

February 2008 Briefing

Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire (2008/31) and the second Local Area Agreement (2008/11)

The purpose of this briefing is to help provide an update on recent and planned developments relating to the; Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire; the initial draft submission for LAA2; the Northamptonshire Public Service Board and Integrated Service Delivery Programme.

Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire

The Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire represents partners' collective aims and ambitions for the county from now until 2031. The step change in growth planned for the county is a major element in this challenge and the strategy therefore will link in with the duration of this growth in the jobs, housing and infrastructure requirements of the wider Milton Keynes/South Midlands area. It is therefore designed to help:

- Provide countywide leadership and outline a distinctive way forward for our sub-region in delivering that growth and development agenda
- Inform economic development investment decisions at the East Midlands regional level
- Articulate the strategic objectives of the main social, economic and environmental factors affecting and providing opportunities to the county
- Capture the priorities and responsibilities of all the key delivery partners in delivering these Northamptonshire strategic objectives
- Form the vision that will shape the second Local Area Agreement for Northamptonshire

The proposed vision is to “**develop and strengthen sustainable communities by delivering real improvements in the quality of life for everyone in Northamptonshire**”. This will be delivered through a number of strategic objectives that will enable us to influence regional and national spatial planning and investment, and improve service delivery. These have been suggested within the draft strategy and are about developing a Northamptonshire:

- with a clear infrastructure investment framework
- with a strong and distinct identity
- with a vibrant and dynamic economy
- with a thriving cultural economy

- where all can share in our success and growing prosperity
- where we have strong, safe and cohesive communities
- that looks after and optimises its natural resources and assets
- that people can readily move around in
- where people are healthy, have a good quality of life and the most vulnerable are supported to access appropriate services according to need, and
- where every child and young person matters

Consultation on the Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire began with partners on the 17th January with the launch of the vision and strategic objectives at a partnership conference and will run through to 10th April. There will be a series of presentations and discussions, held together with key agencies and organisations, including elected members in local authorities, while partners, stakeholders and the public are being asked in the draft consultation document to respond to specific questions on

- i) the vision, and if does not adequately represent our ambitions for Northamptonshire then what is missing?
- ii) whether the strategic objectives are broadly right and if not, what is wrong with them?
- iii) what are the three key things partners should focus delivery on now or in the future?

The consultation documents for partners and a shorter version for the public can be found online at: http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Community/Sustainable_Communities.htm

Responses are required by the 10th April, by either completing the online form or by emailing replies to scsn@northamptonshire.gov.uk

LAA2 Draft Submission

LAA2 is based on a series of locally agreed outcomes and delivery against them being evidenced through application of the most appropriate of the 198 national indicators and the new national local performance framework these underpin.

The National Indicator Set has been developed as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review and measures success in terms of both local priority outcomes and, nationally, in local delivery of the Government's priority outcomes expressed through Public Service Agreements or Departments' Strategic Objectives.

The LAA model is therefore key to ensuring Government achieves its aspirations for the three-year Spending Review period and to enabling local areas to deliver against well evidenced local priorities within a framework that is guided by the following principles:

- Creating a shared endeavour between central and local government and local delivery partners
- A focus on improving outcomes for local people, local businesses and local places rather than on processes, institutions and inputs
- Rigorous performance management
- Empowering people to judge the quality of local services relative to others
- Effective partnership

- Making the best use of scarce resources: driving out waste and duplication

Northamptonshire is therefore required to develop its set of up to 35 improvement targets and other local indicators, in addition to the 16 statutory targets already established in respect of early years and educational attainment. The following seven themes of the LAA framework form the basis of the negotiation around the outcomes and indicators for inclusion in Northamptonshire's LAA and the lead officers (and contact details) are as follows:

Stronger, empowered and cohesive communities

Pratima Gadhia (pgadhia@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 236023)

Building Safer Communities

Pratima Gadhia (pgadhia@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 236023)

Ian McNeill (ian.mcneill@northants.pnn.police.uk or 08453 700700 ext. 2121)

Improved life chances for Children and Young People

Kate Yates (kyates@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 6742)

Adrian Bell (abell@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk or 01604 604914)

Improved adult health and well being

Fiona Seymour (fseymour@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 236770)

Stephen Horsley (stephen.horsley@northants.nhs.uk or 01536 480336)

A stronger local economy

Jez Goodman (and David Wright) (Economy) (jez.goodman@northamptonshireenterprise.ltd.uk or 01604 609381)

Sue Flack (Transport) (sflack@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 654401)

Joe Hubbard (and Martin Hammond/Calvin Bell) (Housing) (jhubbard@wellingborough.gov.uk or 01933 231800)

Improved environmental sustainability

Philip Gray (Climate Change and Biodiversity) (pgray@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 236993)

Martin Hammond (and Calvin Bell/Joe Hubbard) (Environmental Improvements) (martinhammond@kettering.gov.uk or 01536 534305)

Tackling exclusion and promoting equalities

All lead negotiators to contribute

LAA2 will be signed of with Government in June. Before that there will be a series of submissions to GOEM in January (initial draft outcomes and possible indicators), March (developed proposals negotiated between partners and with Government) and May (the final submission).

Northamptonshire Public Service Board

Developing proposals for a Northamptonshire Public Service Board, operating within the framework of a wider *Northamptonshire Strategic Partnership*, are based on the following core components:

- An overarching 'Northamptonshire Strategic Partnership Conference' that annually brings together all the interests of Northamptonshire to help inform and advise of issues and priorities
- The Northamptonshire Public Service Board (replacing the LAA Board) that will take a strategic view for the county as expressed in the 'Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire' and bring the necessary partners together to inform, drive and champion this strategic view
- The continuation of the LAA Chief Officers Group, that brings together partner organisations and sectors to progress the delivery required to fulfil the strategic view
- Thematic delivery arrangements developed from the structures established to deliver Northamptonshire's first LAA, that focus on the key themes of LAA2
- Appropriate links with key partnerships such as the Local Strategic Partnerships, and appropriate democratic engagement, including district, borough and county council, and any common countywide , scrutiny arrangements that evolve to support LAA2.

The key principles that will form the basis for Northamptonshire Public Service Board operation are that it will:

- Add value at the appropriate level to best ensure achievement of partnership priorities as agreed through the Sustainable Communities Strategy and other relevant key strategic plans
- Increase public confidence through streamlined and timely decision-making and operate with the highest levels of openness, honesty and transparency
- Ensure consistency of representation and visible, accountable community leadership
- Ensure collective effort is determined and driven by evidence-based local needs assessment and local intervention
- Ensure a dynamic and consistent presence in the wider region and beyond, while seeking to enable local autonomy and flexibility in sub-regional planning and decision-making
- Achieve effective and flexible use of available funds and resources
- Measure progress and manage performance clearly and consistently
- Deliver increasingly responsive local services backed-up by real improvements in efficiency and effectiveness
- Enable partners to consult, involve and devolve to local people more say in running those services
- Apply the principles of fairness, cohesion, inclusion and sustainability to outcome delivery

Membership of the Northamptonshire Public Service Board will be made up of 18 representatives drawn from: Northamptonshire County Council and all District and Borough Councils; Northamptonshire PCT; Northamptonshire Police Authority and Northamptonshire Police; University of Northampton; the Local Delivery Vehicles; the Voluntary and Community Sector and Business Sector.

For further information contact: Peter McLaren, LAA Partnership Manager
(pmclaren@northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 237106)

Integrated Service Delivery Programme

The Integrated Service Delivery Programme Board has been commissioned by the LAA Board to deliver an Integrated Service Delivery Unit (ISDU) for the partnership. The ISDU will support Northamptonshire public services working together to develop an ongoing dialogue and engagement with the citizens and service users within the county. in order to shape the design and delivery of quality services. The board is continuing to develop key areas for the project i.e:

- First principles and core values for the project
- Desired outcomes for the Integrated Service Delivery Unit
- Identifying risks for the ISDU and the project
- A work plan to achieve an Integrated Service Delivery Unit

Membership of the Programme Board membership is through the following representatives:

Northamptonshire Police - Davina Logan, Deputy Chief Constable (Chair)

Borough and District Councils - Sandra Barnes, Leader, South Northamptonshire Council; Chris-Mallender, Chief Executive, Corby Borough Council; Simon Bovey, Executive Director, Daventry District Council

Northamptonshire County Council - Danny Brennan, Director for Community Leadership

Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust - John Parkes, Chief Executive,

Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited - David Wright, Chief Executive

Local Delivery Vehicles - Nick Bolton, Director of Investment and Marketing, NNDC

Children and Young People - Kate Yates, Children and Young People's Commissioner

Voluntary & Community Sector - Murphy Brown, Chief Executive, Office of the Third Sector

Government Office East Midlands - Bill Russell

Northamptonshire Police - Ian McNeill, Chief Superintendent (Programme Director)

The Programme Board met for the first time in January and agreed their draft terms of reference:

- To develop, with partners, the proposals for a new partnership unit to support the development and delivery of the LAA agenda, seeking to achieve a model based on principles of efficiency and effectiveness, and which delivers strong leadership.
- To coordinate and facilitate engagement across LAA partner agencies in the development and implementation of these proposals, achieving strong consultation and communication processes throughout the programme, with the aim of achieving high levels of LAA partner ownership and commitment.
- To steer and support the implementation of a new partnership delivery unit, to deliver:
 - A robust structure and approach to supporting and coordinating strategic commissioning of pooled funding and the alignment of non-pooled commissioned services
 - Strong governance support arrangements
 - A consistent and effective performance and knowledge management framework across the LAA partnership
 - A more integrated and effective delivery of county-level policy support across a range of LAA areas of business
 - Project and programme support for the development of LAA delivery
- To work closely with other strategic development programmes and processes across the LAA to ensure maximum coordination at a strategic level of these developments.

For further information contact: Programme Director, Chief Superintendent Ian McNeill

(ian.mcneill@northants.pnn.police.uk or 08453 700700 ext. 2121)