

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 19TH OCTOBER, 2007

Present – Councillors Adia, Morris, Rothwell (as deputy for Councillor Hayes) and Sherrington .

Also in attendance

Ms C. James	-	Head of Strategic Projects
Mr M. Kane	-	Special Projects and Partnerships Manager
Miss K. Treadwell	-	Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P. Brierley, Chadwick, Hayes, Rushton, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Morris be appointed as Chairman of the Policy Development Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Morris here took the Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE - CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Adia be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Policy Development Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 26th April, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

4. UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Chief Executive submitted a report which contained updates on the work of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) over recent months.

By way of background information, the report advised that the Vision Steering Groups (VSG) was the co-ordination group for the LSP as a whole. It was intended that this Policy Development Group would be used to keep members updated with partnership developments. Any issues requiring a Council view or decision would be reported through the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance.

The report outlined the updated work on the LSP in light of the discussions at the VSG in April and June, 2007.

The report advised that the key issues that the VSG had been looking at included:-

- City Region Governance, the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy and Congestion Charging;
- dealing with employment and worklessness challenges;
- the refreshment of the Community Strategy and the LSP arrangements;
- the development of the Bolton Children's Trust;
- challenges for the Transport Partnership;
- the future role for the voluntary and community sector;
- the annual review for the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the new style LAA;
- improving health and narrowing the health inequalities gap; and
- making Bolton cleaner and greener.

The briefing agenda and minutes of the VSG meetings in April and June, 2007 were appended to the report alongside the forward plan and the new partnership arrangements for the VSG.

During the course of members' discussions, various comments, questions and observations were made, as follows:-

- the timescales by which the different partnerships reported back to the VSG;
- the importance of having the business sector involved in these meetings to ensure their participation in the VSG; and
- involving more Council members in LSP business partnerships.

It was agreed:-

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That regular updates regarding the progress of the Vision Steering Group be submitted to this Policy Development Group.

(The meeting started ay 9.00am and finished at 9.40am)