BROMLEY LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 31st March 2008
at Bromley Civic Centre at 2.00pm

Present:
Councillor Stephen Carr (Chairman)
Vicky Bonner (Broomleigh Housing Association)
Liz Butler (Bromley Primary Care Trust)
Jean Levy (Community Links Bromley)
Doug Patterson (Chief Executive, LBB)
Simon Robbins (Chief Executive, Bromley Primary Care Trust)
Pat Wade, (Community Links Bromley)
Ian Wilson (Interim Chief Executive, Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust)

Also present:
Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP
Steve Birkin (LBB Partnership Manager)
John Hazeldine (LBB Assistant Chief Executive, Strategy and Improvement)
Joanna Smith (LBB Policy & Partnership Manager)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Huw Alderman (Chairman, Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust) and Charles Griggs (Borough Commander).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the LSP Executive held on 28th January 2008 were AGREED.

3. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT DRAFT UPDATE

It was reported that the Working Group established to consolidate the national performance indicators had now proposed a reduced number of 33 indicators. There was substantial agreement with the Government Office for London (GOL), but negotiations were still in progress with regard to two of the indicators, both of which were likely to be deleted. The next stage in the process was to set three-year targets, starting this year. The deadline for publication of the draft Local Area Agreement (LAA) was mid-May. This would have to go to Full Council for approval.

Simon Robbins of Bromley Primary Care Trust (PCT) reported that the draft LAA would go before the May meeting of the Board where there would be a joint presentation delivered by Doug Patterson and himself.

AGREED that the report be NOTED.
4. "HEALTHCARE FOR LONDON" & "A PICTURE OF HEALTH"

Simon Robbins of Bromley PCT reported that the consultation on "Healthcare for London" had now closed, and that the consultation on "A Picture of Health" would close on 11th April.

(Note: Mr Robbins has subsequently supplied the briefing attached at Appendix 1.)

AGREED that the report be NOTED.

5. (a) REPORT BACK ON THE MEMBERS/PARTNERS WEEKEND SEMINAR – INCLUDING “NEXT STEPS – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY”

It was reported that the feedback had been “quite positive”. A consensus was emerging around the draft “Building a Better Bromley 2020 Vision”, and the importance of partnership had come across loud and clear, as had the need to take the community with us. A report of the events would be drafted and circulated.

Liz Butler of Bromley PCT offered her congratulations on the organisation of the weekend seminar.

She felt that the event had met her expectations. However, she was troubled by the pockets of lack of knowledge she had observed at times and considered that further work was needed to create a better understanding of partnership working. Also, the accountabilities of statutory bodies were insufficiently understood. It was important to recognise that failure on national targets had impact locally.

Jean Levy of Community Links Bromley (CLB) asked if the voluntary sector could be seen as a genuine and more equal partner.

Councillor Carr said that he would like to see the voluntary sector have a stronger voice.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett felt that the Council had not really had effective scrutiny of LSP to date. The whole issue needed to be looked at again in the coming Council year.

It was felt that Bromley Mytime and local MPs should be invited to future follow-up events.

AGREED that the report be NOTED.
(b) PARTNERSHIP REVIEW AND ROAD TEST FEEDBACK

It was reported that the principal issues arising out of the Review and Road Test were as follows:

- better representation for business;
- better representation for community groups;
- better methods of accountability; and
- the need for a LSP website.

It was reported that some initial action had already been taken on the final point.

It was agreed that the Review needed to be completed as soon as possible, within a two to three month timescale.

AGREED that the report be NOTED.

(c) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A report would be received by the Council's Executive later that evening. The Executive had approved a draft Community Engagement Strategy in December 2006. This had been subject to consultation during 2007 and had since served as a helpful overall Council framework. However, significant developments affecting the overall legal, policy and service frameworks within which citizen, community and service user engagement operated had recently taken place, with further major reforms on the horizon. Officers were planning to undertake a further review to consider how the overall strategy should be updated to meet future “Building a Better Bromley” needs. The Executive which would meet later that evening would be asked to consider whether it supported an overall policy framework for all LSP partners rather than each organisation having separate arrangements.

The meeting felt that a small working group should be set up to look at LSP-wide best practice in this area.

AGREED that the report be NOTED, and that relevant LSP Members nominate a senior rep to work with the Council on a joint review.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REVIEW

Jean Levy of Community Links Bromley (CLB) introduced the following reports:

“Voluntary Sector Involvement in Partnership Working in Bromley – A Mapping Study”
In September 2007 the Bromley Voluntary Sector Reference Group (BVSRG) commissioned a mapping study of voluntary sector participation in local partnership working. The aim of the study was to document the extent of participation and the way in which it happened and then to assess its effectiveness. The study involved interviews with key members of each of the voluntary sector fora, senior members of CLB and representatives of other networks (a full list of these was given in Appendix 1).

The report described how partnership working in Bromley was organised and how the voluntary sector participated. The second part of the report commented on the effectiveness of those processes and the various issues arising therefrom.

The report concluded with the following recommendations:

- the creation of a Generic Voluntary Sector Forum;
- CLB and BVSRG to look at ways of strengthening policy support to the fora;
- BVSRG to re-open dialogue with the Children and Family Forum to consider how they might be involved;
- CLB and BVSRG to work with senior forum representatives on planning a longer term succession/development strategy to ensure that fora have access to the resources they need to continue their work effectively;
- CLB and BVSRG to approach the Council and Primary Care Trust about holding a high level seminar on partnership working to strengthen mutual understanding about how to make it effective; and
- CLB and BVSRG to make implementation of the Compact a priority.

“The Shape of Things to Come – and the future support needs of voluntary and community groups in Bromley”

This was a summary of consultation work carried out to support preparation of local infrastructure plans, including the consultation meeting held at Community House, South Street, Bromley on 29th November 2007.

The following outcomes were reported:

- a Bromley Infrastructure Development Strategy 2008/14 and Business Plan for 2008/11 had been prepared and submitted to Capacitybuilders at the end of December 2007;
- the research and recommendations on Partnership Working would be considered in January by members of BVSRG and an action plan would be agreed to take forward the agreed recommendations; and
- work on the CLB Business Plan was continuing and a Plan would be in place by the end of March.
There followed a full discussion of the reports and the issues raised. The voluntary sector felt that it had insufficient influence in the decision-making process and not enough support. It was pointed out that it was not the remit of the statutory providers to support the voluntary sector per se. The voluntary sector needed to demonstrate the part it could play in providing outcomes, such as those in the Local Area Agreement (LAA), and what support it needed to assist this.

Councillor Bennett felt that there was a need to address the decline in volunteering, particularly among the under 40s which, he believed, would increase pressure on public services in years to come. There were too many impediments put in the way of volunteering by government.

Councillor Carr noted that CLB was in the process of setting up a support scheme for young carers, and he warmly welcomed this endeavour.

AGREED that the report be NOTED, and that the Chief Executive meet further with key CLB representatives to help consider their future strategic direction.

7. HMIC – INSPECTION RESULTS

In the Borough Commander's unavoidable absence, there was a very short discussion of the report.

While the substantial reductions in recorded crime were welcomed, it was felt that more needed to be done, firstly, to tackle domestic burglaries and, secondly, to change the public perception that Bromley’s streets were unsafe.

(Note: Subsequently, the Borough Commander reported that unconfirmed figures to 31/3/2008 showed a 10% reduction in domestic burglaries over the previous year.)

AGREED that the report be NOTED.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.
9. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting would be held on 22\textsuperscript{nd} May, 2008 at 2.00pm.

Officers were asked to draw up a list of meeting dates for the coming Council year. Meetings should be held on Mondays, at 2.00pm, and should avoid clashing with school holidays. There had been seven meetings in 2007/08, so the same number should be considered for 2008/09. In future, LSP meetings should be placed on the overall Council Calendar, together with other thematic partnership boards.

The meeting finished at 3.40 pm
Appendix 1

The latest information on Healthcare for London consultation was that over 3,000 responses had been received by 3 March across all the boroughs, with 43 completed responses from Bromley residents. There had also been 18,000 unique visitors to the website and 4,200 people had attended public events. Ipsos Mori were due to report back in early May on the findings of the consultation. The JOSC would also be reporting on its review. Similarly, London Health Commission will report on Health Equalities and Equality Impact Assessment, and Health Link on the consultation with Traditionally Underrepresented Groups respectively.

An interim report at the end of February on *A Picture of Health* indicated there were 36 events planned or completed in Bromley across a wide range of groups. 263 people had attended the public event on 26 February – the largest number in South East London. However since the public event a large number of additional meetings had been organised, including two further large events on 18 and 19 March for Council on Ageing/Age Concern and University of the Third Age that had reached a further 350 local people. In addition to events, there had been engagement through staffed display stalls at the Walnuts and Glades shopping centres, a number of large mailings, and materials put on display in a number of buildings accessed by the public including GP surgeries, pharmacies, libraries, dentists, opticians, leisure centres etc across the borough. Particular effort was being made to ensure that some of the traditionally under represented groups were being reached.

Where feedback from the public suggested that there had been gaps in the door drop of the consultation documents the project had organised a re-drop, this was particularly true for both Petts Wood and Orpington which were areas where higher numbers of people had reported not receiving the consultation document. Advertisements in local newspapers had also been used to alert the public to other ways of obtaining a copy of the consultation document or to make comments. To date around 7,000 individual responses to the consultation have been received by Imperial College, and over 1,100 telephone and email enquiries and comments had also been received.

Some 300 public meetings were planned or had taken place where just under 9000 members of the public had attended.