

**North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership – Executive**

**30 April 2009**

**Local Information System - Development Proposals**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Executive of the progress made by the Local Information System Steering Group and to recommend a course of action.

**2 LIS Steering Group**

- 2.1 In October 2008 the NYSP agreed to the establishment of a Local Information System Steering Group, with the remit of examining the options for the development of a LIS and how such a development might be funded.
- 2.2 The group has met four times. It has considered the individual organisational requirements, considered different IT solutions and considered the potential funding options. Membership of the group is shown at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The group has reached a consensus that the main requirements of the LIS system should be:
- The system should be web based, and have an easily accessible, map based, interface with secure tiered access for users including an easy interactive link for the public.
  - It should be able to hold and allow statistical manipulation of a large range of data at a level that would be useful for organisations to use in all areas where it is helpful or necessary to inform decision making.
  - Behind the front facing element, there should be a central data warehouse, capable of expansion and development over time, containing geographically referenced (geocoded) data provided by partners. The system would be serviced and maintained centrally on behalf of the partners.
  - Ideally the system will enable softer data to be incorporated such as survey outcomes, consultation, etc.
  - The system should be able to support the processes highlighted in section 4 of this report. The LIS will be the vehicle for the

dissemination of information to inform these assessments and profiles.

- 2.4 Partners have had an opportunity to receive presentations on the Local Area Statistics Online (LASOS) system, based on South Yorkshire, which is a regional demonstration project, and from the Tyne and Wear Research and Information Unit who host the Area Profiler system. It appears from the demonstrations and looking at other on line systems, that in general systems are good at one or the other of the main required features, i.e. the public interface or the scale and complexity of analysis afforded to partners.
- 2.5 There are concerns from some organisations within the Steering Group that they may not have the required staffing resources or IT infrastructure, to be able to contribute data effectively. For example all point data submitted needs to have a geocoded element to ensure the mapping fits within the mapped boundaries and all data needs to be quality controlled and updated to agreed timescales and protocols. Nonetheless the principles that would need to be followed in implementing a LIS have been agreed.
- 2.6 To make further progress it is important that data sharing agreements are developed to ensure that partners will be able to supply data for the LIS and that security and data protection issues are addressed. There is a requirement to review what data sharing agreements are already in place between the partners to see if these can be utilised for this purpose or amended to cover the provision of data to the LIS.

### **3 Costs and Funding**

- 3.1 The group have also considered the costs of establishing such a system and continuing to support it. Set up costs can vary – please see attached chart at Appendix 2 – according to the complexity of the software and arrangements for hosting. The continuing support costs including the software licensing and hosting will depend in part on the solution chosen but are likely to be in the range of £5k to £150k per annum, with the average running cost being £59,000 per annum.
- 3.2 The question of funding has been considered, and a RIEP bid (£50k) has been submitted to cover first year costs. The South Yorkshire (LASOS) team has submitted a complementary RIEP bid to help with the collaborative work and development costs. We understand that if successful this would provide an advisory type role rather than any hands on development or systems management work. The issue will be considered again by the RIEP on 29 April. A potential ‘independent’ approach could be through the use of LAA reward grant funding to support this development.

#### **4 Completed joint strategic assessments and neighbourhood profiles**

- 4.1 In 2008, the first Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was developed through new, joint arrangements involving the PCT, and three directorates of NYCC. A data sharing and presentation model was developed, with the PCT taking the lead. The next stage for the JSNA is to develop district level summaries to help shape and plan local services.
- 4.2 Since 2007, the seven district based CDRPs have been statutorily required to produce a Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA). They have had difficulties in fulfilling this obligation, and late in 2008, support arrangements were implemented utilising resources from the County Council Performance, Research and Intelligence Unit and the CDRP Analytical function. A complete set of JSIAs has been produced.
- 4.3 There is now a need to ensure that sustainable arrangements are in place to embed production of the JSIAs and further develop the underpinning evidence base for CDRP priorities and actions that reflect local circumstances.
- 4.4 The County Council and the Districts have worked together to complete neighbourhood profiles in six district areas, with the final one due to be completed soon. Completed reports are available on CD and will be available via NYCC and the NYSP website by May 2009. The data has been structured by the NYSP thematic partnerships and mapped according to the neighbourhoods defined by each district. The intention is to revise and update the profiles over the next six months taking account of feedback and extending the range of datasets available.

#### **5 Other Considerations**

- 5.1 Project management structure
- 5.2 Whilst the Steering Group proposes that the group continues with its work, it is recognised that some changes are required to the project management structure to enable more effective working.
- 5.3 Proposed terms of reference for the next stage of the work for the Steering Group are attached at Appendix 3.
- 5.4 A project manager role is required to manage the development of the LIS project. It is suggested that this is from within the NYCC Performance, Research and Intelligence team.
- 5.5 The membership of the Steering Group needs to be reviewed to ensure all partners are engaged.

## 5.6 Development Stages

- 5.7 The NYSP LIS Steering Group is supportive of the development of a North Yorkshire LIS, but recognises that the specification and infrastructure issues will require further time to fully assess, particularly in relation to the partner resource and software developments that may be needed. However, this should not prevent continued development of data sharing and joint working in the meantime.
- 5.8 The challenge is to effectively support the aspirations of partners to have access to a large, robust data warehouse with software interfaces to suit the partnership's joint performance and strategic requirements, and at the same time to enable the public to see and manipulate a range of local data so that they are better able to offer their views and help to shape and influence local services.
- 5.9 The Steering Group **proposes that the group continues its work**, taking a pragmatic approach to sharing data and developing joint approaches wherever possible. It will also further develop its understanding of IT system options that are available and refine its understanding of set up and continuing costs. It is proposed that the initial RIEP funding, if the bid is successful, be used to support this investigation and development process, plus support the initial IT infrastructure.

## 6 Proposals

6.1 In order to address the above issues it is proposed that:

- The LIS development proceed utilising the project management structure described from paragraph 5.4 onwards, with the Steering Group making a further report back to the NYSP Executive by January 2010.
- The milestones against which progress will be judged are:

### *Neighbourhood profiles*

- Complete the full set of neighbourhood profiles – May 2009
- Enable access to neighbourhood profiles via the NYCC website with a link from the NYSP website – May 2009
- Provide a range of on line interactive maps of the profiled data – July 2009
- Develop updated and refined profiles with wider range of datasets – October 2009

### *Crime and disorder*

- Complete work for the Community Safety Agreement – June 2009

- Agree arrangements for the production of the next round of JSIAs – by May 2009
- Complete next round of JSIAs – December 2009

*Joint strategic needs assessment*

- Support to development of JSNA district summaries as required – April/May 2009
- Provide data for further JSNA development as required – from June/July 2009 to December 2009

*LIS development*

- Share information about partners' IT interfaces, resources and agree data sets to be shared – by September 2009
- Agree data sharing protocols with partners – by September 2009
- Arrange joint meeting with City of York Council, Fire and Police to discuss involvement of York in the LIS project – by September 2009
- Test transfer of data, possibly into neighbourhood profile system – October 2009
- Develop system specification for web-based LIS – by November 2009
- Assess potential to build on the LASOS system and tailor to our requirements, including consideration of procurement requirements – by December 2009
- If necessary to explore other options for system provision – by December 2009
- Recommend next steps to NYSP Executive – January 2010

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – LIS group membership

Appendix 2 – LIS costs

Appendix 3 – LIS group Terms of Reference

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