

**MINUTES of MEETING of the
COMMUNITY PLANNING
IMPLEMENTATION GROUP held
at HADDINGTON on 13
NOVEMBER 2006**

Councillors in Attendance

Cllr P O'Brien
Cllr N Murray
Cllr W Innes
Cllr A McCarthy

Officer Attendance, East Lothian Council:

Mr J Lindsay, Chief Executive
Dr S Ross, Director of Community Services
Mr A McCrorie, Director of Corporate Finance & IT
Mr J Lamond, Head of Policy and Business Management
Mr T Shearer, Head of Community Wellbeing
Ms S Smith, Economic Development Manager
Mr B Duncan, Corporate Policy Manager
Mr G Miller, Principal Policy and Planning Officer
Mr P Noyes, Policy and Commissioning Officer
Mr S Wray, Health Improvement Officer

In Attendance:

Mr S Baxter, Association of Community Councils
Mr J Ryan, Tranent Social Inclusion Partnership
Mr E Stark, Voluntary Development East Lothian
Mr D White, Community Health Partnership
Mr R Taylor, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
Mr A Dee, Communities Scotland
Mr J Bruce, East Lothian Voluntary Organisations Network
Ms V Noone, Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian
Ms W Macadie, Jewel and Esk Valley College/East Lothian Learning Partnership
Supt M Gordon, Lothian and Borders Police
Mr J Maryniak, East Lothian Tenants' and Residents' Panel
Ms C MacGillvary, East Lothian Tenants' and Residents' Panel

Attending:

Ms S Birrell

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr G Meikle, Mr P Collins, Mr A Blackie, Ms R Marshall, and Ms L McPherson.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16 JUNE 2006

Matters Arising

Councillor Innes asked for an update on the situation recorded on page 7 of the minute concerning the Bridges Motorcycle project. Mr Shearer confirmed that there were still funding issues relating to the project. Although some external funding had been secured, the project was still operating under financial insecurity. East Lothian Council were hoping to assist with applications for other sources of funding.

Councillor McCarthy advised that the scheme could not continue at present funding levels and added that as the initiative had been cited as an example of Best Practice it would be important to resolve these ongoing financial issues. Councillor Innes pointed out that redundancies would be inevitable if a solution was not found in the near future. He stated that a further impact on Community Planning Partners could be that the young people who benefited from the project were a potential cause for concern for Lothian and Borders Police. Councillor McCarthy concurred that it had proved an excellent area wide initiative for disadvantaged young people.

John Lindsay agreed that it was a first class project and that Councillor Innes' concerns should be noted. Councillor Innes expanded on a general point he had made at the previous meeting, that it would not be appropriate to approve or refuse funding applications in isolation. He recommended that funding applications should be weighed up within a wider context.

Stuart Baxter reported in relation to page 8 of the minute that he had attended a workshop on the Integration of Public Sector Services in Scotland and that the Association of Community Councils had submitted a full response to the paper produced by the Scottish Executive. He commented that there had been very few representatives present from community projects and that the Scottish Executive should perhaps look into how to engage representatives in a meaningful way.

Jim Maryniak thanked Community Planning Partners for the invitation extended to the Tenants' and Residents' Panel to join the CPIG.

The minutes were approved as a true record.

2. COMMUNITY PLANNING EVENTS

(a) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Brian Duncan spoke to the report, intimating that it had been designed to bring the Group's attention to a workshop held on Thursday 9 November 2006 with the aim of collating existing Community Engagement into a more cohesive and coherent area wide activity. He emphasised that, as set out in paragraph 3.3, there were already several initiatives in place in disparate guises and the workshop had been an opportunity to share best practice as well as draw together a more coherent framework.

Wendy Macadie and Eliot Stark, who had attended the workshop, agreed that a good amount of progress had been made and that it had been

unfortunate that the date for CPIG had not been compatible with producing a report on the workshop for this meeting. Joe Ryan added that there would be an event held on 2 December 2006 between Tranent and Prestonpans Social Inclusion Partnerships specifically to look at this kind of strategy.

Decision

CPIG agreed to endorse the proposal set out in the paper.

(b) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Brian Duncan reported that as part of the continuation of work carried out on Community Engagement, CPIG's Annual Conference would be held on 11 December 2006. The aim of the Conference would be to enable more in-depth discussion around issues discussed at previous meetings.

Decision

CPIG agreed to encourage attendance by appropriate colleagues.

3. ESTABLISHING AN INTERNET PRESENCE

Brian Duncan spoke to the report, recommending that a small working group should be set up to create a website for Community Planning in East Lothian. Members of the Group or other staff from Community Planning Partner Organisations were welcome to join the working group.

John Lindsay asked if the website would be connected to other partner websites. Jim Lamond agreed that links should be in place as part of the site. He confirmed that as ring-fenced funding had been made available, part of the working group's remit would be to consider whether the site should be entirely independent or if it should sit within a Community Partner's own site, for example East Lothian Council's website.

John Lindsay asked what the projected time scales would be for the project. Jim Lamond asserted that as the working group should be set up straight away he had hoped that completion should be in around 4 or 5 month's time. Brian Duncan added that nominations should be sent to him by 17 November 2006.

Decision

CPIG agreed:

- i) to the principle of establishing a stand alone East Lothian Community Planning Website;
- ii) to establish a small project group to oversee this work; and
- iii) that a budget ceiling of £20,000 should be applied to this project.

4. EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL: AUDIT OF BEST VALUE

John Lindsay spoke to the report, outlining that some initial briefing meetings had already taken place with regard to the Audit of Best Value for East Lothian Council.

A copy would be circulated to all partners on the 12 December 2006 and would be presented on 20 December 2006. In February 2007, Community Planning Partners should be aware that they could be called in for an interview with the Best Value Auditors to discuss the submission.

John Lindsay remarked that the Best Value Audit represented an excellent opportunity for East Lothian Council to prove the results of the MORI survey carried out earlier this year where 98% of people surveyed had stated that East Lothian was a good place to live. He reminded the Group of the history of the present Council, especially in relation to the Stand Firm campaign, and stated that he had been looking forward to the audit.

Cllr Murray welcomed the audit and informed the Group that the results would not be available before the election in May 2007.

Jim Lamond advised that the minimum Community Planning Partners should expect to receive would be a questionnaire relating to the Audit, and reminded the Group that himself and Brian Duncan should be the key contacts for support, advice or guidance with regard to responses to the Audit.

Decision

CPIG agreed to note the contents of the written report, and the verbal update provided by the Chief Executive of East Lothian Council.

5. SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

Brian Duncan introduced the item, outlining that the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation had been produced to provide an overall score for specific data zones throughout Scotland for various domains, namely: Income, Employment, Health, Education and Skills, Geographic Access to Services, Housing, and for the first time in 2006, Crime. In 2004 there had been three data zones within East Lothian in the lowest 20% nationally and none of these zones had fallen within the lowest 15%. In 2006's Index there had been one data zone in East Lothian scored in the lowest 15%, a zone located in the Prestonpans area. He assured the Group that as this had been a ranking exercise it would not necessarily mean that this specific data zone had become a more deprived place to live. It would be extremely complex to disentangle the causes of the changes, however, he emphasised that East Lothian had still been one of only a few areas with low levels of deprived zones. However, the Group should take into account that deprivation would always be understated as the report focussed on these zones rather than individuals.

Councillor Innes responded that care should be taken to ensure that significant problems, that were still existent, were not left aside as East Lothian had been generally considered to be an affluent area. He recommended that positive discrimination in funding should be applied to address the differences in quality of life in the area.

Sederunt: Gordon Miller joined the meeting.

6. PROMOTING EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN EAST LoTHIAN

Tom Shearer spoke to the report, stating that it had been wholeheartedly endorsed at East Lothian Council at their meeting held on 31 October 2006. He remarked, concerning Councillor Innes' earlier comments, that there were vast differences in access to Health and Wellbeing services in different areas of East Lothian. This situation was not unique to East Lothian but had been observed nationally. A further difficulty identified had been that healthy individuals' wellbeing had tended to improve but those who had not engaged with services had become less healthy. Community Wellbeing were aiming to target these individuals and provide them with opportunities to participate in improved services. He maintained that the paper had implications for all departments of East Lothian Council and all Community Planning Partners.

David White responded that the report would be extremely relevant to the work of the Community Health Partnership (CHP) and the challenges they faced in East Lothian. He offered the assistance of the CHP and wondered whether it would be appropriate for a representative to join the working group that would be set up regarding this matter. Mr Shearer agreed that this would be a positive decision and welcomed the chance to engage with the CHP on these issues.

Councillor Innes emphasised that the average age of death altered drastically between different areas of East Lothian and that joint resources should be allocated to address this imbalance. He welcomed the report and that these concerns had been followed up but felt that it would be equally important to find ways to resolve these issues. David White agreed that during a recent Health roadshow it had been noticeable that the community had been keen to engage with the relevant statistics, such as that the average life expectancy in North Berwick was 10 years longer than in Tranent.

John Lindsay commented that the recommendations at paragraph 2.3 of the report should be particularly noted. Sue Ross highlighted that the report had not concerned itself solely with death rates, but also addressed quality of life issues relating to chronic illness and disability. James Bruce recommended that the Voluntary Sector should be utilised when the issues raised in the report were addressed and added that there were several existing organisations that could be of service.

7. 'CHOOSE LIFE' – A NATIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO PREVENT SUICIDE IN SCOTLAND

Paul Noyes spoke to the report, indicating that it represented a progress report on the work of the 'Choose Life' action plan and strategy. He highlighted that the project had released funding for the most part to front end services; rather than employing staff directly, the bulk of the available funding had been used for events and practical services. He drew the group's attention to the detailed outline of funding contained within the report.

The project had been moving into its final stage and a recent evaluation had brought up sustainability as a key issue. A report could be brought to a future meeting of the CPIG regarding this evaluation. The funding priorities for the final two years of the

project had been outlined in the report. The strategy also addressed issues relating to mental health and mental health awareness. If the strategy was to make a realistic impact all Community Planning Partners should embed relevant issues in their own strategies and ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and Mental Health First Aid should also be realised within training programming.

David White commented that he had found it interesting to see how the service had been delivered and that he felt that a intelligent strategy had been crafted. He reminded the Group that in East Lothian there were generally only 10-12 suicides per year and most of these were individuals who had not been accessing relevant services. He intimated that the strategy would be likely to benefit those who suffered other mental health issues.

John Lindsay remarked that he had been impressed at how the available finance had been allocated.

Decision

CPIG agreed to note and endorse the report and its contents.

8. TELECARE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Dr Ross introduced the item, emphasising that the report had not been designed as a funding bid, but that the development of Telecare would be an incredibly important matter especially for older people who wanted to continue to live at home. As the overall demographic of East Lothian had been changing and the proportion of older people living in the area had been increasing this issue would be of paramount importance.

Gordon Miller spoke to the report, outlining that approval had been sought for a bid to the Scottish Executive to release East Lothian's allocation of an estimated £123,000 of £8,000,000 to improve the provision of Telecare in the area. Telecare would be integrated with Health and Social Care services. A overall strategy would need to be outlined, and the nature of the service would also need to be developed. Existing out-of-hours services would need to be considered, and opportunities for joint working perhaps with Midlothian Council. The report had been brought to the Group as the bid would need to be approved by the Community Planning Partnership although Gordon Miller highlighted that approval at this stage would only be for the bid itself. Further reports would be brought to the Group as work progressed on this project.

David White recommended that the Health Services and East Lothian Council Services could benefit from meeting to discuss their involvement in the project.

CPIG agreed to approve the bid prepared.

9. A COMPACT FOR EAST LOTHIAN

James Bruce spoke to the report, recommending that a Compact between should be set up in East Lothian, similar to the Compact developed with City of Edinburgh Council. He recommended that Community Partners approve and engage in the process of drawing up a Compact, and drew the Group's attention to the

recommendation that the Chair of the resultant Working Group be independent. ELVON and VDEL would lead the work on the compact should the proposal be accepted.

Decision

CPIG agreed:

- i) to the establishment of a Compact Working Group;
- ii) that said Working Group should have as broad a base membership as possible, specifically, that all public sector bodies represented in the Community Planning Partnership should be represented in the Working Group, and that the voluntary sector should be represented by ELVON and VDEL together with up to six others representing the main voluntary sector interest groups;
- iii) that the Working Group should have an independent chair, Ian Hostein Muir, OBE;
- iv) that any Working Group should be allowed to set its own specific remit and that it would not be realistic to expect any such group to complete its work much less than two years.;
- v) that the Working Group should initially be set the task of considering in more detail if a Compact is right for East Lothian, and if they concluded that it would be, to determine their own specific remit with the proviso that they cover the topics mentioned in the Report; and
- vi) that the Working Group should be charged with completing their work as quickly as possible and certainly within two years of its establishment.

9. (a) EAST LOTHIAN SOCIAL ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

Tom Shearer spoke to the report in his capacity as Chair of the Social Economy Partnership and advised that the report had been designed to update the CPIG on the progress of the Partnership. He informed the Group that a successful bid for EQUAL monies had resulted in a mapping exercise which had been carried out by Haldane Associates. An action plan setting out how support should be developed between 2006-2011 had also been developed in 2006. Mr Shearer outlined the core membership of the Partnership as at paragraph 3.5 of the report. He reported that a conference held in June 2006 had been of particular benefit to this new and growing area of activity. He thanked Douglas Grierson for his continuing support for the work of the partnership.

James Bruce, a member of the partnership, informed the Group that it had established itself quickly and effectively and had received national attention as a good example of a working group.

Decision

CPIG agreed to note the content of the report.

10. EAST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY PLAN

John Lindsay stated that it had been hoped that near final versions of the East Lothian Community Plan would be distributed at this meeting, however there had been a few outstanding actions and the Plan would be forwarded to Community Planning Partners by the end of the week.

Brian Duncan expanded that there were 4 copies of the plan that had been circulated around the room for members to look through. Although the text had been left unchanged from earlier drafts, it had been decided that the photographs had been principally of East Lothian Council services and that they should be changed to reflect more of the work of other Community Planning Partners.

John Lindsay requested that the plan be distributed around Community Planning Partner Organisations.

Decision

CPIG agreed to disseminate copies of East Lothian Community Plan throughout their organisations.

John Lindsay asked members to note the date of the next CPIG meeting.