



**LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER (LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
BOARD**

**MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2007**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED AS RECENT MEETING OF THE  
STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP**

Purpose of Report

1. This note set out brief details of some of the main issues discussed at the meeting of the Strategic Senior Officers' Group on 31 October 2007. Items marked \* are also the subject of separate reports on the agenda for this meeting.

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2. The following main issues were discussed:-

- (a) Local Area Agreement (LAA(1)) Quarter 2 Progress Report 2007/08 \*

The Group received a progress report on LAA indicator performance and noted that the Quarter 2 'red' risk ratings were being addressed by theme partnerships. A further detailed report on performance and reward target risk assessment will be made at the next meeting of the Group on 13 December which will be concentrating on the LAA and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

- (b) Local Area Agreement (LAA(2)) – New LAA Framework 2008-2011 Update \*

The Group considered a report on developments in the new LAA framework and, in particular, the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Group established a task and finish group to focus on the use of the Area Based Grant and the implications of the new LAA framework for commissioning approaches. GOEM's initial draft of priorities for Leicestershire in the negotiation of the new LAA was noted. A task and finish group was also established to co-ordinate

development of strategic delivery and performance management arrangements for the new LAA.

(c) Participating Budgeting

At a previous meeting the Group was informed that the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) had established a Participatory Budgeting Unit hosted by Church Action on Poverty. Participatory Budgeting is a mechanism of local government which brings local communities closer to the decision making process around the public budget. A number of local authorities and LSPs were using this to improve their engagement with residents. The Group established a working group to consider the issue of participatory budgeting including its local impact and possible links with Community Forums. The Group considered and supported proposals in this regard from the working group at its last meeting. These are set out under minute 124 of the meeting attached. The Group also agreed that Leicestershire should take part in the CLG's Participatory Budgeting pilot programme.

(d) Priority Neighbourhoods

The Group established a working group to commission and steer a review of Neighbourhood Management arrangements in Leicestershire and also noted 2007/08 Neighbourhood Management Funding information.

(e) GOEM Regional Roadshow

The third GOEM Regional Roadshow will be held on 10 December. It will concentrate on the new LAA (including funding arrangements) and on Multi-Area Agreements. Each LAA Partnership in the East Midlands is being asked to send up to 15 representatives.

(f) Investment Planning

The Group established a task group to consider an approach to investment planning.

(g) Spatial Issues : Local Government Frameworks (LDFs) and New Growth Points (NGP)

The Group agreed that a more streamlined approach to LDF proposals should be developed and decided that the task group established under (f) above should also be asked to consider if there would be benefit in establishing a separate time limited task group to consider the issues in detail. An update on the NGP was also noted.

(h) Developer Contributions in Leicestershire

The Group noted a progress report on developer contributions towards countywide services and infrastructure.

(i) Draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) \*

An oral overarching report was made to the Group on the latest position in respect of the preparation of the SCS and the timescales involved. The first draft of the SCS theme outcomes were subsequently circulated to SSOG members for initial comments and the draft SCS was then published for consultation purposes on 12 November. The consultation period will end on 16 January 2008.

(j) Regional Architecture and Sub-Regional Arrangements \*

The Group's views were sought on the proposed arrangements to establish new governance structures at Regional and Sub-Regional levels. The District Councils' reservations on some of the arrangements were noted by the Group and it was decided to arrange a meeting in mid/late November between representatives of the County Council, Leicester City Council, the private sector, District Councils, Police, the PCT, LSEP and GOEM to discuss the implementation of the sub-regional arrangements.

(k) Consultation Issues

The Group agreed to refer the following issues to the Leicestershire and Rutland Statistics and Research Co-ordination Group (SARCOG) for consideration:-

- (i) alignment and streamlining of consultations and surveying; and
- (ii) co-ordination of joint working on future residents' satisfaction work.

(l) VCS Infrastructure Review \*

The Group requested all agencies to give further consideration to the VCS Infrastructure Plan and to send responses to the County Council for inclusion in the report to be considered by this meeting of the Board.

(m) Other Issues

The Group also received reports on:-

- Partnership Management
- Leadership Project
- Update on Community Forums
- Draft Leicestershire Together Engagement Framework \*