

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships

Date: 21st January 2009

Report of: Carol James, Assistant Director - Partnerships & Neighbourhood Renewal

Report No:

Contact Officer: Jennifer Maher, Principal Policy Officer

Tele No: 333878

Report Title: **Stronger Communities Partnership**

Confidential / Non Confidential:
(delete as approp)

(Non-Confidential) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Member of the details regarding the Stronger Communities Partnership (one of the themed partnerships within the local strategic partnership), and to put forward proposals regarding the funding associated with this Partnership

Recommendations:

The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relationships is asked to

- (i) Note the role of the Stronger Communities Partnership as part of the Vision Partnership arrangements;
- (ii) agree the management and decision making arrangements as outlined in section 4 of the report.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

- Minutes from Stronger Communities Partnership Inaugural meeting held on the 19th September 2008
- Minutes from Stronger Communities Partnership 1st meeting held on the 18th November 2008
- Stronger Communities Partnership Terms of Reference
- Bolton Vision partnership Concordat

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

The report provides an overview of the role of the Stronger Communities Partnership and identifies the sub-groups which sit beneath it. The report outlines specific funds which are within the remit of the Stronger Communities Partnership (via Area Based grant) and also requests approval to the management and decision making arrangements for these funds.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Member of the details regarding the Stronger Communities Partnership (one of the themed partnerships within the local strategic partnership), and to put forward proposals regarding the funding associated with this Partnership. The funds include some specific funds and also area based grant flexible fund resources which have been allocated to the Stronger Communities Partnership. The Partnership has a number of sub groups which will be responsible for delivering and managing particular funding streams and areas of work that will help contribute towards the Strong & Confident outcomes of the Community Strategy.

2. Background

2.1 Bolton Vision partnership

Bolton Vision partnership, Bolton's Local Strategic Partnership, which includes the Vision Steering Group is a group of key organisations and agencies working together to improve life for everyone in Bolton. The Vision Steering Group has responsibility for the development and implementation of the Community Strategy and overseeing the performance of the overall 10 year outcomes. These long-term, 10 year ambitions for the borough have recently been translated into a set of robust 3 year targets. This Community Strategy 3-year plan will help us to ensure we deliver the agreed outcomes.

Overall responsibility for the delivery of the outcomes in the Community Strategy 3 year plan lies with the Bolton Lead Agencies Group, with the Council as accountable body. The Bolton Lead Agencies Group, as the performance management arm of the Bolton Vision Steering Group, has tasked the thematic Vision partnerships with leading on and delivering the outcomes within 'their' themes, recognising that they are best placed to drive improvement.

The thematic Vision partnerships are Health and Well-being Partnership, Bolton Skills Board, Bolton Strategic Economic Partnership, Be Safe Partnership, Cleaner and Greener Partnership, Stronger Communities Partnership and Bolton Children's Trust. A number of these partnerships are developing from existing partnerships, but the Stronger Communities Partnership is a newly established arrangement.

3 Stronger Communities Partnership

- 3.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership, as all the other LSP partnerships do, operates according to the Bolton Vision partnership concordat and Terms of Reference (copy attached as **Appendix A**) and includes representative stakeholders from partnerships and organisations which have a clear role in forging stronger communities, including those sectors and agencies involved with housing, community cohesion, culture and the voluntary sector. The Executive Member (Strategy and External Relationships) and the shadow opposition members are represented on the Stronger Communities Partnership and the Executive Member has been nominated as the Chair.
- 3.2 The Strong and Confident theme is the responsibility of the Stronger Communities Partnership. The partnership has an overview, enabling and influencing role with respect to what constitutes a "strong community" and how to promote the development of such communities through its own work and that of others. In addition to this wide-ranging remit, the Partnership will be responsible for the delivery of more specific outcomes as set out in the Community Strategy including:

- **housing:** (meeting the decent homes standard and reducing homelessness)

- ***involvement/voluntary and community sector*** (volunteering and community activity)
- ***community cohesion***: (people from different backgrounds getting along well together)
- ***culture***: (participation and enjoyment)

3.3 The partnership has met twice to date and a copy of the minutes from both meetings is attached at **Appendix B1/2**

3.4 A robust governance framework has been put in place to ensure the delivery of these outcomes and the Vision Steering Group, has tasked the Stronger Communities Partnership with overseeing the delivery of these. Beneath the partnership sit a number of sub-groups (Cultural Partnership, Bolton Harmony Forum, Bolton Community Homes, Community Cohesion Project Reference Group). These sub-groups are responsible for developing and managing the delivery of specific projects/programmes that help to contribute towards the Strong & Confident theme for the Community Strategy.

4. Funding

4.1 The Executive Member will be aware that he has responsibility for the Area Based Grant Programme which is a three year allocation from the Government to the council. This incorporates a range of previous individual funding streams, as well as some new funds such as the Preventing Violent Extremism, and other funds such as the Working Neighbourhoods Fund from which the Council/Partnership formed the *area based grant flexible fund*, which has been allocated across the partnerships for initiatives to support the delivery of the Community Strategy outcomes. Each themed partnership has developed and put forward proposals to support their outcomes areas which have been approved through the Executive Member following overall recommendations from the Bolton Lead Agencies Group.

4.2 The Stronger Communities Partnership will oversee the performance of Strong & Confident Area Based Grant funded projects delivered by mainstream service providers and other partners as appropriate, to ensure outcomes within the Strong & Confident theme are achieved.

4.3 The Partnership will also oversee the performance of more specific areas of work and funds. In particular the Council has been allocated as part of the Area Based Grant Programme,

- Funding of £49,412 – 2008/9; £90,588 each year for 2009/10 and 2010/11 towards community cohesion work. It is proposed that this programme/funding be managed through the Bolton Harmony Forum/Executive Member for HR and Diversity;
- Preventing Violent Extremism resources (£177,000-2008/9 and £200,000 2009/10) which have been managed through the Bolton Community Cohesion Project Reference Group, previously reported through the Executive Member (Human Resources and Diversity). This group will operate within the framework of the Stronger Communities Partnership, and includes members of appropriate community groups and representatives of the community, and the Executive Member (Human Resources and Diversity) and the shadow members.

4.4 In terms of the delivery of the work of the Stronger Communities Partnership and the resources associated with it, it is proposed that the Stronger Communities Partnership be authorised to develop and manage the Area Based Grant funding allocations, subject to relevant approval of the allocations by the Executive Member. In terms of the above two programmes, the recommendations regarding funding, and the management/performance of the funds, it is proposed that the Community Cohesion resources/programme is managed by the Bolton Harmony Forum on behalf of the

Stronger Communities Partnership, with approvals through the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity, and the Preventing Violent Extremism funding/programme is managed through the Community Cohesion Project Reference Group on behalf of the Stronger Communities Partnership, with approvals through the Executive Member (Human Resources and Diversity). The Stronger Communities Partnership will continue to oversee the whole programme of work relating to stronger communities. Performance management of individual programmes will be fed back to the Stronger Communities Partnership and the appropriate Executive Members.

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relationships is asked to

- (iii) Note the role of the Stronger Communities Partnership as part of the Vision Partnership arrangements;
- (iv) agree the management and decision making arrangements as outlined in section 4 of the report.

**Bolton Vision partnership supporting partnerships:
Terms of Reference for the Stronger Communities Partnership**

1. Roles & responsibilities:

- 1.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership will operate in accordance with the Concordat of the Bolton Vision partnership.

2. Leadership:

- 2.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership will support the vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy: “Bolton: Our vision 2007-2017”, that Bolton will be “a place where everyone has an improved quality of life and the confidence to achieve their ambitions” and also its main aims:

*To narrow the gap between the most and the least well off.
To ensure economic prosperity.*

- 2.2 Oversee the Strong and Confident priority theme within the Sustainable Community Strategy and deliver the following outcomes as set out in the Strategy and its three year delivery plan, the Local Area Agreement (and any other subsequent Sustainable Community Strategy/LAA outcomes and targets):

To create housing that meets Bolton’s needs

To reduce homelessness

To encourage everyone to become more active in their community

To ensure we all live in harmony

To support more people to enjoy cultural activities

- 2.3 The Stronger Communities Partnership will work with the Sustainable Development Forum using the sustainability toolkit to support the Bolton Vision partnership commitment to sustainable development.

3. Performance Management:

- 3.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership will evaluate activity, monitor and actively manage key performance measures, identify and manage the associated risks and report to the Vision Steering Group, the Council and others as required.

4. Partnership:

- 4.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership will ensure that links are made with other supporting partnerships within Bolton Vision.

- 4.2 Act as a source of information on issues relating to housing, culture, community cohesion, social regeneration, and voluntary and community activity for Theme Partners and others and advise on best practice.

5. Membership:

- 5.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership will regularly review its membership and the purpose and membership of sub groups to ensure that current needs are reflected.

- 5.2 The Stronger Communities Partnership will establish as appropriate, any sub groups or cross partnership groups or task and finish groups that will support the deliver of Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes.

These terms of reference are dated

Bolton Vision partnership: Concordat.

This concordat is a voluntary agreement setting out how the constituent components of the Bolton Vision partnership will work together to achieve the outcomes contained within the Community Strategy and work towards its Vision. It explains how the partnership operates and includes Terms of Reference for each of the constituent parts of the Bolton Vision partnership.

1. What is the Bolton Vision partnership?

- 1.1 The Bolton Vision partnership is Bolton's Local Strategic Partnership and is a non-statutory, multi agency partnership bringing together locally the public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors; allowing them to support one another and to work together more effectively for the benefit of Bolton by improving outcomes and the quality of life for people in the Borough.
- 1.2 The Bolton Vision partnership is an unincorporated body. Bolton Council acts as the Accountable Body for any programme or initiative where the Bolton Vision Partnership (LSP) is the decision making body.

2. The Bolton Vision partnership is made up of the following bodies:

- 2.1 The Vision Steering Group (VSG) is the main co-ordination group and actively supports the family of partnerships that make up Bolton Vision partnership. It owns the Community Strategy.
- 2.2 Six Thematic Partnerships aligned with the six themes within the Community Strategy; "*Bolton: Our Vision 2007 – 2017*". The partnerships and their associated themes are as follows:

Health and Wellbeing Partnership (Healthy)
Bolton Skills Board (Achieving)
Bolton Strategic Economic Partnership (Prosperous)
Be Safe Partnership (Safe)
Cleaner and Greener Partnership (Cleaner and Greener)
Stronger Communities Partnership (Strong and Confident)

- 2.3 Bolton Children's Trust is a partnership body which brings together the major agencies involved in providing and commissioning services for children, young people and their families.
- 2.4 The LAA Agencies Group is a sub group of the Vision Steering Group and will manage future development and performance management of Bolton's Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy.
- 2.5 The Sustainable Development Forum supports partnerships and organisations to identify and understand how their work contributes to sustainability. It provides a Sustainable Development Toolkit.

- 2.6 All the partnerships have their own ^{Page 8 of 19} terms of reference.

3. What is the Bolton Vision partnership responsible for?

- 3.1 The Bolton Vision partnership is responsible for developing and performance managing Bolton's Community Strategy: *"Bolton: Our vision 2007 – 2017"* and the Local Area Agreement.
- 3.2 The Community Strategy's *vision* for Bolton in 2017 is for it to be "a place where everyone has an improved quality of life and the confidence to achieve their ambitions".
- 3.3 The Strategy's main aims are:
 - To ensure economic prosperity.*
 - To narrow the gap between the most and the least well off.*
- 3.4 The Strategy seeks to achieve these aims through work based around the following priority themes:
 - Healthy*
 - Achieving*
 - Prosperous*
 - Safe*
 - Cleaner and greener*
 - Strong and confident*

4. What does the Bolton Vision partnership do?

The Bolton Vision Partnership and its individual members will:

- 4.1 Provide strategic leadership and influence and act as ambassadors for Bolton.
- 4.2 Manage performance, including identifying and managing risks to the Community Strategy and the achievement of its priorities and hold partners to account (Each supporting partnership of the Bolton Vision partnership is responsible for any part of the Strategy that relates to them).
- 4.3 Promote sustainable development.
- 4.4 Support and promote the neighbourhood renewal agenda.
- 4.5 Promote best practice and the efficient and effective use of resources.
- 4.6 Be responsible for two-way reporting of issues and views between the Bolton Vision partnership, individual partnerships and sectors and for keeping others informed of partners' achievements.
- 4.7 Promote community cohesion, inclusiveness and diversity.
- 4.8 Foster trust, openness, transparency and participation.

5. How will the Bolton Vision partnership work?

The following applies to all the bodies and partnerships that make up the Bolton Vision partnership, and those that may be added in the future.

5.1 Membership:

- 5.1.1 All partnerships within the Bolton Vision partnership will include representatives from all the key sectors – public, private, community, voluntary, and faith sector as appropriate. Representatives will bring knowledge, experience or skills relevant to the Community Strategy.
- 5.1.2 Organisations invited to membership of any constituent part of the Bolton Vision partnership will nominate a specific individual, subject to the substitution clause below.
- 5.1.3 Any member may nominate a single named substitute with appropriate seniority/knowledge to attend in their place.
- 5.1.4 Where nominated members miss three consecutive meetings, the Chair may request their partnership/sector to nominate a new member or consider their membership.
- 5.1.5 The membership will be reviewed as necessary, but not less than annually.
- 5.1.6 The membership of the LAA Agencies group will be agreed by the Vision Steering Group.
- 5.1.7 The Council will be represented on the Vision Steering Group by the Leader of the Council, the leaders of the two opposition groups and the Chief Executive and on the Thematic Partnerships by the lead Executive Member and Members of the two opposition groups. The Council will review its representation annually.
- 5.1.8 The Bolton Vision partnership will from time to time be entitled to co-opt any members who may provide knowledge, experience or skills necessary to assist the partnership or any of its components, including sub groups.

5.2 Conduct of meetings:

- 5.2.1 The Chair of any partnership group will be a member of that group and be selected by the majority of members present at the meeting where the Chair is selected.
- 5.2.2 Chairs of the Vision Steering Group and of thematic partnerships will serve for a maximum period of two years, but are not precluded from re-selection.
- 5.2.3 The Chair of the Vision Steering Group will represent the Bolton Vision partnership and act as spokesperson for it.
- 5.2.4 The Vision Steering Group will meet at least five times a year. Other partnership groups will meet as necessary and as agreed by each group.
- 5.2.5 The quorum will be at least one third of the membership.
- 5.2.6 All paperwork for meetings will be sent out at least five days in advance and papers will only be tabled at meetings in exceptional circumstances. There will be a forward plan for the work of all partnership groups. All members can request items for consideration.

5.3 Decision making:

- 5.3.1 Every effort will be made to ensure that decisions will be taken by consensus.
- 5.3.2 In the event of a consensus not being reached, a decision will be reached by a simple majority of those present at the meeting.

5.3.3 Occasionally there may be urgent items that require a decision outside the normal cycle of meetings. In such circumstances decision making authority is delegated to the Chair of the Vision Steering Group and the Chief Executive of Bolton Council (as Accountable body representative) in conjunction with appropriate sector representatives, dependant upon the issue. Similar mechanisms will be used as appropriate by the supporting partnerships.

5.3.4 No decision of the Bolton Vision partnership as a whole can be expected to override decisions of individual organisations. Rather, decisions made by the Bolton Vision partnership are intended to influence partners, who will use their best endeavours to promote the partnership's decisions.

5.4 **Confidentiality:**

5.4.1 No member shall divulge or allow to be divulged any confidential information relating to discussions or reports of the Bolton Vision partnership. Any such information or report will be clearly indicated or marked 'Confidential'.

5.4.2 The Bolton Vision partnership will adhere to requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

5.5 **Conflicts of Interest:**

5.5.1 Members of any partnership group must notify the Chair if they have a personal, financial or professional interest in any item/decision. Where that item/decision could reasonably be said to have a greater impact on the wellbeing, and/or financial position of that individual and/or his or her family or close associates than for other citizens, the member will either:

a) Take no further part in discussions on that matter and leave the meeting pending any discussion and decision on that particular matter by the partnership group; or

b) Take part in any discussion by the partnership group on the matter, but have no part in any decision-making in respect of that matter and leave the meeting during the decision-making.

5.6 **Managing conflict:**

5.6.1 The Bolton Vision partnership will operate on a consensus basis where possible. Where normal healthy debate develops into conflict such as to threaten the operation of the partnership, the matter will be discussed by officers or Chief Executives from the relevant agencies or organisations with a view to seeking a resolution.

5.7 **Review:**

This Concordat and the Terms of Reference of the supporting partnerships will be reviewed by the Vision Steering Group as necessary, but at least every two years.

This Concordat is dated....

Signatories to the Concordat:

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Stronger Communities Partnership - Minutes

Friday 19th September 2008, 2:00pm, Victoria Hall

Present:	Cllr Cliff Morris	Bolton Council (Leader of the Council)
	Cllr Roger Hayes	Bolton Council (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)
	Dave Bagley	Urban Outreach – Voluntary & Community Sector)
	Karen Minnitt	Bolton Community Voluntary Services (Bolton CVS) – (Voluntary & Community Sector)
	Yaseer Ahmed	Bolton Council of Mosques (Faith Sector)
	Stephanie Crossley	Bolton Council, Adult & Community Services Department
	Lesley Jones	Bolton Primary Care Trust
	Anwer Patel	Business Leader, MD of Cohen's Chemist Ltd. (Business sector)
	Julie Thompson	Bolton Council (Children Services Department)
	Anne Read	Head of Tonge Moor Primary School
	Nafisah Atcha	Youth MP, Children Services
	Niall McGloin	Youth MP, Children Services
	Revd. Philip Mason	Chair of Third Sector Forum & Cultural Partnership (Voluntary & Community Sector)
	Dave Flitcroft	Greater Manchester Police
In attendance	Jeff Smethurst	Bolton Council (Development & Regeneration Department)
	David Winstanley	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Carol James	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Margaret Appleton	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Jennifer Maher	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Ciara Steele	Bolton Council (Children's Services)
Apologies:	Cllr John Walsh	Bolton Council (Leader of the Conservative Group)

1 Introductions

Carol James (Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Renewal & Partnerships) welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out the context for the new Stronger Communities Partnership. Bolton's restructured Local Strategic Partnership, Bolton Vision is to be supported by six thematic partnerships (Health Partnership, Bolton Strategic Economic Partnership, Bolton Skills Board, BeSafe Partnership, Cleaner & Greener Partnership & Stronger Communities Partnership). The 'Strong & Confident' theme will be the responsibility of a Stronger Communities Partnership. The overarching role of this

partnership is to contribute to the Bolton 'Our Vision' Sustainable Community Strategy. The Strategy's overall aim is to develop community wellbeing by ensuring economic prosperity for all and by narrowing the gap between the most and the least well off. The supporting six partnerships will all contribute to this. Whilst the development of a strong community is a worthwhile aim in itself, it is also a means by which the other aims of the Community Strategy will be achieved. The Partnership will include representative stakeholders from partnerships and organisations which have a clear role in forging stronger communities, including those sectors and agencies involved with housing, cohesion, culture and the voluntary sector. It is envisaged that the core group of the Partnership will meet every two months to develop and deliver its work plan. A wider network will be established and will meet once/twice a year.

2 Chair

Cllr Morris was nominated as Chair of the Stronger Communities Partnership and this was agreed by the Group.

3 Role of the Stronger Communities Partnership

Jeff Smethurst gave a presentation which explained the role of the Stronger Communities Partnership, which will have an overview, enabling and influencing role, ensuring that all themed partnerships and stakeholders are able to contribute to their full potential. The partnership will need to look at what constitutes a "strong community" and how to promote the development of such communities through its work. In addition to this wide-ranging remit, the Partnership will be responsible for the delivery of more specific outcomes as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and covering areas including Housing, Culture, Community Cohesion and Voluntary and Community activity.

Presentation Attached

4 What is a Stronger & Confident Bolton?

Cllr Morris posed the question to the group 'what is a stronger & confident Bolton'? Below are the comments & ideas provided by the group:

- Capacity & skills building so local people benefit from economic prosperity in Bolton;
- Promoting & encouraging community engagement;
- Appropriate communication channels need to be improved between the Stronger Communities Partnership and all other thematic partnerships to help bring priorities and actions together.
- Need to reach local communities & people so we can hear their views
- Confidence to disagree
- Aspiration
- Intergenerational work – ways in which we can bring younger & older people together
- Developing confidence to participate
- Local involvement and more engage communities
- Not abdicating responsibility, community to take back some of the ownership & organisations 'giving up' some of their control
- Longer term view & shorter term strategies

- Resource infrastructure organisations to support & allow sustained local engagement

Stronger & Confident Big Issues?

The following comments were received

- Community Cohesion
- Community engagement
- Intergeneration work – bringing younger & older people together

ACTION:

- 1. Need to look at what is the remit of the partnership and how it can best contribute**
- 2. Need to look at how Safer and Stronger partnership can work together and its role**
- 3. Officers to prepare a draft strategy/action plan for consideration for the Partnership at its next meeting.**

5 Community Cohesion

David Winstanley, Assistant Chief Executive, Bolton Council provided some background regarding Community Cohesion in Bolton. In 2007, Bolton Council had commissioned (on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership) the Institute for Community Cohesion (iCoCo) to report on community cohesion in the Borough. At the same time, events in the UK and other parts of the world had led to a new emphasis by government on race relations in the UK, which saw other publications produced such as the Government 'Our Shared Futures' report and most recently, the 2008 Prevent Agenda for addressing the threat of violent extremism. These have been factored in to the draft Cohesion Strategy, which had been circulated to the group. A review of the list of responses which have been put forward to the recommendations of all three reports and identify from this list its main priorities as the basis of a Community Cohesion Action Plan for the Borough.

The role of the Stronger Communities Group will be to:

1. Review the draft Community Cohesion Strategy to ensure that it reflects our current approach to community cohesion
2. Initiate a consultation process to ensure that all key partners in community cohesion understand and support our approach; and
3. Review our responses to the recommendations of the iCoCo, Our Shared Future and Prevent reports and identify our key priorities as the basis of an Action Plan to support the Community Cohesion Strategy.

For a copy of the draft Community Cohesion Strategy please contact David Winstanley (Tel: 331200 or email: david.winstanley@bolton.gov.uk)

ACTIONS:

- All comments on the Draft Community Cohesion Strategy be forwarded to David Winstanley
- A meeting to be organised and attended by all leading representatives to review responses to the iCoCo, Our Shared Futures and Prevent Reports and identify key priorities as the basis of an Action Plan to support the Community Cohesion Strategy.
- At the next meeting the partnership to consider how activities can be measured & monitored & delivered against the objectives of the Community Cohesion Strategy.

6 The Role & Membership of this Group

Cllr Morris asked there appears to be any gaps in membership. Some of the suggestions included:-

- New & emerging communities
- Older people representative, perhaps approach a voluntary organisation
- Faith groups

7 What information do we need to consider?

Carol James informed the group of possible data/information which could be considered to support the development of the action plan & future work. Information such as the PLACE & BME survey will help us to identify our key priorities and where the gaps are which will form the basis of an Action Plan to support the delivery of a stronger and confident community.

The PLACE survey will enable us to measure respondents' views on issues such as local satisfaction, which will help us to address the issues affecting how residents feel about their local area and also the level of participation in regular volunteering, which is one sign of strong, active communities.

8 AOB

Date of next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th November 2008. Future dates to be confirmed shortly

Stronger Communities Partnership – Draft Minutes

Tuesday 18th November 2008, 2:00pm, Elizabethan Lounge

Present:	Cllr Cliff Morris	Bolton Council (Leader of the Council)
	Cllr Roger Hayes	Bolton Council (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)
	Cllr John Walsh	Bolton Council (Leader of the Conservative Group)
	Dave Bagley	Urban Outreach – Voluntary & Community Sector)
	Mo Mangera	Bolton Council of Mosque's (Faith Sector)
	Karen Minnitt	Bolton Community Voluntary Services (Bolton CVS) – (Voluntary & Community Sector)
	Jay Patel	Bolton Hindu Forum (Faith Sector)
	Lesley Jones	Bolton Primary Care Trust
	Peter Smith	St Vincent's Housing Association
	Marie Sharples	Attending on behalf of Anne Read, Head of Tonge Moor Primary School
	Niall McGloin	Youth MP, Children Services
In attendance	Revd. Philip Mason	Chair of Third Sector Forum & Cultural Partnership (Voluntary & Community Sector)
	Jeff Smethurst	Bolton Council (Development & Regeneration Department)
	David Winstanley	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Carol James	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Stephanie Crossley	Bolton Council, Adult & Community Services Department
	Julie Thompson	Bolton Council (Children Services Department)
	Karen Johnston	Bolton Council, Legal & Democratic Services, Department)
	Margaret Appleton	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Jennifer Maher	Bolton Council (Chief Executives Department)
	Ciara Steele	Bolton Council (Children's Services)
Apologies:	Anwer Patel	Business Leader, MD of Cohen's Chemist Ltd. (Business sector)
	Chan Palmer	Bolton Interfaith Council (Faith Sector)

1 Welcome – Previous Minutes

Cllr Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. It was mentioned that

someone is needed to represent older people on the partnership and a suggestion was made that Gareth Evans from Age Concern attend future meetings which was agreed by the group.

2 Terms of Reference

Carol James explained to the Partnership the Terms of Reference for the group and that it will operate in accordance with the Concordat of the Bolton Vision Partnership. The Terms of Reference which includes the roles & responsibilities, Leadership, Performance Management, Partnership and Membership set out in the Terms of Reference were agreed by the group.

3. Strategy Action Plan

A copy of the Strategy Action Plan was distributed to the membership for their consideration and Jeff explained what it is.

The plan sets out the Stronger Communities Partnership responsibilities across 5 themes which are Housing/Homelessness, Harmony/Cohesion, Volunteering, Culture, cross cutting and other issues. Sitting underneath these are the relevant indicator(s) from the Community Strategy Bolton Our Vision 2007-2017, Community Strategy 3 year plan and Community Cohesion. Partners have been delivering successfully interventions and projects which have contributed towards delivering better outcomes within the Strong and Confident Theme and these have been included in the Action Plan. In addition, the plan also includes the Issues identified by the partnership at its first inaugural meeting on the 19th September 2008.

The Action Plan also aims to help the partnership identify where the gaps are so that additional interventions can be delivered to ensure outcomes are achieved where appropriate.

Philip Mason explained that the Strategic Cultural Forum will be carrying out a mapping exercise to identify what cultural activity is taking place currently. The results of this exercise will help to identify good practice and gaps in provision, which will be fed back to the partnership at a future meeting.

4. Performance report

The partnership received a copy of the report 'Delivering stronger communities outcomes, quarter 2 2008/09'. This short report is to update the partnership on the findings from an exercise which tests how well prepared the Council and its partners are doing to deliver the priority outcomes in the Community Strategy 3-year plan. Within the Strong and Confident theme a small number of areas have been highlighted where more work needs to be done to satisfy the outcomes within the Strong and Confident theme and some key actions to do this. Areas around Harmony/Cohesion, Housing/Homelessness, Active Community/Volunteering would benefit from further attention and focus to ensure we deliver the outcomes.

The report also proposes a way forward in terms of strengthening performance management of the Strong and Confident Bolton theme to enable the partnership to effectively fulfill its role around driving the outcomes within its remit.

The analysis from the PLACE survey which replaces the General Residents Survey is likely to be available at the end of February. The Place Survey will

supply the data by which a number of national and local indicators will be measured and is a tool which will help us to understand the views of local people.

The partnership is asked to:

- Comment on the findings of the assessment undertaken around the outcomes within the Strong and Confident Theme
- Agree to delegate responsibility for ongoing performance management of the outcomes to a sub-group of officers and partners leading on the individual indicators.
- Agree that the sub-group should bring back a more detailed action plan to ensure we deliver the outcomes to the next meeting
- Agree to receive further performance management reports at least quarterly as part of regular Stronger Communities Partnership meetings.
- Karen Johnston to forward a copy of the PLACE survey to the Partnership

5. Harmony (Community Cohesion)

David Winstanley reported back to the partnership that the Community Strategy for the Borough was approved by the Vision Steering Group on the 18th November 2008. The Partnership will be responsible for further developing the strategy in terms of appropriate targets, milestones etc and oversee its implementation.

Other key task include:-

- Identify the overall targets for the 4 key indicators which will measure out success in delivering the vision
- Identify specific targets, outcomes and output measures, milestones and related timescales for each of the 14 'flagship actions'
- Ensure that these targets, together with responses to the 104 detailed recommendations are built into action plans of all the relevant Vision priority Theme Partnerships

6. Area Based Grant

As agreed at the last meeting a list of projects which are currently being supported through Area Based Grant was provided to the partnership for consideration. A summary for each funded activity is included in the report to help the partnership understand the current level of activity, what is being delivered and how each activity is contributing towards our outcomes as set out in the Community Strategy, in particular around areas such as Housing, Culture, Community Cohesion and Voluntary.

A new funding stream from Government is available to deliver cohesion projects. However, there are no projects against this at the moment. The Partnership now need to begin thinking about what projects need to be delivered here which fit with the Cohesion action plan.

7. Any Other business

The Vision Conference will be held on the 9th December in the Platinum Suite, Reebok Stadium. The conference is an opportunity to celebrate the partnership's successes over the past 12 months and to look at our progress made against key priorities since the last conference.

A request was made by the partnership for an update on the new Neighbourhood Management arrangements at a future meeting.

ACTION Discuss new Neighbourhood Renewal arrangements at a future meeting

8. Date of Next Meeting

4th March 2009, 2:00pm Artillery Suite, Bolton Town Hall

24th June 2009 at 2:00pm, Elizabethan Lounge, Bolton Town Hall

2nd September 2009, 2:00pm, Elizabethan Lounge, Bolton Town Hall

2nd December 2009, 2:00pm, Lancaster Suite, Bolton Town Hall