

SSP OMG 2 June 2009: Notes of Meeting

Present:

Tom Charnock (TC), Brian Mattock (BM), Janet Beattie (JB), Alison Chamberlain (AC), Nick Stephenson (NS), Steve Henderson (SH), Stella Milsom (SM), Paul Gregory (PG), Stephen Cains (SC)

Apologies: James Griffin, Mike Pringle

Key issues and decisions:

- NS/Engagement Team to contact VAS & Link Co-ordinator re: Link Programme
- JB to send date for the next Conference to delegates for diaries
- AC to contact Youth Representative to ascertain 'reach'
- AC to send VAS information for Geographic representative election
- Development session to be arranged for August around 'burning issues'

Discussion and Decisions

1. **Notes of last meeting and matters arising** – notes of last meeting agreed and signed off.

2. Core Strategy

Stephen Cains joined the group and gave an update on the Core Strategy. The proposed submission document will go to Cabinet on 10th June and Full Council on the 16th July. It will then be released for public consultation in July for a period of 8 weeks, where there will be opportunity to look at the robustness of the document. It will then be submitted to the Government Office for the South West in October 2009 and will be subject to an independent public examination in February/March 2010. It is expected that the Core Strategy will be adopted in September 2010.

SC added that once adopted the document will provide a planning framework that will guide development in the Borough over the period to 2026.

TC asked when the Core Strategy is next due for renewal, SC replied probably 2011, but the team will be looking at the next key piece of work after the Core Strategy is adopted which is a site allocation and development strategy.

PG asked if there are any proposed boundary changes yet known. AC replied that the Boundary Commission will be looking at our boundaries in November this year and will report in November 2010.

3. Equalities Issues

Nick Stephenson shared the proposed Coalition Review Consultation with the group, gave a brief background to the current coalitions and shared where the discussions have been going so far. He added that the question we need to answer is 'Do we need six separate coalition meetings?', that are often attended by the same people. He added that we also need to think about different ways of engaging with the community, e.g. Swindon Festival, PRIDE, etc. The proposal is to have one Equality Coalition with four coalition events each year, with the aim of focussing on working together to bring about change and improve life chances and experience for groups which experience discrimination. The coalition event could attract national speakers and reach a bigger set of people. Virtual membership will also be looked at which will give people a different opportunity to get involved. TC asked if there was a budget allocated to do this? NS answered that currently there is a budget to run meetings and to cover engagement events (currently at £20,000), but it is not necessarily used effectively. NS added that Adult Social Care also have a Disabled Coalition and they would be willing to pool resources. TC asked if the coalitions feel pushed around would they see this as a part of a grand plan? We need to be very clear when describing the way forward in the planning of this and working with the Equalities Advisory Forum. PG added that some Coalitions see themselves as a social club and an opportunity to criticise what the Council is doing, although this has been turned around in the last couple of years with EAF. The initial idea is to have a more comprehensive coalition (i.e. Faith hadn't been represented). TC suggested that the Link database, which currently has 1600 members, could be a useful tool for the coalitions to link to. NS to follow up with the Engagement team.

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4. Conference Planning

AC shared the draft Conference agenda with the group. NS added that he can get a national speaker for the morning Equality session, but he has also looked at a Nottingham case study, which he shared with the group, and he would delve into this a bit further. SM will speak to the Locality Manager in Nottingham and feedback to the team. BM asked if the conference will be used to finalise the coalition consultation responses. The group discussed this option.

The group agreed the proposed draft agenda and asked that the Partnership Team start to advertise the Conference date and move the agenda forward.

5. New Members

AC gave a brief background to this conversation which followed on from the review of the OMG group. In November 2008 when the group agreed there were gaps in two areas for membership in Youth and Geographical. AC added that she had received two nominations for a Youth representative, Daniel Rose Chair of the Swindon Youth Partnership, and with the groups agreement she will set up a meeting to speak to him. The group agreed. AC added that the Youth Parliament member had been approached in the past, but he is too busy to be able to contribute to this group.

Geographical – this vacancy arose following the resignation of Ruth Hursey, who was the chair of the Neighbourhood Renewal Task Groups. Discussion around how we can get geographical representation onto the group without turning the group into a CPCP group and without diluting the work which OMG has a responsibility for. After careful consideration the group decided that we recruit 7 Geographical reps who will sit on the OMG Plus Sub Group – one rep from the seven will then represent the OMG Plus Sub Group on the main OMG for an initial period of 1 year. There was discussion around nominations and it was agreed that VAS could help with this process.

TC asked AC to send VAS the names of the existing OMG + members as they are already interested parties.

6. AOB

LAA2 end of Year 1 info – AC will send the information out to members by e-mail. Done 4/6/09.

Place Survey – Brief report and key findings have been sent to the group, there is also a copy of the 92 slides and dialogue on the Swindon Strategic Partnership website, www.swindonsp.org.uk The Place Survey information has been fed to the Cluster Leads. Information went to the last Interfaith Partnership meeting, Sophie Duncan is still waiting for validation on some national information. AC to check with Sophie when this will be available. SM will also check out the current position and advise the team.

Development Session Outcome Based Accountability - At a previous meeting the idea of a development session day for the group was discussed, to help think about burning issues which don't seem to be moving along. SM agreed to run the session, based on the OBA tool and "Turning the Curve" philosophy. The 18th August was proposed, but as this was the middle of the holidays was not considered appropriate for an extended meeting, we will keep the 12.00 – 2.00 meeting in case we need Conference input. Friday 6th November is the new suggested date. (it is envisaged that the session will run from approx 10.00 to 2.00).

Scrutiny – AC advised the group that the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee had changed and she would check with the Scrutiny section if the new Chair is happy for the OMG to sit as observers at the meetings relating to LAA and Community Strategy.

CPCP – TC asked if a cluster meetings log had been established and if there are any details around who is attending the meetings. AC to put briefing together with progress so far.

Date and time of next meeting

OMG Plus – 14th July, 12-2 CR 1