

## **Progress through Partnership funding**

### **Background**

Progress through Partnership is a South East initiative providing support and funding for capacity building activities for LSPs in the region.

In 2007 each South East LSP was awarded £6,000 in credits for capacity building activities following a self assessment.

The six LSPs in Oxfordshire agreed to pool £4,000 of their allocation to use collectively. This funding was used for the conference in February 'Partnerships in Oxfordshire – Looking to the future'. The conference was very successful; it brought together partners from all LSPs to discuss common issues and look at the future for partnerships in the area. An independently produced report from the conference sets out a number of points for further discussion or action by partnerships.

### **Conference report 'Flying in Formation'**

The LSP officers group has started to discuss the suggestions from the report and consider areas for further development to improve partnership working in the county. These will also be discussed with LSP chairmen.

Next steps for discussion in the report include

- A joint programme of development activities - this is supported in general and steps are being made for LSPs to work together more.
- Membership needs to be up to date and roles and expectations clarified. These are issues will be covered in the current review of partnerships
- Whether a learning partnership is needed and sustainable – an inaugural meeting of key partners in this area is meeting on 23 June.
- Consideration of ways to increase and enhance engagement with Parish and Town Councils
- Jointly commissioning a Local Strategic Partnership communications plan – LSPs are considering joining together with the Oxfordshire Partnership quarterly bulletin to produce a partnerships in Oxfordshire newsletter.
- Local Authorities – consider Overview &Scrutiny of, and with, partnerships. See plans for county council work with councillors below.

Any further feedback/suggestions from partners on the next steps in the 'Flying in Formation' report is welcomed and will be fed into further discussions between LSPs officers.

### **Remaining Oxfordshire pooled funding**

LSP chairmen agreed that the remaining pooled funding should also be used collectively and that the priorities for this should be to support officer's skills and development of the place shaping role for LSPs.

## **Oxfordshire Partnership meeting 23 June 2008**

We are holding two training days in July to develop facilitation skills for officers who support partnerships in the county.

Oxfordshire has been successful in its bid to act as a pilot area for the ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) database on community led planning. PtP funding will be used to support the pilot and ensure that the needs of Oxfordshire (rural and urban) are fully met by the pilot.

### **Oxfordshire Partnership funding**

The allocation of funding for the Oxfordshire Partnership will be used to support work to develop elected members engagement and involvement in partnerships. An event will be held in September for county council members to raise understanding of the Oxfordshire Partnership, explore their role in this framework and consider how the scrutiny role can be developed.

### **Future of Progress through Partnership**

PtP is funded through the South East regional improvement and efficiency partnership. Initially the programme was set up for one year but has been successful in bidding to continue for a further three years. Details of support and funding available to partnerships have not been announced.

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