



NEWS RELEASE

21 March 2005

DERBY SIGNS NEW AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE LOCAL SERVICES

One of the country's first Local Area Agreements to pilot new ways of working with central government is to be signed this week by Derby City Partnership.

Maurice Burgess, Chair of DCP and Leader of Derby City Council, will formally sign the agreement with government ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, on Tuesday 22 March.

Derby is one of the first 20 areas to pilot this new way of working with central government. The idea behind Local Area Agreements - LAAs - is to bring together a wide range of different funding streams, to remove some of the bureaucratic rules that can restrict how effectively these funds are used, and for local partner organisations to agree with central government the priorities those funds should be used to tackle in their area.

In Derby, a range of partners including the City Council, Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts, Derby Community Safety Partnership, Connexions Derbyshire, JobcentrePlus and the voluntary sector have worked through DCP to produce the LAA.

The LAA covers three main areas of activity:

- **Children and young people** - to help tackle disadvantage and integrate services for children and young people. It will be used to improve education standards, promote healthier lifestyles and give better support to families with young children.
- **Safer and stronger communities** - to improve community safety by working to reduce the incidence and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, making Derby an even better place to live by providing cleaner, greener and safer public places and reducing the disadvantages experienced by some of Derby's communities.

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- **Healthier communities and older people** - by improving people's health and helping vulnerable adults and older people to live more independent lives, for example, through helping older people to live in their own homes longer.

In 2005/06, there will be £23 million of government funding for Derby through the LAA. This is not extra money but will be administered differently through the LAA. The spending of the money will be monitored through around 80 targets.

Chair of DCP, Councillor Maurice Burgess, said: "I am pleased that a wide range of partners across the city have come together to exploit this opportunity to try a new way of working with Government. Research previously done in Derby had shown that the complex array of different funding streams, and the rules and reporting regimes that come with them, can get in the way of the results they are meant to achieve for local people.

"We have already made some progress in reducing red tape through the LAA. I hope to see this extended as we and the Government learn lessons from the first year of the pilot."

Derby's LAA - and the separate agreement which has been negotiated for Derbyshire - are the only ones in the country to include Connexions Derbyshire, which provides advice and other services for young people aged 13 to 19, aimed mainly at helping them to find education, training and employment opportunities.

Connexions Derbyshire Chief Executive, Hugh Hastie, said: "I am really delighted that Connexions Derbyshire is involved in the LAAs for Derby and the county. It reinforces evidence of the commitment and trust between us as key partners in the emerging children's agenda as we work together to implement the Children Act 2004 and to bring about better life chances for young people."

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Notes

1. More details can be found on the DCP website at www.derbyes.co.uk <<http://www.derbyes.co.uk>>
2. LAAs are initially intended to last for three years with an annual review.
3. LAAs are intended to remove ring fencing for funding which limits its use to specific purposes, provided that it is used to achieve outcomes and targets agreed in the LAA.

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4. LAAs should lead to a reduction in the reports and information Government requires from local areas.
5. After the initial pilot phase in 2005-06, the Government intends to extend LAAs to a further 40 areas for 2006-07

Derby City Partnership is an alliance of organisations working together to create a better Derby.

Members represent:

- public services
- local businesses
- community and voluntary groups
- individuals who live or work in Derby.

Since 1995, Derby City Partnership has been working to:

- develop closer and better working between organisations
- improve services and facilities
- attract funding
- make best use of all resources
- bring the work of all partnerships in the city together

Derby City Partnership is also the Local Strategic Partnership, delivering the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal in the most deprived neighbourhoods of the city.

www.derbyes.co.uk <<http://www.derbyes.co.uk>>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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