

Agenda item 2

CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP *draft*

MINUTE OF MEETING

Meeting of:	<u>JOINED UP FOR JOBS STRATEGY GROUP</u>	
Held at:	Capital City Partnership offices, 1 Canon Street, Canonmills, Edinburgh	
Date:	Wednesday 6 December 2006	
Present:	Jim Rafferty (chair) Matthew Crighton Ken Shaw Kenneth Wardrop Cora Macfarlane Bill Wilson Patricia Thomson Roger Horam Christine Docherty	Capital City Partnership Capital City Partnership City of Edinburgh Council City of Edinburgh Council Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh & Lothian Jobcentre Plus Careers Scotland Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce NEAR
Apologies:	Cllr. Ian Perry Paul Gierthy Paul Hambleton	City of Edinburgh Council Careers Scotland City of Edinburgh Council

Action

1 Minutes of the meeting of 6 September and 9 November 2006 and Matters Arising

These minutes were agreed as correct records.

The following matters arising were considered:

1 Jobcentre Plus Update

Bill Wilson reported that there was no further information yet on the Disadvantaged Areas Fund,

Pathways to Work would be introduced in the District in October 2007. Nine organisations had been shortlisted and it was intended that the contracts would be agreed three to four months beforehand. A meeting with the bidders had been arranged at which they could learn about the Pathfinder and questions could be asked of them.

Bill also reported that targets for the JCP District may be moved towards helping customers with children.

Alister McInnes reported that roll-out of Jobcentre Plus had now been completed, there being three parts of the organisation: Contact Centres, Jobcentres and Benefit Delivery.

He reported that under the new Health Advisers Programme there would be 11 Health Professionals funded by ESF working under Jobcentre managers. an application had been made by the District but the JCP Board has not yet approved the overall programme.

2 Participation by BME communities

Ken Shaw said that the Partnership Forum meeting to be held on 7 December had this as its theme and that the outcomes could be considered at the next meeting.

3 Public Service Academy

Ken Shaw referred to the paper on this which had been circulated before the meeting, and said that it had been agreed by the Council but was currently within the scrutiny process. Responding to questions about the name, he said that he hoped that it would set out a model which could have application across the public sector but that at this stage it was applicable only to the City of Edinburgh Council.

4 Money Advice Pilot

Matthew Crighton reported that there was a possibility that the Scottish Executive might be willing to fund an extension of this pilot in order to allow it to make a contribution to the Cities Strategy Pathfinder. This would require the development of a model for integration of money advice into JU4J.

5 Employability Services for Prison-leavers – Employability Case Management

Matthew Crighton reported that there was a possibility that the Scottish Executive would contribute £10,000 to enhance this project, in particular to support employer engagement and capacity-building. In addition the Justice Department might be able to fund an evaluation.

Other Minutes and Matters Arising

The following minutes were noted:

- a) Infrastructure Development Programme Panel 29 November 2006
- b) Evaluation Sub-group 20 November 2006
- c) Partnership Forum 5 October 2006
- d) Communications Sub-Group meeting 26 September 2006
- e) Academies Collective 26 September 2006

Kenneth Wardrop asked what response the Strategy Group might make to the Retail Academy ceasing to trade, and whether the intentions of the Directors of the company were known as regards continuing the work of the academy. He reported that the St James Centre and employers there had approached the Council for co-operation around recruitment initiatives and that the City Council was seeking engagement of retail employers.

Chris Docherty asked whether there might be a cross-over between the retail and hospitality sectors. Ken Shaw replied that there had been, in the delivery of the Get On programme, but not as regards groupings of employers. Roger Horam said that the sectoral input by employers was important and it was agreed that the Strategy Group would continue to support this.

3 City Strategy

- a) Seedcorn budget: update

Matthew Crighton reported that the interview for the three posts being funded with the seedcorn funding had been completed and three appointments had been made.

- b) Business Plan

Matthew Crighton reported that responses on the worksheets had been received from

most partners. They would be used in drafting the business plan, in particular to clarify what would be done differently and what roles partners might take. On the question of targets, he drew attention to the expectation that existing targets (e.g. in ROA) should be stretched and the difficulties of assessing the possibilities of stretching these when there had been no responses on enabling measures and no information about the reward funding regime. **It was agreed to endorse the approach that stretch could be expressed through intention to increase outcomes for specific target groups within the higher level targets.**

It was agreed that the Business Plan should be drafted by CCP using the prescribed headings and based on the Expression of Interest and Seedcorn application. A meeting of the Lead Officers' Group was scheduled for 8 December, to consider the key gaps and contributions to filling them. A further meeting would be arranged before Christmas. With the tight timescale of 29 December **it was agreed that CCP would be responsible for submitting the Business Plan taking into account contributions and comments received from partners. Partners would be sent drafts as they become available.**

Bill Wilson told the meeting that his staff were continuing to look at the cases for Enabling Measures – those already presented and potential additions.

c) Partnership building: health, social care, further education, Lothians

Jim Rafferty reported that a meeting had been held with the three FE colleges in Edinburgh which had mapped out the areas of joint work under the Cities Strategy Pathfinder. It had been agreed that the colleges should be requested to nominate one person to attend the Strategy Group.

4 Implementation and Funding issues

a) Services for Vulnerable People contract

Jim Rafferty reported that AI planned that the new service under this contract would be operational in January.

b) Employability Case Management for Prison-leavers

Matthew Crighton reported that work on this had been started by the CORE consortium led by Four Square.

c) Communications Strategy and Website

Matthew Crighton reported that work was underway to improve and update the JU4J website.

d) European Social Fund

The consultation on the future arrangements for ESF was noted and Jim Rafferty reported that he intended to make a submission urging that where there is to be a local element in decision-making this should be assigned to Cities Strategy Pathfinder consortia where they exist.

5 Monitoring and Evaluation Report

1. LMI reports

Reports from York Consulting and CCP (on trends in IB and SDA claims) were considered. It was noted that the unemployment rate had fallen while the totals unemployed had risen and that this might be explained by the numbers of migrant workers in the city. Bill Wilson said that his staff managed new National Insurance

number allocations and could report on this. The rate of fall in IB claims was lower in Edinburgh than other areas including other parts of Lothian and Glasgow. Factors contributing to this might be that Pathways to Work had not yet started in Edinburgh; and the roll-out of full JCP taking place later in the city than elsewhere.

2. Quarterly outcomes report

The report of outcomes was considered and the continuing absence of data from some of the academies was discussed. Jim Rafferty drew attention to the proportion of customers of the area intermediaries which were not in JU4J target groups; and the numbers who were not claimants. He said that it was possible that in future contracts CCP would not pay against these outcomes but that it would be necessary to know more about their circumstances and how much time was being spent with them; and it was recognised that there had to be a balance struck within an open-door policy.

On New Deals, the report showed that the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders district appears to have higher job outcome levels for the ND25+, yet less well for the other programmes. Bill said that these data were cumulative and he would look at getting an annual breakdown.

6 Any Other Business

Patricia Thomson reported that Careers Scotland had completed its School-leavers Destinations Survey, with a substantial reduction in the number of unknown destinations, and that it showed 82% positive outcomes, and increase in 6%. It also showed a reduction in the number of training opportunities.

7 Dates of Future Meetings

The dates for meetings in 2007 will be at 2.00 pm on:

7 March

7 June

5 September

5 December