



Promoting excellence in
Public services in the East Midlands

**East Midlands Solace Branch Meeting Notes
29 October at 13.00
De Montford University, Leicester**

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Members Present</u></p> <p>Simon Bovey (Chair), Robert Moreland (Secretary), Lynn Aisbett, Teena Twelves, Duncan Kerr, Ian Fytche, Ruth Hyde, Hilary Patterson, Robert Norris, Sue Gittins, Sushel Ori, James Wilson</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Janice Morphet and Steve Leach</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Michael Frater, Paul Crowson, William Sanders, Keith Murdock, Lee Adams, John Latham, Janet Beaumont, Rodney Green, Graham Allen, Sue Smith, Kamal Mehta, Janet Doran, Richard Wills, David Shaw</p>	
2.	<p>The aim of the meeting was to focus on the Brown Government, the national agenda and its implications for local government.</p> <p>Our two speakers (Janice Morphet and Lynn Aisbett) concentrated on the Place Shaping Agenda. Janice focussed on the agenda from a national perspective while Lynn illustrated how Melton Mowbray District Council were implementing a 'Place' agenda locally (see attached presentations).</p>	
	<p><u>The National Perspective Janice Morphet</u></p> <p><u>Focus:</u> Brown Government focused on Places, largely at regional, sub regional - city level. Focus on economic performance and competitiveness. Competitive regions between Europe and rest of world. East Midlands need to demonstrate how we will move up 'European league table', identify what is holding us back will help in drawing down funding.</p> <p>Regionalism - not written off, see new RD Authority, Regional Scrutiny - Joint Parliamentary Committee. Subregional areas based on economic footprint - travel to work areas (may not relate to administrative boundaries) - potential for multi-area agreement and scope for 'sub region' to become an authority in its own right (democratic arrangements ?).</p>	

	<p>Look at Scotland, Wales, NI for potential new policy for English local government, examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Value - abolished first in Wales, followed by CPA in England • Aligning LDFs and Community Plans happening in Wales • Duty for public authorities to co-operate - in place in Scotland first, now coming to England with LAAs 	
	<p><u>Steve Leach</u> posed several points to start our discussion.</p> <p>i) The current Public Health and Local Government Bill 2007 is predominantly the Blair Government's Agenda, nothing new will happen until this is implemented and possibly until after a General Election.</p> <p>ii) Will 'centralising' win out in the end? Focus on neighbourhoods is good but questioned whether it will really happen, to do it is difficult - see French 'commune' system versus our model of 'ad hoc bodies'.</p> <p>iii) Questioned democratic legitimacy of City Regions, LSPs, LAAs, and funding reforms for local government (Lyons) has been ignored.</p> <p>On Lyons, Janice suggested more of it will be implemented over time, and we may end up with local tax collection similar to Canada or Danish model.</p>	
	<p><u>The Local Perspective - Lynn Aisbett</u></p> <p>Melton, though a prosperous area, has a few neighbourhoods with real problems in crime, education, health and low wage/low skills opportunities. Identified four priority neighbourhoods and redesigned council services (using systems approach) to be able to respond to/deal with residents' enquiries and often complex needs.</p>	
	<p><u>Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% down in violent crime • 22% down overall crimes • Melton Learning Hub (using County Council funding and linked to a school) is addressing pupil exclusions by offering apprenticeships - IT, Hairdressing, Mechanics or back to school (exclusions down, referral to YISPs down) • Credit Union set up • Local environmental improvements <p>Members welcomed to visit Melton to see it in action, contact Lynn for future information.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Annual East and West Midlands conference at the Belfry, date 17 and 18 April 2008.</p>	