

Derbyshire

An **excellent** model of
partnership working

A case study

Foreword

Derbyshire county, district and borough councils welcome the opportunity to present this case study of partnership working within the county.

The study covers the journey local government and its partner organisations in Derbyshire have taken over the last few years to deliver seamless, responsive, effective and efficient services.

At the heart of the programme is the Derbyshire Partnership Forum - our 'partnership of partnerships' - which, based on a relationship of openness and trust, is the driving force across the county.

Numerous joint initiatives are highlighted in the study but, within the space available, it is impossible to cover everything the Partnership Forum has achieved.

However, it is acknowledged by all the partners that we are only part way along the road and that there is still a great deal more we can do together to improve the lives of local people.

This is the Partnership Forum story to date which has the wholehearted backing of all the councils and partner organisations.

We hope you enjoy reading it and that we can count on your on-going support to help us deliver local priorities within the new national agendas.



Leader, Derbyshire County Council



Leader, Amber Valley Borough Council



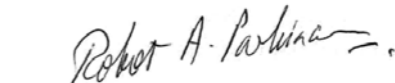
Leader, Bolsover District Council



Leader, Chesterfield Borough Council



Leader, Derbyshire Dales District Council



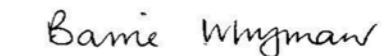
Leader, Erewash Borough Council



Leader, High Peak Borough Council



Leader, North East Derbyshire District Council



Leader, South Derbyshire District Council

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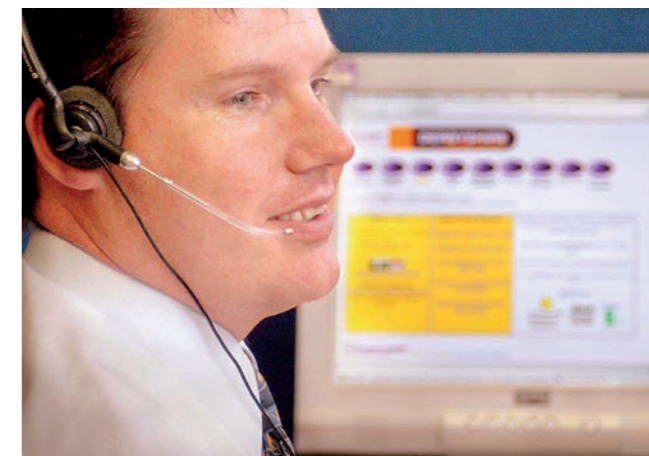
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Executive Summary

Derbyshire Partnership Forum's 'exemplary' partnership structures and working relationships:

- Are the foundation for the county's extremely successful **Public Service Agreements 1 and 2 and the pilot Local Area Agreement** (pages 9/10)
- Offer **very effective individual and neighbourhood engagement** in a way that relates to people's community affinity and in a form that can be realistically resourced and managed (pages 12/13)
- Provide **seamless access to services** to minimise confusion over who is responsible for service provision and improve convenience for local people (pages 14/15)
- Harness partner agency support and resourcing to **provide jointly an extensive range of effective services tailored to local needs** (pages 15/16/17)
- Are joining up front and back office systems to **help secure Gershon efficiency savings** (pages 18/19)
- Perform extremely well for local people helping deliver **some of the best services in the country for a low average council tax** (page 20)
- Are well placed to **deliver the new national agendas** from children and older people to tackling crime and reorganising health (pages 21/22)
- Provide the opportunity to **continue to enhance the operation of the two-tier local government structure in the county** (page 23)
- Avoid the need for **costly and disruptive structural reorganisation** which would be a major distraction from service and performance improvement (page 24)
- Drew the recent Government Office comment that "Derbyshire **provides an exemplar for partnership working in a two tier area.** They have used the opportunity provided by the LAA and in particular its **governance arrangements to really integrate the County and Districts**".



Derbyshire



Derbyshire covers an area of 255,000 hectares of central England and has a population of around 750,000, of which 99,500 live in the main urban centre of Chesterfield. Each of the other eight main towns have populations of over 20,000 whilst a significant proportion of local people also live in the sparsely populated rural areas.

The county is an area of great topographical, social and economic contrasts which present a range of different pressures for the provision and improvement of local services.

- The size of the county gives rise to service delivery challenges, particularly ensuring consistency of service delivery over a wide and diverse area.

- The problems and issues still facing people in the former coal mining and textile areas of the north-east, north-west and south-east contrast with those in the more isolated rural areas in the south and west. 18 local wards are in the 25% most deprived wards in the country.
- The county's industrial structure is markedly different from the national pattern. Manufacturing still accounts for nearly a third of employment while banking, finance and other service industries are under represented. This type of economic structure, along with a history of economic decline in traditional industries, places increased pressures on regeneration activity.

- This structure and history helps account for the county's unemployment situation. At a county level the rate of 2.2% is lower than the national average of 2.5%. However, at the district level Chesterfield (3.4%) and Bolsover (2.9%) exceed the national average.
- At the very local level nearly 30% (53) of the county's 179 wards are rated above the national unemployment average. The unemployment figures also mask the high level of people on incapacity benefits which, in some areas, is 25% above the national average. All this impacts on a number of services including social care and health, housing, community safety, benefits advice and education.
- The sparsely populated areas in the county, which account for a significant 16% of the population, create a range of service access challenges for social care, education, housing, refuse collection and libraries as well as other services. Almost 24% of the county's area is also over 300 metres above sea level which compounds service delivery problems.
- The county's central position in relation to the population of England is reflected in the fact that roughly one in six people (8.4 million) live within 30 kilometres of its boundary. The urban conurbations of Manchester, Sheffield and Nottingham account for a significant proportion of this. Visitors to the county for work and leisure impact, for instance, on road maintenance, safety and congestion, public transport, culture and tourism provision.
- Service providers also need to deal with the demands from a growing population, particularly in South Derbyshire, with an overall increase of around 64,600 or 11.5% expected over the next 25 years.
- A large part of the population is already made up of pensioners at 17% of the total compared to 16% for England as a whole. This demographic pressure has implications for many public services.
- Ethnic minority groups represent around 1% of the county's population. The Indian population is the largest of the three main groups. This relatively small, often geographically isolated population requires a targeted approach to service delivery.



Running the county

Derbyshire's administration is based on a two-tier local government structure, outside the city of Derby, and comprises:

Local Authorities:

- Derbyshire County Council
- Derby City Council (Unitary Council)
- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council.

All of local government works well with the Derbyshire Constabulary and through the eight district based Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

Effective relationships also exist with the eight Primary Care Trusts which are likely to be amalgamated into one or two trusts coterminous with the county and city boundaries.

A total of over 300 town and parish councils, mainly representing the county's rural areas, underpin this administration at the very local level as does a plethora of service partnerships, networks and community forums.



The range of councillors at county, district and parish level ensure easy access for local people, clear levels of responsibility, a good level of representation and political diversity and choice.

Derbyshire's partnership working

The complexity of problems and issues facing local people requires an effective partnership response and to deliver this an effective partnership structure is required.

Derbyshire has a growing local, regional and national reputation for effective partnership arrangements at the centre of which is the strong working relationship between the district councils and the county council.

This partnership model provides the best deal for local people with a jointly shared vision and effective locally based services.

There are a whole host of examples of effective working which are coordinated through the Derbyshire Partnership Forum - the countywide Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - in collaboration with the district based LSPs.

The Partnership Forum was established in 2000 and since then it has been the driving force behind successful multi-agency working on a variety of significant and complex joint activities including, for example:

- Development and ongoing implementation of the county-wide Community Strategy 2003-6
- Delivery of Derbyshire's first Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA1)
- Formulation of LPSA2
- Establishment of a county-wide Implementing Electronic Government Board

- Operation of a Safer Derbyshire Team.

The Partnership Forum members' energy and commitment to effective partnership working coupled with a strong track record of joined-up service delivery was key to Derbyshire being selected as a Local Area Agreement (LAA) Pilot.

The Partnership Forum has a broad membership that includes:

- Derbyshire County Council
- Derby City Council
- District and Borough Councils
- District based LSPs in the county
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Primary Care Trusts
- Derby University
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
- and a wide range of representatives from the voluntary, faith and community sectors.

Representatives from the Derbyshire Older People's Advisory Group have recently joined the Partnership Forum and representatives from the Derbyshire Youth Forum and other residents groups are currently being invited to join. The private sector is represented by the Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce and a number of businesses are engaged via the district LSPs.

A full membership list is attached as an appendix to the study.

The Partnership Forum has developed information sharing protocols, adopted by all partner agencies, to break down barriers to effective working and to share information to help provide seamless services for local people.

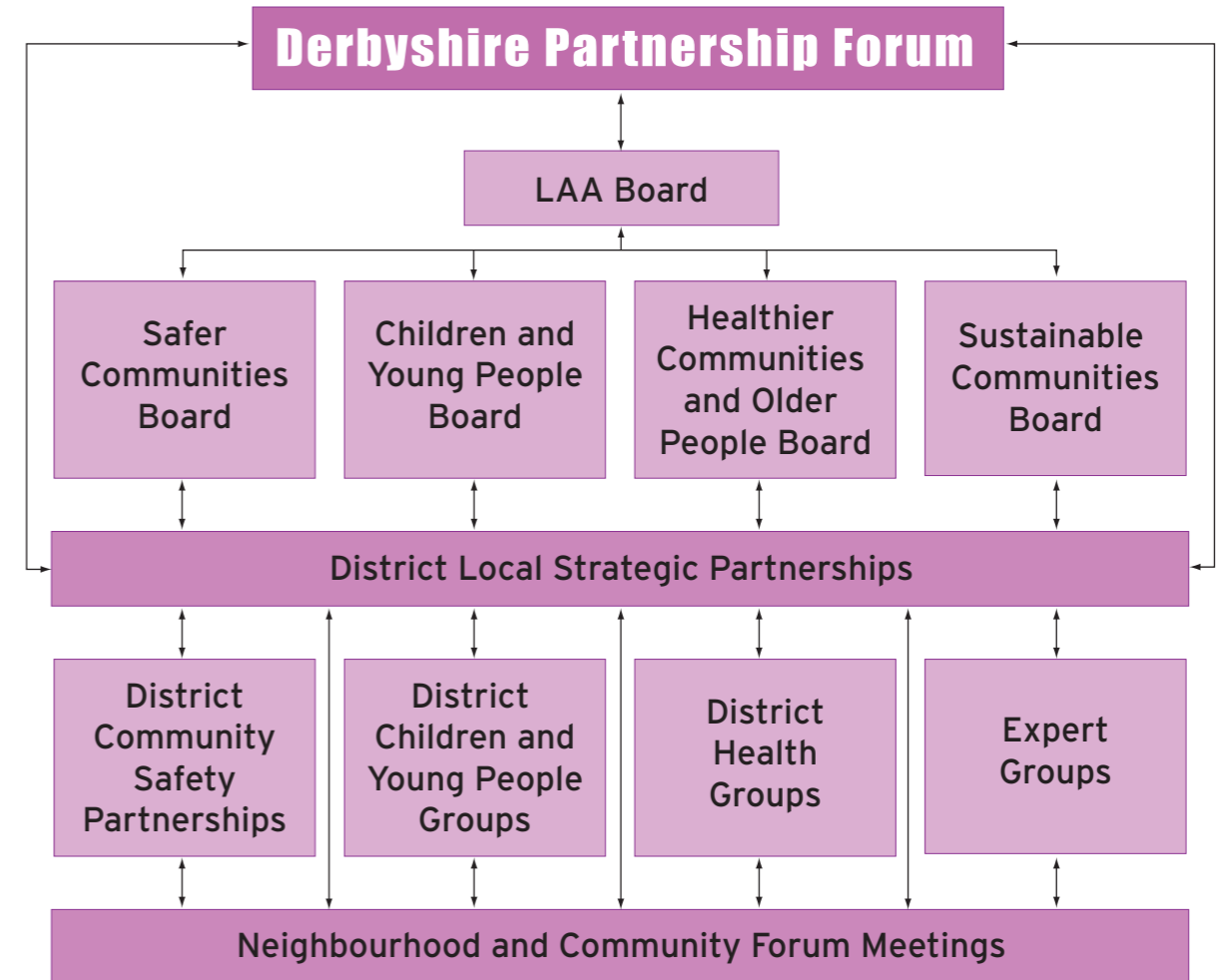
The government's expectations for the role of LSPs in two-tier areas (as set out in the 'LSP: Shaping their Future' consultation paper), build on the arrangements currently in place in Derbyshire, where the county and the district councils have enjoyed a good working relationship for many years.

The selection of Derbyshire as a pilot in the first round of Local Area Agreements (LAA) has further strengthened these relationships. The LAA Board acts as the executive arm of the Partnership Forum and, through the four 'Block' boards, services are commissioned from individual service providers or partnerships at the county, district or community levels.

Such partnerships include, for instance, the county Children and Young People's Partnership supported by the district based Local Implementation Groups. A similar example can be seen in the county Community Safety Partnership and the district Crime and Disorder Reduction partnerships.

Greater synergy between county and district community strategies and strong ownership of the LAA has been achieved by:

- Using the LAA Block themes as the framework for the development and delivery of the community strategies
- Aligning community strategy timetables to enable local priorities to influence the county community strategy and vice versa
- Co-ordinating community consultation and research findings, reducing duplication and enhancing the needs of local people
- District LSPs being included in the drawing up of the LAA and county community strategy through their membership of the Derbyshire Partnership forum
- The county council having senior Cabinet Member and policy officer representation on the district LSPs
- LAA Board chairs being drawn from a range of Partnership Forum organisations and the Boards' composition reflecting the breadth of the Forum's membership
- A common performance management system, accessible to all partner organisations, being used to manage community strategy, PSAll and LAA performance.



Derbyshire's public service vision

The Partnership Forum has a 10 year vision for service delivery in the county which it agreed in 2003.

The vision now sees:

- The Local Area Agreement with its joint LAA Board and four theme boards, together with the LSP county/district structure being the driver for improved service delivery
- The delivery of **public engagement** at individual and neighbourhood levels to ensure services are responsive to needs and people are involved in the improvement of their communities
- The provision of **seamless access** to public services utilising call centre, web-site and Customer Relationship Management capability at a county-wide level complemented by community access points mainly operated by district councils
- The delivery of **effective services** with the County Council responsible for the planning and delivery of strategic services linking with other service providers, particularly Health and Police
- The District and Borough Councils responsible for community engagement and the co-ordination of community based services
- The delivery of **efficient services** through an ambitious efficiency programme sharing

and joining-up the major front and back office services.

For each of these elements the following sets out the substantial progress already made by the Partnership Forum and the shared developments currently in the pipeline:

Public engagement

The Partnership Forum delivers a comprehensive Engagement Programme to help tailor services to meet the real needs of local people.

The Derbyshire Community Engagement Group, comprising representatives from partner organisations, plan and co-ordinate the consultation to maximise response, make the most of the available resources and minimise consultation fatigue.

At the heart of this joint programme is the shared Citizen's Panel of 8000 local residents who respond to questionnaires on a quarterly basis.

The county, district and borough councils also combine to implement the BVPI general user satisfaction survey and some of the district authorities have also joined in the county council's MORI tracking survey.

Other partnership engagement activities have, for instance, included service priority/council tax consultation workshops that have been run on a neighbourhood basis.



The development of neighbourhood engagement is the latest partnership initiative with the county council joining with the district councils where community forums already exist or in the joint development of new forums.

The community forums are based on townships, which are local people's 'centres' of community affinity and, following the current mapping exercise, will reflect the operational basis for neighbourhood policing, extended schools, childrens centres, GP clusters and other community services.

The local district councils usually run the forums but with high level involvement from the county council, police, PCT, and other service providers. There are typically 4/5 forums within each district council area each covering a population of 10-15,000.

They meet on a 2/3 month cycle and are public forums for members of the public, representatives of local interest groups and businesses, parish and town councillors and local district and county councillors.

The forums attract substantial public attendance and are an extremely good engagement mechanism, particularly where the meetings are themed in response to the needs expressed by local people.

Some of the recent themes have included anti-social behaviour, provision for young people, parking and traffic congestion, 4x4s on green lanes and council tax.

The forums are in different stages of development but in some areas they are well established, have co-opted members with delegated powers and budgets and the community run local projects.

The next stage in forum development, which is already happening in some areas, is the drawing together of local democratically elected representatives, representatives of local community organisations and service delivery professionals, to form Neighbourhood Boards to enhance community governance.

Through this engagement, the needs and priorities of local people and organisations are increasingly being used to inform service delivery at the neighbourhood level, feed priorities up to the district based LSPs and LAA Boards and overall to influence the Partnership Forum.

Seamless access

The Partnership Forum has an agreed Access to Services programme which was developed from the county council's involvement in the CPA Excellent Authorities Innovation Forum and a comprehensive Access to Services review undertaken by consultants.

The aims of the review were to:

- Respond to changing customer expectations and requirements
- Develop and improve customer contact with measurable outcomes, indicators and targets
- Improve the experience of residents dissatisfied with their contacting experience
- Exploit the joint working opportunities that exist between local public sector organisations in Derbyshire
- Maximise benefit from the considerable investments, infrastructure and projects already in place
- Respond to the national agenda, including the emphasis in the CPA Harder Test on customer contact experience.

The review concentrated on access to county council services, but district and borough councils and other partner organisations were involved and it has helped create a blue-print for future access improvements across the county.

The main elements of the agreed action plan include:

- Utilising the Derbyshire IEG Partnership's A-Z of services, electronic forms, CRM, GIS, e-tendering and e-payment systems as the foundation for other elements of the programme
- Developing the shared use of call centre facilities as the initial point of contact for council and other public services, perhaps embracing the Single Non-Emergency Number, to grow the resolution rate for all enquiries at the point of contact

The county council's 'Call Derbyshire' call centre provides 24/7 access to specific services to which a number of district councils already link out of hours coverage

- Expanding the councils' deep-linked web-sites to increase the range and depth of services available on-line and grow the number of transactional services that are available
- Creating a network of 'face to face' service access points that are CRM facilitated and located in district council front offices, libraries and other locations convenient for local people

Town centre joint facilities are, for instance, being developed in Buxton, Chesterfield and Glossop as well as in an extended school in Alfreton, children's centre in North Wingfield and an adult education centre in Clay Cross

- Developing a network of Joint Service Centres which combine service access points with front-line services delivering facilities in locations convenient to local people

The South Normanton Joint Service centre is the first such centre to gain partner approval and will include a district council run contact point, library, children's centre, adult education centre, elderly day centre, GP surgery, opticians, dentist and gym

- Implementing a Mobile Working Project so that partner organisation mobile workers have access to the CRM system and wider information services, through smart phones and tablet computers/PDAs, to offer local people broader access to services.

Undertaking a joint publicity and awareness campaign of the access and services that are available together with shared customer services training to ensure a high and common standard of response to the public.

Effective services

The Partnership Forum's joint approach to public engagement and the provision of seamless access to services carries through into the actual provision of services.

A whole host of partnership initiatives support effective provision across a wide spectrum of services including, for example:

Services for Children and Young People

- The county/city award winning b-line scheme, for Derbyshire's 60,000 11-19 year olds, which promotes public transport, offers numerous retail discounts to help support the local economy and is an effective communications mechanism with young people.
- The Engaging Young People strategy which has stimulated county/district working, and created a County Youth Forum, eight District Youth Forums and Youth Advisory Panels and ensured the involvement of young people in consultation and decision making, with over 16,000 young people voting in the last Youth Forum elections.



- The Partnership Forum supported 'Foster parent' recruitment campaign to help secure more fostering services for children and young people in the county.
- The Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership which delivers music tuition for 7,000 pupils and supports district based music centres which provide out of school music activities for many children and young people.
- The county-wide Children's Play framework that co-ordinates the activity of the district councils, Early Years and Childcare, Youth Service, Countryside Service and Community Safety.
- The UK Housing Award for the county/district Housing and Support Service for Teenage Parents.

Services for Healthier Communities and Older People

- The county/city/district award winning Gold Card scheme, for Derbyshire's 160,000 older and vulnerable people, which promotes public transport, offers numerous retail discounts and is an effective communications medium with this age group.
- The newly established free concessionary fares scheme for older people which has the county/city/district councils pooling resources to provide a county-wide scheme - one of very few within the country.
- The joint county/district Major Adaptations programme providing housing adaptations for older and disabled people.

- The county-wide Meals on Wheels service which, through the pooling of county/district resources, delivers 600,000 meals per year to vulnerable people.
- Derbyshire Sport's partnership provision, including the district/city and county councils in joint promotion of sport and the provision of local sports and leisure activities and facilities.
- The Extra Care joint county/district/health service schemes which combine flexible housing, social services and health support for older and vulnerable people.
- The Charter Marked Special Needs Housing scheme delivering an effective partnership response for vulnerable people.



Services to secure Sustainable Communities

- The major Markham Vale/M1 Junction 29A regeneration scheme which, through a district/county/region/national partnership, is pooling resources to deliver 5,000 much needed new jobs in the former coalfield area.
- The Peak District and Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership which is the county/district/private sector tourism partnership, pooling resources to promote the county as a tourist destination, improve the visitor experience and maximise the industry's potential.
- The Peak District Rural Action Zone which with DEFRA Pathfinder status brings together Government Offices, RDAs, county councils, district councils, the Peak Park and Natural England to tackle rural regeneration.
- The development of the Joint Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy to manage the collection, disposal and where possible recycling of the 300,000 tonnes of waste generated within the county each year.
- The Source Derbyshire local procurement scheme which aims to harness local purchasing power to support local businesses and is now being rolled out across the East Midlands.
- The joint county/city/district promotion and development of the Derwent Valley as an industrial revolution World Heritage Site as well as county/district co-operation on numerous conservation and town schemes.

- The Derbyshire network of joint Learning and Training Centres delivering a wide range of learning opportunities for local people.

Services to promote Safer and Stronger Communities

- The joint county/city/district/PCT/Emergency Planning Team which effectively discharges local civil contingency responsibilities and is highly regarded by the Cabinet Office.
- The 'Safer Derbyshire' co-located team combining community safety, drug action, youth offending and police activities, linked to local Crime and Disorder partnerships, to help deliver a safer environment.
- The Derbyshire Safer Communities Board which has moved funds across the county to areas of greatest need and has been recognised by GOEM as one of the best examples of county/district strategic working.
- The countywide Safer Neighbourhoods Board, comprising the Police, county and district councils which is leading the field in the promotion of safer neighbourhoods.
- The Derbyshire Compact that sets the framework for effective working with the voluntary and community sector. The Compact has been adopted by all partner agencies and is a pre-requisite to membership of the Partnership Forum.
- The 'Are You Old Enough?' county/district scheme against under age alcohol sales and the award winning county/district 'YUK!' anti-dog fouling public awareness and protection campaign.

- The Derbyshire Arts Partnership running rural performing arts and film programmes together with support for small cultural businesses.

Efficient use of resources

The fourth element of the vision has seen the Partnership Forum involved in a wide range of efficiency measures that have helped Forum members to deliver the Gershon agenda and meet ODPM priority outcomes. Jointly delivered initiatives are maximising the benefits of joint commissioning, procurement and provision of services.

At the East Midlands level the county council is working with Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and other regionally based organisations on a range of joint efficiency projects. Shared highway design and legal services are currently being commissioned and other areas under active consideration are:

- H.R., payroll and pension services
- I.T. services
- Procurement
- Transport
- Street lighting
- Placements for people with learning difficulties
- Library information.

In Derbyshire the county council in 2005 commissioned a KPMG facilitated Gershon review which led to the on-going Partnership Forum programme of efficiency reviews covering

fleet management, council accommodation, procurement, core systems and waste management.

The programme has recently been extended, with support from the East Midlands Regional Centre of Excellence (EMRCE) to include:

- Use of IDEa 'Market Place' - to provide effective e-procurement and e-tendering for partner organisations
- Additional services in partner contact centres - linking back office systems to CRM systems to provide additional services
- Location independent working - to provide local people with better access to services and information
- Shared authentication for on-line transactions - via partnership procurement of Government Gateway services to provide a single point of entry to on-line facilities
- Mystery shopper benchmarking of services - building on the partners' investment in CRM services to independently benchmark customer services across the partnership.

Other projects in the pipeline for which there is forthcoming EMRCE support include:

- Major adaptations - redesigning the process to ensure that adaptations to the homes of disabled people are completed as promptly and effectively as possible

- Community alarms/emergency response for vulnerable people - to improve the service and secure efficiencies for the county, city and district councils, PCTs and other stakeholders
- Street care - looking on a partnership basis at re-engineering the numerous processes in street care including waste management, street lighting and highways.

All this activity is underpinned by the extremely successful Derbyshire e-Government Partnership which has been recognised as being very effective in delivering the IEG programme.



Rounding all this off are the sub-county improvement programmes within which groups of councils are working together to improve the capacity of Members and senior officers.

In the Peak District National Park, the Park Authority, alongside the county council and three district councils have, with ODPM support, pushed forward with the very successful 'Exceeding Excellence' improvement programme.

In the north east of the county the three district councils, the county council and the Fire and Rescue Service are starting a similar improvement programme.

Additionally in the north east the three district councils have EMRCE funding for option appraisals for the joint delivery of procurement, corporate services, building control and internal audit to improve customer focus and efficiency.



Derbyshire performing for local people

There are a whole host of measures that illustrate that Partnership Forum organisations are delivering for local people:

- Derbyshire county, borough and district councils have an extensive range of services that have been rated highly by external inspectors
- Derbyshire County Council is one of the top five, four star upper tier councils in the country, closely followed by Derby City Council in the latest CPA ratings
- Derbyshire has 25% of district councils in the CPA excellent category compared to just 12% nationally
- Double the number of councils in Derbyshire are in the CPA excellent and good categories compared to the East Midlands overall
- Average council tax in Derbyshire at £976 is £33 (3%) below the national average
- Derbyshire's average council tax payment is the sixth lowest out of all 34 counties in the country
- MORI's public satisfaction survey showed Derbyshire's net satisfaction level of +50% to be almost double the national average figure of +29%
- MORI commented that Derbyshire's satisfaction level remained stable during the period 1999-2005, bucking the downward trend within the public sector nationally
- The Best Value User Satisfaction Survey scored a number of Derbyshire district councils over 60% for satisfaction rising to an impressive high of 67%
- Quality of Life indicator comparisons show Derbyshire performing very well across a broad range of indicators including economic, health and social well being, transport and access, and community safety
- Derbyshire councils' top quartile BVPIs at an average of 34% far exceed the national unitary council figure of just 25%
- Derbyshire has a higher percentage of councils achieving IIP accreditation (89%) than the East Midlands (85%) and unitary councils nationally (67%)
- Derbyshire's public sector partners have achieved savings of around £2m by working together to implement the shared e-government programme throughout the county
- Government Office for the East Midlands has stated recently that "Derbyshire provides an exemplar for partnership working in a two tier area. They have used the opportunity provided by the LAA and in particular its governance arrangements to really integrate the County and Districts".

Derbyshire delivering the new agendas

The Partnership Forum believes that not only does it deliver for local people but that it is, through its structures and working relationships, very well placed to respond to the new agendas:

Local Strategic Partnerships - Shaping Their Future

The Derbyshire model advances the ideas and proposals put forward in the consultation paper:

- The Partnership Forum is the countywide LSP that dovetails effectively with the district based LSPs
- District LSP Chairs are members of the Partnership Forum and district LSP theme groups operate as LAA Board theme groups
- Regular LSP co-ordination meetings take place and district community strategies have been revised to mirror the county community strategy and LAA.

Neighbourhood Governance

Derbyshire's network of neighbourhood based community forums:

- Provides effective engagement with local people within a structure that reflects their community affinity
- Gives partner agencies an effective way of identifying local priorities within an arrangement that can be realistically resourced and managed

- Creates the possibility for greater operational synergy between service providers at the local level through the neighbourhood mapping of service boundaries
- Offers through the development of Neighbourhood Boards the opportunity to empower local people by 'double devolution' of decisions and resourcing.

Children and Young People Act

Derbyshire's multi-agency co-operative working is delivering the key provisions in the Act:

- Shared support for the five priority outcomes through their inclusion in the county Community Strategy and LAA
- Derbyshire's Children and Young Adults Trust Board able through the LAA to direct resources at partner agencies' key priorities



- All partners actively involved in the development of the Children and Young People's plan with the voluntary sector providing a number of service user consultative forums including 'seldom heard' groups
- Connexions and South Derbyshire CVS leading the introduction of the Common Assessment Framework which will be implemented by a multi-agency team
- Strong commitment from partners for the development of Children's Centres together with numerous examples of effective multi-agency working such as the Behaviour Support Service team.

Our Health, Our Care, Our Say - White Paper

Derbyshire partnership arrangements will help meet some of the primary objectives identified in the white paper:

- Shared support for the seven priority outcomes through their inclusion within the county Community Strategy and LAA
- Closer working between the county Adult Services Director and the Director of Public Health which is a joint county/health appointment
- Improved partnership working with Health at PCT and General Practice levels through involvement in the LSPs, LAA and Neighbourhood Boards.

Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS - Consultation Paper

Derbyshire is likely to see the creation of one or two PCTs coterminous with the county or county/ Derby city boundaries which will:

- Provide simplified working arrangements with the city/county social service authorities
- Deliver more straightforward engagement with the county/city LSPs, LAA Boards and Children and Young people and Older People theme Boards
- Offer the opportunity for G.P. clusters to relate more effectively to other local agencies through joint mapping of their areas, school clusters, neighbourhood policing areas etc.

Crime and Disorder Act Review

Derbyshire is well placed to respond to the proposals in the CDA review:

- The county LAA Safer Communities theme Board fulfils the role of the county community safety partnership
- The Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhoods Board is drawing up neighbourhood policing boundaries to better integrate police, county council, health service and district council services within local communities
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships work within the LSP framework and neighbourhood policing areas are being mapped to integrate other service areas alongside local police involvement and presence.

Derbyshire's two tier structure continuing to excel



The Partnership Forum, within which the county and district councils are key players, is fully committed to the public engagement, service access, improvement and efficiency programmes within the county.

In today's multi-agency partnership environment they believe that the programmes are an effective way of meeting local people's service needs, minimising the financial burden on council tax payers and, overall, providing strong community leadership.

The partners have been working on the programmes for a number of years but the PSA, LAA, IEG and Gershon initiatives have created additional impetus to their activities.

The Partnership Forum wants to build on this progress in order to prove that partnership working in Derbyshire can continue to deliver for local people and is a very viable option alongside any more fundamental restructuring of local government.

To enable the Partnership Forum to do this it is asking for:

- A period of stability for Derbyshire local government and partner organisations to continue with the Partnership Forum programmes within the LAA framework
- The opportunity to consolidate the partnership programmes and help deliver the new national agendas within the Derbyshire context

- A recognition that wholesale restructuring of local government could be disruptive and costly and would put at risk the Partnership Forum's improvement and efficiency agendas
- The opportunity to continue to enhance the operation of the two-tier local government structure including rationalising community strategies, cutting the number of concurrent functions and reducing the number of partnerships
- The further development of the LAA with increased commitment from all government departments, alongside the implementation of the 'LSP - Shaping Their Future' proposals
- Increased freedoms and flexibilities to help deliver service improvements and respond to local needs and circumstances
- An acknowledgement that effective partnership working and the creative use of technology can largely overcome public confusion over the two-tier local government structure
- An acceptance that the two tier structure is no more complex or confusing to local people than the plethora of Government departments, agencies and quangos that work alongside local government
- A recognition that in an area as large and diverse as Derbyshire, any large unitary councils would require a sub-council structure to effectively deliver

- Consideration of the Partnership Forum's approach to neighbourhood governance as an effective way forward that significantly improves public engagement within a structure that can be realistically managed
- Support for the Partnership Forum through 'Beacon partnership status' and other promotional mechanisms to promote good practice to the benefit of other county areas and local government in general.



Appendix

Derbyshire Partnership Forum Membership

- Derbyshire County Council
- District and Borough Councils (8)
- Derby City Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Local Strategic Partnerships (6)
- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (Town and Parish Councils)
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derbyshire Probation Service
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Learning and Skills Council
- The University of Derby
- Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce
- Job Centre Plus
- Derbyshire Connexions Partnership
- Derbyshire Learning Partnership
- Primary Care Trusts (8)
- Trent Strategic Health Authority
- Natural England
- National Farmers Union
- Environment Agency (Lower Trent Area)
- Sport England
- Derbyshire Sport
- Big Lottery

- Derbyshire Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium
- Derbyshire Rural Community Council
- Councils for Voluntary Service
- Derbyshire Older People's Advisory Group
- Church and Society Forum
- Groundwork
- Government Office for the East Midlands.

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