NOTES of the **DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM** held on 10th December 2010 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor A Lewer
(in the Chair)

Amber Valley Borough Council
Councillor S Bradford (also representing DCC)

Amber Valley CVS
L Allison

Bolsover District Council
W Lumley

CHART LSP
S Lee

Chesterfield Borough Council
H Bowen
Councillor R Russell

Chesterfield Royal Hospital
J Birkin

Churches together in Derbyshire
R Jordan

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce
G Cowcher

Derbyshire Constabulary
D Collins (Asst. Chief Constable)
B McKeown (Chief Inspector)

Derbyshire County Council
Councillor J Allsop
Councillor J Harrison
Councillor C Hart
Councillor C Jones
Councillor B Lewis
S Burkinshaw

Derbyshire County Council continued…
S Eaton
R Gent
S Goodwin
D Lowe
J Matthews
M Molloy
L Ottosen
I Stephenson
M Whelan
J Wildgoose

DCC/PCT
Dr D Black
I Forrest

Derbyshire Dales District Council
Councillor L Rose

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue
J Amos

Derbyshire Police Authority
P Hickson
H Veigas

Environment Agency
S Quinlan

Erewash Borough Council
Councillor C Corbett
J Jaroszek

Erewash CVS
P Edwards

Heanor 50+ and DOPAG
J Illingworth

High Peak Borough Council Councillor E Thrane **High Peak CAB and Advice Derbyshire** S Minter **NHS Tameside and Glossop** P Watt **North East Derbyshire CAB** P Morris	**Skills Funding Agency** C Collins **South Derbyshire CVS** J Smith **South Derbyshire District Council** F McArdle Councillor R Wheeler **Third Sector Support for Derbyshire (3D)** K Fletcher

Richard Davies from Marches Energy Agency attended for minute reference 44/10.

Jonathon Douglas from the National Literacy Trust attended for minute reference 48/10.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of J Acred (Derby Hospitals), S Battlemuch (GOEM), B Buckley (DCC), B Dunks (Derbyshire Older Peoples Advisory Group), M Creedon (Chief Constable), S Frayne (Chief Fire Officer), S Green (Rural Action Derbyshire), H Hastie (Connexions), J Herbert (Derbyshire Dales and High Peak LSP), W Jones (Derbyshire Health United), D Joy (Derbyshire Sport), B Kendall (Jobcentre Plus), C Lawton (Links CVS), J McArthur (Chesterfield College), J McElvaney (DCC), E Michel (NHS Tameside and Glossop), N Moulden (Derbyshire Dales CVS), C Puddephatt (NFU), B Robertson (DCC), M Rowe (Big Lottery Fund), D Sharp (Derbyshire County PCT), B Smithurst (Derbyshire Economic Partnership), Councillor S Spencer (DCC), Bishop Humphrey Southern (Churches together in Derbyshire), M Taylor (CHART LSP), A Thomas (DCC), L Wallace (Community and Voluntary Partners – Bolsover), T Whittaker (Derbyshire Older Peoples Advisory Group) and B Wood (Derbyshire Association of Local Councils).

42/10 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th September 2010 were confirmed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

43/10 MINUTES OF THE DPF THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS The minutes of the following DPF Thematic Partnerships were received:-

- Culture Board – 29th September 2010;
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership – 20th September 2010.

The minutes of the following Board's were circulated at the meeting:-

- Children and Young People's Trust Board – 18th November 2010;
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership – 22nd November 2010;
- Safer Communities Board – 17th November 2010.
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It was noted that the minutes from the last meeting of the Sustainable Communities Board which had taken place on 2nd December 2010 would be published on the DCC website when available. The next meeting of the Transformational Management Board would take place on 24th January 2011.

44/10 **CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN DERBYSHIRE** Richard Davies, Local Improvement Adviser from Marches Energy Agency delivered a presentation on Climate Change Mitigation in Derbyshire.

During his presentation Richard referred to "the energy tri-lemma" (affordability, reliability and low carbon), Derbyshire's current position including the "bright spots" and areas where more progress could be made and he gave details of an action plan which could be used to address issues of concern for Derbyshire. The presentation was detailed and very informative and addressed real issues of concern in relation to the climate change mitigation and implications for Derbyshire.

Further information on this matter could be obtained by contacting Richard on 01743 277100/07941 155538 or e mail richard@mea.org.uk

Ian Stephenson, Director of Environmental Services for Derbyshire County Council updated the Forum in relation to work which had been undertaken by the Sustainable Communities Board. The work undertaken so far had proved to be very innovative and Derbyshire had already achieved significant carbon reductions. He stressed to partners the requirement for this type of work to be prioritised and offered to share information with them should they require it. He promoted two half-day workshops which would take place in the New Year on 27th January and 10th February with the possibility of a third one on the 25th February should demand require it. Information in respect of these workshops would be circulated to partners shortly.

Pete Edwards (Erewash CVS) confirmed that some partners were already making significant process, and he referred to the increased buying power if all partners joined together which could reduce costs, such as energy tariffs etc. He also referred to Derbyshire's land acquirement and investigating opportunities for improved utilisation in order to achieve savings. In response Ian Stephenson agreed to investigate both of the issues Peter raised.

The Forum was supportive of this initiative and its promotion was supported as there was the potential for the achievement of huge efficiencies.

RESOLVED (1) to note the contents of the presentation;

(2) that Richard be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

45/10 COMMUNITY COHESION Partners considered a report which gave an update on work being undertaken by the Derbyshire Partnership Forums (DPF) Community Cohesion Working Group in relation to strengthening community cohesion in Derbyshire.

The DPF Community Cohesion Working Group had been formed in December 2008 to tackle the issue and the group's key purpose was to improve partners' understanding of cohesion in Derbyshire, develop a shared vision and strategic direction and deliver actions to build cohesion in local communities. Priorities of the working group had been identified which had informed the formulation of a Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan for Derbyshire. The group was also looking at the links between the community cohesion agenda and recent central government proposals as many of the actions undertaken under the "Bringing People Together" banner supported the key principles which had been outlined in the proposals for the Big Society. The Bringing People Together Strategy had been approved at the March meeting (minute 11/10 refers) and since then the Working Group had met on a quarterly basis to implement actions outlined in the Strategy. Key achievements over the last year were detailed in the report.

The Working Group would continue to raise awareness of cohesion and continue to implement the actions which had been identified within the Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan. It would also be looking at opportunities for possible joint areas of work which could be taken forward in the near future along with ensuring that there was no duplication of both resource and effort across partner organisations.

RESOLVED (1) to note the progress made on the implementation of the Derbyshire Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan;

(2) that partners continue to undertake activities to promote community cohesion within their own organisations making use of joint resources wherever possible;

(3) that further work to ensure linkages between the community cohesion agenda and proposals for the Big Society be undertaken by the Community Cohesion Working Group.

46/10 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM Partners gave consideration to a report which informed them of findings from the recent consultation exercise which had been undertaken in relation to future governance arrangements of the Forum. It also gave details of outline proposals for a revision of the current structures.

The report indicated that partners had been asked to consider and provide views on the future working of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum, the thematic partnerships and the need for high level priority and target setting. Around 30

responses had been received from partners which had been analysed and the following key points had emerged:-

- there is wide support for partnership working and the Derbyshire Partnership Forum, however, partners felt that meetings should take place less frequently and the format should be revised;
- respondents agreed that there is a need to review the existing thematic partnerships to ensure that they are fit for purpose moving forward. There is little support to continue with all six thematic partnerships in their current form;
- the statutory requirement of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children's Trust and the Safer Communities Board had been recognised by partners and there was wide support and recognition of the work these boards had undertaken;
- there was support for a review of the remaining three thematic partnerships and other sub groups to ensure that these match the partnership's priorities and provide added value; and
- responses indicated wide support for high level priorities with a reduced number of targets than were currently reflected in the Derbyshire LAA.

A further issue which had emerged from the consultation process was the need to ensure that resources are used wisely and in the most efficient way to deliver key priorities. As such, the membership of partnerships would need to comprise of partners who are able to contribute directly to the delivery of priorities. Currently a wide range of partnerships and sub-groups exist which deal with single issues which could place pressure on individual organisations in ensuring attendance at meetings and working groups. It was therefore recommended that the Partnership should consider the use of task and finish groups where appropriate.

The report summarised the following proposals for new arrangements :-

- review and revise the terms of reference for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum to include the consideration of reducing the number of meetings in any one year;

- replace the current two tier decision making structure which involves a Board and an Executive with an "Executive Board" which would be a single decision making body who's key responsibilities would be to allocate resources, set targets and oversee performance;

- the Children's Trust, Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Safer Communities Board should remain reflecting the statutory nature of their work, however governance arrangements should ensure that their work reflects the new statutory requirements moving forward;
- the remaining thematic partnerships should each review their purpose in light of the new government proposals bearing in mind that future

structures would need to demonstrate added value and a link to strategic partnership priorities;

- all thematic partnerships should review and revise their terms of reference as and where appropriate with consideration being given to the utilisation of time limited task and finish groups for single issues;

- work should commence to integrate the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) into the governance structures for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum to facilitate and co ordinate economic development and regeneration work across the county which would maintain links with the newly created Local Economic Partnership (LEP) for Derby and Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The report indicated that as the partnership priorities were currently set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, any new partnership arrangements should support their delivery beyond the end of March 2011. Partners would be consulted shortly on a reduced number of high level indicators and targets to support the delivery of priorities from April 2011 onwards.

It was reported that detailed governance, terms of reference and constitutional arrangements for the Forum and its associated structures would be developed over the forthcoming months and implemented from April 2011. Lead Accountable Officers for each of the partnerships would be responsible for carrying out the review and presenting proposals for revised arrangements to the Executive Board for approval. Further reports on progress made and detailed proposals on future governance would be presented to the March 2011 meeting of the Forum.

RESOLVED that (1) outline proposals to manage partnership work from March 2011 onwards be agreed;

(2) further work on the development of thematic structures be led by Lead Accountable Officers and proposals be approved by the Executive Board; and

(3) a report which outlines detailed structures, terms of reference and constitutional arrangements be presented to the next meeting for consideration and formal ratification.

47/10 DERBYSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE The Forum considered a report which gave details on the progress made towards the achievement of targets within the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement 2008/11 (LAA) as at the end of Quarter 2 for 2010/11.

Reference was made to the fact that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had “revoked all designations of local improvement targets in Local Area Agreements”. This meant that the partnership could amend or disregard any targets in the 2008-2011 Agreement without government approval.

The government would not monitor performance on any targets that the partnership chooses to retain which meant that there would be no payments of Performance Reward Grant linked to the current LAA. It was reported that work to review priorities and to determine how success should be measured for the future would take place with partners over the next few months. Any proposed changes would be brought back to the next Forum meeting in March 2011.

With reference to current performance, the report indicated that 22 indicators had met or exceeded the target, 10 indicators were within 5% of achieving the target and 18 indicators were 5.1% or more away from achieving the target. The report compared performance between the latest position and its equivalent in the previous year. 38 indicators had performed better, 9 indicators had performed worse and 3 indicators had remained the same. Full details of the indicators performance, details of key exceptions and overall LAA performance by the Thematic Board had been provided separately in the appendices to the report.

Finally, the report indicated that overall there had been a positive direction of progress in respect of LAA performance as there had been an increase in the percentage of indicators showing improved performance compared with the same period in the previous year.

RESOLVED (1) to note the current performance on LAA indicators;

(2) that a report on the priorities, indicators and targets to be used by the partnership to measure progress and success be presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

48/10 PARTNERS IN LITERACY Jonathan Douglas, Director of National Literacy and Sarah Burkinshaw of Derbyshire County council attended the meeting to deliver a presentation on Changing lives through literacy.

The presentation referred to the benefits of literacy and how it could impact on life and society. It stressed the effects poor literacy could have on individuals and how this could affect life, individuals potential and opportunities in later life. This also had an impact on society as a whole and also affected different partner organisations and the services they deliver.

The presentation was very informative and was well received by partners. The Chair thanked Jonathan and Sarah for their attendance and presentation.

49/10 DERBYSHIRE EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT The Forum received the Derbyshire Education Business Partnership Annual Report for 2009/10.

50/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS The following items were raised under Any Other Business:-

(a) Public Health Developments David Black, the Director of Public Health gave an update in relation to the white paper "Healthy Life Healthy People". The main purpose of this paper would be to improve health for local people and there would many significant changes in the forthcoming years. One of the most significant changes would be the relocation of responsibility for Public Health to Local Authorities from 2013 which would have significant implications. A full report on this matter would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum, however David agreed to arrange for a summary of the white paper to be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

(b) Adverse Weather Conditions Ian Stephenson, the Director of Environmental Services for Derbyshire County Council referred to the difficulties which had been experienced county wide as a result of the heavy snow falls. He assured forum members that exactly the same resources had been deployed as usual which included the same teams, same gritting routes and the same equipment. In detail this consisted of 42 gritters, 120 members of staff working around the clock along with additional JCB's and tractors owned by private citizens such as farmers. The North East had been struggling as unusually this area had suffered the heaviest snow falls, however resources had been re directed to these areas as soon as they could. Many problems had been caused by citizens abandoning their vehicles in awkward places on the highway which had blocked roads thus preventing adequate access for snow ploughs. He reported that because of the extreme fall in temperatures, this had caused further difficulties as salt fails to work between -6 to -8 degrees Celsius.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Ian and his team for the efforts they had made in delivering their service under extreme circumstances.

(c) Government Grant Settlement It was confirmed that an announcement in relation to the Government Grant Settlement would be made on the afternoon of Monday, 13th December, 2010.

51/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING **RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held on Friday 25th March 2011commencing at 10.00 am at County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire.