

Cabinet – 18 March 2009

Local Area Agreement (LAA) - Refresh

Portfolio: Councillor John O'Hare, Leader of the Council

Service: Walsall Partnership

Wards: All

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. Summary of Report

- 1.1 The 2008-11 LAA was signed in June last year. The LAA process allows for annual refresh, including the opportunity to revise targets for the remainder of the period. This report updates Cabinet on negotiations with Government which have been taking place over recent weeks and seeks approval of a set of target proposals.
- 1.2 The report also ties up one procedural loose end that requires formal agreement by the Council to the amount of potential reward grant Government proposes to allocate to Walsall.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves refreshed Local Area Agreement targets set out in Appendix 1;
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates approval of outstanding targets in respect of National Indicators 30 (Assault with injury crime rate) and 172 (VAT-registered businesses in the area showing growth) and any minor amendments to other targets contained in Appendix 1 to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader;
- 2.3 That Cabinet endorses recommendations made by the Walsall Partnership Board as set out in paragraph 3.5;
- 2.4 That Cabinet agrees the sum of £1,967,156.69 as the amount of Local Area Agreement Performance Reward Grant it could receive from Government depending on the level of achievement against the 25 main targets at 2010/11.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The current LAA received Ministerial sign off in June 2008. It contains 25 main targets, against which the overall performance will be assessed by Government, and a further 5 'local' indicators. Walsall's LAA is acknowledged as being a very strategic document which is closely aligned to the delivery of Borough's objectives as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.2 The annual refresh process allows for indicators to be added or removed by mutual agreement and for targets to be revised.
- 3.3 At sign off all of the main indicators to be included in the LAA were agreed but only 19 out of the 30 targets were set. In this respect Walsall was in the same position as all other Local Authorities in that Government was still working on the detailed definitions behind the National Indicator Set (NIS), there was very little target setting guidance developed, and baseline data was not available for a number of indicators. As a result Government requested that the refresh process this year concentrated largely on the unfinished business of agreeing targets.
- 3.4 Final confirmation of NIS definitions was published in February 2009 and many of the other issues have been resolved. A series of negotiations have taken place in recent weeks through Walsall Partnership and GOWM. The outcome has been that a set of draft targets has been agreed (Appendix 1) with the exception of confirmation of our proposals for NI 30 (Assault with injury crime rate) and NI 172 (VAT-registered businesses in the area showing growth). When all targets are agreed they will be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government for Ministerial approval.
- 3.5 Cabinet should be aware of the following additional issues affecting the refresh and are recommended to endorse the view taken by the Walsall Partnership Board in each case:
- Work is on-going in developing a City Region based Multi Area Agreement (MAA) in relation to skills and worklessness. The Board took the view that any negotiations over Level 2 qualifications, people claiming out of work benefits and child poverty should be put on hold until the outcome of the MAA is known. This position has since been recommended by GOWM to all localities involved;
 - Walsall's LAA includes an undertaking to consider 'upgrading' teenage conceptions from a local indicator to a main indicator at the first refresh. Although it is a priority for the Borough and was a stretch target under the old LAA the Department of Health have maintained a position that would require targets to be set at level that are considered unachievable. As a consequence, the Partnership Board have taken the view that it should remain a local indicator;
 - The Board considered a request from the Council's Director for Children's Services for the inclusion of an indicator relating to breaks for the carers for disabled children. It felt this was largely an operational matter and was not consistent with the strategic nature of the LAA.

3.6 Performance Reward Grant (PRG) is paid on the overall performance of the LAA at 2010/11 with a maximum allocation set by Government for each locality and which must be formally agreed with the locality. In Walsall's case the amount is £1,967,156.69. From the information given to the Council this is an accurate statement of Walsall's allocation.

3.7 In recognition of the current recession Government have introduced a departure from previously issued LAA guidance to ensure that Local Authorities are not asked to sign up unrealistic targets. Instead of 'locking down' targets for the calculation of PRG at their currently agreed level there will be an opportunity for further refresh of the following indicators at the end of year 2:

- NI 116 Child poverty
- NI 152 Out of work benefits
- NI 154 New homes
- NI 172 % of small businesses in an area showing employment growth

4. Resource Considerations

4.1 Financial: The Council and its partners will be expected to align activity to deliver LAA indicators which support the outcomes contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Financial decisions should be mindful of this expectation.

4.2 Legal: Walsall Partnership, as the Local Strategic Partnership, is expected by Government to lead on the development and refresh the LAA; the Council as Responsible Local Authority must approve refresh proposals before submission to Government.

4.3 Staffing: No direct considerations

5.1 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

- 8.1 Delivery of LAA targets will have a direct impact on the Council's rating under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment arrangements.
- 8.2 Performance of the LAA is managed through the structures of the Partnership with assistance from the Council's Corporate Performance Management Unit.

9. Equality implications

Where appropriate equalities will be measured across each indicator selected for the LAA. A requirement is 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 and refresh has been driven by Walsall Partnership and therefore has been subject partner involvement throughout.

Background papers

None

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9 March 2009



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9 March 2009

Appendix 1

Walsall Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011

Priority	Indicator(s), ★ From national indicator set L - Local indicators W - WNF Reward grant indicator	Baseline	LAA Improvement Target ★ designated targets			Partners signed-up to the target ★ Lead partner
			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Creating opportunity and potential	NI 5 Overall/ general satisfaction with local area ★	71.1% (2008)			74.4% ★ (2010)	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 8 Percentage of adult population who participate in sport ★	16.1% (Oct 06)	18.1% ★	19.1% ★	20.1% ★ (Oct 2011)	
	NI 112 Under 18 Conception Rate (L)	53.3 (2006)	36.4	33.3	30.2 (2010)	
Feeling safe and being healthy	NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate ★	21.55 per 1000 population (2007-08)	20.68 ★	19.82 ★	19.03 ★	Safer Walsall Borough Partnership ★, Walsall Council, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 19 Rate of re-offending by young offenders ★	116	112 ★	108 ★	104 ★	
	NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate ★	12.23 per 1000 population (2007-08)	11.74 ★ GOWM to respond	11.27★ GOWM to respond	10.82 ★ GOWM to respond	
	NI 30 Re-offending Rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders ★	17%	19% ★	18% ★	tbc	
	NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 ★	19.4% (06-07)	19.0% ★	18.8% ★	18.6% ★	Walsall tPCT ★, Walsall Council,

	NI 120 All age/all cause mortality ★	M 1017 F 629 (1995-97)	M 702 ★ F 488 ★ (2009)	M 681 ★ F 478 ★ (2010)	M 659 ★ F 468 ★ (2011)	Walsall Partnership, Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults Pillar Executive Group
	NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information ★	11.5% (06-07)	21.5% ★	24.5% ★	27.5% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults Pillar Executive Group
	NI 136 People supported to live independently through social services ★	1795 (06-07)	2200 ★	2600 ★	3000 ★	
	NI 17 Public perceptions of ASB (L)	25.6%			29.8% (2010)	
	The number of referrals to Children's social care for domestic abuse (L)	548	525	500	480	
Developing strong and dynamic communities	NI 1 Number of people from different backgrounds who get on well together in their local area ★	71.3% (2008)			75.1% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality ★	22.3% (2008)			25.6% ★ (2010)	
	NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector ¹ ★ (see footnote)	16.8% (2008)		22.4% ★		
Improving housing choice	NI 141 Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living ★	76.3% (06-07/ 07-08)	76% ★	78% ★	81% ★	Walsall Council ★
	NI 154 Number of additional houses ★	Average of 444 homes per annum 2002/03 to 2006/07 inclusive	326 net ★	363 net ★	574 net ★	Walsall Council ★
	NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty ★	6.43% u/35 29.05%	-	4.4% u/35 ★ 31.1%	2.4% u/35 ★ 33.1%	Walsall Council ★

		o/65 (2008)		o/65 ★ (2009)	o/65 ★ (2010)	
Improving the quality of our environment	NI 191 Residual household waste per head ★	850Kgs (06-07)	755Kg ★	739Kgs ★	697Kgs ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 188 Adapting to climate change ★	N/A	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	NI 198 Children travelling to school; mode of transport used ★	31.4% (Jan 07)	30.4% ★	29.4% ★	28.4% ★	
	NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area (L)	tbc	A target is being developed which records the CO2 reduction brought about by measurable local activity			Walsall Council ★
Improve access to employment, services and facilities/ Working with employers to create jobs and opportunities	NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty ² ★ (W) (see footnote)	25.7% (April 07)	24.5% ★	23.5% ★	22.5% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar Executive Group
	NI 152 Working-age people on out-of-work benefits ² ★ (W) (see footnote)	16.5% (May 2007)	16.2% ★	15.7% ★	15.0% ★	
Education and skills	NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities ★	71.3%		74% ★	78.5% ★	Walsall Council ★
	NI 117 16- to 18-year olds who are NEET ★ (W)	9.1% (07-08)	9.0%★	8.9%★	8.7%★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership
	NI 163 Working-age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher ² ★ (W) (see footnote)	55.1% (2006)	+ 2% on baseline ★	+4% on baseline ★	+7% on baseline ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar Executive Group

Accessible, sustainable places for business	NI 172 VAT-registered businesses in the area showing growth ★	12.69% (2006/07)	11.08% ★ GOWM to respond	10.25% ★ GOWM to respond	11.02% ★ GOWM to respond	Black Country Small Business Service ★ Walsall Council Walsall Partnership Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar Executive Group
	Businesses in the area receiving 3 hour or more of advice support and guidance (L)	N/A		100	110	

1. A measurable improvement calculated in accordance with published OTS guidance. Based on the results of the 2008 national survey of third sector organisations, it is estimated that the required improvement in Walsall will be an increase of 5.6 (indicative) percentage points. This remains an estimate. The final target will be confirmed once 2010 national survey of third sector organisations has reported.

2. Negotiations on these targets to be re-opened if the Birmingham City Region MAA for Employment and Skills is unsuccessful.

Statutory education and early years targets

Priority	Indicator (s) including those to be designated (shown with an *)	Baseline (source/ year)	LAA Improvement Target including those to be designated (shown with an*) and including education and early years targets			Lead Partners
			2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	
Statutory education and early years targets	NI 72: Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language Literacy (S)		48	Targets to be provided by DCSF	Targets to be provided by DCSF	
	NI 73: Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold) (S)		75			
	NI 75: Achievement of 5 or more A* -C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold) (S)		48.3			
	NI 87: Secondary school persistent absence rate (S)		6.34			
	NI 92: Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest (S)		34.1			
	NI 93: Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (S)		91			
	NI 94: Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (S)		86			
	NI 99: Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 (S)		33			
	NI 100: Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 (S)		39			
	NI 101: Children in care achieving 5 A* -C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (Including English and Maths) (S)		3.7			