

LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP

9 MAY 2007

COMMUNITY FORUMS UPDATE

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TASK GROUP

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Group on progress and seek its view on outstanding issues.

Progress and Issues

2. Good progress is being made through 5 District-based LSPs to identify the areas in which the Forums will operate. There is no further progress in Harborough and Oadby and Wigston Districts.
3. A project to provide induction training for Forum members is being progressed.
4. The County Council, Police and PCT have requested that the term 'Community Forums' be used consistently across the County as part of the name of each Forum (as set out in the framework agreed by SSOG and the LT Board). I have been informed on behalf of District Council Chief Executives that they do not support this. I have also been informed that different names are being used in some Districts and changing them is considered to be potentially disruptive.
5. In Oadby & Wigston and Harborough the intention is to build on existing forums, currently already called Community Forums. Blaby, Melton and Hinckley & Bosworth are all proposing the term Community Forums. Charnwood and North-West Leicestershire are both proposing to use the term 'Area Forums'.
6. The County Council has requested that all of the Forums meet at least once by the end of the year. This is because it is important that the Forums influence the priorities and outcomes to be included in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that the Group agrees:
 - (a) that each Forum should meet at least once during 2007 and that the Forums should consider the priorities and outcomes for their area to be included in the SCS and LAA; and

- (b) that, to ensure this is achieved, the arrangements for the establishment of Forums should be in place in each District area by end June 2007; and
- (c) to reaffirm its previous decision that the term 'Community Forums' should be used consistently across the County.

Officer to contact
Mr. J. Prescott