

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are central to the vision of effective local governance and local authorities are expected to be the prime movers behind their formation. The recent Local Government White Paper affirmed the importance of LSPs and their role within the community.

In creating LSPs, communities are faced with many challenges. How are LSPs able to attract and retain the right level of participation from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to build an effective body? How do LSPs avoid unnecessary duplication or the bureaucratisation of multi-agency partnerships?

Following a year of practice and experimentation this one day national conference from NLGN is essential for all those involved in LSPs, offering the opportunity to review the progress made so far, the lessons learnt and the Government's vision for their future role.

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

**Thursday, 20th June 2002,
Ambassadors Hotel, London WC1**

Julia Cleverdon CBE

Chief Executive, Business in the Community

Ann Blackmore

Head of Policy,
The National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Cllr Terry James

Leader, Herefordshire Council
(NLGN Innovation Forum Member)

John Foster

Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council

Matthew Baggott

Deputy Chief Constable of West Midlands Police
and Deputy ACPO Portfolio Holder, Race and
Community Police Relations with lead
responsibility for LSPs

The Purpose of the Conference

The establishment of effective LSPs represents one of the most demanding reforms facing local government. Over the years many local authorities will have collated vast experience of building partnerships but LSPs have the potential to develop an innovative approach to the delivery of multi-agency objectives. Contributors to this conference will share what has been learnt from early experimentation and provide local partners with an insight into the different approaches that are being adopted.

Through plenary sessions, delegates will hear from a number of senior local government figures and from the private and voluntary sectors on:

- How Government intends to encourage further development of LSPs including the impact of the recently published Local Government White Paper on their role
- What role elected members should play in the success of LSPs
- How LSPs can attract greater support from local businesses
- How LSPs can work most effectively with the voluntary and community sectors
- How the rationalisation of partnerships is best approached to enhance the work of LSPs

Through workshops, delegates will hear experienced testimony from local authority officers, councillors, experts and LSP members on the following:

- How local partnerships can deliver regeneration across local authority boundaries using joined-up thinking
- The most effective relationship between LSPs and neighbourhood renewal
- How LSPs can work with other local partnerships

Presentations will also address key questions being raised by LSPs:

- How can genuine accountability be maintained alongside an effective LSP?
- How do LSPs work within the new executive structures?
- How can LSPs work most effectively with neighbourhood and regional partnerships?
- How can LSPs be adequately supported financially?

PROGRAMME

09.00 Registration & Refreshments

10.00 Welcome and Introduction from the Chair Bulraj Bassral, Principal Consultant, I&DeA

10.10 Setting the Scene

A review of the successes and challenges of the past year and an insight into the potential future for LSPs in delivering effective community governance.

Iain Roxburgh, Independent Consultant & Non Executive Director, NLGN

10.30 Keynote Speech

Government Spokesperson to be confirmed

10.50 Political Leadership of the LSPs Agenda

Cllr James will discuss the "Herefordshire Plan" - developed as part of creating a new authority in 1997 before the requirement for the LSPs. Cllr James will talk about how the plan involved a strong leading role for members at the start of the process and how this diminished once the plans were established.

Cllr Terry James, Leader, Herefordshire Council (NLGN Innovation Forum Member)

11.10 Questions and discussion

11.30 Refreshments

12.00 Attracting and Involving the Private Sector to LSPs

Involvement of local business in partnerships is clearly a key imperative. However, LSPs have had varying success in encouraging private sector participation. Do reticent local firms need to be encouraged to change their attitude? Or should local authorities be approaching business in a different way? Most importantly, how can a productive relationship with the private sector be maintained and developed once initial links are forged?

Julia Cleverdon CBE, Chief Executive, Business in the Community

12.20 The Role of the Voluntary Sector in LSPs

The emphasis on voluntary organisations as key players in local service delivery and community leadership grows stronger all the time. What experience have voluntary organisations had of LSPs so far? What tensions exist and how might they be resolved? Can LSPs promote local renewal by developing the relationship between local authorities and voluntary groups in innovative directions?

Ann Blackmore, Head of Policy, The National Council for Voluntary Organisations

12.40 Questions and discussion

13.00 Buffet Lunch

**Chair of Afternoon Session:
Bulraj Bassral, Principal Consultant, I&DeA**

13.50 Plenary: LSP's, Community Security and Crime

If LSPs have any prime objective, it is surely to develop new ways of tackling difficult local issues such as crime. How can the police be involved in LSPs to the greatest advantage? What role should other partners play in community security? And what innovations in crime reduction might LSPs be able to implement?

Matthew Baggott, Deputy Chief Constable of West Midlands Police and Deputy ACPO Portfolio Holder, Race and Community Police Relations with lead responsibility for LSPs

14.10 LSPs and Rationalisation

Rationalisation is now a key task of LSPs. This implies changes not just in partnership relationships but also in funding regimes and community plans. How can this complex imperative best be fulfilled? And what impact might such rationalisation have on LSPs themselves? Will LSP structures and operations have to be revised?

John Foster, Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council (NLGN Innovation Forum Member)

14.30 Questions and discussion

14.50 Workshop Sessions

Delegates can choose to attend one workshop in this session which will be held between 14.50 - 16.00

1. LSPs and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

This workshop will discuss emerging issues surrounding LSPs and the partnership arrangements needed to support the delivery of LSPs, as well as the merits and disadvantages of choosing between an all encompassing board representing all the stakeholders involved or a smaller more dynamic group.

Iain Roxburgh, Independent Consultant and Non Executive Director, NLGN

Kamal Panchal, Principal Consultant, I&DeA

2. LSPs Working with Other Partnerships and Authorities

LSPs inevitably must work closely with and include other partnerships and authorities. This will not always be an easy set of relationships. How should local authorities and partner bodies navigate their way through the difficulties? Should councils give a lead or act in a more facilitative manner? Which issues are best dealt with in a bilateral manner and which through the LSP?

Dr Keith Robinson, Chief Executive, Wiltshire County Council (NLGN Innovation Forum Member)

3. Cross River Partnership: Joined-up Thinking and Delivering Across Boundaries

How the Cross River Partnership operates successfully in partnership with local government, the private sector, voluntary sector and other key stakeholders to bring the benefits of regeneration to local people.

Savas Sivetidis, Director, Cross River Partnership

16.00 Close of Conference

Who Should Attend?

- Leaders/Mayors
- Cabinets/Executive Members
- Councillors
- Overview & Scrutiny Chairs/Heads
- Heads of Policy
- Cabinet Members with portfolio for Powers of Economic, Social and Environmental Well Being
- Local Authority Chief Executives
- Voluntary Groups/Organisations
- Organisations with a Community Focus
- Community Liaison Officers
- Police Officers with responsibility for Community Relations
- Neighbourhood Managers
- Private Sector Chief Executives
- Heads of Services
- Regeneration Officers
- Policy and Resource Chairs
- Businesses working in the Community
- Community Stakeholder Groups
- Other Public Bodies
- Head of Community Development
- Head of Corporate Strategy
- Academics
- Area Committee Members
- Consultancies
- Think Tanks