

7. THE ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN THE NEW STRUCTURE

7.1 Cornwall Strategic Partnership

Partnership working in Cornwall is recognised nationally as being very strong; we received Beacon Council status for the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership; and strong partnership working underpinned our Local Public Service Agreement which was one of the most successful, with 75% of targets being achieved. We believe mature partnership working to be our greatest advantage in ensuring that strong and prosperous communities are created.

The Cornwall Strategic Partnership is the overarching body which brings together organisations with the aim of:

“working together to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the people of Cornwall”.



7.2 Developing the Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The white paper places partnership working through the LAA at the heart of public sector delivery, reflecting the need for joint action by a mix of organisations to meet present and future challenges. Our proposals for the unification of the seven local authorities will make a significant difference to the effectiveness of LAA arrangements and delivery, by streamlining the process of engagement and coordination. We believe that we can be much more ambitious.

As a round 2 pilot area, Cornwall already has an LAA in place and is considered an example of best practice for its development, for its involvement of the voluntary sector, for addressing sustainability issues and for its approach to performance management. A single council will make partnership arrangements more effective, and in terms of administration and support represents a logical next step in terms of achieving outcomes more efficiently.

Demonstrating effectiveness – “increasing the stretch”

We will want to use the effectiveness that a single council will bring to improve outcomes for the people of Cornwall. In the first instance we will undertake to negotiate with government to ‘stretch’ our targets for the following LAA outcomes, with the intention of negotiating anew on all the reconfigured improvement targets within the new performance framework:

Ref	LAA Outcome	National Outcomes Framework
HCOP6	Improve the quality of life and independence of older people	Improved security and independence for all in older age
HP07	To increase and improve the quality of housing for vulnerable people	Decent homes for all
SUS1	To improve the quality of life for people with physical disabilities in their own homes and in their communities	Decent homes for all
SUS2	Increase the delivery of affordable homes	Decent homes for all
SUS3	Minimise the rate of growth in waste production per household	Reduced overall waste production
SUS4	Improved access to work, healthcare, education, food shops and recreation	Convenient, safe, accessible transport for all

We would also want to look at stretching some of the Best Value Performance Indicators for example in relation to customer satisfaction and complaints handling.

7.3 Improved partnership working

The new authority will play a central role in developing current partnership arrangements to ensure a coherent strategic approach across Cornwall. Through its leader and executive, it will provide greater

democratic leadership to the partnership’s activity. The new authority will provide strategic and operational support to the CSP.

The Cornwall Strategic Partnership is currently supported by five thematic sub groups. It will implement the proposed formation of a 6th thematic sub group – a Health and Wellbeing Board.

Figure 3: Partnership working under a new structure of governance



a strong sustainable community for one and all

One of the current barriers to effective outcome based partnership working is the fact that most partners also have to provide representation, support and infrastructure to 5 other Local Strategic Partnerships, resulting in the dissipation of valuable resources. Under the new structure, area based partnership working will be taken forward through the Community Networks, on which the other public service providers, business community, parish and town councils and the voluntary and community sector would be represented.

Working with the voluntary and community sector

The white paper outlines a key role for the voluntary and community sector in enabling local authorities to fulfil their place shaping role. In Cornwall the 'third' sector is represented on both the county and district strategic partnerships.

The voluntary and community sector will welcome the development of a model of local government that makes the best use of its skills, builds its capacity and provides sustainable funding for voluntary organisations. With greater stability and continuity the sector will more effectively shape and design high quality services, represent marginalised sectors of the community and lobby and influence policy.



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