

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

1 February 2005

Report of the Chief Executive

**WORKING WITH DISTRICT BASED
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS (LSPs)
(STRATEGY AND BUDGET)**

Purpose of Report

To inform Members about recent developments on Local Area Working and the County Council's work with Local Strategic Partnerships.

Information and Analysis

Background

There are currently six district based Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in Derbyshire covering Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire (CHART), Derbyshire Dales and High Peak, Erewash and South Derbyshire. The Derbyshire Partnership Forum, which is coordinated by the County Council, is the county wide LSP, which considers strategic issues covering Derbyshire as a whole.

A report to Cabinet on 20 July 2004 outlined the increased importance of LSPs and the need to improve the way in which the County Council works with partners at a local level. It was agreed that Member representation on LSPs be shared amongst Cabinet Members and that a small panel chaired by Councillor G Carlile (Cabinet Member for Regeneration) be established to coordinate LSP issues at a county level. It was also agreed that a general initiatives/project fund to support LSP work be established, initially from underspends in the Chief Executive's Office.

The table below shows the proposed Member representation on district/borough level LSPs:

LSP	Member	Named Substitute	Senior Policy Officer Contact
Amber Valley	Bob Janes	Geoff Carlile	Allison Thomas
Bolsover	Geoff Carlile	Anne Western	Bernard Strutt
CHART	Walter Burrows	Geoff Carlile	Bernard Strutt
Erewash	Brian Lucas	Geoff Carlile	Sarah Eaton

High Peak & Derbyshire Dales	Dave Wilcox	Geoff Carlile	Sarah Eaton
South Derbyshire	Joyce Sanders	Geoff Carlile	Jane Cox

A senior county council Policy Officer has also been allocated to each of the partnerships in recognition of the need to improve coordination of county council activity/support to district based LSPs. The relevant senior Policy Officer for each LSP will support the Member with briefings and appropriate background information.

Members LSP Coordination Panel

The Members LSP Coordination Panel met for the first time on 6 December 2004 and agreed the Terms of Reference and individual roles and responsibilities in relation to LSP working attached at Appendix A. The Panel will meet on a quarterly basis and the Partnerships Co-ordinator will be responsible for providing ongoing support to Members.

LSP Fund

The Members Coordination Panel considered how the general fund established initially from the Chief Executive's 2004/5 budget underspend currently included in the Corporate Reserves should be used to support LSP projects and initiatives. Members recommended that the funds to support LSP working should have a set of transparent criteria on which individual bids from LSPs can be considered and assessed.

Panel Members also recommended that applications from LSPs to cover individual LSP core revenue funding should not be eligible. To be eligible for funding, applications will need to demonstrate that they:

- are not covering core revenue costs
- link in with plans to develop the LSP and/or the community strategy
- will provide added value and benefit to existing activity
- have discussed the project seeking approval at the LSP itself and approval has been given for submission to the County Council's LSP fund

Whilst ring-fencing of funds to individual LSPs was not recommended, Members agreed that consideration would need to be given to the need to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of funding across the county. This will ensure that those LSPs which do not have dedicated staff able to develop projects and associated activity are not disadvantaged in the application process.

Members also recommended that a short application process (including standard conditions of grant) building on the above criteria be developed and that this process be made available for distribution to all LSPs as soon as is practicable.

Financial Considerations

Cabinet has earmarked £250,000 from underspends from the Chief Executive's Office currently included in the Corporate Reserves to improve local area working. This includes the establishment of the general initiatives/project fund to support LSP activity, community forums and work with the voluntary sector. It would be appropriate to formalise this as a one-off fund managed by the Policy and Research Division and be monitored by the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Budget. Ongoing funding for strengthening the county council's overall approach to local area working will form part of any future options paper.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal and Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, property and crime and disorder considerations.

Background papers

Report to Cabinet 20 July 2004 "The Future of Local Area Working"

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 20 July 2004.

Officer's Recommendations

1. That recent developments on local area working and the County Council's work with LSPs be noted.
2. That the Member representation on LSPs be approved as set out in the report.
3. That the Terms of Reference and roles and responsibilities of Cabinet Members in relation to LSP working attached at Appendix A be approved.
4. That the fund of £250,000 to improve local area working be managed by the Policy & Research Division and be monitored by the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Budget.
5. That the criteria for allocating funds to LSPs as outlined in the report be agreed and a short application process (including standard conditions of grant) based on the criteria be developed.

NICK HODGSON
Chief Executive

MEMBERS LSP COORDINATIONAL PANEL

Terms of Reference

The proposed terms of reference for the Members LSP Coordination Panel are:

- To consider issues arising out of the six district LSPs and the county wide LSP and to develop coordinated responses where necessary
- To feed into the development of local LSP structures and the development of local community strategies, wherever possible influencing and adopting a common model across the county
- To share experience and best practice across the county
- To make recommendations to Cabinet on the allocation of funds from the LSP pot
- To report on key issues and progress to local Members and Cabinet

Roles and Responsibilities:

- To attend relevant LSP Board meetings where appropriate
- To work towards the terms of reference and roles and responsibilities of individual LSP Boards (the relevant terms of reference will be circulated the appropriate Cabinet Member)
- To represent the authority's interests and to ensure that key issues for the County Council are reflected on the agendas of LSPs
- To liaise with local Members, Policy Officers and key departmental contacts where necessary
- To report on key issues and progress to local Members and Cabinet