

A joint venture between the Local Government Association and Partnerships UK

Mission:

Local Partnerships mission is to:

“enhance the quality of people’s lives by giving trusted, professional support to local public bodies to improve their ability to source and deliver high quality, cost-effective public services and infrastructure”.

What will Local Partnerships do?

Local Partnerships will work at a local level and ‘shoulder-to-shoulder’ with public bodies to develop and deliver innovative solutions to new and emerging problems.

To do this we will work alongside local public bodies to improve their sourcing and commissioning skills, programme and project management capabilities, procurement, negotiating and contract management capacity, and their delivery, funding and partnering abilities.

Local partnerships will promote knowledge sharing and take a particular interest in issues which have a sector wide significance. It will also be prepared to engage in risk sharing and co-production.

Specific priorities will include:

- Market leading expertise on organisational, commercial and partnership structures to support local service delivery and transformation
- An interface between local public bodies and the supplier market in order to maximise the benefits for local services and infrastructure
- Sector wide management and delivery of regional/national investment programmes
- Expert transactor support to individual projects
- Skills development to build capacity and capability in public bodies
- Gateway reviews across all core sectors to provide peer-to-peer learning
- Support for local public bodies in the development of effective relationships with social enterprises and the third sector (charitable and voluntary organisations).

Why has Local Partnerships been formed?

Local Partnerships will bring together the skills, expertise, and resources of 4ps and Partnerships UK (PUK) to provide a single source of active support for local public bodies in the delivery of improved services and infrastructure.

Additional reasons for the joint venture:

- Local authorities, primary care trusts, and other local public bodies are under pressure to improve services and infrastructure within limited resources
- The local public arena is going to be a crucial place for change over the next decade with all political parties signalling greater decentralisation to local bodies
- Joint commissioning across traditional boundaries is increasingly important
- A skills gap still exists in relation to gaining maximum benefits from commissioning, contracting, funding and partnerships
- 4ps track record of supporting local authorities, particularly in relation to infrastructure
- PUK track record on national investment programmes and with local services, including health

Better outcomes for citizens depend on the active contribution of local players across traditional organisational boundaries – hence the need to provide a broad platform of support to local players, not just local authorities.

Who owns Local Partnerships?

Local Partnerships is owned equally by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Partnerships UK (PUK). Partnerships UK is itself 49% owned by HM Treasury and the Scottish Executive.

Local Partnerships will continue to remain an important part of the LGA group, and have close links to local government and related organisations.

Who will we work with?

Local Partnerships will be working with local public service bodies, including local authorities, primary care trusts, probation boards, police authorities, third sector organisations, social enterprises and regional and sub regional groups.

Local Partnerships will provide expert delivery capacity for major national or strategic investment and efficiency programmes, at a national and regional level.

Local Partnerships will be working at a local, regional, and national level with bodies whose actions significantly influence the environment within which local public services operate.

Will Local Partnerships continue to deliver Revenue Support Grant (RSG) funded services?

Local Partnerships will continue to deliver RSG funded services valued by local government. The RSG funds received by Local Partnerships will be applied solely to meet the costs of support provided free of charge to local authorities, and RSG services will be provided on a non-profit basis

RSG funded services for 2009/10 are aligned with LGA Group priorities and include:

- Continued support to the BSF programme
- Ongoing integrated support via WIDP in partnership with DEFRA and PUK
- Skills development programmes to build capacity and capability in public bodies
- Updating and disseminating procurement packs
- Transaction support to the transport and housing sectors
- Support to the national corporate services efficiency programme
- Dissemination of best practice guidance and peer network groups

A joint venture between Partnerships UK and the Local Government Association, incorporating 4ps

When will Local Partnerships come in to operation?

The joint venture will come into operation on the 18 August 2009.

How can we help you?

If you need support and advice with a programme or project don't hesitate to contact Local Partnerships at:

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