

## LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP

6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006

### PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF LSSOG TO INCLUDE LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND PROBATION AREA

#### Purpose

1. To seek the approval of the Group to amend the terms of reference to include representation from Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Area.

#### Report

2. The Local Area Agreements must contain a mandatory indicator "reducing the proportion of adult and young offenders, and prolific and other priority offenders who re-offend" and therefore probation involvement at both a strategic and operational level is critical if LAAs want to address this issue.

3. Although Probation is represented in the Safer Communities block, because of probations wide ranging remit there are important contributions to make to all the LAA blocks e.g. access and work with children of offenders, work with drug misusers, those with significant health problems, assisting offenders into employment and not least our contribution to communities by thousands of hours of unpaid work done by offenders.

4. Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland has been chosen as the demonstration project for the Civic Alliance – a project which links up the reducing re-offending agenda with social inclusion. Rather than setting up new structures to deliver on this the LAA is seen as the key vehicle and therefore probation involvement at a strategic level is seen as important.

5. The Chief Probation Officer is currently Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board and therefore membership would increase the opportunities and potential for sharing delivery.

#### Recommendations

6. It is recommended that the SSOG considers amending the terms of reference to include the Chief Probation Officer.