



Bournemouth 2026 Delivery Manager Report November 2009

LAA 2 Risk Management Workshop 13th November 2009

We have been working with the council's corporate risk management team to ensure that we have even more robust processes in place to identify and manage risks to delivery of the LAA 2. We have been reviewing what is currently in place and redefining our approach. This has led to the development of a new risk assessment document for LAA leads to complete and share with SDPs, a process log to enable SDPs to monitor and a risk quilt to support monitoring at a strategic level by the IIC Board. We are planning an event for LAA leads so we can embed this approach and enable LAA 2 leads to complete their assessments. Please ensure that LAA leads attend or if they are not able to, that a representative for the target is available. Feedback from the workshop will be presented at the board meeting in January 2010.

Bournemouth 2026 Conference – Going for Gold

This years exciting event will include the following:

- Be inspired by the incredible achievements made possible by working as a team within Bournemouth 2026
- Find out how you can influence decision making in Bournemouth
- Experience what life is like for a family living in Bournemouth facing up to challenges of the recession
- Identify what support is currently available within the community to help people facing financial difficulties and what else we can do to improve this
- Find out what children & young people's views are of their lives in Bournemouth

SDP and Forum Chairs will have the opportunity to present the key achievements of 2009 from their themes.

Please book your places as soon as possible to ensure you can take part in the debate to prioritise next years activities for the Sustainable Community Strategy. We will be producing packs with some easy to read information for partners about our performance so far in the LAA and Sustainable Community Strategy.

Multi Area Agreement

I have attached the latest highlight report from Matthew Beaumont, Programme Manager for information.

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Programme: Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Multi Area Agreement

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Purpose:

To report progress and highlights of the MAA programme in July/August 2009

Key events / products / milestones achieved this period

1. Themes:

Business Growth: The group met 30/07. Terms of Reference have been agreed and approved by the Programme Group (25/06). An action plan has yet to be agreed but a draft will be brought to the group's September meeting and is likely to reflect earlier interest in; provision of business support services, development of specific sectors (cluster) ,increasing work-space provision. The Programme Manager has also suggested the Group consider taking particular responsibility for;

- ensuring that work across the theme areas is well integrated and keeps focus on economic development,
- 'Green Knowledge Economy' project sponsorship
- identifying and coordinating funding bids for MAA related activity

Economic Development Officers met with Mark Hepworth on 7 July to discuss how to develop the concept of a 'Green Knowledge Economy' into something more real. A number of project outlines were submitted for evaluation by the Geoeconomics consultancy team who will report initial recommendations in September. The group reiterated concerns that resourcing MAA activity was an additional burden on top of already full 'day jobs'. Performance against Gross Value Added and median earnings targets at April 2009 can not be reported as available data has a two year lag. The expectation is that the recession will have a negative impact on both targets.

Housing: There was no meeting of the theme group during the reporting period. Discussions with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) continued with appropriate local authority officers. Representatives of the group met with Geoeconomics on 16 July to identify specific projects that could be developed to

support GKE. There was particular interest in a 'Green House' proposal to support retrofitting homes to enhance energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions. A project submission has been made to Geoeconomics. Further development of the action plan will be guided by their recommendations.

Environment: The Environment Agency continues to develop the 'environmental limits project with Natural England support. This remains a clearly identified project deliverable for the group but requires wider engagement to support the current effort and to agree exactly what the final product will look like. Representatives met with Geoeconomics on 17 July and submitted several potential projects including development of a Stour Valley regional park. The group next meets on 14 August and has identified a need to review priorities at that meeting.

Employment and Skills: Work remains focused on requirements to establish an Employment and Skills Board (ESB). A meeting with Department Business Innovation and Skills officers to discuss the establishment process was held on 13 July. The meeting highlighted that nationally there is a lot of interest in ESB's but only limited understanding of an appropriate process to establish one. It was emphasized that strategy setting powers would likely be granted after first proving an effective ESB was operational. Richard Dimpleby has been confirmed as Chair of the theme group and Gwen Brennen-barras as link officer. Peter Wheelhouse leaves his post at Borough of Poole in September. Final results for the first year Annual Report highlight that the 2009 baseline for the target to increase the proportion of the 19 -64 year population qualified at least to level 4 is set too high (by 0.2%). Unfortunately this does not materially alter the fact that we have missed the year 1 target of 32.1% by more than 1%. Much better results were achieved with the 'graduate retention' targets – all of which were significantly exceeded in the first year. On 6 August representatives of the theme and GOSW representative met with the regional consultant for Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE) to build the relationship in anticipation of future negotiations for MAA 'freedoms and flexibilities'.

Transport: Negotiations have confirmed a new measurement methodology and target figures for the theme congestion target (NI167). Where there was a single sub-region target there are now two different rates to be monitored, south east Dorset, and 'the rest'. The MAA will be refreshed to reflect this change in coming months and latest figures recorded to measure progress against targets. Progress has been made with the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Highways Agency. Status was reviewed at the theme meeting on 10 August. Approval from the sub-regions planning authorities will now be sought and with this it is expected the MoU will be ready to conclude by the next meeting in November. Geoeconomics discussed possible projects to develop the GKE concept with officers on 17 July. A number of project proposals were submitted for evaluation, however, it is generally recognized that completing the South East Dorset Multi-Modal Transport Study project is key to determining future theme projects.

2. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) released a consultation document entitled, 'Strengthening Local Democracy'. The

consultation seeks comment on a range of questions that relate specifically to sub-region based joint work, accountability and governance. Directors at Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole have been circulated. Response is required by 2nd October.

3. DCLG lead officer for MAA's, Cathy Francis visited Poole on 24 July to meet MAA partners and the Programme Manager. This visit was the first of a number planned to encompass all the MAA regions. Ms Francis gave a presentation detailing current national status of MAA's (and City Regions) Today there are 71 top-tier councils and 19 million people influenced by MAA related activity. She highlighted the strength of the MAA as a 'brand' when working with central government departments. We were encouraged to maximize this interest and urged to establish personal contacts within Whitehall departments so as best be able to align sub-regional needs with their national goals. Further presentations outlined our first year of progress, the green knowledge economy, employment and skills and transport. Actions for DCLG to progress arising from the meeting include; promoting MAA work within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, hosting an event to increase understanding of Employment and Skills Board working and securing a keynote speaker to attend our proposed 'Green Knowledge Economy' launch conference in 2010. Overall the visit was very successful in developing our important relationship with DCLG and clearly promoting the work completed to date and our plans for the future.

4. The Programme Manager met (7/8) with two officers of the Audit Commission to discuss sub-regional partnering in general and the MAA in particular as it relates to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) of each sub-regional local authority. The auditors were interested in how the sub-regions economic challenges were being addressed by the MAA and in particular how the partners were using the MAA to react to the recession. It was made clear that the MAA is a strategic, long-term, economic development focused initiative that uniquely binds the sub-regions local authorities. The auditors were asked to consider this during the respective assessments of the partners and comment as appropriate.

Next Period: August /September 2009

Key events / products / milestones due next period

1. Geoeconomics will conclude and report on its completed second phase of consultation. An initial report is expected to the Programme Group meeting on 25 August and the MAA Board on 2 September. The final recommendations are expected at the end of September. The recommendations will be considered by the Programme Group and Board prior to any changes being approved.

2. The transport theme is expected to conclude the Memorandum of Understanding with the Highways Agency following approval from local authority planners

3. Meetings with Whitehall department staff will be arranged for a delegation from Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole to introduce and promote the Green Knowledge Economy concept and programme probably in October/November.

4. The MAA Board is expected to approve the addition of two new members from the private sector and agree 'sponsorship' roles for the theme areas.

Programme Status

1. The second phase of the Geoeconomics consultation is designed to identify and scope projects that will put 'flesh' on the 'green knowledge economy' conceptual framework. This will inevitably lead to a comprehensive review of the existing programme content and the economic strategy upon which it is based in the final quarter of the year. Consequently, although active supporting the work of Geoeconomics and progressing existing projects and initiatives such as the establishment of the Employment and Skills Board, this period has been marked by an amount of 'treading water' awaiting the outcome of the consultation process.

Current Issues, Risks and Mitigating Actions

1. Recently some of the work by Geoeconomics to identify potential projects to take forward in support of the 'green knowledge economy' concept was criticized as lacking the desired levels of collaboration and consultation. Reassurance was given that work to date is preliminary and that any final selection of projects would be made by the Programme Group and Board, however there is some risk that this latest phase of consultancy will confuse, demotivate and disengage stakeholders.
2. The recommendations by Geoeconomics at the conclusion of their work are likely to lead to a full review of project and programme content, resource capacity, funding, governance and theme structures. For example, the current theme group may be reorganized to better support project delivery. This has potential to be unsettling and will need to be managed carefully. Negative impact will be minimized by ensuring changes are clearly communicated, coherent, aligned to a valued final goal, and mesh into existing work without adding burden to 'day jobs'. It is also very important that MAA related work be included as part of an individual's job performance appraisal and recognition.
3. Annual results have highlighted excellent performance against targets in some areas such as retention of graduates in the sub-region but inadequate progress in others, such as the proportion of adults qualified to level 4. More significant is the lack of timely data by which to measure performance and the need to approve recently identified changes to the annual congestion target and skills level 4 baselines. Greater commitment to performance measurement is needed. This can be addressed within either the existing theme group structure or project teams.
4. The Programme Manager has requested a review of programme structures and individual roles and responsibilities to better reflect good practice. Again this has potential to be unsettling. It is anticipated that any agreed changes will be in

place by the end of the year so as to best direct the programme following Geoeconomics review.

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