

Oldham Partnership Annual Conference
Workshop Notes
27th September 2005

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

Q1 - Do we have the correct outcomes and indicators to reflect the priorities for Oldham?

Generally the table thought the indicators did reflect the priorities for Oldham, but provided some feedback around additional indicators. The suggestions were:

- An indicator around Sport, and the employment opportunities associated with the sector.
- Increasing employment sites in the borough through the development of business parks and more emphasis on creating space for businesses to expand in to, (for businesses who have outgrown incubation units).
- Greater support for businesses affected by crime, also looking at preventive measures
- Improving Oldham's Image to encourage greater Inward Investment was seen to be a priority, as was the case with the other Economic Tables.
- Retaining students and attracting Oldhamers back to the Borough who may have studied elsewhere. Connected to this was the issue of improving career advice offered to students and the transition of students into FE and modern apprenticeships.

Finally, the group raised the issue of getting people from deprived communities in to key employment sites. i.e providing people living in Fitton Hill with a transport solution to accessing 'hard to reach' employment sites. It was suggested that this initiative should be pursued in partnership with GMPTE.

Q2 - Can we identify any other funding streams that could be included in the LAA?

The group were not able to provide any information on this and suggested individual agencies were contacted separately to discuss.

Q3 - How can we use the LAA to streamline and reduce bureaucracy in Oldham?

It was perceived by the group that the private sector involvement on the partnership needs to be retained and built upon to ensure the work programme of the partnership remains focussed, and thus reducing bureaucracy wherever possible.

Q4 - What are the freedoms and flexibilities that we seek from Government to deliver more effectively against our priorities?

The group suggested creating a common reporting framework for funding and performance management for the LAA and explore the opportunities and potential for utilising E-Government as a centralised access point

Along with this, the group believed that information sharing between the partnerships was currently being stifled by data protection issues and whether a relaxation of rules could be discussed to overcome barriers to effective partnership working.

Q5 - How can the LAA be used to improve the Oldham Partnership?

Reduce bureaucracies, provide a catalyst for restructuring the partnerships and provide tangible outcomes which will garner private sector support.

MISCELLANEOUS POINTS

- * Need to emphasise **'image'** development as a key priority for Oldham people, as well as outsiders, and aim to raise **aspirations**.
- * Need to emphasise / tackle issues in **neighbourhoods** where unemployment highest.
- * Invest in businesses that will produce **'high income'** jobs.
- * Need to include peoples **'stories'** and case studies jobs as part of evidence collection and use these to assess outcome, to change **'hearts'** as well as **'minds'**.
- * Possibly **too many** targets (around 20) within this block, propose about 4:-

Image / Aspiration
Average Salary
Employment Levels
Numeracy/Literacy Levels

Then document / targets drills down to the detail.
- * Draft document O.K, the language is a bit bureaucratic, so the **message** needs to be simpler, based on this.
- * Suggest a target about **re-training** from an old job to a newer, more skilled job.
- * Need a column for **'how'** we are going to achieve the outcome, which is about how current barriers are overcome.
- * Need an **iconic** capital project that will deliver transformational change, e.g., West End project, and will deliver many of the key outcomes for this block.
- * Need to **map supply** chain to help measure change in aspirations.
- * Need to **concentrate** services that are there to help/support businesses, e.g., within new iconic West End Development, greater efficiency.