

A LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIREDRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR DISCUSSION**1. Name**

The name of the partnership will be the *South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership*.

2. Definitions

SDLSP	South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
Board	Partnership Board of the SDLSP
Accountable Body	The organisation responsible for the receipt and management of financial and other resources
Partnership Forum	Forum for the SDLSP
Community Sector Forum	Forum for the Community Sector
Community Strategy	Strategy for the Community

3. Legal Status

The SDLSP will be an unincorporated, non-statutory, non-executive body with South Derbyshire District Council acting as the Accountable Body.

This is not seen as being prescriptive but as appropriate in present circumstances. The LSP may later wish to consider a move to being a company limited by guarantee or establishing a community development trust in order to assume responsibility for delivery of certain services.

4. Aims and Objectives

Initially, there is a need to create a vision for the Partnership. From this a mission statement and the means to achieve it will flow. In the legislative context it might be " To develop and establish with the community both a sustainable vision for South Derbyshire and the means to achieve it ".

To achieve this the SDLSP will need to :-

- ◆
- ◆ Facilitate the development of common aims and joint priorities
- ◆ Build common purpose and shared commitment
- ◆ Draw on the expertise of the public, community, voluntary and private sector partners to make local services more responsive and effective
- ◆ Ensure, by working with appropriate agencies and partners, that mainstream services are of the highest quality
- ◆ Secure, by working with appropriate agencies and partners, the development of the local economy

- ◆ Work to ensure, as far as possible, that actions of the agencies and partners and plans and programmes of the Partnership lead to and enhance sustainable communities

5. Values of the SDLSP

The SDLSP shall be governed by the following values:-

- ◆ making decisions openly and with integrity
- ◆ being accountable to the people of South Derbyshire for our decisions
- ◆ involving the community in choices about services and local priorities
- ◆ being open and responsive to change
- ◆ treating people fairly and promoting equality of opportunity in employment and service provision
- ◆ working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to achieve more than we can on our own
- ◆ ensuring that the actions we take are sustainable in the long term
- ◆ valuing all partners and the essential roles they play in our community

6. Membership of the SDLSP

The SDLSP is intended to be broadly representative of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors in South Derbyshire. Any organisation resident or operating within the community of South Derbyshire is eligible for membership.

7. Structure of the SDLSP

The SDLSP will consist of an overarching **Partnership Forum** with a duly nominated **Partnership Board** to oversee the business of the Partnership. **Working Groups** will be established under the Board's jurisdiction to focus on specific issues or special projects as and when required.

8. Functions and Responsibilities of the Partnership Forum

The Partnership Forum's principal role will be largely consultative, offering opportunities to debate policy and advice to the Board. Specific remits include:-

- ◆ Overseeing the work of the Board.
- ◆ Guiding the development and implementation of the Community Strategy
- ◆ Promoting Community involvement in the work of the Partnership
- ◆ Developing and realising the vision.
- ◆ Ensuring that activities are conducted in an inclusive way and to reduce inequality

9. Membership of the Board

The Board shall consist of 24 members comprising 6 from the local authorities, 6 from other 'public sector' organisations, 6 from the private sector and 6 from the voluntary/community sectors.

Community representatives will be elected by the Community Sector Forum according to arrangements determined by that Forum.

All representatives should be of sufficient seniority to enable them to make strategic decisions that may impose requirements or impact upon their organisations. The term of office will be for two years, renewable for a further two years to a maximum of four.

Any nominating body/sector shall have the right at any time to remove a representative and make a replacement nomination for the remainder of the period subject to the formal notice to the Board.

Board representatives may offer a relevant substitute representative in their absence.

Representatives of the Government Office for the East Midlands and the East Midlands Development Agency are eligible to attend Board meetings in their advisory capacity but will not have voting rights. Other observers may be in attendance at Board Meetings at the Chair's discretion and only in relation to a particular issue for discussion. Observers will have no voting rights.

10. Functions and Responsibilities of the Board

The Board will be required to:-

- ◆ act as the strategic body to and oversee the general development and management of the LSP and seek its endorsement as fit for purpose.
- ◆ represent the views of the local community on matters of significance.
- ◆ Seek to co-ordinate and rationalise existing partnerships and practices to maximise efficiency and reduce duplication.
- ◆ co-ordinate plans and initiatives for service providers to work together with the community to meet local needs and priorities.
- ◆ prepare and implement the Community Strategy.
- ◆ encourage a community ethos in the public and private sector partners and encourage the adoption of innovative practices in the delivery of mainstream services.
- ◆ Champion South Derbyshire by promoting the interests of the area to outside agencies, lobbying and projecting a positive image of the area.
- ◆ Deliver and co-ordinate funding proposals to outside agencies

11. Appointment of Chair/Vice Chairs of the Board

The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the Board Members and the term of office shall be two years from the date of election.

12. Board meetings

The Board will usually meet at least once every three months.

A special meeting may be convened at the request of the Chair at any time to discuss urgent business.

Partnership Forum meetings will be held twice a year

13. Voting Rights

Board decisions, if not by consensus, shall be taken by a simple majority with the Chair having an additional casting vote in the event of equality voting. The Quorum should be 50% of the Board representatives.

14. Declarations of Interest

Any Board representative having a personal interest within the meaning of the Accountable Body's Code of Conduct shall at the start of the meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter, disclose the fact orally. Where the interest is a prejudicial one within the meaning of the Code, the representative will take no part in the consideration, discussion or voting in respect of the business. The minutes of the meeting will record the disclosure.

15. Financial Matters

The management of the Board's financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulations and the associated Financial Procedure rules of the Accountable Body as set out in Part 4 of the District Council's Constitution.

16. Changes to the Constitution

The Constitution of the SDLSP may be varied or changed at a Special General meeting or Annual General Meeting of the Partnership Forum called for that purpose. 21 days notice in writing shall be given to all SDLSP representatives of the proposed change.

17. Resources

Members can contribute funds to the running of the SDLSP and these will be administered by the Accountable Body.