

# South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Board Meeting 17 June 2005

## Agenda Item 6

### LSP BOARD - STRUCTURES AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

#### INTRODUCTION

This report seeks views on outline proposals for strengthening the capacity of the Board to deliver the Community Strategy and continuing to respond to local needs and priorities.

#### CURRENT STRUCTURES AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

At the present time, all of the work of the partnership is directed through the Board. Whilst all partners can bring matters to the attention of the Board, the agenda is formulated by the District Council (as secretariat) in consultation with the Chair.

Theme based 'task and finish' Working Groups have been established to support the development of the Community Strategy. Initially, the Board took the view that it did not want to place the Working Groups on a more permanent 'footing' until the Community Strategy themes had been confirmed. However, at the end of last year, a Vibrant Economy Group was formally established in order to manage and monitor funding bids to the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership in the context of an agreed Business Plan. The District Council has also provided administrative support to the Working Groups.

Now that the Community Strategy is about to be finalised, it is opportune to review current structures and working arrangements to ensure that they support the delivery of agreed actions.

#### THE PROPOSALS

The proposals focus on two areas - Working Groups and the need for a 'Strategic Co-ordination Group' that would act as an interface between the Board and the Working Groups.

##### **Working Groups**

It is proposed that six Working Groups based on the agreed themes of the Community Strategy should now be formally established. These Groups would be responsible for delivering the Community Strategy, monitoring trends within their thematic area and planning for the future.

# **South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership**

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The Vibrant Economy Group would have additional responsibilities in relation to funding bids and business planning, as at present.

In terms of membership, there is an opportunity to build on existing partnerships, such as Crime and Disorder Partnership, to further rationalise working arrangements.

With respect to administrative support (e.g. organising meetings, minutes, collating reports etc), it is proposed that this should rest with the Chair and his/her own organisation. (The added benefit of this approach is that it will provide development opportunities for employees who may not necessarily be involved in partnership working on a day to day basis.)

## **Strategic Co-ordination Group**

As mentioned previously, this is a new group that would sit between the Board and the Working Groups.

It is envisaged that membership would comprise the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board along with the Chairs of Working Groups. The District Council assisted by Derbyshire County Council would provide administrative and technical support.

The main responsibilities of this group would comprise:

- Formulating the agenda for Board Meetings
- Managing performance
- Ensuring a co-ordinated and consistent approach to cross cutting issues
- Managing finances and developing plans to put on the Partnership on a sound financial basis in the long term.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

At the moment, these proposals are in an embryonic form and will need to be developed further.

Initial comments from the Board would be welcome with a view to the submission of more detailed proposals at the next meeting.