



15 August 2006

Dear Partner,

## **CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORK – GOVERNANCE BOARD**

As you may be aware, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) networks across Cheshire have recently been reviewed and a new Cheshire Partnerships Framework has been created. The Framework, which came into effect from 1 April, aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of organisations and agencies working together on priorities for local areas in the context of evolving responsibilities for and demands on LSPs. One such Government requirement is the preparation, negotiation and delivery of a three year Local Area Agreement for Cheshire from April 2007 to deliver priorities agreed between central government and key partners.

The new Framework consists of a number of elements including a new Communities of Cheshire Partnership and Governance Board as well as the existing six District LSPs and Cheshire-wide / District-based Thematic Partnerships. All of the constituent bodies in the Framework are interdependent and of equal status though each element has specific terms of reference designed to reflect their unique role within the context of the wider model. It is therefore vital that individual partners are engaged and involved at the most appropriate place within the Framework and where their influence and contribution will have best effect.

The new Communities of Cheshire Partnership (CCP) is intended to be a 'federation' of the geographical and thematic partnerships operating within the Framework. It has a key role in managing and co-ordinating local and countywide action on shared priorities, providing leadership and influence when necessary and monitoring progress against agreed aims and targets. To ensure balance across geographic and thematic priorities, the Partnership draws half of its membership from the district LSPs and the other half from thematic partnerships or strategic organisations operating across Cheshire or the sub-region.

The Communities of Cheshire Partnership has met twice – in April and June – with further meetings scheduled to take place in September and December. Amongst other things, the Partnership have to date agreed and adopted an Agreement and Protocols for the Framework and Constitution of the CCP and have been steering the development of the new Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy and Cheshire Local Area Agreement.

Since the establishment of the new Framework, it has always been envisaged that the CCP would operate in conjunction with a Governance Board – the CCP providing

management and co-ordination of partnership activity and the Governance Board providing overall leadership and accountability.

After a busy start establishing new Cheshire-wide thematic partnerships to drive forward delivery and strengthening the relationships between Cheshire-wide and local activity, we are now in a position to establish the new Governance Board and would like to invite you to participate in an informal 'shadow' meeting of the Board to discuss and agree its role and terms of reference. This will take place on **Friday 22 September** from **11.30am – 1.00pm** (followed by lunch) at **Warrington Town Hall** and will follow a scheduled Sub Regional Leaders Meeting taking place at the same venue.

The Cheshire Partnerships Framework Agreement and Protocols (including suggested terms of reference for the Governance Board), Constitution of the CCP and draft Constitution of the Governance Board are attached as background information for the meeting.

I hope you are able to attend but would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

In the meantime, if you would like any further information about any aspect of the Cheshire Partnerships Framework, the Communities of Cheshire Partnership or the Governance Board, please contact Alison Armstrong by telephone (01244 603336) or email ([alison.armstrong@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.armstrong@cheshire.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'W' and 'R'.

Chairman  
Communities of Cheshire Partnership