

STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP – 22 JANUARY 2008

LEADERSHIP PROJECT – NEXT STEPS

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the next steps in the Project.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Group on 2 July 2007 a presentation was given by David Bolger from the Leadership Centre for Local Government on the work of the Centre and he outlined a proposal for the Centre to work with Leicestershire Together partners to develop the Partnership's Leadership capacity and approaches towards place shaping. The Group accepted this offer and agreed that it be progressed to the next stage.
3. Since that meeting David Bolter has spoken to a cross section of partners about the idea of a 'Leadership of Place' project and the Leadership Centre is now keen to follow through the interest that has been expressed.

Proposed Next Steps

4. David Bolter has recently written further to the County Council outlining proposals for the next steps.
5. The initial proposition was that the project might focus on working relations among Leicestershire local authorities, with particular attention to a current partnership issue such as community development. However, there is a range of such issues and also substantial continuing work, for example on Community Forums, Priority Neighbourhoods, economic development, shared services and the voluntary sector. In these circumstances, David Bolger has suggested that the Leadership Project should continue to focus on inter-authority working but using a number of current joint working areas as exemplary or case studies. He therefore suggests that the initial stage of the project should comprise the following:-
 - (i) individual meetings with each local authority, to include the Leader and Chief Executive and other relevant lead members and officers;
 - (ii) a short initial paper commenting on current working relationship issues, leading to:
 - (iii) plenary discussions at suitable Leader and Chief Executive forums.

6. It is intended that other partners will be involved in shaping this work.
7. Realistically, David Bolger suggests that the aim should be to complete these work elements by the end of March 2008, assuming a start in January.
8. It is intended to discuss the next steps for the project with David Bulger at the meeting by means of a telephone conference call.