

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 12 March 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:

- Performance for the three quarters 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 and Progress of Target Action Plans (TAPs)

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 with the exception of 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.

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 3 provides a summary relating to the reporting of performance for 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 4 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 5.

3. LAA Performance for the Quarters 1 - 3 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.

In the previous report to the Regeneration scrutiny panel, 2008 / 09 performance at quarter 2 against LAA targets was reported. At that time, due to a large number of targets not yet agreed with Government Office West Midlands, the report presented a confusing picture of performance. Upon agreement of targets we will be better placed to present a more meaningful and concise report.

A meeting is arranged to discuss performance reporting with Walsall Councils Corporate performance team, to ensure scrutiny panels do not receive performance reports in a piecemeal manner. The purpose of the planned meeting is to ensure scrutiny panels receive a report on all national indicators, within which LAA indicators will be included.

4. Progress in Agreeing Outstanding Targets

The new LAA is reaching the end of its first Refresh – the process through which targets can be re-negotiated with Government if there have been significant changes to circumstances that affect their delivery.

This year Government has requested that Council's concentrate on targets that it was not possible to agree when LAAs were signed off. In the vast majority of cases the reasons for this were that Government had not developed the National Indicator definition, baseline data was not available or target setting guidance had not been produced.

Walsall's Refresh proposals will be considered by Cabinet on 18, March 2009, and if approved, formally submitted to Government. Government Office West Midlands are confident that all targets will be agreed by the end of March 2009. Following the approval of targets, Walsall Partnership will provide an update to Regeneration Scrutiny at within the next quarterly report.

5. 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, with others planned to take place imminently. A schedule is attached at appendix 1

A number of TAP pro formas have been developed in order for activity to be commissioned, remaining TAP pro formas will be completed following the planned workshops.

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Walsall Partnership

UPDATE ON TARGET ACTION PLANS

NI No	Target	Progress Update
NI1 / NI4	Community Cohesion	Pro forma completed for this financial year, but awaiting outcome of Local Neighbourhood Partnership consultation before review TAP content
NI5	General satisfaction with the local area	Draft TAP pro forma received
NI7	Thriving Third Sector	Workshop held on 25 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI17	Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour	Workshop held on 4 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI19	Rates of Re-Offending	Workshop held on 26 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI110	Positive activities for young people	Lead officer now identified, workshop to be arranged
NI112	Teenage conceptions	Agreement to move to Children's Services. Workshop to be arranged
NI116	% of adults participating in sport	COMPLETED
NI117	Child Poverty	COMPLETED - included in the Worklessness TAP, Skills TAP and Enterprise TAP
NI117	Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	COMPLETED
NI120	All Age All Cause Mortality	COMPLETED – requires financial breakdown
NI130	Persistent Prolific Offenders and acquisitive crime	Workshop held on 21 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed

NI135	Carers and needs assessment	Workshop held on 26 February 2009, TAP pro forma being developed
NI136	People supported to live independently	Workshop held on 26 February 2009, TAP pro forma being developed
NI141	% of vulnerable adults / independent living (supporting people)	COMPLETED – awaiting signature
NI152	People on Out of Work Benefits (Worklessness)	COMPLETED
NI154	Number of additional houses	Lead officer identified. TAP pro forma to be completed
NI156	Obesity in children	COMPLETED – awaiting signature
NI163	NVQ2 (Skills)	COMPLETED
NI172	Number of VAT registered businesses (Enterprise)	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI187	Fuel Poverty	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI186	CO2 Emissions	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI188	Adapting to climate change	Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI191	Residual household waste	Lead officer identified. TAP pro forma to be completed
Local	Domestic Violence	Workshop held on 20 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
Various	Children and Young People indicators	Draft pro formas received – further work to be undertaken