

## SSP OVERVIEW & MONITORING GROUP MEETING

### Minutes of Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Rosemary Power (RP) Faith Representative (Chair)  
 Joe Backshell (JB) Equalities Representative  
 Alison Chamberlain (AC) SBC  
 Angela Clack (ACI) SBC  
 Janet Beattie (JEB) SBC

Tom Charnock (TC) WALC  
 Steven Richards (SR) SWRDA  
 Dilys Huggins (DH) SBC  
 Lawrence Murphy (LM) SBC

#### Apologies for Absence:

Ruth Hursey (RH) Renewal Task Group  
 Huw Lloyd Jones (HLJ) GOSW  
 Matt Gott (MG) SBC

Geoffrey Hammond (GH) Environment Representative  
 Cllr Colin Lovell (CL) SBC

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
1	<p><u>Round Robin</u></p> <p>The group introduced themselves to Angela Clack &amp; Lawrence Murphy from Forward Planning Department.</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes and matters arising</u></p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed off as a true record.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date for New Sustainable Community Strategy Gap Analysis meeting confirmed as Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the meeting will be held in the Civic Offices CR 2.</li> <li>• DH updated the group on her recent meeting with Forum for the Future, which included proposals for a sustainability Audit for the Council. Desktop review will be undertaken during March &amp; April, workshops with Officers, Directors, Members and Cabinet will be held in May and June. Improvement Plan will then be written and returned to the Council. Gavin Jones is very keen and it is suggested that Practice Leaders for Sustainability are developed. DH added it will help people's understanding of what sustainable means.</li> <li>• Reports from Block Chairs – AC updated the group on performance of the LAA, and added that the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>refresh document is currently with the Government awaiting sign-off. A performance report will be prepared for the LAA Partnership Board in April which will include the first years information. A performance monitoring regime will be set up, and quarterly reports will go to the LAA Partnership Board &amp; SSP. JB raised his concern over the SSP group’s understanding of the data. AC suggested a meeting between a member of the Performance Team and JB to look at data, promises, etc, a sort of teaching session. JB welcomed this idea. AC to action. RP added that the group were thinking of inviting the Chairs of the 4 blocks of the LAA in to future SSP meetings. JB added that before the chairs are invited, the group need to be very sure what they are asking to Chairs to attend for. TC suggested that the reports from the blocks are looked at in the first instance. AC added that the 9 month review of the LAA has now been completed and she will send this to the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Work programme/Away Day with Partnership Board</u> - the group are still keen to have a joint meeting with the Partnership Board. MG to arrange after the refresh has been agreed.</li> </ul>	<p>Alison</p> <p>Alison</p> <p>Alison/Matt</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><u>New Sustainable Community Strategy</u></p> <p>DH updated the group on the current status of the NSCS – the summary of the notes from the workshops went to Partnership Board last week which prompted a very lively debate. Gavin Jones wants the Partnership Board to be the Project Board for NSCS with the SSP group owning it. The general consensus is to reflect the 6 themes in the current Community Strategy instead of the 8 themes Government suggested. DH added the NSCS will run to 2026 to tie in with the Spatial Strategy. NSCS will be high level and strategic, delivery will be via other strategies and the LAA will be the delivery vehicle. DH added that partners such as Cabinet, Corporate Board and LAA Board are supporting this approach. SR asked who the strategy is for and how are the strategies translated to the people on the ground? DH added Community engagement is vital throughout the consultation period. DH added that the LAA Partnership Board has the long-term delivery responsibility, which is why we need them on board for the NSCS. JB asked if DH saw the OMG in a different role, DH explained that the OMG have a vital role in pulling all the parts of the NSCS together, and added that she is looking to the OMG for the challenge and engagement of key partners, which will be vital to its success.</p> <p>RP added that she is glad all groups are on board, each group has a different role and the OMG provides the long-term overview of the NSCS, but the two groups need to come together to discuss this. DH added that a good question for the Partnership Board &amp; OMG joint meeting agenda would be the Roles and best use of</p>	

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	<p>resources. This joint event is needed sooner rather than later.</p> <p>RP added that part of the work of the OMG is to look at the gaps and linkages with other obvious strategies such as the Climate Change Action Plan. Balance is needed between the long-term strategic thinking and the delivery.</p> <p>TC raised his concern over the lack of Rural and Parish representation on the LAA Partnership Board. TC is also concerned that the Borough does not currently have a Rural Strategy. He added that time is against us, because the Partnership Board do not have a champion for Rural or Climate Change. Rural isn't just about hedges, it's the link with economic development as well. TC stated his concerns as (1) who is going to Champion Rural and Parish at LAA Partnership Board level; (2) who in the LAA Partnership Board is going to move rural strategy and climate change forward at local and regional level, and, (3) who is to Champion the production of a Rural Strategy for Swindon. TC asked for this item to be referred to Gavin Jones.</p> <p>RP added that the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy also needs to be kept an eye on. Alison added that an update on the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is on the agenda for the March meeting.</p> <p>RP added that she will have her first meeting with Cllr Bluh, the Chair of the Partnership Board, on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, and monthly meetings between the two chairs are being arranged. RP added that she was delighted to receive the workshop notes from the team, and thanked DH for her work on this.</p>	<p>Alison</p> <p>Alison</p> <p>Alison/Janet</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Core Strategy</u></p> <p>Angela Clack and Lawrence Murphy introduced themselves to the group and handed out the Core Strategy Questionnaire and added that they are currently spreading the word on the Core Strategy. Angela went on to explain what the Core Strategy was and how the consultation is progressing. Lawrence added that the preparation of the Core Strategy will be based on the SBC Local Development Framework. TC raised concern again that Rural was not included in the Local Development Framework. Angela added that bespoke questionnaires were sent out to Parish Councils and rural communities and a good response has been received. SR asked where the Core Strategy links to the other documents in particular Swindon 2026. Angela added that the Core Strategy is in the very early stages. TC asked how do Forward Planning know</p>	

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	<p>what policies are being pulled together in the Council. DH added that this is a major problem for the Council, which is why the Policy Gateway is being introduced.</p> <p>Angela added that it is a statutory requirement for SBC to produce a Core Strategy and explained that the Core Strategy will be a major player alongside the Community Strategy with the LAA being the main delivery plan for 3 years. Angela added that the Infrastructure Delivery Board will be the link to the LAA Partnership Board (via Claire Yeates), AC to liaise with Claire.</p> <p>RP raised her concern that Swindon Churches Together were not on the list of consultees. RP to send Angela the contact details. Angela would welcome comments on the questionnaire, by 9<sup>th</sup> March. DH added that a lot of the feedback from the Core Strategy will link to the NSCS. DH added it would be helpful for Angela and Alison to meet to discuss sharing information. RP thanked Angela and Lawrence for the information.</p>	<p>Alison</p> <p>Alison</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><u>Swindon Compact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC advised that a request for funds from Chris Lau had been received and agreed by Matt.</li> <li>• TC added that by the June Conference the 3 existing codes in the Compact will be refreshed, the BME Code will be released and all will be handed back to SSP as a completed project.</li> <li>• RP added that the Group needs clarification on who owns the Compact and where it should sit - what is the formal process re: complaint issues? AC to check.</li> </ul> <p><u>Constitution of the group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RP concerned that the group is now small, and feels that areas of expertise could be missing.</li> <li>• TC added that the group has changed from creating Policies/Strategies, with the exception of the NSCS, to the overview and monitoring of them, and feels that if expertise is needed it can be requested that appropriate people are invited to a meeting to discuss certain issues.</li> <li>• DH reiterated that the NSCS has to be run by SBC but owned by the SSP OMG, the LAA PB needs to be on board for the delivery, but monitoring has to rest with SSP OMG.</li> <li>• RP concerned that Cllr Lovell did not turn up for the meeting. AC to check.</li> </ul>	<p>Alison</p> <p>Alison</p>

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	<p><u>GOSW rep</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the reorganisation at GOSW, Huw Lloyd-Jones will be replaced with Renee Smith- Gorringe.</li> </ul> <p><u>Website</u></p> <p>SSP website has now been re-launched at <a href="http://www.swindonsp.org.uk">www.swindonsp.org.uk</a></p>	
6	<p><u>Date and time of next meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – 4.00 – 6.00 pm – Committee Room 5, Civic Offices</li> </ul>	

Agreed and signed as a correct record: ..... Date: .....