PRESENT  Councillors Hibbert, Hudson (chair for items 3-11), E Hulme, J Hulme, D Jones, McLaren, Quinn, Rogers (chair for items 1-2) and Wrigglesworth

Also present:
Nick Andrews - OMBC Economy, Places and Skills
Dan Carlsson-Hyslop - OMBC Constitutional Services
Colin Jackson - OMBC Community Safety
Collette Kelly - Bolton MBC Neighbourhoods
Angela Longsden - OMBC Neighbourhood Managers
Debbie Lyons - OMBC Children, Young People and Families
Ian Monaghan - OMBC Streetscene
John Norris - OMBC Neighbourhood Managers
Kristine Ogden - Oldham Community Leisure
Rachel Quesnel - South Chadderton School
Adele Smaill - OMBC Corporate Research Team
Chris Sykes - OMBC Community Safety
Inspector Dave Willcocks - Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence had been received from Mark Drury (Oldham PCT) and Veronica Jackson (OMBC)

Item 2  URGENT BUSINESS
There was no urgent business.

Item 3  DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

Item 4  APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
RESOLVED
1. Councillor John Hudson be appointed Chair of the Chadderton District Partnership for the 2009/10 council year.
2. Councillor Joy Wrigglesworth be appointed Vice Chair of the Chadderton District Partnership for the 2009/10 council year.

Councillor Hudson took the chair at this point.

Item 5  AREA WORKING AND THE ROLE OF DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS
The District Partnership considered the report, which explained the role of District Partnerships and the
changes the Council had made to area working. The aim was to look at the local priorities and decide what should be done for the people of Chadderton. It was noted Chadderton was one of two pilot areas receiving extra funding.

The District Partnership would act as a champion for the area, listening to the views of local people and feeding them back to the Council and other organisations. Ward forums would engage directly with the public.

**RESOLVED**
1. The report be noted.

**Item 6**

**WARD FORUMS**

The District Partnership considered the report, which sought approval for the creation of ward forums in Chadderton Central, Chadderton North and Chadderton South. Should the forums be approved, they would meet for the first time in late July. It was noted they would include updates on partners' local activities, such as those by neighbourhood policing teams.

It was intended ward forums would meet five times per year on dates they would largely choose themselves.

Ward forums could have up to four co-optees, although they would inherit any appointed by the former Chadderton Area Committee.

**RESOLVED**
1. The following ward forums be established:
   Chadderton Central, Chadderton North, Chadderton South.

2. The ward forums hold their first meetings on:
   Chadderton Central - 23 July 2009
   Chadderton North - 28 July 2009
   Chadderton South - 29 July 2009

**Item 7**

**AGREE MEMBERSHIP OF DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP**

The District Partnership considered the report, which proposed the appointment of senior representatives of Council departments and other organisations. It was noted the membership was likely to change when the neighbourhood plan was approved, as this would show the priorities for Chadderton and the District Partnership could appoint those best placed to help it achieve them.

To ensure continuity, it was agreed the appointed representatives and the senior officer champion should
nominate substitutes, ideally of equivalent rank. Part of the role of the senior officer champion was to ensure those appointed attended and fed back information from Partnership meetings to their teams. If representatives did not attend regularly their managers would be informed.

It was noted additional members could be appointed when the Partnership wanted.

RESOLVED

1. The following be appointed as members of the Chadderton District Partnership representing the organisations stated:

   Nick Andrews - OMBC Economy, Places and Skills
   Debbie Lyons - OMBC Children Young People and Families
   Ian Monaghan - OMBC Streetscene
   Kristine Ogden - Oldham Community Leisure
   Rachel Quesnel - South Chadderton School
   Inspector Dave Willcocks - Greater Manchester Police

2. The lead officer and those appointed above inform the Deputy Head of Constitutional Services of named substitutes who would attend the District Partnership when they were not available.

3. The lead officer inform the managers of those appointed above if they fail to attend meetings regularly.

**BUDGETS 2009/10**

The District Partnership considered the report, which explained its budgeting arrangements for the year. As the Partnership was one of two pilot areas, it had an additional £100,000. The District Partnership would decide how to spend this as well as its ward budgets and safe, clean and green money. Councillors retained their own budgets and community groups were encouraged to apply to them for grants.

The Partnership was recommended to approve three applications from its ward budget, but given the lack of information available about what was being applied for, it was agreed to defer the applications to the next meeting.

It was agreed the Partnership would benefit from a finance sub-group, which would assess applications and make recommendations to it.

RESOLVED

1. Grant applications be directed to local ward
2. The following applications be deferred to the next meeting of the Partnership:

(i) events and the christmas market;
(ii) ward forum expenses;
(iii) the request for Blue Tooth.

3. A budget sub-group be set up to make recommendations to the District Partnership on how its budget, including the safe, clean and green funding should be spent. Determination of the sub-group’s membership and outline terms of reference be delegated to the chair and vice chair, subject to their formal approval at the District Partnership’s meeting on 15 September.

**DISTRICT PLANS**

The District Partnership considered the report and a substantial presentation about the demographics of Chadderton. The area had an ageing population, lower income deprivation and fewer children than the Borough average but higher home ownership and more pupils achieving five or more GCSEs. Life expectancy was almost identical to the Borough average across all three wards. There was a sharp difference in fear of crime and perceptions of local drug use between Chadderton South and Chadderton Central.

It was noted unemployment had risen above the Borough average in all three Chadderton wards from April 2008 to April 2009. This was particularly stark in Chadderton South.

The District Partnership discussed its priorities and suggested there was benefit in including some long term aspirations, such as reducing the number of income deprived households and improving the skills of Chadderton’s population. Short term requirements also had to be included to ensure people were aware of tangible changes brought by the Partnership. It was also important to marry local priorities with those in the Council’s corporate plan. It was agreed further discussion about the priorities was needed after the first round of ward forums in late July.

**RESOLVED**

1. A meeting be set up of all councillors to discuss the Partnership’s priorities in more detail, following the completion of the first round of ward forums in late July. The priorities agreed at this meeting be submitted to the District Partnership for approval in September.
The following questions were received:
1. Mark Johnson: “Since its inception nine years ago the Chadderton Area Committee has been acknowledged as a great success and one of the best in the Metropolitan Borough. "How can the new arrangement be an improvement on such a successful format?"
   Answer: "Whilst the Area Committees worked well in most areas the new arrangements (DPs) are in line with area workings of the council. This is the heart of the council’s agenda as it recognised that issues that face us need to be tackled on a borough-wide level, many others are best taken forward at a local level. We don't simply want the overall standard of our services to continue to improve. We want services to be relevant and responsive to local people, meeting their needs and expectations whilst delivery value for money. This is where the Ward forums are essential to the community engagement and consultation of local; people which will feed into the main priorities of the District Plan. The new structure is in readiness for localised funding."
   Councillors expressed concern at the exactly how the changes would benefit local people and the Partnership risked moving away from working with people. It was agreed the Neighbourhood Manager would feed these comments to the Council's leadership.

2. Michael Lawson: "How does the Council propose to avert the righteous indignation and anger of the people of Chadderton, should the impressive group of civic buildings in our town centre be boarded up later this year, following the opening of the new Well-being Centre?"
   Answer: "The Council welcomes the forthcoming opening of the new Chadderton Well-Being Centre and what this means for improved delivery of services for the people of Chadderton. "The Council recognises that the buildings being vacated are an important element of Chadderton's heritage and occupy a key location in the District Centre. The Council are working with the Greater Manchester Police, who also own property within the site, to establish the most appropriate framework for securing comprehensive proposals for the Library, Police Station and former Swimming Pool. A Development Brief has been prepared and procurement routes are being explored. However it is also important to recognise that the current market conditions may mean that any procurement exercise is delayed until the position improves. "The Council have also entered discussions with the
Chadderton Historical Society who are interested in occupying the Library building. Whilst these discussions are at an early stage it is hoped that a mutually beneficial solution can be found."

Councillors expressed the view the Council should move some of its departments into the civic buildings in the town centre, even if only temporarily. It was important to ensure the buildings were ready to dispose of when the property market improved. In addition, there had been problems in other parts of the Borough through lack of investment in buildings.

**RESOLVED**

1. The strong views of the community regarding the boarding up of Chadderton Library as set out above, both in the question and responses of Councillors, be passed to the relevant Cabinet Member for information and a response.

3. Enid Johnson: "Under the new District Partnership and Ward Forums who will organise and co-ordinate such social and community events as Chadderton Day, and the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on?"

   **Answer:** "These will continue as previous with the co-optees and any interested volunteers taking an active role in the planning and organisation of events."

4. Enid Johnson: "Chadderton Precinct. I was asked once again on Chadderton Day this year, what I thought of any improvements which could be made to the Shopping experience! Unfortunately, I was only allowed to make two choices, which I did, but the ones I really wanted to make were not on their list, e.g more seating, waste bins and floral arrangements! We have already had meetings with Groundwork about these matters, which have not been followed up."

   **Answer:** "I cannot comment on any meetings with Groundwork as I have not been involved in this. I can pass on a contact name and number for you to following this up.

"The issues of Chadderton Precinct: this is an ideal opportunity for these issues to be brought up at the ward-P.A.C.T meetings (Partners and Community Together) at which the three ward councillors will be present as well as the representatives from the Police and other partner agencies. The major issues identified will be fed into the District Partnership meetings."

   It was noted issues in the town centre were regarded as affecting all three wards.

**Item 11**

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**

1. Meetings for the remainder of the Council year take
place on:
15 September 2009
10 November 2009
20 January 2010
9 March 2010

The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 9.00pm.