

BRISTOL PARTNERSHIP (BP)

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY DELIVERY GROUP (EDG) MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2006

Attending:

Clive Wray (Chair)	Business West
Ann O'Driscoll	SWRDA
Anna Cox	BCC - Economic Regeneration (minutes)
David Crooks	LSC (on behalf of Paul May)
Carrie Pooler	Bristol Partnership
Red Cottam	BCC - Neighbourhood Renewal, Easton and Lawrence Hill
Halina Pasiecznik	Bristol Social Economy and Social Enterprises
Karen King	BCC – Economic Regeneration
Jane Barclay	Jobcentre Plus

Apologies: Andy Hicklin (Environment Agency), David Duggan (GOSW), Gillian Douglas (BCC – Equalities Team) and Paul May (LSC).

1. Introduction and discussion of agenda for the morning

2. Roles and Relationships with Partners

Discussion of where Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) and Neighbourhood Management fit in to the work of the EDG and whether the EDG will be a commissioning agent next year.

RC stated that agencies need to be open to influence as to how they function, that this should be the primary function of the BP Delivery Groups, and that the process of how this is undertaken needs to be clarified. CP agreed this was the primary function of the group.

HP asked whether Red's new role will be to represent NM on the EDG.

CP further stated that the role of the EDG is to task out aims of the NR strategy to partners and ensure that partners are focussed on 'closing the gap'.

The EDG has 3 responsibilities:

- the action plan to address floor targets
- managing performance
- commissioning.

The Chair has an additional role, through chair's group, to take cross-cutting themes up and ensure they are addressed.

CP stated that further clarification of BP/EDG relationships/responsibilities and the processes for achieving them may be achieved in the next year or so, as many DG's are raising these questions.

Jane Barclay arrives. CW gives general update and the group undertakes introductions.

CW reiterates that the aim for the morning is CLARITY on

- what the group needs to do

- how the group works.
- what happens when members go back to their organisations when issues need to be taken up.

Other points raised included

- how meetings are going to be structured
- reporting back
- how the group accesses NRF? This isn't clear and the group may not therefore be achieving what it could
- the need for clear mapping of what work is being undertaken by the different partners, what their contributions are and where the EDG can realistically have an impact or add value through their interventions

3. Consideration of the Action Plan as a means to address the last point

It was agreed that the action plan should enable the group to identify where the EDG can add value. The action plan was done in May 2005 but not really reviewed since then and would need to be reviewed more in the future.

CW raised a concern that members have done reports, but not in relation to the AP, just updates on what their organisation has been doing.

HP raised a concern that the action plan seemed to be other people's work programmes brought together and not an action plan for the EDG. There needs to be mapping of work going on but it was agreed that

- there should be a separate task list for proposed EDG interventions and actions
- group members need to take aims back to their own projects
- gaps and issues need to be raised and addressed, then reported back on.

CP raised a concern that the action plan provided for the meeting was not the action plan that the group had been working to, or that she had been distributing and the group did not recognise where some of the actions had come from. For example, the group did not recall the CDFI (Community Development Finance Initiative) being discussed at the group, but it had appeared on the action plan. The group agreed they wanted to go back to an agreed version that they were used to.

Mapping and identification of gaps, opportunities and barriers in services to be gathered from

- work done already by NR Areas
- information from service providers about gaps they are aware of
- mapping already undertaken by Economic Regeneration
- additional contributions from the area coordinators
- the Economic Strategy and the Community Strategy

- Future Trends information and forward planning, for example for when South Bristol is developed, are the skills etc. being trained up?

Red stated the community view that the BP and the DG's comprised the 'great and the good', people with influence who can make service providers more responsive to local need. Examples of actions could be influencing or chasing action

- to tackle childcare / transport / ESOL for work.
- on Area Action Plans for the 3 areas, starting with South Bristol
- on Section 106 framework and use. Priorities for the city and for specific areas
- on C3.

Issues included

- how will this impact when local area agreements come in? It could result in a doubling of time commitment for those working on local basis as well as sub-regional e.g. RDA/Business West/LSC
- the funding cliff. A map of existing provision is fine but what if funding falls away?
- the need to minimise time in monitoring and reviewing
- possible need for web-site so people can access information
- the need to breakdown the 10 year goals into year by year goals
- need to clarify roles of EDG / RDG for overseeing and scrutiny of NR funding.

The main aim should be to influence the mainstream budgets and the group should focus on the millions in mainstream budgets and not be distracted by small sums of money. CW stated that getting hold of discretionary budgets is the most difficult bit.

4. Key Links Needed for the EDG

- how is the Local Development Framework going to achieve economic objectives?
ACTION: ask Sarah O'Driscoll to EDG to discuss.
- what are the links with West @ Work? Half the board sits round the table, but others need to know, particularly with regard to sector and major task forces.

ACTION: George Elliott to do a presentation at future meeting

- should the EDG should take on the learning agenda? Barbara Janke is concerned the City of Bristol College is no longer engaged. The group agreed the 16+ element was relevant, the skills element also, but not the education agenda as a whole. CP will need to make sure this is picked up by the Children and Young People's group.

ACTION: Sue Simpson from City of Bristol College to provide an overview to the EDG.

- links needed with the LSC sector skills group.

ACTION: LSC to provide an overview to the EDG.

- the universities and science cities. Eric Thomas is the representative on the new board, meeting on 4th May. Barbara Janke will represent the BP.

ACTION: Presentation needed later in the summer and on any other university programmes that may help to deliver floor targets.

5. Main Tasks as set out in the Community Strategy

1) Reducing worklessness and establishing a skilled workforce

Work on BP partners as employers. The public sector employs between one third and one fifth of the working population. Action by BP partners has a massive potential to effect unemployment and worklessness in disadvantaged areas

2) Promoting economic inclusion and Neighbourhood Renewal

Tackling barriers such as childcare and transport and coordinating NR blobs. The EDG role in this is to encourage the relevant agencies to do something about these issues.

3) Supporting and developing businesses and social enterprises

Get information on LEGI, on C3 and feedback from consultants on 'Mainstreaming Enterprise Support'. What should the EDG take forward from this?

4) Supporting economic investment and growth in the city

Marketing, not just as a role of BCC, but the RDA and all the BP partners. The example was given of John Hurst pulling in Harvey Nicholls.

AOD asked when was the last time that Bristol had any major inward investment and raised concern about South Bristol. Major inward investment was needed, rather than existing companies moving around.

A strategic view is needed, balancing the city region and the city as the 'jewel in the crown'.

HP highlighted the need to kick-start the economy for areas like Stapleton Road and Knowle West and to increase competitiveness in city region. Local circulation of money was needed.

KK raised links with new discussions over what a sustainable community looks like. This discussion at the EDG is the economic element of that wider discussion. What does a sustainable community really look like and what changes in policy are needed to make it happen?

CW suggested developing the action plan and the task list from the work done today (as well as adding in floor targets in the existing table).

6. Membership

It was agreed, despite earlier discussions on this, that all members of Bristol Partnership have a right to join the group.

Representation should be secured from

- FSB / BITC
- Connexions
- Employer from grass roots level
- Business Support agency from grass roots level
- The Universities.

RC states that residents want a representative on each group, and that the Consortium of black groups also want a representative on each group.

Note for next meeting – need to discuss meeting dates as Thursdays are not convenient.