

Issue 7
February 2009



Welcome to the WBSP Briefing

This is a quarterly briefing produced after each meeting of the Wokingham Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP) for WBSP members and the organisations they represent on the Partnership.

Meeting on 5 February 2009

This briefing highlights the main issues discussed at the last full meeting of the WBSP. Details are included of where to go for further information. Agendas and minutes of all Partnership meetings are available from Wokingham Borough Council or via the WBSP website, www.wokinghambsp.gov.uk

WBSP is a multi-agency partnership that brings together public, private, voluntary and community stakeholders to work together more effectively for the borough of Wokingham. The Partnership is committed to improving the quality of life of everyone who lives, works or visits Wokingham Borough and identifying opportunities for joint working and funding to maximise resources for the benefit of the whole community. WBSP is managed and hosted by Wokingham Borough Council and chaired by Councillor Dianne King.



DATES OF FUTURE WBSP MEETINGS (8.30 am–10.30 am, Shute End)

Thursday 7th May 2009
Thursday 2nd July 2009
Thursday 24th September 2009
Thursday 3rd December 2009
Thursday 4th February 2010

For general information about the Partnership contact Sue Roberts, Partnership Development Manager, Wokingham Borough Council, 0118 9746016, sue.roberts@wokingham.gov.uk

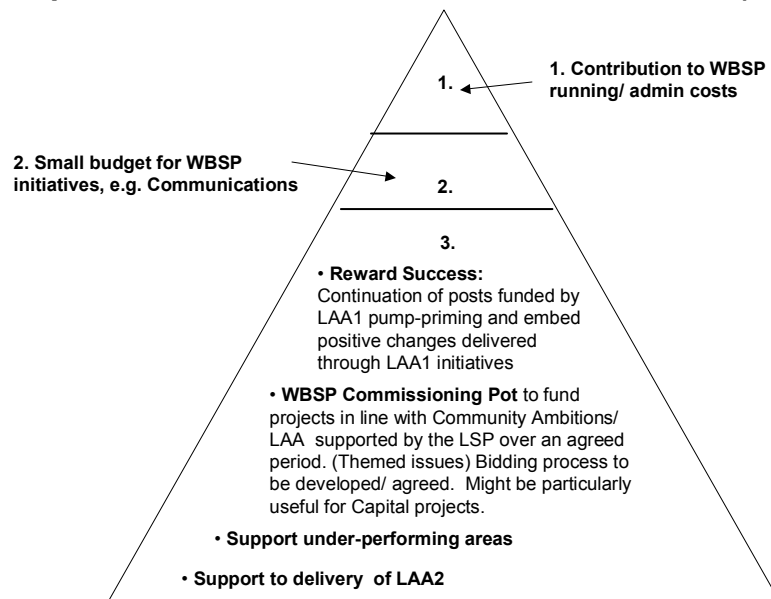


WOKINGHAM LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

LAA 2006-2009 Performance Reward Grants

Following on from the update report on Reward Target performance discussed at December's meeting, feedback was given on discussions at WBSP Management Group meetings on 17th December and 9th January regarding the distribution of Performance Reward Grants. In response to a report presented to the group at the 17th December meeting it was agreed that existing posts for which funding will end after March 2009, should be considered as first priority for Performance Reward Grant funding. Applications for these posts were to be submitted by 6th January. It was also proposed that Performance Reward Grant funding should be allocated into three discrete expenditure areas, as outlined in the diagram below. Please note that no figures were discussed at this point.

Proposals for allocation of LAA1 reward monies (Draft 2)



A special meeting held on 9th January recommended that funding be granted for the Development Manager post at Wokingham Volunteer Centre, and the Training Project at VAWB. This was ratified by WBSP at the 5th February Meeting.

Proposals for further posts and activities will be discussed at WBSP Management Group meetings between February and April 2009, with the aim of agreeing PRG funding at the WBSP meeting on 7th May.



Wokingham LAA 2008-11 (LAA2) Annual Review And Refresh Update

Following on from the Wokingham Borough Strategic Partnership self assessment report submitted to GOSE in November 2008, Clare Wormald from Government Office for the South East circulated a report which summarised GOSE's view that Wokingham was making *some progress* towards developing and embedding delivery arrangements for its LAA indicators.

The refresh of indicators for which baseline or target data is outstanding is nearing completion. Deadlines for finalising data is end of February 2009, and WBSP members authorised WBSP Management Group to sign off the revised Indicators on its behalf at their meeting on 13th March, prior to submission to WBC Executive on 26th and then to GOSE before the end of March 2009.

WBSP STRUCTURAL REVIEW

Mike Ellis (Solace/ PricewaterhouseCoopers) presented his report and recommendations for reviewing the governance of Wokingham Borough Strategic Partnership. The report had been informed by discussions with a range of members of WBSP and its Management Group. Although many members were very positive about the opportunities WBSP has offered for network building between organisations, and shared sense of belonging to a Wokingham wide partnership, key comments for improvement included:

- The Board is too large, its current role involves it in too much detail and paperwork.
- The roles and responsibilities of the current Board and Management Group are unclear.

Recommendations:

- The Board should be reduced in number and redefine its remit:
 - Board's focus should be strategic leadership and wider governance of the area, including custodianship of the "vision".
 - Membership should be senior, non-executive representatives of major local public, private and third sector organisations.
 - Agree roles and responsibilities of Board Chair, Vice Chair and members that are agreed by partner organisations and understood by whole partnership.

Meeting on 5 February 2009



- The Management Group be reconstituted as the Executive, accountable to the Board.
 - Membership should include leaders of the key delivery resource holding organisations, including WBC Chief Executive, senior PCT representative, Chief Exec of local CVS and Area Police Commander.
 - Executive should be accountable to the Board for ensuring the delivery of the Community Strategy and LAA, and should regularly report performance to the Board. It should be the place where the vision and direction provided by the Board is translated into sustained movement and drive.
 - The Executive should hold the delivery partnerships (such as Stronger Communities Partnership and Children and Young People's Strategy Group) to account for delivery of the Community Strategy and LAA.
- Importantly, both groups should be comprised of different same representatives.
- Other suggestions also included: induction packs to support new members; taking Board and Executive meetings out into the community; and allowing more time on agendas for thorough discussion of important issues.

Moving forward → WBSP members requested that WBC Chief Executive, Susan Law convene a task group to translate the report proposals for consideration by partners.

PLACE SURVEY

The Place Survey was introduced in 2008-09, and each local authority now has a requirement to conduct this survey every two years. Wokingham Borough Council conducted its first Place Survey in Autumn 2008-09 and the results became available in February 2009. The survey was issued to 5,000 randomly selected residents in Wokingham borough and 2,209 questionnaires were completed and returned; a good response rate of 44%.



Headlines for the Wokingham area included:

- 88% of residents expressing an overall satisfaction with the local area as a place to live (NI5)
- Only 10% of residents indicated that they feel anti-social behaviour is a problem in the borough.
- Significantly less residents indicated concerns around people being drunk or rowdy in public places or using/dealing drugs compared with residents views from 2006/07 when the previous survey was carried out. For example, 18% of residents in 2008/09 felt that people being drunk or rowdy in public places is a problem; compared to 30% indicating this concern in 2006/07.
- 86% of people aged 65 and over are satisfied with their home and area as a place to live
- 84% of residents say they are in good/very good health
- 79% of residents feel they are treated with respect and consideration by local public services most or all of the time.

At the time of the meeting the data available was awaiting formal release by the Audit Commission, and couldn't be circulated, but is now available if you would like further details.

Please contact Performance Manager, Louise Griffin, on 0118 974 6032.



EVENTS

****2009 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COMMUNITY CONFERENCE****

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2009, Sindlesham Court Conference Centre

This year's conference will focus attention on how we can collectively support our communities through the economic downturn, with workshops focussing discussions around the themes of our Community ambitions. A draft agenda was discussed briefly at the WBSP meeting and further publicity is being circulated.

BUSINESS WASTE STRATEGY LAUNCH EVENT

The strategy will be launched at the free '**Trim your waste-line**' workshop on **Thursday 26 March 2009, 9.00am at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, Wokingham.**

In 2008, WBSP was informed of a Business Waste Strategy research project which had been granted funding to address waste issues faced by businesses across the Wokingham, Bracknell and Reading areas.

WBC Officers secured funding for the project last March on behalf of the re3 Waste Partnership which incorporates all 3 Local Authorities areas.



WBC Waste Manager Pete Baveystock presents Business Waste Survey Prize Draw Winner Mrs Sheila Tims from Bewitched Dress Hire with her prize

A Business Waste Strategy has now been devised based on the findings of research carried out last summer with businesses across the re3 area. Hosted by Business Link and the re3 Councils, which will also provide tips on:

- Finding ways to turn business waste into business benefit;
- Learning how to maximise profit and minimise costs ;
- Discovering how to meet increasingly tough 'green' buying specifications;

For more information, or to book a place go to:

www.eventskent.co.uk/environment

Membership Of WBSP



Core members (voting)

Wokingham Borough Council:

Susan Law Chief Executive
Councillor Dianne King (Chair)

Town and Parish Councils: **John Heggadon** (member rep)

Deborah Mander (clerks rep)

Health:

Charles Waddicor, Berkshire West PCT
Chief Executive

Bev Searle (Wokingham Area
Director)

Police:

Richard Bennett (BCU Cdr)

Denise Blackburn, Chief Inspector

Fire and Rescue:

David Wallace

Voluntary/Community sector:

Ian Saxton, Voluntary Action Wokingham
Borough

John Ferguson, Wokingham Borough
Voluntary Sector Forum

Faith:

David Hodgson, Wokingham Churches

BME:

Pol Exeter, BME Forum

Economic:

Mark Ashwell, Chamber of Commerce

Angus McCallum, BG Group plc

Adult Learning and Skills: **Chairman Learning Partnership**

Children's Services Policy Board:

Katherine Horler, Connexions

Charlotte Wilkinson, Wokingham Early
Years Forum

Youth MP:

Older People:

Norman Raybone, Older People's
Partnership

Culture:

Gwynneth Hewetson, The Cultural
Partnership

Roland Mear, Wokingham Sports Council

Housing:

Robert Paice, Housing Strategy Group

Community Wellbeing:

Steven Bowers, Community Wellbeing
Strategy Group

Rural:

Tim Parry, Community Council for Berkshire

In attendance (non voting):

Wokingham Borough Council: **David Lee**, Leader (ex officio);

Susanne Nelson-Wehrmeyer, Interim General
Manager, Policy & Partnerships

Heather Thwaites, Interim General Manager,
Children's Services;

Stuart Rowbotham, Interim General Manager,
Community Care

Sue Roberts Partnership Development Manager
(WBSP Manager)

Government Office for the South East: **Clare Wormald**

SEEDA:

Claire Gillon