

**Agenda Papers available via the following link:**

<http://www.penninelancsplace.org/Joint%20Committee%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fJoint%20Committee%20Documents%2f2010%2fAugust%202010&FolderCTID=&View=%7b5AD4E502%2d290A%2d4B87%2dA823%2dC8EC50AE7583%7d>

**Web-site: [www.penninelancsplace.org](http://www.penninelancsplace.org)**

Pennine Lancashire



**PLACE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Present:**

*Cllr Mike Blomeley, Pendle Borough Council (Vice-Chair)*  
*Cllr Charlie Briggs, Burnley Borough Council*  
*Cllr Peter Clarke, Hyndburn Borough Council*  
*Cllr Michael Ranson, Ribble Valley Borough Council*  
*Cllr Tony Swain, Rossendale Borough Council*

**Supporting Officers:**

*Graham Burgess, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council*  
*Steve Sugarman, Rossendale Borough Council*  
*Anne Ainsworth, Lancashire County Council*  
*Philip Mousedale, Pendle Borough Council*  
*Jackie Wilson, Regenerate*  
*Steve Hoyle, Regenerate*  
*Mike Damms, ELCC*  
*Steve Cochrane, PLACE Strategy Unit*  
*Marshal Scott, Ribble Valley Borough Council*  
*Steve Tanti, Hyndburn Borough Council*  
*Steve Rumbelow, Burnley Borough Council*  
*Marie Hart, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council*  
*Phil Llewellyn, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council*

1	<b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b>	
	In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Michael Lee, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Mike Blomeley took the Chair. All present introduced themselves.	

2	<b>Apologies</b> were received from Councillor Michael Lee (BWDBC), Councillor Geoff Driver (LCC), Councillor Albert Atkinson (LCC), David Welsby (Hyndburn BC), Stephen Barnes (Pendle BC), Steve Spoerry (EL PCT), Brain Bailey (BWDBC), Helen Lockwood (Rossendale Borough Council) and Deborah Ashton (Lancashire County Council).	
3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
4	<b>Public Forum</b>	
	No public questions had been submitted.	
5	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising</b>	
	That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2010 be approved as a correct record.	Approved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pennine Lancashire Employment Sites</li> </ul>	
	Steve Hoyle clarified that four reports would be presented each quarter (two on employment sites, two on town centres) to the Joint Committee on a rotational basis, and that a report on town centres would be presented to the next meeting.	Noted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Sports Partnerships</li> </ul>	
	Mike Damms was pleased to confirm the Joint Committee that although funds would still be reduced, the situation was not as bad as first feared ie funding would not be withdrawn.	Noted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Local Investment Agreement</li> </ul>	
	Graham Burgess reported that a £2.48 bid for four housing schemes would be submitted by 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2010 to the HCA and he was hopeful that there would be some positive news to report in September.	Noted
6	<b>Report from PLACE Head of Strategy</b>	
	Steve Cochrane provided an update on a number of items relating to PLACE as follows:	

	<b><u>Local Enterprise Partnership</u></b>	
	On the 29 <sup>th</sup> June the Government wrote to local authority leaders and chief executives, and business leaders inviting partnerships to submit proposals for the formation of Local Enterprise Partnerships by the 6 <sup>th</sup> September.	
	Government's letter set out the following criteria:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Enterprise Partnerships must reflect the natural economic geography of the areas they serve and hence cover real functional economic and travel to work areas.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Enterprise Partnerships should provide a clear strategic vision for the area; partnerships should seek to create the right environment for business growth in order to rebalance the economy towards the private sector.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and civic leaders must work together in governance structures that are sufficiently robust and clear to ensure proper accountability for delivery by partnerships. Local Enterprise Partnership boards should be evenly balanced and with an expectation that these will be chaired by a prominent local business leader.</li> </ul>	
	Senior civil servants at CLG had contacted all MAAs, expressing an expectation that MAA areas would submit Local Enterprise Partnership proposals – a number of MAA areas had already indicated they would seek this status.	
	<b><u>Regional Growth Fund</u></b>	
	The Coalition Government had issued a consultation into a £1 billion Regional Growth Fund. The fund has two objectives:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage private sector enterprise by providing support for projects with significant potential for economic growth and create additional sustainable private sector employment; and</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support in particular those areas and communities that are currently dependent on</li> </ul>	

	the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector led growth and prosperity.	
	It was intended that the Growth Fund would bring together fragmented funding streams that would support economic growth into one pot. Local Enterprise Partnerships were expected to play an important role in co-ordinating bids for the areas that they cover. Proposals that had the backing of a Local Enterprise Partnership would be viewed favourably, particularly where they were put forward as a holistic package on behalf of an area and had support of the local community and private sector leverage.	
	The consultation deadline was the 6 <sup>th</sup> September; it was likely that the deadline for bids into the fund would be December 2010, with successful bids being announced by the end of February 2011.	
	<b>Spatial Guide</b>	
	Directors of Regeneration and Heads of Planning were working together to complete the spatial guide. Strategic housing sites had now been identified through an appraisal of local authority Strategic Housing Land Assessment documents and local authorities were considering which sites they wished to include in the guide. These alongside key employment sites, town centres and transport links would form the basis of the guide and help inform the role of places within a Pennine Lancashire context.	
	<b>Digital</b>	
	Burnley's Media Access Bureau (MAB) was opened on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> July. The opening of the MAB saw Pennine Lancashire connect to a £9 million digital network – "Northern Net". The event gave stakeholders and local businesses the opportunity to see the facilities and understand this resource and benefits maximised from the Media City development in Salford.	
	Work was underway on the Broadband/NGA Strategic Plan and a supplier engagement event was planned for the week commencing the 27 <sup>th</sup> September.	
	A proposal had been submitted into Broadband UK to become one of three pilot areas for the roll out of	

	superfast broadband and the proposed pilot would cover an area within parts of Ribble Valley towards Pendle.	
	It was recommended that:	
	1) The Joint Committee notes the contents of this report;	Noted
	2) The Joint Committee delegates authority for the Chair to approve the final Local Enterprise Partnership proposal;	Approved
	3) The Joint Committee delegate authority for the Chair to approve the final consultation response to the Regional Growth Fund; and	Approved
	4) That the Joint Committee endorse the submission of a proposal to form a Local Enterprise Partnership for Pennine Lancashire as this would benefit growth in the local economy.	Approved
<b>7.</b>	<b><u>Joint Investment Plan Funding Report – Quarter 1</u></b>	
	The Joint Committee received an update from Marie Hart on the progress of funding streams contained within the Pennine Lancashire Joint Investment Plan (JIP) as follows:	
	<b><u>ERDF</u></b>	
	The report submitted outlined the progress of each individual action area.	
	Cuts experienced at the NWDA were having a significant impact on the EU programme as many had NWDA single programme funding. The ERDF team were working with individual projects as well as taking stock of the whole programme as grant remained unutilised and grant was given back.	
	The Programmes Team would be working with ERDF colleagues to ensure it exploited any funding that became available that could match current projects that were still being developed as funding was from other sources.	
	Marie Hart agreed to circulate information to the Joint Committee on the small wind turbines project, part	MH

	funded by the ERDF.	
	<b>JESSICA</b>	
	Both consortia invited to proceed to the second round of the Urban Development Fund (UDF) selection process submitted investment plans by the required deadline of 18 <sup>th</sup> June and the European Investment Bank (EIB) would select a preferred UDF based on the content of these submissions by late September. Following this selection the EIB NWDA and Regional Investment Board would work with the selected UDF to finalise the Investment Strategy with a view to commencing of activity before the end of 2010.	
	<b>Future Jobs Fund</b>	
	To date 418 young people had been placed into jobs way ahead of the August target which meant PLACE authorities were well placed to remain above the performance targets set by DWP @ 80%. With more than 725 job pledges the Programmes Team would be undertaking a full quality assessment on the programme to ensure the remaining jobs and organisations involved provide the very best opportunities for the beneficiaries.	
	Placements were now starting to finish after 12 months and the Programmes Team would be working closely with the Pennine Lancs publicity team to ensure success stories were publicised.	
	<b>HMR</b>	
	The programme was on target to spend its full allocation and had spent just over 8m by end of June.	
	Local Authorities were addressing the impacts of the budget cuts, supported by officers from Regenerate and the Programmes Team.	
	Discussions were ongoing with the HCA and Regenerate officers and updates would be provided to the Joint Committee at future meetings.	
	<b><u>Pennine Lancashire Housing Local Investment Agreement 2010/11</u></b>	
	As with HMR, the Programmes Team were working	

	closely with the HCA in relation to non-HMR housing grants such as National Affordable Homes Programme.	
	With this programme the Programmes Team have undertaken a gateway process to prioritise project submissions for the ringfenced element of the grant. It had also secured additional grant which had led to 4 projects being recommended for approval. These would be submitted to the HCA by the 31 <sup>st</sup> August.	
	<b><u>LEGI</u></b>	
	On the 10 <sup>th</sup> June the Government announced a 23% cut to all LEGI programmes. The LEGI Programme Team, with assistance from the LEGI Project Managers, looked at a number of options to manage the cut and these were presented to the Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Board. The preferred option was agreed at a Special Meeting of the Board, which included funding of all 12 projects with variable reductions and a carry over of unallocated revenue funding of £1,181,024. The Board agreed that this carry over amount should fund the continuation of the GET SET project in 2011/12.	
	The Programmes Team were working with projects on their exit strategies and seeking alternative sources of funding, and working with Regenerate on the 11/12 legacy programme, identifying other sources of funding that could increase the £1.2m for business start up activity.	
	<b><u>NWDA</u></b>	
	Following the recent announcements from Government and a meeting between the NWDA and PLACE representatives, all new projects were not now going ahead. All contracted projects would remain in place but were subject to review by the Agency and may face possible reductions or cease completely. These meetings were currently being scheduled with Authorities. Continued work would take place within the Team concentrating on those projects which still remained with regard to progress and spend etc.	
	Following the cuts, the Programmes Team were working closely with the NWDA to ensure it utilised the full remaining grant of £15m and were also keeping	

	abreast of any funding that may become available as projects across the region release funding as the cuts are making them unviable. This included matching with ERDF grant, and seeking alternative sources of funding for projects	
	<b><u>Rural Development Programme</u></b>	
	There was a programme of £3.2m for Pennine Lancashire up to 2013 funding 7 projects in Pennine Lancashire.	
	A new bidding round has just been announced for tourism projects in rural areas. The Programmes Team were liaising with local authorities at supporting on submissions.	
	<b>It is recommended that:</b>	
	1) PLACE members note the contents and appendices of this report; and	Noted
	2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee on the Rural Development Programme for England, in particular on proposals to spend the available £3.2m for Pennine Lancashire up to 2013.	Noted
8.	<b><u>Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy and Local Investment Plan Update</u></b>	
	Jackie Wilson updated the Joint Committee on a number of items relating to housing, including the refresh of the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy and the development of the Local Investment Plan 2011-14.	
	The Local Investment Agreement was signed in March 2010, endorsing the Local Investment Plan. Through the single conversation process a number of lessons were learned, and a number of gaps highlighted, that would inform the next iteration of the Local Investment Plan; LIP2.	
	Alongside the LIP, it had been agreed to undertake a refresh of the Housing Strategy to make it fit for purpose in line with other activity underway to respond to the new Government agenda, the forthcoming CSR and LIP 2 process.	



	The work on the LIP2 and the housing strategy would inform the housing element of the spatial guide which is a visual representation of the MAA, showing the integration of interventions, indicating where they would take place and why.	
	In addition to the lessons learned from the original LIP process, and since the adoption of the PLHS in March 2009 there had been significant changes to the environmental context that need to be considered and reflected which were outlined in the report submitted.	
	It was in recognition of this context that the Local Investment Plan 2 and the Housing strategy would be developed. PLACE have commissioned Regenerate Pennine Lancashire to lead on the refresh of the Housing Strategy.	
	Several work streams would take forward aspects of the LIP2 and the Housing Strategy refresh and Jackie Wilson said that a more detailed report would be submitted to the October meeting of the Joint Committee for sign off.	
	It was agreed:	
	1) That the Joint Committee note the contents of this report; and	Noted
	2) The Local Investment Plan 2 be brought to the October Joint Committee meeting for approval.	Approved
9	<b><u>Health Update</u></b>	
	Graham Burgess updated the Joint Committee on a number of issues relating to the Health White Paper and emerging health issues.	
	The Government published its White Paper – “Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS” on July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2010 which set out the government’s plans to reform the NHS during the current Parliament and for the long-term. The White Paper detailed how power would be devolved from Whitehall to patients and professionals.	
	A number of key messages were reported which included:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving quality of care would become the main purpose of the NHS with professionals focussing on improving health outcomes.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP practices would have commissioning responsibility written into contracts by April 2013 as part of a shift of power with £80bn of NHS funding given to GPs to buy care for patients in their area.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCT's and SHA's would be abolished by 2013 which meant that management costs would apparently be almost halved.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A national public health service would be set up jointly with local authorities with a ring-fenced budget and responsibilities covering areas such as obesity, smoking and alcohol problems as well as running vaccination and screening programmes. Local authorities would become responsible for Public Health.</li> </ul>	
	A timetable of these changes was attached at appendix 1 of the report submitted.	
	A number of issues needed to be considered as the legislation came into being, including:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Pennine Lancashire there could be up to 5 GP consortia who would commission on a district basis. Given there will be a significant reduction in administrative support budget how would these consortia operate when the duplication could inevitably mean higher costs. Additionally, would these consortia wish to buy services from the private sector, established social enterprises, link to local authorities, or form their own company to provide these services.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The white paper envisaged public health functions being transferred back to local authorities. The white paper indicated that upper tier authorities would be given these budgets but clearly many of the public health functions were carried out effectively at district level.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current PCT's needed to make back office savings of between 35%-45% and local</li> </ul>	

	authorities need to make 25% + savings across all budgets. How could this be integrated to jointly make savings and how did that fit in with local district based GP consortia that would need to link to the neighbourhood model.	
	The report submitted also highlighted the recent Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Care Trust Plus merger which had led to the creation of a single integrated management team, and associated savings, and could serve as a template for others who would need to be ready for the changes in April 2013.	
	Those present discussed the implications of the white paper and the next expected white paper on Public Health which was due by the end of the year, in particular the transfer to local authorities of the public health function, (especially in terms of issues arising from access with two tier councils) issues around GP consortia and the future ownership of assets.	
	It is recommended that:	
	1) The contents of this report are noted;	Noted
	2) That Chief Executives be asked to bring a further report to the next Joint Committee to update on developments;	Approved
	3) That a joint Pennine Lancashire response to the health white paper consultations be submitted by 11 <sup>th</sup> October; and	Approved
	4) That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State on behalf of Pennine Lancashire and that Leaders/Chief Executives be requested to discuss with their respective MPs on issues around the new role of District Councils and the County Council relating to health, particularly in view to the future transfer to local authorities of the Public Health function and issues around GP consortia and also the future ownership of assets once PCT's have been abolished by April 2013.	Approved
10	<b><u>DWP Welfare Reform</u></b>	
	Steve Cochrane updated the Joint Committee on the Government's plans to reform welfare to work support and highlighted how this affected Pennine Lancashire,	

	as well as the opportunities it presented.	
	A Welfare Reform Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech on 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 and in July a consultation document was released entitled <i>21<sup>st</sup> Century Welfare</i> that set out a series of options which focused on ensuring work always paid and was clearly seen to pay. They included allowing people to keep more of what they earn as they move into work whilst withdrawing benefits at a single, more reasonable rate as people start to earn more money. The consultation would close on 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2010.	
	The aim was to simplify the benefit system by reducing the number of benefits people could claim, creating single welfare to work programme and making benefit payments more conditional on willingness to accept work. Alongside this a number of reforms were announced in the budget which were outlined in the report submitted.	
	Amongst the reforms was the introduction of a single welfare to work programme to replace the majority of existing programmes, to be known as the Work Programme.	
	A new contracting framework would be introduced, where contractors (called investors) from the private, public and voluntary sectors could bid to provide this support. Once in the framework organisations will compete to supply employment support. The framework agreement was divided into 11 regional lots. The DWP expected to appoint between 3 and 8 organisations to each lot though there will be no guarantee of work.	
	It was recommended that the Joint Committee note the contents of this paper.	Noted
11	<b><u>Employment and Skills</u></b>	
	Mike Damms provided an update to the Joint Committee on the current position in relation to employment and skills and the work of the Pennine Lancashire Employment and Skills Board.	
	The Government was yet to publish its skills strategy but there were several documents and ministerial speeches which lead them to discern what a coalition	

	government's skills strategy will look like. This has actively been discussed at the Pennine Lancashire Employment and Skills Board.	
	The Government was clear that growing the private sector economy was the key to prosperity and reducing the fiscal deficit, therefore over the next few years employment opportunities in the private sector needed to increase as unemployment levels are predicted to rise.	
	Recent changes to the funding of further education had meant that funding, which was provided via local councils, would now come directly to Colleges from the Young People Learning Agency (YPLA). This reinforced the proposed changes to simplify the funding systems for further education.	
	With the flexibilities and reduced bureaucracy would come the responsibility of providers to understand and recognise the needs of their students, communities and local employers. Providers would be judged more on the progress their students make on to higher qualifications and employment not just on achievement.	
	In addition it was clear that the public purse will no longer pay for all education and training to the level that it once did. Employers would have to contribute more to support the training of their staff and students would have to contribute more to their studies. Providers would have to make decisions on which qualifications would be run and how these contributed to students and employers' needs.	
	Mike Damms particularly stressed the importance of the new emphasis, which effectively meant that further education providers would be paid on results, not just on delivering education, there would be a clear focus on ensuring that young people were prepared for the world of work.	
	It was recommended that the Joint Committee note the contents of this paper.	Noted
12	<b><u>Matters of Urgency</u></b>	
	Steve Hoyle advised that thousands of BAE Systems' jobs were under threat as a result of the Government's	

	strategic defence review, which could see millions of pounds cut from the Ministry of Defence budget and could potentially have a huge impact on the Pennine Lancashire economy.	
	Steve Hoyle was asked to contact Pennine Lancashire Leaders about the formation of a Task Force to offer assistance to BAE and to put preparations in place to react quickly if job losses occurred.	Approved