



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Title:	Suffolk Strategic Partnership Board
Date:	4 September 2007
Place:	Rose Room, Endeavour House
Time:	5.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Members:	<p>Clare Euston, Independent Chairman, SSP Board</p> <p>Bob Anderson, UCS</p> <p>Simon Ash, Suffolk Police Authority</p> <p>David Barker, Greenest County</p> <p>Kathleen Ben Rabha, Diocese St Edmundsbury and Ipswich</p> <p>Peter Bradley, Director Public Health, Suffolk PCT/SCC</p> <p>Tony Butler, Director, Museum of East Anglian Life</p> <p>Penny Clarke, Babergh East LSP</p> <p>John Clough, Suffolk County Sports Partnership</p> <p>Sandra Crawley, Job Centre Plus for Tina Ellis, District Manager (Cambridgeshire & Suffolk)</p> <p>Johanna Finn, Chairman, LSC</p> <p>Sally Hogg, Suffolk PCT</p> <p>Jane Hore, Waverney LSP</p> <p>Cllr Diana Keasley, Mid-Suffolk LSP for Cllr T. Passmore</p> <p>Jacqui Martin, Chief Executive, Suffolk Carers</p> <p>Cllr Wendy Mawer, Culture Champion</p> <p>Alastair McWhirter, Suffolk PCT</p> <p>Jonathan Moore, Chief Executive, Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations</p> <p>Mike More, Chairman, SSP Chief Executives' Panel</p> <p>Cllr Jeremy Pembroke, SCC</p> <p>Cllr Doreen Savage, Chairman, Suffolk Coastal LSP</p> <p>Stephen Singleton, Chief Executive, The Suffolk Foundation</p> <p>Julia Stephens-Row, Community Cohesion Champion</p> <p>Rosalind Turner, SCC</p> <p>David Wood, Suffolk Police Authority</p>

Supporting Officers:	<p>Jenny Foster, Partnerships Team, Suffolk County Council</p> <p>Rachel Thompson, Partnerships Team, Suffolk County Council</p> <p>Chloe Drew, Suffolk County Council (Minutes)</p> <p>Phil Swann, Tavistock Institute</p> <p>Eliat Aram, Tavistock Institute</p>
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Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale
1.	Apologies	<p>Cathy Arbon, Fred Olsen Freight</p> <p>Jane Basham, Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality</p> <p>Shona Bendix, Suffolk Association of Local Councils</p> <p>John Budd, Suffolk Criminal Justice Board</p> <p>Rona Burt, Suffolk Association of Local Councils</p> <p>Richard Catherall, Ipswich & District Council for Voluntary Service</p> <p>John Dugmore, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Tina Ellis, Job Centre Plus</p> <p>John Griffiths, St Edmondsbury DC</p> <p>Elizabeth Harsant, One Ipswich LSP</p> <p>Ray Herring (will send sub)</p> <p>Lina Hogg, Picasso HR Ltd</p> <p>Gulshan Kayembe, Chairman, Suffolk Police Authority</p> <p>Julian Munson, Suffolk Development Agency</p> <p>Tim Passmore, Mid Suffolk LSP</p> <p>Richard Perkins, Richard Perkins & Associates</p> <p>David Redhead, BSP International Foundations Ltd</p> <p>Daphne Savage, Age Concern</p> <p>Jo Searle, East Suffolk Mind (VCS rep)</p> <p>Dr Ann Williams, West Suffolk College</p> <p>Bernard Williamson, Great Yarmouth & Waveney PCT</p>
1.	Welcome and Introduction	<p>Clare Euston welcomed new board member Tony Butler, Director of the Museum of East Anglian Life to the meeting.</p> <p>Clare stated that the Community Strategy consultation that had taken place was the widest county-wide consultation ever undertaken within Suffolk. Clare thanked the Partnerships Team for all their hard work in undertaking the consultation and for providing such a clear analysis of the responses.</p>
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising	<p>The minutes of the meeting on 04 April 2007 were approved with no amendments.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>Suffolk’s Community Strategy – update on process so far</p>	<p>The Partnerships team presented an update on the work undertaken on the Community Strategy from Nov 2006 to present. The team explained that the purpose of today’s meeting was to agree the headings and the outline vision for the Community Strategy.</p> <p>Clare Euston stated that it was very important that the headings and vision were right and reflected the required needs. Clare advised that some board members were concerned about the number of themes and she wanted to ensure that these concerns were fully discussed during the meeting. Clare therefore proposed that Agenda item 3 be extended to include a full discussion of how the themes should be taken forward, and that given the number of people in attendance at the meeting and attending on time remaining the Tavistock Institute would help the board with this discussion.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Presentation of the Four Priority Themes</p>	<p>SSP Board Member Sally Hogg and Theme Champion Julia Stephens-Row presented the work that had been done following the SSP workshop on 20 August by an SSP sub-group. This work had built on the discussion from the workshop and had taken into account concerns that a number of the outcomes from the consultation did not sit under any of the three themes. The outcome of this work was four headings – ‘Cross-Cutting’, ‘A Green Environment’, ‘A Prosperous and Vibrant Economy’ and ‘Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities’.</p> <p>Cllr Jeremy Pembroke expressed concern that the three themes agreed at the workshops on the 20th had changed and that Learning and Skills had been removed.</p> <p>Clare Euston explained that when the outcomes from the consultation had been mapped against the three themes at the workshop on 20 August and there were a number that did not fit under any theme. This had resulted in the need to create the Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities heading. However, as she understood it, there had been no intention to drop Learning and Skills as a priority within the strategy.</p> <p>Rachel Thompson stated that after the 11 July visioning event at Seckford Hall, people had reflected and recognised that people and communities were not adequately reflected within the three themes. Rachel added that it was acknowledged at the workshop that at that point in time the consultation had not finished and that once it was complete and the results analysed, the results would need to be compared to the three themes from the workshop.</p> <p>Julia Stephens-Row stated that only one outcome seemed to fit the Learning and Skills theme and that the definitions for Learning and Skills and Prosperity were very similar. As a result it had seemed appropriate to link Learning and Skills into Prosperity through the Positive and Vibrant Economy heading.</p> <p>Johanna Finn commented that she was quite surprised that Learning and Skills had been removed from the headings because from the discussion at July’s meeting it had seemed very clear that Learning and Skills underpinned everything.</p> <p>Clare Euston stated that it was just a proposal to remove Learning and Skills</p> <p>Alastair McWhirter stated that he felt that it was important for Learning and Skills to have a theme of its own.</p>

Cllr Jeremy Pembroke agreed that it had been recognised at the workshop on the 20 August that a fourth theme on communities and people was needed, but stated that that he felt that the themes had now been watered down following the loss of Learning and Skills.

Jonathan Moore stated that he could understand where Learning and Skills had gone because there had been strong discussion at the workshop that Learning and Skills was cross-cutting and part of an intrinsic foundation on which all other headings should be based. However he was equally happy to have Learning and Skills as a fourth heading. Jonathan asked that the cross-cutting statement should be expanded to include reference to ‘contribution’ and that the strategy needed to reflect that people as well as organisations have a responsibility to deliver the required change.

Jacqui Martin expressed the need to increase the role of culture and sport within the cross-cutting heading. Jacqui commented that, as had been discussed at previous meetings, one of the biggest challenges facing Suffolk was the growing elderly population and yet this appeared to have been lost and everything else had been added to the Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities heading.

Simon Ash stated that he had been unhappy following the visioning event on 11 July as he felt that safety and communities had been lost. Simon then stated that he now felt a lot happier with the broad shape and headings, although he acknowledged that there was more work to do on the wording of the outcomes.

Cllr Wendy Mawer commented that she was pleased that culture and sport were articulated but that culture needed to be seen in a wider context and should include issues such as how we treat one another. Wendy also expressed the view that sport is fundamental to the strategy and that engagement in sport is a really positive aspect.

Alastair McWhirter suggested that ‘...grow up and grow old’ should be added to the end of the Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities heading.

Peter Bradley expressed disappointment that Learning and Skills had been lost but welcomed the addition of the Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities heading. Peter welcomed the link between communities and health and suggested that the outcome ‘More people are able to pursue a healthy lifestyle’ be replaced by ‘All people are able to pursue a healthy lifestyle’.

Peter also suggested the need for a vision showing a picture or number of pictures of what Suffolk will look like in 20 years time.

Phil Swann Tavistock Institute made the following observations –

1. Firstly there were heartfelt feelings about the process and lessons to be learnt about how the partnership should work in future and secondly that the board needed to finish at 7 o’clock with agreement as to what the priority headings within the strategy should address.
2. Phil noted that increasing the skills base of a significant slice of the population was clearly very important for Suffolk and that Suffolk faces particular issues concerning its skills base which are different from the challenges facing other areas.
3. Phil then asked what other issues were there that are specific to Suffolk?
4. Phil stated that he had heard a number of articulate points about engagement in culture and sport and yet he had not heard whether or not the issues around culture and sport in Suffolk were different to those in other counties.

		<p>Sandra Crawley commented that ‘A Prosperous and Vibrant Economy’ was a good title for a theme and would encourage ownership unlike the previous ‘Prosperity for All’ title. She also commented that she was pleased to see affordable, quality housing within this theme.</p> <p>Mike More commented that if Suffolk wanted to have a strategy that was different from those of other counties then it needed to include those things that are distinctive to Suffolk. Examples of these include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the demographic time-bomb,• the loss of young people from the county, and• the relative poverty of people’s aspirations. <p>Mike stated that the role of the Chief Executives’ Panel was to identify what is distinctive to Suffolk given the data/evidence available. Mike added that the board seemed confused as to what inclusion of issues/priorities within the strategy was about. Mike stated that there were two types of outcomes to include within the strategy – firstly those that are the major transformation changes that are needed to push Suffolk forward, and secondly the outcomes that do not require radical change but need continual improvement. Mike stated that it is the role of the Chief Executives’ Panel to establish this first group based on the data/evidence available, but that the board needed to be clear that this distinction needed to be made.</p> <p>Penny Clarke commented that it needed to be recognised that on the ground major transformations are very difficult to achieve.</p> <p>Bob Anderson commented that the board seemed to be struggling against the structural representation presented. Bob stated that if the board came at the issues slightly differently then this might help. Bob suggested the analogy of a set of Russian dolls – the first doll is the cross cutting heading which stated what we want Suffolk to be, the second doll is the key headings around which the Community Strategy should be structured, the third doll is what we need to do under those headings in terms of transformation and maintenance, the fourth doll is the enablers (what we do) to achieve the transformation and maintenance, etc.</p> <p>Tony Butler suggested that the definition under the cross-cutting heading should form the basis of the vision and hence should define ‘Suffolkness’ and what makes Suffolk different from other counties. He commented that at present the cross-cutting heading was too vague.</p> <p>Jonathan Moore commented that responsibility and contribution were missing from the cross-cutting heading/vision. He suggested that the transformation activities should provide the focus for the partnership.</p> <p>Mike More commented that the narrative around the vision should include what’s distinctive about Suffolk – what the specific problems for Suffolk are and what we want Suffolk to be. The transformation changes and maintenance issues should then come under that.</p> <p>Jacqui Martin commented that a lot of work had been put into describing the vision under the cross-cutting heading and this shouldn’t be lost. Jacqui suggested that ‘any age’ be added to the vision.</p>
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Stephen Singleton commented that he felt a lot clearer with regard to the strategy and where it was going. Stephen also acknowledged the hard work undertaken by the Partnerships Team to get to this point.

Rachel Thompson suggested that the interlinking circles be used to show the links between the headings. Rachel stated that the strategy would require detail in the form of ambitions and timescales (this would form part of the fourth doll to go back to the aforementioned analogy).

Phil Swann made the following summarisation:

1. The core of the vision is within the cross-cutting theme, however it needs some more progressive working (all people, more active, of any age etc) so that it reflects a shift
1. The strategy needs to capture the distinctiveness of Suffolk by stating what the most important things are. These things fall into three categories:
 - a. Significant issues that need to be address (the transformation changes)
 - b. The areas that need to be maintained so that we don't slip back (continuous improvement)
 - c. The areas that we excel in and want to continue to build on (e.g. greenest county)

David Barker confirmed that there is a Greenest County Conference on 16th October.

Simon Ash stated that Suffolk was on a strategy journey and that the bit that was missing was the starting point – for example Suffolk is very good at green issues but bad at others. Simon suggested that the strategy needed a statement of 'where we are now'.

Mike More proposed that he should task the Chief Executives' Panel to do two things:

1. Test the headings against the data
2. Undertake a distinctive data test to establish what Suffolk is good, average and weak at.

Mike stated that this work should enable the formulation of narrative to support the vision which would state where Suffolk is now and where we want it to be in 20 years time.

Rachel Thompson asked if the transformation issues would be the priorities for actions and funding

Mike More stated that that would be worked out through the LAA prioritisation process.

Clare Euston proposed that a small editorial group be formed to work with the Partnerships team to produce the vision, **final strategy** and to work on the document itself.

Jane Hore suggested that the group should make a proposal to the wider board on the vision.

		<p>Clare Euston agreed and stated that a draft vision would be sent round to the board for comment.</p> <p>Following a number of requests, Clare Euston confirmed that the Partnerships Team would send round details of the discussions from the Chief Executive's Panel on the 12th September. Clare proposed that she agree with the Partnerships Team as to the members of the editorial group and that details would be sent round to the Board.</p>
Actions Agreed: ?????		
6.	Any Other Business	None
7.	Future Meetings / Forward Agenda	17 th October 2007 – Agreement of the Community Strategy