

14 February 2008

Local Area Agreement

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All

Summary of report:

This report provides an update on progress made in developing the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Walsall; it contains a shortened 'long-list' of indicators submitted to Government Office (GOWM) on 25 January 2008; and, outlines the next steps in reaching a 'near final' version which will be taken to Cabinet for approval on 19 March 2008.

Background papers:

Draft statutory guidance 'Creating Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities' – Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2007)

The phase 1 operational guidance 'Negotiating new LAAs' – DCLG (2007)

Reason for scrutiny:

To keep members informed of progress on the development of the new LAA.

The new LAA will contain up to 35 indicators, selected from the National Indicator Set of 198, and will reflect the priorities for the Borough for the next three years. They will sit along side 16 statutory indicators from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

In Walsall we have closely aligned the development of the LAA and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) – the overarching strategy for the Borough.

Resource and legal considerations:

The LAA is being driven locally by the Local Strategic Partnership but requires approval of the Council as the responsible local authority.

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

Citizen impact:

There are a number of potential LAA indicators that will have a direct impact on citizens – see Appendix 1, Section 8 of the attached report.

Environmental impact:

There are a number of potential LAA indicators that will have an impact of the environment – see Appendix 1, Section 8 of the attached report.

Performance management:

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.

Equality Implications:

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.

Consultation:


Consultees include Accord Housing Association, Advantage West Midlands, Black Country Consortium, Community Engagement Network, Chamber of Commerce, Children's Trust, Education Walsall, Government Office West Midlands, Groundwork Black Country, Learning and Skills Council, Walsall NDC, Public Health, Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, teaching Primary Care Trust, Walsall Regeneration Company, Walsall Endeavours, Walsall Manor Hospital Trust, Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership, West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action,

Walsall Council (including Children's Services, Finance, Housing, Leisure, Neighbourhood Services, Performance, Regeneration, Social Care, Sport and Development).

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1. Report

1.1 Progress to date

- 1.1.1 The first stage in selecting indicators for inclusion in the LAA and appropriate to Borough's needs and ambitions was to hold a workshop in November 2007 which matched draft SCS priorities to NIS indicators and select a long-list for further consideration.
- 1.1.2 The workshop was attended by 42 people representing 26 partnership organisations and 86 indicators were chosen.
- 1.1.3 A three stage process was approved by the Partnership's Executive Committee on 14. December 2007 to refine this list of indicators. It reflects political, partnership and technical considerations.
- 1.1.4 From a political point of view it was recognised that the involvement of local politicians throughout the process is essential. Meetings have been held with individual Cabinet portfolio holders and a presentation made to informal Cabinet. In addition the SCS and LAA are agenda items at all Scrutiny Panels for this round of meetings.
- 1.1.5 At the same time the four Pillar Executive Groups – Children and Young People, Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults, Safer and Stronger Communities , and Economic Development and Enterprise - have been asked to further refine the long list of indicators. All four have completed this process and have prioritised indicators from the long-list from their point of view.
- 1.1.6 'Duty to cooperate' partners, not represented within existing Pillar Groups, have been invited to two successive Partnership Board meetings where they have been able contribute to the debate. In addition an event is being organised at Black Country level specifically to engage 'duty to cooperate' partners.

1.2 The Draft LAA

- 1.2.1 At the start of the current round of Scrutiny Panel meetings we have honed down our list of indicators to 53. These are contained in the outcomes framework contained within the draft LAA submitted to Government Office on 25. January 2008 and appended to this report (Appendix 1). The supporting narrative shows how the SCS, which has been based on a thorough analysis of the needs of the Borough and extensive stakeholder consultation, provides the strategic framework for the LAA. It also outlines the process used in informing our indicator choice so far, and how we will come to a final set of indicators within the next few weeks.

1.3 Next Steps

- 1.3.1 This section outlines the next steps in developing the LAA at the beginning of February/ March round of meetings.

1.3.2 The deadline for final submission of our LAA to GOWM is 20. March 2008. This fits in with Cabinet on 19. March, the next meeting of this Board on 10. March, and the Executive Committee on 14. March 2008. Between now and the lead in time for these meetings, the following steps will be completed:

- To populate the outcomes framework with baseline data and agree targets with GOWM,
- For the Executive Committee, at their meeting on 29 February (and 14. March, if necessary), to further refine the list of indicators by taking into account the recommendations of a Technical Sub-Group which will look at factors such as, the robustness of the indicators, impact on the priorities, deliverability, etc.
- To firm up transitional arrangements for moving from the current LAA to the new one. This will cover existing stretch targets, performance and financial management.



WALSALL LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008 -2011

**Draft submitted to GOWM
25. January 2008**

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1 Introduction

Walsall's new Local Area Agreement (LAA) will be the delivery plan for the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which is currently in its final consultation phase. The LAA will contain the priorities for the first three years of the Strategy and will establish the foundation on which the successful implementation of the longer term vision will rest.

The draft SCS sets the scene for Walsall to become, once again, a prosperous borough. It shows how the story of Walsall is one of the future, not the past, while at the same time remembering where we have come from - **every place has its time and it is now Walsall's time.**

The draft SCS unities all partners in a common goal, setting the context for partners to work together to deliver a sustainable and more prosperous Borough.

It puts the need for a thriving local economy at the heart of our plans, recognising that getting people into work helps deliver the other benefits we want. Health, educational achievement, increased aspirations, quality of housing and environment, reduced crime, people getting on with each other; all improve as a result of a successful local economy.

The SCS is based on extensive analysis of demographics of the Borough and socio-economic trends. It also takes into account the views of stakeholders and residents that have been gathered in developing the SCS vision and complements these with the results of various engagement exercises undertaken by partners.

The evidence base for the SCS, and therefore the LAA, is contained within the State of the Borough report which can be accessed through Walsall Partnership's website at <http://www.wbsp.org.uk/wbsp-index.htm>.

2. The Story of Walsall

The metropolitan borough of Walsall, is part of the Black Country sub-region, and is focussed on achieving an urban renaissance, to create a borough of opportunity, based on its heritage of creativity and enterprise.

The Borough was formed in 1974 and is made up of a number of distinct settlements each with its own history and development. Regeneration programmes through the 1990s and early part of this decade encouraged these settlements to retain their own identities and sense of belonging - an aim to which all partners remain committed. More recently the focus of regeneration activity has shifted to improving the local economy across the Borough by creating the physical conditions for enterprise in and around the town centre and along key corridors, and by improving the aspirations and skill levels of the local workforce. Since 2005 over £796m of investment has been secured in Walsall town centre alone. This has resulted in significant developments being commenced at the Waterfront, Business and Learning Campus, St Matthews Quarter and the Manor Hospital.

2.1 People

Walsall has a population of 254,500 (ONS, 2006). Following a period of decline, the population has gradually increased since 2001 which indicates the impact of policies applied across the Black Country to bring brownfield land back into use and to increase housing growth.

We value the diversity of our residents with 13.6% from minority ethnic backgrounds according to the 2001 Census (increasing to 23.8% of under 5's). The proportion of BME groups within the population is greater than either regionally or nationally (11.3% and 8.7% respectively). Projections carried out by consultants working on the Black Country Study have demonstrated that the proportion of BME groups within the population will continue to increase.

More recent changes in migration patterns are beginning to impact on the make up of the population. Data assembled by Birmingham University's Centre for Urban and Regional Studies shows that Walsall has fewer asylum seekers than any of the other Black Country Boroughs and continues to have a 'small' refugee population. However, since 2002/03, the number of new immigrant worker registrations in Walsall from Indian Pakistani or Bangladeshi has remained at the same level. Eastern Europeans, mostly from Poland and the Czech Republic, have risen from zero to over 550 per annum. Changes in membership of the EU will continue to impact on immigration to Britain and to the Borough.

Having such a diverse population requires careful management of needs and services to ensure people from different backgrounds get on well together and reduce possible tensions. 53.2% of people in Walsall definitely or tend to agree that their area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. This compares with 78.9% nationally. The involvement of the third sector is vital in developing stronger communities and in delivering many of the targets set in the LAA. Evidence of progress is currently weak.

Of all local authorities in England, Walsall ranks in the top 50 for the three main IMD measures. However, Walsall is a borough of contrasts with a clear east/ west split with high levels of deprivation, including unemployment and poor health, to the west of borough, and parts of the east being extremely affluent.

Overall crime rates in Walsall have continued to decrease since 2000 compared to national rates which have increased.

Violent crime in Walsall has increased over the last few years. It is currently slightly below the national average. Nevertheless, recent perceptions figures show that fewer people feel safe now compared to 3 years ago.

Burglary to dwellings in Walsall has reduced by over half within the last few years from a rate of 31.8 in 2000/01 to 14.1 in 2006/07. The reduction in Walsall is positive, though the national rate is below Walsall's, the gap has decreased.

Anti Social Behaviour is a recurring cause of public concern in local consultations. The most recent Local Government User Satisfaction Survey shows that parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children and teenagers loitering on the streets are perceived as a fairly big problem in Walsall (68% and 64% respectively). 55% think that people not treating other people with respect and consideration is also a cause for concern. Just under half of all respondents think that people using or dealing in drugs is a problem and 40% think that vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property is problematic in their local area.

The number of elderly people (over 65) in Walsall is projected to increase by 3.2% by 2026. The rate of increase will be greatest in the over 75s.

Life Expectancy at birth for men in Walsall is lower than for the West Midlands and England and Wales. Overall, taking into account yearly fluctuations, the rate is increasing, mirroring the national trend. The gap between Walsall and England has increased by 0.2 of a year from 1995/1997 to 2003/2005. Life expectancy at birth for

women in Walsall is marginally lower than for the West Midlands and England and Wales. Overall, the rate for women is increasing faster than nationally and regionally.

The UK has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the whole of Europe. Over the past decade, Walsall's under 18 pregnancy rate has consistently been around 40% higher than the national rate, and is generally higher than other comparable nearby authorities. The rate has, however, fallen in recent years. In Walsall, it fell even more dramatically from 67 per thousand in 1998 to 49 per 1,000 in 2004. However it rose again in 2005 to 57.7 per thousand.

Data from a Walsall tPCT pilot study in 2006, looking at childhood obesity, suggested that overall 20% of children measured in the pilot were obese (21% in children in Reception and Year 6), and 30% were overweight and obese. Rates of obesity in Walsall are significantly higher than the rates for England and Wales. In England 14% of children aged 2-10 were obese in 2004. However, the findings from this Walsall pilot are comparable to data from other local studies.

The most recent data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2006 showed that infant and perinatal mortality rates in Walsall had continued to increase in 2005. The largest increase in deaths was seen in the early neonatal period (0-28 days). Specifically, figures show that between 2000 and 2005, the infant death rates almost doubled from 5.2 per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 10.2 in 2005. This is higher than the rate of 8.2 per 1,000 live births in England and Wales. .

Infant mortality is the number of infant deaths (under 1 year old) per 1,000 live births, and is linked very strongly with deprivation. Walsall's 2001-3 rate of 5.7 was closer to the national figure at 5.46 deaths per 1,000 live births – but during 2002-4 it rose to 6.8.

2.2 Places

The Borough covers 106 km² and combines urban, suburban and rural communities; reflecting the area's socio-economic history of heavy industry (iron, steel and coal mining) and craft based industry (lock making and leather trades).

We have excellent communication links to the rest of country, lying close to the heart of national road and rail networks which are easily accessible, with the M6 bisecting the Borough, the M5 starting at our border with Sandwell, and the M6 Toll road immediately to the North. Rail, metro and bus routes feed into national networks on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton and Trent Valley railway lines.

Due to the intensive road network and certain heavy industrial operations Walsall has relatively challenging issues in relation to air quality. The council is working closely with its partners to identify and address areas of poor air quality and has recently declared the entire borough an Air Quality Management Area due to levels of nitrogen dioxide.

At the end of last year Walsall Council approved a climate change strategy which seeks to mitigate climate change by reducing the council's carbon footprint, understand its impact of on the council, and increase the council's adaptive capacity to deal with it, and communicate its impacts across the borough

Following this lead the Partnership has signed up to the Nottingham Declaration and individual partners are in the process of identifying specific actions which will contribute to this joint commitment.

Over one third of the borough is green belt and there is a considerable amount of open space in the built up areas to the west of the Borough. There are large areas of the borough that are not within 2 kilometres of accessible natural green space of over 20 hectares (not including agricultural land unless with unrestricted access), particularly in the south and west of the borough.

Average house prices in Walsall as at the first quarter 2006 were £145,707 which is significantly lower than regional (£172,151) and national averages (£207,573). A survey of local estate and letting agents suggests the entry-level property prices in Walsall vary from £67,000 for a one bedroom property to £176,000 for a 4 bedroom with minimum monthly rents in Walsall varying from £360 (one bed) to £570 (four bed).

It is estimated in Walsall that there are 3,639 existing households that can't afford market housing and are living in unsuitable housing. This represents 3.5% of all existing households in the borough.

The Private Sector House Condition Survey found an estimated 10,200 dwellings (13%) in Walsall where fuel poverty was present. The private rented sector has, by a substantial margin, the highest rate of fuel poverty at 44% - 2200 dwellings. This reflects both the low incomes of residents in the sector and the poor energy efficiency of many properties.

The survey highlighted that 56564 dwellings (75.7%) meet the requirements of the Decent Homes Standard and can be regarded as satisfactory. The remaining 18,200 dwellings (24.3%) are 'non-decent' due to unsatisfactory condition or inadequate amenity/ energy efficiency.

Two thirds of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, 10% are very satisfied. Satisfaction levels are highest amongst respondents living in Aldridge South and Streetly and lowest amongst those living in Blakenall and Bloxwich.

The top 5 things that make somewhere a good place to live are low levels of crime, clean streets, health services, education provision and affordable decent housing. The top 5 things that most need improving are levels of crime, road and pavement repairs, activities for teenagers, levels of traffic congestion and clean streets

2.3 Prosperity

The 1970s and 1980s saw the decline of the local economy with the loss of traditional sources of employment. Successive regeneration programmes have focussed on diversifying the borough's economy.

The proportion of the working age population in employment in Walsall is 67.4%. – 104,000 people. This is much lower than the West Midlands (72.7%) and Great Britain (74.2%). The gap has widened considerably since 2000/01.

There has been a steady improvement in the local economy with worklessness currently standing at 3.9% (July 2007, claimant count) compared to 5.8 % a decade ago. However the gap between Walsall and England and Wales has widened.

Annual average earnings for Walsall are £23,278 compared with £26,197 for the West Midlands and £29,800 for England and Wales (differences with Walsall of £2,919 and £6,522 respectively).

Education attainment in Walsall over the past few years has gradually improved. This year however, it has not only improved but has also narrowed the gap with national attainment levels. An ambitious improvement programme has been put in place and the results are beginning to be seen. Education is seen as a priority by

Walsall residents so it is important that this focus is continued in order to improve further.

The percentage of 16-18 year olds NEET in Walsall fell from 12.4% in 2004 to 9.5% in 2007 and exceeded the Local Area Agreement stretch target of 9.7% for that year. In England the percentage of NEETs remained at 8.6% in both 2004 and 2006. However, although the gap has closed, 16 to 18 year olds in Walsall are more likely to be NEET than in England.

Current figures show Walsall has a high proportion of adults (47%) that have received no adult learning. This compares with 33.3% in the West Midlands and 28.6% nationally.

Walsall's industrial history is reflected in its employment structure which shows a reliance on manufacturing industries. 22.5% of all jobs are in manufacturing compared to only 13% in Great Britain as a whole. Many of these jobs are in firms employing less than 10 people. Service industries are under-represented in the Borough – only 8% of jobs are in banking, finance and insurance – less than half the national average.

There are over 6000 VAT registered businesses in the Borough. In 2006 new registrations represented 9.2% of the total stock, which was higher than the equivalent figure for the West Midlands. However, the number of new registrations has gone down steadily since 2003 and the proportion of deregistrations is relatively high.

We are intent on closing the gap between the local economy and England and Wales, and, as a result, playing a leading role in Regional and sub-Regional regeneration initiatives. Locally our main challenge is to raise the aspiration of communities, increase skill levels and to make sure that we have a prosperous and competitive town able to support a wide range of suitable job opportunities.

Our SCS, and consequently our LAA, fully supports the vision for the West Midlands set out in AWM's Regional Economic Strategy. Our LAA contains a number of priorities that link directly to the vision:

We want the West Midlands to maintain and enhance its attractiveness as a location in which people and businesses choose to invest, work, learn, visit and live. That means:

Becoming a more prosperous region, but recognising that economic growth must support overall improvements in the quality of life and wellbeing of all the region's residents;

Becoming a more cosmopolitan and inclusive region, making full use of the skills and talents of our people and ensuring equality of opportunity, across the region, in relation to the wealth and prosperity generated through continued economic growth;

Becoming a more sustainable region, correctly valuing our natural, historic and cultural assets, seeking to minimise our use of the planet's resources and preparing for a low-carbon future.

Equally we are committed to the Black Country Study.

The four LSPs that comprise the Black Country sub-region – together with the Black Country Consortium – recognise the significance of their respective LAAs in driving forward a range of sub-regional agendas critical to the future of the area and in turn the success of their Sustainable Community Strategies and LAAs.

The 30-year vision of the Black Country Study finds expression within Walsall's SCS and consequently within the LAA. In particular the aspiration of the study to:

1. reverse net out-migration and grow the population of the sub-region.
2. grow incomes in the Black Country.
3. achieve a more sustainable socio-economic balance.
4. transform the Black Country environment.

Walsall Partnership sees the Local Area Agreement as one of the mechanisms that can start to deliver elements of this agenda and has incorporated, where possible local interpretations that address those issues.

There is a need to assess at what level such actions will be most effective. Whilst some specific local actions are necessary, other interventions are more likely to be successful if delivered collaboratively at a sub-regional level.

Some of the fundamental challenges are long term issues best reflected in the SCS rather than a 3 year LAA. SCS alignment across the Sub-region, working through the Black Country Joint Core Strategy for example is part of the ongoing commitment to a joined-up approach.

Issues will therefore be reflected within our SCS and LAA that are important for the sub-region – transport, together with important aspects of the economy, environment, housing and skills development – which cannot easily be contained within the smaller geographic boundaries, but are also key to achieving the aspirations of the Black Country Study.

Walsall will continue to work collaboratively with the other Black Country Authorities on these important sub-regional issues ensuring complementary developments within each LAA. By doing so we will support the Consortium's Strategy for Growth and Competitiveness.

3. A Vision for Walsall in 2021

We have consulted leaders, organisations and people of all ages and backgrounds to assist us in developing our vision for Walsall in the year 2021. The vision is shared by the partners within the borough and, importantly, they will work towards making it a reality by building this vision into their own plans and strategies:

“Walsall will be a good place to live, work and invest, where.....”

- people get on well with each other
- growing up is as good as it can be and young people fulfil their potential
- people are our strength and have the skills and attitude required by employers
- people consider the impact of what we do now on future generations
- people feel proud to live, having high quality distinctive design of buildings and spaces
- there is a wide range of facilities for people to use and enjoy
- everyone has the chance to live in a home fit for their purpose and for the future
- people can get around easily and safely
- there are more and better jobs for local people
- people support and look after each other
- people can live an independent and healthy life

4 Aspirations -

4.1 People

Walsall has a diverse community and we are promoting being friendly and getting on with each other. People are our most important resource for the future and so we frequently consult with communities at all stages in the preparation of our plans and services. In the SCS consultations residents have told us that they want people in neighbourhoods to be:

- Safe and free from crime
- Friendly and look after each other
- Treated in the way they wish to be treated
- Able to meet one another

4.2 Places

Creating places where people want to live and feel proud of is important to retain and attract people to Walsall.

Successful places have a mix of well-designed homes, a choice of facilities and a high quality environment with access to jobs and services. The poor quality of the urban environment undermines efforts to attract new industries and people, leading to a spiral of decline, particularly in some of the local centres and neighbourhoods.

We aim to create growth in housing, improve local centres and stimulate the local economy by focussing investment in new homes, jobs, transport improvements, community facilities and the environment. We recognise that Walsall has diverse communities with specific requirements and that there is a growing demand for smaller homes due to both an increasingly ageing population and single-parent families.

The draft SCS sets out our plan for Walsall Town Centre and a series of regeneration corridors covering parts of Willenhall, Darlaston, Leamore and Birchills. It sets out what local neighbourhoods will be like:

- Accessible, safe and secure
- Make you feel proud
- Have access to high quality open space available for play, recreation and enjoyment
- Clean streets

4.3 Prosperity

More and better paid jobs to reduce the difference in levels of prosperity between rich and poor is the main way of enabling the wider benefits sought in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Our view is that a more prosperous economy will lead to improved health and well-being, lower levels of crime, and greater educational achievement. Walsall will be a place where there is:

- A local workforce with the skills, expertise and knowledge to gain, keep and transfer to the jobs created by business investment
- More investment in schools to enable them to prepare pupils for work
- More on-the-job training and work-based learning
- A vibrant town centre
- Better use of canals and the development of amenities and attractions alongside them
- A more flexible approach to working with developers
- Improved transportation

- Reduced business crime

5. Priorities

From the vision and aspirations set out in our SCS we have identified 10 outcomes with a series of priorities within each. These will guide the indicators selected for inclusion in our LAA.

Outcome	Priority
People	
Feeling safe and being healthy	Reducing total levels of recorded crime
	Ensuring partnership support in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods
	Promoting social inclusion and narrowing the gap between rich and poor, the sick and the healthy, particularly increasing the life expectancy of disadvantaged communities
	Improving the quality of life and increasing the independence of people in Walsall
	Reducing the incidence of road traffic collisions
Creating opportunity and potential	Encouraging the achievement of personal goals, skills and ambitions
	Improving personal health through changing lifestyles
	Enhancing the quality of life for people living and working in Walsall
	Providing accessible learning opportunities
Developing strong and dynamic communities	Encouraging active citizen participation in local decision-making structures
	Ensuring communities can influence decisions affecting their local area
	Ensuring strong neighbourhoods where people can get on well together
	Creating cleaner, greener and safer neighbourhoods
Places	
Improving housing	Preventing homelessness
	Increasing the number and choice of affordable homes
	Ensuring that at least 70% of vulnerable households, within the private sector, live in decent homes by 2010
	Enabling people to live more independently
Enhancing the quality of life for people living and working in Walsall	Ensuring the provision of adult learning opportunities across the borough
	Broadening access to information, including the internet, in an appropriate environment
	Improving the quality and range of cultural and leisure activities and facilities
Prosperity	
Education and skills	Supporting children to do as well as they can and enjoy their childhood and youth
	Improving educational attainment and school facilities
	Reducing child poverty and promoting the economic well-being of young people and their families
	Increasing the skills and knowledge of people who are in work and helping the workless find jobs by providing more skills-for-life training
Accessible, sustainable places for business	Delivering the vision of Walsall being a town for enterprise
	Managing our key road and public transport networks
	Focusing on climate change by reducing carbon dependence and by using environment technologies
	Offering a full range of high quality support to new and existing local businesses
	Preventing business arson
A vibrant town centre and neighbourhoods	Attracting new businesses
	Developing the waterfront
	Creating a new shopping experience

	Creating a new cultural, educational and leisure facility
Research and development	Developing the skills of our local people to ensure that the demands of new businesses are met
	Working with our educational providers
	Building a technology-based infrastructure to support knowledge and communications-focussed business
	Creating a gigaport to support business' constant need for faster data transfer

6. Developing Our LAA

We believe that the main strength in how we have developed our LAA is that it is aligned to the draft SCS, which has been subject to a fully inclusive process in reaching its current state of play. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders and residents in developing the vision and all partners, Regional, sub-regional and local, have been involved in setting the priorities contained within the SCS

The first stage in selecting indicators appropriate to the Borough's needs and ambitions was to hold a workshop in November 2007. This matched draft SCS priorities to NIS indicators in order to select a long-list for further consideration. The workshop was attended by 42 people representing 26 partnership organisations and 86 indicators were chosen.

A three stage process is currently being implemented to refine this long-list of indicators into those contained in the LAA. It reflects political, partnership and technical considerations.

From a political point of view it has been recognised that the involvement of local politicians throughout the process is essential. Meetings have been held with individual Cabinet portfolio holders and a presentation made to informal Cabinet. In addition the SCS and LAA are agenda items at all Scrutiny Panels for their next round of meetings.

At the same time Pillars were asked to further refine the long list of indicators. All four have completed this process and have prioritised indicators from the long-list from their point of view.

'Duty to cooperate' partners, not represented within existing Pillar Groups, have been to recent and future Board meetings where they have been able contribute to the debate. In addition an event is being organised at Black Country level specifically to engage 'duty to cooperate' partners.

Before we finally submit our LAA the following steps are programmed:

- To populate the outcomes framework with baseline data and agree targets with GOWM,
- For the Executive Committee, at its meeting on 29 February (and 14. March, if necessary), to further refine the list of indicators by taking into account the recommendations of a Technical Sub-Group which will look at factors such as, the robustness of the indicators, impact on the priorities, deliverability, etc.
- To firm up transitional arrangements for moving from the current LAA to the new one. This will cover existing stretch targets, performance and financial management.

7. Implementing the LAA

There is evidence that Partnership working has been strengthened as a direct result of the existing LAA. All Partners are participating in setting the overall priorities for the Borough and developing the actions needed to deliver them.

Recognition of the relationship between SCS and the LAA has resulted in genuine involvement of a wide range of Partners in the emerging SCS. The Steering Group set up to oversee the preparation of the SCS has representatives from the Police, Walsall Housing Partnership, the tPCT, the Council, Community and Voluntary Sector and Wolverhampton University. An even wider range of Partners are involved in contributing to the content of the Strategy.

The Executive Committee will play a leading role in the transition to the new style LAA ensuring that it aligns closely to the SCS and that Pillars are fully involved in the process. As the reliance on external grant funding reduces, greater emphasis will be placed on managing pooled and aligned funding and the level and effectiveness of activity directed towards LAA outcomes. A Task Group has been set up that will make recommendations about how the transition will be managed, including looking at how existing stretch targets will be delivered and how performance and financial management arrangements should develop.

At the outset of the existing LAA the introduction of target action planning brought about greater awareness of the main priorities facing the Borough and greater focus on the means through which they are achieved. The TAP process will be reviewed as part of the transition to the new LAA but it is envisaged that it will be strengthened to encompass all activities aimed at delivering targets and not just externally or grant funded elements.

It is likely that the process will be used to embed equalities across all indicators selected in order that we can actively close the gap between different parts of the Borough and disadvantaged groups.

Improved performance management has resulted in greater achievement across the range of targets contained in our existing LAA. At the end of our first year review all outcomes except worklessness and skills were on course to be achieved. The lessons learned over the last eighteen months will allow us to improve still further our performance management arrangements, with the main changes needed so that LAA performance management dovetails with the requirements of the new National Performance Framework.

8. Outcomes Framework

People and Communities

Outcome	Priority	NI Ref	Indicator	Base-line	Targets			Lead Partner
					08/09	09/10	10/11	
Feeling safe and being healthy	Reducing total levels of recorded crime	15	Serious violent crime rate PSA 23					
		16	Serious acquisitive crime rate PSA 23					
		19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders PSA 23					
		30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders HO DSO					
		38	Drug-related (Class A) offending rate PSA 25					
		32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence PSA 23					
	Ensuring partnership support in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods	21	Dealing with local concerns about ASB					
			Also (from other priorities) NI 15, 16 (violent and acquisitive crime) 19, 30 (offending by young people and PPOs)					
	Promoting social inclusion and narrowing the gap between rich and poor, the sick and the healthy, particularly increasing the life expectancy of	120	All-age all cause mortality rate PSA 18					
		137	Healthy life expectancy at age 65 PSA 17					
		55	Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year DCSF DSO					

	disadvantaged communities	56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 DCSF DSO					
			Also (from other priorities) NI 112 (teenage conceptions)					
	Improving the quality of life and increase the independence of people in Walsall	7	Environment for a thriving third sector CO DSO					
		151	Overall employment rate PSA 8					
		187	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating Defra DSO					
			Also (from other priorities) NI 137 (life expectancy > 65)					
Reducing the incidence of road traffic collisions	47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents DfT DSO						
Creating opportunity and potential	Encouraging the achievement of personal goals, skills and ambitions		Link to education and skills indicators					
	Improving personal health through changing lifestyles	8	Adult participation in sport DCMS DSO					
		57	Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport					
			NI 137 (life expectancy >65), 55, 56 (Childhood Obesity)					
Enhancing the quality of life for people living and working in Walsall	5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area CLG DSO						

	Providing accessible learning opportunities		Link with Skills indicators NI 79, 85, 106, 163					
Developing strong and dynamic communities	Encouraging active citizens participating in local decision-making structures		(From other priorities) NI 4					
	Ensuring communities can influence decisions affecting their local area	4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality PSA 21					
	Ensuring strong neighbourhoods where people can get on well together	1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area PSA21					
		35	Building resilience to violent extremism PSA 26					
	Creating cleaner, greener and safer neighbourhoods	195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting) Defra DSO					
		196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping Defra DSO					
		191	Residual household waste per head Defra DSO					

Places

Outcome	Priority	NI Ref	Indicator	Base-line	Targets			Lead Partner
					08/09	09/10	10/11	
Improving housing	Preventing homelessness		Link to worklessness 151, 152					

	Increasing the number and choice of affordable homes	155	No. of affordable homes delivered					
	Ensuring that at least 70% of vulnerable households, within the private sector, live in decent homes by 2010							
	Enabling people to live more independently	136	People supported to live independently through social services (all ages) PSA 18					
		146	Adults with learning disabilities in employment PSA 16 Link also to worklessness and skills					
Enhancing the quality of life for people living and working in Walsall	Ensuring the provision of adult learning opportunities across the borough		Link with Skills indicators, especially 163					
	Broadening the access to information, including the internet, in an appropriate environment		Link to education and skills targets and NI 11 (engagement in the arts)					
	Improving the quality and range of cultural and leisure activities and facilities	11	Engagement in the arts DCMS DSO					
			Also (from other priorities) NI 8					
Prosperity								

Outcome	Priority	NI Ref	Indicator	Base-line	Targets			Lead Partner
					08/09	09/10	10/11	
Education and skills	Supporting children to do as well as they can and enjoy their childhood and youth	112	Under 18 conception rate PSA 14					
		106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education PSA 11					
		110	Young people's participation in positive activities PSA 14					
		85	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics, Chemistry and Maths) DCSF DSO					
		111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17 PSA 14					
		115	Substance misuse by young people PSA 14					
			Also (from other priorities) NI 55, 56 (Childhood Obesity), 198 (travel to school)					
	Improving educational attainment and school facilities		DCFS Compulsory indicators					
	Reducing child poverty and promoting the economic well-being of young people and their families	116	Proportion of children in poverty PSA 9					
		45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training MoJ DSO					
79		Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19						

			PSA 10						
		117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) PSA 14						
			Also (from other priorities) 187 (fuel poverty)						
	Increasing the skills and knowledge of people who are in work and helping the workless find jobs by providing more skills-for-life training	163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher PSA 2						
		152	Working age people on out of work benefits PSA 8						
			Also: NI 151 (Employment Rate) 7 (thriving 3 rd Sector)						
Accessible, sustainable places for business	Delivering the vision of Walsall being a town for enterprise	171	VAT registration rate BERR DSO						
		172	VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth BERR DSO						
			Also: NI 151 (Employment Rate)						
		Managing our key road and public transport networks	178	Bus services running on time DfT DSO					
			176	Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes) DfT DSO					
			168	Principal roads where maintenance should be considered DfT DSO					
			175	Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling DfT DSO					
			198	Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used DfT DSO					

	Focusing on climate change by reducing carbon dependence and by using environment technologies	188	Adapting to climate change PSA 27					
		186	Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area PSA 27					
			Also (from other priorities) NI 187 (fuel poverty)					
	Offering a full range of high quality support to new and existing local businesses	182	Satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation services BERR DSO					
		183	Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment BERR DSO					
	Preventing business arson		Link with crime indicators					
A vibrant town centre and neighbourhoods	Attracting new businesses		From other priorities NI 171 and 172 (VAT Registrations)					
	Developing the waterfront		N/A					
	Creating a new shopping experience		N/A					
	Creating a new cultural, educational and leisure facility		N/A					
Research and development	Developing the skills of our local people to ensure that the demands of new businesses are met	174	Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers DIUS DSO					
	Working with our educational providers		N/A					

	Building a technology-based infrastructure to support knowledge and communications-focused business		N/A					
	Creating a gigaport to support business' constant need for faster data transfer		N/A					

Education and Early Years

NI Ref	Indicator	Base-line	Targets			Lead Partner
			08/09	09/10	10/11	
92 *	Early Years (EYFSP) – to narrow the achievement gap at age 5					
72 *	Early Years (EYFSP) – to increase achievement for all children at age 5					
76 *	Key Stage 2 – to increase proportion achieving level 4+ in both English & Maths					
93 *	Key Stage 1-2 – to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in English					
94 *	Key Stage 1-2 – to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in Maths					
74 *	Key Stage 3 – to increase proportion achieving level 5+ in both English & Maths					
83 *	Key Stage 3 – to increase proportion achieving level 5 in science					
95 *	Key Stage 2-3 - to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in English					
96 *	Key Stage 2-3 - to improve proportion progressing 2 national curriculum levels in maths					
78 *	Key Stage 4 – to increase proportion achieving level 5 A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSE in both English & Maths					

97 *	Key Stage 3-4 – to improve proportion progressing equivalent of 2 national curriculum levels in English					
98 *	Key Stage 3-4 – to improve proportion progressing equivalent of 2 national curriculum levels in Maths					
87 *	Attendance – to reduce persistent absentee pupils in secondary schools					
99 *	Children in care – to increase proportion achieving level 4+ in English at Key Stage 2					
100 *	Children in care – to increase proportion achieving level 4+ in maths at Key Stage 2					
101 *	Children in care – to increase proportion achieving level 5 A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSE in English & Maths					