Annual Council – 19 May 2008

The New Local Area Agreement (LAA)

Portfolio: Councillor John O'Hare

Service: Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership

Wards: All

1.   Summary of report

The LAA is the delivery plan for the first three years of the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which itself is the final stages of preparation.

The SCS has received strong Partnership buy-in for its exciting new vision of how the Borough will look in 2021 and how it will be a good place to live, work and invest.

The LAA must contain up to 35 indicators and targets which are agreed with Government. Government will measure us on progress against these targets and we will receive reward grant for success in achieving the basket of LAA indicators.

It is proposed that the Walsall LAA will contain 26 main indicators and 5 local indicators chosen through extensive consultation with Partners and which will set the Council and its Partners on the road to achieving the Borough's new vision. Each will have three year targets which are in the final stages of negotiation with Government. The submission will also include supporting information which is still to be agreed with Government Office West Midlands (GOWM).

2.   Recommendations

2.1   That Council approves the list of indicators contained in Appendix 1 as those to be included in the new LAA.

2.2   That Council delegates final negotiations with respect to target setting for each LAA indicator to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, in order that the LAA can be submitted for Ministerial approval in June.

2.3   That Council delegates approval of any supporting information required by Government Office West Midlands to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.

3. Background Information

An open and inclusive process was applied across the Partnership to select the LAA indicators. They have been selected on the basis that they meet the priorities set in the draft SCS and that they require cross agency cooperation to be delivered successfully.

The selection process involved:

- holding an inter-agency workshop which matched the draft SCS priorities to the National Indicator Set (NIS) indicators and developed a long list for further consideration;

- forming an inter-agency Technical Group comprising performance officers from Safer Walsall Borough Partnership/ Police, the tPCT, Children's Trust, the West Midlands Regional Observatory, the Black Country Consortium, the Council and WBSP to come up with recommendations to narrow down the long-list.   This was subsequently amended and approved by the decision making processes of the Council and Partners;

- ensuring that local politicians, including Cabinet and all Scrutiny Panels, have been engaged throughout the process;

- involving Partners through the WBSP Board and Executive Committee and the four Pillar Executive Groups – Children and Young People, Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults, Safer and Stronger Communities, and Economic Development and Enterprise;

- Engaging with 'Duty to cooperate' partners, not represented within existing Pillar Groups, through invitations to attend two successive Partnership Board meetings.

Following on from the selection of indicators a robust negotiation is in the process of taking place between the agencies likely to lead on the delivery of each indicator and Government. These are still on-going but must be concluded by the end of May to allow the LAA to be submitted for Ministerial approval in June. As a result Council have been asked to delegate final approval of targets to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader in order that the LAA can be submitted in time.

It is likely that Government Office will require a range of supporting information to be submitted with the LAA. This could include a profile of Walsall and an account of how the indicator set has been chosen. All of this is available but it is not clear exactly what GOWM will require or the format it should take. As a result Council have been asked to delegate final approval of any supporting information required by GOWM to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.

4. **Resource and Legal considerations**

The Council and partners will be expected to align mainstream activity to deliver the indicators and priorities identified in the LAA in support of the vision and ambitions for Walsall which are contained in the draft Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is likely that part of the Area Based Grant also will be closely aligned to activity to deliver certain indicators and targets identified in the LAA although the detail of the process to administer this is still being worked through.

The LAA is being driven locally by the Local Strategic Partnership but requires approval of the Council as the Responsible Local Authority.

5. **Citizen impact**

There are a number of potential LAA indicators that will have a direct impact on citizens.

6. **Community safety**

There are a number of potential LAA indicators that will have a direct impact on community safety.

7. **Environmental impact**

There are a number of potential LAA indicators that will have a direct impact on the environment.

8. **Performance and risk management issues**

Delivery of LAA targets will have a direct impact on the Council's rating under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment arrangements.

Performance of current LAA targets has been managed through the structures of the LSP with assistance from the Council's Corporate Performance Management Unit. It is envisaged that this will remain the case with the new LAA.

Achievement of the targets in the LAA will affect the level of Reward Grant received.

9. **Equality implications**

Where appropriate equalities will be measured across each indicator selected for the LAA. A requirement will be included in the Target Action Planning process that will ensure that data is collected on the equalities impact of all activity.

10.   Consultation

LAA development has been driven by Walsall Borough Partnership and therefore has been subject partner involvement throughout.

Background papers

None

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Executive Director   Portfolio holder

1 May 2008   1. May 2008

APPENDIX 1

	NI no.	NI Description
1	16	Serious acquisitive crime rate
2	20	Assault with injury crime rate
3	19	Rate of re-offending by young offenders
4	30	Re-offending Rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders
5	120	All age/all cause mortality, will break down to: - infant mortality - premature deaths of over-65s and possibly by ethnic origin
6	56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
7	7	Environment for a thriving third sector
8	135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information
9	136	People supported to live independently through social services
10	198	Children travelling to school; mode of transport used
11	5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area
12	4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
13	1	Number of people from different backgrounds who get on well together in their local area
14	191	Residual household waste per head
15	154	Number of additional houses
16	141	Number of people achieving independent living
17	8	Percentage of adult population who participate in sport
18	110	Young people's participation in positive activities
19	116	Proportion of children in poverty
20	117	16- to 18-year olds who are NEET
21	163	Working-age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher
22	152	Working-age people on out-of-work benefits
23	172	VAT-registered businesses in the area showing growth
24	188	Adapting to climate change
25	174	Skills gap in the workforce reported by employers
26	187	Tackling fuel poverty
		Local Indicators - Description
1	183	Levels of support to new and existing business
2	32	Domestic violence - but we would adapt this to measure safeguarding of victims and particularly children
3	17	Public perceptions of ASB
4	112	Under 18 Conception Rate
5	186	Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area