

Oxfordshire Partnership 23rd October 2007

South East Employers: Funding for LSP Capacity Building

Background:

South East Employers (SEE) believe that LSPs are becoming increasingly important, being seen more and more as the overarching partnership for an area. The LSP is responsible for developing a vision and then coordinating activity to deliver on this vision in order to provide for the needs of their residents and to ensure that the communities they serve are sustainable in the longer term. SEE have commissioned a programme called 'Progress through Partnerships' (PtP) to help build the capacity of LSPs in the South East Region to fulfil this role. The PtP will be delivered in two ways:

- A centralised learning approach, offering free events and other support to LSPs across the region
- Bespoke learning which individual LSPs can access via a credit system to provide support tailored to their individual needs.

All of the LSPs completed a detailed questionnaire and the LSPs across Oxfordshire identified 3 priority outcomes to be addressed through joint working over the next 12 months:

- Increased joined up working between LSPs in the Oxfordshire area, with a particular focus on developing clearer governance structures
- Understanding and strengthening the links between spatial and community planning
- Development of a more effective and constructive performance management culture, including capacity building of members.

The Partnership has access to £6000 worth of credit, and all districts and the County have agreed to pool £4000. We had to confirm how this grant was used by the 26th September, which the Chairman, Cllr Keith Mitchell, has agreed.

Joint day: In order to make the best use of the joint fund we have agreed to hold a day-long seminar for all six LSPs. There will be presentations and workshops which will examine areas such as governance, effective working, joint LSP working and other topics that people might wish to cover. It is proposed that this seminar takes place in the New Year at somewhere like the Kassam Stadium. An action plan will emerge from the conference which will be the key document describing how the LSPs in Oxfordshire need to move forward and meet the challenging agendas of joint governance/community/spatial planning and meaningful performance management.

Individual grant: with our remaining £2000k the 3 main priority outcomes to be addressed are:

- a) Specific training for partnership members (within the Oxfordshire Partnership and Public Service Board) around the following: how members can challenge poor performance, how do we measure the impact of the partnership, what are the challenges and constraints faced by all sectors in the partnership.
- b) Working in a 3-tier area – what does it mean/how do we work effectively together?
- c) The role of elected members – the role of scrutiny

Further information will follow as we develop the programme with PTP.

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