

LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER EXECUTIVE - 25 NOVEMBER 2009

**STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING APPROACH, STRATEGIC
COMMISSIONING GROUP AND SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS**

REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Executive to formally approve the partnerships new arrangements for delivering a Strategic Commissioning approach to SCS/LAA outcome delivery including the terms of reference and membership of the new Strategic Commissioning Group, Commissioning Managers and Delivery Networks and arrangements for coordinating and supporting Strategic Commissioning from changes within existing staffing arrangements.

Background

2. Tribal were commissioned last Spring to produce a framework and guidance/handbook to underpin the partnership's approach to strategic commissioning, including the activities and stages involved and the roles and responsibilities of partners and theme boards. Details were presented to the Executive at its last meeting in September.
3. The Executive endorsed the overall approach recommended by Tribal but requested further details on the operation of the new Strategic Commissioning Group and Support arrangements to ensure that these were at no additional cost and didn't duplicate existing groups/arrangements.

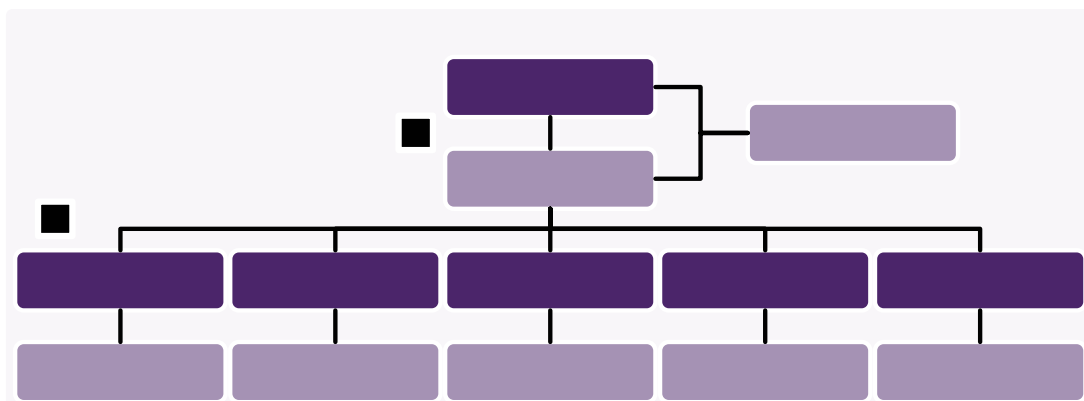
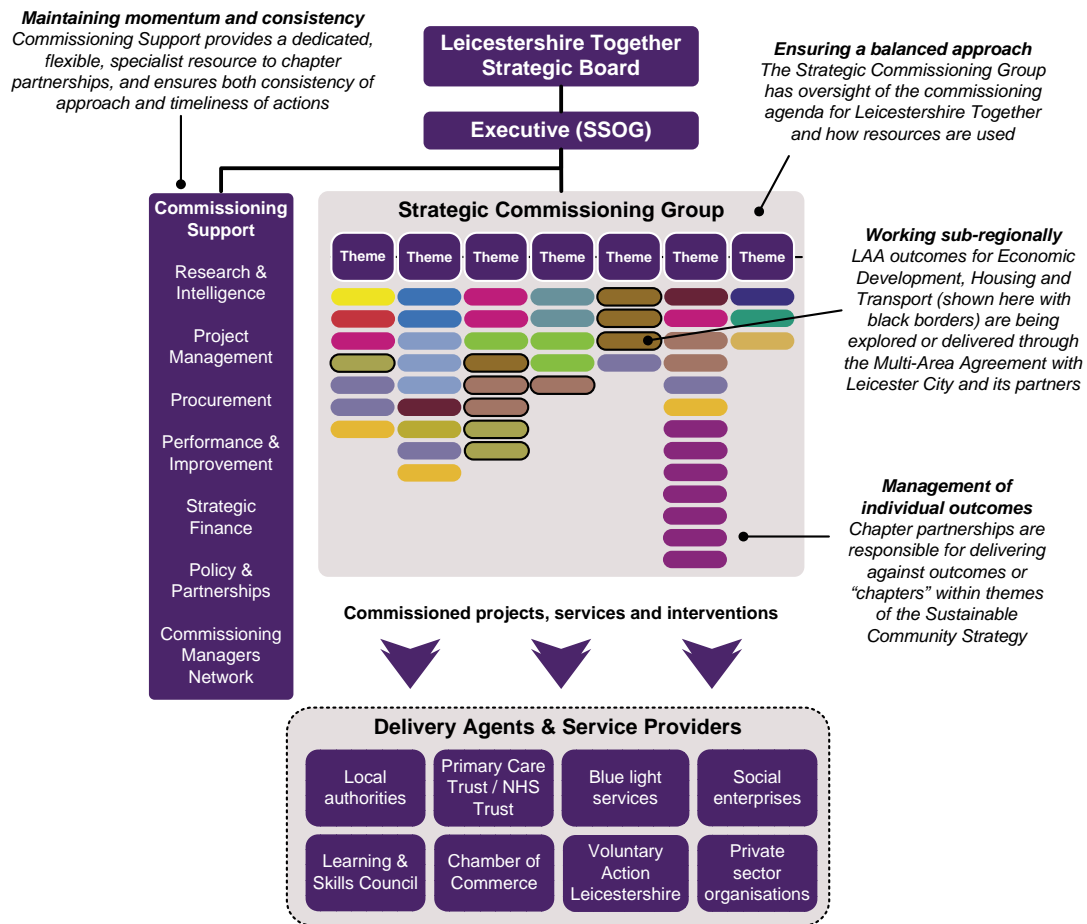
New Strategic Commissioning Group and Networks

4. Attached as Appendix 1 are the draft Terms of Reference and membership of the proposed new **Strategic Commissioning Group**. The group will effectively replace the current LAA/SCS Delivery Group, ad hoc Performance/CAA task group and ad hoc LAA Delivery Plan Challenge Group. There will therefore be a net reduction in partnership meetings. The existing Groups have endorsed the proposed changes.
5. The new group will be supported by a Commissioning Managers network to promote and share best practice around commissioning and market development and also a separate network of Outcome Delivery Leads to ensure an effective delivery focus.

Commissioning Support Arrangements

6. Following discussion at the last meeting further consideration has been given to the most cost effective approach to coordinate and support strategic commissioning from within existing partnership resources. It is proposed that we create a small commissioning coordination team of

staff from within the existing partnership support team from realignment of existing work roles. The Team will coordinate the work of the new Strategic Commissioning Group and networks and ensure input from existing specialist teams/resources including procurement, research and intelligence, policy, performance, strategic finance and commissioning managers in agencies. Details of the proposed arrangements are set out in Appendix 2 and are summarised in diagrammatic form below.



Official Launch of Approach

7. The Strategic Commissioning framework, governance, support arrangements and handbook will be officially launched on 8 December as part of the Leicestershire Together programme of events. If the Executive is aware of any relevant commissioning managers who would be interested in attending, please contact Afsa Mitha (afsa.mitha@leics.gov.uk) on 0116 3056059.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that the Leicestershire Together Executive:
 - a. Approves the role, terms of reference and membership of the new Strategic Commissioning Group and support networks set out in Appendix 1;
 - b. Endorses the proposals to support Strategic Commissioning from within existing staff resources and services set out in Appendix 2;
 - c. Notes the official launch of the Strategic Commissioning approach on 8 December as part of Leicestershire Together week and nominate any suitable staff to attend.

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