



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY TOGETHER BOARD**

**13 December 2010 – 3.00pm, Guildhall**

**Members Present**

Stuart Fraser, City of London Corporation (Chairman)  
Tony Matharu, Grange Hotels – Vibrant and Culturally Rich sub-group (Deputy Chair)  
John Barker – Resident Representative (North of the City)  
Lorraine Butler, Citizens' Advice Bureau City Branch  
Sarah Cary, British Land - Transport and Sustainability Forum  
Paul Chisnall, British Bankers' Association  
Chris Duffield, Town Clerk & Chief Executive, City of London Corporation  
Arielle Goodley – Resident Representative (West of the City)  
Vicky Hobart, NHS City & Hackney - Adult Wellbeing Partnership  
Joy Hollister, City of London Corporation – Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership  
Kathryn McDowell, London Symphony Orchestra – Vibrant and Culturally Rich sub-group  
Andrew McMurtrie - Transport and Sustainability Forum  
The Venerable David Meara, Archdeacon of London  
Lesley Mountford, NHS City & Hackney  
Sue O'Hare, London Metropolitan University – Skilled and Learning sub-group  
Emma Plouviez – City.COMM  
Superintendent Oliver Shaw, City of London Police  
Chris Welch, Association of British Insurers

**Also in attendance**

Susan Attard, Chair of The City Together Performance Management Group  
Alan Hughes, Policy & Governance Manager, City of London Corporation  
Liz Skelcher, Assistant Director of Economic Development, City of London Corporation  
Joanne Crawley, Policy Support Officer, City of London Corporation (Minutes)

Liam Barnes, Citizens Online (for Item 3)

**ITEM 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman welcomed two new members to the Board: Superintendent Oliver Shaw, taking over from Superintendent Lorraine Cussen as the City of London Police's representative on the Board; and Emma Plouviez, taking over from Mark Pudge as City.COMM's representative on the Board.

The Chairman also welcomed to the meeting Liam Barnes of Citizens Online who was attending for the Big Society discussion at item 3 on the agenda.

Apologies were received from Anthony Belchambers and Christine Cohen.

## **ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 were agreed.

### **Matters arising:**

**Local Government Financial Settlement** – Chris Duffield informed the Board that the financial settlements from central Government for both local government and Police services were due to be published later that day. Chris explained that the settlement would confirm the exact figures, but that the City Corporation was anticipating a reduction in the grant it receives of around 25% over the next four years, or over £20m by 2014/15. Furthermore, the grant reduction is expected to be significantly front-loaded, with a possible 10% reduction in year one (2011/12). Chris explained that the City Corporation would need to make spending reductions over the next four years to absorb these cuts and that options were being considered in anticipation. Chris will update the Board at the next meeting when the position will be clearer.

**Governance** – A note was circulated proposing changes to existing sub-groups of the Board. The Board agreed the following:

#### Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership / Adult Wellbeing Partnership:

- The Children & Young Peoples' Strategic Partnership be merged with the Adult Wellbeing Partnership to form a new shadow Health & Wellbeing Board.
- The shadow Health & Wellbeing Board become an active Board after government guidance is published in the New Year.
- The Board also noted that there will be a joint development day in January 2011 to discuss challenges, benefits, scope and structure of the Health & Wellbeing Board and that there will be a joint action plan for 2011/12.

#### Vibrant & Culturally Rich City Sub Group:

- The City Arts Forum takes on delivery of the cultural elements of The City Together Strategy (from the Vibrant & Culturally Rich City sub-group)
- A new Vibrant City sub-group be created under the chairmanship of Tony Matharu with responsibility for delivery of the vibrancy elements of The City Together Strategy
- The creation of a broader Vibrant & Culturally Rich City Forum, meeting every six months, at which the City Arts Forum and the Vibrant City sub-group come together to consider future cultural policy.

#### Inclusive & Outward Looking Sub Group:

- The Board noted that the role of this sub-group is currently under review and a report on options for the future of this group will be presented to the next TCT Board.

### **ITEM 3. THEMED DISCUSSION**

Joy Hollister, Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, introduced the themed discussion on '**Localism and the Big Society**'. A paper was circulated to the Board which summarised the key elements of the Big Society idea and examples of some of the changes and initiatives associated with this agenda which had been mentioned by the Government to date, and examples of work already being undertaken by the City Corporation in this regard. The Board was invited to discuss what City Together partners are already doing in respect of the Big Society idea and what more could be done.

Discussion points included the potential change in the role of local authorities in the provision of services to communities and the potential for the increased role of the voluntary sector. It was felt that the Big Society idea suggests that local authorities will have a continued role to play in signposting support, facilitating cooperation and partnerships and advising on issues such as governance, but would have a much reduced role to play in delivery of services. It was recognised that much of the Big Society idea is not new – rather it is an attempt to renew people's interest in becoming more involved in their communities.

Board members noted that there are lots of examples of the Big Society in practice in the City, including the business sector's philanthropic and social responsibility work and community services already provided by the City churches. The Board also discussed some of the potential risks and difficulties associated with delivering on the Big Society, including the need to ensure that all members of the community have a voice and can be involved, the potential challenge of encouraging people to become more active in their communities, and the difficulties facing the voluntary sector in the current financial climate. Models for incentive schemes were discussed and consideration given to the sort of 'rewards' that might be offered should such a scheme be developed in the City – for example offering those who participate discounted entry to events at cultural institutions etc. The Board also noted the potential need for some resources to be offered to community projects, with examples given of projects which had been successful in part because a paid employee had been available to provide coordination, promotion or administrative support. With regard to work already being undertaken in this area, the Board felt that more could be done to promote projects to potential volunteers and to ensure that different groups are talking to each and maximising potential linkages. There may be a need for a single source of information in this regard and there is perhaps a role for The City Together in funding / supporting this or providing other tools to help promote community engagement or assist the voluntary sector.

### **ITEM 4. THE CITY PROSPECTUS – CITY OF LONDON ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

Liz Skelcher explained that the previous Government placed a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare a Local Economic Assessment for their area to ensure that they have an understanding of how economic conditions and forces shape local areas and to inform policies, priorities and the allocation of resources. The City Prospectus is the City of London's Local Economic Assessment, detailing the economic, environmental and population characteristics of the City of London and drawing out 12 key challenges for the future. A summary of the City Prospectus was circulated, with copies of the full document available to Board members on request. The Board was asked to note the content of the City Prospectus.

## **ITEM 5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

### **Item 5.a) Report of Performance Management Group**

The Board received a report setting out the process for allocation of the reward funding for the 2007-10 Local Area Agreement (LAA) and progress against the reward targets in the 2008-11 LAA.

With regard to the reward grant for performance against the 2007-10 LAA, Susan Attard (Chair of the TCT Performance Management Group) confirmed that a 'clean bill of health' had now been received from the City Corporation's Internal Audit team and the claim for the £1.1million of reward grant could now be submitted to Government in the New Year. Susan reminded the Board that the allocation process for this funding had been agreed at the previous meeting, with the Board's £507k share to be allocated as follows:

- £127k to be made available to individual projects (via a bidding process) in 2011/12. A notional cap of £25k pre project has been set and guidance on the bidding process has been issued to all sub-group Chairs and City Corporation Chief Officers. The deadline for bids from this pot is the end of January 2011. Susan noted that no bids had yet been received. Joy Hollister confirmed that initial bids had been received by sub-groups and would be considered at this level first before final submission.
- £127k to be retained by the Board as a contingency fund for 2011/12 to be allocated as priorities arise throughout the year. Chris Duffield suggested that options for using some of this funding to help with 'Big Society' initiatives (as suggested by Chris Welch under item 3) be explored.
- £254k to be held back for allocation during 2012/13.

With regard to the 2008-11 LAA, Susan Attard confirmed that performance against these targets would no longer be monitored and reported back to the Board as the Government has withdrawn any potential reward funding and abolished the need to report against National Indicators.

### **Item 5.b) LAA 2007-10 Reward Funding – Economic Development Office proposals**

In line with the policy agreed by the Board in March 2010, the lead partner for each of the stretch targets in the 2007-11 LAA will receive 45% of the total reward funding received for that target. This reward funding may be spent by lead partners on current or future activities consistent with the priorities identified in the Community Strategy, however this spend must be approved by the City Together Board.

As lead partner for the Inward Investment target in the 2007-10 LAA, the City Corporation's Economic Development Office will receive reward funding of £98,740 for meeting this target. A report was circulated setting out the Economic Development Office's proposals for allocating this funding. Liz Skelcher introduced the report which contained four proposals for allocating the funding as follows:

- £50,000 – to extend the City STEP employment and training project

- £20,000 – for a major inward investment event including promotional materials
- £10,000 - for economic development and regeneration related brochures
- £18,740 - contribution towards proposed research on the impact of the City's arts and cultural activities

With regard to the proposed £10,000 allocation for brochures, Chris Welch questioned whether web based materials might be more appropriate. Liz Skelcher explained that brochures are considered to be particularly effective promotional materials.

There was a discussion regarding the purpose of the proposed research on the impact of the City's arts and cultural activity, with specific queries relating to a possible Olympics tie-in and the potential for this research to be used as a tool for promoting the City's offer.

The Board agreed the proposals relating to City STEP (£50,000), the inward investment event (£20,000) and the brochures (£10,000). The Board gave in principle agreement to the proposal relating to research on the impact of the City's arts and cultural activities (£18,740), but requested that more detailed proposals on the nature / subject of this research be brought back to the Board for its approval before the research is commissioned.

## **ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Sarah Cary informed the Board that the Insect Hotels project funded by The City Together had been awarded a Green Apple Award and that the project had received considerable positive press attention.

Liz Skelcher updated the Board on efforts to reduce unemployment among City residents. All JSA claimants living in the City who are in receipt of Housing Benefit have been contacted regarding employment and training support available to them.

Chris Welch complemented the City Corporation on the streetscene improvements around One New Change development.

## **ITEM 7. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Date – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
 Venue - to be confirmed