

Sandwell Partnership

Notes of a Meeting of the Executive Board of the Sandwell Strategic Housing Forum

13th May, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

**Sandwell Community Information & Participation Services Ltd
Ground Floor, Christ Church, Birmingham Street,
Oldbury, West Midlands**

Present:

Councillor Simon Hackett (Chair) (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council [MBC]);
Julie Bridgwater (Sandwell MBC - Urban Regeneration - Partnerships and Housing Directorate - Community Involvement Manager) (**Vice Chair Community Engagement Thematic Sub Group**);
Dr Derrick Campbell (Race Equality Sandwell – Chief Executive);
Adam Carey (Director – Urban Living) (**Chair Research and Demographic Change Thematic Sub-Group**);
Kirsten Casey (Sandwell MBC – Urban Regeneration - Partnerships and Housing Directorate - Housing Partnerships Manager) (**Vice Chair Housing Development & Regeneration Thematic Group**);
Stephen Gabriel (Sandwell MBC – Urban Regeneration - Partnerships and Housing Directorate - Strategic Manager) (**Vice Chair Housing & Health Thematic Sub Group**);
John Garrett (Sandwell MBC - Adult and Community Services – Executive Director);
Lynne Hill (Accord Housing Association – Development Director) (**Chair Housing Development and Regeneration Thematic Sub-Group**);
Peter John (Sandwell MBC – Urban Regeneration - Director of Partnerships and Housing);
Jan MacMillan (Sandwell Community Involvement and Participation Services - Company Secretary) (**Chair Community Engagement Thematic Sub-Group**);
Neeraj Malhotra (- Sandwell Primary Care Trust - Public Health Specialist) (**Chair Housing and Health Thematic Sub-Group**);
Brian Oakley (Sandwell Homes - Chief Executive);

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Ralph Smith (Sandwell Primary Care Trust – Senior Public Health Information Specialist) (**Vice Chair Research and Demographic Change**);

Sara Woodall (Accord Housing Association – Chair of Community Regeneration Thematic Group).

Apologies:

Dr Chris Handy (Vice-Chair) (Accord Housing Association – Chief Executive);

Gary Bowman (Sandwell Partnership – Partnership Director).

In attendance:

Carl Griffin (Sandwell Primary Care Trust – Consultant in Public Health) (**Nominated Successor Chair Housing & Health Thematic Sub Group**).

Officer Support:

Maureen Christian (Sandwell MBC - Corporate Services - Partnerships and Housing Division - Partnerships Officer).

Nick Laws (Sandwell MBC, - Corporate Services - Partnerships and Housing Division – Commissioning & Performance Manager);

Kate Jenkins (Sandwell MBC – Corporate Services - Partnering & Improvement Division - Thematic Liaison Manager);

Harpreet Dhillon (Sandwell MBC - Corporate Services – Strategy and Communications Unit – Marketing Officer).

Apologies:

Steve Smith (Sandwell MBC – Corporate Services - Partnering & Improvement Division - Service Manager, Partnering & Improvement);

Kate Walker (Sandwell MBC - Corporate Services – Strategy & Communications Unit – Senior Press and Public Relations Officer).

17/10

Welcome to Meeting

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the “New Look” streamlined Executive Board.

18/10

Notes of Last Meeting

The notes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 4th March, 2010 were received and approved.

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19/10 **Feed-back from Local Strategic Partnership Board meetings**

In the absence of the Sandwell Partnership Director this matter was deferred.

20/10 **Performance: Report from Chairs of Thematic Groups**

Nick Laws Sandwell MBC - Corporate Services, Partnerships and Housing Division - Commissioning & Performance Manager fed back on headline performance to date. The Partnership had out-performed target on fuel power; was slightly off-target on decent homes and had exceeded targets on affordable and additional homes.

Housing Development and Regeneration Thematic Sub-Group

In view of the impending cuts by the government, the Chair (Lynne Hill – Accord Housing Association – Development Director) commented that the proposals for social housing would have to be funded in a different way. Funding had been earmarked for discussion at a future meeting of the Sub-Group.

With regard to housing redevelopment proposals generally, the Executive Board was assured that where existing residents were temporarily re-housed to make way for clearance/ new build, those residents had the right to return to the estate. However, they could also remain where they had been re-housed to if they wished.

The Executive Board asked for a comprehensive list of planned the private/ public sector housing projects in the Borough, showing their place in the Borough's strategic priorities and their place in the time-table.

Community Engagement Thematic Sub-Group

The Chair Jan MacMillan (Sandwell Community Involvement and Participation Services - Company Secretary) reported that the Sub-Group had identified that there was no mechanism in place to enable key community development workers to come together to share information and good practice.

She informed the Executive Board that the Sub-Group would be hosting a workshop to examine the feasibility of establishing a "forum" to enable this to happen.

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Research and Demographic Change Thematic Sub-Group

Given that all the Partner agencies carried out their own business research, the Executive Board asked how the Sub-Group would avoid duplication. The Chair Adam Carey – Director – Urban Living reported that ensuring that membership of the Sub-Group was made up of the appropriate agencies was the best way to make sure that relevant links were made.

The Executive Board welcomed this approach provided that the Housing focus was maintained.

Housing and Health Thematic Sub-Group

In taking forward its Action Plan, the Chair of the Sub-Group Neeraj Malhotra - Sandwell Primary Care Trust - Public Health Specialist informed the Executive that:-

- * Sandwell Homes and the Primary Care Trust had jointly hosted two multi-disciplinary events on how housing impacts on health, involving Mental Health Social Workers, Palliative Care Nurses, SCIPs, Agewell and the Fire Service (with a third session being held on 14th May, 2010) which had already seen an un-blocking of problems in the system;
- * Urban Living had allocated £300,000 to enable the Sub-Group to run a pilot until March, 2011 to look at improving working between Housing and health practitioners.

She stated that the use and promotion of the “Hub” had been integral throughout all the sessions they had hosted.

The Chair of the Executive Board thanked the Thematic Sub-Group Chairs for the feed-back on delivery of their action plans and asked that periodic reports also be fed back to the Board from the various Working Groups operating under the Sub-Groups.

Neeraj Malhotra

The Chair of the Executive Board informed members that this would be Neeraj’s last meeting of the Board as she would soon be joining the Specialised Commissioning Team of the Strategic Health Authority.

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He remarked that she had “been inspirational” during her time at Sandwell and the Executive Board joined him in wishing her well in her future career.

21/10 **The Thematic Business Plan**

Further to Note No. 12/10, Nick Laws Sandwell MBC - Corporate Services, Partnerships and Housing Division - Commissioning & Performance Manager stated that he hoped to circulate the Final Plan shortly.

He remarked that the Plan was lacking in examples of actual achievements and asked Board members to get back to him as soon as they could on what their organisation had done on the Housing Strategy.

Brian Oakley - Sandwell Homes - Chief Executive informed the Board that Sandwell Homes had recently won the award of Social Housing Landlord of the Year. The Executive Board congratulated the organisation on its receipt of the award.

The Chair commented that he had asked that a Marketing Officer from the Council’s Strategy and Communications Unit should attend the Board so that more could be done in future to make the work of the Board more known.

22/10 **“Risk Management”**

The Executive felt that the major risk from today’s meeting was the uncertainty around the short term availability of financial resources given the new government’s announcements on funding.

23/10 **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 8th July, 2010, at Smethwick Council House, High Street, Smethwick.

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24/10

Dates of Forthcoming Meetings

It was noted that meetings would be held between 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. on Thursdays:-

9th September, 2010;
18th November, 2010;
13th January, 2011;
10th March, 2011.

(Meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.)

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