

Meeting of the Cabinet - 19th March 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

Local Area Agreement

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to the current draft Local Area Agreement framework which is currently subject to negotiation with Government.

Background

2. At the Cabinet meeting on 12th December Members considered the work to date on the development of the revised Local Area Agreement for the Borough, and the initial long list of possible priority outcomes for inclusion. Since that report the draft submission has been subject to detailed negotiation with Government representatives to align local and national priorities. In addition, further analysis of available evidence has been used to help establish the relative importance of local priorities.
3. A revised LAA framework has now been developed involving partners, and community representatives through the Dudley Community Partnership. The revised framework now includes a proposed link to the new national indicator set which is itself currently being finalised. Appendix 1 outlines the current draft LAA schedule, based on four overall themes, these being:-

Wealthy Communities

Improving investment and enterprise
Reducing worklessness
Economic Wellbeing

Healthy Communities

Improving Peoples Health
Reducing obesity
Reducing the use of Substances
Improving Social care

Environmentally Aware Communities

Improving the environment
Improving Transport networks

Safe and Cohesive Communities

Improving Community cohesion and engagement
Reducing crime
Building resilience to violent extremism
Reducing anti-social behaviour

4. The national requirement is to have no more than 35 outcomes included within the LAA, in addition to the statutory children and young people indicators. The current draft LAA contained in Appendix A satisfies this requirement, although the final position may change marginally during the subsequent discussions with Government Office.
5. The Secretary of State has made a direction which requires the Council to prepare and submit a draft local area agreement on or before 30 May. The Government are seeking to finalise the agreement with each authority on the LAA by June 2008. This will be a three year agreement, and a series of partnership based task and finish groups are meeting during March – May to help determine the range of improvement targets under each of the indicators, and develop joint action plans towards achieving these stretched targets.
6. Following approval by the Council, and the subsequent agreement with Government, these improvement priorities will be incorporated within the Council Plan to ensure that the Council and local strategic partnership performance targets are managed in a co-ordinated and consistent manner.

Finance

7. The Cabinet report in February outlined the changes represented in the Area Based Grant regime. In Dudley, 36 separate funding streams are going into the ABG. A number of figures are provisional at this stage, but the expected three-year allocation is £14.5m in 2008/9, £14.6m in 2009/10 and £13.8m in 2010/11, with the funding for 2008/09 committed to existing programmes. The implications for Council and partner spending plans will need to be reviewed as part of the 2009/10 Budget and Medium Term Financial Planning process.

Law

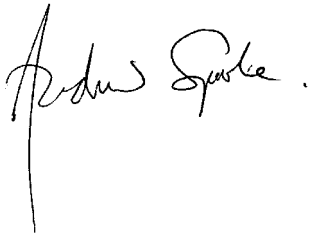
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the borough, or any part of it. The Secretary of State has now made a direction requiring the Council to prepare and submit a draft local area agreement on or before 30 May. The direction is made under section 106 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Equality Impact

9. The development of the LAA is being undertaken jointly with partners, including representatives of the voluntary and community sector, and children and young people. The aim is to ensure that we build upon the achievements in community inclusion made in developing the Dudley Borough Challenge. In addition the focus of many outcomes will explicitly address the needs for improved outcomes for communities experiencing disadvantage and discrimination.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that Members approve the revised priority outcomes in the draft LAA as the basis for finalising negotiations with Government, and that the Leader of the Council is delegated authority to make the final submission of the draft Agreement by 30th May 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Sparke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

**Andrew Sparke
Chief Executive**

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List of Background Papers

nil

The information submitted within the document refers solely to the National Indicators. It utilises the template provided in the DCLG Operational Guidance (November 2007) . However, at this stage it does not include the education and early years targets or any local indicators. Future submission will include information on lead and targets. However, for the purpose of this submission the 'lead' column has been used to raise outstanding issues.

Key

Black – Agreed Target

Black – Proposed Target (Dudley)

Red – Requested Target (GOWM)

Red – GOWM requested – Dudley's Preferred Indicator

Purple – outside request

Outstanding Issues

Black - Outstanding issues locally

Blue - Additional Information required from GOWM

Purple – Outstanding issues with external bodies

Priority	Indicator(s), including those from national indicator set (shown with a *)		Baseline	(Lead Partners) Outstanding Issues
	NI	Description		
Wealthy Communities Improving investment and enterprise	166	Average earnings of employees in area (Gross)	£393.70 (year?)	AGREED with GOWM
	171	VAT registration Rate	32 per 10,000 population (year)	AGREED with GOWM
Reducing worklessness	151	Overall employment rate	74.6% (2006/7)	Still under consideration with EDRP
	152	Working age people on out of work benefits	Non Existing NI	AGREED with GOWM
	163	Working aged population qualified to at least level 2 or higher	Non Existing NI	AGREED with GOWM Difficulties with LSC data need to be resolved.
	165	Working age population qualified to at least level 4 or higher	Non Existing NI	AGREED with GOWM
	45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment and training Have similar stretch but diff cohort	Cohort Issue Baseline can be provided by CDRP	Still under consideration through Safe and Sound Partnership
Economic Wellbeing	116	Proportion of Children in Poverty	Non Existing NI Possible baseline - Checking calculation	Still under consideration

Priority	NI	Indicator	Baseline	Outstanding Issues
Healthy Communities				
Improving Peoples Health	120	All age Mortality rate	636.12 (per 100,000 pop) (Year)	AGREED with GOWM
	121	Mortality rate from circulatory diseases at ages under 75	85.85 (per 100, 000) (year)	AGREED with GOWM
	8	Adult Participation in sport		AGREED with GOWM
Reducing Obesity	56	Obesity among primary age children in Year 6	23.4% (2007/8)	AGREED with GOWM
	55	Obesity among primary school age children in reception	11.5% (2007/8)	Dudley request that this is not included
Reducing the use of Substances Alcohol	39	Alcohol harm related hospital admissions	Non existing NI	AGREED with GOWM
Improving Social Care	130	Social care clients receiving self directed support (direct payments and individual budgets)	Non existing NI (56 05/06 125 Target 06/07?)	AGREED with GOWM
	139	People over 65 who say they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently	Non existent NI	Still under consideration
	131	Delayed transfers from hospital	Non existent NI	Awaiting evidence from GOWM.

Priority	NI	Indicator	Baseline	Outstanding issues
Environmentally Aware communities				
Improving the Environment	186	Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area	N	AGREED with GOWM
	191	Residual household waste per head	455.4Kg Per head (2006/7)	AGREED with GOWM
	192	Household waste recycled and composted	22.9% (2006/7)	AGREED with GOWM
	198	Children Travelling to school - mode of travel usually used	Baseline available - awaiting response? Non existing NI	Evidence from GOWM forwarded to C&YP lead. Awaiting feedback from them.
	155	Number of affordable homes delivered	96 (2006/7)	AGREED with GOWM
	154	Net additional homes provided	760 Homes (2006/7)	Awaiting feedback from local lead
	159	(or) Supply of ready to deliver housing sites	111.4% (Current RSS), 88.38% ('Phase 2'/'Revised' RSS Preferred Option)	Dudley's Preferred Indicator.
	170	Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years		REQUESTED VIA AWM Looking at local evidence
Improving Transport networks	167	Congestion average journey time per mile during the morning peak	New TARGET will need to be developed	Still under consideration. DH looking at sub regional position.

Priority	NI	Indicator	Baseline	Outstanding Issues
Safe and Cohesive Communities				
Improving community cohesion and engagement	1	Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	73% Baseline 2006/7 LGUSS	AGREED with GOWM
	4	Percentage of People who feel that they can influence the decisions in their locality Or	24% 2006/7	Ask GOWM to Support both these NI's
	7	Environment for thriving third sector	Non Existing NI	
Reducing Crime	16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	To be provided by CDRP	AGREED with GOWM
	15 20	Serious violent crime rate Or Assault with Injury Crime rate(Current Stretch?)	To be provided by CDRP	Awaiting feedback from GOWM To be discussed as Safe and Sound board
	115	Substance misuse by young people	Non existant NI Gowm don't see this as issue	Awaiting additional evidence from Safe and Sound Board
	35	Building Resilience to Violent extremism	No Baseline available	AGREED with GOWM
Reducing Anti Social Behavior	17 24	Perception of ASB Or Satisfaction with way police and council have dealt with ASB (Police preference)	27% 2006/7 likely to go following consultation	Awaiting feedback from Safe and Sound Board
	69	Children who have experienced Bullying	33% 2007	AGREED with GOWM