

# South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Board meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2004

## Agenda Item 10

### Role and Effectiveness of Sub Regional Strategic Partnerships (SSP's)

The East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) is currently assessing the role and effectiveness of Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) as a key delivery mechanism of the Regional Economic Strategy and their effectiveness in bringing together the views from regional, sub-regional and local stakeholders. To carry out this work the Assembly has developed a Scrutiny Panel which is requesting views on a number of key questions about SSPs around Clarity of Purpose, Organisation and Operation, Effective Partnerships, Accountability and their sub-regional strategic role. These are attached as Annexe A. A response is required by 19<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Comment

The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP), as the SSP for this area, unlike SSP's for other parts of the region, has technically only been in being for some 12 months and this limits comment on some of the questions canvassed. Nevertheless, Board Members are aware of the structures and relationships and remit of this organisation and has been developing ties to effect the delivery of the regional strategy at the local level. There is certainly evidence of cross border awareness, co-ordination, understanding and working in relation to the LeicesterShire Partnership (LSEP) which may bode well for continuing the development of former coalfield regeneration initiatives and the development of the National Forest.

Networking between the DDEP and the LSP's continues to develop whilst the recent DDEP approach to financially support the LSP's economic regeneration initiatives is to be applauded. Consultants have been commissioned to prepare the sub-regional strategy and it is therefore difficult to comment on the effectiveness of their sub-regional strategic role. Nevertheless, there appear to be plans in progress to address these issues and next year would be the appropriate time to comment more on their effectiveness.

The Board's views are sought.

#### Recommendation

That the Board's views are forwarded to EMRA's Scrutiny Panel.

**Scrutiny Panel Inquiry into the Role and Effectiveness of Sub-Regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) as a Key Delivery Mechanism for Economic Development at the Sub-Regional Level.**

**Introduction**

As endorsed by the Economic Review Group (ERG) at its meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2003, the role of the panel will be to consider the role and effectiveness of SSPs as a key delivery mechanism of the Regional Economic Strategy and bring together the views from regional, sub-regional and local stakeholders.

**Panel Membership**

Pat Zadora (Chair)	ERG Member/East Midlands Chambers of Commerce
Ivan Annibal	Lincolnshire Development
Cllr Roy Barsley	Nottinghamshire County Council
Wynne Garnett	Engage East Midlands
Cllr Terry King	Rutland County Council
Hilary Patterson	East Midlands Regional Local Government Association

**Remit**

**1 Clarity of Purpose, Organisation and Operation**

- 1.1 Do emda, SSPs themselves and local partners have a shared understanding of the purpose of SSPs?
- 1.2 Is there adequate awareness and understanding between SSPs and other sub-regional and regional organisations of their respective roles and responsibilities?
- 1.3 Is there adequate co-ordination between policy development at the regional level and delivery at the sub-regional level?
- 1.4 How effective is emda in supporting the SSP agenda and process – and what are the strategic and operational implications emda's strict gatekeeper role (perceived or real) in controlling the level of resources to them.
- 1.5 The effectiveness of SSPs in addressing concerns relating to their geographical coverage. Potential issues may include the co-ordination of SSP activity in overlap areas and managing the development of area based schemes, e.g. county based initiatives that may require the agreement of 2 SSPs – do potential problems arise if the endorsement of only one SSP is forthcoming?

- 1.6 Is there adequate clarity and understanding between all partners (local, sub-regional and regional) concerning the relationship between the SSPs and emda?
- 1.7 Are there adequate communication channels between regional and sub-regional partners?

## **2 Effective Partnerships**

The effectiveness of SSPs at establishing inclusive partnerships that are able to promote ownership and effectively deliver economic development at the sub-regional level.

- 2.1 The effectiveness of sub-regional and local relationships, e.g. co-ordination and inclusive joint working between SSPs and Local Strategic Partnerships to ensure alignment of local, sub regional and regional priorities. In particular, is there adequate accountability and communication between the SSPs and their constituent local partnership base, particularly the LSPs?
- 2.2 The role of emda and SSPs in disseminating effective methods of working throughout the region and sharing their success with other partnerships (local, sub-regional and regional).
- 2.3 To ensure appropriate focus and avoidance of duplication of effort, SSPs should build upon relationships with other agencies and initiatives such as URCs, LSPs, LSCs Business Links and regeneration programmes (e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal).

## **3 Accountability**

This is an investigation of the public accountability of SSPs. While this is a more general issue that relates to the panel's wider remit, particular issues for consideration include:

- 3.1 The effectiveness of relationships between SSPs and their wider stakeholders, e.g. are board structures appropriate and adequately inclusive?
- 3.2 Are there adequately open, transparent, published and accountable procedures for appointing all board members?
- 3.3 Once individuals become board members is their role as stakeholder representatives complicated by their dual role, i.e. being both a stakeholder representative while accepting collective responsibility for actions of the SSP.
- 3.4 The role and effective influence of different sectors within the sub-region and their relationship with SSPs, e.g. voluntary and community sector, local authorities.

#### **4. Sub-Regional Strategic Role**

- 4.1 Are economic strategies of the SSPs appropriately focused on the key challenges facing each particular sub-region?
- 4.2 How effective are SSPs in linking to the drivers of the Regional Economic Strategy at the sub-regional level.
- 4.3 SSPs have a critical role to play in determining sub-regional priorities – is there sufficient capacity to deliver a coherent strategy for sub-regional economic development.
- 4.4 Ability of SSPs to be autonomous and to champion the sub-regional agenda, and to be independent of emda and other organisations on issues as appropriate. Does the nature of these relationships inhibit this?
- 4.5 The delivery of SSP economic development strategies in effectively promoting sustainable development?
- 4.6 The effectiveness of SSPs in their awareness of, and integration with, other regional, sub-regional and local strategies.
- 4.7 In particular, do SSPs demonstrate a firm commitment to the principles of sustainable development as identified by the IRS?