



**Community Partnerships Executive for North Dorset (CPEND)
Thursday 26th June 2014, Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury**

Present:

Mark Hebditch (MH) Three Rivers Partnership
Tony Bishop (TB) Rural Enterprise Partnership CIC
Cllr Val Potheary (VP) NDDC
Cllr Graham Carr-Jones (C C-J), Stalbridge
Allan Peters (AP) SturQuest

In attendance: Stephen Hill (SH) NDDC, Hugh de Iongh (HdeI) NDDC, Jo Rose (JR) REP

1. Apologies, Simon Thompson, DCA

2. Welcome.

MH, as acting Chair, welcomed all to the meeting, and recorded his thanks, endorsed by all, to Scott Norman, who had been the chair of CPEND for many years, and has run CPEND with a strong sense of direction and patience as well. His resignation as Chair of the DT11 Forum and thus also standing down as Chair of CPEND was a great loss.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting & matters arising

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

HdeI updated on the Health & Wellbeing Fund, which can support projects which address health inequalities. The total funding available is £700k, with four rounds over two years. Details at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/legacyfund> . HdeI has circulated to the Community Resource Workers, who will have circulated locally, and there will be further work to ensure that the North Dorset area makes good use of this funding opportunity.

SH advised that the H&W Board will no longer have a North Dorset District Council representative (currently Cllr Gary Jefferson) on the Board, as the structure of the Board is being changed, with more limited District/Borough level representation. SH & GJ are attending a Health meeting re priorities for the North Dorset locality. There are issues about the level of public consultation behind these priorities which are being worked on, and also the wider understanding of the role of public health, and of local authorities in supporting this. TB is now a local Champion for HealthWatch.

A decision on the future Chair of CPEND will be covered as part of a general review of CPEND.

4. Community Partnerships Review.

VP & HdeI explained that the option Cabinet had agreed on in principle is as follows:

- Community Resource Workers to remain in their areas at the current 4 day/week.
- The Partnership Development Lead post (Jo Rose) will take redundancy, finishing at the end of August.
- Core funding will continue to be provided to the Community Partnerships, at a level of £4.5k p.a., which provides sufficient funding to be viable as an organisation, but not cover office costs, which will need to be resourced locally where possible. There will also be funding towards the Rural Enterprise Partnership, and towards Stalbridge.
- The Special Projects Fund, which supported initiatives such as the Trailway Broadband project, Travel Study, setting up the Town Teams, will be reduced, and handled more locally by the Community Resource Workers. There will also be cuts to other small elements of the overall budget.

These will be discussed in detail with the Community Partnerships to ensure this works as well as possible. VP stressed that although Community Partnership costs varied significantly, she was keen to ensure there was equity of support from the District to all the Community Partnerships.

MH welcomed the Cabinet decision, which he felt was the best outcome that could be achieved given the financial constraints the District Council has to work to.

5. Broadband.

HdeI outlined the current progress of the Dorset Superfast Broadband roll-out, with Phase 3 covering much of North Dorset, providing a target service of 24Mbps.

SH advised that detailed design work is done at a telecommunication cabinet level, and a local cabinet may not necessarily be the cabinet that serves properties nearby, so it is difficult to give detailed plans in advance. Once the detailed work is about to start in an area, then the Dorset Superfast Broadband Team will inform people locally. General information on the phases and areas covered are at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast>. Some areas are shown as not being upgraded (known as the white areas), and the Dorset Superfast Broadband Team are seeking further funding to improve the service to these areas.

As improved broadband is rolled out, there will be demand stimulation work, both for business and domestic users.

The Dorset Superfast Broadband Team would like to hold a meeting in the early autumn to update key organisations in North Dorset about the planned roll-out of Broadband and timescales. It was agreed to make the next CPEND meeting a single issue meeting, about Broadband, and to include a wider range of key organisations, HdeI to arrange a date.

Action 1, Hugh de Iongh

6. LEADER.

JR updated on progress to date, as follows:

The Northern Dorset Local Action Group proposal has been provisionally accepted by DEFRA, and the next stage is to develop and submit a Local Development Strategy by 5th September 2014.

DEFRA will then make a decision in November 2014, and if the programme is supported, the Northern Dorset LAG will need to be ready to start in January 2015 (although there is some potential for minor deferment for new LAGs).

There are 86 proposed LAGs across England, and some of them overlap. For instance, the Heart of Wessex LAG has also included the Gillingham & Shaftesbury area (*post meeting note, Heart of Wessex has now taken this area out of their proposal*), and the New Forest LAG includes part of East Dorset. DEFRA has advised that these overlap issues should be sorted out at a local level, and if not resolved locally, they will be decided by DEFRA following the submission of the Local Development Strategy in September. The funding potentially available to the Northern Dorset LAG will be £1.53m, although could be slightly more, depending on the number of LAGs approved finally across England.

Consultants have been appointed, through a tendering process, to develop the Local Development Strategy, and have started on this work.

There is much work with Chalk & Cheese (covers the southern part of Dorset), looking at an overall Dorset-wide approach, with the two LAGs working closely together. There is good potential for joint work on the common issues across the area, and also in the management of the programmes, e.g. Dorset County Council as the single Accountable Body, and the potential for a core team to work across both Dorset LAGs to minimise Management & Administration.

LAGs have to cover the 6 priorities of LEADER, which are:

- Support for increasing farm productivity
- Support for micro and small enterprises and farm diversification
- Support for rural tourism
- Provision of rural services
- Support for cultural and heritage activity
- Support for increasing forestry productivity

The Local Development Strategy should also align to the Local Enterprise Partnership priorities, and have the endorsement of the Local Enterprise Partnership. 70% of the projects have to have a direct economic benefit, and the remaining 30% has to be able to demonstrate indirect economic benefit.

The meeting thanked Simon Firbank for the work he had done through DAPTC Northern to ensure the Parishes had information about the Northern Dorset LAG and the options.

7. North Dorset District Council update

Stephen Hill updated on the proposals for a merger with WestWey, where the sovereignty of the Council & Councillors would be maintained, but there would be a joint officer support structure.

NDDC is submitting an Expression of Interest for Government funding towards merger proposals. No final decision has been made by members, with a decision in principle likely to be by the end of this year, and then in the spring of 2015, possible joint Chief Executive and Management Team.

With these potential changes, there will be the need and opportunity to develop service delivery from the District Council and other service providers through hubs in the towns.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

No date was set for the next meeting, but it will be late September/early October 2014, and will be specifically about the Superfast Broadband roll-out across North Dorset, and is likely to be open wider than just CPEND members.