

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 14 DECEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER – ROLE AND OUTCOME OF PEER REVIEW

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Commission of the role, structure and membership of Leicestershire Together. The report also advises on the outcome of the recent Peer Challenge and the action plan being developed to implement the recommendations arising from the Peer Challenge. This report was requested by the Scrutiny Reference Group.

Leicestershire Together

2. Leicestershire Together is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the county of Leicestershire. Leicestershire Together was formed at the end of 2002 with the aim of improving the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in and visits the county.
3. The roles of the Partnership are to oversee the development, implementation and monitoring of the Leicestershire Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and the Neighbourhood Engagement Strategy for the County.

Vision

4. The members of Leicestershire Together are committed to developing:
 - A vibrant and thriving County in which to live, work and play
 - A County where all have access to quality services
 - A County which looks to the future by maximising opportunities for its young people
5. The members of the partnership have agreed a set of principles to guide their work. These principles are Partnership, Equality, Quality of Life, Community Involvement and Participation, Sustainability, Quality and Accountability.

Membership and Board Meetings

6. Leicestershire Together brings together a range of existing agencies and partnerships in a single body. It has 26 members representing different sectors including councils, health, police, business and community and voluntary organisations. It also includes representatives of each of the seven District Local Strategic Partnerships. The Leicestershire Together Board is chaired by the Leader of the County Council. Details of the current membership are shown at **Appendix 1**. All members have committed to keeping the membership of the Board as small as reasonably possible. The County Council therefore has only a single representative but other members of the County Council serve on the Board as representatives of particular bodies.
7. The Board meets on a quarterly basis and, after each meeting details of the issues considered are then summarised for all members of the County Council and circulated via the Members' Information Service.

Key Areas of Work

8. As part of the process of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Leicestershire Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement, the Board produces an Annual Review document to assess progress. In addition, the Board has commissioned work in a number of other areas. **Appendix 2** to the report is an extract from the Leicestershire Together website summarising some of these activities. Fuller details of the activities of the Board, including Board Papers can be found on the website <http://leicestershiretogether.org>

Peer Challenge Review

9. A Peer Challenge of Leicestershire Together took place on 30 and 31 March. A draft report was produced by the Challenge Team and the key findings, which were presented to the Board by the Peer Challenge Facilitator, Maggie Rust, are attached as **Appendix 3**.
10. In response to the Peer Challenge report a subgroup was established to develop a draft Action Plan. A workshop was also held at the Leicestershire Together Conference on 30 October on the outcome of the Peer Challenge with a particular focus on making Leicestershire Together a more inclusive partnership, and improving communicating with stakeholders and the public. A specific workshop was also held to explore how the Board could work with communities of interest and marginalised groups.

11. A draft Action Plan and revised Governance Chart are attached as **Appendices 4 and 5**. The Board approved the principle reflected in the Action Plan and Governance Chart with a view to putting in place final arrangements at its meeting in February, 2007 following further consideration by the subgroup.

Equal Opportunities Implications

12. In undertaking its work the Board agreed a set of principles, one of which is to promote equality.

Recommendation

13. The Commission is asked to note the contents of this report.

Background Papers

Peer Challenge Review Findings and Action Plan submitted to the Leicestershire Together Board

Website of the Leicestershire Together Board <http://leicestershiretogether/>

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