



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT BRIEFING

AUGUST 2007

Welcome to the August briefing on the Nottinghamshire LAA. The briefing is designed to update you on the progress and latest activities around the LAA and keep you informed about forthcoming meetings. Please note that the partnership website now has a contact list of respective block partners as well as diary of 2007 meetings and events, which can be viewed at www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk

If you have any queries about anything contained in the briefing, contact Susan Lewis-Roberts or Mark Williams on (0115) 9773211/9772825 or via e-mail at: susan.lewis.roberts@nottscc.gov.uk or mark.williams@nottscc.gov.uk

LAA Year End Report

In July the Strategic Partnership Board met with representatives of the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) to discuss the results of the first year of the LAA.

The lead officers for each LAA “block” attended the meeting and gave an overview of the performance in their respective block, focusing on key achievements and challenges for future years. Improved performance was highlighted in the following areas:

- Premature mortality
- Reductions in the number of people smoking
- Reducing avoidable injuries
- Reducing the teenage conception rate
- Increased participation in drug treatment
- Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on Nottinghamshire’s roads
- Reduced number of crimes against business property
- Increasing the % of residents who feel they can influence decision making in their areas
- Improving the quality of parks and open spaces
- Increasing the number of decent homes in the public sector housing stock
- Reducing the number of lone parents claiming benefit.

Government Office has subsequently consulted with the Nottinghamshire Partnership on the draft Year End Report and comments on the draft are being returned by partners, to GOEM prior to its final approval.

Future LAA Priorities

The 2006 Government White Paper, “Strong and Prosperous Communities” has set out a new arrangement for Local Area Agreements. From 2008 the newly negotiated Agreement will have a maximum of 35 negotiated targets; plus 18 mandatory government targets relating to children and young people.

It is imperative that the negotiated targets in the new LAA reflect the ambitions of the Nottinghamshire Partnership.

Over the summer there have been a series of workshops involving elected members, officers and partners which aimed to reach agreement on a core set of ambitions for Nottinghamshire. These core ambitions will be based on both the county and district community strategies.

A workshop for councillors was held on 26th July, which explored the LAA outcomes that would reflect their vision and ambitions for Nottinghamshire.

The outcomes of the July meeting will be fed back to the next meeting of the LAA Management Group in September for consideration.

The results of all of these considerations will be pulled together for the Strategic Partnership Board. The Board will decide on a focussed set of partnership priorities, to form the basis of the negotiations with the Government Office in the autumn.

Development of Partnership Working

The Government White Paper has placed Local Area Agreements at the centre of the relationships between central government and local areas. In doing so it has presented a number of challenges:

- Renegotiating a more focussed LAA with fewer targets
- Managing a “single pot” of pooled LAA funds with far greater discretion on how it is spent
- Developing partnership working arrangements that cover all aspects of joint working and a shift from “blocks” to “themes”
- Establishing a robust governance structure that has the support of partners, can provide leadership and determine issues
- Enabling the LAA to foster innovation and to initiate partnership action.

The LAA Management Group met on 17th July and recommended the following to the Strategic Partnership Board:

- The ideas drawn from the various consultation meetings become part of a single statement of vision and ambition, which forms the basis for negotiation of the new LAA.

- A working group on finance and commissioning should be established to advise the Partnership on arrangements for managing expenditure of the “single pot” and commissioning the activities required to achieve the targets in the LAA. This group will be chaired by the Chief Executives of Ashfield District Council and be made up of members of the Management Group and the financial representative of the accountable body.
- A working group on governance should be established to offer advice on the future role and membership of both the Strategic Partnership Board and LAA Management group in relation to the Nottinghamshire Partnership structure and the requirement to negotiate and deliver the new LAA. Once the structure and membership of the partnership bodies has been agreed, the Partnership agreement will be re-drafted, to reflect the changes.
- The governance audit being undertaken by County Council’s internal audit is supported.
- A working group should be established to advise on the appropriate delivery arrangements for the targets within the LAA; i.e. delivery at county, district or neighbourhood level. This group will be chaired by the Managing Director of Mansfield District Council and comprised of members of the LAA Management Group.

There were a number of recommendations around developing the partnership structure and roles within it. These included:

- ❖ The County Community Safety Board should operate as the county wide partnership to deliver the LAA targets around safer communities.
- ❖ The partnership arrangement for the Stronger Communities Block be amended, to bring together the expertise of partners involved in community engagement and empowerment, such as the voluntary and community sector.
- ❖ The LAA Management Group should support and assist the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) peer challenge of both the county and district local strategic partnerships. This aims to clarify and develop the role of LSPs including their involvement in the LAA.

Timetable towards the new LAA

This is a broad overview of likely milestones leading up to sign-off agreements in June 2008. The pace of negotiations may vary from area to area. Government Offices and partnerships will together set detailed implementation plans and appropriate milestones to take account of local circumstances.

2007

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Authorities (LA) and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) agreeing scope and coverage of Sustainable Community Strategy targets and discussing any changes required to governance and capacity building in the partnership; continued feasibility and testing.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1 and 2 bid LAAs (Local Area Agreements) submit performance review self-assessments and transition plans ready for discussion with Government Offices (GO); recommendations of feasibility testing.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Offices discuss performance and transition plans with Round 1 and 2 LAAs and agree scale and pace of implementation of Sustainable Community Strategy targets; Round 3 bid LAAs meet with Government Offices to discuss transition planning and pace of implementation of Sustainable Community Strategy targets.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on feasibility testing results.
October/ November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible completion of national indicator set and guidance package. Regional road shows to discuss implementation arrangements. All LAs consulting on Sustainable Community Strategy targets, preparing material for discussion of new LAAs with Government Offices.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LAs consulting on new LAA outcomes frameworks, funding plans and performance arrangements; Government Offices and central departments review of proposed priorities.

2008

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of priorities based on departmental and GO discussions and LA/LSP consultations.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs submit revised outcomes framework to Government Offices.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing negotiation of priorities based on departmental and GO discussions and LA/LSP consultations.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs submit revised outcomes framework to Government Offices which will include proposed improvement targets.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing negotiation of improvement targets based on departmental and GO discussions and LA/LSP consultations.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GO Regional Directors make recommendations to central government; Ministerial sign off.

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