

Agenda Item 5

The West of England Partnership

Planning and Housing Executive Members Briefing

24th April 2009
at GOSW Offices, Bristol

Present

Cllr Charles Gerrish, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jon Rogers, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council

In attendance

Peter Dawson, B&NES
Zoe Wilcox, Bristol City Council
Sarah O'Driscoll, Bristol City Council
Nick Hooper, Bristol City Council
Karuna Tharmananthar, North Somerset
Phillipa Yates, North Somerset
Jon Shaw, South Gloucestershire
Karen Ross, South Gloucestershire
David Crook, Government Office South West
Versha Korja, Homes and Communities Agency
Terry Wagstaff, West of England Partnership
Laura Grady, West of England Partnership
Tim Lansley, West of England Partnership

Nomination of Chair of the Planning, Housing and Communities Board.

Cllr Charles Gerrish announced that he would no longer be continuing as Chair of the Planning, Housing & Communities Board and nominated Cllr Matthew Riddle as his successor, this was seconded by Cllr Brian Allinson. The group thanked Cllr Gerrish and welcomed Cllr Riddle as the new Chair.

Item 1 Apologies

- 1.1 Barbara Maksymiw, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Vic Pritchard, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Elfan Ap Rees, North Somerset Council
Cllr Tim Kent, Bristol City Council
Graham Sabourne, B&NES
Kay Topazio, North Somerset

Item 2 Notes of last meeting

2.1 Cllr Gerrish advised that he had received a response to the letter requesting financial support for home adaptations for the disabled had been sent to the Government. This would be assessed and a report would be brought to the next meeting.

2.2 TW advised that the CLG had still not indicated if the funding held back from the Growth Points fund would now be provided. DC apologised that no decision had yet been made.

Item 3 Joint Waste Core Strategy

3.1 LG introduced the report and gave a brief update on the JWCS consultation, and outlined the next steps to progress the JWCS to submission stage.

3.2 LG advised that the appointed Project Managers (ERM) had undertaken an appraisal of the work done to date on the Preferred Option document. They had identified further work to be completed to support the evidence base and that the scope for the JWCS should be clarified to ensure that the JWCS provided a strategic policy framework to enable all waste management facilities to come forward in appropriate locations, both strategic and non-strategic sites. This approach will remove the necessity of the individual UAs to prepare separate Waste Development Plan Documents.

3.3 LG advised that a Progress Update will take place in June 2009 which will; summarise the main outcomes of the consultation, outline the framework for the provision of local facilities, include additional evidence base.

3.4 KT raised concern that UAs would not be required to prepare individual Waste Development Plan Documents, and wanted clarification on whether they still had an option to. LG advised that this would be for UAs to determine, but that in the absence of a timetable for completion of local Waste Development Plan Documents, the scope of the JWCS would have to provide a framework for local facilities to come forward to demonstrate to the Planning Inspectorate that that the UA Core Strategies were 'sound'.

3.5 LG advised that the summary of responses to the Consultation held between 15th January and 12th March, would be brought back to the next P,H&CB meeting. The JWCS submission document would be taken to Cabinets for approval in Oct to Nov 2009.

Item 4 Single Conversation

4.1 TW introduced the item, and outlined the purpose of the 'Single Conversation' with Government and the Homes and Communities Agency which would address investment in priority streams; Housing, Supported Housing, Infrastructure, Business Investment. The outcome would be a Joint

Investment Plan linked to broad priorities. TW advised that individual priorities would be identified and that in due course this work would be taken forward by the individual UAs.

4.2 VK advised that there is no pilot study and no set template for the Single Conversation. H&CA were looking for a 'delivery plan' to combine RSS, and Community Strategies, and to encompass the MAA priorities. It was stressed that the H&CA were not looking for another high level strategy but a focussed delivery plan.

4.3 The Chair questioned how Transport would be accounted for in this process TW advised that the RFA would be a driver to where early development could be located.

4.4 NH advised the group that looking in investment across a programme of development rather than on a site by site basis was a significant change, that would identify a package of resources over a longer time frame to deliver strategic objectives. JS advised that the West of England Housing Group had started to consider how their work programme for 2009/10 could input into the Single Conversation, and that they had identified 4 key areas to be considered.

4.5 JR expressed the need to engage with Members on this process (not just Executive), TW acknowledged that this would be discussed in the scoping meetings.

Item 5 Sub-Regional studies -updates

5.1 TL reminded members that the Government had withheld funding from Growth Points over concerns about lack of joint working across the sub-region. He advised that an action plan had been submitted to the government by the Partnership to address these concerns. The Action Plan proposed that a range of studies that would facilitate the co-ordination of Core Strategies, TL went on to provide an update on each study.

5.2 Cllr Gerrish raised concerns that briefs have been given to external consultants when housing numbers have not been agreed or endorsed by the UAs. TW advised that appropriate caveats had been and would continue to be used. KT acknowledged that the numbers were being used to support infrastructure planning and would be used as an evidence base to support the phasing of development.

5.3 Cllr Gerrish acknowledged he was reassured that there was officer input but still had some discomfort with these studies happening at this time prior to the publication of the RSS. TW advised they were needed to support Core Strategy preparation.

5.4 KT advised that developers would continue in the absence of a published RSS and that this work must continue in order to avoid planning that is shaped by individual applications. VK agreed that the better informed

an evidence base an area has, the better it can work with the HCA and other agencies responsible for delivery.

5.5 Cllr Rogers queried how mixed and sustainable communities would be provided for in particular with regard to affordable and supported housing. It was advised that this would be the basis of the Urban Design Framework – or Spatial Plan for the sub-region, and that the affordable housing evidence base would be gained from the recently completed Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

Date of next meeting 16th July 2009