

10 November 2005

Dear Council Leader

FUTURE PROOFING YOUR LAA SEMINAR, 6 OCTOBER

KEY OUTCOMES

I am delighted to write to you highlighting the key outcomes arising from the *Future Proofing your LAA* seminar, which explored the rationale, barriers, opportunities and tools for embedding sustainable development into Local Area Agreements. Ten out of fifteen boroughs which are currently finalising Local Area Agreement submissions, and the London Borough of Greenwich, participated in the seminar.

Sustainable development as both a goal and an approach was seen as key to moving forward on Local Area Agreements. In particular, this included, achieving outcomes now that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There was a consensus amongst participants that this meant joining up both thinking and practice across the four LAA blocks, which is vital for achieving holistic and integrated outcomes for communities. Participants identified several barriers and a number of positive initiatives to achieving this end.

Barriers arose from there being no formal recognition of sustainable development within LAA blocks, and therefore within processes to address these. In particular, the lack of resources to identify cross-cutting measures, and the need to raise the profile of this approach amongst both internal and external stakeholders was raised as a significant concern.

Importantly, participants saw emerging opportunities to move forward, focussing on the need for continuing collective work and, specifically:

- More seminars to assist both current and next round LAA boroughs in integrating sustainable development into LAAs;
- Exploring how the boroughs collectively can make a difference to sustainable development in London and the possibility of setting some pan-London sustainable development targets;
- Evolving a collective mechanism to support boroughs in their negotiations and in achieving best practice;
- Looking to maintain and strengthen links between sustainable development and health approaches and initiatives;

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- Supporting the development of a partnership funding bid led by London Sustainability Exchange to the Academy of Sustainable Communities to draw out and promote best practice approaches to sustainable development within London.

I am sure you will agree that this initiative is a positive step for London and I hope you will join me in supporting further work. The partnership now will consider how to take forward these key findings and I will contact you shortly to invite you to engage in future activities.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Judge *Martin Pilgrim* *Liz Meek* *Sue Atkinson*

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