



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT BRIEFING

JUNE 2007

Welcome to the June 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 Review

The draft year end review document was considered by the LAA Management Group on 24th May, before submission to Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) at the end of May. The Year End Review was the subject of a meeting between GOEM and the Strategic Partnership Board on 5th June.

The draft Financial Year End report for the LAA was sent to Government Office on 1st June with a final report due by 1st July. The deadline for receipt of un-audited data from partners was 11th May, with all audited data due to be received by 15th June.

Future LAA Priorities

Following the Local Government White Paper last year, a new approach is being taken to Local Area Agreements. The current agreement has over a hundred measures. The new Agreement will be negotiated with less than 50 targets. 18 of these targets will be mandatory government targets.

To prepare for this negotiation, the LAA Management group held a workshop on 8th June to work towards reaching consensus on a small core number of priorities for Nottinghamshire in the new LAA. These core priorities will be based on robust gathered information, performance data and both the county and district community strategies.

This workshop will be followed by discussions at the Nottinghamshire Partnership meeting on 14th June and a meeting of county and district councillors on 29th June. The results of all of these considerations will be pulled together for the Strategic Partnership Board to decide on a focussed set of partnership priorities for negotiation with Government.

Timetable for new LAA Framework

Government had intended that the new LAAs would be signed off for operation at the start of April 2008. The 35 negotiated targets and 18 mandatory targets that will make up the new agreement will be drawn from a set of some 200 performance indicators that are to be defined as part of Governments Comprehensive Spending Review. However, publication of the Review has been put back to the autumn and may be further delayed.

As a result of this delay, it is likely that the sign off of the new LAA by the Government Minister, will be pushed back from March to sometime in June 2008.

LAA Reward Grant

A group chaired by Alan Mellor, Chief Executive of Ashfield District Council, met in May to discuss the distribution of any future reward grant for achievement of the 12 LAA stretch targets. The group's findings were reported back to the LAA Management Group Meeting on 24th May. Prior to the establishment of this working group, the proposal for the distribution of the reward grant was for 25% of any reward grant be retained by the partnership to fund future LAA priorities, 10% would be paid out to all partners that had signed up to the LAA and the remaining 65% paid out to those partners that had contributed towards the achievement of the 12 stretch targets.

The working group recognised the inherent difficulties in quantifying individual organisation contribution in achieving stretch targets. There was also concern that 65% of any future reward grant could be distributed to organisations and simply absorbed into their main budgets; rather than be used to fund activities that are of priority importance to the partnership as a whole.

The working group suggested that the initial proposal be set aside in favour of a new arrangement whereby the partnership would retain 25% of the grant to be distributed amongst partners; who can apply to it on a "needs" basis, to fund future LAA priorities and activity.

The remaining 75% would be split 50:50 between initiatives identified by the County Partnership and initiatives identified by the 7 District Local Strategic Partnerships. All of the initiatives would support the priorities of the LAA.

The County Partnership would take the capital grant and establish an endowment fund so that the interest could be used to provide a source of ongoing funds for the partnership.

The Management Group accepted the proposals in principle, but recognised that further work was needed to establish the correct processes for the partnership to make financial decisions.

LAA Resources and Staffing

It has become clear over the last six months that there is insufficient capacity to deliver the work required by the LAA. The LAA Secretariat presented a

report to the Management Group which reviewed the current contributions being made to LAA work and highlighting where additional staff may be needed, particularly to support the work of officers leading each block.

The Management Group supported the proposal for additional staff and considered that they should be paid for using “pooled” LAA funds. The Secretariat were asked to prepare a more detailed paper that included details of the posts the work would undertake, the working arrangements that would operate and the cost of the proposal.

This report was presented to the Management group on 8th June and received support.

LAA Communications Strategy

Following an agenda item at the March Management Group Meeting, the LAA Secretariat produced a draft strategy for improving communications between both LAA partner organisations and between block partnerships and district Local Strategic Partnerships. It also highlighted the importance of communications with councillors.

The Management Group recommended that Paul Randle of Rushcliffe District Council should work with both the Secretariat and the Local Authorities Communications Group to further develop this draft into an effective communications strategy.

Contacts

Subject	Name	Telephone	E-mail
General Queries	Susan Lewis-Roberts/ Mark Williams	(0115) 9773211/ 9772825	susan.lewis.roberts@nottsc.gov.uk mark.williams@nottsc.gov.uk
Finance Queries	Diane Pollard	(0115) 9773091	diane.pollard@nottsc.gov.uk
Healthier Communities	Cathy Harvey	(0115) 9773415	cathy.harvey@nottsc.gov.uk
Older People	Joe Pidgeon	(0115)9774139	joe.pidgeon@nottsc.gov.uk
Children and Young People	Nicola Turner	(01623) 404203	nicola.turner@nottsc.gov.uk
Safer Communities	Chris Walker	(0115) 9774331	christoper.walker@nottsc.gov.uk
Stronger Communities	Liz Lesquereux	(0115) 9773792	liz.lesquereux@nottsc.gov.uk
Sustainable Communities	Peter Baguley	(0115) 9013750	peter.baguley@gedling.gov.uk
Economic Development & Enterprise	Celia Morris	(0115) 9772043	celia.morris@nottsc.gov.uk