

LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER (LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP)
BOARD

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2007

SUMMARY OF ISSUED DISCUSSED AT RECENT MEETINGS OF THE
STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP

Purpose of Report

1. Since the last meeting of the Board on 22 May 2007, the Strategic Senior Officers' Group (SSOG) has met on two occasions (on 2 July and 1 August). Copies of the notes of these meetings are attached for Board members' information as Appendices 1 and 2.
2. This note sets out brief details of some of the main issues considered at these meetings. Items marked * are also the subject of separate reports of the agenda for this meeting.

SSOG – 2 July 2007

3. The following main items were discussed:-

(a) Civic Alliance Demonstration Project

The outcome of the Civic Alliance Demonstration Project was noted and proposals for the development of a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Civic Alliance were supported. The main aim of the Alliance is to encourage local authorities to work with the Probation, Prison and Youth Offending Services to help reduce re-offending and to enable offenders to become more integrated as constructive members of society. A progress report on the Alliance will be made to the next meeting of SSOG on 31 October.

(b) Working with the Leadership Centre

The Group received a presentation by a representative of the Leadership Centre for Local Government on its work and considered the Centre's offer to carry out a 'Leadership of Place' Project in Leicestershire in Autumn 2007 focussing on the challenge of two-tier local government working. The offer was accepted and a Leadership Adviser, funded by the Centre will now work with partner authorities in Leicestershire on the project.

(c) Leicestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) – Annual Self Assessment *

The Group discussed and noted the draft LAA Annual self assessment, the proposals for successful transition to the new LAA regime and the challenges posed to Leicestershire Together from 2008. Immediately following the meeting the LAA Annual Review meeting, chaired by GOEM, took place.

(d) Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) *

The Group approved the Project Initiation Document for the SCS.

SSOG – 1 August 2007

4. The following main items were discussed:-

(a) Transport and Accessibility Planning

The Group received a presentation by the County Council's Assistant Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management who would now be making contact with officers of the PCT and the Police on transport modelling of GP's surgeries and Police Station accessibility.

(b) European Funding

The Group agreed in principle to the establishment of an informal group of experts to ensure that the benefits from the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund are maximised. A report will be made to the next meeting of the Group assessing options for funding within the new European funding streams.

(c) Drug and Alcohol Service

The Group supported the establishment of a Task and Finish Group (to be chaired by the Chief Executive of the Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT) to examine how tackling alcohol abuse can be given more priority. Representatives of the Police and the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Teams will serve on the Group which will report back through the Community Safety Programme Board.

(d) Leicestershire Together Partnership Agreement *

The Group considered an early draft of the Partnership Agreement which has since been revised and updated as necessary and presented to this meeting of the Board for approval. The Group also

agreed to the submission of self assessments every two years by all key strategic partnerships. Contents of the revised self assessment tool and the results of using it so far will be presented to the next meeting of the Group.

(e) New Growth Point

The Group encouraged all partners to contribute to the further development of the New Growth Point programme by early October.

(f) Development of Data Quality Strategy and Protocols

SSOG agreed that the Information Management Advisory Group should develop a data quality strategy with associated protocols to be delivered prior to the signing of the new LAA in June 2008.

(g) LAA *

The Group considered reports on a number of LAA-related matters and:-

- (i) approved a financial protocol for the LAA to which all partner organisations were asked to comply;
- (ii) noted the timetable for the new LAA in 2008;
- (iii) requested each District LSP to give consideration as to how priority neighbourhood priorities and activities might best be reflected in the new LAA and Sustainable Community Strategy, and asked District LSPs to ensure that all priority neighbourhoods have fully functioning and serviced Neighbourhood Action Teams in place by April 2008; and
- (iv) discussed a report on LAA Reward Targets Risk Assessment and agreed that a further report be made to the next meeting with details of gap analysis, improvement options and resource availability.