

THE FUTURE OF ENABLE MINUTES
20th JANUARY 2010, OLD CABINET OFFICE ROOM 207, COUNTY HALL,
GLENFIELD, LEICESTER

Attended

Mike Preston County Councillor, Chair of ENABLE
Peter Williams, Leicestershire County Council
Tony Lockley, Leicestershire County Council
Donna Worship, Leicestershire County Council
Hetal Patel, Leicestershire County Council
Rachel Sweetland, Leicestershire County Council
Phil Bailey, Leicestershire County Council
Peter Oliver, Leicestershire County Council
Ann Roberts, Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes
Ruth Fenney, Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes
Peter Coogan, Leicestershire Police
Jane Neachell, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

1) Peter Oliver, Effective Partnerships Manager, Leicestershire County Council

PO running a pilot project with 3 partnerships in Leicestershire
Stronger Communities Partnership
Teenage Pregnancy Partnership
Disability at home Partnership

The project is about helping partnerships to become more effective in terms of their capacity, strategy, development and action planning to deliver better outcomes, greater efficiencies and reshaped services. The pilot project partnerships would receive two days of intensive support from an external consultant to develop their partnership with ongoing support from the Partnership Support Team.

There is a possibility that ENABLE could be a pilot if the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership drop out.

We could still get support from the Partnership Support Team even if we are not in the pilot project. The Partnership Support Team could help with facilitation at events/workshops discussing the future of ENABLE with the wider partnership and could help with action planning.

Action:

PO: send draft self assessment framework and project summary briefing to DW for circulation

2) Big Issues for ENABLE to address

PW

- Do we want to widen the geographical spread of ENABLE - merge with Leicester City and Rutland?
- How to resolve the current domination of climate change issues in steering group meetings

- Resources required to run ENABLE

TL

- Recognition of European Landscape Convention
- Relationship with Leicestershire Together Board

MP

- Need achievable targets so can go to press and report what we have done over past 12 months
- Need for delivery plan for projects

RF

- WI values being part of ENABLE as it is broader than a local authority remit

AR

- Need to push the acronym more – not many people understand what ENABLE stands for

JN

- Thinks the Terms of Reference are too long and detailed and we need to focus more on the purpose of ENABLE
- Too local government focussed and tends to duplicate what is already being done by local authorities

PC

- Important to focus on deliverables – has found support for the Big Switch Off useful

PB

- Need a plan of action of projects that ENABLE can deliver
- Need to make the choice between incorporating local authorities or not

DW

- Feels ENABLE struggles with its roles
- Should we focus on community projects or be more of a strategic arm – providing support and advice to Leicestershire Together?
- There is a need for wider representation on the steering group and assistance with delivering projects
- A lot of duplication between CLIMA and ENABLE

HP

- Feels ENABLE requires an Action Plan and should be reporting annually on achievements

RS

- Feels there will be a capacity issue shortly – especially as she is leaving LCC – capacity in terms of managing and developing ENABLE and delivering on projects.

MP feels ENABLE should provide the catalyst for other projects similar to the Big Switch Off

Membership of the Steering Group was discussed and PC would like to see the Fire Service, Police, NHS and other large organisation employers to balance out the top heavy local authority membership.

3) Vice Chair and Role within Leicestershire Together

The issue of Vice Chair was not resolved but MP will represent ENABLE at the next LT Board Meeting in March.

PW – feels ENABLE should be at Leicestershire Together Board Meetings to represent the environment as no other body is able to do that in Leicestershire.

MP – thinks there should be at least one environmental item on all LT agendas

- Board meetings provide the opportunity to raise ENABLE's profile within LT
- Need for a broader remit for ENABLE and widen the steering group membership to reflect the needs of the community, organisations and businesses.

4) Terms of Reference

There are feelings they are too ambitious, too long and now dated with a vision and mission statement.

JN – suggested making the objectives more concise and for the first and main objective to read

“ENABLE will act as a unified voice for the environment and environmental organisations in Leicestershire”

JN also suggested the Terms of Reference could be shortened to a single page statement of what we do.

The group decided to get feedback on the detail from the questionnaire to steering group members.

5) ENABLE Secretariat

Issues to consider – capacity and funding.

There is no funding for ENABLE except for the inkind support available from LCC for arranging meetings and taking minutes, organising the annual event, writing the ENABLE newsletter and website as well as the Big Switch Off and Climate Friendly Communities ENABLE supported projects.

MP suggested the need for a single sided case for the need for funding potentially with buy in from District Councils and other departments within Leicestershire County Council.

Action:

MP to speak to other DC Leaders re prospect of financially supporting ENABLE

6) Partnership with Leicester City

There is a need to partnership with Leicester City to address the Multi Area Agreement and the Leadership Board requires advice on environmental issues.

Need to decide whether we want to join up with Leicester City Environment Partnership and if the new group would report to Leicestershire Together, One Leicester and the Multi Area Agreement Board.

7) Raising the profile of ENABLE

There could potentially be support from Leicestershire County Council PR team when move into Environment and Transport Department.

Action:

TL to investigate help from Environment and Transport Dept PR Team

8) Questionnaire

It was decided there is a need to develop two questionnaires. One for the steering group and one for the wider partnership members therefore remove all questions relating to the secretariat.

The questionnaire needs to be accompanied by a letter explaining why we are doing the questionnaire and reminding members about what ENABLE has achieved over the past 5 years.

Q2a – Include support for other organisations to deliver their own environmental programmes.

Remove option D – wind itself up.

Q5 – It was decided to broaden this question and not restrict to environmental organisations. Ask instead about groups, organisations, universities and local businesses that ENABLE could partner with.

Q7 – Rephrase to “Do you think there are benefits in working within the sub region – Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland?” “Please say what benefits and disbenefits a partnership with Leicester and Rutland would bring”.

Q8 - Remove question 8

Q9 – Include ENABLE website and email. Include a question about what support your organisation could bring to ENABLE - resources including financial and human resources – help with organising events, developing projects etc...

Expand box for any other comments.

Add box at the top of the questionnaire for people to say who they are, contact details and what organisation they are from.

Action:

TL to amend the questionnaire as discussed and distribute

Peter Oliver ended the session stating he had done a quick analysis of ENABLE as a partnership during the meeting and drew the following conclusions:-

We need to have a shared vision and strategy with our partners and become more outcome focussed with objectives linked into partner organisations action plans.

Our strength lies in having shared values.

We need some task and finish groups to get things moving forward.

Action:

PO: email DW/PW with feedback from this session for information to the Steering Group