

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Welcome to the first edition of the 'Nottinghamshire Partnership Update'. This is the first in what is intended to be a regular e-bulletin to keep people informed about the latest developments regarding the community strategy, the Nottinghamshire Partnership, (including the relationship with the local strategic partnerships), and the local area agreement.

As many of you are aware, Nottinghamshire was included in the second phase of Local Area Agreements. This is the new way in which the Government wants to see joined up working across the public sector through the aligning of budgets and the agreeing of shared targets. It will involve a great amount of work but it is an agenda we must embrace.

The Government has identified the County Council as the body to take a lead on this work. That's why this update is being produced. However the key to delivery is full partnership working and I very much hope that the partnership can be delivered to take this work forward. It is clear that we will only get the best results if everyone has a stake and the opportunity to participate fully.

This update will be expanded and developed over the coming weeks. If you have any comments or suggestions on the content of this update, then please contact **Lindsay Narey** – lindsay.narey@nottscc.gov.uk . Also please feel free to forward this update to others who you feel should see it.



Councillor David Kirkham
Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council

Hello and welcome to the first 'Nottinghamshire Partnership Update'. I'm Lindsay Narey, part of Culture and Community's Communications team and I'll be co-ordinating the communications for the countywide partnership project. There's certainly going to be lots going on over the next few months and I'm here to keep you in the know about all the latest developments, news and important dates – all the information you need to make sense of the great challenge we have ahead of us.

Good communication is absolutely vital to a project as huge as this and as there are so many of us involved I want to make sure that we all feel included and valued in all stages of the process. For this reason I'm keen to hear from you to find out what kind of communications would be useful to you and what sort of things you'd like to see appearing in this news update. With this being the first issue there's plenty of scope for development so please get in touch and let me know what you think. Give me a call on **0115 9772386** or email me at lindsay.narey@nottscc.gov.uk and I'll be happy to listen!

Lindsay

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Countywide Partnership

Issue 1

<p>What's the latest with the Countywide Partnership?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LAA (Local Area Agreement) now acts as a key driver for establishing a Countywide Partnership. It is important that we get some form of partnership established as part of the LAA arrangements at least – a Countywide Partnership will be important for other work as well.• The full partnership will probably contain over 50 people to reflect the various interests across the county.• The establishment of the partnership will be vitally important to the progress of the LAA. A partnership should ideally act as a project board for the LAA so that the leaders of the 4 LAA blocks (Healthier Communities and Older People, Children and Young People, Safer and Stronger Communities, and Economic Development and Enterprise) have an accountable body to which to report.• An early agreement on the Partnership will be helpful as there is plenty of work to be done on governance to agree terms of reference, financial accountability etc.• All this needs to be in place by April 2006 when the LAA becomes effective.
<p>What's next?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th September – We hope the Partnership Summit at Kelham Hall, Newark will enable us to get some form of agreement on a Countywide Partnership which can then be developed.
<p>Who can tell me more?</p>	<p>Alistair McGrady is the County Council's project manager for the partnership programme, he can be contacted on 0115 977 3932 or email alistair.mcgrady@nottscc.gov.uk</p>

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Community Strategy

Issue 1

What is a Community Strategy?	A Community Strategy is a high level plan for an area, drafted and agreed by partners and built upon priorities suggested through community consultation. A Framework Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire was published in 2003 and local partners are now developing a replacement for the period 2005-09 . Following a further round of consultation, including a MORI survey, a Visioning Conference and more targeted seminars with hard to reach groups, a draft strategy was circulated in spring 2005 and responses sought on priorities and potential outcomes.
What's the latest with our Community Strategy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 72 responses to our Community Strategy have been received. These are currently being considered and the draft Community Strategy amended accordingly. A record will be kept to show where suggestions made by respondents have been incorporated in the text.• A revised Community Strategy will be produced in July and circulated to the wider list of partners (District/Borough Councils, Local Strategic Partnerships, Primary Care Trusts, Fire, Police, voluntary sector etc).
What's next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th September There will be a presentation on the Community Strategy at the partnership summit at Kelham Hall, Newark. Partners will be asked to endorse the Community Strategy and agree the priorities.• We will then be working together to ensure that county and district/borough priorities shape the Local Area Agreement.
Who can tell me more?	Richard Money is the County Council's project manager for our community strategy and can be contacted on 0115 977 4798 or email richard.money@nottscc.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Local Area Agreements

Issue 1

<p>What is a Local Area Agreement?</p>	<p>A Local Area Agreement is a three year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area. It is negotiated with government, represented by the Government Office, and a local area, represented by the local authorities and Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners at local level. The LAA will give local authorities and their partners the flexibility to find local solutions to local problems, and to prioritise spending to achieve their agreed priorities.</p>
<p>What's the latest with the Local Area Agreements (LAA)?</p>	<p>On 22nd June we heard that Nottinghamshire County Council is one of 66 upper tier councils to take part in the second phase of LAAs. Other East Midlands councils including Nottingham, Leicestershire, Leicester and Northamptonshire have also been included in the second phase. The LAA will commence in April 2006 and run for 3 years. 20 first phase pilots were approved in March this year.</p> <p>The Government has two major objectives for the LAA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to use shared public spending to tackle the most critical problems in each area; and • to make efficiency savings by cutting down the large number of existing funding streams. <p>This is good news for us all because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • priorities can be determined locally rather than being set by Government • money can be pooled from existing Government funding streams and spent on local priorities • 12 stretch targets can be negotiated that will attract a £1.5 million pump-priming grant and the potential of £17m reward grant • but the timescales and complexity of putting together an LAA are challenging.

<p>What's next?</p>	<p>We're expecting further guidance from Government on the LAA process shortly. At the moment we know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Strategy will be a starting point for identifying local priorities. • There will be 4 LAA blocks covering the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthier Communities and Older People ○ Children and Young People ○ Safer and Stronger Communities ○ Economic Development and Enterprise <p>These blocks provide a wide ranging coverage of issues in a local area. However - the priorities need not be confined to these blocks. We're being encouraged to consider other cross-cutting priorities that do not fit into the four blocks but which we might wish to tackle through the LAA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By agreement the specific funding streams for work in each of these blocks are pooled and spending from the pool determined by the partners to achieve the agreed targets. • As well as agreeing our priorities, we need to agree how the partnership will work and how resources and decisions are delegated to the appropriate level. The County Partnership Summit meeting on 5 September will be the next formal occasion when partners will be able to discuss and decide some of the above. • In the meantime, an interim partnership working group is being formed to help prepare proposals for the Summit meeting and prepare LAA arrangements. Details of membership of this will follow shortly. • Work undertaken to map our existing partnerships under each of the blocks and to identify where there are gaps is already underway. We're also starting to map the way that district and borough community strategies link with the 4 LAA blocks.
<p>Who can tell me more?</p>	<p>Eve Dewsnap can be contacted on 0115 977 4208 or email eve.dewsnap@nottsc.gov.uk</p> <p>Pete Elderton can be contacted on 0115 977 2834 or email peter.elderton@nottsc.gov.uk</p>

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Local Strategic Partnerships

Issue 1

<p>What is a Local Strategic Partnership?</p>	<p>Local Strategic Partnerships are intended to be cross-agency, umbrella partnerships that include all sectors of society (public, private, community and voluntary) with the aim of working together to improve the quality of life in a particular area. The Government sees them as the main mechanism for co-ordinating the delivery of better services. There are seven Local Strategic Partnerships covering the seven Nottinghamshire districts/boroughs – Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe. Each LSP has its own social, economic and environmental priorities.</p>
<p>What’s the latest with the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)?</p>	<p>The majority of the district/borough based Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) have now put forward their local priorities under the four LAA blocks.</p> <p>County Council LSP area co-ordinators and block leaders have taken a pro-active approach to make sure local priorities are accurately reflected in the planning of the LAA. Many LSPs have arranged special sub-group meetings to ensure local partners and communities are able to make an effective contribution.</p>
<p>What’s next?</p>	<p>Initial work on bringing together a statement of community engagement will take place with key partners throughout August. A first draft statement should be ready for September, and is likely to include matters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact - an agreement between the government and the voluntary and community sector to improve their relationship for mutual advantage. By building better relationships the Compact can help government and the voluntary and community sector work better together for the communities they serve • voluntary and community sector representation in community planning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public engagement strategy • consultation database • ‘ChangeUp’ implications – ‘ChangeUp’ refers to the Capacity Building and Infrastructure Framework for the Voluntary and Community sector. Capacity building is about ensuring that organisations have the skills, knowledge, structures and resources to realise their full potential • shared data and information • wider community involvement through MORI surveys, citizens panels, service consultations, community forums • parish plans • impact of Local Area Agreement on minority groups • links to other community based strategy and policies • and more.... <p>Wider consultation with voluntary and community sector partners will continue throughout autumn, and we intend that the LAA will help us pull together a clear countywide approach to community engagement.</p> <p>The statement will cover the four strands of community engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the VCS • strengthening community activity and civil renewal • achieving more effective consultation and participation • progression routes for community activists. <p>This will be a major piece of partnership working over a range of statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations, but achieving coherence across the county will be a great success.</p>
<p>Who can tell me more?</p>	<p>Liz Lesquereux will be leading the County Council’s work on bringing together a statement of community engagement for the LAA and can be contacted on 0115 977 3792 or email liz.lesquereux@nottsc.gov.uk</p>

Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Other news

Issue 1

What's happened so far?	<p>Some important events and developments have taken place already, they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27th May 2005 was the closing date for comments on the Community Strategy.• 22nd June was the day Government announced that Nottinghamshire County Council is part of the second phase of Local Area Agreements (LAA).• 1st July an event for LAA winners was held in London.• 14th July – regional event for successful East Midlands LAA applicants was held at Derby City Council.
What's coming up?	<p>We've got a busy time ahead of us! Here are the key dates for your diaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• July – a revised version of Community Strategy being produced.• end July – initial LAA Project Plan submitted to the Government Office East Midlands (GOEM).• 5th September – partnership summit being held at Kelham Hall, Newark.• end September – initial LAA targets submitted to GOEM for negotiation.• October/November – Second partnership summit.• end February 2006 – LAA targets to be agreed.• 24th March 2006 – latest date for signing off LAA.• April 2006 – Implementation of LAA commences.
How can I find out more?	<p>Useful advice and guidance on the Local Area Agreements is available by following these links:</p> <p>www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contntservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=5899&l=3</p> <p>www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=817524</p>