

FRAMEWORK FOR ACCREDITING LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN LONDON DESIGNED AT ALG/GOL EVENTS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2001

AIM:

GOL notify all local strategic partnerships in 20 NRF boroughs in London by 28 February of their accreditation.

OBJECTIVES:

To ensure the accreditation process is

- *fair;*
- *meaningful;*
- *open and transparent;*
- *has integrity;*
- *adds values and minimises bureaucracy; and*
- *deadlines are met.*

1. Core information to be provided by all partnerships: -

- name of partnership
- list of members including Chair
 - name
 - organisation
 - position in organisation (seniority)
- date of formal launch/inauguration
- dates on which partnership (or interim partnership) has met/will have met by end of February 2002
- future timetable for partnership meetings
- diagram of structure
- agreed aims and objectives
- details of Partnership/ awayday events since Jan 2001 and dates of future events currently planned
- contact details of
 - the Chair and
 - those leading on LSP development and accreditation

2. Process of self assessment/action planning and presentation to GOL

- LSP should decide who leads on self assessment and developing the action plan with the LA in default i.e. where there is no partnership to make this decision.
- individual partnerships will decide what process suits them best but has to involve
 - the submission of a written self assessment and action plan
 - face to face dialogue with GOL
 - providing GOL with an outline of process agreed

3. What should the self assessment look like?

- no standard form or proforma
- no more than 10 sides of A4
- honest
- a shared diagnosis of strengths and weaknesses of the partnership
- tell the story of the LSP either as a general introduction to the self assessment or under each of the criteria
- for this year, place more emphasis on effort and progress on the first three criteria probably than the last three criteria, which should be picked up in the action plan
- if wish to, include relevant supporting documentation (either submit or cross refer) e.g. minutes of meetings, community plans/strategies, regeneration strategies, opinion polls, citizen panel consultations etc
- must be agreed by all partners

4. What should the action plan look like?

The action plan is a plan to remedy some of the weaknesses identified in how the partnership is working against the criteria, as revealed through the self assessment process. It is not the same as the local neighbourhood renewal strategy (although evidence of the local neighbourhood renewal strategy being implemented demonstrates one of the accreditation criteria i.e. action focussed).

It may not always be possible to detail the action which needs to be taken in response to meeting an objective because, for the example, the partnership has not discussed the matter yet, However, where it is

possible to identify a clear course of action and break this down into tasks, then the action plan should give details of this.

The action plan

- should be short and focussed and no more than 10 sides of A4 with
 - agreed actions/objectives, but not necessarily exclusively a list of tasks
 - wherever possible, indicate how actions/objectives link in with
 - accreditation criteria
 - floor targets, where appropriate
 - longer term strategy, where appropriate
 - actions/objectives should be
 - realistic and deliverable
 - attributable to a range of specific partners
 - timed with review dates and indication of which partners will be reviewing them
- must be agreed by all partners.

5. GOL External stakeholders/validation

- partnerships can nominate stakeholders (to validate the self assessment and action plan) to GOL if they wish
- GOL will
 - decide which stakeholders to use to validate self assessment and action plan
 - advise partnerships of their decision
 - ask each of the external stakeholders to provide the maximum of
 - 3 examples of the strengths of the partnership for each criteria
 - 3 examples of the weaknesses of the partnership for each criteria
- as part of external validation, GOL will
 - ask for examples of good practice from the partnership which could be shared with others across London
 - ask for ideas of how the partnership might address some of it's weaknesses
 - views on how comfortable the stakeholder is with providing information on an attributable or anonymised basis
 - set a deadline for this information to be submitted (probably by Christmas)
 - provide this information to the partnerships by early January

ACTION FOR PARTNERSHIPS

WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE DATE OF THIS LETTER

- provide core information as described at 1;
- nominations of stakeholders GOL could consult as part of the validation process (this is optional and not obligatory!)

WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE DATE OF THIS LETTER IF POSSIBLE BUT DEFINITELY BY 10 DECEMBER

- a description of the accreditation model/process the partnership wants to follow (see 2 and more ideas on attached write ups of the two accreditation events)
- dates on which you would like GOL involvement e.g. awaydays, meetings, presentations etc

BY 31 JANUARY 2002

- all partnerships to have submitted to GOL a self assessment and action plan which has been collectively agreed by the partnership

SOME PROTOCOLS TO MAKE THE PROCESS WORK

*Meetings with GOL to discuss draft self assessments/action plans
(optional)*

- these are optional and not at all obligatory but if they seem helpful, GOL will try to accommodate them
- **5 working days** before the date of such meetings, draft self assessment and action plans to be with GOL
- GOL will record action points and send to partnership within **5 working days** of the meeting

Meetings to present final self assessment and action plan to GOL

- Submit a self assessment and action plan which has been agreed by the LSP to GOL **5 working days** before the date scheduled for presentation to GOL
- GOL will record action points and send to partnership within **5 working days** of the meeting

ACTION FOR GOL

ON 28 FEBRUARY 2002

- GOL to write to all partnerships informing them of the outcome of the accreditation process

Neighbourhood Renewal Team

GOL

19 November 2001