

PARTNERSHIP BULLETIN UPDATE OCTOBER 2007

As a Local Strategic Partnership our aim is to provide regular updates and to keep you fully informed of important developments.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide an update on:

- The new structure of the Luton Forum
- Local Area Agreements 2 (LAA)
 - National Indicators
 - Guidance for negotiating New Local Agreements
 - Feedback
- Aspire to Perform
- SCS programme and timetable

I hope you find this briefing useful and welcome any feedback on the format, frequency and content.

LUTON FORUM RESTURCTURE UPDATE

The new structure is now in place and will assist in delivering LAA2 and in delivering LAA3.

The chairs of the 4 Thematic Partnership Boards are:

- Colin Chick –Environment & Economy Board
- Regina Shakespeare (interim chair) – Health & Well-being Board
- Debbie Jones – Children & Young People's Board

- Nicky Dahl/Kevin Crompton – Safer & Stronger Communities Board

The Health & Well-being board had their first meeting on the 14th September. It had focussed on whether it had the right people and some of the key tasks it needed to undertake. The Doing Group that sits under the Strategic Board had considered who should be represented on it. It had agreed that a second meeting would be held at the end of October.

Some work on the Environment and Economy Board had taken place with an initial meeting to see who would sit on it, together with the Board's agenda. It had looked at separating out its work but would be meeting again to discuss key issues.

The Children and Young Peoples' Board was meeting on a regular basis. It had just gone through an annual review of assessment and the number of voluntary seats had increased to 3.

A proposal was made to the Luton Forum on the 4th October for the Safer & Stronger Communities board. Further development is needed.

There is still a need to work on support for the Boards and Sub Groups.

Other Groups

Growth & Housing

Have not met. Options are to tie in with the South Bedfordshire growth group partnership

Neighbourhoods

No work done

Dynamic & Creative Town

The best of Luton Awards to be delivered by March 2008.

Business

Laura Church is talking to businesses.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS (LAA)

The new Performance Framework & Local Authority & Local Authority Partnership Single Set of National Indicators set out below:



Single set of National Indicators.Ink

Guidance for Negotiating New Local Area Agreements.



Guidance.Ink

Local Area Agreements Conference 1 October: Setting The Ambition For the East of England

The aim was to set the challenge, priorities and level of ambition for the region as a whole.

The launch event was led by Barbara Follett MP, Minister for the East of England who set out the Government's view of challenges in the East of England.

The Ministers priorities for the East of England are:

- Skills
- Housing
- Transport

This was followed by central government and local government colleagues setting out their ambitions and challenges for the negotiations. Delegates then had the opportunity to participate in a high level debate with a senior panel of national, regional and local representatives.

ASPIRE TO PERFORM

Luton's Local Strategic Partnership supported the Capacity Building East Bid that was submitted in January 2007. Luton then agreed to be a pilot for the project.

What is ASPIRE 2 PERFORM?

ASPIRE to PERFORM is a diagnostic tool being developed specifically for Local Strategic Partnerships in the East of England, drawing on existing models. It is a regionally diagnostic tool to test the effectiveness of LSP arrangements to impact on delivery.

ASPIRE 2 PERFORM is funded by Building Capacity East, to support the further development of LSPs in the region in response to the challenges set out in the Local Government White Paper.

The East of England LSP Network Steering Group will oversee the project, working with a number of LSP representatives and North Face Associates to develop the tool.

How does this differ from other partnerships tools?

- Developed by LSPs for LSPs
- Looks at effective partnerships – but also the wider dimension of two-tier working
- Will test current effectiveness and also future potential, with

direction on key development priorities

- Will develop capacity within partnerships
- Is linked to developing a responsive regional capacity building programme

There are 3 elements to the diagnostic tool:

ASPIRE – to assess overall LSP arrangements

2-TIER – to assess issues associated with two-tier local government structures

PERFORM – to assess arrangements for management of performance.

Work to date

Luton and Epping Forest partnered to pilot the PERFORM element of the diagnostic tool.

3 Key players of our board were interviewed, they were:

The Chair

Voluntary and Community Sector Health

Questions had been developed around suggested performance management cycle for LSPs of Yes/partially yes/no answers. Scores were then averaged to produce a spider chart.

Further limited testing of revised materials will be rolled out during October to December 2007.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Government papers have described the government's encouragement to LSPs that they should progress from producing Community Strategies to producing Sustainable Community Strategies. Their definition of sustainable communities is:

Sustainable communities balance and integrate social, economic and

environmental components of their community; meet the needs of existing and future generations; and respect the needs of other communities in the wider region on internationally to make communities sustainable.

The definitions and components of sustainable communities are:

- Active, inclusive and safe
- Well run
- Environmentally sensitive
- Well designed and built
- Well connected
- Thriving
- Well served
- Fair for everyone

In order to produce the strategy, it was agreed to form a task and finish group as a sub group of the Local Public Board. The Luton Sustainable Community Strategy Task Group would bring major decisions to the Luton Forum, and report to the LPSB on a monthly basis with regard to progress and minor decisions.

A draft timetable and components of sustainable communities is shown below:



o Definitions and components of sustainable communitiesAr

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