

## **SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2006**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT- SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENT AND UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to:-
  - outline the views of the Scrutiny Reference Group on proposed arrangements for scrutiny of the LAA;
  - update Members on the self assessment of performance for the first six months of the LAA.

### **Scrutiny of the LAA**

2. The Scrutiny Reference Group has considered a discussion paper from the Chief Executive on scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.
3. In considering the discussion paper the Reference Group also took into account a request from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council concerning the option of establishing a joint scrutiny body. The Reference Group decided inter-alia to recommend:
  - (a) That greater use be made of the Member Information Service to improve awareness of all members of the LAA.
  - (b) That a report be presented to the Scrutiny Commission on the structure, membership and work of Leicestershire Together (a separate report on this appears elsewhere on the agenda).
  - (c) That Option 2 of Appendix 1, i.e. allocating to scrutiny committees the main themes of the LAA, be adopted as the mechanism for scrutiny of the LAA, on the basis that the Scrutiny Commission will exercise an overview function in relation to the LAA.
  - (d) That the District councils be advised that there is no support for the establishment of a joint committee but that consideration will be given to:-

- Convening an annual meeting involving scrutiny representatives from all District Councils to be advised on progress in implementing the LAA; and/or
- Inviting District Council representatives to attend relevant scrutiny committees when performance against the LAA targets is considered. (District Councils be asked to come together and nominate up to 3 members to represent their interest).

### **LAA – Self Assessment on Performance**

4. Leicestershire Together was required to submit a self assessment on performance in the first six months of LAA. There was no proforma for this exercise and the attached self assessment (marked Appendix 2) responds instead to the Government Guidance on the LAA six monthly review.
5. Information has been gathered from LAA block oversight partnerships on progress in terms of delivery and outcomes. The overall picture is very positive. Of the 70 indicators that were measurable at this six monthly stage 56 are on target, 13 are rated as amber and only 1 red. In terms of roll-out of planned LAA delivery in relation to the indicators, the picture is equally as positive with green status for 98 out of the 114 indicators.
6. The self-assessment focuses attention on those areas where there is greater risk and the status of improvement activity.
7. Detailed indicator tables are also to be submitted to GOEM and although not appended they are available on request.
8. The draft self-assessment was discussed at a meeting involving GOEM and the Strategic Senior Officers' Group on 20 November. Arising from this meeting, GOEM will provide their own report to Central Government on progress in Leicestershire's LAA . This report is expected in late December and members will be advised further in due course.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

9. None specifically though the overall purpose of the LAA is to improve outcomes for all as well as focussing efforts on people families and areas that require greater support and interaction to bring them up to the County average.

### **Recommendations**

19, The Commission is recommended to:

- (a) note the progress on the LAA.
- (b) agree the proposals put forward by the Scrutiny Reference Group for scrutiny of the LAA.

### **Officers to contact**

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