

Notes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Strategic Senior Officers' Group (SSOG) held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday 2 July 2007.

PRESENT

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| John Sinnott | - | Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council (in the Chair) |
| Rosemary Beard | - | Chief Executive, Connexions Leicestershire |
| Mick Connell | - | Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Leicestershire County Council |
| Jim Connelly | - | Director, JobCentre Plus |
| Christine Fisher | - | Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council |
| Brian Hayes | - | Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council |
| Neil Lambert | - | Director, Voluntary Action Charnwood |
| Heather Munro | - | Chief Probation Officer, Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service |
| Mary Rogers | - | Area Director, Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council |
| Paul Smith | - | Chief Superintendent, Leicestershire Constabulary (representing Mike Goodwin) |
| Kishor Tailor | - | Chief Executive, Leicestershire Economic Partnership |
| Dr Andrew Wakeman | - | Director of Public Health, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT/Leicestershire County Council (representing Catherine Griffiths) |
| Dave Webb | - | Chief Fire Officer, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service |
| Gareth Williams | - | Director of Children and Young People's Service, Leicestershire County Council |

Officers in Support:

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| Jan Sensier | - | Area Director for Leicestershire, GOEM |
| Andy Robinson | - | LAA Lead Officer, Leicestershire County Council |
| Martin Gage | - | Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire CVS |
| Phil Hawkins | - | Head of Youth Justice and Safer Communities, Leicestershire County Council (item 92) |
| John Wright | - | Senior Policy and Performance Officer (LAA) Leicestershire County Council (item 94) |
| Geoff Cave | - | Leicestershire County Council, Committee Officer |

Also present:

David Bolger – The Leadership Centre (minute 93)

89. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of: Catherine Griffiths, Mike Goodwin and Richard Tobin.

90. Notes of the meeting held on 9 May 2007

The notes of the meeting of SSOG held on 9 May 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

91. Matter Arising from the Notes:
Minute 75: Older People – Trends and Priorities

Mick Connell provided a brief update on the actions that had been taken since the last meeting of the Group. These included:

- Work was continuing with the Fire and Rescue Service to identify more vulnerable people;
- Work was being carried out with the County Council's Community Service Department on 'no cold calling zones'.
- Working with Dr Andrew Wakeman on the main priorities identified by the Older People's Network.
- A series of events would be held during the summer focussing on issues which would feed into the findings to be presented under the SCS/LAA refresh process.

He added that September would be 'Older People's listening month' in Leicestershire.

It was AGREED that the brief update be noted and to note that a further report would be made to the next meeting of SSOG.

92. Civic Alliance Demonstration Project

Phil Hawkins introduced a report advising of the outcome of the Civic Alliance Demonstration Project and containing proposals for the development of a Civic Alliance Partnership in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A copy of the report, marked '4', is filed with these notes. He informed the Group that the proposals and the proposed membership of the sub-regional Civic Alliance Board (paragraphs 10-14 of the report) had been agreed at the meeting of the Community Safety Programme Board (CSPB) on 26 June.

The Group was informed of the background to the demonstration project and that the main aim of a Civic Alliance was 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 further

significant driver was the inclusion of a reducing re-offending indicator within the LAA from April 2007. It was considered that a high level sub-regional Civic Alliance Partnership Board (the exact name for which remained to be decided upon) working on behalf of and reporting to the CSPB should be established to drive forward the development of the Alliance. It was confirmed that Rutland Council would be kept apprised of progress to ensure it was not excluded.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the outcomes of the Civic Alliance Demonstration Project be noted;
- (ii) that the proposals for the development of a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Civic Alliance (as outlined in paragraphs 10-14 of the report) be supported;
- (iii) that partner organisations be requested to give consideration to the proposed membership of the sub-regional Civic Alliance Board;
- (iv) that a progress report be made to SSOG at its meeting on 31 October 2007.

93. Working with the Leadership Centre

David Bolger of the Leadership Centre gave a presentation at the meeting on the status, work and successes of the Centre that had been established in 2005 as a small free-standing organisation at arms' length by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Centre was currently developing projects on the 'leadership of place' in 13 areas of the country and Mr Bolger made an offer to the Group that Leicestershire could be one of these areas. Copies of the presentation slides are filed with these notes. (A background paper from the Leadership Centre had been provided to the Group in advance of the meeting and a copy is also filed with these notes).

Mr Bolger elaborated on the Leadership Centre's offer of carrying out a Leadership of Place project for Leicestershire and made the following main points:-

- It would focus on the challenge of two-tier working.
- A Leadership Adviser would be funded by the Centre to work with partners on developing the project.
- It would involve individual discussions with partners to agree upon the exact details of the project.
- The project could be underway this Autumn.
- It would involve partners making the necessary time and effort available to work on the project.

John Sinnott informed the Group that the Centre's work was regarded as being of the highest quality and that he would support the Group taking up the Centre's offer.

The Group supported acceptance of the offer and, as part of it being progressed, the following points were made:-

- The City/County dimension should also be addressed.
- The appropriate forum for discussion of the project with the District Councils would be at a meeting of the District Chief Executives (the next one of which would be held on 3 August).
- Further communication with partners on the project would now be made by e-mail.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the contents of the presentation on 'Working with the Leicestershire Centre' be noted and David Bolger be thanked for his attendance.
- (ii) that the Centre's offer of carrying out a Leadership of Place project for Leicestershire in Autumn 2007 be accepted and progressed to the next stage.

94. Leicestershire Local Area Agreement – (LAA) 2006/07 – Annual Self-Assessment

John Wright introduced a report on the annual self-assessment on performance of the LAA attached to which was the final self-assessment documents. A copy of the report marked '6(a)' and the attachments are filed with these notes.

Discussion took place on some of the key issues to be outlined by the SSOG Block Leads for the LAA in their presentation to be given at the LAA Annual Review meeting (to be chaired by Jan Sensier of GOEM) which would follow this meeting of SSOG. The presentations would provide an overview of performance and would concentrate on those areas where there was greatest risk.

The Group was informed that a detailed report on risks of not drawing down the funding from the 12 reward outcomes would be presented to its next meeting on 1 August. Meetings of partners were now being arranged to consider the specific issues relating to economic development and business support, and the waste reduction target. On the threat to the business support outcome (a reward outcome), Jan Sensier indicated that GOEM would also be pursuing matters direct with emda.

John Sinnott drew attention to the difficulties of engaging elected members in the LAA process which may not have been properly recognised by central government which was planning an increased emphasis on LAAs. Christine Fisher and Brian Hayes also recognised this as a problem affecting district members. The Group agreed that this issue should be raised with GOEM at the Review meeting. Jan

Sensier responded that GOEM did acknowledge this was an issue and would be prepared to seek to obtain details of any good practice from elsewhere in the country.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) to note the LAA annual self assessment, the prospects for successful transition to the new LAA regime and the challenges posed to Leicestershire Together from 2008 as set out in the report and attachments thereto; and
- (ii) that SSOG LAA Leads would ensure, as appropriate, that their partnerships and organisations were supporting improvement activity for high risk targets particularly where they lead on or have a significant stake in outcomes.

95. Project Initiation Document (PID) for preparing the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the new LAA

Andy Robinson reported that, further to the presentation on the new SCS given at the previous meeting, copies of the SCS PID had now been circulated to the Group (as the Project Board) for any comments in principle or on specific details. A copy of the document marked '6(b)' is filed with these notes.

No comments in principle were made at the meeting and officers were asked to send any detailed comments to Donna Mackay at County Hall (dmackay@leics.gov.uk) by 20 July.

Andy Robinson also draw the Group's attention to the draft Communications Strategy, attached as Appendix D to the PID, and invited officers to submit any specific comments on this document.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the Project Initiative Document for the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and the appendices thereto be approved; and
- (ii) that any detailed comments thereon be submitted to Leicestershire County Council for consideration.

96. Dates of Future Meetings

It was NOTED that, as previously agreed, the next two meetings of SSOG would be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 1 August and Wednesday 31 October 2007.

12.30pm - 1.30pm
2/7/07