

Glossary - Key Terms

6Cs Partnership

A partnership of the County Councils of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and the City Councils of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. Also known as the Three Cities and Three Counties Partnership. This partnership is collaborating on key sub-regional issues including housing and infrastructure provision (see entry for New Growth Point) and transport innovation.

Access Centre

EMDA (see below) has defined Access Centres as "Centres based in communities, which act as one-stop-shops, where people can access a range of services locally". Such services could include numeracy/literacy/IT training, childcare facilities, job/career guidance, outreach provision, educational courses, virtual access (internet/email etc), credit unions, welfare/benefit advice, health education, assistance for volunteers, job vacancies, legal advice and signposting to other services. The rationale therefore is to provide some or all of such services under one roof.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

As part of a national review and framework (and working to national objectives), since 1997 all Local Authorities have been tasked with reviewing and assessing the air quality in their respective areas. If, as part of this local assessment, it is found that an area does not meet the national objectives, the Local Authority is obliged to declare it as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The area under consideration may be as small as a couple of streets, though it could be much bigger. A Local Air Quality Action Plan is then put in place to rectify matters.

Black & Minority Ethnic (BME)

A generally used but not universally liked term to refer to all ethnic group classifications used in the Census with the exception of the majority 'White British'. It is the most commonly used in government circles as well as many other organisations. It is often, erroneously, used to denote all non-White groupings. However, BME would also encompass groups such as 'White Irish' and 'White Other' (e.g. Eastern European), so the former use is correct.

Citizens Jury

A Citizens' Jury is an event designed to explore the views of the public and to give organisations a better understanding so that they can do positive things to improve services. A panel, usually of between 12 and 20 people, is brought together to act as the Jury. They are given background information, have the opportunity to question and challenge 'expert' witnesses from relevant services, draw conclusions and then provide recommendations for future action.

Citizens Panel

A Citizens Panel is a group of local residents, representative of the local community, who have volunteered or agreed to take part in a series of surveys seeking their views on services, plans and policies and what might be done to improve them. Leicestershire's Citizens Panel is called 'Leicestershire's Voice'.

Community Cohesion	The accepted definition of a cohesive community is one in which "there is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities; the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued; those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds and circumstances in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods." The community cohesion agenda therefore works towards this goal, recognising differences, potential conflicts and challenges, and promoting and developing co-operation, respect, harmony and wellbeing.
Climate Change	Climate change is the process in which human activities are believed to be altering the earth's climate, leading to more unpredictable and potentially more severe weather conditions. Prominent amongst such activities is the use and combustion of fossil fuels.
District Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)	See separate entry for Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). In Leicestershire, each of the seven Borough/District Councils have their own LSP, dealing specifically with their respective geographical area. Leicestershire Together is a partner on each District LSP, and all District LSPs are members of Leicestershire Together.
ENABLE	ENvironmental Action for a Better LEicestershire. A countywide forum for the protection and enhancement of the environment. The partnership was formed in January 2003 after extensive consultation to gauge opinion on the need to establish a new countywide group for the environment, how such a network should operate and what it should aim to do.
East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)	EMDA is one of nine Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) set up in 1999 to be a focus for, and bring sustainable economic development to the region. All the other RDAs have the same overall purpose and goals. An RDA is business-led, but is not statutory. EMDA works with many partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote and achieve economic growth, and deliver the goals of the Regional Economic Strategy (see separate entry).
Exclusion	See entry for Social Exclusion.
Green Infrastructure	The network of open space, woodlands, wildlife habitat, parks and other natural areas, which sustain clean air, water, and natural resources and enrich the quality of life of citizens.
Gross Value Added (GVA)	Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of total economic output. It is the difference between the value of goods and services produced and the cost of raw materials and other inputs used in their production. It is used 'per head' as a broad measure of productivity.
Information Technology (IT)	Information Technology (IT) refers to the technology, computers, software and the skills associated with the creation, exchange, storing and use of information.
Knowledge based sectors	Knowledge based sectors are used in economic circles to refer to sectors that are at the forefront of national economic growth. Synonymous with the 'knowledge economy' which can be defined as the emerging economic structure that comprises and emerges from the use of assets such as knowledge, skills and innovative potential.

Leicestershire Together Partnership	Leicestershire Together is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the County of Leicestershire. The aim of the partnership is to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people and to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services in the County. Leicestershire Together is described as "a partnership of partnerships" in the sense that it brings together numerous other partnerships as well as individual organisations in its structure and operation as well as providing an over-arching framework within which such individual partnerships and organisations can work.
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	The LAA is a contract between local and central government which aims to improve local performance by allowing a more flexible use of resources and devolving responsibility and enhancing efficiency by simplifying the funding streams and helping local partners to join up service delivery.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	The new style of Local Plan is called a Local Development Framework (LDF). LDFs are formatted differently to Local Plans and involve a new process that has been designed to speed up the process, ensuring environmental issues are better integrated into the decisions that are made and are more accessible to the public.
Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are partnerships comprising a variety of sectors - public, private, community and voluntary - that aim to more effectively co-ordinate the delivery of local services and improve the quality of local life. Unless concerned with Neighbourhood Renewal funding (as in Leicester City), LSPs are actually optional.
Mission	Or 'Mission Statement'. A short statement that explains (usually in motivational terms) what an organisation, plan, strategy etc is trying to achieve. An effective mission has to be inspirational as well as clear, transparent and easily communicated.
Multi-Area Agreement (MAA)	Similar to a Local Area Agreement but extending across a wider geographical area. MAAs are particularly well suited to those issues and challenges which are best tackled at a sub-regional level, such as economic development, transport, housing and strategic infrastructure provision.
New Growth Point (NGP)	The New Growth Point programme is a government initiative to help deliver more housing more quickly, and in doing so to bring about improvements to the quality of housing and new communities. NGP funding can be used in a variety of ways in support of this broader aim, including to ensure high quality infrastructure and services are provided in support of new homes and communities. There are 29 NGPs designated by central government across England. Leicestershire is part of the Three Cities and Three Counties New Growth Point.
Obesity	A person may be said to be obese if he or she has an abnormally high amount of body fat. Obesity is used in medical terms to refer to ranges of weight that are generally considered to be unhealthy for a given height. Obesity is frequently measured by the Body Mass Index (BMI) which is a measure of weight relative to height. An adult individual who has a BMI of between 30 and 40 is generally considered to be obese. Anyone with a BMI of over 40 may be said to be morbidly obese.
Outcomes	Outcomes refer to longer term changes brought about as a result of a programme, plan, strategy etc. They are different to outputs, which measure what was directly produced by the programme, plan etc.

Public Service Agreement (PSA)	Public Service Agreements (PSAs) are a form of contract between government and other agencies to help deliver government targets. They were introduced with the purpose of modernising and improving government performance on issues of concern to the public, such as health, crime, education and environmental matters. PSAs focus on agreed targeted outcomes with performance indicators established to measure progress.
Primary Care Trust (PCT)	Primary Care Trusts are key organisations within the National Health Service. They are responsible for the planning, securing and commissioning of health services for their local population and for the general improvement of health in the areas that they cover. As an example, PCTs are responsible for ensuring that there are enough GPs within their local area and that patients have appropriate access to them. Their responsibility however, extends to other health services such as hospitals, walk-in centres, dentists and mental health care. Locally, there are two PCTs - one for Leicester City and one for Leicestershire County and Rutland.
Priority Neighbourhood	'Priority neighbourhoods' is the term used to describe the 19 neighbourhoods identified in Leicestershire as being the most 'deprived' across a number of socio-economic indicators. They have been identified using the Indices of Deprivation, a Poverty and Social Exclusion Index, and the knowledge of local partners. Agencies have agreed to work closely together in these areas to bring about sustainable solutions to the deep-seated problems they experience.
Procurement	Procurement is the process whereby goods and services are acquired from third parties. There are various policy drivers (such as Best Value) that encourage Local Authorities to achieve greater efficiencies by reviewing and updating their current procurement services and practices.
Regional Economic Strategy (RES)	The RES sets the framework for ensuring the long-term sustainable economic growth and regeneration of the region. The RES is published by the Regional Development Agencies (EMDA in the case of the East Midlands).
Regional Plan	See entry for Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)
Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	The RSS provides the spatial framework within which Local Development Documents, Local Transport Plans (LTPs) and regional and sub-regional strategies and programmes that have a bearing on land use activities, are prepared. It provides a broad development strategy for the region for a fifteen to twenty year period and identifies the scale and distribution of provision for new housing, priorities for the environment, and priorities for transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals extraction and waste treatment and disposal. The RSS is initially prepared by the Regional Assembly but after a public examination the provision of further drafts and publication of the final Strategy becomes the responsibility of the Secretary of State.
Social Capital	There are many varying definitions, but social capital is commonly seen as the 'glue and resources' that help a community stay together, develop and progress. Such 'glue and resources' generally refer to social networks that contribute to processes of co-operation and problem-solving in order to make communities and societies more cohesive, fulfilling and mutually-reinforcing.

Social Exclusion	Social exclusion refers to processes in which people for a variety of reasons are unable to participate in activities, developments, plans and policies to the same degree as others, and are unable to engage in political and civic life at a local and/or national level. It therefore has a much broader meaning than 'poverty'. Reasons for social exclusion are many, but may include factors and issues of age, socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, faith, disability and sexuality, as well as geographical considerations such as poor housing, high local crime and unemployment rates.
Spatial	Something that can be mapped and shown in its visual and wider context. In planning terms, it refers to the methods used to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces of various scales. The spatial planning process includes all levels of land use planning, e.g. urban planning, regional planning and national spatial plans etc.
Sub-Regional	A sub-division of a region, whether that be for ecological, planning or other reasons. Locally the term is frequently used to describe the combined area of Leicester and Leicestershire but is also used in other contexts.
Sustainable	The ability to continue development into the future, without compromising or effecting in a negative way conditions in the future.
Sustainable development	Sustainable development is the process of improving the quality of life without compromising the future. Sustainable development planning comprises and effectively integrates social, economic and environmental issues and considerations. Thorough consultation with local communities is a necessary and key component of this entire process.
Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)	The SCS is an overarching strategy that aims to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services.
Strategic Senior Officer Group (SSOG)	The SSOG was convened to support the Leicestershire Together partnership. As the name suggests, the group includes the senior officers of a number of leading organisations, including Local Authorities, Leicestershire Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service, Probation, Job Centre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council and representatives from the Health, Economic and Voluntary Sectors.
Three Cities and Three Counties Partnership	A partnership of the County Councils of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and the City Councils of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. Also known as the 6Cs. This partnership is collaborating on key sub-regional issues including housing and infrastructure provision (see entry for New Growth Point) and transport innovation.
Vision	A picture or an idea as to what something will look like in the future. In planning terms, this relates to the desired state of something (a local area, an organisation, a plan, a sector etc) in the future should conditions and developments that will be put into place happen as intended and predicted.