

Agenda Item 3

The West of England Partnership

Planning, Housing & Communities Board meeting

16th July 2009

at BAWA, Southmead Rd, Filton, Bristol

Present

Cllr Charles Gerrish	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Vic Pritchard	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jon Rogers	Bristol City Council
Cllr Dr Mark Wright	Bristol City Council
Cllr Elfan Ap Rees	North Somerset
Cllr Brian Allinson	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council

In attendance

David Trigwell	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Graham Sabourn	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Zoe Wilcox	Bristol City Council
Dick Sage	Bristol City Council
Lesley Alexander	Bristol City Council
Cllr Gary Hopkins	Bristol City Council
Michael Reep	North Somerset
Philip Anelay	North Somerset
Jon Shaw	South Gloucestershire
Barbara Maksymiw	South Gloucestershire
Cllr Peter Tyzack	South Gloucestershire
Gary Hendry	Government Office South West
Terry Wagstaff	West of England Partnership
Laura Grady	West of England Partnership
Natalie Maletras	ERM Consultants

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

Item 1 Annual Business

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Matthew Riddle was nominated Chair and Cllr Vic Pritchard Vice Chair.

Membership

The Membership of the Board was noted and engagement with SEEPs agreed.

Dates and Venues for meetings

Noted

2009/10 Forward Plan

Jon Shaw requested that the Options for commissioning a "HomeWest 2" Delivery Vehicle were added to the forward plan.

ACTION WEP to amend the forward plan.

Item 2 Apologies for absence

David Crook	GOSW
Kay Topazio	North Somerset
Karuna Tharmananthar	North Somerset
Nick Hooper	Bristol City Council

Item 3 Declarations of Interest.

None

Item 4 Member and Public Forum

No petitions, statements or questions were brought to the Board.

Item 5 Notes of last meeting

5.1 TW informed the Board that the Heads of Housing Strategy (HoHS) sought clarification from the last meeting around the outcome of the discussion regarding a Housing Co-ordinator post.

5.2 Graham Sabourn HoHS at B&NES and Chair of HomesWest reminded the Board that the HoHS had proposed that a post was needed to support the Housing Group and HomesWest works streams. The current understanding was that the post had been agreed in principle and the HoHS wished the Board to confirm this so that they could make progress with the appointment.

5.3 Cllr Elfan Ap Rees stated that he felt North Somerset had made their position very clear and that they did not support any future posts or expansion of the West of England Partnership and added that the funds were not available at this time.

5.4 Jon Shaw clarified for the group that the funds for the first year could be subsidised by existing funds resulting from an under-spend on Homeswest. JS did acknowledge however that they were asking for continued commitment to fund the post in future years.

5.5 GS proposed that the HoHS brought a business case back to the Board.

ACTION: HoHS to bring a business case for the housing co-ordinator post to the next meeting.

5.6 GS also updated the Board on the Funding for Disabled Facilities Grant in the West of England, and circulated copies of the letter received from Baroness Andrews OBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. The letter

acknowledges the increasing costs and proposes that the Local Housing Authorities should approach Strategic Health Authorities as the issue is a shared agenda. GS asked if the Board were happy for the HoHS to action this and write to the Strategic Health Authority.

5.7 Cllr Vic Pritchard felt that the response was very unsatisfactory, and that the responsibility was being passed on. He felt we should write back to Baroness Andrews and express our disappointment with this proposal. Cllr Gerrish agreed the response was not satisfactory but suggested that we need to action the proposal to contact the Strategic Health Authority.

ACTION: HoHS to write to the Strategic Health Authority seeking contribution to funding disabled facilities Grant in the West of England.

5.8 Cllr Gerrish asked for clarification on the other funding streams available for affordable and supported housing with reference to a recent communication stating a deadline for bids of 31st July. Cllr Gerrish queried that if B&NES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire were not local housing authorities in the sense that they no longer hold affordable housing stock, could they bid for funding from the £100 million pot announced in the recent Government budget and then transfer funds to RSLs to deliver. JS and GS explained that Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire could not bid for funding from the £100 million fund. However all 4 councils could apply for 'kickstart' funding, and they confirmed that RSLs have been encouraged to apply. Cllr David Wright clarified that Bristol, as a Local Housing Authority with stock, had also put in a bid for funding from the £100 million pot.

Item 6 Joint Waste Core Strategy

6.1 LG introduced the report and gave a brief update on the progress and process of the JWCS including; the outcomes of the recent consultation held Jan to March 2009; an outline of the further information made available as part of the Progress Update and the timetable for preparing the submission document.

6.2 LG introduced Natalie Maletas, Project Manager and technical support to the JWCS, and Natalie outlined the policies proposed at Appendix A to the report "Proposals for the Scope and Policy Context for the JWCS".

6.3 Main discussion points included:

1. **Technologies-** If the benefits of Combined Heat and Power can be outlined (pg 5), would it be possible to have a policy for no incineration or for it to be included that the preference was to remove incineration as a waste treatment.

NM explained that the JWCS needed to provide a positive policy framework, and that it would not be possible to include a policy that explicitly stated that the Partnership did not want a particular type of technology. At the JWCS

plan level- Government Guidance advises the plan should be technology neutral. However, it was agreed that key planning consideration for sites and other environmental considerations, including sustainable aspirations would be included in the supporting text.

2. **Urban Extensions-** Given the delay to the RSS, Members expressed concern regarding the wording of the urban extension policy. In particular some authorities wished to make clear that urban extensions had not been defined or agreed.

It was agreed that the policy would indicate the potential role for potential urban extensions should the final RSS still require them.

3. **Landfill-** Members highlighted that some Sustainable Community Strategy aspirations were to have zero waste going to landfill, and requested that this should be transferred into policy as one of no landfill sites.

NM outlined the needs and capacity study that ERM had undertaken as part of the evidence base which identified that even with a challenging target of 85% of waste diverted away from landfill there may still be a requirement for landfill in the WofE and that exportation of waste to landfill was not a long term solution. Therefore NM suggested a criteria based policy would be needed against which any application for a landfill site would be judged, along with the requirement to demonstrate the need for such a site.

Members noted the report

Item 7 Single Conversation

7.1 Terry Wagstaff outlined the programme for the Single Conversation and highlighted the need for WEP and the UAs to become increasingly more explicit about our priorities in order to secure funding and maximise investment opportunities with HCA, SWRDA and other agencies.

7.2 TW also acknowledged the Roger Tym and Partners Infrastructure study and how it would be influencing the sequencing and prioritising work to be done with Heads of Housing and Heads of Planning. This work is required in order for individual UAs to be in a position in October to have bilateral conversations with HCA.

7.3 TW briefly outlined the other workstreams of the Single Conversation including the employment land study and Economic Prospectus work that the Economic Development Officers and Tim Lansley at WEPO are working on.

Members noted the report

Date of next meeting 7th September 2009

