; enhancing tourism.

DDEP must hit EMDA targets to ensure funding stream

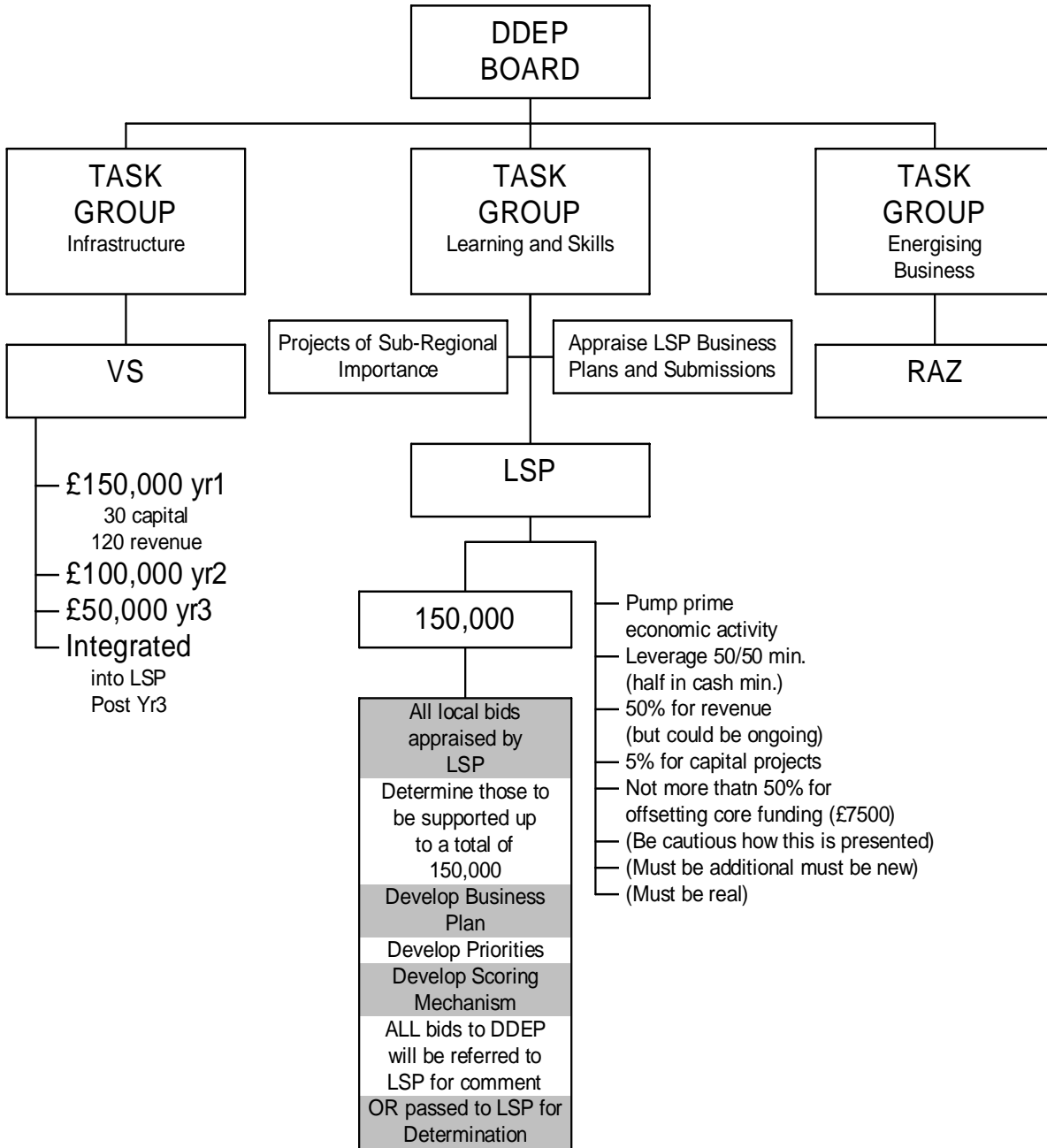
Funds to be fully committed by September/October

Currently annualised plan



2.

LSP BOARD  
18TH MARCH 2004



### **3. PROCESSING BIDS / PROJECTS**

- Bids must be imaginative and “Economic Regeneration Related” – show Economic Benefits
- Show how bids are linked to DDEP Strategy
- There will be ongoing accountability and monitoring of delivery and spend
- Monitoring of outcomes and impacts
- Proof needed that project is delivering what it said it was going to do
- No money up front
- Retrospective payments (within 14 days; in practice 4 or 5 days)
- Payments against invoices (invoice returns monitored)

NB DDEP draw funds down monthly from EMDA against proof of delivery

### **4. ACTION**

- Develop a Business Plan
  - Ambitions
  - Key Priorities
  - Related to DDEP Strategic Aims
  - List of Bids
- Develop a Scoring Mechanism?
- Establish a sub-group for bid appraisal?
- Appeal system?
- Communication Strategy
- Monitoring / Tracking Arrangements