

# LutonForum

*Luton's Local Strategic Partnership*

## **PARTNERSHIP BULLETIN UPDATE JULY 2007**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the first edition of the Partnership Bulletin. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide an update on:

- The Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2007
- The new structure of the Luton Forum
- How we are performing against the targets contained in our existing Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- The process of moving to a new LAA for 2008

We will aim to provide regular updates at least every two months to keep you fully informed of important developments. I hope you find this briefing useful and welcome any feedback on the format, frequency and content.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

At its meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007 Cllr Hazel Simmons, Leader of the Council was elected Chair of the Luton Forum and Andy Calvert, Assembly representative Vice Chair.

### **STRUCTURE**

Following an Awayday in December 2006, a revised structure has been developed. This includes:

- Thematic Partnerships to include representation from key

members, stakeholders, Voluntary Community Sector and alignment to LAA Blocks

- Action Groups to consider cross-cutting issues
- Strengthened performance management and new Performance Management Group

The new structures will assist in delivering LAA 2 and in delivering LAA 3.

Following a consultation period with wider stakeholders and partners the new structure was agreed at a special meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.



Adobe Acrobat 7.0  
Document

Development of the thematic partnership Board structure is still underway and further information will be circulated.

### **LAA PERFORMANCE 2006-07**

We have just completed a self assessment of performance against the first year of our LAA, using a simple traffic light rating.

Performance for most areas is on track with 9 currently assessed as Green, 7 are assessed as Amber and 4 are assessed as Red.

A copy of the full report showing each target and a commentary on all of the “ambers and “reds” is attached below.



performance report 06-07 24 June 2007 V7 GOE9 (2)

Performance monitoring arrangements have been established for the LAA. Each target has a accountable officer and a Performance Management Sub-Group has been established.

The Forum has taken advantage of guidance and support from Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers (NRAs), working with theme groups, the Luton Assembly, and on performance management with the Luton Forum as a whole. A successful workshop was held by NRAs and attended by 30 key stakeholders to develop our skills in evidence-based performance improvement, to inform the refresh of the LAA.

The refreshed LAA2 has removed some of the targets originally set in the LAA 200607 to focus on other priorities which include reducing gaps between the unhealthiest and more deprived areas and the rest of the town. Fire safety and affordable warmth have been introduced and more focus on volunteer involvement. Mandatory targets have been agreed for crime, reoffending and Prolific and other Priority Offenders which sit alongside new targets for building respect in the community and reassuring the public. There has been a refocus on the affordability of housing and on homelessness. Finally more useful targets have been introduced for Economic Development & Enterprise.

## **TRANSITION TO A NEW LAA**

New LAAs will be introduced in April 2008 and will be the only place where central government will agree targets with local authorities and their partners.

From April 2008, all LAAs will be expected to have up to 35 improvement targets plus 18 statutory early years/education targets (drawn from a set of 200 national indicators). The precise make-up of the 35+18 will vary for each LAA and will be driven by agreed national and local priorities for each LAA.

An afternoon workshop was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July and was successfully attended by 60 stakeholder, partners and officers. The afternoon workshops focused on developing these new arrangements. There was a series of short presentations followed by workshops based around the 4 LAA blocks.

The workshops were facilitated by Specialist Neighbourhood Renewal Adviser's. The blocks were asked to consider and agree on the 5 LAA priorities for their block, and to develop the first outline of their action plan for each priority.

The second task was to consider priority issues, which are cross cutting issues and affect the whole of the LAA and all blocks. Community Cohesion has already been identified as a cross cutting issue and an action plan has already been started.

A copy of the workshop notes is attached.



Workshop notes (3).Ink

## **Further development of the new LAA**

- Involvement of the business sector, particularly the engagement of larger companies in Luton.
- Using the LAA and partnership working systematically to drive improvement
- Capacity/resources to administer Luton Forum and the Community Empowerment Network, and to co-ordinate and drive forward performance management and improvement through the LAA.

If you would like any further information relating to anything in this Bulletin please contact a member of the Support Team:

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