



meeting

**Administration Committee**

date

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

agenda item number

## **Report of The Director Of Culture And Community**

### **Local Strategic Partnerships**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the appointment of Elected Members to represent the County Council on Local Strategic Partnerships.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The establishment of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) is part of the Government's wider agenda to improve the quality and responsiveness of public services. They seek to ensure that local authorities and organisations work collaboratively to progress the delivery of sustainable economic, social and environmental regeneration, and improve public services that meet the needs of local people.
3. LSPs are cross-agency, umbrella partnerships that bring together, at a local level, the different parts of the public sector (councils, health services etc) as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors. The membership of the LSP is determined locally, but should involve all of these sectors.
4. The partners are expected to act strategically to deliver decisions and actions that join up their activities and services across a range of issues, enabling each of them to meet their own targets and goals, and effectively tackle cross cutting issues. The government sees LSPs as the main mechanism for co-ordinating the delivery of better services.
5. LSPs therefore provide a single co-ordinating framework to:
  - prepare and implement a Community Strategy aimed at improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area. The Local Government Act 2000 places a statutory duty on local authorities to produce these strategies

- bring together local plans, partnerships and initiatives so that mainstream public service providers (local authorities, the police, health services, central government agencies etc) work effectively together to meet local needs and priorities, improving linkages and simplifying arrangements, and where possible reduce their number.
  - in Neighbourhood Renewal areas, receive Neighbourhood Renewal Funds, develop and deliver a Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy to address key issues and narrow the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest and contribute to the national targets to tackle deprivation.
  - work with local authorities in developing Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs), Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF).
6. LSPs are also seen as being key to improving social cohesion by bringing together different communities in an area and improving their relationship with statutory authorities.
7. Since 2000, seven district-based Local Strategic Partnerships have been established across the county that are led by the relevant district or borough council:

Ashfield Partnership  
 Bassetlaw LSP  
 Broxtowe LSP  
 Gedling LSP  
 Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership  
 Newark & Sherwood LSP  
 Rushcliffe Partnership

### **County Council Engagement**

8. As a key service provider across the county, the County Council is recognised as an important partner both in terms of developing and influencing the partnerships, and in delivering services that meet the needs of local people and communities. Consequently, it has been invited to participate in all seven LSPs, including having representation on their executive groups.
9. The County Council has established organisational arrangements to ensure its effective engagement with the work of the district based LSPs and to further develop its local capacity to join up services both within the Council and with partners. These arrangements include cross party Member Forums, made up of all the County Councillors from that district. The Forums oversee the Council's involvement in the LSP, share information and consider our response to specific issues, receive and discuss information from service departments, receive specialist briefings and discuss key local issues.

10. The following nominations have been proposed by the Member Forums;

Ashfield	Cllr David Kirkham
Bassetlaw	Cllr Mick Storey
Broxtowe	Cllr Tom Pettengell
Gedling	Cllr John Stocks
Mansfield	Cllr John Carter
Newark and Sherwood	Cllr Keith Girling
Rushcliffe	Cllr Kay Cutts

11. The role of the nominated representatives is important in establishing effective links and a good working relationship between the County Council and the LSPs, and in reinforcing our reputation for partnership working. This is increasingly important in the run up to Local Area Agreements, and we will need to ensure that member representatives are well briefed, well supported and able to carry cross party messages. Consequently, the nominated representatives will meet regularly with the Portfolio holder for Community Safety and Partnerships to discuss the work and development of the LSPs, the effectiveness of the County Councils engagement, and address any issues that may arise.
12. The County Council's engagement with LSPs, including Member Forums and nominated Elected Members, is supported by an officer structure at both corporate and departmental level.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

### **Recommendation**

14. That consideration is given to Member nomination to each of the seven Local Strategic Partnerships.

**Mick Burrows,  
Director of Culture and Community**

### **Legal Services Comments**

The decision required is a matter that has been delegated to the Administration Committee by the Constitution. In making its decision, the Committee should take into account the provisions of "Policy Guidance for County Council Involvement in Partnerships and Outside Bodies" and "Code of Conduct for Representatives on Outside Bodies", both of which are in the Constitution (JA 30.09.05)

**Director of Resources' Financial Comments (CC/PB)**

The only costs associated with these proposals which are difficult to estimate will be for Members travel which will be funded from the Members travel and subsistence Budget.

**Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Nil

**Electoral Division(s) Affected**

All