

**LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER (LOCAL STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP) BOARD**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**FINAL DRAFT LEICESTERSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY  
STRATEGY (SCS) AND SECOND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT  
(LAA2) AND UPDATE ON MULTI-AREA AGREEMENT FOR  
LEICESTER SHIRE**

**REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1) The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced a duty for all upper tier authorities to produce a Local Area Agreement and requires the County Council, as the responsible body, to have regard to a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) when preparing the LAA.
- 2) The Act also states that our Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA2) must be about what we are collectively doing to improve quality of life in Leicestershire.
- 3) The SCS focuses on the outcomes that we want to achieve by 2013 – the “what”. Our second Local Area Agreement, (LAA2) is the main delivery plan for the SCS – the “how”, setting out how the top priority outcomes will be achieved and how progress will be measured. Together, the SCS and LAA2 form the top level of a new collective performance framework for Leicestershire. A draft of the new framework is attached as Appendix A.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 4) This section of the report updates Board members on progress with our Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), including the final stages of the approval timetable.
- 5) At previous meetings of the Board in March and May, Board members considered and approved presentations/ reports on the process and timetable for developing a new SCS for Leicestershire.
- 6) The Strategy is based around a set of outcomes for people, themes and places, developed by the lead theme or cross-cutting partnership for each issue. The draft outcomes take into account the evidence in the “This is Leicestershire” and “Places in Leicestershire” reports, together with input from various meetings and events. These include the first round of Community Forum meetings around the County, the workshop session at the September Board meeting and the outputs from the workshops held at the Leicestershire Together Conference in early December 2007.

- 7) A first draft Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy was published for a 10 week public consultation period between 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008. This was considered by the Board at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Copies of the document were made available through schools, libraries and post offices, and were sent to key audiences including the Top 100 businesses, communities of interest and the Leicestershire Citizens Panel for consideration. There was also a short survey in the November issue of "Leicestershire Matters". A summary of the priorities emerging from the consultation is below at paragraph 12.
- 8) The first draft of the Strategy was considered at a range of partnership meetings, including all District Local Strategic Partnerships. In total, just over 1,200 responses were received, including over 400 members of the Leicestershire Citizens panel; 48 detailed written comments submitted by local individuals, groups and partnerships and 666 responses to the on-line survey. The majority of the responses were very positive, with many people feeling that the draft Strategy better reflects the needs of the County than previous documents.
- 9) All comments provided during the consultation period were fed back to the relevant lead partnership/organisation and all amendments to the Strategy were proposed/ agreed by that lead partnership(s)/organisation.
- 10) A second draft of the SCS was circulated on January 31<sup>st</sup> to Board and SSOG members and key theme and cross-cutting partnerships for a further two week consultation period. During this period meetings were held of all District LSP's to allow their members the opportunity to consider the second draft and, in particular the relevant "Places in..." section of the Strategy.
- 11) Further changes have now been made to the SCS and a third and final draft of the document will be circulated to the Board on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March to allow time for consideration prior to the meeting. Final minor amendments can be provided before 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

### **Key Consultation Messages**

- 12) A short survey in Leicestershire Matters and on the Leicestershire Together website was used to ask the public about which issues are most important in making somewhere a good place to live and/or which issues most need improving in their local area. The top eight issues identified, in priority order, are as follows:
  - Level of Crime
  - Traffic Congestion
  - Health Services
  - Clean streets
  - Activities for teenagers
  - Affordable housing
  - Road and pavement repairs
  - Education

13) In addition to the “key issues” survey, people were also asked to complete a more detailed on-line response form in relation to the draft SCS, particularly focussing on the headline outcomes.

## **THE SECOND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

14) The purpose of this section of the report is to update the Board on developments in relation to the new LAA framework.

15) A series of meetings (including two meetings of the Strategic Senior Officer Group (SSOG)) have been held to identify the priorities from the SCS for inclusion in LAA2. We can include up to 35 indicators (plus 16 statutory DfES ones) drawn from the 198 in the National Indicator Set (NIS), plus additional local indicators which may or may not be taken from the NIS. This process has been influenced by early input from GOEM about the Government’s priorities and detailed discussions/negotiation with theme leads about the reasons for including specific indicators.

16) The criteria used for the selection of priorities is as follows:

- Is it an area where there is evidence that we need to do better?
- Is it an area of ambition?
- Is it cross-cutting, enabling us to achieve other outcomes?
- Does making a difference in this area require partnership working?

17) The first draft of LAA2 was circulated for partner consultation on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008, alongside the second draft of the SCS. Partner feedback has been considered at a meeting of the Leads Plus meeting and SSOG. The SSOG meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February agreed a final draft for submission to the Leicestershire Together Board for approval. The latest version of LAA2 is still within the required 35 (plus 16) indicators, and includes a number of local indicators that will be owned by Leicestershire Together but not reported to the Government through GOEM. This is attached as Appendix B.

18) On approval by the Board this will become the formal negotiation draft to be the basis for further negotiations with Government. This is to be submitted to a national deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> March. Further negotiations will specifically focus on areas:

- a) where we have not included (or have included as local indicators) all of the indicators in our 35 that Government Departments have identified as a priority;
- b) where we have included things that they do not view as a priority; or
- c) where we want to measure progress in a different way – by using a different indicator from the National Indicator Set (NIS) than GOEM recommends
- d) the specific baselines and target figures for the chosen indicators (these are to be agreed by June)

## **MULTI-AREA AGREEMENT**

19) Alongside LAA developments, agreement has been reached with partners in Leicester City on a Multi Area Agreement covering Leicester and Leicestershire. This focuses currently on economic issues as it is felt this is the element of the LAA that is best suited to a sub-regional focus.

20) The proposed economic indicators to be included in the MAA are:

NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher
NI 165	Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher
NI 172	VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth
Local Indicator	Employment land and premises

21) The County & City Councils, County & City PCTs, Police & Fire Services also consider there are benefits in including the efficiency indicator (NI179 value for money).

22) The timetable for the preparation of the MAA is:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Partnerships submit latest MAA proposals to CLG
<b>Mid-March</b>	CLG provide MAA proposals to colleagues in Whitehall and RDAs
<b>Mid-March to end-April</b>	Negotiations on the 'asks'. Depending on the ask these negotiations may also involve partnerships directly e.g. through one to one meetings or negotiation workshops. Other negotiations may be done at the GO level or through CLG discussions with colleagues.
<b>Early May</b>	CLG confirms Government's offer in regard to partnership 'asks' (subject to negotiations meeting agreed outcomes) as well as 'asks' which will either need further work or have been rejected.
<b>End May</b>	MAAs submitted by Regional Director to the CLG Secretary of State. They should include both agreed changes to Government policy and the outcomes which have been agreed in return.
<b>End June</b>	MAAs signed by Secretary of State

23) The draft MAA proposal which will be submitted to CLG on 17<sup>th</sup> March is attached as Appendix C. This includes the proposed vision, scope, indicators and governance arrangements for the MAA.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

24) The County Council invited the Police and PCT to provide some external challenge to its strategic risk assessment in the summer. They suggested that an area based risk assessment should be undertaken. Deloitte, on behalf of the Partnership, organised a short workshop to establish from a variety of Leicestershire agencies the main and high risks facing Leicestershire in order to inform the priorities in the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

25) The workshop looked at:-

1. **Identify risks**
  - a) **Identifying the main risks for Leicestershire**, using risks submitted prior to the workshop by agencies groups agreed what the main risks were for each classification, including place specific risks
  - b) **Identifying high risks, from** the revised main risk list groups agreed on high risks from their revised list
  
2. **Identifying implications for the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities**
  - a) Groups **identified the implications for priorities for SCS** for their agreed high risks by mapping their high risks to SCS draft priorities and identified missing priorities
  - b) Based on the above, groups recommended **high risks to focus on** in the SCS.

26) A summary of the workshop outcomes is attached as Appendix D.

## **NEXT STEPS**

27) As outlined at the start of this report, the SCS is the top level of a new single performance framework for Leicestershire and, as such, both existing and new resources will need to be aligned to the delivery of outcomes within this framework. The next stage in the development of LAA2 and the MAA includes the production of delivery plans for the indicators selected for inclusion, including the resources required to achieve the target figures that are finally agreed.

28) 2008/09 is the final year of our first LAA and at the end of the year we will know how much "reward funding" we have achieved based on performance against each of the 12 reward targets (which will be carried forward into LAA2). There are no new reward targets in LAA2, but a performance grant will be paid at the end of the 3 year period based on performance across all targets.

29) It is clear that there is also work to be done by partner organisations to align their business planning to the performance framework for the financial year 2009/10 onwards. As an example of this, Leicestershire County Council has decided not to produce a corporate plan/strategy but instead to develop a delivery plan for the elements of the SCS that LCC is responsible for delivering.

30) Similarly, District LSPs will be producing delivery plans which set out how the single Leicestershire SCS (supported and informed by place based District SCSs) will be delivered in their District. Some outcomes will best be achieved by a more local focus, and the lead for defining place based priorities will be taken by the District LSPs, coordinated by District Councils (see also report from SSOG). These delivery plans will be agreed by Leicestershire Together and the relevant theme partnerships to ensure that they form part of a comprehensive and effective delivery pattern.

## **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Board:**

- a) Approves the new Performance Framework for Leicestershire, based on the high level outcomes in the Final Draft SCS**
- b) Approves the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement 2, subject to the provision of further and final minor comments by 12<sup>th</sup> March (to inform the next LAA2 submission to GOEM)**
- c) Notes the draft content and timetable for the development of the Multi Area Agreement for Leicester Shire**
- d) Notes the outcomes from the Risk Assessment Workshop**

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