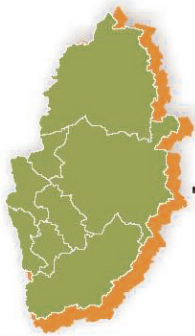


Nottinghamshire Partnership Update

Issue 4 - March 2006



**Nottinghamshire
Partnership**
All Together Better

www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk

Note from the Editor

Welcome to issue four of the Nottinghamshire Partnership update. This is your guide to the what went on at the most recent meeting of the full county-wide partnership, held at the Mansfield Civic Centre in February.

Copies of documents provided at the meeting are available via the website www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk, along with all presentations given by various partners at the event.

The website has now been up and running for four months and I'd be interested to hear what you think of it. Have you taken the time to have a look at it? If so, what have you used it for? Is there anything else you'd like to see added to the site, for example a discussion forum? Remember the site is there for **you** and can only be a useful resource if it provides the information **you** need. Please get in touch with any comments or suggestions.

Regards

Lindsay

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The second meeting of the Nottinghamshire Partnership was held on Friday 17 February 2006 and was chaired by the Mayor of Mansfield, Tony Egginton.

Over 80 delegates attended the event, representing a wide variety of partners including: Police, Fire, Primary Care Trusts, the Environment Agency, Connexions, Learning and Skills Council, GOEM, the Probation Service, the Pensions Service, the private and voluntary sectors, local strategic partnerships, and local authorities.

Coun David Kirkham, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair of the Nottinghamshire Local Government Association, introduced the event. Coun Kirkham spoke of the great progress made by the Nottinghamshire Partnership, since it was established in September 2005, as well as the challenges that lie ahead. He explained how in the space of a few months we had established a countywide Partnership, approved its Community Strategy and developed a Local Area Agreement that was on the verge of being submitted to Government.

Coun Kirkham referred to the consultation that had taken place on the title of this Partnership. He revealed that the majority were happy to keep it called simply the 'Nottinghamshire Partnership'. He also proposed that the Nottinghamshire Partnership should initially meet 3 times per year: February, May and September. This would be kept under review.

Tony Egginton explained that the key objectives of the meeting were: **Sign-up to the Local Area Agreement before submission to Government in March**; and **Agreement to move forward with the Community Strategy Delivery Plan, known as 'Together We Will'**.

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Exchanging information

The 'Exchange' section gave partners the chance to talk about major changes and/or significant issues for their organisations. Speakers taking part in this section were:

- ◆ **Simon Hobbs, Chief Executive and Clerk to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority** – who explained the latest position on the proposed mergers of Police forces and Police Authorities across the country. He explained that discussions were ongoing around two options for Nottinghamshire Police: one is to merge with the Derbyshire Force, the other is to establish an East Midlands Force based on GOEM boundaries.
- ◆ **Jean Pardoe, Chief Executive of Connexions Nottinghamshire** – who spoke of the changes taking place at Connexions with the introduction of the Children Act. With the advent of the Children's Trust, children's services are being brought together to offer a seamless service across agencies.
- ◆ **Roger Latham, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council** – shared details of the County Council's emerging Strategic Plan with partners and described how the LAA and Community Strategy were influencing the drafting. He alerted people to the fact that partners would be consulted on the Strategic Plan shortly.
- ◆ **Dr Bob Middleton, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council** - took the opportunity to alert partners to the East Midlands Rural Delivery Framework Consultation Draft. A copy of the draft Framework and details on how to respond can be accessed at the following weblink: www.ruralnet.typepad.com/emrdf. **The closing date for responses to the consultation is Monday 10 April 2006.**

The LAAtest

Andrew Muter, Assistant Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council gave a presentation on the key aspects of the Local Area Agreement, with two milestones identified as:

Final submission to GOEM – **23 February 2006**
Agreement to be signed with Government on or before **27 March 2006**

If we were successful in delivering the targets in the LAA, then it would mean, for example, improved life expectancy, fewer avoidable injuries, higher employment rates and fewer drug-related crimes in Nottinghamshire. Twelve of the targets will be 'stretched' and success in meeting all of these will trigger an award of around £20 million.

Andrew Muter commented that, as with other parts of the country involved in LAAs, there were still several issues that needed to be resolved, these were identified as:

- ◆ **Final adjustments and clarification of targets and measures**
- ◆ **Partnership agreement**
 - ◆ **Review of governance arrangements – initially agreed to at first Nottinghamshire Partnership meeting in September 2005**
- ◆ **Distribution of reward grant**
- ◆ **Continuing obligations relating to pooled funding**
- ◆ **Leadership of the Safer and Stronger block**
- ◆ **Delivery plan Performance management**

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Question time

An open forum was held after the LAA presentation during which Coun Ivan Gollop, Leader of Gedling BC and Chair of the Gedling LSP Board, suggested that the district/borough councils should decide on who is to lead the Safer and Stronger block of the LAA. After a brief adjournment it was decided that Gedling Borough Council would initially lead this block.

There were a range of questions and comments on the LAA. A number of the questions sought clarity about specific issues. Topics covered included links between various strategies in the Economic Development and Enterprise block, the reason for certain environment targets not appearing in the LAA, and resources required for the LAA.

Several district council representatives expressed support for the broad thrust of LAA targets and the benefits of partnership working. However, they also highlighted several concerns with the LAA process relating to the unresolved aspects of the LAA. Specific concerns focused on governance arrangements, ensuring democratic accountability, and funding issues. These partners stressed the importance of resolving these issues before signing-off the LAA.

Peter Ward, representing the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), acknowledged that the LAA poses some difficult issues for partners but felt that they could be worked through. He said that he would be happy to host a meeting to help iron out issues and concerns ahead of the submission to Government at the end of March.

Tony Egginton asked that the concerns raised by district councils be recorded and then asked for a show of hands from other partners which showed overwhelming support for the Local Area Agreement.

There will be further discussions on the outstanding issues with district colleagues via the LAA Management Group and the GOEM meeting. These discussions should enable these councils to decide on their support for the LAA.

Getting it together

Nina Dauban, Chair of Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations (NAVO), spoke about the Community Strategy and the continuing work to produce its delivery plan known as 'Together We Will'. Once the LAA is completed, it will be possible to finish the delivery plan which will help achieve the objectives set out in the Community Strategy over the next four years.

Nina brought an inspirational element to the meeting by highlighting how it is down to people to work together to overcome engrained ways of thinking and working; this can create an excellent partnership to ensure that it delivers its vision.

Have your say!

If you've not done so already, it's not too late to air your views on the 'Together We Will' plan, delivery plan for the Community Strategy, as we're currently finalising the draft for final consultation before sign-off at the next Nottinghamshire Partnership meeting in early June. Read it at www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk/index/communitystrategy/deliveryplan.htm and send any comments to richard.money@nottsc.gov.uk by **Friday 7 April**.

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Keeping it real

The purpose of the 'Get Real' section was to present partners with the opportunity to look at a 'real' problem associated with neighbourhood policing and discuss how this could be solved through partnership working.

The idea behind this was to try and bring the Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy 'to life' and look at what it really means to the people of the county. Due to the extended debate on the LAA, the scheduled workshop session didn't take place and an edited presentation was given by Assistant Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police, Peter Ditchett. It is proposed that this session will be revisited at the next meeting of the Nottinghamshire Partnership.

Date of next meeting

Owing to the proximity of the Spring Bank Holiday, it has been decided to move the next Partnership meeting to the start of June. The provisional date for the next meeting of the Nottinghamshire Partnership is **Friday 9 June 2006 at 12 noon**. Before we confirm the date, we are keen to ensure that most people will be available to attend. If you will be **unable to attend** on that day, please let Pauline Brentnall know by **Friday 7 April**. Telephone Pauline on 0115 9774962 or email pauline.brentnall@nottsc.gov.uk

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