



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY TOGETHER BOARD

30th March 2011 – 3.00pm, Guildhall

Members Present

Stuart Fraser, City of London Corporation (Chairman)
Tony Matharu, Grange Hotels – Vibrant and Culturally Rich sub-group (Deputy Chair)
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
Andrew McMurtrie - Transport and Sustainability Forum
Sue O'Hare, London Metropolitan University – Skilled and Learning sub-group
Emma Plouviez – City.COMM
Superintendent Oliver Shaw, City of London Police

Also in attendance

Susan Attard, Chair of The City Together Performance Management Group
Neil Davies, Head of Corporate Performance & Development, City of London Corporation
Joanne Crawley, Policy Support Officer, City of London Corporation (Minutes)

Ian Harrison, Head of Resilience and Community Safety, City of London Corporation
Vivienne Littlechild – Member (Ward of Cripplegate), City of London Corporation

ITEM 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Ian Harrison, Head of Resilience and Community Safety at the City of London Corporation, who was attending to present to Board Members at item 3 on the agenda.

Apologies were received from Anthony Belchambers, Christine Cohen, John Barker, Chris Welch, Lesley Mountford and Kathryn McDowell

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting of 13th December 2010 were agreed.

Matters arising:

Financial update – Chris Duffield updated the Board on the implications of the December 2010 Local Government Financial Settlement, which resulted in the City Corporation receiving an overall reduction in its grant from central government of some

25% over the next four years. When the fall in the City Corporation's property and investment income is also taken into account, the total loss of income will be around £45m per annum. The City of London Police has also had its government grant reduced by £7.4million over the next two years (an 11.4% reduction). These levels of reduction can no longer be absorbed, and City Corporation Members agreed at the beginning of March to 12.5% budget reductions across all City Corporation function and no inflation increases on budgets for the next three years. Chris explained that he felt confident that reductions can be made without very significant impacts on services received by the public by focussing on natural wastage eg not filling vacancies and through the efficiency programmes already in place or in development. Joy Hollister assured the Board that the budget reductions will not have a massive impact on the provision of statutory services, however efficiencies will be made in some of the non-statutory services, for example youth and play provision, and that the opportunity is being taken to review and improve the way in which these services are currently delivered.

Governance – Stuart Fraser informed the Board that the options for the Inclusive and Outward Looking sub-group are still being considered. Stuart also informed the Board that the Federation of Small Businesses City Branch had contacted the City Corporation offering to provide a representative to fill the current Board vacancy for a small business representative. The Board gave its in principle agreement to this option being pursued.

ITEM 3. THEMED DISCUSSION

Ian Harrison, Head of Resilience and Community Safety at the City of London Corporation, gave a presentation on the work of his team in relation to the 'Safer and Stronger' theme of the City Together Strategy. Key points included:

- The IRA bombings in the City in the early 1990s were the catalyst for the development of the City's **Contingency Planning Team** which offers a unique service providing security advice for City businesses, residents and the City Corporation itself and working closely with the City of London Police counter-terrorism team. The Team also provides advice to businesses on contingency planning and business continuity arrangements, helping businesses to develop and exercise their plans.
- The Contingency Planning Team plays a key role in **preparing for and responding to a major incident in the City**, planning and implementing survivor reception centres, media relations co-ordination and the information service for the public and businesses. Following any major incident, a dedicated Business Information Centre will be established allowing named representatives from individual businesses to access information on access to buildings etc to help businesses to return to normal as soon as possible. The Team is also involved in the 'consolidation' phase of a major incident – including mortuary arrangements, dealing with dangerous structures etc – and in the 'restoration' phase – longer-term redevelopment, memorials, inquests and trials etc.
- With regard to its **Community Safety** functions, Ian's team co-ordinates the Safer City Partnership, a sub-group of The City Together. The Partnership has six key priority areas – counter terrorism, economic crime, anti-social behaviour, protecting people against crime, protecting vulnerable people, and the night-time economy. Major projects include the 'Safety Thirst' campaign and a taxi-marshalling scheme.

- Ian also oversees the work of the City's **Drug Action Team**, which provides drug use intervention, treatment, education and prevention services for City residents, and the **London Drugs and Alcohol Policy Forum** which was established by the City Corporation in 1991 to promote effective working and co-ordination across local authority partnerships and other agencies involved in tackling substance misuse. The Policy Forum is recognised both nationally and internationally for its best practice guidance in this area. Project Eclipse is a recent example of the partnership approach used, with organisations including the City Corporation, the City Police and the Forensic Science Service working alongside the Licensing trade in the City on a drug amnesty. The project involved training door staff and Police officers, providing drug amnesty bins within licensed premises and analysing the drugs collected to identify trends in use (what used, what it's cut with etc). The information gathered led to the development of practice and policy on the use of drug amnesty bins and has informed both UK and EU drugs policy.

Chris Duffield noted the **night-time economy** was a key concern for City residents and that great strides had been made in dealing with its negative impacts. Ian Harrison pointed out that alcohol related offences in the City have decreased by 60% in the past three years, with crime in licensed premises down by 30%, largely as a result of greater co-ordination between the City Corporation, City Police and other agencies working together to tackle and monitor problems. City Police and City Corporation officers are working together to respond quickly to noise complaints but also work with licensees on longer-term interventions to tackle the problems and reduce complaints. Superintendent Oliver Shaw explained that recent changes to the licensing laws have also resulted in a reduction in weekend events and there has been an associated reduction in violent crimes.

In response to a question from Andrew McMurtrie, Ian Harrison outlined the City's general **preparations for mass demonstration events in the City**. Ian explained that the City Corporation works to ensure that businesses and residents are aware of a planned event as early as possible and puts in place any preparative measures thought necessary for the City (such as postponing roadworks, checking security fencing etc). The City Corporation has detailed contingency plans of its own in place to ensure that it can continue to deliver its own core functions, and a contingent of City Police officers is always available even if the Force is assisting in a large scale operation elsewhere.

ITEM 4. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Joy Hollister introduced the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which had been circulated to the Board in advance, explaining that the Government places a statutory duty on the City Corporation and NHS City and Hackney to prepare the Assessment each year. The Board was asked to endorse the proposed priorities for addressing the health needs of City workers and residents during 2010/11 and 2011/12 presented in the report.

Joy noted that there are difficulties in disaggregating City-specific data from the overall City & Hackney data and that this makes it difficult to produce a meaningful assessment for City residents and City workers. Joy also noted that going forward, if the public health reforms are approved by central government, then public health responsibilities will be transferred to local authorities and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will be superseded by the requirement for the City Corporation to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the City.

In response to a question from Vivienne Littlechild, Joy confirmed that she is in discussion with the local GP practice on the changes going forward. Vicky Hobart outlined the difficulties in determining how funding will transfer from NHS City & Hackney to local GPs in the area, and noted that this will be a particular issue for the City given the very high numbers of workers who represent a transient population from a public health point of view. Joy Hollister explained that there may be an option to utilise private providers to deliver services, but that a piece of research will be required once the reforms are confirmed to gain a better understanding of the potential health needs of City workers in the near future.

The Board agreed to endorse the proposed priorities for addressing the health needs of City workers and residents during 2010/11 and 2011/12 presented in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment report.

ITEM 5. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2007-2010

Item 5.a) Recommendations for allocation of TCT Board element

The Board received a report of the Performance Management Group summarising the bidding and assessment process used by the Group to identify 9 projects recommended to receive a share of the £127,000 of LAA 2007-10 reward funding available in 2011/12.

Susan Attard explained that project funding bids were sought from all partners of The City Together, and a total of 29 bids were received totalling over £500,000. The Performance Management Group met on 14th March to consider all of the bids, and a short list was drawn up by asking each member of the Group to nominate their top six projects. Further discussions on the relative merits of each project on the short list produced a final list of 9 projects to receive a share of the £127,000 available.

Board members expressed concern about the lack of detail on each of the bids circulated in advance of the meeting and Vicky Hobart noted that the final recommendations of the Performance Management Group do not reflect the Adult Wellbeing Partnership's prioritisation of the bids submitted via that sub-group. In particular, the Group's failure to recommend funding for the tobacco alliance project was very disappointing. Susan Attard apologised for the lack of information circulated to the Board and noted the Adult Wellbeing Partnership's disappointment, however Susan reassured Board members that the Performance Management Group had conducted a vigorous assessment of each bid and had sought to ensure that the recommendations covered as broad a range of projects and City Together themes as possible.

The Board agreed to the Performance Management Group's recommendations for allocation of the £127,000 of LAA 2007-10 reward funding available in 2011/12 as follows:

Project Title and Lead Deliverer	Summary	Funding Agreed
Portsoken Community Centre Project Adult Wellbeing Partnership & Children and Young People's Partnership/City.comm)	To employ a part time Community Development worker to enable the Portsoken community to make better use of the facilities at the Centre, and ultimately take a leadership role in running the Centre and its activities. This will increase use of the Centre and give better value for money for the activities and services provided within the Centre and the Portsoken locality.	£25,416
City of Sport Sports Development	To fund various sporting and physical activities to improve the physical and mental health, fitness and wellbeing of both City workers and residents in the run up to 2012, and increase the Olympic legacy benefits	£15,000
Extended Schools Allocation Sir John Cass's Primary School	To employ an Extended Schools co-ordinator to increase the range of services and activities outside of the traditional school day. The current service has been proven to support children in their specific and personal needs and raise attainment, self-esteem, academic and physical skills, but Government funding has been withdrawn.	£25,000
Four Corners City of London Festival	To fund two large scale open air music and dance performance projects for 160 young people aged from 12 to 25 as part of the Cultural Olympiad.	£20,000
Olympic Opportunities Heart of the City	To fund a series of four seminars and site visits to City businesses and businesses in the boroughs hosting the Olympics to encourage the use of the games as a springboard for Corporate Social Responsibility programmes	£12,000
Bunhill Fields Open Spaces	To fund a ramped access for easier disabled access to the Bunhill Fields Burial Ground.	£4,375
Creating Sustainable Communities Transport and Sustainability Forum	To extend the existing scheme which assists City residents in adopting more sustainable lifestyles that will bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the community. This will include improving energy usage and improved recycling and waste reduction.	£11,587
Green Roof Case Studies Transport and Sustainability Forum	To employ a graduate on a part-time basis to produce 15 case studies promoting the environmental benefits of green roofs.	£2,600
Carers Emotional Support and Wellbeing Adult and Wellbeing Partnership	To fund a member of staff working 7 hours a week to offer support to carers. This service results in a significant benefit to both the carer and the person being cared for.	£11,022
	Total	£127,000

Item 5.b) Delivery partner 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.

The Board was asked to consider and agree proposals from three delivery partners as follows:

Delivery partner: Dept of Community & Children's Services, City of London Corporation

Proposal: The allocation of £78,975 to fund an Adult IT Skills project to increase the IT, Basic Literacy and Numeracy skills of City of London and City Fringe residents.

Joy corrected an error in the proposal circulated – the £10,000 in the budget for IT would purchase 24 computers and not 10 as stated.

Delivery partner: Sustainable Development Unit, City of London Corporation

Proposal: The allocation of £5,625 towards public relations support for the 2011 Sustainable City Awards to help generate applications and promotion of the Awards.

Delivery partner: Safer City Partnership

Proposal: The allocation of £2,475 to run Domestic Violence Awareness training in conjunction with national charities Refuge and Respect for HR Managers (£2,200) and to run a White Ribbon Day campaign to promote the national domestic violence awareness day in November each year (£275).

The Board agreed to each of the three proposals.

In response to a query from Vicky Hobart, the Board also agreed to an urgency procedure for approving delivery partner proposals which require a decision in advance of the June 2011 Board meeting, whereby the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are authorised to approve proposals submitted to the Town Clerk between meetings.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ITEM 7. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Date – Wednesday 29th June 2011, 3.00pm.

Venue – City Marketing Suite, Guildhall