

**GPP COMMUNITY COHESION BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 17 January 2008**

**In Attendance** Malcolm Burch, Assistant Chief Executive, PCC (Chair)  
Elaine Fulton, Assistant Director, Children's Services  
Paul Phillipson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Jawaid Khan, GPP Cohesion Manager  
Stuart Hamilton, PCC  
John Place, Go-East  
Maheeb Ladha, Director of Peterborough Racial Equality Council  
David Hankins, PCC Community Safety Manager  
Rebecca Stephens, GPP  
Cllr John Holdich, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and  
Economic Development  
Geeta Pankhania, PCT  
Leonie McCarthy, New Link Project Manager

**Advisors:** Martin Whelan, Partnership and Parish Support Officer

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Adrian Chapman, Phil Evans, Ian Houghton and Rita Tanda.

**2. Minutes of Meeting held 3 December 2007.**

The minutes of the meeting held 3 December 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

**4. Operational report**

Jawaid Khan introduced the report, and highlighted the key elements of the report.

CCTV – David Hankins confirmed that he had recently visited two Lancashire towns to assess how they had implemented the scheme. The challenges and issues related to implementation in both towns were highlighted to the Board. Members were advised that there was currently a differential in the cost between the towns and what was being proposed locally. Cohesion Board to receive updates as appropriate.

Week of Action – Members were advised that the next week of action would have a strong faith and cohesion focus.

Citizenship Ceremonies – A list of the planned dates were circulated, and Cohesion Board Members were encourage to attend to observe. The Board noted that the ceremonies were currently not being fully utilised, so it was agreed to explore the possibility of integrating cohesion related elements into the process.

ESOL/ Festivals – The Board noted that these are developing areas.

Cohesion Practitioners Group (CPG) – The Cohesion Board agreed to form a CPG as an executive arm of the Cohesion Board. The role of this group will be to identify issues, explore options, ensure that the issues from Cohesion Board and the Cohesion work programme are actioned, to update the Board on issues in-between meetings and seek strategic direction from the Cohesion Board in order to ensure

**ACTION**

DH

that the agenda is progressed.

The effectiveness of the CPG will be reviewed in six months'

DCLG Survey – The Board noted the latest interim statistics, and were assured that a variance of 1% was not statistically significant. Some concerns were expressed that Peterborough appeared to be below the national average in some areas. Board agreed to consider this and related matters at an away day in March, Jawaid Khan to organise. The Board also agreed that it was important to examine such figures in relation to other cities which are facing a notable influx of migrant workers.

JK

## 5. Preventing Extremism

The action planning day with focus leads to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January was highlighted. Positive developments in relation to the Imam Council, ESOL and Eid event were outlined.

The Board noted that £30k was currently unallocated. Groups to explore possibility of developing projects. Leonie McCarthy emphasised the challenges of getting some of the groups to meet. MJ Ladha pointed out that various Muslim groups and people from other faiths had asked how the decisions were being on the allocation and expenditure of the grants. Malcolm Burch sought clarification on the ability to carry forward funds, Jawaid Khan to confirm with John Blair the technical details. Members discussed the likely focus of the next round of funding. It was agreed to pass this item to the CPG to make recommendations to the Board.

JK

## 6. LAA Block 2

The Board noted that the next round of LAA reports would be submitted to the next meeting.

Paul Phillipson provided an update on the integration of cohesion measures into the new LAA. The Board was advised that some measures would not currently be measured, where as others would require a shift in focus.

Rowena Sampson confirmed that it was likely that only questions which involved measuring perceptions would be included in the next Citizens Panel.

Clarification was sought on the most recent intelligence in relation to far right political activity within the City.

## 7. Myth Busting

Rebecca Stephens outlined her ongoing work on a communications strategy focusing on the promotion of positive perceptions of Peterborough and myth busting.

Comments made by board members included:

- Explore the possibility of including facts or editors notes at the base of each press release.
- Seek to promote the benefits to employers of migrant workers. Possible reluctance on the part of employers noted.
- Needs to be aligned with EERA Communications Strategy.
- Concern about the time limited nature of factsheets, however it was agreed that it would be useful to have key facts. Challenges noted in developing key messages.
- Need to understand which media outlets are being accessed.
- Risk of consultation drunkenness.
- Possibility of using the “one city” approach championed by Westminster. One

story, many messages approach.

- Challenge of explaining what cohesion means both locally and .in the wider context.
- Cohesion is an important issue, but “core business” will always be the priority.
- Importance of positive media coverage

Following discussion it was agreed that

- In the short term the quick wins would be delivered
- JK/RS to develop implementation plan as to the next step with the CPG and report back
- Link into the Peterborough Story marketing group

JK/RS

## 8. **Emergency Protocols**

The Board was advised the Cohesion Board was now part of the emergency protocols list. Members to send comments to Jawaid Khan as soon as possible.

ALL

## 9. **Ethnic Monitoring**

MJ Ladha introduced the paper, seeking the implementation of a common approach to ethnic monitoring of workforces and service delivery (with the exception of crime recording on the 16+2 formula as used by the Police) across both the statutory and voluntary/community sectors and indeed across all GPP partners. Various RSLs and VCS organisations have supported the initiative

ALL

During discussion a number of partner organisation advised that they had statutory or quasi statutory reporting requirements. Each partners organisation to review their approach, and report back to the next Cohesion Board.

The paper was supported. MJ Ladha to circulate to GPP and its partners for an agreement in principle by no later than December 2008.

## 10. **Cohesion – Millfield/New England Working Group**

MJL

Leonie McCarthy introduced the report, jointly with Jawaid Khan. The focus for the project was outlined.

Concerns were raised about the focus of the forthcoming “week of action”. Jawaid Khan to facilitate a meeting involving Adrian Chapman and Paul Phillipson to confirm approach. It was agreed that a Community Engagement strategy should be developed as a matter of urgency, to minimise the risk of bad press.

The proposed governance arrangements were agreed, however concerns were expressed that the new structure appeared to be inconsistent with the level of funding. There was a query on the rationale for creating a new group, instead of utilising the existing MANERP community partnership. Members were informed that the complexity of the issues involved required this particular type of approach.

The Board agreed in principle to engage Rebecca Stephens to further develop the media strategy for the project, subject to further consideration at the Strategic Group.

The Board endorsed the objectives of the project and the governance arrangements as well as the combination of a strategic group. The Board directed preparation of a communication strategy. The information was to be shared with the Cabinet, CMT and GPP Board and the residents engaged through MANERP and GDP.