

# BRIEFING NOTE

**TO: Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel**  
**DATE: 08 January 2009**

**RE: Walsall Partnership Quarterly Report**

## 1. Purpose

This briefing note informs the Panel of progress on a range of issues, led by Walsall Partnership, all of which arise from the Local Area Agreement (LAA). They include:

- Forecasts of the level of Performance Reward Grant likely to be received from the old LAA
- Performance for the first half of 2008/09 for the new LAA
- Progress in agreeing targets with Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) where it was not possible to do so before sign-off
- Development of Target Action Plans (TAPs)
- Steps taken in aligning Area Based Grant to the delivery of the LAA

## 2. Background

Walsall's LAA was signed-off in June 2008. It contains 25 main indicators and 5 local indicators agreed with Government as a balanced approach to delivering activity to meet local needs as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy while at the same time reflecting the national policy context.

The new LAA supersedes the previous agreement apart from 19 'stretch' targets which have Performance Reward Grant (PRG) allocated to them. These will continue to form part of the LAA's performance management arrangements until their final outturn is known. Section 3 forecasts levels of PRG Walsall can expect if current performance is maintained.

Performance management arrangements have been improved as the new LAA has been developed with the need to track implementation of activity contributing to improved outcomes being recognised. Greater clarity over roles and responsibilities has also been introduced to ensure that interventions to rectify failing performance are made as soon as they become apparent. Section 4 provides a summary of the performance of the LAA to date.

At sign-off targets for 16 of the main indicators were still outstanding. In the majority of cases this was because Government did not have sufficient information to enter into target setting negotiations. The LAA process allows for annual 'review and refresh' and Government saw the first refresh as the opportunity to complete the target setting negotiations. Section 5 outlines the current position with regard to target setting negotiations.

Delivery of the LAA is being managed through Target Action Planning for each of the 25 targets, or groups of targets where appropriate. The TAP process involves identifying a lead agency to engage all relevant parties to review current evidence and trends; to map

current activity and funding; identify priorities, best practice and performance gaps; undertake an options appraisal; and finally define future activity. Progress in producing TAPs is set out in Section 6.

The long term ambition is that the LAA and accompanying TAPs will guide the alignment of Partner resources behind the delivery of the LAA. Progress towards the first phase, Area Based Grant alignment, is set out in Section 7.

### **3. Performance Reward Grant Forecasts for the Old LAA**

The old LAA contains 19 'stretch' targets which will trigger Performance Reward Grant (PRG) depending on performance at April 2009 (or the nearest date after that for indicators which outturn at different times of the year). The level of reward is based on a sliding scale which starts at 60% of the difference between the 'without stretch' and 'with stretch' target for each indicator.

Appendix 1 shows performance against the 19 stretch targets and forecasts the amount of PRG Walsall is likely to receive.

Nine indicators have performed consistently well throughout the life of the LAA. In addition a) the final year outturn on the percentage of pupils obtaining five or more A\*-C grades including English and Maths is expected to reach its stretch target; and b) growth in VAT registered businesses in on target but outturn data is subject to considerable reporting delays. On this basis PRG will be £4.92m.

That said, PRG is difficult to predict for two indicators:

- Supported admissions of older people to permanent residential and nursing homes, per 10,000 population, aged 65 or over. The outturn for 2007/08 was on target to achieve PRG but quarter 2 this year has drifted. If PRG is to be achieved some in-year recovery is required.
- The difference between the number of people in employment, who are aged between 16 and 64, expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in the West Midlands, minus the same percentage in Walsall. This is currently on target but the method used for measuring the indicator is subject to wide sampling variations.

Given the uncertainty around these PRG could be reduced to £3.15m.

### **4. LAA Performance for the First Half of 2008 / 09**

At this stage of the LAA it is not possible to get a comprehensive picture of performance. For over half of our indicators targets have not been agreed and for those that have many are out-turned annually. Appendix 2 shows RAG ratings for the first half of this year for indicators where targets have been agreed and where it has been possible to assess in-year performance.

The indicators of greatest interest to this Panel are shaded.

## 5. Progress in Agreeing Outstanding Targets

Appendix 2 also shows indicators where targets are still to be agreed and outlines the reasons. In most cases Walsall is awaiting further information from Government. GOWM are confident that all targets will be agreed by the end of March 2009.

## 6. Development of Target Action Plans

The LAA targets have been grouped together under the headings of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). This will enable activity to be identified which is delivering against a number of targets.

TAP workshops have been held for a number of targets – see below:

NI No	Workshop	Date Held / Proposed
152	Worklessness	7 May 2008
163	Skills	14 May 2008 and 5 September 2008
Local	Enterprise (Prospectus for Enterprise Meetings)	5 June 2008 and 17 July 2008
117	Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	4 July 2008
116	Child Poverty	17 November 2008
188, 186 (Local)	Climate Change	21 November 2008
187	Fuel Poverty	26 November 2008
16,19,20,30	Community Safety	28 November 2008
5	Overall Satisfaction with Local Area	5 December 2008
141	Vulnerable Adults Achieving Independent Living	9 December 2008

Further workshops are being arranged for the other targets.

A number of TAP pro formas have been developed in order for activity to be commissioned.

## 7. Steps Taken in Aligning Area Based Grant to the Delivery of LAA Targets.

Through the TAP process, resources are requested to be identified – either mainstream or external – from all organisations who are delivering activity to achieve the targets. This will enable identification of duplication of activity and whether savings can be made.

Walsall Council agreed to consider those targets which are utilising any of the Area Based Grant (ABG) for the TAP process first. This would provide transparency in how the Council is using this funding and the performance of the target.

Cabinet agreed for the TAP process to be undertaken in four stages, as follows:

1. Alignment of Area Based Grant to Local Area Agreement  
Timescale: December 2008
2. Mapping of National Indicator Set and Sustainable Community Strategy Outcomes  
Timescale: April 2009
3. Identifying Partner Resources  
Timescale: July 2009
4. Alignment of Partner Resources  
Timescale: December 2009

TAP pro formas have been completed for all ABG funding streams for financial year 2008 / 09.

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**Appendix 1: Performance Reward Grant Forecasts – Excel spreadsheet**

## Appendix 2: Performance and target setting position

NI	Indicator	SCS Priority	Baseline	LAA Improvement Target			Issues for 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	74% (06-07)	76%	77%	78%	Targets agreed are based on last BVUSS and will be revised following results of Place Survey  They will be available by the end of January 2009 which will allow time for target negotiations by March 2009. There may be benchmarking issues that will require a caveat to be placed against these targets.
NI 4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	Developing Strong & Dynamic Communities	To be determined	To be set at a statistically significant measurable change			Place Survey results are expected by the end of January 2009 which will allow time for target negotiations by March 2009. GOWM target setting advice awaited.
NI 5	Overall/ general satisfaction with local area	Creating Opportunity & Potential	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	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 from the National Survey of third sector organisations in 2008. GOWM target setting advice awaited.
NI 8	Percentage of adult population who participate in sport	Creating Opportunity & Potential	16.40%	18.40% 14.0% (2008) R	19.40%	20.40%	
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	21.55 per 1000 population (07-08 to be revised July 08)	20.68 8.8 for ½ year (2235) G	19.82	19.03	Awaiting advice from GOWM re: definitions. Otherwise targets will be confirmed  All APACs measures are being reviewed and police authorities are still waiting for additional guidance from the Home Office.
NI 19	Rate of re-offending by young offenders	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	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	12.23 per 1000 population (07-08 to be revised July	11.74 4.90 for ½ year	11.27	10.82	Awaiting advice from GO re: definitions. Otherwise targets will be confirmed  All APACs measures are being reviewed and police authorities are still waiting for additional guidance from

			08)	(1247) G			the Home Office.
NI 30	Re-offending Rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	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 for this refresh
				25.3% G			
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	19.4% (06-07)	19.00% 20.1% A	18.80%	18.60%	
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	Education and Skills	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Baseline data from the Tellus Survey will inform negotiations
NI 116	Proportion of children in poverty	Improve Access to Employment, Services & Facilities/Working with Employers to Create Jobs & Opportunities	25.7% (April 07)	24.50%	23.50%	22.50%	Walsall included a condition that required negotiations to be re-opened if redundancies recorded by Job Centre Plus exceeded 500 by June 2008 - the figure was nearly 1000. However, re-negotiations have been put on hold pending progress of the worklessness and skills MAA.
NI 117	16- to 18-year olds who are NEET	Education and Skills	9.1% (07-08)	9.00% 8.7% G	8.90%	8.70%	
NI 120	All age/all cause mortality	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	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	11.5% (06-07)	21.50% 15.1% G	24.50%	27.50%	On target improvement
NI 136	People supported to live independently through social services	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	1809 (06-07)	2200 G	2600	3000	
NI 141	Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	Improving Housing Choice	76.3% (06-07/07-08)	76% Q1 71.2% A	78%	81%	Awaiting advice from GO re: definitions. Otherwise targets will be confirmed
NI 152	Working-age people on out-of-work benefits <sup>1</sup>	Improve Access to Employment, Services & Facilities/Working with Employers to Create Jobs & Opportunities	16.5% (May 2007)	16.20% 16.5%	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  Re-negotiations superseded by possible worklessness and skills MAA  Despite performing well in the first quarter the rate has

				A			now gone up. This is due to the down-turn in the economic climate meaning that there have been large numbers of redundancies.
NI 154	Number of additional houses	Improving Housing Choice	Average of 444 homes pa 2002/03 to 2006/07 inclusive	640 net -150 R	640 net	640 net	Walsall requested that the re-negotiation of targets were included in the first refresh based on the prospect of recession.  A meeting has been held with GOWM; additional information is being assembled for further discussions to take place.  An assessment of current in year performance indicates out-turn could be approx minus 300 net new homes. This assumes WHG continues its demolition programme for 2008/9 accounting for the loss of 609 dwellings, and there are 300 completions.
NI 163	Working-age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher	Education and Skills	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	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Awaiting advice from GO
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty	Improving Housing Choice	To be determined	Target setting deferred - place holder			Awaiting advice from GO
NI 188	Adapting to climate change	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	N/A	Level 1 A	Level 2	Level 3	The council is currently we are working towards Level 1, the amber RAG reflects the fact that we are likely to achieve it
NI 191	Residual household waste per head	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	850Kgs (06-07)	755Kg 382.2kg ½ year A	739Kgs	697Kgs	
NI 198	Children travelling to school; mode of transport used	Improving the Quality of Our Environment	31.4% (Jan 07)	30.40% G	29.40%	28.40%	Latest data shows that we have already hit the first year's target.

## 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	548	525	500	480	The number of referrals to children's social care for Domestic Abuse – this is in the CYPP
NI 17	Public perceptions of ASB	Feeling Safe & Being Healthy	To be determined	Baseline and targets to be set using the BVUSS and revised when the Place Survey is undertaken			They will be available by the end of January 2009 which will allow time for target negotiations by March 2009. There may be benchmarking issues that will require a caveat to be placed against these targets. GOWM



					target setting advice awaited.
NI 112	Under 18 Conception Rate	Creating Opportunity & Potential	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	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. GOWM have provided some target setting advice

Ref Code	Indicator	2006/07 Target			2006/07 Outturn	2007/08 Target		2007/08 Outturn	2008/09 Target		2008/09 Q2 Outturn	AVAILABLE PERFORMANCE REWARD	FORECAST BASED ON 07/08 OR FINAL OUTTURN	SENSITIVITY
		2004/05 LAA Baseline	Without Reward	With Reward		Without Reward	With Reward		Without Reward	With Reward				
1.1	The number of conceptions to under-18s per thousand females aged 15-17, as measured by ONS statistics and reported on a calendar year (*)	(2005) 52.6	43.7	37	(Q2 06) 57.2	39.2	33.6	53.3	34.7	30.2	-	£710,000.00	£0.00	
3.1	% of all pupils in LEA maintained schools, achieving 5, or more, A*-C grades, including English and Maths, at GCSE (*) (#)	(2005) 36%	36.5%	37.0%	35.4%	37.5%	39.0%	36.0%	38.5%	40.0%	40.2% (2008 unverified results)	£710,000.00	£710,000.00	
4.1	% of under 16s who have been looked after for 2.5, or more, years living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption (*)	61.90%	61% (128/197)	65% (128/197)	60%	62% (118/190)	68% (129/190)	70.8%	63% (120/190)	71% (135/190)	75.6%	£220,000.00	£220,000.00	
4.2	% of children newly looked after placed at 31 March, more than 20 miles from their home address from which first placed (PAF CF/C69) (*)	Not collected	6.2% (6/100)	5% (5/100)	10.9%	6% (6/95)	4% (4/95)	7.40%	5.8% (5.93)	3.5% (3/93)	9.1%	£15,000.00	£0.00	
4.3	% of children who had been looked after continuously, for at least 12 months, and were of school age, who missed a total, of at least, 25 days of schooling, for any reason, during the previous school year (PAF CF/C24) (*)	9.10%	9.5% (27/285)	8.5% (24/285)	8.0%	9% (25/280)	7.5% (21/280)	6.50%	8.5% (23/275)	7% (19/275)	6.6%	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	
5.1	% of 16-18 year olds, not in education, employment or training (NEET) (*)	(Nov 04) 12.4%	10.0%	9.7%	9.10%	9.7%	9.4%	9.10%	9.4%	9.1%	8.70%	£710,000.00	£710,000.00	
1.1	The number of people who attended NHS Stop Smoking services in Walsall, who are confirmed to have quit smoking at the four week review (*)	1707	1,892	2,247	1964	1,988	2,584	2,268	2,093	2,971	373 Q1 outturn	£710,000.00	£0.00	
2.1.1	Supported admissions of older people to permanent residential and nursing homes, per 10,000 population, aged 65 or over (PAF C26) (*)	142.2	125	110	87	115	99	88	110	90	96.7	£710,000.00	£710,000.00	£710000 in-year recovery is required based on Q2 outturn

3.1	The number of infants born in Walsall who weigh less than 2500 grams at birth, expressed as a percentage of all live births in Walsall (*) (##)	(2005) 10.3%	9.4%	9.0%	9.40%	9.0%	8.8%	10.00%	8.6%	8.0%	11.40%	£650,000.00	£0.00	
12.1.1	Number of accidental fires in dwellings (*)	184 (2004/05)	203	201	174	199	195	167	195	189	43	£210,000.00	£210,000.00	
12.1.2	Number of arson fires in buildings other than dwellings (*)	72 (2004/05)	72	70	55	72	69	52	72	68	10	£189,750.00	£189,750.00	
12.1.3	Number of deliberate fires in vehicles (*)	235 (2004/05)	169	161	151	166	150	137	163	139	32	£185,000.00	£185,000.00	
Add 1	The proportion of victims of domestic violence incidents recorded by the police in Walsall who have been a victim of a reported domestic violence incident within a period of 12 months preceding their last recorded incident.	36.5%	32.8%	32.0%	34.6%	32.5%	31.0%	32.70%	31.8%	30.0%	25.70%	£497,000.00	£0.00	
Add 2	The percentage of domestic violence incidents recorded by the police where the offender is brought to justice *	11.1%	14.3%	15.4%	24.8%	15.2%	16.7%	21.1% (Q2)	16.2%	18.2%	24.30%	£213,000.00	£213,000.00	
1.1	The difference between the number of people in employment, who are aged between 16 and 64, expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in the West Midlands, minus the same percentage in Walsall (*)	2.1 percentage points (NOMIS)	2.6	2.3	6.5 (Oct 05 to Sept 06)	2.8	2.1	1.1	3	1.5	-	£350,000.00	£350,000.00	£0 - £350,000 there is considerable uncertainty as a result of the sampling method used in collecting the data
1.1.2	The difference between the number of people in employment, who are aged between 16 and 64, expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in England, minus the same percentage in Walsall (*)	2.3 (NOMIS)	2.5	2.5	8.0 (Oct 05 to Sept 06)	2.7	2.3	3.2	2.8	1.8	-	£350,000.00	£0.00	
2.3.1	The number of working age people in Walsall with NVQ level 2 qualification (*)	(Feb 04) 21000	22000	23500	26,000	23000	25000	26,000	24000	26800	N/A	£710,000.00	£710,000.00	
2.4.1	The number of working age people in Walsall with NVQ level 3 qualification (*)	(Feb 04) 18700	20000	20500	18,800	20600	22200	18,800	22000	23900	N/A	£710,000.00	£0.00	
3.1	Total number of VAT registered businesses (*)	5830	5775	5790	6065	5765	5810	6180	5775	5865	N/A	£710,000.00	£710,000.00	
												£8,561,750.00	£4,919,750.00	£3,859,750 to£4,919,750