

Future Role of the Local Strategic Partnership

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The LSP Board began a discussion at its last meeting about its future role and structure but this was constrained by the time available and it was agreed that a sub-group should meet to give the matter more attention. However, for a variety of reasons, the group were not able to meet and therefore the Board is asked to give more time to considering this subject.
- 1.2 The paper provided to the Board on 7 March 2010 set out the changed landscape that the LSP found itself in, with the demise of the Local Area Agreement and its associated partnership structures and the emergence of new structures. Individual partners have also come under increasing pressure to justify existing arrangements, where they still exist, because of cost pressures. A paper showing this changing partnership environment is at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In recent discussions partners from the community and voluntary sector have reiterated the view that any change in structure carries the risk that their voice and ability to engage and inform statutory partners will diminish. Any discussions on a new structure for the LSP will need to take this into account.
- 1.4 The main role of the LSP in the recent past has been to oversee the local implementation of the Local Area Agreement for Cambridgeshire, encouraging better performance, and overseeing projects delivering outcomes in the LSP's priority areas using reward grant. The LSP has maintained links with local partnerships that are taking forward actions in its Sustainable Community Strategy and has been tasked by the local authorities to prepare a new strategy for its area.
- 1.5 A new Sustainable Community Strategy is being prepared and the LSP Board at its last meeting agreed four priority issues. Under each issue a more limited number of things for the LSP and its partners to do over the next 3 years has been set out. Members will be invited to approve a final draft at the 11 July 2011 meeting. This meeting will also be an opportunity to confirm any new role and structure for the LSP, based on decisions taken at this meeting.
- 1.6 To help guide members in their thinking about the role of the LSP, suggested questions to prompt discussion are shown on the following page.

**Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire LSP
11 April 2011 Board Meeting**

2. Suggested questions for Consideration by the LSP Board

- 2.1 Is the role of the LSP to oversee the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy? Does it have a wider role to play? What do you think this role, if any, might be and what do we need to do to make it happen?
- 2.2 Are the things for partners to do, at Appendix 2, shown in the draft Sustainable Strategy, the right points to concentrate on? Should we focus on a smaller number of points? How should these be delivered? Should we follow the new countywide approach of 'subsidiarity'? Will it be by individual partners, partnerships or will task and finish groups be necessary and, if so, who should they be commissioned by and report to?
- 2.3 A number of options are open for discussion by the board including;
 - a) a small group covering both districts that meets four times a year, as at present?
 - b) a larger meeting once a year, reviewing plans, setting priorities and targets and receiving feedback/outcomes from relevant task and finish groups?
 - c) a network only that maintains contact with a wide range of stakeholders and holds events around issues or topics?
 - d) a combination of the above?

The Changing Partnership Environment

On 23 November 2010 the Cambridgeshire Together Board agreed a new model of partnership working for Cambridgeshire. The new model includes disbanding the Cambridgeshire Together Board in favour of an annual stakeholder assembly and disbanding all but three countywide strategic thematic partnerships. Other work will be carried out via task and finish groups and overseen by the Cambridgeshire Public Service Board.

The three countywide strategic partnerships that will remain are the Children's Trust, the Local Enterprise Partnership (new, but including some Greater Cambridge Partnership and Cambridgeshire Horizons responsibilities) and the Health and Wellbeing Board (developed out of the Community Wellbeing Partnership).

The Making Cambridgeshire Count projects that are to continue will become task and finish groups under the new structures.

The Localism and Decentralisation Bill was published on 13 December 2010. The Bill aims to shift power from the state to local communities via six actions:

- to lift the burden of bureaucracy,
- to empower communities to do things their way,
- to increase local control of public finance,
- to diversify the supply of public services,
- to open up government to public scrutiny,
- to strengthen accountability to local people.

The Bill builds upon earlier decisions by Communities and Local Government to abolish the Comprehensive Area Assessment, Local Area Agreements (LAA) and the Audit Commission.

Communities and Local Government introduced a new draft single data list to replace the National Indicator set (many of which are no longer required for submission). The draft single data list includes all of the data that central government believes it will require from local government in the future.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

The Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership set its terms of reference in April 2010, when the former Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership merged. This merger was in recognition of the common issues faced by our communities and the presence of a number of cross boundary partnerships. It was agreed that the joint LSP should be reviewed after one year of its existence.

Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire LSP 11 April 2011 Board Meeting

There are a number of local partnerships presently linked to the LSP:

- Community Safety / Crime and Disorder Reduction (statutory)
- Informal Adult Learning
- Children and Young People
- Health Improvement
- Biodiversity (Cambridge only)
- Affordable Housing
- Transport and Access (South Cambs only)

The local partnerships have contributed to the Sustainable Community Strategies of the former Cambridge LSP and South Cambridgeshire LSP and have been the bodies the LSP has looked to for an account of how local work is impacting on its priority areas.

Many of these local partnerships were ready-made partnerships that existed before the LSP and may well continue if the LSP is not around. The LSPs called on these partnerships to help understand local issues and to deliver its local work. The LSP did not, therefore, have to set up its own task and finish groups in these areas, keeping its administration to a minimum. The partnerships have looked to the LSP, and particularly the Sustainable Community Strategy for guidance, in setting local priorities, but the reporting lines were sometimes unclear, with the presence of county-wide thematic partnerships.

LAA indicators also provided a tool for local performance management and reporting for the LSPs, which reduced the extent of its own processes and systems that it had to put in place.

A Sustainable Community Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The Priority Issues

The draft Sustainable Community Strategy identifies four priority areas that it feels are important in improving the quality of life for people living in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Under each priority there are a more limited number of things it wants to see happen.

1. Engaging communities to create better outcomes

What will partners in the LSP do?

- Take an overview of new democratic and engagement structures as they emerge so that they can be part of the overall governance of the area and connect elected councillors, community champions and partners in a coherent approach to decision-making.
- Encourage public agencies to work together to carry out their community engagement work, to share knowledge about communities and reduce duplication and waste.
- Invest in the skills and resources that will make community engagement more effective, including community and voluntary organisations, councillors and frontline staff.

2. Reducing inequalities

What will partners in the LSP do?

- Look to help guide and support the priorities of local partnerships that are reducing inequalities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire by shaping and promoting the Cambridgeshire Inequalities Charter.
- Work with partners to develop projects that will help young people back into work.
- Work with partners to develop projects that will help maintain the independence of older people and help them to continue to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

3. Improving our environment and being at the forefront of low carbon living

What will partners in the LSP do?

- Investigate sustainable forms of rural transport, such as Demand Responsive Transport, and seek to implement schemes to reduce rural isolation.
- Support local communities and partners to apply for national and European funding to improve and expand sustainable forms of transport.

**Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire LSP
11 April 2011 Board Meeting**

- Work with local people and partners to support and promote initiatives to improve home energy efficiency.
- Work with partners to develop projects that will maintain the accessibility of our green spaces and maintain or enhance their biodiversity

4. Providing sustainable communities that meet local need and are places where people want to live

What will partners in the LSP do?

- Seek to exert influence to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Contribute to revisions of the relevant Local Development Frameworks and comment upon large planning applications to ensure developments are sustainable from day one.
- Encourage and support local communities to develop neighbourhood plans to shape their local areas.
- Work in support of the new Local Enterprise Partnership as it promotes local economic development and works to meet the needs and ambitions of this growing area.