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Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Local Area Agreements

local:vision

In partnership
with local government

local and regional government • housing • planning • fire • regeneration • social exclusion • neighbourhood renewal



Performance framework – progress towards the vision

- **By March 2006**
 - Clear mandatory outcomes and indicators
 - Menu of optional outcomes and indicators
 - Locally-determined outcomes and indicators
 - Reporting lines - clarity over what will stop and what will continue when LAA is signed
 - Assurance on local performance management capacity

Performance framework – progress towards March 2006

- Mapping exercises
- Performance management working group
- PMDU work on Home Office agenda and LAAs
- GO assessment tool

Mapping exercises

- Mapping LAA reporting - voluntary sample of pilots
- Mapping LA performance landscape
- Strategic findings: perceived net increase in total regulatory context for LAA pilots during 2005
- Detailed findings: duplicated reporting identified in each LAA block by participating LAA pilots

Performance management working group

- Pilot LAA representatives, GOs, Government Departments
- Mapping work and ways to reduce burden
- Ideas on shape of new performance framework
- Integrating other performance frameworks into LAA framework



- Review of performance management arrangements relating to crime, drugs and ASB in context of LAAs
- Emerging findings:
 - widespread enthusiasm for LAAs
 - many softer benefits realised
 - conditions for successful development of LAAs: clarity of vision; performance improvement capacity; achieving meaningful accountability within and between partnerships; simplified and integrated vertical performance management
- Second phase on how assurance can be gained & impact of LAAs maximised

- Performance capacity of LAA partners a key factor in LAA sign – off
- Structured on basis of current guidance
- Characteristics “operationalised” – eg’s of strengths & weaknesses
- For use of GOs to support recommendations



Conclusion

- Vision of clear and streamlined framework
- Local performance management
- Improved capacity and accountability
- Progress by next March
- Further progress beyond



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Reward Element

Chris Bates

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- Stretched targets to be part of the wider LAA negotiations - same process and timing
- A single LAA document for sign off, incorporating the reward element
- Must be top priorities for improvement locally, and evidence-based
- Stretch must remain challenging and deliver VFM

Key Points continued

- Same 60% stretch requirement to trigger reward grant
- Geographical/group focus still acceptable
- Pump priming grant up front (April)
- More flexibility around PRG and Nos. of targets (but keep your partners onside)
- Stretched targets cannot be refreshed !

Choosing your indicators

- Remember your increased choice (LAA Outcomes Framework)
- Comprehensive advice notes issued to GOs on 7/11/05:

The Reward Element of LAAs: Negotiation of Stretched Targets

- Notes are based on the OF, block by block
- Primarily for GOs but areas may find them helpful

Choosing your indicators

- These notes follow the following headings:
 - Indicator
 - Source of data
 - Clarifications/qualifications about the indicator
 - Determining stretching performance
 - Determining the level of reward



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Local Strategic Partnerships & Sustainable Community Strategies – shaping their future

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Why think again about LSPs?

- Local services increasingly delivered in partnership.
- Growing expectation placed on LSPs esp. through LAAs - shift from advisory to delivery role.
- Community Leadership role of Local Authorities.
- Follow up to Vibrant Local Leadership.
- Shift to Sustainable Community Strategies (Egan Review)



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Key issues

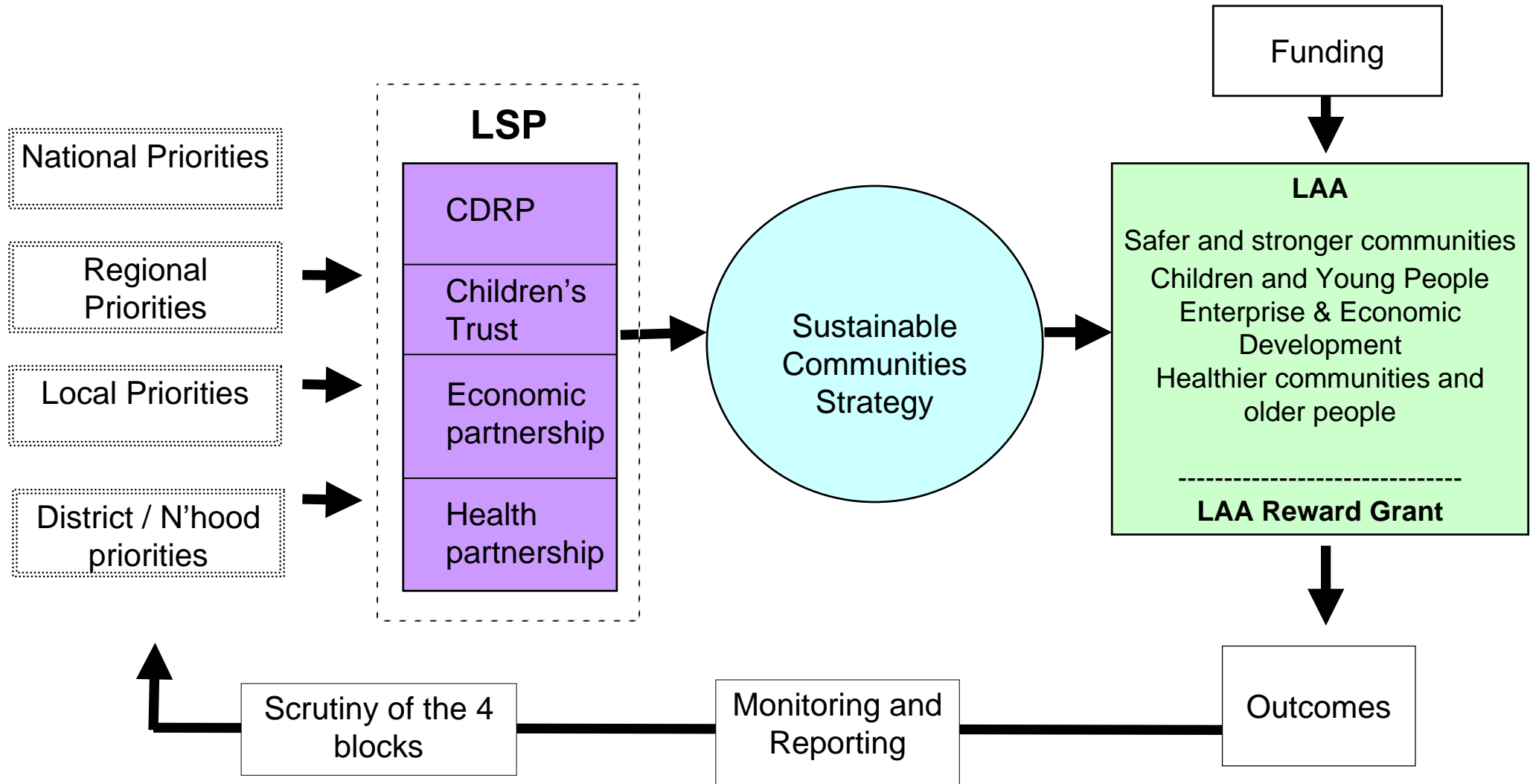
1. Role
2. Accountability and governance
3. Capacity

Role of LSPs

- Partnership of partnerships, providing strategic co-ordination.
- *Sustainable Community Strategy* - the over-arching plan - informed by thematic plans and vice versa. Linked to Local Development Framework.
- Develop and deliver LAA.
- Greater differentiation between County and District roles

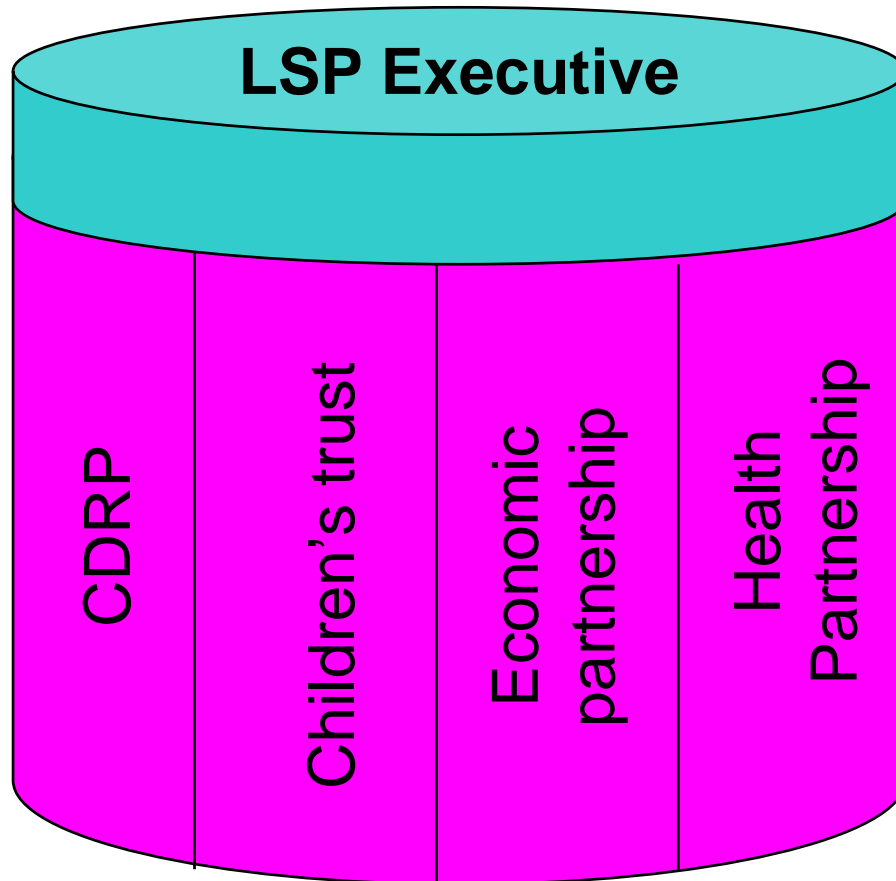


LSP & LAA Framework



Governance and Accountability

- Not prescribing structure but providing model - executive plus thematic partnerships grouped around the four blocks.



Accountability and Governance cont.

- Horizontal Accountability vs vertical accountability –greater freedom from central targets plus internal performance management.
- LPSBs – to be set up within the LSP rather than as rival.
- Firmer footing – proposing ‘duty to co-operate’ with the LA – provides clarity about community leadership role of LA and ultimate accountability of LA.



Capacity of LSPs

- Making the shift to delivery co-ordination requires a different set of skills e.g. implementation, negotiation, performance management
- Greater effectiveness and coherence of support required.
- LSPs to examine existing support, identify gaps – dependent on ‘mainstreaming’ LSP activity.

Next steps

- Proposed launch - early December.
- Planning speaking events, articles and adverts in specialist press – not just LG press.
- April 06 – launch next round of LAAs.
- Summer/Autumn 06 – consolidated within wider local government strategy