
RUSHMOOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Notes of a meeting held on **Wednesday, 6th September 2006** at the Rushmoor Borough Council Offices at 4.00 pm.

Present:

Aldershot Garrison		Colonel Nigel Josling OBE Garrison Commander
Basingstoke Canal Authority		Mr Ian Brown Director
Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust		Dr Olufemi Oduneye Director of Public Health
Enterprise First		Mr John Mitchell (Vice-Chairman) Chief Executive
Farnborough College of Technology	a	Mrs Christine Davis Principal
First Wessex Housing Group		Mr Peter Hall Deputy Group Operations Director
Guildford Diocese		Ms Clare Sewell North Hampshire Development Officer
Hampshire County Council		County Councillor Roger Kimber
North East Hampshire Police Division		Chief Inspector Paul Brooks
North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry		Mrs Valerie Cloke
Rushmoor Borough Council		Councillor Peter Moyle (Chairman) Leader
	a	Mr Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive
Rushmoor Citizens' Advice Bureaux		Ms Alex Hughes District Manager

Rushmoor Healthy Living		Mr Tony Docker Chief Executive
Rushmoor Voluntary Services	a	Ms Sally Saunderson Chief Executive
Parity for Disability		Ms Alison Cooper

In attendance:

Government Office for the South East		Mr David Hobbs
Hampshire County Council	a	Mr Terry Rath Education Office
		Mr Robert Ormerod Community Strategy Manager
Rushmoor Borough Council	a	Mr Andrew Colver Head of Democratic and Facilities
		Miss Annie Denton Partnership Officer
		Mr Richard Mann Educational Attainment Project Officer
		Mr Les Murrell Strategy Co-ordinator (Sustainability)
		Mr Jon Rundle Assistant Head of Strategy and Communications
		Mrs Kathy Flatt Democratic Support Officer

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Chief Superintendent Paul Netherton (North East Hampshire Police Division) (Sally Saunderson (Chief Executive, Rushmoor Volunteer Services), Christine Davis (Principal, Farnborough College of Technology), Mr Terry Rath (Hampshire County Council, Mr Andrew Lloyd (Rushmoor Borough Council) and Mr Andrew Colver (Rushmoor Borough Council).

1. **NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –**

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 15th June 2006.

2. **PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP –**

The Partnership confirmed the notes of the meeting held on 5th July 2006.

3. **PANDEMIC FLU - PREPARATION –**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Dr Linda Booth of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Protection Unit who was attending the meeting to give a presentation on preparations for a pandemic influenza outbreak.

Dr Booth advised the Partnership of the different types of influenza virus. It was also noted that different types of species had different strains of the virus. The gradual change in viruses resulted in the emergence of new variants every year and this required a new vaccine each year. Pandemic flu occurred when a new strain of flu emerged that was markedly different from previously circulating viruses. This meant that few people, if any, had immunity, therefore allowing the virus to spread rapidly, affecting hundreds of thousands of people across countries and regions. Three pandemics had occurred during the last century. World health experts had warned that another flu pandemic was both inevitable and imminent.

In addition to pandemic flu, there were two other types of flu: seasonal flu, caused by viruses circulating in the human population each winter; and, avian flu, which was a contagious disease of animals caused by viruses that normally infected only birds and, less commonly, pigs. One strain of the avian flu virus (H5N1) had led to a limited number of human flu cases, but mainly in people who had been in close contact with infected poultry.

It had been predicted that the likely origin of the next pandemic would be South East Asia and that the virus would rapidly spread across the world, affecting 25-30% of the population. It was predicted that there would be a high mortality rate as a result of the pandemic and the impact on health services would be considerable.

Dr Booth highlighted areas of the world where there had been confirmed occurrences of the H5N1 avian flu in poultry and wild birds since January, 2006 and also areas that had confirmed human cases of N5N1 avian flu since January 2006. Detailed advice was available from DEFRA regarding the management of wild bird and commercial poultry incidents and health surveillance of poultry workers. The World Health Organisation had also established a global influenza preparedness plan with recommendations for national measures before and during pandemics. Each flu pandemic was different. The impact of the next pandemic would depend on: the characteristics of the virus; attack rate; severity of illness; and fatality rate. These would not be known until the pandemic virus emerged. Some assumptions could, however, be made: the infection would spread quickly; vaccines would not be available immediately; anti-virals reduced severity but did not cure; staff absence would be 15-30% for 2-3 weeks at the peak of the pandemic; and there could be 54,000 excess deaths across the world, but the figure could be as much as 350,000.

The key messages during a pandemic were:

- People who were well should carry on with normal essential activities
- People should take personal responsibility for self-protection
- If unwell, people should be socially responsible to lessen the spread and protect others
- During a pandemic, the Government would issue further advice on response policies.

Advice was also widely available on the control of flu, including the control of the source of infection (quarantine, disinfectants), control of the spread of infection (spatial separation, droplet precautions, cough etiquette, hand washing, social distancing and appropriate use of gloves and masks) and the protection of susceptible people with anti-virals and vaccine).

Further details were available from the Health Protection Agency (www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/seasonal/flufaq.htm) or the Department for Health (www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en).

Dr Femi Oduneye, Director of Public Health then gave a presentation on the Influenza Pandemic Plan - local impact of a pandemic outbreak. A planning structure had been put in place, which set up a system for flexible response to an outbreak. The objectives of the plan would be to: limit morbidity and mortality due to infection with the pandemic strain; reduce the impact on health and social services including consequences for other patients as a result of re-prioritisation of services or cancellation of routine work; and reduce the impact on daily life and business. It was considered that there would be about six weeks' notice before a local case occurred. In the Blackwater Valley and Hart and North Hampshire Primary Care Trusts area there would be about 96,000 clinical cases over a fifteen week period, 352 deaths and consultation rates would be between 4 to 25 times the peak rates during a seasonal flu period.

Dr Oduneye advised the Partnership that the key components of the preparation plan would be communication, business continuity, triage and distribution of anti-virals, special groups (eg care homes, the Armed Forces) and neighbourhood schemes.

The major message from the Government during a pandemic would be that people who had, or believed they had, flu should stay at home and should not go to work or to their GP or local hospital. Individuals would be encouraged to take personal responsibility for protecting themselves and avoiding further spread.

The Primary Care Trust would be carrying out a desktop exercise in September to assist in updating the plan for the area. The revised plan had to be submitted by 30th September 2006, after which plans would be integrated across the new Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

The Chairman thanked Dr Linda Booth and Dr Femi Oduneye for their informative presentations.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership would be given further advice and updates when available.	Dr Femi Oduneye	When available.

4. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT –

Mr Richard Mann, Educational Project Officer, had been invited to the meeting to update the Partnership on its project to increase educational attainment in the Borough. The project was being channelled through the Rushmoor Learning Partnership, whose membership included Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, representatives of local schools and colleges, Children’s Services, Connexions and the Government Office for the South East.

A conference/workshop had been held in February 2006 which had examined the barriers to educational attainment and what could be done to overcome these. The Rushmoor Learning Partnership had established four working groups to focus on the outcomes of the conference/workshop. These were:

- Early Intervention (led by June Armstrong of Farnborough Grange School)
- Employer engagement (led by First Partnership)
- Partnerships and communication (to facilitate communication between all the different partners involved and to work on funding applications to prevent duplication of effort)
- Increase self-esteem and self-confidence (working on the area of emotional intelligence)

Rushmoor Borough Council would continue to support other areas outside of the school environment which contributed to improving educational attainment (eg supporting youth services provision in the Mayfield Ward area, the Source Café and Emmaus Projects).

A further report would be made to the Partnership when the working groups had met to discuss and develop key actions. It was stressed that the idea behind the increasing educational attainment project was not to duplicate existing work, but to take action where the Partnership could add value to what was being done already.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership would receive regular updates on the increasing educational attainment project.	Richard Mann, Educational Attainment Project Officer	As required.

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY –

Mr Tim Richings, Planning Policy Manager, gave a presentation on Rushmoor's draft Economic Development Strategy for 2006-2011. The Partnership was advised that local authorities had a responsibility and remit for local economic development. Rushmoor Borough Council was involved in a number of initiatives and it made financial contributions to economic development in various ways. The scope of the work was wide-ranging and included activities in relation to: town centre regeneration; advice to businesses; educational attainment and lifelong learning; parking; and, monitoring local economic trends.

Recognising the need for improved strategic management of economic development activities, the draft Economic Development Strategy and action plan had been developed. The draft Strategy provided the economic context for Rushmoor's Local Development Framework (The Rushmoor Plan) and would provide direction for supporting economic growth in the Borough for up to ten years. The draft Strategy also had a link to the Community Strategy's three economic strategic aims and the Community Strategy's aim for economic wellbeing had been adopted as the vision for the draft Economic Development Strategy ("to make Rushmoor a place to live work and visit which maintains a strong, prosperous, diverse and sustainable economy.")

The draft Strategy identified a range of key outcomes, which were considered essential for developing diverse employment opportunities and encouraging sustainable economic growth. The key outcomes were: urban regeneration; sustainable business location, supporting business; responsible business; and, supporting the local workforce.

Consultation on the draft Strategy had commenced and would continue until 31st October, 2006. Over 500 local companies and business organisations had been contacted. An economic development breakfast meeting event had been organised to take place on 6th October 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Farnborough. An online survey and consultation form had been set up on www.rushmoor.gov.uk/economicdevelopment/consultation and comments would be considered in preparation of the final Strategy by the end of 2006.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the update on the draft Economic Development Strategy.	All	---

6. PROJECTS REPORT –

A paper was circulated which set out action which had been undertaken on the following projects:

- Local Local – to provide information on what was available to residents in their ward and encourage involvement from them.
- Renovation of Farnborough Community Centre Pond – to renovate the pond to make it a considerable asset for both the local community and for wildlife
- Accidents in the Home – to consider action which could be taken to reduce the high incidence of accidents within the home.
- Business and the Community – to look at how to develop the links between businesses and the community.

Action/Decision	Who	When
The Partnership noted the updates.	All	---

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS –

Wednesday, 1st November 2006 – 4.00 pm

Tuesday, 12th December 2006 – 4.00 pm

A paper was circulated which set out proposed meeting dates for the Steering Group and the full Partnership in 2007. Members were asked to contact Annie Denton, Partnership Officer if they were unable to attend meetings on the dates proposed:

Full Partnership Meetings:

Wednesday, 7th February – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 21st March – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 9th May - 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Tuesday, 10th July – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Tuesday, 25th September – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Tuesday, 13th November – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Tuesday, 11th December – 4.00 pm at Rushmoor Borough Council

Steering Group Meetings:

Wednesday, 24th January – 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

Tuesday, 13th March – 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 25th April – 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 20th June - 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 12th September - 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 24th October - 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

Wednesday, 28th November - 10.00 am at Rushmoor Borough Council

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm.
