

## Leicester Partnership News January/February 2009



Some members of the Leicester Partnership

**Welcome to [the January/February 2009](#) issue of Leicester Partnership News. This newsletter is for everyone, in every sector, who works in organisations and partnerships in Leicester to improve the city, its services and the quality of life for people who live here.**

If you know anyone who you think would like a copy, please pass it on. And if you would like to be put on the mailing list for future issues get in touch – our contact details are at the end of the briefing.

We are interested in your news and views too – so do contact us if you have questions, comments or information to share. Tell us if this information is useful – or if there is anything else that you think it would be helpful to include in future. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Multi Area Agreement for Leicester and Leicestershire



Signing the MAA 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Leicester and Leicestershire, along with a number of other areas of the country – will be given more local autonomy to deliver economic resilience and growth following the signing of a new agreement – the Multi Area Agreement - by the Prime Minister and David Parsons – the leader of Leicestershire County Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January.

Local economies stretch across the whole sub region with many people living and working in different places and commuting across council boundaries. This means that local government economic strategies must work across council boundaries too.

The Multi Area Agreement covers employment, skills, transport, regeneration, housing and planning.

The Leicester and Leicestershire MAA includes a 'train to retain' plan that will allow us to increase skill retention and subsequently our long term economic clout. New arrangements with the Universities of Leicester, Loughborough and De Montfort will allow local adult learners to 'step on, step off' university classes without registering for full time degrees. And new powers will allow councils to reduce financial burdens for those coming off welfare and entering work by giving people job grants to cover costs till the first month's pay check comes in.

You can download the Leicester and Leicestershire MAA by clicking on – <http://www.llclp.org.uk/cms/uploads/MAA%20Final%20Draft.pdf>

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## Changing Perceptions of teenagers – the role of the Leicester media

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008 the Leicester Partnership held a 'Making it Real' event for a wide range of people working with young people in Leicester. The event sought input from a wide range of people to help the city plan to meet targets around reducing teenage pregnancy, getting more 16-19 year olds into education employment or training, and reducing anti social behaviour.

At the event – one of the strong messages to come through was the need for a transformation in perceptions of young people, and a change in how young people are portrayed in the media. As a result Sheila Lock, Leicester City Council's Chief Executive wrote to all local media to ask them to rally round to do their bit to challenge negative perceptions and to include young people's voices in the media as well.

Sheila's letter has met with a very encouraging response from the city's two key providers of local media – the Leicester Mercury and BBC Radio Leicester.

Nick Carter, editor of the Leicester Mercury said in his response -

*...I am acutely conscious of the need to engage more with young people and agree that the Leicester Mercury has a role to play ...*

He urged all of us to provide the paper with examples of young people being active and getting involved, and he drew attention to the work the paper is already doing to work with the youth council and with New College to showcase some of their views in the First Person column.

Kate Squires, Managing Editor of BBC Radio Leicester, said in her response that they agree it is really important to promote positive images of young people, and cited the work of the BBC's School initiative which last year worked with Babington College.

We can all do our part to help the Mercury and the BBC to fight negative perceptions of the young. So if you are involved with young people who are making a positive and active contribution to the community, or if you have any stories of achievement by young people, why not spread the word and get in touch with local media?

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## Round up of decisions from the Leicester Partnership Executive meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

The items on the agenda for the Leicester Partnership Executive on the 28<sup>th</sup> January were –

- **Comprehensive Area Assessment** A new Government assessment of organisations such as the council starts this year, and for the first time the approach is to start with an overall assessment of the city itself before looking at each of the main public sector organisations that have key role to play. It's a joint inspection – so a number of separate inspectorates have joined together to do the work. In preparation, the Leicester Partnership – together with the key organisations that will be inspected, will do a self evaluation to prepare evidence for the inspection in advance. At the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the LP Executive agreed to the arrangements for managing this work.

There will be lots more information in the near future about the CAA, what it's about and what we are doing to prepare.

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- **Delivering Excellence** The Executive received a further draft of a report on one of the aspects of the council's Delivering Excellence Programme – improving partnership working. The report covers proposals for a new structure for the partnership, recommendations about leadership, and a new approach to how the partnership is supported.
- **Accessible written information** The Executive agreed to adopt a set of standards for making written information more accessible, and there will be further work on making information more accessible for groups such as deaf people in future as well.
- **Leicester City Council's Finance Strategy 2009-10 to 2011-12** Mark Noble, the council's Chief Finance officer, presented the council's consultation draft revenue budget. The budget is set within a three year financial strategy to support the delivery of the 'One Leicester' vision. Finances are tight next year, but the council is proposing to invest more in a number of key areas such as adult care, youth work and improving schools and colleges, amongst others. This investment will be backed up by a proposed council tax increase of 4.9% - which is below the national average.
- **Local Area Agreement Annual Refresh** A paper on the timetable for making decisions about the LAA annual refresh was agreed. The annual refresh is our opportunity to make any revisions to the LAA as a result of new data



coming in that may affect our targets, and it's a chance to review the likely effect of new circumstances on our performance, such as the downturn in the housing market and the wider economic downturn.

- **Area Based Grant and Working Neighbourhoods Fund** Finally the meeting discussed the current spending position on the Area Based Grant and Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

To download the papers for the Leicester Partnership go to –

<http://www.oneleicester.com/leicester-partnership/past-minutes-and-papers/lp-executive-28th-january-2009>

## Putting Leicester on the equality map

The National Equality Partnership is a three-year project (2008-2011) funded by Capacitybuilders under the Improving Reach programme to develop the third sector infrastructure organisations through amongst other things, championing and addressing equality, diversity and human rights.

Leicester has had an Equality and Diversity Partnership (EDP) since 2001 which champions equality and human rights issues, chaired by Dee Martin. Dee, who is the Chief Executive of Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL), has been secured as the national disability representative on the steering group of the National Equality Partnership.

This has led to meetings now being held in other places than London, the first having taken place in Leicester. In addition – the National Equality Partnership decided it wanted to hear more from organisations of and for disabled people, so Dee was commissioned last August to hold a national event and obviously, this took place in Leicester.

At the moment, the East Midlands is the only English region which does not have a regional equality forum. But with the work of EDP and its partners (Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living; The Race Equality Centre, Leicester Council of Faiths, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Centre and LeicestHERday Trust, Help the Aged) being increasingly recognised nationally, this could change. In fact EDP has recently secured a contract with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to undertake work regionally.

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## About the Leicester Partnership

Leicester Partnership is Leicester's 'local strategic partnership'. It has about 50 members drawn from the public, voluntary and community, and private sectors of the city. Our job is to bring these sectors together to drive forward a single vision and strategy for the city, and ensure that different services, programmes and initiatives work together effectively.

The Partnership provides the single over-arching local coordination framework within which other partnerships and organisations can operate.

We have two main responsibilities –

- To develop and deliver the 25 year One Leicester strategy; and
- To deliver the targets in Leicester's Local Area Agreement 2008-11

## Contact the Leicester Partnership Team

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