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SCRUTINY COMMISSION **22ND OCTOBER 2008**

DRAFT LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MULTI-AREA AGREEMENT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the Scrutiny Commission's comments on the Draft Leicester and Leicestershire Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 28th October 2008.

Recommendation

2. That the Scrutiny Commission comments on the Draft Leicester and Leicestershire Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 28th October 2008.

Background

3. A Multi Area Agreement (MAA) fulfils a similar function to a Local Area Agreement (LAA) but covers a geographical area wider than a County or unitary authority. A MAA intends to change the way that local authorities and government agencies work together sub-regionally to deliver common outcomes. Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council, and their respective Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), have agreed to collaborate more closely at a sub-regional level, focused on the issues covered by the '4th theme' of the LAA (that is economic development, housing, transport, spatial planning and the environment).
- 3.1 Building on the work already undertaken in developing the City and County Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) and LAAs, partners agreed to develop an MAA that focuses on improving the sub-regional economy. The MAA will be a mechanism to deliver sub-regional priorities and to deliver efficiency savings across public agencies in Leicestershire. The MAA would be adapted to reflect wider priorities within Leicestershire and the future inclusion of housing and transport outcomes will be investigated further. An initial draft Leicester and Leicestershire MAA proposal was submitted to Government in March 2008 and a more detailed proposal was submitted on 19th September 2008 following extensive consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The Draft MAA is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

Next Steps

4. The MAA Partnership has received positive feedback on the draft MAA submission from the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) and GOEM and further detailed comments are expected from the individual Whitehall Departments. The MAA will be revised further ahead of detailed negotiations with Government in late October 2008. The final MAA will be submitted to Government for Ministerial sign-off in November 2008.

Equalities Implications

5. The MAA Partnership will undertake a comprehensive and robust Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of all our functions, policies, procedures and practices that have an impact on equality and diversity and take action to prevent direct and indirect discrimination and promote equality.

Background Papers

6. None

List of Appendices

7. Appendix 1, Draft Leicester and Leicestershire Multi-Area Agreement 2009-2020.

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