

networkfareham Board Meeting Wednesday 10 December 2008

Item 4 Briefing Paper Annual Report 2007-2008

INTRODUCTION

1. This report gives an outline of networkfareham's achievements over the last 12 months. It is the first annual report since reconfiguration of the Board in 2007.
2. The Board firmly believes that more can be done by working together. The Partnership's vision is to improve the quality of life for all current and future residents by preserving all that is good about Fareham, whilst increasing prosperity and making it an even more inclusive and attractive place to be.
3. In order to achieve this vision by 2020 or earlier, networkfareham's aim is to make Fareham a borough where people:
 - Feel safer.
 - Are decently housed in homes they can afford.
 - Are fitter and healthier.
 - Have better access to well paid jobs.
 - Live in a more sustainable, greener and cleaner environment.
 - Are able to enjoy better quality open space and leisure provision.
 - Feel welcome, supported and involved in the community.
4. Trust amongst partners is growing as they appreciate the added value that partnership working can bring. There is a better understanding of the links and interdependencies between partners that is helping to deliver outcomes for local people.
5. The year ahead will see the publication of Fareham's Sustainable Community Strategy and the start of some significant progress towards improving the quality of life for the Borough's residents.

LOOKING BACK

Local Strategic Partnership structure

6. The reconfigured Board met for the first time in December 2007 when a revised partnership agreement was adopted. The current LSP structure is shown in [Figure 1](#) below consisting of an executive Board together with seven local Thematic Partnerships and associated sub-groups. Although subsidiary to the Board, each thematic partnership is a decision-making body in its own right.



Figure 1: Structure of Fareham's Local Strategic Partnership

7. Membership of the Board comprises nine representatives drawn from Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire County council and each of the seven thematic partnerships.
8. The Government's expectation is that the LSP, as a 'partnership of partnerships' will:
 - Take forward more of the bigger crosscutting issues.
 - Develop and deliver a Sustainable Community Strategy.
 - Co-ordinate a range of thematic partnerships with close ties to the Local Development Framework and the Hampshire Local Area Agreement.

Progress across the thematic partnerships

9. Every Board meeting receives a progress update from each of the thematic partnerships. A separate report sets out their achievements for the year together with a round up of their main aims and emerging priorities.
10. In May 2008, the Planning and Sustainability Partnership agreed to re-define itself as the Environment and Transport Partnership to focus on environmental sustainability and transportation issues.

Sustainable Community Strategy

11. Fareham's first Community Strategy was published in 2004. Since then, the Government has required community strategies to be reshaped with a much greater emphasis on the relationship between the strategy and other local and regional plans, with particular regard to sustainability issues and a more evidence based approach.

12. The **networkfareham** Board has commissioned the re-shaping of the existing Community Strategy into a Sustainable Community Strategy creating a long-term sustainable vision for the Borough whilst contributing to the improvement priorities detailed in the Hampshire Area Agreement.
13. Initial research reviewed social, economic, environmental and health and well-being data to help identify the key issues affecting the borough. Comparative data at county, regional and national levels and for 'nearest neighbour' authorities was also reviewed. An analysis of pockets of deprivation in the borough was commissioned. Further detailed research of the Hill Park area of Fareham is to be undertaken with specific reference to the levels of deprivation relating to education and skills. A working group of ward councillors from the area and representatives from the thematic partnerships and other interested parties is being set up to drive forward this work.
14. Progress through Partnership facilitated a workshop on 2 April 2008 for those involved in partnership working, particularly in the thematic partnerships. The workshop explored the impact of the developing role of partnerships and looked at what is needed to meet new challenges and provide a way forward for better partnership working.
15. A second workshop was held on 18 April 2008 with a twofold purpose:
 - To reach a common agreement on the issues and challenges facing Fareham and the priorities to be developed within the Sustainable Community Strategy.
 - To agree a draft vision for Fareham for approval by the **networkfareham** Board ensuring that it reflects the views of the thematic partnerships.
16. Fareham's Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed simultaneously with Hampshire County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy, the Hampshire Local Area Agreement and Fareham's Local Development Framework.
17. A draft of the main body of the strategy was received by the Board in September 2008 to which an action plan and graphics are to be added. A summary document is being produced for public consultation in 2009.

Website development

18. The **networkfareham** website went live in March 2008. It provides a communication channel for the partnership to update people on new strategies, policies, news, meetings and events. Each thematic partnership has an area in which to promote their activities.

FUNDING

Budget 2007/08

19. A budget of £10,250 was available for project work and the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy as shown in [Table 1](#) below.

	Cr		Dr
Balance b/f	4,000	SCS	3,600
Hampshire CC	6,250	D&MAG project work	2,363
Fareham BC	5,000	Website development	111
		Balance b/d	9,176
	<u>£15,250</u>		<u>£15,250</u>

Table 1: networkfareham Budget 2007/08

20. The underspend of £4,176 was represented by the delayed development of the Sustainable Community Strategy (£2,500), lower website development costs (£889) and cash in hand for projects (£787).
21. A new two-year agreement took effect on 1 April 2008 to employ a Joint co-ordinator to ensure that the Fareham and Gosport LSPs function effectively. Five partners each contributed to the cost of the post as shown in [Table 2](#) below.

	£
Hampshire County Council (Split 50:50 between Fareham BC and Gosport BC)	10,500
Hampshire Primary Care Trust	10,500
Hampshire Constabulary	6,500
Fareham Borough Council	5,250
Gosport Borough Council	5,250
Total	<u>£38,000</u>

Table 2: Joint Co-ordinator Post Funding 2007/08

Estimated budget 2008/09

22. An estimated budget of £18,700 is available for project work and the ongoing development of the Sustainable Community Strategy as shown in [Table 3](#) below.

	Cr		Dr
Balance b/f	9,200	D&MAG Project	5,000
Hampshire CC	4,750	Deprivation Report	1,500
Fareham BC	4,750	Meeting expenses	42
		Travel expenses	25
		Balance b/d	12,133
	<u>£18,700</u>		<u>£18,700</u>

Table 3: networkfareham Estimated Budget 2008/09

23. A further £38,000 has been set aside for funding the Joint Co-ordinator's post on the same basis as shown in [Table 2](#) above.

Project funding

24. The Debt and Money Advice Group was awarded a grant of £2363 in 2007/08 for consultancy work provided by The i Network on a credit union project funding bid to the Big Lottery that was unfortunately unsuccessful.
25. The group is now seeking to extend Portsmouth Savers services into the boroughs of Fareham and Gosport (to be rebranded as Fareham Savers and Gosport Savers). In 2008/09, the networkfareham Board has awarded a grant of £5,000 that is expected to be matched with £5,000 from Gosport's Community Chest. Portsmouth Housing Association is providing additional funding of £1,500.
26. A bid to support the Fareham Exercise Referral Scheme is expected, for which £5,000 has been set aside. A bid from the Fareham and Gosport Drug and Alcohol Reference Group may also be received towards which a contribution may be available through an increase in funding by Fareham Borough Council.

Expenses claims policy

27. The networkfareham Board has agreed a policy for the reimbursement of qualifying claims for reasonable travelling and out-of-pocket expenses. These are payable to members of the networkfareham Board and thematic partnerships for attending meetings, seminars and workshops in pursuance of networkfareham's aims and objectives.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

28. This section provides a 'light touch' review of a range of key issues relating to how the LSP has operated since it was reconfigured a year ago.

Achievement and impact

Strengths	Areas for future improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconfigured LSP structure.• Commitment of key partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the LSP's profile with partner organisations and local people.• Engagement with the Local Area Agreement.

29. The LSP's new structure has seen an advance from the LSP being regarded as a 'talking shop' towards a strong and focused body capable of delivering real results. This momentum will gather pace as partners develop approaches to build the LSP's priorities into their day-to-day roles.
30. Several partners, including the Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire Primary Care Trust, Hampshire Constabulary and Fareham Community Action, increasingly see the LSP as the key mechanism for jointly agreeing a vision for the borough as well as planning and jointly delivering services.
31. A new Local Area Agreement is being developed by Hampshire County Council but so far, there has been limited engagement with the district councils. Future engagement will inevitably be proportionate to the benefit achievable for Fareham's communities although lobbying and funding opportunities will need to be pursued with vigour.
32. Engagement with all sectors of Fareham's community is progressing although the LSP 'brand' is not generally well known or understood.

Vision and strategy

Strengths	Areas for future improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Vision has been agreed. • The draft Sustainable Community Strategy is soon to go out to consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain robust baseline data. • Pursue funding opportunities with partners and other sources.

33. The new Sustainable Community Strategy for public consultation has a clear vision underpinned by the vision statements of the thematic partnerships. This now needs to be translated into action plans that will deliver real benefits for Fareham's communities.
34. A picture of Fareham has been put together drawing on quality of life data. Research into the reasons for pockets of deprivation is under way. The whole needs to be assembled together with data from the new national indicator set into a comprehensive data set that can be regularly accessed and updated.
35. The LSP needs to be aware of sources of funding for example through the new Area Based Grants arrangements and the availability of funding from partners and other organisations.

Leadership and relationships

Strengths	Areas for future improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally very positive relationships between partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase lobbying role.

36. The size and structure of the Board enables it to be focused on key strategic issues. Processes are being developed to ensure effective and constructive challenge is encouraged and fostered between partners including holding the thematic partnerships accountable for delivering their priorities.
37. Consensus decision-making is common with partners and elected members enjoying equal status. Commitment and trust is building as the LSP shapes its longer-term vision to progress complex and challenging agendas.
38. As a second tier LSP, the Board is faced with challenging issues requiring input and resolution by organisations elsewhere. There is scope for using lobbying techniques to gain recognition of Fareham's issues.

Governance and performance

Strengths	Areas for future improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging framework of governance. • Thematic partnerships are decision-making bodies. • Funded partnership support in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management system monitoring delivery of objectives and governance arrangements. • Alignment of objectives through partners own organisations. • Monitoring of LSP grants.

39. The LSP is engaging appropriate partners from across the borough, at the right level to ensure accountability. There is an overarching partnership agreement and the thematic partnerships either have or are developing terms of reference within set criteria.
40. There is some evidence of performance management systems being put in place. The Board will need to establish a more comprehensive system that is aligned to the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and quality of life targets across the borough. Thematic partners should look to align objectives through their own organisations.
41. The LSP has a part-time Coordinator in post and some funding to support the LSP's ongoing development and project work. An increased pooling of resources would help to make significant achievements that may otherwise not happen. LSP grants for project work should be monitored to ensure that the money has been well spent.

Learning and development

Strengths	Areas for future improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to learn and improve. • Thematic Partnerships report to each Board meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a SWOT analysis. • Close knowledge gaps. • Publicise successes.

42. The LSP has used information resulting from workshops and a review of baseline data to shape its future direction.
43. Progress reports are given by the thematic partnerships to each Board meeting enabling key issues to be addressed.
44. A SWOT analysis by the Board on its effectiveness would help it to address the issues it faces whilst maintaining its strengths.
45. Raising awareness of the LSP and how it operates will strengthen the contacts between the partner agencies. Publicising successes will raise the LSP's public profile and demonstrate recognition of staff achievements.

LOOKING FORWARD

46. The LSP Board has been reconfigured to nine members to make it more efficient and the thematic partnerships having evolved their objectives and terms of reference are now focusing on the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
47. A period of public consultation in the new year, primarily using the new Community E-Panel, will lead on to publication of the new Sustainable Community Strategy and the rolling out of action plans by the thematic partnerships for the delivery of their key priorities.
48. The LSP itself will seek to build on its governance arrangements and consolidate the baseline data that informs the Sustainable Community Strategy.
49. Other events impacting on the LSP include:
 - The delivery of the South Hampshire Sub-Regional Strategy facilitated through the South Hampshire Agreement.
 - Arrangements for the delivery of the Hampshire Local Area Agreement 2008-11, based on the draft Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy, including the future of the Government's LAA reward scheme.
 - The introduction from April 2009 of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessments. These will provide the first independent assessment of the prospects for local areas and the quality of life for people living there.
 - Consultation on the Core Strategy of Fareham's Local Development Framework is scheduled to start in January 2009.

- The first year's results of a single set of national indicators for local authorities and local authority partnerships measuring areas' progress in delivering priorities identified for central and local government in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.
50. In conclusion, the LSP finds itself well positioned to develop further and respond to the challenges ahead.