



Sustainable Community Strategy & Local Area Agreement 2

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Sustainable Community Strategy & LAA2 Briefings

Briefings on the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the new Local Area Agreement (LAA2) for elected members, members of the partnership and staff will take place during October at County Hall.

Elected members (district & county):	October 17 th – 12:00 to 13:30
Oxfordshire Partnership (all welcome):	October 19 th – 12:30 to 14:00
Oxfordshire County Council staff:	October 10 th – 12:00 to 13:30

SCS & LAA2 updates have been on the agendas at recent District Local Strategic Partnership and other Oxfordshire Partnership group meetings. Members of the Partnerships Unit are happy to provide further updates to any staff, management, elected member group or partnership meeting.

To book a place on any of the above dates, or to arrange a briefing for your organisation, please email oxfordshirepartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk, or phone 01865 816029.

Developing the Sustainable Community Strategy

The strategy is being developed through a number of phases:

Stage 1: Discussion of long term trends affecting Oxfordshire

The Partnership published a discussion document 'Oxfordshire Futures' which described some of the important social, economic and environmental trends affecting the future of the county. Organisations from the Partnership were invited to workshops held in July which debated the implications of these trends and the important issues that the strategy needs to address.

Stage 2: Development of theme papers

Individual partnership groups and organisations have produced a series of 12 thematic briefing papers covering subjects such as community life, community safety and the economy.

Stage 3: Review of draft issues and options

The issues and options from the July workshops and the theme papers were reviewed in 2 workshops held in September, one for Oxfordshire Partnership and district LSPs, and one for Cllrs at County, District and Parish level.

Please look at our website for further information www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

Next steps:

We are bringing together a small working group (including district councils) to draw together the data/evidence and the results of the workshops in a first draft of the strategy. This will then be discussed by the Oxfordshire Partnership when it meets on the 23rd October. Re-drafting will be done through November and the revised draft will go to the Oxfordshire Partnership for agreement in December. It will then go out for public consultation in January and February. The final version will be adopted by the Oxfordshire partnership in April.

New Local Area Agreement guidance from Department of Communities & Local Government

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has just published the first phase of its guidance on developing the new Local Area Agreements “*Negotiating New Local Area Agreements*” and the report on the pilot LAA programme “*LAA Dry-run negotiations*”.

What’s new?

There are some new pieces of information:

- There will be 17 statutory education and early years targets rather than the 18 originally planned.
- LAAs will have “up to 35 targets” – examples of pilot authorities with only 14 and 20 targets are included in the guidance.
- The themed areas have been amended to include environmental concerns and are now: Children & Young People, Safer & Stronger Communities, Healthier Communities & Older People, Economic Development & the Environment. (These themes are for guidance only; no specific funding will be attached to them.)
- A timetable for the publication of additional guidance and information on the new Local Agreement (LAA2), the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs).

What’s important when developing LAA2?

The guidance strongly reinforces some key messages:

- A Sustainable Community Strategy needs to be rooted in evidence and analysis that tells the ‘story of the place’.

- The alignment of views in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and strong partner relationships are the starting point for negotiating LAA2.
- District Councils, partners and thematic partnerships will have a crucial role in developing the knowledge of their area and setting out local ambitions.
- Involvement of the community and voluntary sector is critical to the success of LAAs and the partnerships that develop and deliver them.
- Political vision and ambition, information from community engagement, consultation, and more anecdotal information is equally important

What does the pilot work tell us?

Both sets of guidance include examples of how the pilot areas have addressed the issues that face everyone developing a new LAA. The examples reflect a range of partner perspectives and cover the challenges of how to identify local priorities as well as how to turn these priorities into actions.

On a very positive note, the activities that we have been engaged in within the Oxfordshire Partnership to develop our SCS, are the same sort of activities that are included as good practice in the guidance.

Key Dates

- End Oct: Government announces the full range of funding streams to be pooled as part of Comprehensive Spending Review 07.
- Early Dec: Draft Sustainable Community Strategy to Oxfordshire Partnership for approval.
- Jan - Feb: Public Consultation on Draft Sustainable Community Strategy
- Mid Feb: Detailed work to create final draft of LAA2; including discussions with Government Office for the South East.
- Early Mar: Final draft of SCS & LAA2 to Oxfordshire Partnership meeting for agreement.
- End Mar: Agreed final draft of LAA2 submitted to central government.

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www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk