



Index of helpful websites

Policy context

- Strong and prosperous communities – the local government white paper
The local government white paper details a new approach to local partnership, giving local authorities more opportunity to lead their area, work with other services and better meet the public's needs. It sets out a more streamlined and proportionate performance regime with a radical simplification and a reduction in the number of targets for local partners. (Published October 2006)
- [Strong and Prosperous Communities - The Local Government White Paper Implementation Plan: One Year On](#)
This updated implementation plan details the progress made on how the Government is playing its part in implementing key proposals in Strong and Prosperous Communities - the Local Government White Paper. (Published November 2007)
- An introduction to the new local performance framework – delivering better outcomes for local people.
This core narrative document has been produced jointly with the LGA. It explains the rationale for the framework, provides an overview of each of its core elements and includes a timetable for delivery. (Published November 2007)

National indicators

- [National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of definitions - Draft for Consultation](#)
Lists the 198 national indicators and explains the detailed technical definitions and the reporting system. Sets out the links between the national indicators and the national priorities agreed in Public Service Agreements and Departments' Strategic Objectives set in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. Explains how the indicators will work, including through LAAs, MAAs and CAA. (Published November 2007)

Guidance

- [Negotiating new local area agreements](#)
This is the first part of two-stage operational guidance on the negotiation process for negotiating a new LAA. It describes the 'narrative' of each level of government with respect to the LAA process. It also incorporates the lessons learnt from feasibility testing, helps to 'de-mystify' the negotiation process and helps to set expectations that each can have of each other. (Published September 2007)
- [Development of the new local area agreement framework – operational guidance 2007](#)
The second phase of operational guidance to support the negotiation of LAAs by June 2008. It explains how LSPs can use their local vision, evidence and the radically streamlined national indicator set to develop their LAA. It highlights the importance of engaging with councillors,

communities, voluntary groups and businesses to agree shared priorities, a timetable for implementation and the new more flexible arrangements for performance management and area based grant. It also includes an overview of arrangements for Multi-Area Agreements which will help the thirteen areas announced last week to take forward this collaborative approach to sub-regional working. (Published November 2007)

- Statutory guidance – Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities
The draft statutory guidance for consultation on the duties under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, setting out how the new laws will enable local government and LSPs to develop effective LAAs and sustainable community strategies; ensure effective consultation with local communities through the 'duty to involve' and ensure commitment from local partner agencies through the 'duty to co-operate'. (Published November 2007)

Improvement

- [Culture and sport improvement toolkit](#)
The Culture and Sport Improvement Toolkit has been developed from earlier toolkits that focused on improving individual culture and sport services. It is a response to local government's desire to see a single improvement tool for the sector. It is designed to underpin continuous improvement and support councils that want to identify their strengths and weaknesses in culture and sport.
- [Cultural Services Improvement Unit](#) – log in required
The Cultural Services Improvement Unit within the IDeA has been set up to help local authorities to improve the overall performance of cultural services in their area, and to support the implementation of performance management initiatives.

Over-arching information

- [IDeA Local area agreement resources](#)
This resource provides a comprehensive and extended support service for lead officers, specialist officers and their partners, who are engaged in developing and delivering local area agreements (LAAs).
- [IDeA Local strategic partnerships resources](#)
This resource can help those who are trying to overcome challenges and make difficult decisions in developing local strategic partnerships (LSPs).
- [Local Area Agreements and partnerships](#)
LGA resources relating to local area agreements and partnerships.
- [A councillor's guide to the new local area agreements](#)
This guide for councillors explains what local area agreements are and why they are important. It illustrates some example of ambitions which councillors want to achieve locally through new partnership agreements.

Dry-run LAA negotiations

- [LAA Dry-run negotiations: Final Report: Headline Messages - September 2007](#)

This report outlines the headline findings of the LAA dry-run negotiation process which was undertaken between April and July 2007. This exercise was undertaken in preparation for the introduction of new LAAs as set out in the Strong and Prosperous Communities: Local Government White Paper. The findings and recommendations in this report are those of the consultant authors and do not necessarily represent the views or proposed policies of Communities and Local Government. (Published September 2007)

Equality and Diversity in LAAs

- [Equality and Diversity in LAAs: An Aide Memoir for Locality Managers](#)

This is a briefing note for Government Offices, particularly Locality Managers and Lead Negotiators to act as an aide memoir when considering equalities in an LAA context. The consideration of equalities in a LAA context should mean that no group or place is left behind. It should effectively sharpen up the focus of LAAs to achieve better outcomes for equalities groups.

Multi-Area Agreements

- [Pushing back the frontiers: The multi-area agreement pioneers](#)

This report sets out the LGAs vision for the development of multi-area agreements. It argues that MAAs present the opportunity for new ways of working which challenge artificial boundaries. It contains case studies and the ambitions of partnerships included in the first round of MAAs in June 2008.

The role of culture and sport in meeting community needs and in supporting the place-shaping agenda

- [Living Places: Stronger communities through culture and sport.](#)

The Living Places Partnership is an alliance of public bodies who believe everyone should benefit from the arts, sport, public space, heritage, museums, libraries and archives, the built environment and the creative industries, regardless of where they live.

- [Changing Lives and Places: Lessons from the Cultural Pathfinders](#)
The DCMS and LGA Cultural Pathfinders programme has shown how culture and sport can contribute powerfully to shared outcomes by engaging people in community activity and helping to develop a long-term vision of place that all delivery partners can support. The Pathfinders have been breaking down barriers to address the real needs of the community.

- [Solace Foundation Imprint -Inspiring our ambition through sport, art culture place](#)
The SOLACE SFI was launched in October 2005. The Imprint will help to fill the gap between policy analysts and researchers, on the one hand, and practitioners on the other.
- [Taking Part Counts: The contribution of art culture and sport to national outcomes](#)
Taking Part counts the contribution of art, culture and sport to national outcomes, describes the benefits of participation, the positive impacts on health, educational attainment, community cohesion and safety, and economic vitality of taking part in cultural and sporting activities.

Regional information on the contribution of culture to LAA outcomes

- [South East Cultural Observatory: The Culture and Sport Toolkit for Local Area Agreements](#)
The South East region has developed a new web based toolkit to support the positioning of culture and sport in LAAs.
- Museums, Libraries and Archives: Delivering outcomes in the South West
MLA South West has produced a regional advocacy document describing how the work of the sector contributes to LAA outcomes.
- [Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands: LAA Briefings](#)
The regional Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands has also produced a briefing note aimed at supporting colleagues within local authorities and their partner organisations tasked with seeking to embed culture into new style Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

Additional voluntary indicators

In addition to the national indicators there may be a need to utilise a range of voluntary indicators that assist with the measurement of business improvement and which can be used for benchmarking and improvement support. They are available from the:

- [Audit Commission Library of Local indicators](#)
The library is a joint project run by the Audit Commission (external link) and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) (external link). It is a free on-line service aimed at helping local authorities and their partners monitor and improve their progress in meeting local priorities.
- [CIPFA Statistics \(log in required\)](#)
CIPFA has collected and published statistics on Libraries, archives, charges for Leisure, Culture sport and recreation services for many years. Extensive information is available on their website.
- Audit commission standards on data quality
Good quality data is the essential ingredient for reliable performance and financial information. This briefing introduces a set of standards to define the arrangements public bodies can adopt to drive improvement in the quality of their data.

Evidence-based impact studies

- **Evaluation of the Cultural Pathfinder Programme**
The programme was commissioned by DCMS and the Local Government Association to explore the ways in which cultural services can meet the priority needs of local communities. This report from De Montfort presents their findings and encompasses the outcomes, lessons learnt and key messages.
- **Changing Lives and Places: Lessons from the Cultural Pathfinders**
The DCMS and LGA Cultural Pathfinders programme has shown how culture and sport can contribute powerfully to shared outcomes by engaging people in community activity and helping to develop a long-term vision of place that all delivery partners can support. The Pathfinders have been breaking down barriers to address the real needs of the community.
- [The Beacon Scheme - Culture & sport for hard to reach groups](#)
Authorities awarded beacon status for the 'Culture and sport for hard-to-reach groups' theme were Babergh District Council, Borough of Telford and Wrekin, Eastbourne Borough Council, Leicester City Council, London Borough of Newham, Nottinghamshire County Council, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and Sunderland City Council. (Round seven)
- [Newham Impact Report - Building Active and Cohesive Communities through Culture & Sport](#)
This report details Newham's contribution to Government targets to address youth offending, improve health, educational attainment and increase community cohesion.
- **Impact and Values-Assessing the arts and creative industries in the South West**
This essay is in three parts - philosophy, analysis and guide. The first section assesses the way the arts have been valued and assessed over time. The second summarises some recent impact research in the South West. The third puts forward a range of methodologies used in impact assessments.
- **Review of impact of museum, library and archive activity on children & young people**
This literature review carried out by the Burns Owen Partnership (BOP) sets out the main strengths, weaknesses and gaps in the evidence base for the sector against current policy for children and young people.
- [IDeA Children and youth culture case studies](#)
This section contains case studies covering all aspects of culture. These can be used to help improve services for children and young people.

Improving performance and addressing under performance

- [IDeA Validation Resources](#)
40 Councils have now completed or are undertaking a validated self-assessment using the IDeA validation service. Information on validation is available from IDeA Knowledge.
- [IDeA Peer Review Resources](#)

17 Councils have completed a Library or Culture peer review information about which is also available on IDeA Knowledge.

- [IDeA Peer Clearing House Resources](#)
The peer clearing house for local government has been set up to recruit, accredit and place peers. It is hosted by the IDeA and facilitates the brokerage of peers for both the IDeA and non-IDeA improvement projects in the local government sector.
- [IDeA Communities of Practice Resources](#)
Encouraging those in local government to share knowledge is a fundamental part of the Improvement and Development Agency's (IDeA's) knowledge management strategy. This is why the IDeA supports communities of practice throughout the local government sector.

Improving knowledge sharing and learning

- The Regional Cultural Consortiums are developing Cultural Observatories with information to support advocacy and improvement:
 - [North East England Cultural Observatory](#)
 - [South East Cultural Observatory](#)
 - [Culture North West](#)
 - [Yorkshire \(Under construction\)](#)
 - [East Midlands \(Under construction\)](#)
 - [West Midlands Regional Observatory](#)
 - [South West Observatory](#)
 - [East of England Observatory](#)
- [IDeA Cultural Connections](#)
This resource gives examples of how cultural projects can contribute to and enhance the seven shared priorities. It also looks at how culture can contribute to LAAs, CPA and efficiency and documents the activities of the beacon authorities, as well as the pathfinder projects.
- [IDeA Communities of Practice](#)
Supports professional networking across the public sector.

Sector Skills Councils

- Creative and Cultural Skills
Creative & Cultural Skills is the Sector Skills Council for advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, music, performing, literary and visual arts.
- [Lifelong Learning UK](#)
Lifelong Learning UK is the Sector Skills Council responsible for the professional development of all those working in community learning and development; further education; higher education; libraries, archives and information services; and work-based learning.

Current news, developments and information on our activities are available to view or download from our website.

www.mla.gov.uk

Copies of this publication can be provided in alternative formats. Please contact MLA Publications on 020 7273 1428.

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