

29 July 2004



Mr D. K. Morgan
 Head of Legal Services
 Leicestershire County Council
 County Hall
 Glenfield
 Leicester
 LE3 8RA



LEICESTER SHIRE
**economic
 partnership**

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Dear Mr Morgan

Scrutiny of Sub-Regional Strategic Partnerships

Thank you for your letter of 7 July asking for more information about the LSEP's response to economic issues in the rural areas.

You may be aware that the LSEP is now a member of the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and therefore is helping to develop and influence the Leicestershire Rural Strategy and its supporting rolling programme. The LSEP will continue to play an active role in the Partnership and will work closely with other organisations in the partnership and particularly the County Council in responding to rural economic needs.

Its response in tackling economic issues in rural areas will be guided by current priorities as set out in the LSEP's Economic Regeneration Strategy. These include-

- Working with other agencies to attract new job opportunities and income to the rural areas in response to the decline in agriculture and its supporting industries
- Contributing to the enhancement of the market towns and rural centres as commercial centres and providers of public services
- Tackling social exclusion in more deprived communities and providing practical support for local economic renewal
- Helping to build the capability of communities to become more self-sustaining
- Working through the LRP in promoting local access centres

Our 2004/05 programme reflects these priorities and about £1 ¼ m of LSEP's funds, approximately 17% of its budget, is being invested in projects specifically aimed at supporting rural communities, market towns and rural



employers. Current schemes include funding for refurbishment of redundant rural buildings, farmers business development grants, a rural visitor grant scheme, a town and village centre improvement package, support for capacity building in rural communities, a rural Heritage Economic Regeneration scheme, economic improvements in Agar Nook and a rural centres project. The LSEP is also working closely with the County Council in pursuing a market towns programme, developing a programme of support for access centres and part-funding improvements at Bosworth Battlefield Centre. Further details of all these schemes can be found on the LSEP website.

Finally the LSEP Board at its last meeting agreed to apply to become members of the Rural Charter for the East Midlands. Championed by the East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum the charter encourages organisations to commit themselves to putting rural thinking into the mainstream of planning and delivering their policies and activities.

I hope my response will give the Commission a better understanding of the practical support which the LSEP is giving to the county's rural areas.

If there is further information which the Commission needs on individual projects then I would be happy to provide this.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kishor Tailor', written in a cursive style.

Kishor Tailor
Chief Executive

cc: John Sinnott

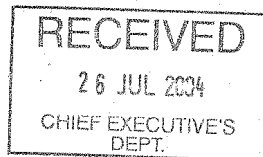


APPENDIX '4'

east midlands
development agency
the catalyst for change

23 July 2004

Mr D K Morgan
Head of Legal Services
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
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LE3 8RA



Dear Mr Morgan

Thank you for your letter of 7th July about the two Sub Regional Strategic Partnerships operating across the county.

You asked how we at *emda* deal with projects that affect Melton and Harborough, the districts in which both SSPs operate. Firstly I should point out that the onus is primarily on the SSPs themselves in the consideration of sub regional projects. They are best placed to determine what local action is appropriate and to ensure there is no duplication of effort. Given the delegated authority devolved to the partnerships to allow them approve funding decisions this is entirely a matter for them. This is also the same when dealing with competing bids. I understand the respective Executive Teams in the SSPs meet regularly to discuss common areas of interest which covers the funding of particular initiatives. This follows on from the involvement they each have with the preparation of an annual Business Plan setting out their priorities for the year. The SSPs have also agreed a basic protocol for the two districts whereby LSEP deal with large scale physical infrastructure projects, with the Welland picking up the community development and social infrastructure projects.

Your last point about a county wide initiative not receiving the support of both SSPs is rather more difficult to answer given the hypothetical nature of the question. It would very more depend on the reasons for any lack of support, and also whether a financial contribution was being sought. Again we would fully expect the SSPs to enter into a dialogue, with my team here at *emda* assisting in brokering a solution if required.

Generally speaking the nature of your questions is for the respective partnerships to deal with in the first instance. As you will be aware it is still early days for the SSPs. However, my team here at *emda* is working closely with all of the partnerships to support their ongoing development in an effort to ensure the potential problems highlighted in your letter do not arise.



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I hope this information is helpful to the County Council's Scrutiny Commission.

Yours sincerely



 Ian Lodder
Director of Partnerships
East Midlands Development Agency

Appendix 5



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Please ask for : Peter Gould
Tel : 01604 236050
Our Ref : L04/PG/DB-vk
Your Ref : DM/RD
Date : 10 August 2004

Mr D K Morgan
Head of Legal Services
Leicestershire County Council
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Dear Mr Morgan

SSPs - Welland Partnership

Thank you for your letter on the above subject of 7th July, 2004.

I met recently with Andrew Scarborough and Ray Edwards of East Midlands Development Agency (emda) on the overall matter of county council, emda and SSP relationships.

The inter-SSP issues with regard to the Welland Partnership that you mention in your letter were a part of our discussions and it may be useful to share our suggested approach to emda on this matter.

We do, of course, think it is important to have coherence and clarity on relationships, commitments and shared priorities.

Our suggestion to emda is that we need to structure these relationships, commitments and shared priorities (and the resources they govern) in a way that seeks to "design out" differences by way of an inter-SSP contractual arrangement that formalises key common objectives, seeks to secure a sensible funding formula towards their achievement and identifies ways of managing difference (including in such areas as tourism and marketing branding) and addressing any risks of duplication.

Our emda colleagues have taken this suggestion back to the agency for discussion and we intend to follow through in concert with the Northamptonshire Partnership to help ensure the present SSP/emda review exercise develops such solutions for the next phase of SSP activity.

As you are well aware, this need for clarity and structured partnership between the SSPs, and indeed between emda and the local authorities and other key interests, becomes ever

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more important as the RDA role in such as tourism and marketing, as well as the rural agenda, become more important to meeting our county council responsibilities and objectives.

I hope this brief sense of the approach being taken by Northamptonshire County Council is of some use in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gould', written in a cursive style.

Peter Gould
Chief Executive

cc: Andy Clarke - Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Partnership
Danny Brennan – Director for Sustainability, NCC

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