

# **Wiltshire Accountable Bodies Group**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 at 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.**

**Chestnut Room, Conference & Development Centre,  
County Hall, Trowbridge**

---

## **AGENDA**

This is the first meeting of the Accountable Bodies Group and it would be helpful to spend time to ensure that we have a shared understanding of the role of this Group, how we interact with other bodies in the 'family of partnerships' and how we will work together.

Attached is a membership list and, as a reminder, an extract from the final Governance report to WiSB on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This outlines the roles of this Group, the Assembly, the Co-ordinating Group and Thematic Delivery Partnerships.

At this first meeting we may wish to talk about how the public sector within Wiltshire can work together in a more focussed way to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. For example, by:

- having an agreed, shared understanding of priorities for the county and its communities
- having a shared understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of individual organisations in tackling those priorities
- aligning our plans, performance and resource management arrangements so that we are able to take key decisions together and develop joint investment and commissioning where that would be helpful.
- being best placed for CAA
- arranging more efficient working by sharing common services
- better understanding and challenging supra-Wiltshire partners, such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and Job Centre Plus about their investment and impact in the County

For the last part of the meeting it is hoped that we can discuss the preparation and agenda for the Wiltshire Accountable Bodies Group Awayday on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at Urchfont Manor.

**(Sandwiches will be available on arrival)**

## ACCOUNTABLE BODIES GROUP

Organisation	Member	Supported by
<b>Wiltshire Council</b> <b>Wiltshire County Council</b> (lead body, will become Wiltshire Council in April 2009)	<b>Jane Scott</b> , Leader <b>John Thomson</b> , Cabinet Member for Communities	<b>Keith Robinson</b> , Chief Executive
<b>District Councils</b> (until March 2009)	<b>Linda Conley</b> (WWDC) <b>Paul Clegg</b> (SDC) <b>Dick Tonge</b> (NWDC) <b>Stuart Wheeler</b> (KDC)	To be confirmed
<b>Wiltshire Police Authority</b>	<b>Christopher Hoare</b> , Chairman	See 'Member'
<b>Wiltshire Police</b>	<b>Julian Kirby</b> , Divisional Commander	See 'Member'
<b>Wiltshire Primary Care Trust</b>	<b>Tony Barron</b> , Chairman	<b>Jeff James</b> , Chief Executive (or another as appropriate)
<b>Wiltshire Probation</b>	<b>Paul Aviss</b> , Chair	<b>Diana Fulbrook</b> , Chief Probation Officer
<b>Wiltshire &amp; Swindon Fire</b>	<b>Bobbie Chettleburgh</b> , Lead Member for Communities	<b>Peter Baxter</b> , Assistant Chief Fire Officer
<b>Wiltshire College</b>	<b>Geoff Burgess</b> , Chairman	<b>Di Dale</b> , Principal
<b>Learning &amp; Skills Council</b>	<b>Bryan McGinity</b> , Non-Executive Director	<b>Sue Watkins</b> , Economic Development Manager
<b>Ministry of Defence</b>	<b>Jolyon Jackson</b> , Brigadier	<b>Bill Dowling</b> , Supergarrison Staff Officer
<b>Job Centre Plus</b>	Not applicable	<b>Kim Francome</b> , Area Manager
<b>South West Regional Development Agency</b>	Not applicable	<b>Tony Bray</b> , Area Director for Wiltshire & Swindon
<b>Natural England</b>	Not applicable	<b>Gerry Hamersley</b> , Area Manager for Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Bristol
<b>Environment Agency</b>	Not applicable	<b>Andrew Gardiner</b> , Environment Manager, Regulatory & Technical Services
<b>Observer from Government Office of the South West</b>	Not applicable	<b>Thoss Shearer</b> , Deputy Regional Director (or) <b>Jon Bright</b> , Regional Director

**EXTRACT from: Progress Report on the Family of Partnerships (WiSB 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008)**

## **The Wiltshire Assembly**

This is an important new body that will be the new Local Strategic Partnership for Wiltshire. It will replace WiSB and the four existing district Local Strategic Partnerships. Membership will be wide and inclusive and include elected members, officers and representatives of communities, organisations and sectors across the county, as well as relevant regional bodies. There will be an independent chairman. It is likely to meet twice a year and will host the 'state of Wiltshire debate', considering issues, needs and progress, developing direction on the vision and ambitions for Wiltshire, and setting challenges for Wiltshire's partnerships and organisations.

## **The Accountable Bodies Group**

This will bring together key public sector organisations that allocate significant resources to Wiltshire and are held accountable by government. It will be the Public Sector Board for Wiltshire. The membership will largely comprise elected Members and Chairmen who have the authority to commit resources on behalf of their organisation, supported by key officers. It will agree strategy and commitment from the public sector organisations and agree the LAA. It will be chaired by the leader of the Council and held to account by Wiltshire Council as the accountable body for the LAA.

## **Thematic Delivery Partnerships**

These delivery partnerships are the powerhouses of the family - responsible for developing strategy and delivering significant action to achieve the ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW), including the Local Area Agreement. Partnerships designated as Thematic Delivery Partnership will be kept under review to ensure that the designation remains appropriate.

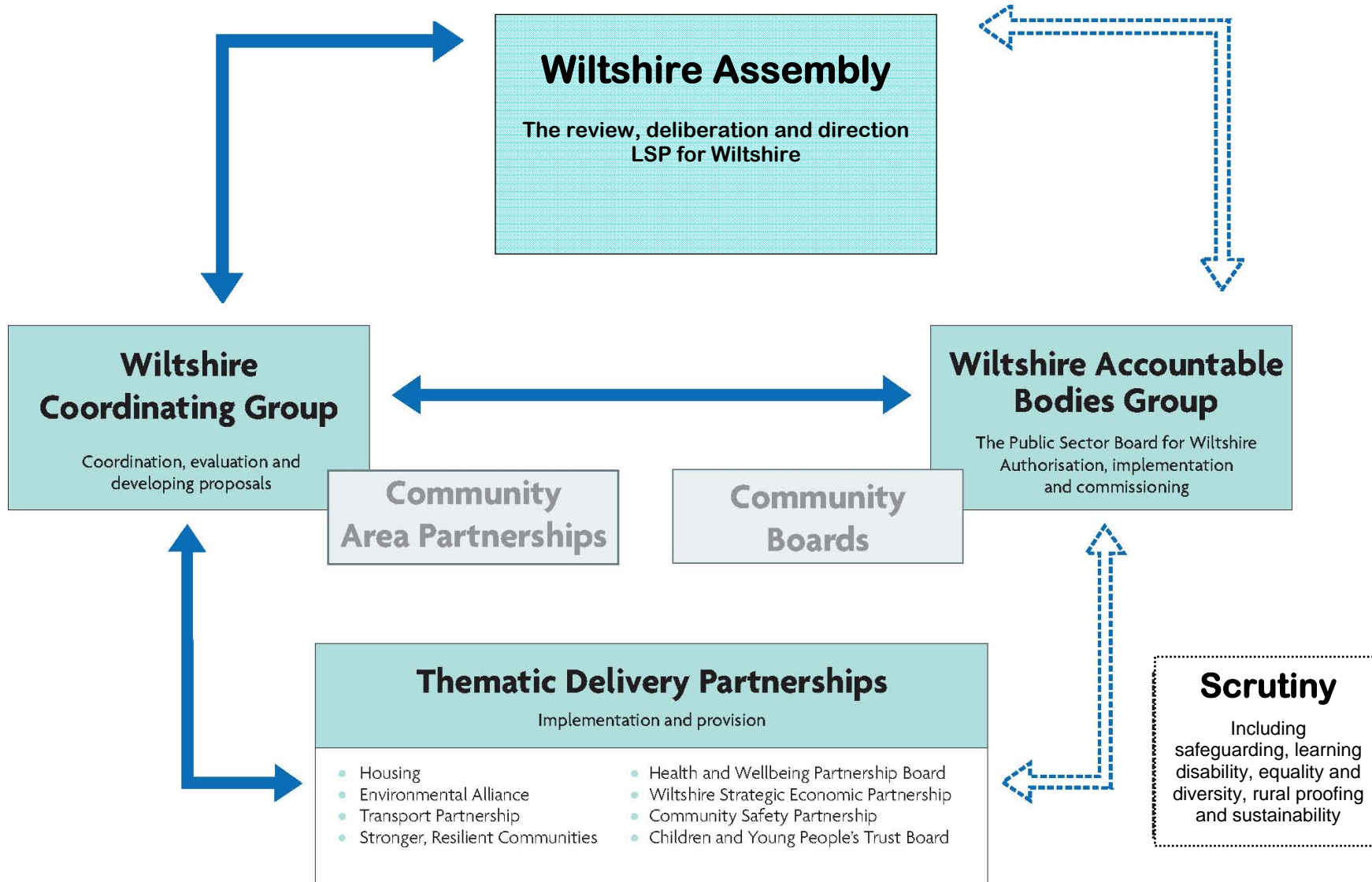
Thematic Delivery Partnerships are represented in the Coordinating Group and will help develop and influence strategy in the Coordinating Group and the Assembly. They are also responsible to the Accountable Bodies Group for the delivery of action and targets in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire.

- Stronger, Resilient Communities Partnership
- Housing Partnership
- Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust Board
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board
- Transport Alliance
- Wiltshire Strategic Economic Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership
- Environmental Alliance

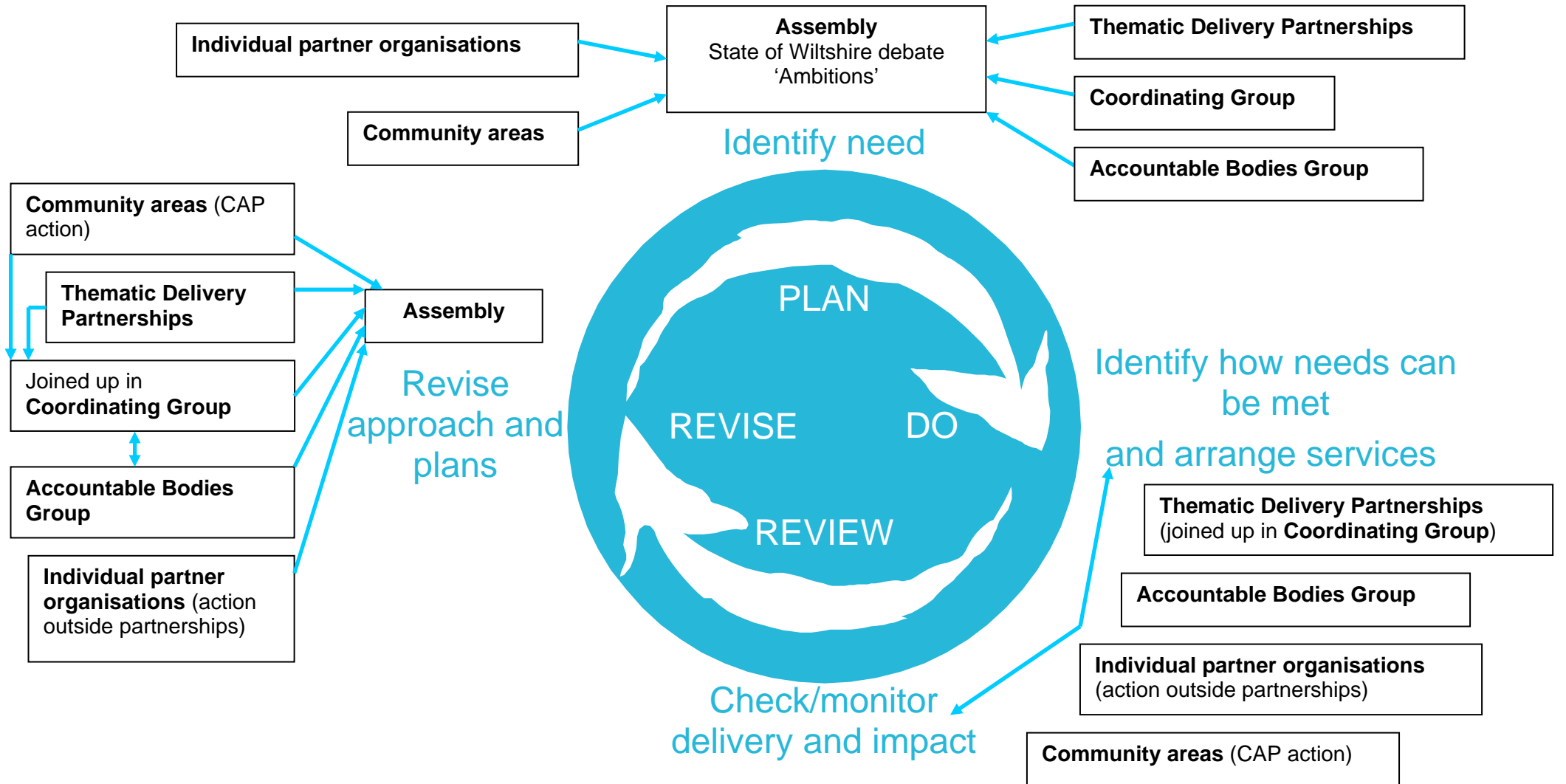
## **The Coordinating Group**

This is a small action focused working group which will bring things together to assist the Wiltshire Assembly to develop, update, and coordinate delivery of the Wiltshire Sustainable Community Strategy and also to support the Accountable Bodies Group in its responsibility to approve and deliver the Local Agreement for Wiltshire (including the Local Area Agreement (LAA)). Its main role will be 'cross-cutting strategy development, integration and coordination, and evaluation'.

- Brings together the Thematic Delivery Partnerships and the WFCAP representative, and has cross sector representation;
- Brings together strategies from Thematic Delivery Partnerships - refining, checking, looking for gaps and synergies/opportunities, so that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Most strategic work will happen within Thematic Delivery Partnerships – the Coordinating group will ensure that the priorities of delivery partnerships are informed by the priorities of other delivery partnerships;
- Feeds this co-ordinated strategy into the Assembly; and
- Has a strong role in coordination, evaluation and performance management.



# Simplified Performance Cycle



# WILTSHIRE ACCOUNTABLE BODIES GROUP

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008

County Hall, Trowbridge

## **Attendance:**

Cllr Jane Scott, Paul Aviss, Peter Baxter, Tony Bray, Sharon Britton, Geoff Burgess, Cllr Bobbie Chettleburgh, Cllr Paul Clegg, Cllr Linda Conley, Di Dale, Bill Dowling, Diana Fulbrook, Gerry Hamersley, Christopher Hoare, Andy Gardiner, Jeff James, Julian Kirby, Keith Robinson, Thoss Shearer, John Tench, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Stuart Wheeler.

## **Apologies:**

Tony Barron, Kim Francome, Jolyon Jackson, Bryan McGinity, Sue Watkins.

---

## **Note of the meeting**

Jane Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the proposed purpose of the Accountable Bodies Group. We need to work together to ensure that public satisfaction for public service in this county is as high as it can be. It is important to get together the right senior people to move things forward, and important that these people can represent their organisations and make decisions on behalf of those organisations. Today's meeting will help prepare for our Awayday on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Keith Robinson suggested ambitions and an approach to working for the Accountable Bodies Group, including the need to take forward the changing relationship between the public sector and citizens (copy of slides provided). He also outlined the 'family of partnerships' and the relationships between the ABG and the other bodies. In finding better ways to work together we may need to challenge government and the Government Office to take a more relaxed attitude to some regulations/other blockages to effective local working between public sector bodies.

The Accountable Bodies Group considered two questions;

- Do the proposed ambitions and the approach feel right, and,
- As a group, what will we have achieved by May 2009 and by the end of our Awayday in September?

## **Feedback from Group Work**

### **Do these ambitions and approach feel right to you?**

- This is both top down and bottom up.
- The emphasis should be on doing rather than talking – success should be tested on practical changes on the ground.
- Another test will be public confidence – the public seeing and experiencing change at a local level.
- Hot topics could include fuel poverty, teenage pregnancy, literacy, obesity.
- Some issues we need to focus on are long-term.
- It will be helpful to have a common understanding of the 'family of partnerships' and people that had not been involved in WiSB may need a separate briefing.
- It would also be important to understand the role of Area Boards in addressing local issues.
- We need a better understanding of the organisations represented on the ABG – what we are doing, our priorities, and our challenges. It was suggested a common

template be produced to hold this and other basic information, for organisations to fill in before our Awayday.

- We should have shared clarity on priorities for the county – a copy of the Local Agreement for Wiltshire was provided.
- The ambitions seem appropriate – it is vital that the ABG espouses co-production if we are to achieve what we need to achieve.
- It will be important to manage external communication so that the public is able to see the impact of the ABG – the difference made.
- Shared intelligence and performance could give us a quick wins.
- We will need to align our planning and budgeting cycles – even if we can't decide our budgets at the same time we should be able to talk about our budgets at the same time.
- At our Awayday it would be useful if we could share what we are good at and what others think we are good at – this is best by having a conversation about it rather than complicated analysis. The proforma mentioned earlier will help prepare the ground.
- Sometimes local relationships are affected by our 'masters'. This could be Government departments, Government Office or other regulators. We may need to challenge Government to understand the issues and take a more flexible approach.
- We need to judge pace and not try to do too much too quickly.
- We need to understand the relationship between this group and the local Area Boards. There may be issues coming from Area Boards that need a strategic approach.

### **What will we have achieved?**

- From May 2009 we should be able to pass the Citizen of Wiltshire test – where the public would recognise that this group is real and can make a difference on the ground. There should also be recognition of co-production. It was suggested that we could organise an event with a group of citizens where we give account of ourselves and find out what the public think of that.
- We will have a much better understanding about each other and the common issues we face.
- We will understand obstacles and tensions that get in the way.
- We will have identified issues where we need to take a longer term view to solve.
- By June 2009 the relationship between the strategic level and local decision making should be clarified.
- From the September event it would be good to have an understanding of each other and how all this works together at the strategic and the local level, and how we can make an impact.
- It was agreed that the County Council would offer a 2-hour session for people who wanted to know more about the 'family of partnerships', including the background.

### **Action**

1. **Sharon Britton** will circulate a template for organisational information, to be completed **by each organisation** in time for the awayday.
2. **All representatives** will prepare for the awayday by considering the ambitions for the ABG and how best these may be achieved, including ways to work together.
3. **John Tench** and **Sharon Britton** will prepare the awayday, based on the steer given at today's meeting
4. **Sharon Britton** will circulate a note of this meeting and electronic copies or links to the Local Agreement for Wiltshire and the Community Strategy

**Next meeting:** Awayday 29<sup>th</sup> September at Urchfont