

NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES

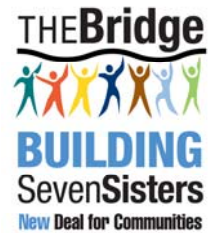
The Bridge Neighbourhood

Partnership Board

8th March 2006

7.00pm

St Ann's Library Hall



Minutes

Board Members Present: Lorne Horsford (Chair), Andrea Holden, Randolph Flatts, Rachel Hughes, Ruby Brown, Tanjou Mehmedova, Bernice Ashton, Max Caller, Pearl Amoateng, Pat Mason, Michael Oladije, Cllr Harry Lister, Cllr Dhiren Basu.

Staff present: Symon Sentain (Director), Jane Chambers, Richard Coe

Advisers

Resident/ others present:

Apologies for absence: Rahim Ullah, David Lammy MP, Cllr Nilgun Canver, Pam Morgan, Yvonne Denny, Deborah Cohen, Wilf Sullivan, Peter Stockley.

Item	Description	Action
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1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and stated that the meeting had been arranged with the sole purpose of reviewing and signing off the Delivery Plan for 2006/07.

All those present then introduced themselves to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were noted. (See above).

3. 2006/07 Delivery Plan

The Director referred the meeting to the draft Delivery Plan and draft Project Evaluation Report which had been distributed to Board Members prior to the meeting.

Copies of the financial spreadsheet known as Table E were handed out to Board Members. The Director explained that Table E showed the NDC's global spending plans for 2006/07. He stated that the totals indicated on the spreadsheet had been agreed by the Government Office for London. He went on to remind the meeting that GOL had announced a reduction in the capital budget for the NDC on 30/1/06 but that the revenue amount had been enhanced somewhat.

The Director stated that the Delivery Plan required some refinement and truncation. He added that the document needed to focus on the floor targets set for Haringey and will headline in the areas of partnership working, mainstreaming and sustainability. He commended the document to the meeting indicating that it was 90% complete.

The Chair stated that he was pleased with the Delivery Plan, describing it as a clear and structured document.

Tanjou highlighted the following issues:-

- Need for consistency of font sizes on financial tables.
- Inaccuracies in the page numbering.
- Missing outcome targets on page 9.
- Questioned if underspend from salaries could be channelled to other projects.

The Director responded by stating that the organisation was obliged to take up any underspend. He added that there was currently some level of repetition within the document that needs to be tidied up.

Michael asked how the organisation was monitoring outcome targets. He expressed concern that the number of jobless had grown by 2000 since 2004/05.

The Director pointed out that the figures quoted by Michael related to the whole of the borough and not the NDC. He advised that prior to 2005/06 the monitoring function of the NDC was sub contracted to Urban Futures but it was now in-house so there would be a better focus on outcome targets.

Pat questioned the unemployment figures that were quoted by Michael suggesting that they might relate to JSA. He also added that he would need to check the figures on pages 38 and 39.

Michael suggested that Employment Projects need to be monitored to show whether people going in to employment actually remain in employment.

The Director advised this level of monitoring should be possible in conjunction with the NDC's partner agencies like JobcentrePlus.

Pat advised that project contracts can be set to include the duration of an individual's period of employment.

Michael questioned the cost efficiencies of supporting individuals into employment. He advised that he had spent 2 years investigating this area and that there were consistent increases in unemployment.

Jane advised that the end-of-year evaluations will include unit cost analyses.

In response to a question from Bernice, The Director indicated that the figures for the Older and Bolder Forum were included in the Investment, Evaluation and Succession programme. He went on to say that forums

will work more closely with Themes and Partners in future.

Andrea asked for explanations to jargon and acronyms to be included at the bottom of each page of the plan.

In response to a question from Ruby, Jane advised that the NDC was working with the council to look at opportunities for developing projects that positively affect NDC residents and that this approach was detailed in the Delivery Plan.

Harry expressed concern that the NDC may be missing opportunities for its residents. He advised that work needs to be done to bridge the local skills gap so that local people can take advantage of employment opportunities.

Jane stated that the contract for the Children's Centre included clauses relating to local labour and training. She advised that a report was in production that will look at local labour on the Children's Centre site.

Lorne reminded the meeting that the Board had raised the issue of the use of local labour and businesses before and that it was vital to engage these local resources.

Randolph gave examples of other programmes of work where local people and businesses were given priority on projects.

In light of the income from the Laurels, Tanjou suggested cutting the Health Sport and Social Care budget by £38K and redirecting the funds to the Education Employment and Enterprise Theme.

Rachel advised that the income from the Laurels was not the £300K that Tanjou had suggested and that the figure was actually £150K. She stated that the HSSC Theme had been pared down considerably and that there were direct links between health improvement initiatives and positive impacts on employment outcomes. She concluded by stating that Health in the NDC is a huge priority for the programme and added that the HSSC Theme had the lowest budget of all the Themes.

Tanjou suggested reducing funding to the Somali Health Project.

Max advised that the Board had the power to move funding from projects within the programme. He advised against the option of making large numbers of small budget cuts across the projects, favouring the idea of cutting funding to a single project that was clearly not contributing to the NDC's outcomes and local floor targets.

The Chair advised that the ERS Report will inform decisions on project funding. He added that there was a need to review project performance very carefully.

In response to a question from Pearl, the Director advised that the Youth Forum budget details were also contained in the Investment, Evaluation and Succession programme. He added that support to the Youth in the NDC must cut across the whole of the programme.

Max pointed out that the ERS Report stated that the Somali Health Project had huge added-value and reached out to hard-to-reach communities. He considered that over the next 12 months the NDC needed to consider how to help mainstream the project and that without efforts to help mainstream he would not support the project being cut.

Tanjou supported the prioritisation of funding going to the Community Chest Project stating that the outcome of that would be the creation of more active citizens in the community. She stated that in her opinion the Turkish Community feels separated from the NDC.

The Director responded by advising that the NDC had supported the Turkish and Kurdish communities for over 4 years with the help of a dedicated outreach worker, Ali Ozgovercin. He supported the aim of building capacity within communities so that they can influence services in the NDC area.

Michael questioned the effectiveness of the NDC's equalities policy. He stated that the various organs of the NDC failed to fairly represent the racial demographic of the area.

The Director assured the meeting that the NDC and its projects and partners must clearly demonstrate that the whole community benefits from its activities.

The Chair stated that any accusations of improper practise in regard to equalities needed to be supported by clear evidence.

Michael stated that as Chair of the Voluntary and Community Organisations Forum he was aware that none of his member organisations were currently involved in the Advice and Resource Centre.

In regard to the make up of the Board, both the Chair and Vice Chair stated that Board Members are elected by the local community and represent that community. The only requirement for a person standing for the Board is that they reside within the NDC area; it is not possible to force people to stand.

Randolph asked Michael what he thought the Board should do to address the concerns that he had raised about equality.

Jane stated that arrangements had not yet been formally set up at the Advice and Resource Centre. She added that there would be a commissioning agreement for services running out of the centre.

Rachel advised that equalities was not just a race issue and covered a much wider remit, dealing with disabilities, sexuality etc. She added that it was not appropriate to link demographic statistics to the make up of the Partnership Board and affirmed that the important thing was to target all communities in the work of the NDC.

Andrea stated that at the meeting of the Strategic Development Working Group suggestions had been made about reformatting the layout of the Delivery Plan. The Director advised that any reformatting would not substantively affect the content of the document. He reminded the Board

that if approved, the Delivery Plan would first go to Haringey's Executive Board for agreement and then to the Government Office for London.

A vote of the Board was then taken on whether to approve the Delivery Plan. The result of the vote by show of hands was as follows :-

For – 8

Against – 0

Abstentions – 0

Therefore, the Delivery Plan was approved for submission.

ERS Project Evaluation Report

The Director commended the report to the Board saying that the purpose of the report was to review continuation projects to ensure that they had a positive effect on the outcomes of the Delivery Plan and floor targets. He referred the Board to the summary table on page 102 and the fact that not all projects were identified as deserving of receiving funding for 2006/07.

He advised the Board that work would be done in the 1st quarter to help these projects identify and tap into other funding sources or change so that they do have impacts on relevant outcomes.

Max stated that he was worried about the timescales involved as budgets would have already been set in the October to December period. He advised that in future years this process would need to take place in September for a decision around December.

Andrea agreed that the timescales were tight and the process should extend in to the 2nd quarter. She added that there was a need for resident input into the process. She also advised that care needed to be taken when drafting letters to projects so as not to cause unnecessary alarm.

Rachel countered that the NDC needs to exit quickly if a project isn't successful. She added that some agencies have unrealistic expectations about the NDC's responsibility for funding certain projects, when in fact the projects should be going to mainstream funding.

Max agreed with the suggestion that if a project was not successful and not suitable for mainstreaming then it must be cut from the programme.

Pat suggested that if a project had not been hitting its outcomes then it should already have been contacted by the NDC and made aware of the possibility of funding being removed.

Jane responded by saying that a large number of projects had been operating under old targets and that work was still outstanding on evaluating them against current targets/outcomes.

Michael expressed concern at the unit costs detailed in the report for the Sharing Smiles Project i.e. £3000.

The Director advised that projects needed to be judged on quality as well as cost. Pat added that £3000 was not an unusual unit cost when considering other similar education/training programmes.

Jane advised the Board that Theme Managers were still feeding information into the report and that some project data was still outstanding which might impact on the recommendations.

Rachel asked that Theme Managers report back to the next Board Meeting on the strategies that need to be implemented for their projects. The Chair asked that a draft document come to the next Board Meeting.

Meeting ended at: 20:30

Date of next meetings: 29/3/06

Minutes signed as an accurate record:

Chairs' signature:	
Date:	