

*In*Brief is compiled by the Worcestershire Partnership and aims to keep all interested parties informed of decisions taken by the Worcestershire Partnership Board and Management Group, and of progress with Worcestershire's Local Area Agreement. To contribute to this briefing or to be added or removed from the mailing list, please email lmarchant@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Local Area Agreement

New thinking on LAAs contained within the Local Government Bill makes it clear that:

- In future LAAs will take on a statutory basis and will carry more weight. There will be a duty placed on named partners to cooperate to deliver relevant targets set out in the LAA.
- LAAs will form the main delivery contract between central government and local government and its partners.
- LAAs will be the delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy focused on a relatively small number of priorities for improvement.
- There will be up to 35 priorities for each area agreed with central government, tailored to local needs through the LAA, plus 18 DfES statutory attainment and childcare targets. These will be agreed from a single set of about 200 outcome-based indicators covering important national priorities. The detailed list of national indicators should be announced at the time of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.
- There will be a radical simplification of the performance framework for those outcomes secured by local authorities working on their own or in partnership.
- There will be an increase in pooled funding and a move to single pot status for all.
- Elected Local Authority leaders will play a key role on Worcestershire Partnership, with the opportunity to agree the chair of the Partnership.

Read a [full summary](#) of the - Local Government Bill and its Implications for Local Area Agreements (LAAs)

Other LAA news:

- The LAA will be an important part of the new comprehensive area assessment (CAA) inspection process that will come into effect from 2009.
- The Worcestershire Partnership has submitted its annual [self assessment](#) and has received feedback from Government Office. There will not be a mid-year review later

this year so that additional time is available for the full negotiation of priorities after the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement this autumn.

- An updated version of the [LAA Short Guide for 2007](#) is now available online. The revised guide is a handy quick reference to the key changes that have taken place following the refresh.
- A successful conference to begin work on the Year 2 child and pensioner poverty outcome was held on 29 June in Redditch. As a result of the conference a theme group is to be formed to lead on this outcome.
- A new policy officer has started work with the Worcestershire Partnership team, with responsibility for coordinating Block F (Stronger Communities) of the LAA and the review of Worcestershire's Community Strategy. [Email Jennifer Springer](#) or call her on (01905) 728745.



[Click here](#) to visit the Worcestershire Partnership's LAA webpage for more information

Decisions

Board – 10 July 2007

- Welcomed Mike Ashton, Chief Executive of the Chamber of Commerce, who replaces Christine Jones on the Board
- Welcomed Elizabeth Charlton, Deputy Director (Economy & Europe Directorate) of Government Office who replaces Sue Todd on the Board
- Welcomed Serena Croad, new Leader of Malvern Hills District Council and Paul Middleborough, new Leader of Wychavon District Council
- Heard a first report from the Olympics Coordinator outlining potential areas of opportunity, including tourism, business, sport, culture, volunteering and increased physical activity
- Welcomed the appointment of the new Policy Officer for the Worcestershire Partnership team
- Heard a summary from the Management Group on progress with Block B (A better environment for today and tomorrow) and Block E (Meeting the needs of children and young people) of the LAA
- Heard a report on the LSP/LAA Development Programme, including the proposal to undertake a study into more coordinated partnership support across the county
- Heard an update on the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy with notification that a first draft will be presented at the Worcestershire Assembly on 22 November
- Received an update on the regional research study into the economic impact of migrant workers in the West Midlands



[Click here](#) to view full reports from this and previous Board meetings

Other News

- ❖ The Worcestershire Partnership website has expanded. A FREE [grantfinder](#) service is now available, along with general funding advice. You can also find out more about the Partnership's work on realising the benefits of the [2012 Olympics](#) for Worcestershire.

Visit our discussion [forum and calendar](#) for details of forthcoming meeting and events