

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board

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COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT: CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S DRAFT SELF-ASSESSMENT

Background

1. Following the call for information from the countywide Thematic and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), an Editing Group has been meeting to plan, shape, discuss and draft a Cambridgeshire area self-assessment.
2. Considerable thanks must go out to everyone who has helped in providing information, advice, explanation and evidence...and moral support!
3. The South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership's Annual Review and self-assessment have helped to shape the report.

Considerations

4. The latest draft of the self assessment is attached at Appendix A and LSP Board members are invited to challenge and help improve the quality, robustness and feel of the assessment to make sure it truly reflects the progress made in Cambridgeshire.
5. A huge amount of information has been provided through a range of routes and even as papers are dispatched the Editing Group work on the draft continues. There is no doubt many bits of evidence that have not yet made it into this draft, but we're working to address this, as well as continuing to refine the narrative and flow of the document.
6. We have been having regular dialogue with the Audit Commission, and in Cambridgeshire it feels as though the Commission have very much lived up to the spirit of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The Commission has been genuinely open in sharing emerging issues and inviting the partnership to consider and plan its response.
7. A draft of the self-assessment will go to the Cambridgeshire Public Service Board on the 14th July and then to the Cambridgeshire Together Board on the 23rd of July for sign off before formal submission to the Audit Commission. Throughout July, as the Commission start to firm-up their views, they will request interviews with key partners.

Recommendations

8. LSP Board members are invited to consider the following issues raised both by the Editing Group and also the Audit Commission:
 - A. Does the current draft give the right feel and impression of the progress that the partnerships are making in Cambridgeshire?

- B. How clearly do we think the draft articulates our shared areas for improvement as Cambridgeshire Together?
- C. Does the draft as it stands accurately tell the story of how we will develop in Cambridgeshire over the coming years and tackle those areas for improvement?
- D. The Audit Commission is most interested in how we are working together as a partnership to narrow the gap and tackle inequalities of place and for communities of interest. Have we sufficient evidence of how we have done this including shifting of resources, planning and target setting, delivery and outcomes?
- E. The other key area of focus for the Audit Commission is on how we are working together to provide better outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers. Does the current draft accurately tell our Cambridgeshire story in terms of improvements to date and future plans?
- F. Can we better reflect the breadth of work that partners deliver with and the role of the voluntary and community sector? What examples can we add to strengthen this?
- G. The Audit Commission has also raised the following more specific queries that the LSP is invited to discuss:
 - The partnership approach to tackling homelessness
 - How partners are working across the county to meet the challenge of an aging population
 - Progress in tackling the causes and incidents of crime
 - How partners are working together to join-up community engagement activity