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Pennine Lancashire



PLACE JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21st October 2010

Present:

Cllr Kate Hollern, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr Mike Blomeley, Pendle Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Charlie Briggs, Burnley Borough Council
Cllr Peter Clarke, Hyndburn Borough Council
Cllr Robert Thompson, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Supporting Officers:

Graham Burgess, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Steve Rumbelow, Burnley Borough Council
Rob Grigorjevs, Hyndburn Borough Council
Stephen Barnes, Pendle Borough Council
Marshal Scott, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Helen Lockwood, Rossendale Borough Council
Sean McGrath, Lancashire County Council
Steve Hoyle, Regenerate Pennine Lancashire
Andrew Lightfoot, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Mike Damms, ELCC
Steve Cochrane, PLACE Strategy Unit
Adrian Leather, Chief Executive, Lancashire Sports Partnership
Janet Jackson, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Marie Hart, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Phil Llewellyn, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

1	Following the recent change in administration at Blackburn with Darwen, and the fact that the Chair and Vice Chair needed to be appointed annually, Graham	

	Burgess asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee.	
	1 Councillor Kate Hollern was nominated and approved as Chair and Mike Blomeley was nominated and appointed as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee; and	Approved
	2 That the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee be dealt with at the first meeting after the May elections on an annual basis.	Approved
2	Apologies were received from Councillor Tony Swain (RBC) Councillor Geoff Driver (LCC), Dave Welsby (HCB), Councillor Michael Ranson (RVBC), Steve Spurrey (EC PCT) and Deborah Ashton (LCC).	
3	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Public Forum	
	No public questions had been submitted.	
5.	Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAHP Funding 	
	Graham Burgess reported that the HCA had confirmed that four schemes would be funded (Burnley Wood Phase I, Pendle's Lob Lane Mill, Hyndburn's Recycling Lives and Ribble Valley's Abbey Field Dementia Unit) in addition to a reserve scheme (Rochdale Road, Bacup).	Noted
	Graham Burgess also invited Pennine Lancashire authorities to liaise with Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and the PLACE Programmes Team to bid for any possible underspends, as expressions were sought by 22 nd October 2010.	Noted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development Programme 	
	Graham Burgess circulated a report on the Rural Development Programme, which he advised would be placed on the next Agenda for discussion.	Noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Enterprise Partnerships 	
	Steve Rumbelow indicated that he had been advised that the Government had made no decisions as yet on Local Enterprise Partnership proposals, but that a decision was expected in the next few weeks.	Noted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAE Systems 	
	Steve Hoyle confirmed he had been in discussions with the Aerospace Alliance, and that a report would be submitted to the next meeting, which would take into account the announcements coming out of the Strategic Defence Review.	Noted
6	<u>Travel to Learn Patterns</u>	
	Janet Jackson updated members on where young people travelled to learn outside Pennine Lancashire.	
	The report outlined where learners were learning, what they were learning and the reasons why learners choose to learn outside Pennine Lancashire.	
	In some cases, learners simply lived in closer proximity to the colleges listed in the report than to colleges inside Pennine Lancashire. This was particularly true for some learners travelling to Craven College, Bury College, Hopwood Hall and Holy Cross Colleges. Also, learners in Ribble Valley might find it easier to access Preston (for example, Longridge residents). Others appeared to travel because of subject area offer, or to access provision which had high success rates.	
	It is recommended that:	
	1) The contents of this report be noted; and	Noted
	2) That representatives from FE/HE colleges be invited to a future meeting to update on how the Further Education offer can be made more attractive in Pennine Lancashire, following discussion with Principals of FE establishments.	Approved
7.	<u>16-19 Update (NEET)</u>	
	Janet Jackson submitted information regarding young people categorised as NEET (Not in Education,	

	Employment or Training) in Pennine Lancashire.	
	Using information made available by CXL for Blackburn with Darwen, and by Lancashire's Young People's Service for East Lancashire, it had been possible to present details by district/borough about young people in the report who were NEET which were outlined in the report submitted.	
	Janet Jackson reported that a particular area of concern related to the refocusing of programmes, such as Entry to Employment, which was now more qualification led, and officers were working closely with Training 2000 and other providers on this issue.	
	Some imminent good news related to the European Social Fund tender for £5m over 3 years across Lancashire, and officers would be looking at what amount of funding would go to 14-18 year olds.	
	Following discussion on the key points arising, Mike Damms raised concerns about the need to make connections with employers in industry on NEET issues.	
	It is recommended that:	
	1) The contents of this report be noted; and	Noted
	2) That Mike Damms and Janet Jackson, following discussions on the best way to better engage with industry and make connection on NEET issues, be requested to bring a further report to the Joint Committee for consideration.	Approved
8	<u>Culture, Leisure and Sport Update</u>	
	Councillor Peter Clarke, Helen Lockwood and Adrian Leather gave a presentation which covered the work of the Pennine Lancashire Culture, Leisure and Sport Group and on 'Cycle Pennine Lancashire', the vision of which was to establish Pennine Lancashire as the premier cycling destination in the UK with a first class and inclusive network of people, places and support services.	
	The Business Case and key information for Cycle Pennine Lancashire was reported to the Joint Committee which included the development of	

	Centre(s) of Cycling Excellence, networking of cycling activity, filling infrastructure gaps, sharing of resources and partnership working.	
	A strategy with clear outcomes would be produced in the next two to three months, and next steps included the development of a network of high quality cycle routes, clubs to start and develop cyclists and support to tourism, economy and health and wellbeing.	
	It is recommended that the presentation on Culture, Leisure and Sport activity and on Cycle Pennine Lancashire, be noted.	Noted
9	<u>Climate Change</u>	
	Graham Burgess provided an outline of the work being undertaken within Pennine Lancashire authorities to address climate change.	
	On a wider footprint, each local authority was represented on the Lancashire Climate Change Partnership which was established in recognition that all sectors had a significant contribution to make both in reducing carbon emissions and responding to climate change. Representatives from the private, community and voluntary sector were also represented on the partnership and together had developed a climate change strategy for Lancashire.	
	The PLACE Strategy Unit, working with the Pennine Lancashire Energy Managers had been successful in securing £125k capital funding as part of a project to purchase energy efficient equipment to install in council buildings. On the back of this, the energy managers in the local authorities and Regenerate Pennine Lancashire were now meeting regularly sharing ideas, information, experience etc.	
	Additionally, Regenerate Pennine Lancashire was also undertaking a number of initiatives to support Pennine Lancashire in addressing climate change.	
	It is recommended that:	
	1) The contents of this report be noted;	Noted
	2) Energy managers be asked to continue their joint working arrangements; and	Approved

	3) Climate change offices be asked to meet on a Pennine Lancashire footprint to share information and ideas such as campaigns, staff awareness schemes etc and raise the profile of the existing work being undertaken.	Approved
9	Comprehensive Spending Review – Key Points	
	Marie Hart submitted a report containing the key announcements relevant to local government from the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) for the period up to 2014/15.	
	The report outlined the key messages in terms of local government finance, local and voluntary services, schools, welfare, social housing and health and social care.	
	Following the announcement of the North West Rail Electrification and the Mersey Gateway (new tolled Mersey crossing between Runcorn and Widnes) the Joint Committee discussed the rail links to Manchester within Pennine Lancashire and the Chair suggested a Government representative be invited to visit the area and attend a future meeting of the Joint Committee, if possible, to discuss this and other transport matters within Pennine Lancashire further. Councillor Mike Blomeley requested that the A56 Colne/Foulridge by-pass and the rail reinstatement proposal from Colne to Skipton be included in the topics for discussion with the invited government representative.	
	1) It is recommended that members note the content of this report;	Noted
	2) That in relation to Government prioritisation of high value local transport in the North West, a Government representative be invited to visit Pennine Lancs and if possible attend a future meeting of the Joint Committee to discuss improvements to rail links to and from Manchester as well as the A56 Colne/Foulridge by-pass and the rail reinstatement proposal for Colne to Skipton.	Approved
11	Private Sector Update	
	Mike Damms gave a verbal update on the following:	Noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exports were on the rise, partially on the basis of a weakening pound: however there was concern that there could be a currency crisis, with several countries, including US and China effectively devaluing - in which case the UK and sterling could be disadvantaged. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At first reading, the Government's Defence Review had not been as damaging to Lancashire as had been feared. For BAE, although the cuts had been hard, it was hoped that BAE's manufacturing for the worldwide market would help mitigate shortfalls in UK funding. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of Regional Development Agencies, the transition to the new arrangements was on-going and clarification was required on what both Councils and national business support would look like from April 2011. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Paper on Growth – the Regional Growth Fund had been extended to £1½ billion over 3 years. <p>With this dramatic fall from previous RDA funds, the hypothesis was the private sector would increasingly have to pay – but this would require a culture change, given the long history of subsidy in this area.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Sector job losses would be significant. The question was whether the private sector would be able to compensate. There are 200 growth companies in Pennine Lancashire, with potentially 700 more in the pipeline, all locally owned and therefore with a sense of belonging. 	
12	<u>Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy Report</u>	
	Steve Hoyle updated the Joint Committee on the progress in the development of the refresh of the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy (PLHS), and requested agreement of the Vision, Objectives and Priorities, as set out in the strategy, along with delegated authority to the Chair of the Pennine Lancashire Housing Partnership (PLHP) to make material changes, allowing the strategy to reflect the most current circumstances flowing out of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and the	

	decision on the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) proposal.	
	The feedback from consultation on the refresh had resulted in agreement of the Strategies' Vision, Objectives and Priorities, and direction of travel. The strategy had been progressed in close conjunction with the suite of Pennine Lancs strategies also being developed i.e. the Spatial Guide and the Economic Strategy, to ensure that they aligned /integrated.	
	As development of the suite of strategies continued along with the unknown outcomes of the CSR and the LEP proposal, it was felt that whilst, agreement to the principles of the Housing strategy were important, the flexibility to make changes to reflect these circumstances was also required. As such delegated authority to the Chair of the PLHP was sought.	
	The strategy set out the Pennine Lancs approach to housing over the long term, which had to be attuned with the Spatial Guide, the Economic Strategy and the Investment Framework.	
	It is recommended that:	
	1) The progress made on the refresh of the Pennine Lancs Housing Strategy be noted;	Noted
	2) Agree to sign off the strategies' vision, objectives and priorities; and	Agreed
	3) Delegate authority to the chair of the PLHP to make changes to best reflect the circumstances flowing from the CSR and the outcome of the LEP proposal.	Agreed
13	<u>Pennine Lancashire Town Centres Update</u>	
	Steve Hoyle updated Members on development and investment projects affecting the town centres within Pennine Lancashire.	
	Over recent years increasing attention has been paid to the vitality of the town centres within Pennine Lancashire. Unlike many parts of the country where investment levels had been high along with retail spending levels, the town centres in Pennine Lancashire had struggled to maintain the levels of	

	private sector investment needed to sustain the required levels of vitality and a high quality shopping offer. These problems had been magnified over the past two year during the economic recession. In particular there has been a notable rise in the number of empty shops and retail properties advertised for sale or to lease.	
	For this reason each of the local authorities had produced strategies aimed at revitalising their key town centres. Much of the effort has gone into improvements to town centre infrastructure and public realm schemes in an attempt to boost confidence levels amongst owners and occupiers of town centre retail properties. Some strategies had also sought to crate a more diverse and balanced town centre offer through the introduction of leisure and residential uses into town centres. As a result of these efforts, significant new investment was being secured from the private sector. The approach had varied in scale and nature in each locality.	
	The report submitted highlighted the most significant initiatives being undertaken in each of the main town centres.	
	It is recommended that Members approve this report and endorse the action being taken to secure the regeneration of key town centre sites in Pennine Lancashire.	Approved
14.	<u>Report from PLACE Head of Strategy (including Presentation on Pennine Lancashire Digital Strategy).</u>	
	Steve Cochrane provided an update on a number of items relating to PLACE as well as giving a presentation on the Pennine Lancashire Digital Strategy:	
	Pennine Lancashire Digital Strategy Many areas in Pennine Lancashire suffered from slow broadband service with some areas not having any access at all. Good access to broadband was important as it was a key utility for households and businesses and was essential for competing in a global economy. Social inclusion could be aided with interaction in the digital society and also broadband helped citizens access government on-line services.	

	The presentation outlined the different technologies available, the development of a Digital Strategy for the region and the options available, together with the estimated costs and details of the key actions in terms of supply and demand.	
	The next steps included allocating a project lead for the strategy implementation project, participation in the current and planned regulatory and government consultations, a co-ordinated response to BT's Race to Infinity, and continued dialogue and engagement with key partners.	
	<p>Future North West</p> <p>Future North West was a non-statutory document setting out shared priorities for the region. This was effectively a reworking of RS2010 – a statutory integrated strategy, which would have replaced the Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy. A Pennine Lancashire response to the consultation was submitted on October 8, 2010, which highlighted a number of concerns.</p>	
	Due to these issues the response made it clear that Pennine Lancashire would not be able to endorse the document in its present form.	
	<p>Regional Transition Groups</p> <p>A number of project groups had been established by the Regional Transition Team to make recommendations across several different themes agreed by the Regional Leaders Board.</p>	
	The groups were expected to produce key strategic recommendations within the next six weeks to form a Transition Plan identifying all aspects of the NWDA and GONW's functions, as well as highlighting potential for establishing partnering arrangements and re-allocation of functions to the proposed Local Enterprise Partnerships. Pennine Lancashire was represented on a number of the project groups.	
	<p>Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP)</p> <p>Team Lancashire had confirmed £90k RIEP funding allocation for Pennine Lancashire up to June 2011. A</p>	

	number of projects had already been identified to look at opportunities for joint working including IT (joint licensing; specialist training; shared procurement), Museums (shared storage; collection rationalisation; touring exhibitions) and also the Research and Intelligence function. Chief Executives had agreed to consider other opportunities for joint working arrangements which may benefit from RIEP funding. It was recommended that a more detailed report be brought to a future meeting outlining the joint working across service areas throughout the Pennine Lancashire councils.	
	Third Sector Board The Third Sector Board met in September. The Board met bi-monthly and was supported by the PLACE strategy unit. Changes to welfare reform were discussed at the meeting as well as the opportunity to influence the 16-19 commissioning statement. A consultation event was planned for Pennine Lancashire third sector partners regarding the commissioning statement. The Board had undertaken research to evaluate the type and number of third sector organisations in the area and how support could improve. The results were being analysed and would be presented back to the Board in due course.	
	It is recommended that:	
	1) The Joint Committee notes the contents of this report;	Noted
	2) A more detailed report be brought back to a future meeting outlining the joint working across serve areas throughout the Pennine Lancashire councils; and	Approved
	3) That in relation to digital connectivity, a small group be established, including representatives from Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and the Communications Group, on how best to encourage people (including staff) to vote for the local area under the BT 'Race to Infinity'.	Approved
14	<u>Future Meeting Dates 2011</u>	
	A list of dates and venues for meetings of the Joint Committee was submitted for approval.	

	It is recommended that the proposed list of meeting dates for 2011 be approved.	Approved
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