

Notes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Strategic Senior Officers' Group (SSOG) held at County Hall, Glenfield on Thursday 13 December 2007.

PRESENT

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| John Sinnott | - Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council
(in the Chair) |
| Anne Clark | - Representing Chief Executive Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust |
| Mick Connell | - Director of Adult Social Care and Health,
Leicestershire County Council |
| Jim Connelly | - Director, Job Centre Plus |
| Brian Hayes | - Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council |
| Neil Lambert | - Director, Voluntary Action Charnwood |
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| Howard Robinson | - Representing Chief Fire and Rescue Officer,
Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service |
| Chief Supt. Paul Smith | - Representing Assistant Chief Constable,
Leicestershire Constabulary |
| Dr Andrew Wakeman | - Representing Chief Executive, Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT |
| Gareth Williams | - Director of Children and Young People's Service,
Leicestershire County Council |

Officers in Support:

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| Nicole Rickard | - Policy Team Leader, Leicestershire County Council |
| Andy Robinson | - Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council |
| John P Wright | - Senior Policy and Performance Officer (LAA),
Leicestershire County Council |
| Mandip Rai | - Economic Partnerships Officer, Leicestershire County Council (in respect of the economic development theme in the LAA) |
| Chris Tambini | - LAA Finance Officer, Leicestershire County Council (minutes 146 and 147). |
| Geoff Cave | - Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council |
| Louise Hall | - Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council |

141. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to Anne Clark and Mandip Rai who were attending their first meeting of the Group.

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of: Rosemary Beard, Christine Fisher, Catherine Griffiths, Mary Rogers, Helen Seth, Kishor Tailor, Dave Tantum and Dave Webb.

142. Notes of the meeting held on 31 October 2007

The notes of the meeting of Leicestershire SSOG held on 31 October 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

143. Matter Arising from the Notes of the Previous Meeting:
Minute 128 – Spatial Issues: Local Development Frameworks and New
Growth Point

Brian Hayes referred to minute 128 and reported that, in relation to the issue of co-operation on the preparation of LDFs and SCSs, a senior Government Officer would be visiting the region on 20 December and the Leicestershire District Local Authorities would be meeting in early January. He reported that ways were being examined in order to co-ordinate work on LDFs and Community Strategies. Andy Robinson added that on-going discussions were taking place between the County and District Councils with a view to streamlining the process.

144. Implications of Recent Government Guidance

Andy Robinson gave a presentation summarising the implications of recent Government guidance on a number of issues, including LSPs, the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), LAA (2) and MAAs. Copies of a mind map on which the presentation was based were circulated at the meeting and a copy is filed with these notes.

The Group's attention, in particular, was drawn to three recent Government consultation documents upon which comments were sought by mid-February; namely consultations on the CAA , Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities – Draft Statutory Guidance and Use of Resources 2009.

Arising from the presentation, the following specific comments were made:-

- Chief Supt. Paul Smith drew attention to the impact of new thinking and guidance on all partnership organisations. John Sinnott responded that the developing CAA process would affect all organisations over the coming years and that it was important for all agencies and partnerships to seek to keep up to date with developments and particularly with guidance published by the CLG.
- Mick Connell said there was a need for services for vulnerable adults to be given a higher profile. The first draft of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was due in the New Year and further work would be carried out next year to identify

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priorities. Andy Robinson responded that the evidence base for the SCS/LAA would be updated annually to take account of new developments such as the JSNA and the Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment.

- Andy Robinson said it was recognised that the 'places' element was the weakest aspect of the SCS evidence base and priority outcomes and it was hoped that the Community Forums would be able to assist in addressing this.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) That the information provided in the presentation be noted;
- (ii) That a partnership response be made to the three latest Government consultation documents and, in this regard, a draft response be prepared by the County Council for circulation to partners for comments in advance of the deadline dates for replies.

145. Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) – Priority Outcomes and Selection of LAA Outcomes

John Wright gave a presentation on the next steps in order to move from the SCS into the LAA. A summary of SCS outcomes had been provided to the Group as background information. Copies of the presentation slides, outlining the background, next steps and the task for the Group at the meeting to review and refine the outcomes, were circulated at the meeting together with the Draft Leicestershire Performance Framework Chart. (Copies of these papers are filed with these notes).

The Group was informed that:-

- The draft LAA was required by 4 February 2008 and the second draft by 21 March with sign-off being in June after target figures have been negotiated.
- Work was needed in advance of these dates to prioritise outcomes and indicators taking into account SCS consultation responses.
- An extra meeting of SSOG was required in late January (after the LAA Leads Plus meeting in mid-January) to finalise the first draft of the LAA and the MAA arrangements.

The Group discussed the Draft Performance Framework in detail, particularly having regard to the criteria referred to in the presentation.

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As part of the discussion, the following specific points were made:-

- The need for Waste to be taken into account as a high priority.
- The need to ensure a link to the Children and Young People's Plan in the priorities under the children's agenda.
- The issue of affordable housing should be addressed under column 3 of the chart ('Everywhere in Leicestershire...').
- County Council members had requested an efficiency target to be included.
- Priority 46 ('Improved Mental Health and Wellbeing'), was of relevance to all partners to enable the needs of mentally ill people, including their employment requirements, to be fully addressed.
- The importance and cross-cutting nature of reducing alcohol misuse.

The Group then agreed upon the list of outcomes to be chosen as priorities for the LAA.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that necessary edited re-wording and aggregation under theme headings be carried out in respect of the details contained in the Draft Leicestershire Performance Framework; and
- (ii) that a revised Framework chart then be prepared, indicating the priorities for the LAA as selected at the meeting, and this be discussed further at an additional meeting of the Group to be held in late January 2008. *[NOTE: A copy of the revised Framework, on which the agreed priorities are ticked in red, is attached to these notes.]*

146. LAA Financial Strategy

Chris Tambini introduced a report setting out the principles and background information to the development of the financial strategy for the LAA. A copy of the report marked '6' is filed with these notes.

Brian Hayes informed the Group that the District Councils were in general agreement with the information in the report and the contents would be discussed in more detail by the District Council Treasurers. It was noted that the details would also be discussed further, as necessary, by LALAT (Leicestershire Association of Local Authority Treasurers). Any further comments would be reported at the next meeting.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that the LAA Financial Strategy be developed (alongside the LAA) by adapting the key principles set out in paragraph 6 of the report;
- (ii) that all partners would consider the scope for pooling resources following the approach taken by the County Council and the Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT;
- (iii) that all partners would consider the implications of the LAA timetable on their financial planning processes; it being noted that:-
 - (a) partners would need to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility to ensure that LAA priorities can be resourced;
 - (b) this issue had been discussed at the meeting of SSOG on 1 August 2007; and
 - (c) the key source of funding for LAA priorities would be partners' mainstream budgets; and
- (iv) that the initial sources of funding and partial spending demands that will be included in the financial strategy be noted.

147. LAA Reward Targets Risk Assessment

John Wright introduced a report providing an update on LAA risk assessments which sought endorsement for proposals for further investment of £460,000 in improving performance against reward targets (to be borrowed against the likely reward payments). This would be in addition to the £70,000 allocated to the 'Safer block' in 2007. A copy of the report marked '7' is filed with these notes.

Particular attention was drawn to the following three risk targets in the table under paragraph 3 of the report, for which improvement proposals were being made:-

- (a) reduce the number of permanently excluded pupils;
- (b) improve the quality of life for older people through increased direct payments and increased take-up of benefits; and
- (c) support Incapacity Benefit claimants into work of 16 hours plus per week.

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In respect of (a) and (c) above, Gareth Williams informed the meeting of his support for the proposals in the report. Mick Connell's support for the proposal in respect of (c) was also reported

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the funding recommendations in respect of the current LAA Reward Target risks, set out in paragraphs 4-19 of the report, be approved and that the County Council be recommended to make available £530,000 to invest in improved reward target performance, including the £70,000 additional investment in the 'Stronger block' in 2007;
- (ii) that it be noted that the further investment was subject to final approval from the County Council's Cabinet and that the Cabinet was likely to request that, in the unlikely event that reward funding was not available to re-pay the funding, consideration should be given to using other LAA funds to re-pay the funding;
- (iii) that, with regard to the Incapacity Benefit target (paragraphs 15 - 18 of the report), approval be given to the further investigation of the advantages and disadvantages of re-directing the LAA funds (approximately £150,000) to support other targets and a further report be made to SSOG as necessary; and
- (iv) that, with regard to the Older People's Well Being target (paragraphs 8-11 of the report), the final release of the funding be delegated to the Chairmen of SSOG and the Leicestershire Together Board for approval.

148. Dates of Meetings in 2008

It was AGREED that meetings of SSOG be held on the following dates in 2008:-

Tuesday 22 January at 9.30am (additional meeting)

(Minute 145 (iii) above refers)

Wednesday 27 February at 11.00am

Wednesday 28 May at 2.00pm

Wednesday 3 September at 10.00am

Wednesday 19 November at 2.00pm [*NOTE: It was subsequently necessary to bring forward the start time for this meeting to 10.00 am.*]

2.00pm – 3.45pm
13.12.07