

Governance Arrangements for Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment Theme

Context

There are currently two main partnership meetings that cover the theme of Economy, Learning Skills and Employment. They are:

- The Learning Skills and Employment Theme Group – this is the Theme Group of the LSP
- The Shadow Economic Development Partnership Board – this group was established to respond to the Government's White Paper on Stronger Prosperous Communities and the LAA 4th theme around economy and environment.

When the Shadow Board was being established the creation of a Public Service Board (PSB) was also being considered in the City, hence the Economic Development Partnership Board being established initially in "shadow" form, until such time as structures become clearer.

Proposed Revised Governance Arrangements

In the light of the emerging new LAA, the newly formed PSB and the desire for LSP Theme Groups to be a grouping of strategic partners around the LAA themes, the existing governance arrangements and membership of the respective groups have been reviewed jointly by the Chair of the Shadow Economic Development Partnership Board and the Chair of the LSE Theme Group: Carl Pearson Head of Regeneration Coventry City Council and Jane Beaver, District Manager Job Centre Plus respectively.

It is proposed that:

- The Shadow Economic Development Board is stood down.
- A remodelled LSE Theme Group is established with a membership that incorporates a more strategic level of membership.
- The LSE Theme Group becomes responsible for the delivery of the LAA theme - economy, learning skills and employment and as a consequence is renamed the Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment (ELSE) Theme Group
- The ELSE Theme Group will have two modes of operation, a strategic mode and a management mode.

The Strategic Mode of Operation

- The strategic group will comprise the following members:

Member	Organisation
Jane Beaver, District Manager	Job Centre Plus
Carl Pearson	Coventry City Council
Dianne Williams	Chamber
John Schouller	Warwickshire County Council
Liz Millet	CV One
Peter Shearing	Learning Skills Council
Richard Monk	Whitefriars Housing
Roger Douthwaite	Coventry & Warwickshire Solihull Partnership
Steven Banbury	Coventry Voluntary Services Council
Afzal Hussain	New Deal for Communities
Alan Newbold	Adult Education Services
Russell Moseley	Warwick University
Representative to be confirmed	Coventry University
Mike Atwell or Karen Grainger	Coventry PCT
Steve Stewart	CSWP Connexions
2 X CEN Representatives	Community Empowerment Network

Advisors to the Strategic Group	
Mark Tovey	Government Office for the West Midlands
Sushma Soni	Advantage West Midlands
Rebecca Young	Coventry City Council
Paula Deas	Coventry City Council
Jane Malbassa	Job Centre Plus
Howard Andersen	Chamber of Commerce

- The ELSE strategic members will meet on a quarterly basis. The role of Chair of the ELSE Theme Group will be rotated between the main partners: the City Council; Job Centre Plus; the Learning and Skills Council; and the Chamber of Commerce.
- The strategic membership of the ELSE Theme Group will be responsible for: the programme management and delivery of the Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment targets in the LAA; considering new opportunities and projects which will help the city pursue the long-term outcomes and short-term priorities of the Sustainable Communities Strategy; delivery of the City's Economic Development Strategy; managing relationships with key stakeholders at a regional level such as AWM; advising the PSB and LSP on strategic issues such as the sub-national review; pursuing the pooling and aligning of organisations' resources to deliver the LAA targets; commissioning and setting priorities for external funding streams within the ELSE agenda (including any funding from the Area Based Grant); and looking at opportunities for developing appropriate Multi Area Agreements with Warwickshire County Council.
- Within the field covered by the ELSE Theme Group there are a number of partnership "boards" that currently exist to manage programmes of activity in the City, including the LEGI Board and the City Strategy Management Board. It is proposed that members of the Strategic ELSE Theme Group take responsibility for two-way communication between the different groupings on relevant issues. This would help to ensure that strategic work and operational activity related to the theme of economy, learning, skills and employment is better aligned.

The Management Mode of Operation

- The management group will comprise of a range of delivery partners from the public, voluntary and community and private sectors. The ELSE Management Group will meet on a monthly basis and will continue to be chaired by the District Manager of Job Centre Plus.

- A review of the current membership of the existing Learning Skills and Employment Group will take place and from this a revised membership list drawn up. Members are likely to include: Job Centre Plus; the LSC; delivery teams within the City Council – Regeneration Services , Adult Education, and HR; Chamber of Commerce; community based employment and enterprise agencies such as WEETC, WATCH, NDC Workshop; probation service; Connexions; colleges; universities ; Whitefriars (regeneration delivery); and representatives from relevant parts of the LEGI Service.
- The Management Group of the ELSE Theme Group will be responsible for: putting into operation the decisions made by the Strategic Group; delivering services and meeting the targets set out in the new LAA Delivery Plan; and acting as an advisory group for the Strategic Group on a range of issues.
- This group is likely to operate using task and finish groups around specific areas of work for example enterprise or employment and skills.
- The Management Group will hold six monthly briefing events on the ELSE Theme for interested organisations. This recognises the important role the LSE Theme Group played in providing information on developments taking place within the learning, skills and employment theme.
- Consideration needs to be given to the fact that by changing the membership of the LSE Theme Group a number of organisations will no longer have a place at that table. Communication of the changes must be handled sensitively.
- In addition to the support provided through the LSP's officers, the secretariat function for the management of the ELSE Theme Group both the strategic and management groups will be provided through the Regeneration Division of the City Council and Job Centre Plus respectively.