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17 March 2008

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 27 March 2008
TIME: 6.00pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Gosport
Democratic Services contact: Chris Wrein

LINDA EDWARDS
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Philpott (Chairman)
Councillor Dickson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Davis	Councillor Mrs Mudie
Councillor Foster	Councillor Mrs Salter
Councillor Foster-Reed	Councillor Mrs Searle
Councillor Jacobs	Councillor Train
Councillor Kimber	Councillor Ward

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chair if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm (single continuous sound) being activated, please leave the room immediately.

Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

Please note that mobile phones should be switched off for the duration of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies, if any, for inability to attend the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are reminded to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any personal (including financial) or prejudicial interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 9 and 31 January 2008 (attached)

**4. GOSPORT'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY –
PROGRESS UPDATE**

To provide Members with a progress update (attached) on Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy and its Local Strategic Partnership.

5. REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

To consider any requests received for matters to be scrutinised.

6. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF SCRUTINIES BEING UNDERTAKEN

(i) Southern Water (note attached)

(ii) Travel Token Service (note attached)

7. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

To consider the work programme (attached) for the Committee and any suggestions from Members for issues to be scrutinised.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WAS HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2008

Councillors Davis, Dickson (P), Foster, Foster-Reed, Jacobs (P), Kimber (P), Mrs Mudie (P), Philpott (P), Mrs Salter (P), Mrs Searle (P), Train (P) and Ward (P).

It was reported that Councillor Clinton had been nominated to attend this meeting in place of Councillor Foster.

53. APOLOGY

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Foster.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55. CAR PARKING CHARGES

Consideration was given to a briefing note of the Borough Treasurer which provided background information and highlighted a number of issues to assist the Committee's scrutiny of car parking charges.

The Chairman advised Members that any recommendation made by the Committee would be referred to the Community and Environment Board

The Chairman put forward a number of proposals to the Committee for recommendation to the Community and Environment Board which were:

- That the Board take full cognisance of the evidential findings of the Committee
- That, in considering the existing charging regime or in making any alterations to the existing charging regime in the Borough's car parks, the Board give full regard to the evidence presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the implications to the Borough Council's finances
- That the Board note the advice of officers regarding the best utilisation of income streams
- That the Board note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concern over the lack of parity in charging between short stay car parks in Lee-on-the-Solent
- That the Board note the conclusion of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that car parking charges are only one of many factors that influence shoppers

Officers were questioned regarding the current cost of car parking enforcement and advised that the current revised figure was £174,000 per year including oncosts. Officers carrying out car parking enforcement work were generic officers and spent time on other tasks.

Concerns were raised that some members of the public appeared to be evading car parking charges due to lack of enforcement and therefore income was not being maximised. Officers advised that, if a vehicle did not have the required parking permit, it did not necessarily mean that it would not be ticketed later in the day. Enforcement was carried out although not every day. Members of the public would be unaware of which days enforcement would be taking place. Two hours free parking meant that less enforcement was required and the existing regime was the best that could be provided within the Council's budgets and was considered to be adequate.

Officers advised that, originally, five officers carried out enforcement work on a part-time basis and there were now eleven. Officers had been brought in from other sections to work in this area and at least one of them was dedicated to car parking enforcement. Previously enforcement work had been carried out between the hours of 8.00 am to 4.00 pm but this had now been extended to cover the hours between 6.00 am and 10.00 pm.

Since the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, due to Members' concerns, a policy of zero tolerance had been adopted. This had resulted in a reduction from 77 cars advertised for sale on the highway in 2005 to five in 2007. During the same time period, requests in relation to dog fouling had fallen from 60 to 33, streets affected by graffiti from 4% to less than 0.5%, fly posting was almost down to zero and fly tipping incidents from 746 to 575. Three prosecutions were pending.

Streets affected by unacceptable levels of litter and detritus had fallen from 33% to below 9%. Fixed penalty litter notices had risen from nine in 2006 to 33 in 2007.

Penalty tickets issued in short stay car parks had totalled 1213 in 2005, 952 in 2006 and 389 in 2007. For the same years, 604, 333 and 268 tickets respectively had been issued in long term car parks.

Parking fines in 2006/07 had totalled £51,856 whilst the projected figure for the current year was £32,670.

Officers were questioned as to how the Council could balance its budget when £300,000 of revenue would be lost annually due to the introduction of two hours free parking. The Borough Treasurer explained that the Council received a windfall in 2006/07 due to an underspend in 2005/06. Despite this, it had been necessary to use some of the reserves in 2006/07.

Links between free car parking and specific changes to other services to balance the budget could not be drawn. The possible exceptions were the reduction of car park maintenance and Explosion! Museum.

The Borough Treasurer stated that his concerns were more concentrated on the Council's future financial position. At present the Council Tax increase forecast for 2009/10 was in the region of 20% whilst the percentage increase in 2010/11 was forecast to be in double figures. Action would need to be taken either to increase income or reduce services. To avoid capping a 4% Council Tax increase would have to be adjusted which would involve cutting expenditure or increasing income by £860,000 in 2009/10 and over £500,000 in 2010/11.

At this point in the meeting the fire alarm bell sounded. The Town Hall was accordingly evacuated and the Chairman decided that, in the circumstances, the meeting should stand adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.40 pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 6.00 pm on 31 January 2008. Councillors Dickson, Jacobs, Kimber, Philpott, Mrs Searle and Train were in attendance.

In answer to a Member's question, the Borough Treasurer advised that the loss of income from the introduction of free short stay car parking had been met from reserves. There were no plans to use money from reserves for this purpose during 2007/08 or 2008/09. There was no direct link between cuts in services and the introduction of free car parking.

There was no shortfall in the 2008/09 budget although there were some reductions in services.

The projected shortfalls for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 were £860,000 and £516,000 respectively. Action was being taken to address this situation and the contract with Verdant, the Council's waste collection contractor, was to be extended. This would have a beneficial effect on the shortfall figures.

A Member suggested that, although savings could be made in the short term, this was not a situation that could continue and asked whether the Council's financial commitment to the Bus Pass Scheme had been under estimated, this having a significant impact on the Council's finances.

The Borough Treasurer advised that the Bus Pass Scheme was a high impact, high risk area. Additional income streams would need to be found in the future otherwise Council services would be seriously reduced.

Budget proposals for car parking charges in 2008/09 included increases from £0.50 to £0.60 per hour and from £3.00 to £3.60 per day. An increase in charges to make up for the income lost through free car parking would not be achievable.

Reserves of 7% of the net revenue budget were being maintained and all projections assumed that this would be maintained.

A Member asked whether the information sent to all Members on 13 July 2006 anticipating losses of between £300,000 and £400,000 if free car parking were introduced and stating that people would re-locate from long stay to short stay car parks was accurate. The Borough Treasurer confirmed that this information was accurate.

The Borough Treasurer was asked how budget savings and efficiencies were achieved during the budget process. He advised that the process had changed in the last year or two. An initial draft budget was put together and the budget strategy agreed in June. Managers then put together their draft budgets. These were then reviewed and economies sought. This process involved discussions with Members.

A Member stated that in July 2006 Councillors had decided to remove one third of a million pounds in income and asked whether any Councillors had made suggestions as to how that loss of income could be made up. The Borough Treasurer replied that no suggestions had been made in that particular year nor in the 18 months since then.

The Chairman thanked Members of the Committee and officers for the work they had put into the scrutiny of car parking charges.

The proposals put forward by the Chairman earlier in the meeting were seconded and agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Community and Environment Board be recommended to:

- a) take full cognisance of the evidential findings of the Committee;
- b) in considering the existing charging regime or in making any alterations to the existing charging regime in the Borough's car parks, the Board give full regard to the evidence presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the implications to the Borough Council's finances;
- c) note the advice of officers regarding the best utilisation of income streams;
- d) note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concern over the lack of parity in charging between short stay car parks in Lee-on-the-Solent; and
- e) note the conclusion of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that car parking charges are only one of many factors that influence shoppers.

9 January 2008

56. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2008**

Councillors Davis, Dickson (P), Foster, Foster-Reed, Jacobs (P), Kimber (P), Mrs Mudie, Philpott (P), Mrs Salter, Mrs Searle (P), Train (P) and Ward.

57. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Davis, Foster and Mrs Salter.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dickson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5(ii) (Travel Tokens).

59. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 29 November 2007 and 3 January 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

60. REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

There were no requests for scrutiny.

61. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF SCRUTINIES UNDERTAKEN

Southern Water Working Group

Consideration was given to a briefing note of the Borough Solicitor, which updated the Committee on the progress made by the Working Group.

Councillor Jacobs reported that it was hoped that representatives of Southern Water would be attending the next meeting of the Working Group.

Considerable ground had been covered by the Working Group and it was anticipated that it would be in a position to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2008.

Travel Token Service Working Group

No further meetings of the Working Group had taken place since the last ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Train reported that a further meeting of the Working Group had been arranged for 27 February 2008 and it was anticipated that it would be in a position to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2008.

62. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A copy of the current work programme for the Committee was circulated to Members. The programme contained brief details of areas which were currently being or were due to be scrutinised, together with dates for appropriate reports to be made to Committee.

The Borough Solicitor advised that it had not been possible to complete Members' training on overview and scrutiny and undertook to bring a report to the Committee at its meeting following the local elections in May 2008.

RESOLVED: That the work programme and the report dates contained therein be approved.

63. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY/SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 27th March 2008

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

TITLE: Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy – Progress Update

AUTHOR: Chief Executive

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a progress update on Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy and its Local Strategic Partnership.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Gosport Borough Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Community Strategy through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Gosport Borough Council is a key partner in the LSP which is known as the Gosport Partnership. The Partnership also includes representatives from Churches Together, Gosport Voluntary Action, Government Offices for the South East, Groundwork Solent, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Primary Care Trust, Ministry of Defence, Portsmouth Housing Association, South East England Development Agency and St Vincent College.

A new Sustainable Community Strategy has been produced by the LSP and this has been subject to scrutiny as it is a policy framework document:

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the approach and process for reviewing and revising the Community Strategy in October 2006.
- The Committee then scrutinised the new Sustainable Community Strategy in September 2007 and also requested six monthly progress updates to be provided.
- The Council adopted the Community Strategy in November 2007.

3.0 REPORT

3.1 Developing the action plan

An action plan has been developed to assist with the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This action plan focuses on two areas, transport and local jobs, which were identified through the 'Make your Mark'

consultation responses and baseline data evidence. These two areas are interlinked and provide a good opportunity for multi-agency working.

Workshops were held in June 2007 with representatives from each LSP subgroup and local experts on each issue, to develop ideas for the action plan for transport and local jobs.

The Board used the ideas from these workshops plus those provided during the Make your Mark Consultation to draw up an initial action plan. This action plan was then placed on the LSP website to feed back to the community and wider LSP (see Appendix A).

A more detailed action plan with milestones, target dates and lead officers is currently being produced and will be used by the LSP to monitor delivery. Some of the initiatives currently being developed include organising an employment fair and organising 'Gosport's Big Day Out'.

3.2 Gosport Partnership Website

A new [website](#) has also been developed and went live in summer 2007. The website provides background information, latest news and all agendas/minutes for the Board, Coordinating Group and each subgroup. It is an important information tool for use by the LSP, partner organisations and also for feeding back on progress on the action plan to the community. It is one of the few independent LSP websites in Hampshire.

3.3 Performance management

The performance management of the LSP has recently been developed and has been split into two areas:

1. Action Plan Monitoring

- Progress reports will be provided at each Board meeting in respect of actions and any associated performance indicators. A detailed action plan is being developed based on Gosport Borough Council's Service Improvement Plan format. Future action plan monitoring will be via Gosport Borough Council's performance management systems,
- Updates will be published quarterly on the website – www.gosportpartnership.co.uk and where possible, in partner magazines,
- There will be six-monthly press releases to The News.

2. Baseline Data Monitoring

- Six-monthly data updates will be carried out by the Council's Planning Policy Section,
- Six-monthly data reviews will be carried out by the LSP to identify any emerging trends or issues,
- Annual checks will be carried out by the LSP Coordinator to ensure data quality and relevance.

In addition to these monitoring arrangements the LSP will also hold an annual checkpoint review. The first annual checkpoint will take place in December 2008 and it will:

- Review the action plan
- Review the baseline data and consider any new data/trends

- Consider any local, county, regional or national plans which may affect the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Consider any other influences/drivers impacting partner organisations
- Receive an annual report from each subgroup
- Present its findings in a formal annual report.

3.4 Structure of the LSP

In November 2007 the Gosport Partnership Board reviewed the structure of the LSP and its links to Local Area Agreement. The relationship between the Local Area Agreement and the LSP subgroups is shown in Appendix B.

The Board agreed to set up a Gosport Transport & Sustainability Partnership to bridge the link with Local Area Agreement Priority C and also to progress action in respect of transport. It also agreed that Gosport Borough Council and Portsmouth Housing Association would look into setting up a Housing Partnership for Gosport.

The Board also considered how members are elected to the Board and decided that subgroups should have a representative on the Board with automatic places awarded to Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Ministry of Defence and the voluntary and community sector. The Business Forum and Community Safety Partnership were the only subgroups not represented on the Board and have been asked to elect representatives.

It was also agreed that the Health Groups would be rationalised, with the Public Health Liaison Board becoming the overarching Health & Wellbeing Partnership for Gosport and the Healthy Alliance and Sports & Physical Activity Alliance then feeding into this partnership.

3.5 Future challenges

The LSP's key challenges in delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy are:

- Making the action plan happen – limited financial and staff resources make delivery challenging. However, a focused action plan and the work that has been undertaken over the past two years will improve the LSP's ability to deliver.
- Local Area Agreements – the District LSP links into this process are still unclear, although the LSP has provided the County with its two main priorities.

4.0 CONCLUSION

A draft action plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy has been produced and progress has been made in establishing delivery and monitoring mechanisms.

Supporting Information

Financial implications: None.

Legal implications:

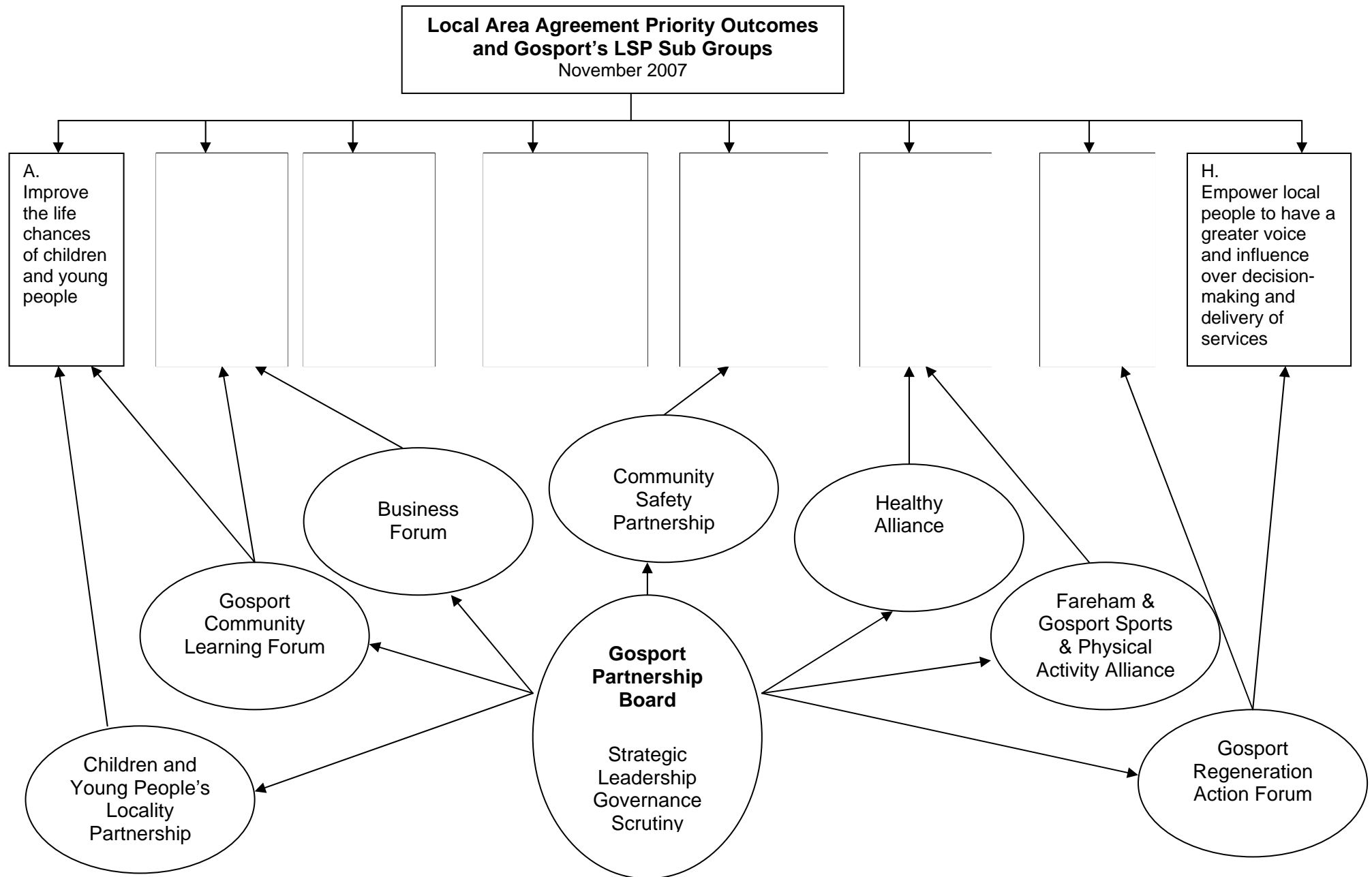
Risk Assessment: Failure to deliver actions in respect of the Sustainable Community Strategy poses a risk to partnership working and reputation management.

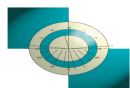
Background papers including previous reports:

- A. PowerPoint Presentation to Scrutiny Committee October 2006
- B. Report to Scrutiny Committee September 2007

Enclosures/Appendices: Appendix A: Initial action plan
Appendix B: Local Area Agreement Priority Outcomes and Gosport's LSP Sub Groups

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The Gosport Partnership
" Working Together For The Gosport Community "

GOSPORT'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

January 2008 Update



Welcome to the January 2008 Update

In December 2006, during the Make your Mark campaign, you voted on the priorities for the Borough and what should be done about them. The issues that received the most votes were traffic congestion and employment opportunities – your votes have been used to produce this action plan.

This update lets you know what we are going to do to improve these issues and gives suggestions of what you can do to help.

Priority 1: Reduce traffic congestion in Gosport

The Challenges:

- Over 12,000 Gosport people travel to Fareham or Portsmouth to work
- Gosport is the largest town in the country without a railway station
- One in ten people cycle to work and one in ten people walk to work

What we will do:

- Increase cycling lanes especially along the major routes in and out of the Borough
- Increase cycling facilities at local businesses
- Change travel behaviour

You too can help. Here are some examples of what you could do if you are...

An individual:

- Walk, cycle or take public transport to work – even if it is just one day per week
- Car share with colleagues who live nearby
- Walk or cycle for local journeys

A business:

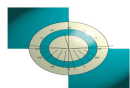
- Introduce a travel plan
- Install cycling facilities – storage, changing rooms, showers
- Enable your employees to work more flexibly e.g. at home, flexitime hours

A community group:

- Organise car sharing schemes to meetings or events
- Be a 'buy local' group and reduce unnecessary travel
- Set up or support a 'walking bus' to get your children to and from school

For more information on Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy, the Gosport Partnership or for further help on what you can do to make a difference, please visit www.gosportpartnership.co.uk or contact the Partnership's coordinator at Johanna.Hamilton@ports.nhs.uk

We will be issuing updates every six months to keep you informed of our progress.



The Gosport Partnership
" Working Together For The Gosport Community "

GOSPORT'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

January 2008 Update



If you have any examples of what you, your business or community group are already doing to address these priorities please let us know so that we can share your good ideas!

If you, your business or community group would like to actively get involved with the actions set out in the **'What we will do'** sections, please contact us.

You can contact the Partnership Coordinator at johanna.hamilton@ports.nhs.uk

Priority 2: Increase employment opportunities

The Challenges:

- A lack of local jobs increases the need to travel
- Only half our working population have a job in the Borough
- Compared to elsewhere there are fewer businesses in Gosport and fewer people start their own businesses here

What we will do:

- Improve the image of the Borough
- Create stronger links between local schools and colleges and local businesses
- Increase adult training in the Borough

You too can help. Here are some examples of what you could do if you are...

An individual:

- Talk positively about the Borough
- Continue to learn and increase your skills
- Encourage your children to attend employment fairs and open days

A business:

- Promote the benefits of being located in the Borough
- Attend school and college employment fairs and explain about the opportunities in your company to local young people
- Encourage your employees to develop their skills

A community group:

- Promote the benefits of having local facilities and business
- Support local business by buying locally
- Promote the benefits of the local environment

Useful links - Priority 1

<http://www.traveline.org.uk/>
<http://www.hants.gov.uk/environment/workplacetravel>
<http://www.hantscarshare.com/>
<http://www.southeastfoodanddrink.co.uk/consumers>
<http://www.walkingbus.com/>
<http://www.hants.gov.uk/schooltravelplans/walking>

Useful links – Priority 2

<http://www.stvincent.ac.uk/>
[http://www.learndirect.co.uk/
www3.hants.gov.uk/learning](http://www.learndirect.co.uk/www3.hants.gov.uk/learning)
www3.hants.gov.uk/jobs
http://www.sustainable_development.gov.uk/

BRIEFING NOTE

Date:	27 March 2008
Title:	Southern Water Working Group
Author:	Borough Solicitor
Purpose:	For Information

BACKGROUND

It was resolved at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 April 2007 to set up a Working Group of 3 Members (1:1:1) to investigate strategic and operational concerns connected to Southern Water's management of the Borough's wastewater system. Six meetings of the working group had now been held to date. Councillor Mrs Salter had been nominated to replace Councillor Carr from the 12 March 2007 meeting.

PROGRESS

At the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting an update was given on the fourth and fifth meetings of the working group held in November 2007 and January 2008 respectively.

Dave Bialas, Southern Water County Sewerage Engineer, was invited to attend a meeting of the working group held on 12 March 2008. Mr Bialas was sent a list of questions to research before the meeting and was subsequently well prepared. Mr Bialas clarified the projects and investigations that were currently being conducted and planned by Southern Water. A number of schemes and concerns were discussed and issues such as pollution, maintenance and the adoption of unadopted drains and sewers were covered during discussions. Mr Bialas also expressed an interest in creating a closer working relationship with Gosport Council in the future.

Another meeting of the working group would be held shortly to discuss the preparation of a report that would put down the findings of the group and any possible recommendations to be made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A MEETING OF THE TRAVEL TOKENS WORKING GROUP WAS HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2008 4.00pm

MEMBERSHIP: Councillor Mrs Salter (P), Councillor Train (P) and Councillor Ward

OFFICERS PRESENT: Phil Reynolds (PR), Debbie Cane (DC) and Joe Martin

1 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Councillor Ward and Julian Bowcher.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Travel Tokens Working Group meeting held on 2 November 2007 were approved.

3 UPDATE ON TAXI FARE TARIFF AND LICENSING ISSUES

Members considered the Maximum Hackney Carriage Fares document (affixed in the Minutes book as Appendix A) along with a table which clarified how much it would cost to travel a specific distance.

£40 was thought to be an appropriate amount to be annually credited to each Smart Card, the same figure currently issued to residents through the travel token system. There would be a limit of £5 that could be debited from each Smart Card on any one journey, which would equate to approximately 3400 metres, just over 2 miles. The introduction of the card along with the £5 maximum fare would help to avert fraudulent uses of the system.

RESOLVED: That Members recommend the maximum debited amount from a Smart Card for one specific journey to be £5 to avert fraudulent uses of the concession system.

4 CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION WITH TAXI COMPANIES ON THE USE OF SMART CARDS

Members discussed how best to consult with Taxi drivers on the introduction of the next Smart Card system. It was indicated that each terminal would cost between £90-100, and would be required in every taxi if the driver was to be able to accept Smart Cards. The Ferry Company would also need to install a terminal, but as only one was required this was unlikely to be met with any opposition from the company.

The Smart Card system would be presented to taxi drivers as a necessary replacement for travel tokens and any loss of income as a result of installing the Smart Card Reader would be offset by the benefit of being able to transport residents who used the cards, as well as the fare being automatically credited to the driver and therefore not having to cash tokens in at the Town Hall.

It was agreed that Phil Reynolds would meet with the taxi drivers at a relevant Licensing meeting and discuss the scheme with them. Mr Reynolds would then be able to gauge whether the majority of drivers were for or against the new scheme and whether they were prepared to pay the necessary sum to install the card reader. It may be possible to

reach a compromise whereby the Council would set up a capital fund that drivers could use to purchase the readers and repay the cost to the Council over time, or even whereby half of the fee is met by the Council and not repaid. Any drivers requiring a new license would be expected to have the reader installed before they started working in the Borough. It was suggested that Malcolm Daughtrey, Managing Director of National Travel Tokens, be invited to make a presentation on the implementation of the Smart Card scheme at the taxi driver meeting.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the age that residents should reach before being entitled to the Smart Card. It was noted that the scheme could be reassessed after the first year to see if the right people were benefiting from the improvements, and whether the scheme was successful from a financial perspective. The data collected as a result of implementing the Smart Card system would allow the Council to analyse usage and assess the successes and failures from the first year.

Actions:

- 1. PR to arrange a meeting with taxi drivers to consult on the Smart Card scheme.**
- 2. PR to invite Malcolm Daughtrey to make a presentation to taxi drivers.**

The meeting concluded at 4.35pm

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: WORK PROGRAMME

Work Area	Lead Officer	Date to be reported to Committee
Best Value Performance Indicators: <i>Policy Framework Document: Consideration of performance information relating to BVPIs and actions agreed by CMT</i>	Mike Jeffery	At 6-monthly intervals See Q dates June/Nov
Community Strategy Action Plan: <i>Policy Framework Document</i>	Julie Petty	At 6-monthly intervals: Next report 27 March 2008
Disability Equality Scheme: <i>Receive progress report on an annual basis</i>	Julie Petty	Annually: Next report 5 June 2008
Scrutiny Training: <i>Training for Members on Modules of "Why Scrutiny Matters"</i>	Linda Edwards	5 June 2008
Southern Water Working Group	Joe Martin	Update: 27 March 2008
Travel Tokens Working Group	Julian Bowcher	Update: 27 March 2008
Work areas: <i>Review at each meeting</i>		