

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 16 October 2008

RE: Local Area Agreement – Review and Refresh

Purpose

This note informs the Panel of the position with setting LAA targets going into the Review/ Refresh process for year one.

Background

Walsall's LAA was signed-off by Ministers on 30 June 2008. The process allows for annual review and refresh but at the end of the first year the amount of change is expected to be minimal. In our case the review/ refresh will concentrate on negotiating those targets not agreed at sign-off.

Walsall's Agreement contains 25 main indicators and 5 local indicators against which Government will measure our progress for CAA purposes and to determine the level of performance reward grant paid. At sign-off targets for 16 of the main indicators were either deferred for technical reasons or because Walsall had indicated reservations with regard to the level of improvement expected by Government in the light of the economic conditions at the time.

Review/ Refresh

Appendix 1 sets out all of the new LAA indicators (those highlighted are of greatest concern to this Scrutiny Panel). Where there is an entry in the final column the reasons why targets have not been set or where they are likely to be reviewed have been identified. They include:

- Indicators which rely on the results of the Place Survey for baseline and target setting,
- Other indicators where target setting was deferred, often because baseline data was not available,
- Indicators where targets were set but in the knowledge that further technical guidance was to be issued,
- Indicators where Walsall raised the need to revisit agreed targets at the time of sign-off, mainly as the risk of recession increased,
- Local indicators where Walsall is still to propose a definition or target

Two additional issues still need to be formally resolved:

- NI 167 – Congestion: Walsall is fully signed up to relevant regional strategies and the Local Transport Plan, but Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) have asked the Audit Commission to make an assessment of whether the non-inclusion of the indicator in the LAA is likely to affect implementation,

- NI 35 - Building resilience to violent extremism. GOWM have received Walsall's draft community cohesion strategy and have indicated that they are reassured PVE is a very important priority for the partners.

A further issue that could emerge over the coming months is the possibility of adding an indicator relating to services provided to disabled children (probably NI 54). Information has been received that this is a pre-requisite of the Council being able to sign up to the 'every disabled child matter charter'. Further investigations are being made with regard to this information.

Key deliverables in the review/ refresh process are:

31.12.2008	Report to GOWM on delivery arrangements for LAA target and risk assessment
09.01.2009	Submit first annual review
16 .02.2009	Submit draft revised LAA
02.03.2009	Revisions approved

Walsall Partnership will keep Scrutiny Panels informed of developments in the Review/ Refresh process as they occur over the coming months.

Author

Tim Ferguson,
Head of Partnership and Performance, Walsall Partnership

☎ 652481

✉ fergusont@walsall.gov.uk

Appendix 1: LAA Indicators – issues for review and refresh

NI	Indicator	SCS Priority	Frequency	Baseline	LAA Improvement Target			Issues for Review/ Refresh
					08/09	09/10	10/11	
NI 1	Number of people from different backgrounds who get on well together in their local area	Developing Strong & Dynamic Communities	Yearly	74% (06-07)	76%	77%	78%	The results of the Place Survey are expected later this year or early in 2009 which will possibly allow time for target negotiations in time for sign off in March 2009.
NI 4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	Developing Strong & Dynamic Communities	Yearly	To be determined	To be set at a statistically significant measurable change			As above
NI 5	Overall/ general satisfaction with local area	Creating Opportunity & Potential	Yearly	To be determined	To be set at a statistically significant measurable change			As above
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	Developing Strong & Dynamic Communities	Yearly	To be determined	A measurable improvement to take place between the National Survey of the third sector organisations conducted in 2008 and the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations conducted in 2010, calculated in accordance with the OTS briefing note			Deferred – awaiting data the National Survey of third sector organisations in 2008
NI 8	Percentage of adult population who participate in sport	Creating Opportunity & Potential	Yearly	16.40%	18.40%	19.40%	20.40%	
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Monthly	21.55 per 1000 population (07-08 to be revised July 08)	20.68	19.82	19.03	Awaiting advice from GO
NI 19	Rate of re-offending by young offenders	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Quarterly	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Awaiting data from the Ministry of Justice
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Monthly	12.23 per 1000 population (07-08 to be revised July 08)	11.74	11.27	10.82	Awaiting advice from GO
NI 30	Re-offending Rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Quarterly	17%	19%			Target set for year 1 only. Data from the Home Office is unlikely

								to be available in time for negotiations on years 2 and 3 targets
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Yearly	19.4% (06-07)	19.00%	18.80%	18.60%	Targets set but Walsall requested their re-negotiation at the first refresh
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	Education and Skills	Yearly	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Baseline data from Tellus Survey is due out in November, possibly in time to inform negotiations
NI 116	Proportion of children in poverty	Improve Access to Employment, Services & Facilities/Working with Employers to Create Jobs & Opportunities	Yearly	25.7% (April 07)	24.50%	23.50%	22.50%	Walsall included a condition that required that negotiations were re-opened if redundancies recorded by Job Centre Plus exceeded 500 by June 2008 - the figure was nearly 1000.
NI 117	16- to 18-year olds who are NEET	Education and Skills	Monthly	9.1% (07-08)	9.00%	8.90%	8.70%	
NI 120	All age/all cause mortality	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Yearly	M 1017 / F 629 (1995-97)	M 702 / F488 (2009)	M 681 / F478 (2010)	M 659 / F468 (2011)	
NI 135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carers' service, or advice and information	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Yearly	11.5% (06-07)	21.50%	24.50%	27.50%	
NI 136	People supported to live independently through social services	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Yearly	1809 (06-07)	2200	2600	3000	
NI 141	Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	Improving Housing Choice	Quarterly	76.3% (06-07/07-08)	76%	78%	81%	Awaiting advice from GO
NI 152	Working-age people on out-of-work benefits ¹	Improve Access to Employment, Services & Facilities/Working with Employers to Create Jobs & Opportunities	Quarterly	16.5% (May 2007)	16.20%	15.70%	15.00%	Walsall included a condition that required that negotiations were re-opened if redundancies recorded by Job Centre Plus exceeded 500 by June 2008 - the figure was nearly 1000.
NI 154	Number of additional houses	Improving Housing Choice	Yearly	Average of 444 homes pa 2002/03 to 2006/07 inclusive	640 net	640 net	640 net	Walsall requested that the re-negotiation of targets were included in the first refresh based on the prospect of recession

NI 163	Working-age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher	Education and Skills	Yearly	55.1% (2006)	+ 2% on baseline	+4% on baseline	+7% on baseline	
NI 172	Small businesses in the area showing employment growth	Access, Sustainable Places for Business	Yearly	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Awaiting advice from GO
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty	Improving Housing Choice	Yearly	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Awaiting advice from GO
NI 188	Adapting to climate change	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	Yearly	N/A	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
NI 191	Residual household waste per head	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	Yearly	850Kgs (06-07)	755Kg	739Kgs	697Kgs	
NI 198	Children travelling to school; mode of transport used	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	Yearly	31.4% (Jan 07)	30.40%	29.40%	28.40%	
Local Indicators								
	Levels of support to new and existing business	Access, Sustainable Places for Business		To be determined	Definition to be determined by September 2008			A local definition will be firmed up as part of the refresh negotiations
	Domestic violence	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy		To be determined	Definition to be determined which is likely to be based upon numbers of referrals to Social Services particularly in respect of children			A local definition will be firmed up as part of the refresh negotiations
NI 17	Public perceptions of ASB	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	Yearly	To be determined	Baseline and targets to be set using the BVUSS and revised when the Place Survey is undertaken			Awaiting results from Place survey later this year/ early 2009
NI 112	Under 18 Conception Rate	Creating Opportunity & Potential	Yearly	53.3 (2006)	This is a current stretch target which will be considered as a main indicator at refresh and realistic targets set at the time			Walsall will consider whether this should become a main indicator once data on the old LAA's stretch target is available
NI 186	Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	Yearly	6.6 tonnes per capita	Walsall is looking into the detailed definition behind this indicator and will develop indicators by August 2008			Walsall will propose targets early in the negotiation period