

Beacons Scheme – table of key activities and milestones

Month(09)	Key activity	Operational critical path
Mar	Longlist of themes in tabular format CLG wants (IDeA)	Ownership and selection of themes (CLG)
*Apr	Appointment of new Chair and Vice Chair (CLG confirms they'll make major decisions on the future look of the 'scheme') Jointly funded CLG market testing exercise Design streamlined on-line application form and commission technical system	Induction of the Chair (IDeA and CLG meet on 7 th April) Recruitment process for Vice Chair (CLG) 'What If' to complete market testing (CLG) Streamlined on-line application re-designed and dummy tested CONSEQ specification and timeframe (IDeA)
*Mid-May	Announce (fewer) themes that are aligned to LAA priorities, and launch community of practice and promote launch events Use COPs to create dialogue, sharing and a market of interest Must commission and set up new, shorter on-line application forms	Announcement of themes and identify GTLs (CLG) and LGA Group policy leads (IDeA) Set up COPs to create market and interest (IDeA) Streamlined on-line form completed, ready to 'go live' (IDeA)
June	Identify theme criteria for themes, through IDeA National Advisors, high level sector expert groups (including endorsement of GTLs (as a panel 'given') and CoPs By second week of June: Produce launch brochure on line for LGA conference	Finalise short summary of what best practice will look like and a few key bullet point criteria - must be no more than 1x A4 side (IDeA) On-going COPs to create market and interest (IDeA) Publish on-line and printed sheets for conference
July	LGA Annual conference 2009 At reception, IB Chair and Minister launch new programme	Launch applications for new scheme at stand Minister and Margaret Eaton/David Parsons launch new scheme
July- Sept*	Application period – short narrative of excellence, improvement and innovation	
Sept-mid Oct	On-line assessor judging and short list drawn up (Scrutiny meetings deleted from the new process)	
Mid Oct-mid Nov*	October: Interrogative assessment visits (presentation meetings deleted from the new process) Reality check results with Audit Commission CAA findings	
Nov*	New panel needs to approve recommendations and CLG approves awards to be made (possible announcement at LGA innovation and improvement conference or Downing Street reception ???)	
Dec	Award winners sign learning contract for delivery of peer learning	

Legend - * time critical, high risk