

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

1 Statement on Outcomes

In order to distinguish a successful stronger community, the outcomes we are suggesting would measure how people have become more involved in their community following a series of interventions led by the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Through our process of measuring Social Capital, initially in 20 geographical communities (see below) and 2 communities of interest, we will also identify the types of social capital. Each of these three types would be present in full in an ideal strong community:

- *a place where people speak to one another, look out for their neighbours, put time back into their community to assist with community activity, get involved with those who are not like themselves, see that the marginalized are included.*
(BONDING SOCIAL CAPITAL)
- *a community which is interested in looking outward, wants a relationship with other similar organisations within the community and elsewhere.*
(BRIDGING SOCIAL CAPITAL)
- *a community where people share a common concern for their neighbourhood, are willing to get involved and campaign, want a relationship with statutory bodies, feel confident they are being heard.*
(LINKING SOCIAL CAPITAL)

Our aim is to enable communities (and those working with them), once levels and types of social capital have been measured, to interrogate the data and decide for themselves the appropriate interventions to strengthen their community.

In their “Indicators of Strong Communities” (www.neighbourhood.gov.uk), the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit suggests five outcomes:

- Increase in local participation and governance
- Increase in community cohesion and inclusion
- Increase in volunteering
- Growth of the voluntary and community sector
- Increase in key public services delivered by the VCS

The first three of these will be measured through the work around Social Capital outlined above. The latter two will be measured by information gathered from the VCS organisations working within the 20 communities and therefore the Leicestershire LAA will include each of the key national recommended outcomes.

2. Delivery Mechanisms

The delivery mechanisms for the Stronger Communities theme are outlined below:

The first stage was to identify three communities in each district at a super output area level (this was done by the seven District Local Strategic Partnerships). The Social Capital within these communities will be measured through the use of locally trained interviewers from the voluntary and community sectors who survey 10% of the population (approximately 150 households per SOA) by means of a detailed questionnaire.

Led by the respective Council of Voluntary Service, a Local Development Group consisting of Voluntary and Community Groups, Faith Groups, school governing bodies and parish councils, supported by statutory organisations, will interrogate the data from the survey and select a range of interventions that will enhance the Social Capital of their community. These interventions will form the delivery plan for each of the identified communities.

Similarly, communities of interest will be identified across Leicestershire – initially people with physical and visual disabilities - and groups from, or working with, those communities of interest will be brought together to conduct the survey, interrogate the data and decide interventions.

A comprehensive evidence base would be gathered from the initial survey work in the 22 communities (20 geographical and 2 communities of interest), statistics and targets for formal volunteering and statistics of local participation in elections.

Progress against targets will be measured at regular intervals, and Social Capital will be re-measured (using the same “bundle of indicators) within three years of the first round of interviews within the target communities. Those interviewed will be asked for permission to remain in contact with them throughout the three years. The interviews will be carried out before the end of June 2006 and the final survey before the end of March 2009. An interim survey will be carried out following the District and Parish Council elections in 2007.

The crosscutting element of this theme is the promotion of formal and informal volunteering. Stronger Communities is acting as a “clearing house” for volunteering ideas and initiatives from all of the LAA blocks.

When other geographical areas are identified for LAA delivery in other blocks surveys may also be carried out in these areas as part of the preparation.

The Stronger Communities block is also providing the co-ordination of volunteering requirements across the LAA. Volunteer Centres are considering ways of enabling different centres to take the lead on five themes of volunteering – Older People, Young People, Environmental and Cultural, Sport and revitalising Market Towns.

3. Reward Targets

Two stretch targets are proposed for Stronger Communities:

Target 8 – Stronger Communities

Building community cohesion and inclusion and increasing local participation in governance.

- % of adults who feel they can influence decisions in their area on their own
- % of adults who feel they can influence decisions in their area when working with others in their neighbourhood
- % of adults who say their neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

Target 9 – Stronger Communities

Development of social capital through an increase in volunteering

- Number of people reporting they have engaged in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hours or more a week over the previous year

4. *Key Funding Considerations and Assumptions*

- That some funding may be available from the LPSA1 Reward Grant to facilitate the proposed approach to measuring and developing social capital
- That any reward money secured through delivery against “stretch” targets could be reinvested, through the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation, to generate a steady annual income for the sector, ring-fenced for use in Leicestershire
- That additional capacity for the VCS to lead this block will be supported through the new Capacity Builders programme and an element of the pump-priming grant in relation to the two stretch targets proposed above
- That other LAA blocks may wish to use the 20 pilot geographical communities and communities of interest to “test” approaches
- That smaller funding streams may be attracted/diverted into the 20 communities to tackle specific issues/gaps in social capital
- That the work with communities of interest will build upon the two Citizens Juries for people with disabilities and from BME communities
- That the final two outcomes proposed within the Indicators of Strong Communities guidance – i) Growth of the Voluntary and Community Sector and ii) Increase in key public services delivered by the VCS will be measured by asking

a set of questions of the VCS agencies involved in the 20 Local Development Networks

1. What are your organisations main fields of activity?
2. Has your organisation received any help in building its capacity during the past year?
3. How many contracts, if any, did your organisation have and work to in the last financial year?
4. What was the total value of these contracts?
5. How many grants, if any, did your organisation have and work to in the last financial year?
6. What was the total value of these grants?
7. Has your organisation grown over the past year compared with the year before in terms of i) turnover, ii) volunteers and (iii) clients?

Stronger Communities Target Communities

Blaby – Braunstone, Sharnford, Whetstone

Charnwood – Loughborough Hastings, Wolds, Syston

Harborough – Fleckney, Tilton, Primethorpe

Hinckley & Bosworth – Earl Shilton, Twycross/Witherley, Markfield

Melton – Melton Egerton, Wymondham, Bottesford

North West Leicestershire – Measham, Lockington & Hemington, Ibstock & Heather

Oadby & Wigston – Oadby St Peters, Wigston All Saints

Each District LSP was asked to select one deprived neighbourhood, one rural area and one “average” area – hence Oadby and Wigston only having 2 target communities

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
	NATIONAL OUTCOME: To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services							
	The enhancement of Social Capital within 20 geographical communities in Leicestershire and 2 communities of interest – physical disability and visual impairment - will be measured via a face to face questionnaire survey conducted by the Voluntary and Community Sector. A Local Development Group will be set up in each of the communities to develop interventions and strengthen social capital in appropriate ways. The survey work will be conducted in April/May 2006 and repeated early in 2009 in order to measure the impact of these interventions. An interim survey will be conducted following the Parish and District Council elections in 2007. A bundle of indicators will be used to measure overall change in social capital but the reward targets and key indicators are included below.							
1.	Leicestershire Outcome: Local people feel part of the decision making process and have a role in planning the future of their own community (Leicestershire Community Strategy 2005 - 2008)	<p>a) (i) % of people who voted in the last District Council elections.</p> <p>Baseline = 31.30% (derived from aggregated District figures in 2003) (<i>Measured at elections in 2007</i>)</p> <p>(ii) % of people who voted in the last Parish Council elections</p> <p>Baseline to be established</p>	<p>N/A – no elections</p> <p>Establish Baseline by 31st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys (N.B. only 16</p>	<p>2% increase in people voting in District Council elections</p> <p>2% increase in people voting in Parish Council elections</p>	<p>N/A – no elections</p> <p>N/A – no elections</p>		Local Development Groups	

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
		<i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	of the 20 communities are parished)					
		b) % reduction in Parish Council seats returned unopposed. Baseline established end 2005/06 <i>(Measured through the Association of Parish and Local Councils)</i>	Establish baseline through survey of 16 Parish Councils (out of the 20 pilot communities)	Reduce by 5% the number of uncontested Parish Council seats	N/A – no elections		LRAPLC/Leicestershire County Council	
		c) (i) % of people who feel that they can influence decisions that affect their area on their own. <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i> ii) % of people who feel that they can influence decisions that affect their area when working with others in the neighbourhood <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	Establish Baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	Without Reward 0% With reward 6% (plus confidence interval)	6% increase	Local Development Groups	
			Establish Baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	Without reward 0% With reward r6% (plus confidence interval)	6% increase		

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
		d) % of VCS groups and organisations affirming growth in activity over the past year in terms of i) financial turnover and/or ii) volunteering	Establish baseline by measuring through the VCS groups making up the 20 Local Development Groups	5% VCS groups affirming growth in activity over the past year	5% VCS groups affirming growth in activity over the past year		CVS Community Partnership	
		e) % increase in key public services delivered through the VCS <i>(Measured through the local survey of VCS organisations)</i>	Establish baseline by measuring through the VCS groups making up the 20 Local Development Groups	2% increase in key public services delivered through the VCS in Leicestershire	2% increase in key public services delivered through the VCS in Leicestershire			
2	Leicestershire Outcome: Local people have a sense of community spirit and are supported in community activities to bring people together (Leic.CS 2005-8)	a) % of people who definitely agree or tend to agree that their neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	Establish baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	Without reward 0% With reward 6% (plus confidence interval)	6% increase	Local Development Groups	

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
		b) % of people who respond "2 hours or more a week" to the question "In the last 12 months have you given unpaid help to any groups, clubs or organisations?" <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	Establish baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	Without reward 0% With reward 3.5% increase (plus confidence interval)	3.5% increase	CVS Community Partnership (with Volunteer Centres Network, LCC and District Councils)	
		c) % of people who have given unpaid help to friends, neighbours or anyone except relatives over the last 12 months <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	Establish baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	5% increase in people giving unpaid help to friends, neighbours or non-relatives over the last 12 months		Local Development Groups	
		d) % of people who say that many of the people in their neighbourhood can be trusted <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	Establish baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	5% increase in the number of people who say that many of the people in their neighbourhood can be trusted		Local Development Groups	

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
		e) Establishment of Leicestershire Council of Faiths	Council of Faiths established for Leicestershire				Leicestershire Together	
3	Equality of access to services for everyone, including disabled people, BME groups, people who are vulnerable and people who live in deprived areas, so that everyone can have a voice and secure independent living (Leic.CS 2005-8)	a) % of residents satisfied with overall delivery of public services <i>(Measured through the Social Capital Survey)</i>	Establish baseline by 31 st July 2006 through Social Capital surveys	N/A – change measured in Year 3	Increase the % of residents satisfied with overall delivery of public services by 2%		Leicestershire Together (working with District Councils and LSPs, CVS Community Partnership)	
4	Leicestershire Outcome: Vital and thriving market town and village centres, which act as "hubs" for surrounding communities (Leic.CS 2005-8)	a) Social inclusion b) Rural housing	120 calls to stress help-line	140 calls to stress helpline To complete 21 local housing needs surveys (at least 3 per local authority).	NA N/A		Leicestershire Rural Partnership	

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER

Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
			YR1	YR2	YR3			
St.C								
		c) Community Development	60 parishes or other neighbourhood groups with i) draft OR ii) completed Parish Plans	To identify at least 12 exception sites with willing vendors which will allow scheme progression 70 parishes or other neighbourhood groups with i) draft OR ii) completed Parish Plans	N/A			
			5 new Parish Plan Groups	5 new Parish Plan Groups	N/A			
			10 projects emanating from community engagement activity	15 projects emanating from community engagement activity				
		d) Social Enterprise	Social Enterprise Mapping work completed by October 2006	6 Social Enterprise Projects supported	N/A			

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
		Volunteering and Rural Transport are cross-cutting themes included within the RSCP element of the LAA	6 Social Enterprise Projects supported		N/A			
	ASSUMPTIONS - including freedoms, flexibilities, arrangements for passing on funding							
	That some funding will be available from the LPSA1 Reward Grant to facilitate the proposed approach to measuring and developing social capital							
	That additional capacity for the VCS to lead this block will be supported through the pump-priming grant							
	That other LAA blocks may wish to use the 20 pilot geographical communities and communities of interest to "test" approaches							
	That smaller funding streams may be attracted/diverted into the 20 communities to tackle specific issues/gaps in social capital							
	That the work with communities of interest will build upon the two Citizens Juries for people with disabilities and from BME communities in							

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: STRONGER								
Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Ref. No.
St.C			YR1	YR2	YR3			
	<p>Years 2 and 3 of the LAA That the final two outcomes proposed within the Indicators of Strong Communities guidance – i) Growth of the Voluntary and Community Sector and ii) Increase in key public services delivered by the VCS will be measured by asking a set of questions of the VCS agencies involved in the 20 Local Development Networks</p> <p>8. What are your organisations main fields of activity? 9. Has your organisation received any help in building its capacity during the past year? 10. How many contracts, if any, did your organisation have and work to in the last financial year? 11. What was the total value of these contracts? 12. How many grants, if any, did your organisation have and work to in the last financial year? 13. What was the total value of these grants? 14. Has your organisation grown over the past year compared with the year before in terms of i) turnover and ii) amount of volunteering</p>							
	FUNDING STREAM							
			£2006/07	£2007/08	£2008/09			
	Rural Social and Community Programme (Align)		£144,465	£123,077*	N/A		* = assuming Rutland money included in their LAA in 2007/08	